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GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE

INTRODUCTION

Kudumbashree – State poverty eradication Mission launched an innovative Programme named Gender Self Learning Programme (GSLP) on 2007. It is a social educational process among the NHG member. The programme is devised from the thought that “Kudumbashree need to have a programme based intervention strategy which should be evolved from grass root level. This programme can be based on Equity, Justice, and Rights etc”. Identified women from Kudumbashree Organisation as Resource Persons and capacitate them by giving training to lead this activity in grassroots level. Life experiences of women are the learning tool of this programme.

It was only a beginning, when we analyse the impact of Gender development programmes of kudumbashree after 10 years it is notable that a good number of women in the organizations are aware about rights entitlements. And they gain the capacity to question if their rights are denied. Supporting systems developed in the grass roots level played a vital role for this change. Gender Resource Centre, Migration Centre, Block Level Community Counseling Centre, Snehitha Gender Help Desk etc.

Participation of women in Panchayathi Raj activities and public programmes were increased. But constant support is needed for their active participation in governance. Because they always got a secondary position based on the typical gender bias prevail in the society. Gender Resource center can play a vital role for developing special projects based on a gender analysis of the status of women in society. Gender resource centre must act as a center for women and develops gender sensitive development programmes which will be helpful for the socialization and empowerment process and also create a strong network to prevent the anti gender concepts and attitude of the society.

Prevention of atrocities against women and children and protection for the survivors too is considered as a special focus activity of Gender Resource centre in grassroots level. GRC purely works in convergence model.

BEGINNING

The Concept of Gender Resource Centre is envisaged as a space of their own (Women). Gender Resource centre is meant to give creative support, guidance, skills and training to institutions and agencies under local self government for preparing and implementing women and child development programmes. At the beginning it is act mainly as an extension centre of Snehitha Gender Help Desk situated in District level. It is a space established in

collaboration with Local Self Government to coordinate the activities for gender development and women empowerment under local government. In Gender Resource centre there are Library facilities. It is a place for research, training and recreational activities for women and children.

Local Self Governments will provide infrastructure facilities and Kudumbashree will coordinate the activities and manage the running of Centre. Kudumbashree Gender resource persons and community counselors will manage



Activity Planning

the center and facilitate the programs. Kudumbashree developed a team of Community counselors by giving different levels of training and capacity building programme. This team will provide immediate care and support for the women and children who are in distress. Gender Resource Centers are formed in Panchayath, Municipality and corporation level. Now we had 194 Gender Resource centres in all over Kerala. Gender Resource Centre can be act as a centre for making Poverty free Panchayaths in Kerala through various interventions.

Now State government sanctioned the proposal submitted by Kudumbashree with regard to the aims, objectives, services, structure and role of Kudumbashree in the functioning of Gender Resource centre on 21/01/2018 order Number G.O (M.S)No. 72/2018/LSGD

AIM & OBJECTIVES

Main aim of gender Resource centre is to ensure gender equality and equity in local development programmes.

- improve the participation of women in governance process
- Develop an engendering Panchayath by bringing more women in local

economic development

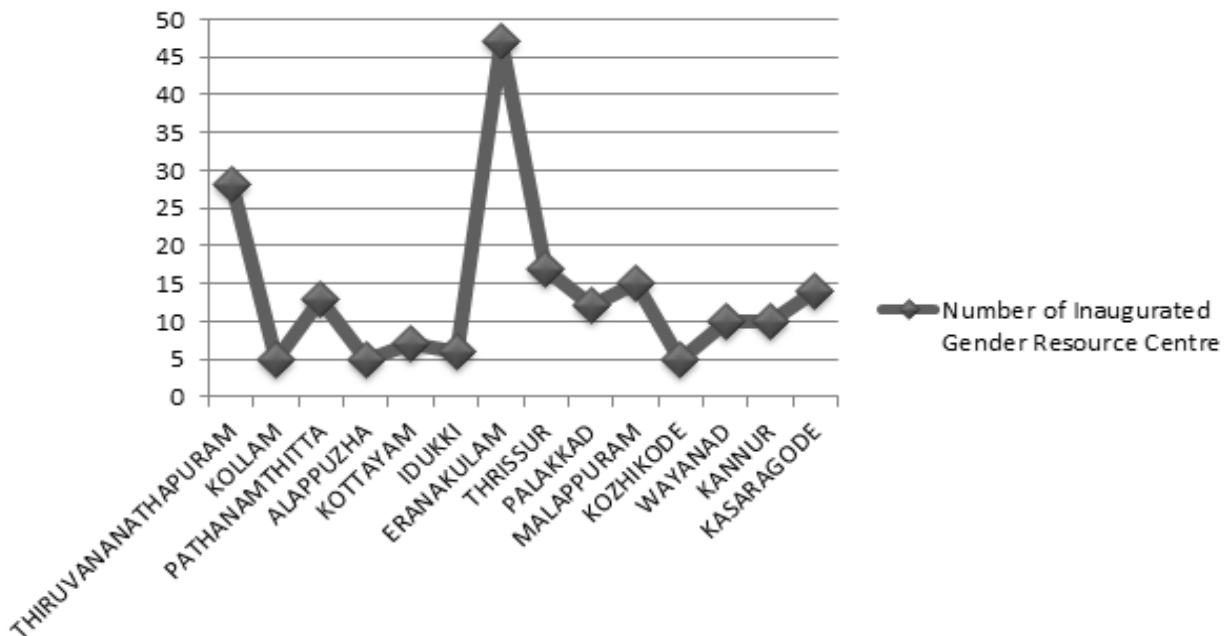
- Develop and implement different activities to make community safe for women through social legal and economic empowerment
- Avert violence against women & children through community participation or convergent actions.
- Provide livelihood support through skill training and ensure quality of life of women
- Developing a system that is facilitating Women Component Plan of Grama Panchayat
- Identifying the vulnerabilities existing in the community and address them through convergent actions of GPs
- It must be act as a centre where any women can come and share their thoughts and views at any time - a space of their Own in all aspect
- Work as a centre to link all other service providing agencies, departments and organizations who are in need

