

**National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in Panchayats through Thematic Approaches**

*Theme 1- Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihood*

*Venue : Kochi, Kerala*

*Date : 14 -16 November 2022*



**Welcome Address and Journey of Kerala on Theme 1: Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihood Gram Panchayat : Smt. Sarada G Muraleedharan, Additional Chief Secretary Government of Kerala**

She began with a thought that why we made poverty eradication the first among the SDGs. Perhaps because it is the most critical among the SDGs. Because, poverty is that multi-dimensional thing which depends on all other ensuing SDGs to happen. This is one of the most complex one as endeavors towards health, education, gender, sanitation, sustainability and livelihoods are required for eradicating poverty. She discussed about the relevance of this particular theme in Kerala. Fifty years ago, Kerala was suffering from severe poverty and 59.74 was the count of poverty in Kerala. According to the report of NITI Ayog, the multidimensional poverty in Kerala has decreased to 0.73 %. She pointed out the contributing factors that helped the state to make this leap such as social egalitarian movements, land reforms, total literacy campaigns and especially the people's plan campaign which was derived from the decentralized planning. In 1995-96, Kerala's poverty was about 30 %. It is evident that Panchayat Raj has played an important role in the eradication of poverty in Kerala. Kudumbashree groups came in 1998 as very strong community based organizations as part of LSGIs. Kudumbashree has been working successfully for around 25 years. Along with Andhra Pradesh, Kudumbashree had also a role in forming the NRLM restructuring SGSY scheme. The first initiative taken by the new government is to find the poorest and eradicate poverty. As a lesson from the success story of Kerala, she said that our dreams for a better tomorrow are possible. She welcomed the honorable dignitaries on the dais, other participants and those who are yet to come. She also mentioned the ground work done by KILA. By welcoming all once again, she concluded her words.



**Eradicating Poverty through Employment, Skilling and Social Protection Schemes :**  
**Shri NagendraNath Sinha, Secretary, MoRD, Government of India**

He express his gratitude for Kerala government and MoPR for conceiving this conference to discuss the role local government can play for poverty free panchayats and enhanced livelihood. Some gram panchayats focus on poverty free and others take on other dimensions of SDG. He take the time to explain how far India has come up since the multi-dimensional poverty started by UNDP and Oxford poverty initiative. India has brought more than 41 cr people above poverty line and it's a complained effort. Income poverty has come down from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2 % in 2019. But there are still challenges, about 229 million of people below poverty line when we see from the lens of multi-dimensional poverty out of which 209 million come from rural India, that's the task. About 5% of rural households are in grips of ultra-poverty. We have addressed the steps taken by India to bring millions above the poverty line and the role played by the Panchayat raj intuitions played in it. So the LSGs should plan for each family according to their special needs. Ultra-poor households need a different approach to sort out their issues where gram panchayats play a major role. Convergence of resources is critical. He adds that panchayats should also think about how they can move up the value chain.



**Policy Formulation to institutionalize Themes 1: Poverty-Free Gram Panchayat: Shri. Sunil Kumar, Secretary, MoPR, Government of India**

While addressing the gathering said if we all work together, the villages will get renewed vigour and prosperity, will open new avenues of employments which will in turn help to go ahead to make new India. In this endeavor SHGs/Village Organisation can play pivotal roles. He mentioned that around 80,000 Gram Panchayats have taken pledge / *Sankalp* to work on LSDG Theme-1, which is Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Gram Panchayats in response to clarion call given by Hon'ble Prime Minister on different occasions. Shri Sunil Kumar added that collective efforts are needed to guide the Panchayats to help achieve the goals in less time.



### **Release of Compendium of Videos on SDGs**

The Book 'Participatory Extreme Poverty Assessment: Experiences from Kerala' was released during the inaugural session of the National Workshop. One compendium of more than 350 videos was also released today by the dignitaries. These videos have been prepared on the topic Localization of SDGs in various thematic areas such as poverty free and enhanced livelihood village, healthy village, child friendly village, water sufficient village, clean and green villages, self-sufficient infrastructure, socially secured village, good governance village, engendered village etc. These videos are prepared by Local Self Governments / Panchayati Raj Institutions in Kerala. These videos are available at the link: [sdgkerala.kila.ac.in](http://sdgkerala.kila.ac.in)



