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HARITHA KARMA SENA –THE GREEN FORCE OF KUDUMBASHREE IN ACTION FOR GREEN KERALA MISSION

INTRODUCTION:

Haritha Karma Sena, the super women of Kudumbashree is now in action for garbage-free green Kerala. It is always challenging to undertake waste management project, but through a collaborative project with Haritha Kerala Mission and Suchitwa Mission, Kudumbashree undertook this challenge to support green Kerala mission with the help of our wide network. Currently we have 22000+ trained haritha karma sena members ready to work with local self government institutions in an enterprise model to address garbage problems. Whereas huge number of challenges from various sectors is now facing in various LSGI's, Haritha Karma Sena is now set its place in Kerala through their green activities. We are now focusing on eco friendly enterprise models with Haritha Karma Sena to establish reduce, reuse and recycle concepts.



EVOLUTION:

Waste Management has become an essential service that need to be provided by Government for the wellness of public. Due to the rapid growth at which economies are expanding along with the rising living standards, led to increase the quantity and complexity of waste generated. Today waste management has become a serious issue in Kerala. Growth of unmanageable waste generation and garbage pile-ups is creating a lot of ecological issues such as global warming.

Haritha Karma Sena project is started based on the government order (GO number: 2420/2017-LSGD) released on 15/07/2017. It contains detailed responsibility of each organization relating to this project. Haritha Karma sena is a professional team consisting of Green Technicians and Green Supervisors mainly Kudumbashree Women who will be assigned with the responsibility of collection, transportation, processing, recycling / disposal, and management of waste materials in association with

respective LSGs. Haritha Karma Sena mainly focus on the collection and management of non bio degradable wastes.



Figure 2: Article about Haritha Karma Sena activities in Kasargod,

PROGRAM PLANNING & EXECUTION:

Haritha Karma sena is a collaborative project in which Kudumbashree, Haritha Kerala Mission, Suchitwa Mission, Pollution Control Board, Clean Kerala Company will assist each LSGI in making effective waste management facilities of their own.

Haritha Karma Sena selection is done by LSGI and Haritha Kerala Mission. Selection is done in a way that each member will get minimum 250 households for non bio degradable waste collection. Kudumbashree members have highest priority for this selection and each Haritha Karma Sena members is getting 3 days training on waste collection, segregation and various management activities. Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) is providing fund for the initial level training of Haritha Karma Sena. Kudumbashree gave a proposal to KILA and they sanctioned 3.6 Crore rupees for the training of 22500 Haritha Karma Sena members.

Haritha Kerala Mission has the responsibility of overall coordination, Suchitwa mission is providing fund assistance and technical support, Kudumbashree is providing manpower and assistance to enterprise formation. Clean Kerala Company is assisting to discharge non bio degradable wastes from Material Collection Facility (MCF), they are responsible for the transportation of non bio degradable waste;; collected and segregated by the Haritha Karma Sena from MCF to Resource Recovery Facility(RRF). They will shred plastic waste and sell it to various agencies for road tarring process. LSGI has the responsibility to make MCF and RRF by receiving the technical support of Clean Kerala Company.

Haritha Karma Sena members collect segregated clean waste from houses and shops and they keep them at MCF

after final level segregation. Clean Kerala Company or similar institutions take this waste to RRF and manage it properly with the assistance of LSGI. Waste plastics are shredded using plastic shredding machine kept at block or panchayath level RRF by Clean Kerala Company. These shredded plastics are now using for road tarring purpose. Clean Kerala Company sell them to PWD and similar institutions and acquire their profit. Thus the process completes.

Haritha Karma Sena is getting user fee from home and shops along with a 6 months viability gap fund from government. We should make this force into a self sufficient team as soon as possible by giving technical and financial support along with an enterprise model. Haritha Sahaya Sthapanam, accredited agencies of Haritha Kerala Mission is providing technical support for Haritha Karma Sena in cluster level with the assistance from LSGI. Currently Availability of MCF, RRF and Haritha Sahaya Sthapanam are limited; it is one of the hindrances for the execution of this project. For the proper functioning of this project, collected waste must move regularly. It need better monitoring of the process through LSGI and all challenges should be cleared in a time bound manner.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Haritha Karma Sena is a challenging project because it requires coordination of many government and non government agencies. Timely action is essential for this project to make it a sustainable model. It also has to face issues of decentralised schemes and its functional areas. Kerala's topographical difference and cultural diversity also affect this project in different manner.

