



**Jijin G**  
State Assistant Program Manager -  
Social Development,

# ANALYSIS OF DATA AND EXISTING PROGRAMS FOR BALASABHA,

## COMMENT ON THE RP SYSTEM AND MENTION VARIOUS PROGRAMS (LIKE MATH OLYMPIAD, YOUNG MENTORS PROGRAMME) THAT WE INITIATE IN LAST TWO YEARS

### BACKGROUND

Kudumbashree's efforts in poverty eradication programmes are marked examples of right based development activities. The organisation recognises women and children as direct victims of poverty. Since the indicators of poverty are different and vary from most states, stereotypical poverty eradication initiatives would not be observed here. The proactive nature of the organisation has brought comprehensive strategies namely economic and social that could be liaised for women empowerment.

### CONCEPT OF BALASABHA

A knowledge base is often eclipsed due to the conventional roles a person adheres to in the society. An imperative attempt to retain the knowledge base through self evaluation, participation and inquiry can be considered as the newest form of empowerment process. Along with about 4, 00,000 Neighborhood groups all over the state, similar yet distinctive methods have been used to mobilise and nurture a children's collective-Balasabha. The Sabhas are structured neighborhood network of children. Each Sabha consist of 15 – 30 children in the age group of 5 – 18 years.

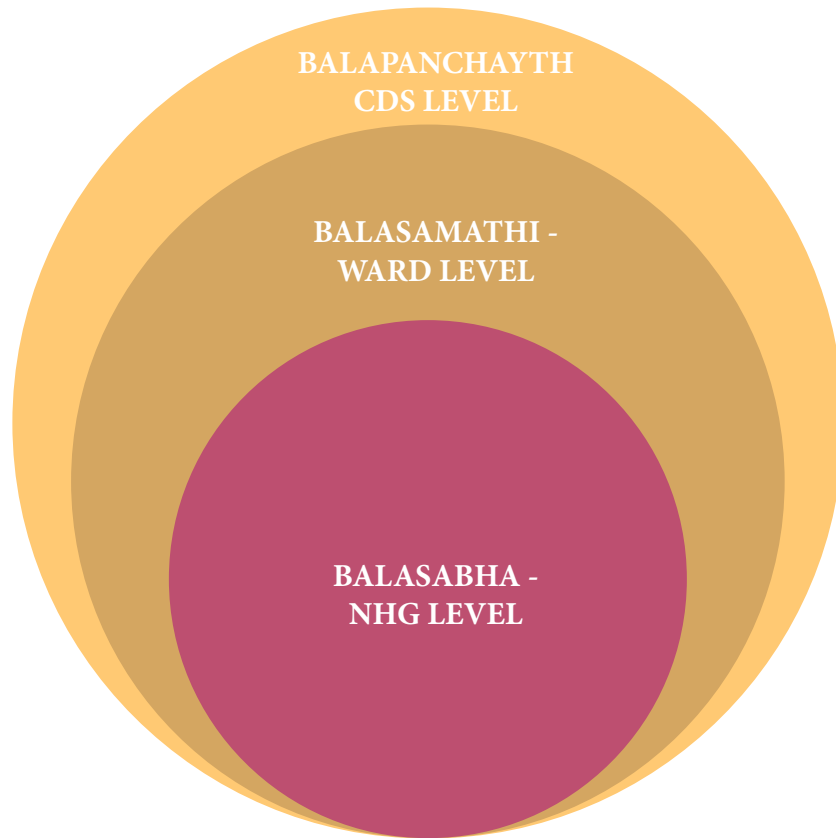
The prime objective of constituting Balasabhas is to prevent inter-generational transmission of poverty through capability enhancement of children. Small Learning Groups for experimental and systematic learning, opportunities for understanding democratic process, participation in conserving environment, enabling children to unfold the intricacies of collectivization are the basic focal points of Balasabha. At present, 32,878 Balasabhas, covering 430908 children, have created glorious dimensions to the endeavor.