**Keynote address: Shri M. B. Rajesh Hon'ble Minister, Department of Local Self-Governments, Government of Kerala**

He expressed gratitude to MoPR for giving the state of Kerala a chance to host the workshop. He mentioned that the conference is having a wider agenda to discuss the possibility of localization of SDGs in 9 themes. Also discussions should focus on the inclusion and access to basic services and also social safety net and protection system through Grama Panchayats. Poverty is multi-dimensional and eradication of extreme Poverty is very important. Though India has improved multi poverty index, still is having higher number of poor people. India stands 107 position of in global hunting index which was 101 in 2021. The fact is that India is home to large number of poor population. Our country is having about to 21.8% poor children. It is important to note that malnutrition among under-five, children are very high. The incidence of waiting is 19.3% and stunting in children 35.5. This conference will be focusing on the role of three tier panchayath in addressing poverty and empowering the poor. It is important to keep in mind that the capacity and efficiency of local self-government institutions are determined by the empowerment of people of those local bodies. It is important to nurture leaders from poor and vulnerable communities. Kerala has been trying constantly putting effort by empower

local bodies through the transfer of funds and powers in the last 25 years. Eradication of poverty is not a new agenda for Kerala. Recent initiative undertaken by the state was the eradication of extreme poverty. It was the first cabinet decision of this government. 64606 households were identified as extreme poor through the extensive participatory process. Now, micro plan preparation for the upliftment of extreme poor is in progress. Camps are being conducted across the state for the provision of basic services, and support. The micro plan, comprises of immediate and intermediate, and long-term, comprehensive plans and aims in eradicating history, poverty by coming four years. Poverty was reduced in the state, through various movements, such as decentralization of power, social relation movement, and land reforms movement, which paved the way for practicing of social justice across the state. Kudumbasree played a major role in eradication of poverty in the state.



**Keynote address: Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State of External Affairs  
Government of India**

Honourable Minister pointed out the link between SDGs and rural livelihood and viewed them on the light of Mahatma Gandhis idea of "Gram Swaraj". He praised the attempts made by Honourable Prime Minister and Central government for actualizing this objective of "Gram

Swaraj” or Self Sufficient Village. The progress in food production, farmer’s welfare and healthcare are all aiming towards the eradication of poverty in villages, as nearly 80% of India’s population is in villages. The financial aids provided for rural development by the central Government has increased in recent years. He also mentioned about the role of LSGIs in successfully implementing many of the schemes formulated by Central Government. The power of Gram Sabhas in decision making which is supported by our constitution can help the country achieve self-sufficiency. Therefore the role of elected representatives from villages is conspicuous. He concluded by wishing that discussing the triumphant models in local governance in this workshop will definitely help them in their journey.



**Keynote address: Shri. Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Hon’ble Minister of State ( MoPR)  
Government of India**

He explained why Kerala was selected as a host because even in 1952 Travancore implemented vaccination program successfully. And many achievements they had in education also at that time. Kerala also made the best use of the natural resources they have- backwaters of Kerala, conservation of drinking water even in coastal areas. One of the reason for Kerala’s development is the increasing number of NRIs in the state. NRI fund transaction is high in Kerala. According MoPR one specialty is that Kerala is the state which provide the highest percentage of fund in LSGIs. Kerala is a good example for successfully attaining Sustainable



Development Goals so other states can learn a lot from Kerala. Presidents are the key players in a gram panchayats with whom public entrust their faith so presidents should groom themselves accordingly.



**Vote of Thanks: Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph Principal Secretary, Department of Local Self-Governments, Government of Kerala**

She thanked the MoPR for choosing Kerala to host this event on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of decentralization and Kudumbasree in Kerala. NITI ayog has reported that the multidimensional poverty in Kerala is less than 1%. These two day workshop will be a learning and sharing experience for the participants to learn and understand how poverty eradication measures and enhanced livelihood activities can be implemented in respective domains. She highlighted the guiding points suggested by the dignitaries and thanked them for their presents and contributions. She also mentions the inputs given by the staff members. She suggests that we internalized the principles of poverty eradications and the enhancement of livelihood.



Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Shri V. Muraleedharan, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. B. Rajesh, Minister of Local Self Government Department (LSGD), Government of Kerala jointly inaugurated an exhibition and also visited different thematic stalls showcasing various developmental/ livelihood/ skill development schemes and initiatives and achievements of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the thematic areas.



In the three-day National Workshop, different panel discussions were chaired by Secretaries to the Government of India including Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, and other senior officers of Government of India and State Governments.