Some of the challenges in Haritha Karma Sena project are,

- Lack of coordination with stake holders
- MCF, RRF unavailability
- User fee and VGF constraints
- Lack of awareness in people about the program
- Attitude of people in handling wastes.
- Unavailability of eco friendly version of Non bio degradable products
- Clash between centralised and non centralised waste management programmes
- Delay in decision making from related authorities
- Clarity less orders and proceedings
- Unavailability of monitoring tools...
- Lack of sustainability in user fee collection.

Haritha Karma Sena project has lots of challenges to consider, it will need different schemes for different locations. But it will also have huge demand from different locations of Kerala. Kudumbashree is looking for enterprise opportunity with Haritha Karma Sena members for getting

them sustainable income. We should encourage eco friendly businesses along with eradication of plastic wastes.

Some of the opportunities of Haritha Karma Sena projects are listed here,

- Haritha Karma Sena projects will generate more than 30000 job opportunities.
- Huge demand of Plastic waste collection and its management
- Government support and fund to form eco friendly initiatives
- Unavailability of skilled manpower to manage bio degradable and non bio degradable wastes.

- New trends for green/eco friendly products.
- Green protocol based events or functions.

Haritha Karma Sena project will provide many employment opportunities; its primary aim is to collect non bio degradable waste from homes or shops and providing support to needy people in managing bio degradable wastes at their home or shop itself. User fee collection from beneficiaries will do their income, but it is not stable as the quantity of plastic will reduce gradually. So we have to ensure a sustainable income for Haritha Karma Sena members to retain them in the field. That is why we are now focusing on enterprise models to get assistance from Kudumbashree.

Districts	No: of LSGIs	No: of LSGIs completed training of HKS	No: of Haritha Karma Sena Trained	No: of Haritha Karma Sena units started Operation	No: of HKS consortium formed
Thiruvananthapuram	78	58	1459	10	0
Kollam	73	43	1497	18	3
Pathanamthitta	57	38	1300	4	5
Alappuzha	78	78	2825	30	5
Kottayam	77	74	1884	17	0
Idukki	54	43	1744	7	0
Ernakulam	96	26	1154	11	0
Thrissur	94	53	2096	4	1
Palakkad	95	95	2862	9	0
Malappuram	106	23	936	18	6
Kozhikode	78	78	1978	35	0
Wayanad	26	20	491	3	0
Kannur	81	81	1362	5	0
Kasaragod	41	16	483	7	5
Total	1034	732	22071	178	25

Table 1: District wise Haritha Karma Sena status

Kudumbashree completed skill training in waste management of over 22000 Kudumbashree women from 732 local self government institutions of various districts. Haritha Karma Sena activities are now started in almost 200 LSGI's. Kudumbashree is now looking for the enterprise and consortium formation of Haritha Karma Sena in order to support them for getting additional income. Due to unavailability of various facilities more than 75% of LSGI can't be able to start its operation. Due to lack of

coordination, most of the LSGI are unaware and confused about various steps for the implementation of the program. Kudumbashree is trying to activate Haritha Karma Sena project in LSGI's with the support of our district mission. We conducted meeting with Haritha Kerala Mission and Haritha Sahaya Sthapanam for getting proper coordination in field levels. We are also planning district level meeting with associated stake holders for district level coordination.

