

REPORT

ON

**A QUICK POST DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PROPOSALS
FOR REHABILITATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE SIX
MOST AFFECTED DISTRICTS OF KERALA**

Kerala State Planning Board

And

Women and Child Development Department

June 2020

Acknowledgements

This Report is in two Parts: Part 1 is a quick PDNA of six flood affected panchayats to assess and plan rehabilitation of women and children; Part 2 is a survey of Toilets for Women in Bus Stations (under Kerala State Road Transport Corporation) closest to the Six affected Panchayats. Clean toilets for women travelling in buses is a matter of serious concern. We sincerely acknowledge the contribution of the following persons for Part 1:

Experts who have given their valuable Comments in the initial meeting held in the Planning Board on September 5, 2018.

Six Panchayath Presidents/Members/functionaries of ICDS, District Planning Office, Kudumbashree, NGOs who have participated in the 6 seminars held in the Panchayaths.

The Builders like ULCCS, Nirmithi Kendra and Habitat who have given us valuable advice on construction of destroyed AWCs.

The Bamboo Development Corporation who have given their help and advice in abundance for the training and setting up of Community centres in 3 panchayaths

Mr.Ramesh Menon who was kind enough to extend help through 'Save the loom' project by promising training to the weavers and tailors.

Mr.Krishna Prasad, Ex-MLA, Chairperson of Brahmagiri Project who was willing to provide training for all the programmes of Brahmagiri in Pozhuthana Panchayath.

Last but not the least are the organisers in the Panchayaths who have made the seminar a success and all the panchayath members and people of the panchayath for their participation and co-operation.

The help we received from our respective organisations, in particular local level functionaries of WCD and District Planning Office, needs to be acknowledged.

Mridul Eapen TK Anandi

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PART I

The Context

In the aftermath of the unprecedented disaster which Kerala experienced in August 2018 with incessant rains, flooding and landslides, the Hon.Minister of Health, Social Justice and Women/Child Development Smt KK Shylaja Teacher, asked Dr.TK Anandi, Gender Adviser and Dr.Mridul Eapen, Member, Kerala State Planning Board to undertake a quick needs assessment of women and children in the 6 most affected districts of the state in order to plan to what extent financial resources can be redirected towards their needs and restore their livelihoods without too much delay. Since a large number of anganawadi centres (AWCs) have been partially damaged and at least 114 completely damaged, we were also required to look into the issue and suggest ways of restarting them on a priority basis; how many have identified land in the affected areas and how many have started functioning in alternative buildings. In addition as the Chief Minister has stated this should also be taken as an opportunity to rebuild Kerala to ensure better standards of living to all sections of society; what is the scope for this even in the short run.

There is enough evidence now from Disasters across the world to show that women experience disasters differently and generally worse than males and that this difference is located in the social construction of gender. The inequalities that exist make them more vulnerable not only in terms of its impact but also in terms of their capacity to cope with the disaster. However, viewing them simply as victims only aggravates their vulnerability. They have local knowledge, practical

skills, social relationships and above all their strong desire to sustain their households that are critical to post disaster recovery.

We therefore need to integrate gender concerns in pre and post disaster management activities, such as risk assessment, early warning, information management, education and training; and in the post disaster recovery phase addressing gender needs specifically in the restoration of livelihoods, including agriculture, traditional occupations, petty trade/services/micro enterprises and the most negatively affected key sectors of housing, water and sanitation, fuel, health care etc. With the vision of rebuilding a new Kerala under the New Kerala Initiative we need to bring about greater gender empowerment, focussing in particular on imparting skill development to women in new and non-traditional areas of employment which mean higher earnings and therefore increasing their bargaining capacity. However, this would necessitate the creation of an enabling environment for women to work outside the home by reducing women's unpaid household and care work. There has to be a greater emphasis on the role of the state in enhancing the provision of child/elderly/sick care, even encouraging community kitchens, and bringing about a more democratic family set up with men sharing household and care work through a sustained campaign to build a gender conscious society. It is essential to assess the new gender needs and interests arising from such a situation; our focus is primarily on women's livelihoods and strengthening the anaganawadi system.

Methodology

Severely affected districts were selected for the study. viz: Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Ernakulam, Trichur and Wynad. In each district, one Panchayat most or severely affected was selected for a pilot study: Nedumudi (Alappuzha), Aranmula (Pathanamthitta), Vellathooval (Idukki), Chennamangalam (Ernakulam), Annamanada (Trichur) and Pozhuthana (Wyanad). The choice was made in consultation with concerned government officials, Panchayat presidents and local level functionaries. A discussion was also organized in the Planning Board prior to starting the field visits, with well known women activists and scholars informing them about our study and it's Methodology, seeking their comments and suggestions to improve it.

The support and assistance of the local government is essential for any activity in a Panchayath. Hence we contacted the Panchayath president and on our first visit explained to her/him the need and purpose of the study. And requested her/him to organize a seminar with key stakeholders some of whom would also be among those affected by the floods within a weeks' time. The second visit was to participate in the seminar.