### എഴുത്തുപുര 2017 ദിന ശില്പശാല

കോട്ടയം > കുട്ടികളിലെ സർഗ്ഗാത്മകതയും നേതൃപാനവും പരിപോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ജില്ലാ മിഷൻ ബാലസഭ യൂണിറ്റ് 78 സിഡിഎസുകളിലെയും ബാല പഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രസിഡന്റുമാർക്ക് വേണ്ടി സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ദിന ശില്പശാല 29, 30 തീയതികളിൽ നടക്കും. മാങ്ങാനം പുല്ലേപ്പടി റ്റിഎംഎഎം സെന്ററിലാണ് ശില്പശാല. സിവിൽ സർവീസ് പരീക്ഷയിൽ വിജയം നേടിയ ഡോ. ദിലീഷ് ശശി മുഖ്യാതിഥിയാകും.

## BALASABHA STRUCTURE

Balasabha is set as the three tier system as NHG, ADS and CDS level.



The multi layered network of children is similar to the Neighborhood/ADS/CDS network of Kudumbashree. The layers enable children to take leadership through co-ordinate efforts.

The grass root level collectives of children form Balasabha that function close to Neighbourhood groups. A girl and boy representative is elected from each Balasabha and

placed in ward level Balasabha Samithis. A girl and boy representatives from the Balasabha Samithis are again elected to Bala Panchayat. For example if there are 15 wards in a Panchayat, a total of 30 members constitute a Bala Panchayat. An array of support groups like Guidance Councils at Panchayats and Resource groups at each District gather strength for the activities of Balasabha/ Bala Panchayat. They also serve as participant learners.

District	Number of CDS	Number of Balasabha	Number of Balasabha members
Thiruvananthapuram	83	2759	35988
Kollam	74	2767	36980
Pathanamthitta	58	1765	24154
Alapuzha	80	1791	24431
Kottayam	78	3232	26532
Idukki	54	1704	20228
Ernakulam	101	1804	29128
Thrissur	100	4630	76369
Palakkad	96	3320	35720
Malapuram	110	1112	17725
Kozhikode	82	3060	44896
Wayanad	26	820	9566
Kannur	81	2350	40150
Kasaragod	42	1762	9041
Total	1065	32878	430908

The table I : shows the number of Balasabhas and the members in Balasabhas.

### BALASABHA - MAJOR PROGRAMMES

- Capacity building program
- Activities of Health and Hygiene
- Skill development program
- Creative campaigns
- Balakrishni – Agriculture related activity
- Establishing Bala Library
- Regular Balasabha meetings
- Bala Panchayath Meeting
- Bala Parliament – District and State level
- Summer Camp
- Carrier guidance for students

### MATHS OLYMPIAD

Kudumbashree Mission conducted Maths Olympiad for Balasabha Members to make Mathematics easier and to make it closer to nature and daily life. The state level inauguration of the same was conducted in December in accordance with the birthday celebrations of the mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. For the effective co-ordination of the competition, 2 resource persons and 2 mathematical experts were selected from every district. Shri Harikishore IAS, Executive Director, Kudumbashree Mission inaugurated the State level training programme

organised for the selected Resource Persons and Mathematical Experts. The study modules and activities for the competition were also formulated during the training programme.

The programme aimed to strengthen Balasabha and to make mathematics easier for Balasabha members. Prior to the state level competition to be held in December, mathematics based competitions were organised for LP, UP school children in Panchayath, Block and District levels. The competitions were activity based. Ten students each were selected from Balasabhas in Panchayath, Block and District levels. The training regarding that was given by the 10 member team including Resource person from each district and mathematical experts. Activity based workshops on ‘Mathematics in daily life’, ‘Mathematics in Nature’ etc were conducted in ward level at Balasabhas before October 20th.

During the workshop, classes were taken on the life and contributions of famous mathematicians. About 500 Balasabha members took part in the state level competition. Maths Olympiad was undoubtedly a wonderful opportunity for the Balasabha students to get in tune with the magic of Mathematics.