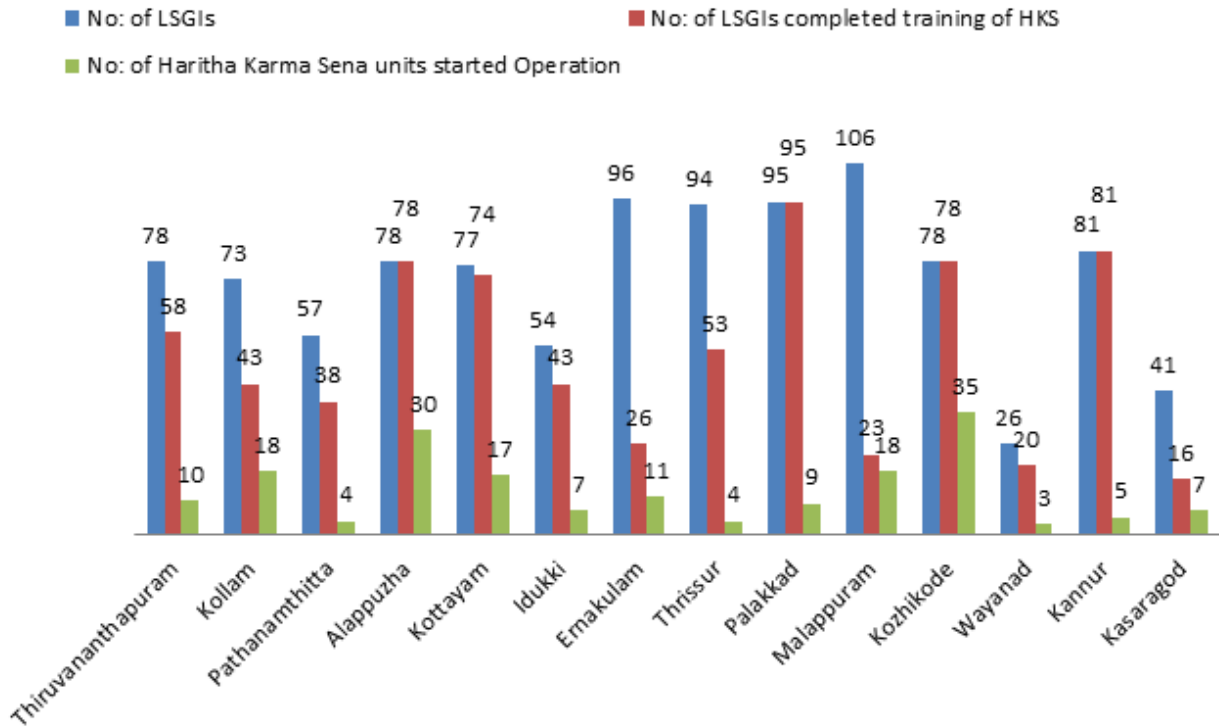


Chart 1: District wise Haritha Karma Sena formation and activation Status



HKS-House hold plastic waste collection

FORMATION OF ENTERPRISE MODEL:

Haritha Karma Sena Enterprise will consist of 4 to 10 members from nearby wards of an LSGI. In LSGI level, we are focussing on consortiums of these kinds of enterprises to ensure the rights of each Haritha Karma Sena member and for the overall coordination of enterprise activities. Consortium and Enterprise must have president, secretary and Treasurer in its executive committee. Assembly of Consortium will consist of all Haritha Karma Sena members and its executive committee will consists of 5 to 15 members (Either President or Secretary of all Enterprises) from Haritha Karma Sena Enterprises of that LSGI. This committee have the right to take decisions in coordination with LSGI. Corpus fund and user fee determination, its effective utilization, administrative

and entrepreneurial decision making are the basic responsibilities of this committee. Kudumbashree will provide registration and fund assistance to these enterprises after evaluating their proposals.

We would like to establish some eco friendly enterprises with Haritha Karma Sena in LSGI's. We would like to provide financial and training assistance to those units having interest to form such enterprises,

Some of the opportunities of this kind are,

Organic Gift shops, Green House Keeping services, Plant Delivery services, husk Collection units, Cloth bag unit, repair shops, swap shops, Landscape designer, Organic Juice bar, Organic food stand, Eco friendly food supplier, Farmers Market Vendor, Green Pens, Green protocol units, Eco travel planner, Air duct cleaner, Well recharging and water quality testing team, Green fair organiser, Used book and cloth store/Second sale shops, Green remodelling of houses etc,

Enterprises of Haritha Karma Sena will be provided with assistance of free Web portal service in selling their goods and service is also one of our future visions for this project.

IMPACTS

The programme have a huge relevance that such an initiative had altered the attitude of the people that they think twice before throwing a plastic cover away. In fact, the influence of Haritha Karma Sena has minimized the usage of using plastic and a better civic sense had been

evolved among the people regarding the usage of plastic and other waste. Knowing the success story of Haritha Karma Sena in waste management in one panchayath, many other panchayaths have consulted them to study their model of waste management. One such example is Karulai model; Karulayi model of waste management is evolving into a model that can be replicated in many LSGI's across the state. Harithakarmasena of Kudumbashree is committed to bring about a positive change in the sector of waste management. Envisioning a healthier, clean and green world that compliments a human generation living in harmony with nature. Kudumbashree is also trying to develop green eco friendly enterprises all over Kerala to assist Haritha Karma Sena members in getting additional income as well as to reduce the quantity of non bio degradable waste. Its impact will be huge and all LSGI will get sustainable waste management model with trained Kudumbashree members. We also trying to conduct campaigns for our youngsters to reduce the use of plastics and encouraging them to recycle used goods.