The methodology adopted was quantitative, qualitative and participatory aided by a questionnaire. In that regarding the details of Anganwadis, we have collected the quantitative data; to understand the loss of livelihood it was more qualitative supplemented, wherever possible by a quantitative assessment of the loss. Since this was a quick needs assessment study, in order to collect the qualitative and quantitative data, we used the following method: In the seminar organized by the panchayath, all the ward members,

ICDS supervisor/CDPO, District Planning officer, MNREGA workers, ASHA worker, Kudumbhasree members, JPHN, JHN, and local persons affected by the flood were invited. After the introduction, the participants were grouped into ten and a number of questions contained in the questionnaire, relating to children, largely about the damaged AWCs, children affected and women's livelihoods, what they had been doing; what they lost; their views on training for new avenues of employment; problems of elderly and physically disabled women, pregnant and lactating mothers; what did they want done immediately, were dictated to them. From 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. they discussed the questions in their groups and group report was presented in the plenary in the post lunch session. The discussion points were handed over to us. (The questions are given in Annexure 1.)

During the reporting there was also detailed discussion regarding the possibilities of repairing/constructing AWCs and restoring livelihoods to the women in the Panchayath largely in the area of agriculture-vegetable/cultivation, cows, goats, poultry- petty shops, traditional industries, tailoring. In three Panchayaths, while the group discussion was on, we visited some of the anganawadis, loss of crops and so on; in Chendamangalam, we visited handloom weavers' societies and in Aranmula a Khadi spinning centre and understood the degree of damages to the buildings and livelihood of people. Also we had discussions with the panchayath presidents regarding the need and condition of the panchayath in the post-flood situation. Later, we have consolidated the group discussions Panchayat wise. And the needs assessment was prepared prioritizing the same.

Brief Overview of Needs as Assessed in the Select Panchayats

Since this was a quick assessment it has its limitations in terms of its reach. However, by attempting to involve as many functionaries at the grass root level as possible, we present below some general observations, and certain facts which struck us and would be useful in plan scheme preparation. Needless to state, the schemes have to be proposed keeping in mind the specificities of each panchayat, for the flood affected persons, on which action can be taken within a short span of time and within this plan period (2018-19) itself.

- The most striking feature of our visits in each of the panchayats was the vibrancy and keenness with which women wanted to bring their households and families back to normal; their eagerness to attend the meeting to express their concern about the closed AWCs and loss of livelihoods is evidence of this. It indicates very strongly the crucial role women are playing in the recovery phase and will play later in the reconstruction of a New Kerala.
- Most women were keen to do NREGA work despite the low wage. Annamannada panchayat had among the larger number of women already engaged in NREGA work. Their request was (a) to raise the wage to some extent; (b) increase the number of days to 150 (already done by the government); (c) change the timing from 9 am to 5 pm to 4 pm; (d) provide assistive equipment like gloves/ boots etc where needed; (e) provision for child care should be there if more than 5 children were there on the site.
- Those women (even some younger women also) who had been working and lost their source of livelihood in the flood/landslides)-

like sewing machine, handlooms, khadi charkhas, cow, goat, poultry, vegetable/other crops etc stated they found comfort in going back to the same activity and were not very keen at the moment to learn new trades. *However, they were quite willing to learn better methods of doing whatever they were doing or adding value to whatever they were producing. For instance those whose sewing machines had been destroyed were willing to get training in fashion designing.*

- They were quite clear on the immediate need to provide some employment to women- perhaps by providing grants/loans for some form of self employment.
- Some women, the larger numbers being young and more educated were quite vocal about learning new skills like all activities connected with construction; or electronics; or back end jobs in the film/entertainment industry; tourism or driving etc. But most of them wanted to be trained within the panchayat limits. This points very clearly to the constraining effect of household/care work on women wanting to improve their economic situation. The urgent need for child/elderly/sick care to reduce burden of household responsibilities for women is very evident.
- SC colonies were hit quite badly and it is very essential to look into their requirements very urgently, especially of the older women and disabled. The not so old women and some of the disabled are keen to run petty shops or some traditional craft/handicraft- like mat, kutta, morram making etc. However, procuring raw materials is a problem.

A few intellectually disabled people are there in each panchayat who needed support both financial and physical.

- Kerala has perhaps the highest proportion of female headed households, almost 25 percent and housing being a critical need not only for living but also as a space for earning a living through economic activity in the house, (for instance the household weaver) there is need to give priority to such women in rebuilding/constructing houses.
- In all panchayats a concern was expressed that the nutritional needs of the pregnant and lactating mothers were not being met, especially in Pozhuthana panchayat in Wyanad; largely due to inaccessibility.
- As far as the children were concerned two distressing facts were (a) the completely damaged Anganawadi centres which need to be relocated; all the registers too were destroyed; (b) school students who lost their books and school equipment which needs to be replaced. Some steps have been taken in this direction for school children; while some AWCs have started functioning in alternate spaces, much more remains to be done here on this, especially locating new land for relocating AWCs.
- A request expressed in each panchayat was the need for urgently organising psycho social counselling for children and for women separately. ASHA /Anganawadi /Kudumbashree workers should identify those children and women who needed it and then it should be done for each of these groups rather than counselling each household.

