

Activity Report of Kerala Development Society: 2016-2017

Kerala Development Society is a socio-economic research organization and a centre for the development of Indian States. It has emerged as a technical support institution to various government agencies and community organizations. It has vast experience in working with various ministries of Government of India and departments and institutions of several Indian states. It actively works with local communities, business communities, various local government institutions and district administrations. It has been working with various ministries of the central government, state governments, district administrations and international organizations. It has been working with a cross section of communities such as Micro and Small Enterprises, Young and Emerging Enterprises, Self Help Groups, Transgender People and Minority Communities

Current Projects and Programmes

1 Entrepreneur Development Programmes

Formation of a Business Chamber of Non-Resident Keralites in India: Successful Completion of an Institution Building Project

KDS has provided technical support in setting up of Non-Resident Keralites business chamber in Delhi within the framework of Kerala Business Forum project of KDS. KDS has carried out various activities as a part of its technical support in setting up of Non-Resident Keralites business chamber. For example, the first ever Kerala Business Forum (KBF) Summit was held on 15 November 2015 at the Constitution Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi. The KBF Summit was a special business networking programme for Non-Resident Keralite entrepreneurs from the NCR of Delhi. Over 200 CEOs of NRK enterprises participated in the event. According to an estimate, over 1000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) owned by Keralites are present in the NCR of Delhi and of these 400 MSMEs have been identified by KDS.

The formation of Business Chamber of Non Resident Keralites in NCR of Delhi has been completed now. The first meeting of the Central Committee of the newly formed chamber was

held at 5.30PM on December 30, 2016 at Conference Hall of Mecpro Heavy Engineering Ltd, 610, Som Datt Chambers-II, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi. Mr. Rajan Skhariya was unanimously elected as the first President of the Chamber

The President Mr. Rajan Skhariya is the Managing Director of Mecpro Heavy Engineering Ltd. Secretary is Mr. Unnikrishnan T. Nair who is Chief Executive of Prime Labs while Treasurer Mr. Jacob George is Managing Director of Jams Furnaces Pvt. Ltd. From KDS side, Dr. Jacob John and Prof. K.R.G Nair participated in the proceedings. A total of 23 entrepreneurs covering various business sectors have become members of the Central Committee. The meeting emphasized the need for designing the delivery of services of the Chamber to meet the requirements of Delhi based Malayalee business people. The business chamber will take up many business support activities such as arranging business promotion tours with governmental support, group participation in exhibitions as well as capturing new ideas for business development.

2 Kerala Local Government Service Delivery Project, Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala Need Assessment and 13 Detailed Project Reports for Alappuzha Municipality, Muvattupuzha Municipality and Kadappuram Gram Panchayat.

Government of Kerala has entered into agreement with the World Bank for implementing Kerala Local Government Service Delivery Project (KLGSDP) for providing financial assistance to raise the level of service deliveries by Local Governments using modern tools of planning, development, project implementation and transparency in administration to ensure increase in revenues and enhance utilization of finance resources, thereby improving the quality of lives of the people. KLGSDP has assigned two municipalities and one Panchayat to KDS Delhi to conduct a study to ascertain the infrastructure development and service delivery needs and then prepare 13 DPRs to fulfill the identified needs through the funds available under IDA /World Bank assistance.

Need Assessment and selections of projects was carried out through a participatory approach. The data and information for this exercise were collected both from primary and secondary sources. KDS has prepared the Detailed Project Report for 13 development projects in two municipalities and one Panchayat against the World Bank funding Rs. 12 Crores

The 13 DPRs are as follows:-

Alappuzha Municipality

1. Dialysis Unit in Alappuzha Government General Hospital with Building Maintenance Alappuzha Municipality
2. Building of Municipal Health Office with Solar Electrification as a new Zonal Office Of Alappuzha Municipality

Muvattupuzha Municipality

1. Construction of Community Hall
2. Renovation and Modernization of Fish Market
3. Construction of Toilet Block and related amenities in Eastern Bus stand Yard
4. Infrastructure Support to Government School at Sivankunnu
5. Infrastructure support to Maradi Govt. School
6. Infrastructure support to Govt. JB School at Vazhapally

Kadappuram Municipality

1. Construction of a Gasified Crematorium
2. Solar Electrification of GP Office Complex
3. BUDS School– Special School for Mentally and Physically Challenged Children
4. Supply of Drinking Water through Developing a New Water Source
5. Improvement of basic infrastructure and construction of an Anganwadi building in Tsunami rehabilitation colony

All the DPRs are finalized and got approved. KDS has extended all the services in getting the administrative approval of the respective district planning committee and technical sanction. After the approval the construction work has been started. The task of KDS has been completed.