Through the activities of Gender Resource centre Kudumbashree aims to increase the participation of women in local development and governance.

Si.No	District	Number of Inaugurated Gender Resource Centre
1	THIRUVANANATHAPURAM	28
2	KOLLAM	5
3	PATHANAMTHITTA	13
4	ALAPPUZHA	5
5	KOTTAYAM	7
6	IDUKKI	6
7	ERANAKULAM	47
8	THRISSUR	17
9	PALAKKAD	12
10	MALAPPURAM	15
11	KOZHIKODE	5
12	WAYANAD	10
13	KANNUR	10
14	KASARAGODE	14
	TOTAL	194

NUMBER OF GENDER RESORCE CENTRE STARTED IN EACH DISTRICTS

Number of Inaugurated Gender Resource Centre



ACTIVITIES

- Organise and conduct Different programmes and activities in convergence with different departments and agencies
- Enhance the platform for the convergent programmes with the Panchayati Raj Institutions
- It will act as a supporting centre for different women Empowerment Programme and gender sensitisation programme in Local level.
- Support and care for women and children who are in distress in convergence with other departments and Agencies.
- Counselling support for the needy with the support of Community Counsellors



Counselling

and professional counsellors from Snehitha Gender Help Desk

- Community Counsellors will visit each gender resource centre twice in a week
- Support for Jagratha Samithi and Kudumbashree Vigilant Group (Ward level Task force to prevent atrocities against women and Children)
- support LSGI for doing gender Budgetting and auditing
- Skill development and livelihood support for women in convergence with other departments and agencies

Gender Resource centre always provide a women friendly atmosphere and attitude towards the clients or visitors. In every resource centre there will be a management committee and a Gender Resource Group. Welfare standing Committee member will be the Chairperson of Management committee. It was a committee of 15 members who formulate policies for the functioning of Gender Resource Centre. It also act as a monitoring committee of Gender resource centre activities including convergence with other departments and agencies.

Gender Resource group is a 5 member team including Gender Resource persons, Community Counsellors, Gender experts etc. this team act as an academic team to implement different programmes and activities in LSGI and grassroots level. This team will lead the activity of counselling support giving in the centre.

SPECIAL INITIATIVE PROGRAMMES THROUGH GENDER RESOURCE CENTER

- In Kodumon Gender Resource centre at Pathanamthitta Districts they provide self defence training for 100 women. They also started a labour bank and 228 women were registered in it. From this list they give 17 members list for starting construction team and 3 for geriatric care programme. They plan to bring all people in the panchayth who need employment and employer under one roof

- 47 Gender Resource centres are working in Eranakulam district. They are doing different types of activities in grassroots level through Gender Resource centre-

- Childrens Library- To improve the learning aptitude among children
- Night ride- Ensure the visibility of women in public space irrespective of time.
- Vertical gardening – To make attractive the centre

- In Cheruvannur GRC at Kozhikode they started a special programme to reduce stress and anxiety among Women, named Mindfulness. With the initiative of Gender Resource centre 8 old age Neighbourhood groups were started in that panchayath. and they conducted a widow sangamam in that particular panchayath to assess their issues and needs.

- In Olavanna Gender Resource centre at Kozhikode, they started special mental Health Programme called MANASA along with the counselling support for the needy. This programme helps to create a positive thinking among women participants who attended continuous sessions. 6 women clubs were formed in the field of Arts & Sports with the initiative of Gender Resource centre.

- In Muppainad panchayath at Wayanad District, Panchayath committee allocated 50 lakh rupees for different activities. Gender Budgetting, Study about the issues of Estate area, issues faced by women in employment sector, social Mapping, Frequent Gender sensitisation training etc were initiated under GRC. Livelihood activities were also promoted. All these will help them to create a women friendly atmosphere.

IMPACT

Community Counsellors' have been able to support the women who have faced various kinds of issues through GRC. Number of Reported case in Gender resource centre are 178 till July from January 2018. Gender resource centre act as a centre where women can come, spend time creatively by reading and can have discussion on development issues. It will help them to perk up their knowledge, Capacity to learn, develop and implement programmes and activities which will be helpful to improve the condition of women in their surroundings. It is a slow process but the result will be surely depicted in society in coming days.

CONCLUSION

Gender Resource centre can be act as a centre to ensure gender equality and equity in local economic development and governance. It is also can be a centre to prevent atrocities against women and children. Gender Resource Centre works in convergence model so with the help of other departments and agencies.