On the whole while on the one hand it appeared very crucial to restore existing livelihoods to women in the shortest possible time, on the other the need to open up new avenues of employment through organizing local (within panchayats) skill/training programmes for groups of women willing to learn new trades, needed urgent attention. At the same time there has to be a greater emphasis on the role of the state in enhancing the provision of child/elderly/sick care, even encouraging community kitchens, and bringing about a more democratic family set up with men sharing household and care work through a sustained campaign to build a gender conscious society and reduce women's domestic responsibilities.

Given below are a few proposals for the panchayats we visited and which can be undertaken by the Women and Child Development Department in collaboration with the panchayats and other agencies. Since skill development and training takes time we have suggested only a few training schemes appropriate at this time and with the possible funds available.

Proposals

The Table below gives a picture of the nature of the schemes, in which the concerned panchayat, estimated cost and agencies involved is indicated.

Detailed Proposals

| Sl. No | Name of the Panchayath | No. of beneficiaries | Livelihood Activities | Fund Needed (in lakhs) | Modus Operandi |
|--------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | Aranmula | i.26 women tailors | Sewing Machines | 1.5 | Term loan from KSWDC for purchasing Sewing machines , Assurance on Collateral Security to be assured from WCP of LSG ¹ |
| | | ii.50women Widows/ Single women / physically challenged | Manufacturing Bamboo products | 25.0 | Establishment of Community Mat Weaving Centres under Bamboo Development Corporation. Training can be given by the Bamboo Corporation, with the financial help of KSWDC. ² |
| | | iii. 5 no. of aged women (18-55 years) | Bunk shops | 0.5 | Term loan from KSWDC . Assurance on Collateral Security to be assured from WCP of LSG |

¹This should be linked with the Women component Plan of LSG in the Panchayath. Panchayath Secretary should take initiative in this.

²Women workers are trained in mat making, and manufacture of bamboo products. But they are short of bamboo, which will be supplied by the bamboo corporation and training in new value added items also will be given to them. For which the training cost will be taken by KSWDC. Apart from that, facilities in the mat weaving centre, like setting a toilet, working place etc. are also the responsibility of KSWDC.

| | | | | | |
|----|------------|---|--|-------|--|
| | | iv. 15 NREGA workers | Construction /allied trade work local building construction like Anganwadis. | 7.00 | Training/skilling by Nirmithi Kendra ³ |
| 2. | Annamanada | i.50 Widows / physically challenged women | Manufacturing Bamboo products like mats, Lumper etc. | 25.00 | Establishment of Community Mat Weaving Centres under Bamboo Development Corporation. Training can be given by the Bamboo Corporation, with the financial help of KSWDC. ⁴ |
| | | ii. 5 no. of aged / physically challenged women (18-55 years) | Bunk shops | 0.5 | Term loan from KSWDC . Assurance on Collateral Security to be assured from WCP of LSGI |

³The training is basically on masonry, plumbing, electrification, carpentry etc. It is a workshop for 45 days time. During this period, the builders take the trainees to their site and teach both theory and practicals of the work. Initially under the supervision of the mason, they can learn building, and later once they get experience, they can be registered as a society – a women labour society and build the anganwadis as a team. Construction of anganwadis is in the guideline of the NREGA, so that the skilled construction work can be done by the NREGA. There are also ITI passed girls in all the panchayaths and they also can be sought for helping the NREGA people. Total days of training being 45 days, the construction can be started within 4 months time. The training will be in respective panchayaths and will be from morning to evening and not residential, as requested by the women in panchayaths.

⁴Women workers are trained in mat making, and manufacture of bamboo products. But they are short of bamboo, which will be supplied by the bamboo corporation and training in new value added items also will be given to them. For which the training cost will be taken by KSWDC. Apart from that, facilities in the mat weaving centre, like setting a toilet, working place etc. are also the responsibility of KSWDC.

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|--|-----|---|
| | | iii. 15 NREGA workers | Construction /allied trade work local building construction like Anganwadis. | | Skill Training by ULCCS. ⁵ |
| 3. | Chenna-mangalam | i. 10 Scheduled caste women tailors - NREGA | Sewing machines | 0.5 | Term loan from KSWDC for purchasing Sewing machines Assurance on Collateral Security to be assured from WCP of LSGI |
| | | ii. Women tailors | Modern Apparels units | | Supply of handloom fabric from the handloom societies in Chendamangalam. Training will be given by “ Save the loom” program and other designers. The financial help for training will be given by KSWDC |
| | | iii. 5 no. of aged / physically challenged women (18-55 years) | Bunk shops | 0.5 | Term loan from KSWDC |

⁵The training is basically on masonry, plumbing, electrification, carpentry etc. It is a workshop for 45 days time. During this period, the builders take the trainees to their site and teach both theory and practicals of the work. Initially under the supervision of the mason, they can learn building,, and later once they get experience, they can be registered as a society – a women labour society and build the anganwadis as a team. Construction of anganwadis is in the guideline of the NREGA, so that the skilled construction work can be done by the NREGA. There are also ITI passed girls in all the panchayaths and they also can be sought for helping the NREGA people. Total days of training being 45 days, the construction can be started within 4 months time. The training will be in respective panchayaths and will be from morning to evening and not residential, as requested by the women in panchayaths.