## YOUNG MENTORS PROGRAM

The major characteristic that marks the life of middle and late adolescents is the influence of friends or peers. It is regarded as a major adolescent trait to be taken into consideration while planning for development programs that cater to youth. In major transformative educational/ skill development programs all over the world, peer education programmers have taken advantage of this trait in a positive manner. Keeping that concept in mind, Kudumbashree has developed Young Mentors program for Balasabha members. Selected youth from each district are trained to impart knowledge and skills to their peers in an easily acceptable mode and context. The young mentors are identified from the high school and higher secondary level students of Balasabhas. These groups act as mentor group for the younger ones. They can organize and implement classes, workshops, trainings etc as per the need of the area. The first phase of Young Mentor's (Youth Resource Person) training program for selected Balasabha members was conducted in the months of December 2016 and January 2017. The second phase of the Young Mentors program was conducted during the months of October, 2017 to January 2018. The second phase focused on five themes namely, leadership skills, understanding equality from gender perspective, power, empathy and development of organizational capacity building. So far, 480 members were trained through these.

## BALA PARLIAMENT

### District children's parliament

In order to enable children to raise their issues and voices at District level, Kudumbashree organizes District level children's parliament in all the fourteen Districts with the active support of District Mission team and district level Local Self-Government Institutions. They get together at the district level; impart voice, face and power to their childhood. They strive to bring their issues, needs and concerns before the authorities and seek solutions/interventions. This ensures greater participation of children in the democratic process and developmental issues.

### State Children's Parliament

State Children's Parliament is organized at the State level. Here, 140 Children in the state -10 each from each district parliament (ensuring equal gender participation), hailing from different socio economic and cultural background, come under one roof, interact with each other, raise their voices/concerns, debate on various issues related to them etc. It provides an environment to think about aspects of democracy, sustainability, social involvement and social sensitivity. No doubt, the parliament proceedings including question hour session, calling attention, ministers statement, adjournment motion, discussion on various bills, no confidence motion etc. enlighten the new generation on the values of our unique democratic system.

### NADARIYAN CAMPAIGN

Apart from other activities framed and run by Balasabha, this time a new campaign is launched. It is 'Nadariyan' Campaign, the programme designed for the Balasabha members to explore research and study and thereby un-

derstand more about their own places. Through Nadariyan Campaign, this time the Balasabha members will research about the weather, farming techniques, soil, art, literature and culture of the olden times and will make notes out of that.

A minimum of 5 students would be selected from each Balasabha of every ward in panchayaths. Specially trained Balasabha Resource persons will lead the team. The Nadariyan campaign team will study about the history of the evolution of the name of the places, about monuments, mansions, farming techniques, seed types, old farming tools, traditional art forms, folk arts, rural libraries, rural celebrations, mountains, valleys, rivers, eco system, transportation system, health system, old health treatment methods, health habits, history of all social protests, saving systems etc. Through this campaign Kudumbashree envisages to make the students aware about the rich tradition and culture we possess and thereby making them able to retain those.

## LASITHAM

Kudumbashree Wayanad District Mission made a mark by coming up with an innovative Balasabha activity, Lasitham 2017, which offered workshops and performances on 10 Indian art forms. Lasitham 2017, the three day workshop was conducted coordinating with Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY) from 17-19 October 2017. The programme was kick started when Shri C.K. Saseendran, MLA inaugurated the programme.

The programme envisioned to transfer the art forms to the upcoming generation in its indigenous form itself. The aim of Lasitham 2017 was to popularize such art forms among the common people. Only a few schools had been giving classes on such art forms before. Even though the children were interested in learning such art forms, the financial issues had clung them back. Through Lasitham 2017, the children were offered a golden opportunity to learn their favourite art forms from the maestros themselves.

Presentations & performances on Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Mohiniyattam, Kathakali, Mural Painting, Yoga, Nangiyarkoothu and Tholppavakkooth were handled by Deepthi Parol, Deepa Saseendran, Abhaya Lakshmi, Vidya Pradeep, Kalamandalam Vijayan Asan, KR Babu, Thiagi Subhash, Dr. Aparna Nangiar and Rajeev.K respectively. Along with that Manipuri was performed by Basu Sinam and OttanThullal by Kalamandalam Mohanakrishnan. The space for the workshops was provided by Navodaya Vidyalaya, Vythiri and the venue for the performances and presentations were provided by Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Pookode. District Nirmithi Kendra Wayanad also associated with Kudumbashree Wayand District Mission in bringing up such a novel initiative.