Panel Discussion 1 on Addressing Marginalisation – Inclusion and Multi-dimensional Poverty was chaired by Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Panel Discussion 2 on Realizing the potential of SHGs for Income Enhancement and Community Development was chaired by Smt. Sarada G. Muraleedharan, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Local Self-Government, Government of Kerala. Panel Discussion 3 on Livelihoods – The Role of Panchayats in Addressing Income Poverty was chaired by Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India.

Video presentations were made by well-performing Gram Panchayats and institutions/ organizations working in thematic areas, and question-answer sessions were also organized to make the panel discussion more interactive, engaging and participatory. Session concluded with an interactive discussion with the expert and participants.



Panel Discussion 2 was on Realizing the potential of SHGs for Income Enhancement and Community Development Chaired By Smt. Sarada Muraleedharan (ACS, Department of Local Self-Government, Government of Kerala) . After a brief introduction by the chair, a video film was presented on the Role of SHGs for Ministry of Rural Development. Shri Rakesh Kumar Kushwaha (Block Coordinator Silvani, Jil Raisen, Madhya Pradesh) presented a video film on Ajeevika. Smt.R.Lalbiakdiki (Kawnpui III Village Council, Mizoram) presented a video film on End-to-End Market Linkage. Smt. Jayanti Ekka (Zilla Parishad Member, Sundergarh Districts, Odisha) presented a video film on SHGs with Employment Generation and Enterprise Potentials. Session concluded with an interactive discussion with the expert and participants.



Panel Discussion 3 on Livelihoods - The Role of Panchayats in Addressing Income Poverty was Chaired By Shri Sunil Kumar (Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GoI). After a brief introduction by the chair, a video film Inter and Intra Dept Convergence of Schemes was presented by Smt. Darshana Nandubhau Marbade, Talegaon Thakur Gram Panchayat, Maharashtra. Mira Devi, (President, Jalkhana Bhatuakhana Gram Panchayat, Assam) presented a video film on Role of GP in Augmenting supplementary income – animal husbandry/dairying/inlands fishing/horticulture/ Mirco Enterprise Development/Small/Cottage Industries. Smt. Annapurna Dehury (Sarpanch, Mukundapur Patna Gram Panchayat, Odisha) presented a Video Film on Role of Panchayat in Poverty Alleviation. Smt. Vineetha Mohandas (President, Perinjannam Gram Panchayat, Kerala) presented video film on Solar Energy. Shri. Niranjan Debnath (Upa-Pradhan, Dabbari Gram Panchayat, Tripura) presented a video film on Inter and Intra Dept Convergence of Schemes. Prof. Peeyush Soni (Associate Professor, Dept. of Agriculture and Food Engineering, IIT Kharagpur) presented a video film on Use of rural technology to promote livelihood. Dibyendu Sarkar, Executive Director Ecovocal Solutions presented a video film on Inter & Intra Development Convergence – leveraging Government Schemes. Shankar Narayan (General Manager NABARD) moderated a discussion on Financial Inclusion in Livelihood Generation

for Poverty Eradication at the grassroots. Session concluded with an interactive discussion with the expert and participants.



## Day 2

### Special Address by Dr Chandra shekhar kumar, Additional Secretary, MoPR

He started with the briefing of the Next phase of the Panchayat Awards and follow-up on Revamped GDPD Portal. He adds that there will be some changes in the selection process from this year onwards. First one is that the awards will be based on 9 SDG themes. Second one is that it is mandatory for every gram panchayat to participate. There was a workshop based on the award selection process held at Delhi. The portal for this purpose has been set. Our aim is to achieve 100% participation of Gram Panchayats. It is glad to inform you that by now 90% Gram Panchayats have started their participation. At the block level, district level and state level top 3 panchayats will be selected and will be awarded. There is a block level committee to select the best panchayats. At every level the participation of elected representatives should be ensured. There will be cash awards and certificates for the winning panchayats.



Panel Discussion 4 on Safety Net for Social, Economic and Environmental Protection through Panchayats was chaired by Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph (Principal Secretary, Department of Local Self-Governments Government of Kerala). After a brief introduction by the chair a video film on National Social Assistance Programme by Ministry of Rural Development was presented. Shri Robin George (Joint Director, Rural Development Department, Himachal Pradesh) presented a video film on Social Protection of Marginalised Communities for Inclusive Development. Shri Aseervadam (Sarpanch Edida Gram Panchayats, Andhra Pradesh) presented a video film on MGNREGA. Debabrata Supakar (Sarpanch, Ranimunda Gram Panchayat, Odish) presented a video film on Employment and Economic Projection through MGNREGA . Shri Suresh Muttathil (President Kadungalloor GP, Kerala) presented a video film on Disaster Management. Shri Sukanta Sarkar Pradan (NGO) presented a video film on the Need for Social Protection for Alleviating Poverty from rural areas. Shri Mandar Vaidya ( UNICEF) presented a video film on Risk-Informed GPSP. Nikhil Jos ( State Management Officer, NSDC Ministry of Skill Development, GoI) presented a video film on Skill Development Schemes. Session concluded with an interactive discussion with the expert and participants.