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|---|--|--------|--|
| 4 | Pozhuthana | 325 NREGA workers | Horticulture Fruit cultivation | 50.00 | Brahmagiri Development Society supply saplings. ⁶ |
| | | 25 women from one ward 13 X 25 50 Widows | Manufacturing Bamboo products like mats, Lumber etc | 25 .00 | Land will be given by the Panchayath. + Samara Bhoomi Training will be done by KSWDC. SC/ST department /KSWDC Establishment of Community Mat Weaving Centres under Bamboo Development Corporation. Training will be given by the Bamboo Corporation ⁷ . |
| 5 | Nedumudi | 15 NREGA women | Construction /allied trade work local building construction like Anganwadis. | 7 .00 | Skill Training by Habitat will be given to 15 NREGA women in the panchayath. ⁸ |

⁶ The saplings of the trees and plants given by the society. And the growing of the plants are to be done by women in the given land. The products will be taken from the estate by the society and sell it through their outlets. Also, value added products like jams, juice etc. will be taught to women and that also can be different units and will be marketed through the society's outlets.

There is another project of poultry farm. Through which 1000 chicken are one unit. And the grown up chicken will be marketed through the society while cost of the chicken will be given to women in the units. @Rs. 11/- per Kg.

⁷Women workers are trained in mat making, and manufacture of bamboo products. But they are short of bamboo, which will be supplied by the bamboo corporation and training in new value added items also will be given to them. For which the training cost will be taken by KSWDC. Apart from that, facilities in the mat weaving centre, like setting a toilet, working place etc. are also the responsibility of KSWDC

⁸The training is basically on masonry, plumbing, electrification, carpentry etc. It is a workshop for 45 days time. During this period, these three builders take the trainees to their site and teach both theory and practical experience of the work. Initially under the supervision of the mason, they can build the anganwadi, and later once they get experience, they can build the anganwadis as a team. Construction of anganwadis is in the guideline of the NREGA, so that the skilled construction work can be done by the NREGA. There are also ITI passed girls in all the panchayaths and they also can be sought for helping the NREGA people.

The training will be in respective panchayaths and will be from morning to evening and not residential.

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--|---|--------|--|
| | | 5 no. of aged /physically challenged women (18-55 years) | Bunk shops | 0.5 | Term loan from KSWDC Assurance on Collateral Security to be assured from WCP of LSG |
| 6 | Vellathooval | 50 NREGA women | Manufacturing Bamboo products like mats, Lumber etc | 25 .00 | Establishment of Community Mat Weaving Centres under Bamboo Development Corporation. Training will be given by the Bamboo Corporation. ¹⁰ SC/ST department /KSWDC |
| | | 5 no. of aged /physically challenged women (18-55 years) | Bunk shops ⁹ | 0.5 | |

⁹The Bunk shops will be established in all the six panchayaths. The content of the Bunk shops will be decided by the person concerned. Since it is an individual loan, LSG has to link it with the Women Component Plan, so that security and other formalities can be avoided, and will be authenticated by the panchayath.

¹⁰Women workers are trained in mat making, and manufacture of bamboo products. But they are short of bamboo, which will be supplied by the bamboo corporation and training in new value added items also will be given to them. For which the training cost will be taken by KSWDC. Apart from that, facilities in the mat weaving centre, like setting a toilet, working place etc. are also the responsibility of KSWDC

While the intention was to appropriate funds from existing Plan proposals (of 2018-19), the paucity of government funds with the austerity measures being followed in the wake of the floods, made it difficult to access the needed resources, however small. However, one scheme could be implemented thanks to the perseverance of the Women's Development Corporation: As part of the post flood rehabilitation initiative, KSWDC disbursed soft loans to 28 women skilled in tailoring, from flood affected Aranmula panchayat in Pathanamditta district. The loans were provided to these women to facilitate the purchase of sewing machines and allied accessories destroyed in the floods for self employment and livelihood.

Addendum

The work on this study was done almost entirely by the two main investigators, that is, the Gender Advisor, Government of Kerala and Member, Planning Board with the help of two assistants. There was thus some money remaining in our project amount which we wanted to utilise fruitfully. It was decided that since a major concern of women while travelling continues to be the lack of usable toilets in a large number of KSRTC bus depots, we could spend this fund for surveying the toilets in Bus Stations of these six Panchayats accessed by women who normally used public bus services for travel. Hence Part II of the study is an attempt to evaluate the situation of women's toilets in bus depots/sub depots of KSRTC nearest to Aranmula—Pathanamditta bus station, Annamanada-- Chalakudy bus station, Chennamagalam—North Paravur bus station, Nedumudi GP-- Alappuzha bus station and Edathwa sub depot, Pozhuthana—Kalpetta bus station and Vellathooval—Adimali bus station.

Annexure I

Questionnaire used among the Groups constituted in each GP surveyed

Anganwadis ;

1. No. of children in your anganawadi ?
2. How many of the Anganwadis are functioning in own building?
3. How many of them are rented?
4. How old are the buildings that are owned by anganwadi?
5. How many of the Anganwadis are damaged?
6. How many of them are partially damaged?
7. What are the damages? Complete reconstruction/partial/relocated
8. Has a need assessment been done?
9. Any alternative place found for locating the AWC?
10. How many children lost their homes?