## BALASABHA FORMATION

### AT SOS CHILDRENS

The Kudumbashree District Mission of Ernakulam launched new Balasabha at SOS Children's Village. The Balasabha was started as part of the formation of Balasabhas focusing on child care institutions. The first of

its kind was started at the Youth Home of SOS Childrens Village at Edathala Panchayath, Ernakulam. Balasabha of 20 children of 12-18 years of age was formed at the SOS Childrens Home. Master John Pradeep and Master Tony Thomas were selected as the President and Secretary of the Balasabha. The move aims to ensure the participation of such students in the democratic space. The objective of the initiative is to improve the academic and extracurricular skills of the children at the Youth Home of SOS Children's Village.

SOS Children's Villages International comprises 118 national SOS Children's Villages associations. Each SOS Children's Villages association is committed to apply the federation's statutes, standards for quality child care, and stringent financial and administrative practices. The SOS Children's Village in Alwaye, Cochin was launched in 1990. In addition to advocating for the rights of children, SOS Childrens village support families so that they can generate an income and stay together, and they provide family-based care for children who have lost the care of their parents. Balasabha envisage for the overall development of children through addressing their social and emotional needs and enhancing their creativity and leadership skills.

### MIGRANT LABOURERS BALASABHA

From now onwards children of Migrant Labourers will also take part in activities of Balasabha. The first of its kind Balasabha is launched in Binani Puram of Kadungalloor Grama Panchayath of Ernakulam District. Kudumbashree envisages assisting children in their academics as well as in their co-curricular activities, thereby influencing them in their character formation by forming these special Balasabha.

Forty one children of Migrant Labourers joined this Balasabha. The children are of 5 to 18 years of age. It's a notable feature that by actively participating in such Balasabha, these children will be able to interact with the local children and thereby learn the local language as well. It's by coordinating with the teachers and parents of these children that these special Balasabhas are functioning. Ernakulam District Mission directly co-ordinate

the activities of this Balasabha with the help of special resource persons.

More than thousands of children are studying in the schools at Perumbavoor. It is also planned to start more special Balasabhas by including these children. By launching this, Ernakulam District Mission envisions a collective change in these children.

During the 'Disha campaign' conducted in January 2017, special NHGs were formed by including women from the families of Migrant Labourers. By including them, Kudumbashree envisions their inclusion in the society.

### '21 PILOTS'- CHILDREN'S BAND

#### FROM BALASABHA

Kudumbashree District Mission of Kozhikode made a path breaking gesture by launching Children's Band set - '21 Pilots' by joining together the Balasabha students in the district. The band formed of children from the Balasabhas under Kozhikode Corporation Kudumbashree CDS was launched by Shri. Thottathil Raveendran, Mayor, Kozhikode Corporation by handing over the baton to Ms. M.P Ardra, band captain at the programme held at Kozhikode beach on 7 May 2018. The team consists of 21 children of the age group fewer than 18, mostly from financially backward families.

The '21 Pilots' band set is being trained by Shri. K.M. Kuriakose, a known band trainer in the district. After the inaugural function, the band made their debut performance at Kozhikode Beach. The band owns 5 trumpets, 2 bugles, 4 drums, 4 side drums, 3 cymbals, 2 euphoniums and 1 major stick. The band also performed at the programme which held in connection with the Second anniversary celebrations of Government of Kerala and 20th Anniversary celebrations of Kudumbashree Mission which held at Kozhikode during 17-19 May 2018.

Smt. Anita Rajan, Welfare standing committee chairperson of the corporation handed over the badges to the band members. Smt. Meera Darshak, Deputy Mayor, Kozhikode Corporation, Smt T.V. Lalithaprabha, K.V. Baburaj, M.C. Anil Kumar Standing Committee Chairpersons, Smt P.C. Kavitha, Kudumbashree Kozhikode District Mission Coordinator and other dignitaries also attended the function. '21 Pilots' is the first band set formed under Balasabha of Kudumbashree fold in the State.

