

Field visit- report

Place of visit: Pathanamthitta

Objective: to study the existing R.O Plant and water kiosks established in Pathanamthitta & to study the way side eateries and take away counters started under SC cafe project.

1. RO Plant & water kiosks

The R.O Plant is intended to start at Pathanamthitta with the support of Dharana, an accredited agency of Kerala State Women's Development Corporation. The deliberations were made in 2015 and the installation of machinery and other things are under half way. The agency is yet to complete the project and is expected to start by November end.

The observations made is that:

1. The district is making attempts to start the plant by November end.
2. At the same time other models are under consideration. A water ATM model is discussed with an agency. The concept is water can be made available by anyone who purchases a water ATM card that can be recharged. The model looks like an ATM counter and water can be collected in 1, 2, 5, 10 or 20 litres. The cost and the demo need to get finalized.
3. The water kiosks installed in Sabarimala path way is by the KWA. The purified water is made available to the pilgrims.
4. The nearby Panchayat like Kaviyoor are interested to install water plants and this will affect sales of those installed in Pathanamthitta as sale of water during offseason will be less.

In this season the District Mission intends to sell purified bottled water from the RO plant through different kiosks that will be set up at different locations. But the drawback is that the capacity of the present plant is 2000 litres that is much less than what is required. Therefore, alternate models are required to meet the water requirements during the Sabarimala season.

Other initiatives taken are to supply rented vessels and cooking utensils for the pilgrims.

Suggestions

1. Different models can be piloted instead of going for single model. Based on viability kiosks should be set up. A feasibility analysis may be conducted to assess the ULBs that can start the venture without affecting the business of other units.

2. Way side Kiosks

1. Kiosk at Kalanjoor

Observations:

- The unit contains all amenities like steamer that is capable of cooking for 130 persons, purified water facility.
- The unit needs space for cooking as they have sufficient orders.
- The location is ideal.
- The display board is able to provide general information on various activities of Kudumbashree and Panchayat.

Suggestions

- Solar panel may be considered for the unit and for upcoming similar units
- Extension of temporary shed and waste water management facility should be made available.

2. Kiosk at General hospital

Observations:

The unit is functioning well. The model may be piloted in all district/ taluk hospitals. The provision of sales of snacks may be considered.

3. Malayalappuzha Amenity Centre

- The centre has good facilities and trainings of Kudumbashree are conducted there.
- The centre is apt for 'She Lodge concept'.

Field visit- report

Date: 31.10.2017

Place of visit: Kollam

Objective: To analyze the performance of the units and to document it as part of new initiatives

1. Parippally Medical College Canteen

The canteen was started 8 months back with 8 members. The unit was started as a canteen for the general public. The infrastructure is provided by the authorities and no investment is there on the part of the beneficiaries

The observations made is that:

1. The unit members have no ownership/ responsibility over the enterprise in which they are engaged with.
2. One unit member has predominance and she is maintaining the books.
3. Training on hygiene and customer management is required.
4. Small modifications are required to maintain some privacy in the cooking as well as washing counter (customers).
5. Working capital fund is required and they are expecting a start-up fund from Mission. As they have not made any investment instead of providing start up fund they may be asked to pool an amount for the same and based on their specific requirement handholding may be provided.

Rotation of units may be considered.

Parippally Medical college, Hostel canteen

The unit is started two months back and their customers are the students residing in ladies and men's hostel. The food charged per student is Rs. 3000/-. As the unit has started recently assessment on viability has not been made. The income - expense has to be made.

The attitude of unit members is good and all the members have equal participation in the functioning of the unit.

The investment is made by the medical college authorities and many utensils and equipments are idle.

The unit members should provide training on the usage of equipments as many sophisticated machines are there and unit members are not comfortable with these things.

Also monitoring should be there to ensure hygiene. MECs were given charge and it seems no weekly/ monthly monitoring is there.

2. Sthreedeeepam Weaving unit

The unit is started in 2010 under the SGSY scheme. The secretary of the group has got training from block and her experience in working in the field and visiting various handloom centers made her to start the unit. At present 10 members are there. The members are engaged at various process of weaving and their income is based on the work. The unit receives the raw materials from the co-operative societies and the finished products are taken back by the societies.

The advantage of the unit members is that they do not have any risks and they will get their labour within 5th of every month. And based on the completion of work they will get bonus during festival seasons.

The unit was started with an investment of Rs.3 lakhs loan and 1.25 lakhs subsidy. They are engaged in making bed sheets, lungi, saree printing etc. In addition to this unit, 10 individual units are there. The members receive an income in the range of Rs. 7000 to Rs.12,000/-.

Now the CDS wants to give training to one member per ward in the field as more women are interested to come into the sector. Also the unit wants new machinery for bed sheet making so that they will get more revenue.

3. Nedumapana Apparel Park.

Visited Nedumpana Apparel park. At present 27 members are engaged as they have orders from hantex, lotteries, Kochi metro, Cochin shipyard and DDU- GKY uniforms. The members now work from 7 am to 7.30 pm daily to complete the works.

General Observations

1. Maintenance is required for the unit (they seek the support of Panchayat).
2. The unit is specialized in stitching various types of coats. But the unit members do not have capacity to cut various patterns (Eg. Cochin shipyard). The support of persons/ experts may be pooled in and necessary guidance may be provided.
3. One Button hole and button stitching machines are available in the unit and this is a limitation when it comes to bulk orders.

The unit members are happy as they are able to earn a minimum of Rs.15,000/- per month.