Livelihoods

1. What are all the areas women work in your panchayath?
Options given are:
 - a). MNREGA
 - b) Traditional industries
 - c) Informal sector/ unorganized
 - d) Agriculture/horticulture/animal husbandry/dairy/poultry
 - f) Paid domestic labourers/sweepers
 - g) Shops (pettikkada)

- h) Textile/tailors/sales/vendors
 - i) Kudumbasree micro enterprises
 - j). ASHA Worker
 - k). Tribal promoter
 - l). Saksharatha prerak
 - m). Cook in the schools
 - n) Anganwadi worker
 - o) . JPHN
2. How many of them are skilled workers?
 3. Are they ready to take up skill training?
 4. What type of work they would like to learn?
 5. Will you be able to attend skill - training? (Residential for 2 months?)
 6. Broadly what are the areas you want skill in?
 7. Will you be ready to take up employment if given after training?
 8. How many graduates are there in the area?
 9. How many are college goers? or 20 +?
 10. How many are physically challenged and marginalized?
 11. What are the immediate needs of pregnant and feeding mothers?
 12. How many are 70+?
 13. How many are disabled but working and willing to work?
 14. In the area of livelihood what are your immediate needs?

Annexure II

Data sent by the Panchayaths

Aranmula

| | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | Total number of women in the panchayat | 16377 |
| 2. | Total number of houses affected in flood 2018 | 2360 |
| 3. | No. of women affected in flood 2018 | 3500 |
| 4. | No. of children in the panchayat (0-6) Age group | 1500 |
| 5. | No. of Children going to Anganwadi | 1615 |
| 6. | How many of them affected in flood | 380 |
| 7. | No. of female headed houses in the panchayat | 182 |

Annamanada

| | | |
|----|--|-------|
| | | |
| 1. | Total No. of women in the panchayat | 16891 |
| 2 | Total No. of houses affected in flood 2018 | 5364 |
| 3 | No. of women's affected in flood 2018 | 12328 |
| 4 | No. of female headed houses in the panchayat | 564 |
| 5 | No. of children in the panchayat (0-6 Age group) | 2227 |
| 6 | No. of children going to Anganwadi | 317 |
| 7 | How many of them affected in flood | 177 |

Chennamangalam

| | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Total number of women in the panchayat | 17500 |
| 2. | Total number of houses affected in flood 2018 | 8900 |
| 3. | No. of women affected in flood 2018 | 17300 |
| 4. | No. of children in the panchayat (0-6) Age group | 7500 |
| 5. | No. of Children going to Anganwadi | 350 |
| 6. | How many of them affected in flood | 350 |
| 7. | No. of female headed houses in the panchayat | 700 |

Pozhuthana

| | | |
|----|--|------|
| | | |
| 1. | Total No. of women in the panchayat | 7319 |
| 2 | Total No. of houses affected in flood 2018 | 835 |
| 3 | No. of women's affected in flood 2018 | 3706 |
| 4 | No. of female headed houses in the panchayat | 708 |
| 5 | No. of children in the panchayat (0-6 Age group) | 1620 |
| 6 | No. of children going to Anganwadi | 370 |
| 7 | How many of them affected in flood | 370 |

Nedumudi

| | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | Total No. of women in the panchayat | 10640 |
| 2 | Total No. of houses affected in flood 2018 | 4923 |
| 3 | No. of women's affected in flood 2018 | 10640 |
| 4 | No. of female headed houses in the panchayat | 4752 |
| 5 | No. of children in the panchayat (0-6 Age group) | 1353 |
| 6 | No. of children going to Anganwadi | 350 |
| 7 | How many of them affected in flood | 350 |

Vellathooval

| | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| | | |
| 1. | Total No. of women in the panchayat | 12805 |
| 2 | Total No. of houses affected in flood 2018 | 876 |
| 3 | No. of women's affected in flood 2018 | 1358 |
| 4 | No. of female headed houses in the panchayat | Not given |
| 5 | No. of children in the panchayat (0-6 Age group) | 1579 |
| 6 | No. of children going to Anganwadi | 371 |
| 7 | How many of them affected in flood | 172 |

Annexure III

Data from the Census 2011 for the Six Gram Panchayats

Aranmula

| | <i>(No. in Units)</i> | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Number of Households | 7897 | | |
| Total Population | 28695 | 13218 | 15477 |
| Population in the Age group 0-6 | 2215 | 1126 | 1089 |
| Population Scheduled Caste | 6926 | 3339 | 3587 |
| Population Scheduled Tribe | 72 | 43 | 29 |
| Literates | 25818 | 11880 | 13938 |
| Workers | 8635 | 6042 | 2593 |
| a) Main Workers | 5965 | 4395 | 1570 |
| b) Marginal Workers | 2670 | 1647 | 1023 |
| Cultivators | 689 | 599 | 90 |
| a) Main Cultivators | 535 | 465 | 70 |
| b) Marginal Cultivators | 154 | 134 | 20 |
| Agricultural Labourers | 1337 | 995 | 342 |
| a) Main Agricultural Labourers | 596 | 520 | 76 |
| b) Marginal Agricultural Labourers | 741 | 475 | 266 |
| Workers in Household Industries | 294 | 155 | 139 |
| a) Main Workers in Household Industries | 154 | 113 | 41 |
| b) Marginal Workers in Household Industries | 140 | 42 | 98 |
| Other Workers | 6315 | 4293 | 2022 |
| a) Main Other Workers | 4680 | 3297 | 1383 |
| b) Marginal Other Workers | 1635 | 996 | 639 |