Panel discussion 5 on the topic Best Practices on Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood GPs from the State of Kerala was Chaired By Smt. Sarada Muraleedharan, ACS, Department of Local Self-Government, Government of Kerala. After a brief introduction by the chair, Shri K. Damodharan (President, Chembilode GP presented) presented the video on the topic palliative care. Shri Renjith M.R (President, Kodakara Block Panchayat) presented video about the She workspace initiative. Smt. Sheeja Satheesh (President, Noolpuzha GP) presented their video on the topic- tribal health. Smt Rony Zacharia (President, Thumpamon GP) presented the video on the topic Harithakarma Sen. Shri Abdul Gafoor (President, Chathamangalam GP) presented the video on the topic Livelihood Agriculture. Smt Sreesha M.P (President, Eranholi GP) presented their video on the topic SHG PRI Convergence. Smt. Dhanya .M (President, Bedadka GP) presented the video on the topic Tribal (SHG-PRI initiative) focusing on tribal communities. Panel discussion concluded with an interactive session with GPs/SHG members and experts. Panel discussion 5 on the topic Best Practices on Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood GPs from the State of Kerala was Chaired By Smt. Sarada Muraleedharan, ACS, Department of Local Self-Government, Government of Kerala. After a brief introduction by the chair, Shri K. Damodharan (President, Chembilode GP presented) presented the video on the topic palliative care. Shri Renjith M.R (President, Kodakara Block Panchayat) presented video about the She workspace initiative. Smt. Sheeja Satheesh (President, Noolpuzha GP) presented their video on the topic- tribal health. Smt Rony Zacharia (President, Thumpamon



GP) presented the video on the topic Harithakarma Sen. Shri Abdul Gafoor (President, Chathamangalam GP) presented the video on the topic Livelihood Agriculture. Smt Sreesha M.P ( President, Exanholi GP) presented their video on the topic SHG PRI Convergence. Smt.Dhanya .M (President, Bedadka GP) presented the video on the topic Tribal (SHG-PRI initiative) focusing on tribal communities. Panel discussion concluded with an interactive session with GPs/SHG members and experts.



Panel discussion 6 they talk about the Way Forward Co-Chaired by Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary MoRD and Shri. Sunil Kumar, Secretary, MoPR GoI. Shri. Jafar Malik IAS Executive Director, Kudumbashree presented the video film on Role of SHGs in Poverty Alleviation in rural areas. Ms. Divya Jain, Project Officer, Livelihoods, UNDP India presented a video film on Upskilling and Linking with Alternate Livelihood Opportunities – Women and Youths. Shri P.P SANIL (President, Kathirur GP, Kerala ) presented the Video Film on Overall Performance of GP in Poverty Alleviation. Dr. W.R. Reddy, Former Director General (DG) NIRD&PR and Chair of the National Capacity Building Framework (NCBF) Committee gave a talk on the topic Capacitating the Panchayat Representatives in the Decentralised Planning Process for Eradicating Poverty from grassroots. Session concluded with an interactive discussion with the expert and participants.



**Vote of Thanks: Dr Joy Elamon, Director General, Kerala Institute of Local Administration**

He holds that around 2400 participants attended the workshop. He thanked Ministry of Panchayatraj, Ministry of Rural Development, National level officials, and state level officials for their wonderful support. He congratulate all the persons who worked behind the workshop.



### Cultural Programmes





### **Day 3: Field Visit**

The third day of the workshop is dedicated to a well-designed ‘Experience Sharing and Learning from the Field’ exercise in the form of field visits for the participants/delegates where the participants will be taken to around 42 Gram Panchayats in Ernakulam and Thrissur to gain insight into the policy and operational dimensions of poverty reduction and livelihood

augmentation within Kerala as evidenced at the local level and to experience first-hand the roles played by various stakeholders – Elected Representatives, officials, participatory planning structures, community organizations and SHG collectives, volunteers, and CSOs – in shaping a pro-poor development narrative