### RESOURCE PERSON SYSTEM

Resource persons are the back backbone of the Balasabha. They are talented persons interested in children's area. The role and responsibility of resource persons are

- Formation of Balasabhas
- Develop a civil society having great vision, creativity and social sensitivity in children
- Helping the children to come forward from the marginalized group to the mainstream of the society.
- Guiding the Balasabha members
- Module preparation of Balasabha activities
- Conduct various trainings to Balasabha members and other resource persons
- Created a better social support system



District	Number of RP in CDS	Number of RP in Block	Number of RP in District	Number of RP in State
Thiruvananthapuram	83	33	11	2
Kollam	74	33	11	1
Pathanamthitta	58	24	8	2
Alapuzha	80	36	12	1
Kottayam	78	33	11	1
Idukki	54	24	8	1
Ernakulam	101	42	14	1
Thrissur	100	48	16	1
Palakkad	96	39	13	1
Malapuram	110	45	15	1
Kozhikode	82	36	12	1
Wayanad	26	12	4	1
Kannur	81	33	11	1
Kasaragod	42	18	6	1
Total	1065	456	152	16

The table II shows the number of Resource person (RP) in CDS, Block, District and State

# ഇതരസംസ്ഥാന കുട്ടികൾക്കും കുടുംബശ്രീ ബാലസഭകൾ

**● സന്തം ലേഖകൻ**

തിരുവനന്തപുരം > കുടുംബശ്രീ ബാലസഭാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളോട് കൂട്ടുകൂടാൻ ഇനി ഇതരസംസ്ഥാന തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കളും. എറണാകുളം കടപ്പള്ളി പഞ്ചായത്തിലെ ബിനാമിപുരത്താണ് കുടുംബശ്രീ ജില്ലാ മിഷന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ബാലസഭകൾ രൂപീകരിച്ചത്.

പഠനത്തിലും പാഠ്യേതര വിഷയങ്ങളിലും സഹായിക്കുകയും സഭാവരുപീകരണത്തിലും വ്യക്തിത്വവികസനത്തിലും ആവശ്യമായ പിന്തുണ നൽകുകയുമാണ് പ്രധാനമായും ഈ കുട്ടികളെ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി പ്രത്യേക ബാലസഭകൾ രൂപീകരിക്കുന്നത് വഴി ലക്ഷ്യമിടുന്നതെന്ന് എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ഡയറക്ടർ എസ് ഹരികിഷോർ പറഞ്ഞു. കെട്ടി

ടനിർമാണരംഗത്തും മറ്റു മേഖലകളിലുമായി ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്ന ഇതരസംസ്ഥാന തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കളായ നാൽപ്പതിലേറെ കുട്ടികളാണ് ഇതിലെ അംഗങ്ങൾ. അഞ്ചുമുതൽ 18 വയസ്സുവരെയുള്ള കുട്ടികളാണ് ഇതിലുള്ളത്. ബാലസഭകളിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായി വിവിധ പഠനപാഠ്യേതര പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുന്ന

തോടെ ഇവിടെയുള്ള കുട്ടികളുമായി ഇടപഴകുന്നതിനും അതുവഴി ഭാഷാസാധിനം നേടുന്നതിനും ഇതര സംസ്ഥാന തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ മക്കൾക്ക് കഴിയുമെന്നതും പ്രത്യേകതയാണ്. ഇവരുടെ രക്ഷിതാക്കളുടെയും സ്കൂളിലെ അധ്യാപകരുടെയും സഹകരണത്തോടെയാണ് കുടുംബശ്രീയുടെ ബാലസഭാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ.

**CONCLUSION**

The Kudumbashree State Mission plans and implements various Balasabha programs like Capacity building program, Activities of Health and Hygiene, Skill development program, Creative campaigns, Balakrishi – Agriculture related activity, Establishing Bala Library, Regular Balasabha meetings, Bala Panchayath Meeting, Bala Parliament – District and State level, Summer Camp, Carrier guidance for students, etc. in district and state level. Through this many of the poor children get a golden opportunity to come forward from the marginalized group to the mainstream of the society.

**SUGGESTIONS**

- Conduct more centralized programs in CDS, Block, District and state level.
- Focusing to reach more children

**ABBREVIATIONS**

- NHG – Neighbourhood group
- ADS – Area development society
- CDS – Community development society
- RP – Resource person