Source: Census of India 2011

Annamanada

(No. in Units)

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Number of Households | 7734 | | |
| Total Population | 30289 | 14531 | 15758 |
| Population in the Age group 0-6 | 2841 | 1442 | 1399 |
| Population Scheduled Caste | 3441 | 1609 | 1832 |
| Population Scheduled Tribe | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Literates | 26203 | 12720 | 13483 |
| Workers | 11202 | 8043 | 3159 |
| a) Main Workers | 9729 | 7303 | 2426 |
| b) Marginal Workers | 1473 | 740 | 733 |
| Cultivators | 928 | 726 | 202 |
| a) Main Cultivators | 814 | 671 | 143 |
| b) Marginal Cultivators | 114 | 55 | 59 |
| Agricultural Labourers | 968 | 643 | 325 |
| a) Main Agricultural Labourers | 771 | 541 | 230 |
| b) Marginal Agricultural Labourers | 197 | 102 | 95 |
| Workers in Household Industries | 224 | 164 | 60 |
| a) Main Workers in Household Industries | 198 | 151 | 47 |
| b) Marginal Workers in Household Industries | 26 | 13 | 13 |
| Other Workers | 9082 | 6510 | 2572 |
| a) Main Other Workers | 7946 | 5940 | 2006 |
| b) Marginal Other Workers | 1136 | 570 | 566 |

Source: Census of India 2011

Chennamangalam

(No. in Units)

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Number of Households | 7635 | | |
| Total Population | 29326 | 14153 | 15173 |
| Population in the Age group 0-6 | 2467 | 1287 | 1180 |
| Population Scheduled Caste | 1990 | 960 | 1030 |
| Population Scheduled Tribe | 69 | 33 | 36 |
| Literates | 26183 | 12647 | 13536 |
| Workers | 10544 | 7838 | 2706 |
| a) Main Workers | 8957 | 6991 | 1966 |
| b) Marginal Workers | 1587 | 847 | 740 |
| Cultivators | 68 | 59 | 9 |
| a) Main Cultivators | 54 | 47 | 7 |
| b) Marginal Cultivators | 14 | 12 | 2 |
| Agricultural Labourers | 104 | 82 | 22 |
| a) Main Agricultural Labourers | 44 | 35 | 9 |
| b) Marginal Agricultural Labourers | 60 | 47 | 13 |
| Workers in Household Industries | 242 | 136 | 106 |
| a) Main Workers in Household Industries | 188 | 121 | 67 |
| b) Marginal Workers in Household Industries | 54 | 15 | 39 |
| Other Workers | 10130 | 7561 | 2569 |
| a) Main Other Workers | 8671 | 6788 | 1883 |
| b) Marginal Other Workers | 1459 | 773 | 686 |

Source: Census of India 2011

Nedumudi

| | <i>(No. in Units)</i> | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Number of Households | 4916 | | |
| Total Population | 19701 | 9467 | 10234 |
| Population in the Age group 0-6 | 1864 | 970 | 894 |
| Population Scheduled Caste | 1772 | 878 | 894 |
| Population Scheduled Tribe | 16 | 11 | 5 |
| Literates | 17424 | 8358 | 9066 |
| Workers | 7755 | 5076 | 2679 |
| a) Main Workers | 5124 | 3738 | 1386 |
| b) Marginal Workers | 2631 | 1338 | 1293 |
| Cultivators | 606 | 538 | 68 |
| a) Main Cultivators | 463 | 430 | 33 |
| b) Marginal Cultivators | 143 | 108 | 35 |
| Agricultural Labourers | 3126 | 1600 | 1526 |
| a) Main Agricultural Labourers | 1585 | 954 | 631 |
| b) Marginal Agricultural Labourers | 1541 | 646 | 895 |
| Workers in Household Industries | 176 | 123 | 53 |
| a) Main Workers in Household Industries | 97 | 79 | 18 |
| b) Marginal Workers in Household Industries | 79 | 44 | 35 |
| Other Workers | 3847 | 2815 | 1032 |
| a) Main Other Workers | 2979 | 2275 | 704 |
| b) Marginal Other Workers | 868 | 540 | 328 |