3 Study on Human Rights of Transgender as a Third Gender- Sponsored by National Human Rights Commission

To improve the situation of transgender in our country and to bring them to the mainstream development, National Human Rights Commission has assigned a research study to Kerala Development Society. The study covered the profile of transgender as a third gender encompassing important socio-economic variables. The main objectives of the study are to study the overall profile of transgender as a third gender encompassing important socio-economic variables, like age, caste, religion, education, employment and income and to examine various kinds of discrimination, human rights violations faced by them. The main objectives of the study will be follows:

- i. Examine various kinds of discrimination, human rights violations faced by them in all aspects concerning their lives, including coping mechanisms, both in urban and rural areas;
- ii. Evaluate entitlements given to transgender by Central and State Governments under various schemes/programmes like education, health, employment, food, pension, etc. and reasons for their inclusion/exclusion, including problems faced by them in accessing those entitlements;
- iii. Study in-depth the programmes/schemes launched/facilities provided for transgender by the Centre, State or Local Government and critically identify the areas of economic activities for self-reliance;
- iv. Make an in-depth analysis of the laws and policies, if any, for transgender along with the Supreme Court judgments and steps taken by the Central and State Governments for their overall developments in the light of the given policy, law(s) and judgment;
- v. Examine the prevalent practices towards transgender in foreign countries and also study the UN Yogyakarta Principles of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity; and
- vi. Develop and build database and come up with actionable recommendations to protect and promote their human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The draft report submitted and presentation on the findings of the study was made to the chairman and members of the National Human Right Committee. The approval of the report is awaited.

4 State of Panchayat Report (SoPR) and Devolution Index Report (DI) - Ministry of Panchayati Raj , Government of India-on a Consortium basis

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India has been preparing the Devolution Index (DI) and State of Panchayat Report (SoPR) for 2016-17. The high ranking States and UTs on the DI will be awarded and honoured on the Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April 2017. The MoPR has assigned the task to Centre for Rural Management (CRM) Kottayam, Kerala. KDS is a consortium partner of this project.

State of Panchayat Report (SoPR) of all the Indian States and UTs will be prepared in a ten months period. In addition to supporting the preparation of the Devolution Index (DI), KDS is in the process of preparing the State of Panchayat Report of Haryana and Uttarakhand.

5 Centre for Kerala Public Policy and Programmes

The Centre has initiated the setting up of a repository of Kerala's public policy and programmes in Delhi. Various activities of the Centre include the collection and updating of relevant data and information. The focused sectors are (1) industry, (2) labour, (3) health, (4) education, (5) tourism (6) fiscal decentralization/decentralized planning/ Panchayats and Municipalities and (7) state finance /public finance. Target beneficiaries of the project include entrepreneurs, educational institutions in India and abroad, government departments/ institutions in Kerala and other states, students and researchers. KDS has started sector focused policy initiatives in these sectors. Each sector has a committee consisting of experts/specialists. The activities of the Centre for Kerala Public Policy and Programmes include publicizing the work of each sectoral initiative and disseminate the output, facilitating the interface between specialists and government. The Centre organizes round tables, workshops and seminars in Delhi and Kerala.

6 KDS Studies Published

Working Papers: KDS has published the following working papers:

Kurian N.J, and John Jacob, *“Development of an Appropriate Methodology and Framework for Creating a Database of Self Help Groups”*, KDS working Paper series 1-14, Kerala Development Society, New Delhi, September, 2014 at www.kdsonline.org

Nair K.R.G, *“God’s own country courting disaster?”* , KDS working Paper series 2-15, Kerala Development Society, New Delhi, January , 2015 at www.kdsonline.org

John Jacob, *“Socio-Economic and Health Problems of Theyyam Dancers belonging to Scheduled Castes of Kerala”*, KDS working Paper series 3-15, Kerala Development Society, New Delhi, March, 2015 at www.kdsonline.org

John Jacob, *“Interregional Migration from Eastern States to Kerala: A Socio Economic Analysis”*, KDS working Paper series 4-15, Kerala Development Society, New Delhi, August, 2015 at www.kdsonline.org

John Jacob, *“Education of Children of Migrant Workers and Right to Education Act, 2009: A Critical Analysis”*, KDS working Paper series 5-15, Kerala Development Society, New Delhi, April, 2016 at www.kdsonline.org

Book/ Papers published by members/ consultants of KDS

Jacob John Coauthored with Megha Jacob, *Local Governments and Public Health Delivery System in Kerala: Lessons of Collaborative Governance*, (2016) Cambridge Scholars Publishing, London.

Dr. Seema Chelat has been awarded Ph.D in Economics from IGNOU. The title of her Ph. D dissertation was *“Fiscal Decentralization and Development Plans: A Comparative Analysis of Panchayati Raj Institutions in West Bengal and Kerala”*