Source: Census of India 2011

Pozhuthana

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Number of Households | 4256 | | |
| Population | 18406 | 8854 | 9552 |
| Population in the Age group 0-6 | 2433 | 1257 | 1176 |
| Population Scheduled Caste | 1222 | 620 | 602 |
| Population Scheduled Tribe | 3622 | 1824 | 1798 |
| Literates | 13802 | 6907 | 6895 |
| Workers | 7665 | 4843 | 2822 |
| a) Main Workers | 6140 | 4048 | 2092 |
| b) Marginal Workers | 1525 | 795 | 730 |
| Cultivators | 431 | 315 | 116 |
| a) Main Cultivators | 398 | 306 | 92 |
| b) Marginal Cultivators | 33 | 9 | 24 |
| Agricultural Labourers | 1542 | 903 | 639 |
| a) Main Agricultural Labourers | 1223 | 764 | 459 |
| b) Marginal Agricultural Labourers | 319 | 139 | 180 |
| Workers in Household Industries | 39 | 30 | 9 |
| a) Main Workers in Household Industries | 31 | 24 | 7 |
| b) Marginal Workers in Household Industries | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Other Workers | 5653 | 3595 | 2058 |
| a) Main Other Workers | 4488 | 2954 | 1534 |
| b) Marginal Other Workers | 1165 | 641 | 524 |

Source: Census of India 2011

Vellathooval

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Number of Households | 6437 | | |
| Total Population | 25701 | 12896 | 12805 |
| Population in the Age group 0-6 | 2472 | 1243 | 1229 |
| Population Scheduled Caste | 1656 | 837 | 819 |
| Population Scheduled Tribe | 355 | 176 | 179 |
| Literates | 21877 | 11185 | 10692 |
| Workers | 11010 | 7714 | 3296 |
| a) Main Workers | 8498 | 6666 | 1832 |
| b) Marginal Workers | 2512 | 1048 | 1464 |
| Cultivators | 2525 | 2247 | 278 |
| a) Main Cultivators | 2253 | 2053 | 200 |
| b) Marginal Cultivators | 272 | 194 | 78 |
| Agricultural Labourers | 2399 | 1494 | 905 |
| a) Main Agricultural Labourers | 1662 | 1216 | 446 |
| b) Marginal Agricultural Labourers | 737 | 278 | 459 |
| Workers in Household Industries | 123 | 77 | 46 |
| a) Main Workers in Household Industries | 88 | 67 | 21 |
| b) Marginal Workers in Household Industries | 35 | 10 | 25 |
| Other Workers | 5963 | 3896 | 2067 |
| a) Main Other Workers | 4495 | 3330 | 1165 |
| b) Marginal Other Workers | 1468 | 566 | 902 |

Source: Census of India 2011

PART II¹¹

Survey of Women's Toilets in Bus Stations Closest to the Six Flood Affected Grama Panchayts, studied in Part I

Gender and Transport: The Context

Only recently has the relationship of gender and infrastructure — more specifically, transport — and the role it plays in a woman's social and economic well-being, been addressed. We know that Transport networks are one of the most important elements of a country's infrastructure, and they are key to promoting accessibility, reducing poverty and enhancing equality. The transport infrastructure generally centres on enabling the movement of commodities, connecting and providing access to people, services, trade, workplaces, with the objective of supporting and promoting the development of an economy. However, it has been only in the past five to ten years that infrastructure projects have started to include gender awareness as part of their investment decisions. As women become even more central to a country's economy, addressing their transportation needs takes on an essential role in the process of development.

In the 1990s, it became widely recognized that women and men often have substantially different patterns of demand for transport services and that interventions in the transport sector usually did not respond well to the needs of women. 'Balancing the Load' was a worldwide study managed by the International

¹¹ I would like to acknowledge help from KSRTC officials, bus depot managers/other officials of the depots visited who allowed us full freedom to conduct the Survey. The support we got from the passengers and sanitation staff is also appreciated.

Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD), which drew together local level research funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) from 15 countries across Asia and Africa. The research reinforced previous findings on how gender roles affect men and women's access to transport, and what steps have been taken at community provider and policy levels to improve the situation. The case studies looked into the social roles in transport, the uneven gender-influenced access to transport facilities, and the impacts on women's lives of transport provisions which are insensitive to poverty, culture and gender.

There was a realization that women and men have different travel patterns which result from different societal roles, in both industrialized and developing societies which explained that the 'reproductive' responsibilities such as household care and child rearing require very different travel patterns from the 'breadwinning' responsibilities.

For example, transport surveys in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan found that use of transport services differed greatly by gender, with 28 percent of women walking to work, as compared to 14 percent of men. Women's waiting times were longer than men's, and their average total journey time was 10 to 15 percent longer. User survey and focus group discussions held in Dhaka, Bangladesh as part of the Urban Transport Program found that women's exclusion from public transport due to overcrowded buses and inadequate sidewalks hindered access to the workplace.

The UNDP took a lead in strengthening the understanding of sustainable livelihoods analysis and this was refined by extensive research and analysis by DFID and ILO on gender, employment and transport, as well as by various academic institutions. These studies enabled the livelihoods of women and girls to

be analyzed in the context of their households and communities so that their livelihood strategies could be assessed in relation to prevailing constraints, including those which limit their mobility.

While all this work on gender and transport did address the question: what is so different about women and men's transportation needs and patterns, not much change occurred in policy. True, both men and women use transportation as an instrument for accessing economic opportunities. However, the fact that in addition to accessing the labour market, women use transportation as a way to take care of their households and families: purchasing goods for daily needs, taking children to school and back or to visit health care centres or participate in parent teacher meetings, did not get built into planning for transport. Studies show that transport investments that are designed with consideration to gender dimensions can bring significant benefits not only to women in terms of increased access to employment, markets, education and health services, but also to the caregiving and household responsibilities that the majority of women hold, so critically contributing to the wellbeing of the household and community at large.

So transport projects and services should also include in their design the gender perspective in terms of travel needs, patterns, concerns, priorities, preferences, and personal safety parameters (World Bank Studies). For instance transport services are lean after the morning office rush (largely catering to the organised sector workers) but that is the time housewives are freer to travel out for their own or their household needs; again, the design of the bus with a high step or hand railings too high given average height of the woman, or without a ramp to help the disabled are issues to be reviewed and addressed in the transport sector.

Some initiatives have been taken in India and also Kerala on sensitising the transport sector to gender concerns but not to the extent of its potential; much more can be done in this area and the use of innovative strategies based on regular passenger surveys or household survey modules focussing on transport issues, could prove to be a boon to women travellers.

In Kerala during the 11th Five year Plan, as part of the state's commitment to Gender Budgeting and the need to sensitise government to gender needs in infrastructure sector, generally considered as gender neutral, a scheme: Gender Friendly Infrastructure was introduced in 2010-11¹² in which the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation proposed an innovative scheme- toilets and a rest room for women passengers in all major bus depots with a heavy footfall, together with the provision for a first floor to be used as a dormitory for female staff of KSRTC (the innovative part). This 100 percent women's scheme easily identifiable was a first step in making officials in infrastructure sector aware of the presence of women in their sectors and the need to address their concerns even though these sectors may appear to be catering to men and women alike.

The second part of our Study on Post Floods Needs Assessment of Women attempts to examine to what extent this felt need of women for clean toilets in Bus Stations has been addressed, starting with the major depots used by women in the six affected districts we selected for the Survey: Alappuzha for Nedumudi GP; Chalakudy for Annamanada GP; Pathanamditta for Aranmula GP; North Paravur for Chennamangalam GP; Kalpetta for Pozhuthana GP and Adimali for Vellathooval GP.

¹² The other infrastructure departments involved were Power, Housing, Public Works, Ports, Police, Information and Publicity

Survey and Findings

Methodology of Survey

Based on data provided by the KSRTC there are 30 Bus Depots, 43 sub depots and 20 operating centres and the six selected bus stations are covered under depots and sub depots. In fact we have covered 7 more Bus stations besides these in order to highlight the pitiable condition of toilets in a number of bus stations making long distance travel a major problem for women.

A questionnaire on the state of the toilets listing essential requirements in a toilet (Appendix 1) was used by an assistant to observe the presence and condition of the women's toilets in the sample bus stations. Another questionnaire was used to canvas opinions from 2-5 women passengers (depending on the size of the bus station) in the waiting area, picked at random to elicit their views on the functioning of the toilets (Appendix 2). We informed the Depot Managers about the survey before we started it in each depot.

A survey of these sub stations revealed a few general features which are summarised below:

- i. There were two ways in which the toilet was being operated- (a) by KSRTC itself; or (ii) sub-contracting it. A somewhat "mixed" model was seen in Alappuzha, where a society formed by retired employees of KSRTC was running the toilets.
- ii. Among the six studied, Kalpetta, Alappuzha, Patahanamditta, had been sub contracted out while Chalakudy, N Paravur and Adimaly were being run by KSRTC itself. Though in the sample the 2 modes are being used equally, at

the macro level, the larger number of toilets are being run through sub contractors. A sweeper in 2 shifts is hired and has to clean the toilets at least twice a day. In the sub contracting case either the contractor her/himself manages the upkeep or hires a sweeper.

- iii. Very often the Women and Men toilets are next to each other with different entrances.
- iv. Toilet facilities were not distant from where the buses stopped and easy to locate.
- v. Not all the toilets had lights.
- vi. The largest, in terms of footfall was Alappuzha.
- vii. The toilets sub-contracted out charge a small fee.

Findings

1.Lack of clean toilet facilities is a major concern among the women passengers especially those who travel much longer distances. The lack of proper rest room facilities also is of major concern to the long distance women commuters, especially when they are menstruating, have a breast feeding child or during pregnancy or the women who are disabled. The field study shows that while there is a toilet facility in most of the bus stations (excluding two sub depots we visited) it is very often not adequate, just one toilet, maintained badly, lacking basic facilities like a bucket, mug, a waste bucket to dispose sanitary napkins and the respondents interviewed were not satisfied with the cleanliness of the facility. Almost no toilet had hooks to hang bags, incinerator for disposing sanitary napkins, some did not have the flush; the ones in which flush was there, it was not working. Passengers did not mind paying the small fee but wanted to get neat and clean toilets.

Another issue pointed out by some of the passengers was that where buckets and mugs are available in the toilets, they are not clean and almost always broken. Women (in Alappuzha) also had the fear that the water tank which supplies water to the toilets are not cleaned at regular intervals which has affected the quality of water and contributed to their fear of catching infection. Since Edathwa sub-depot was in the vicinity of Nedumudi panchayath, we surveyed its situation also. There existed 2-3 toilets in this sub-depot some time back but were now covered with grass and lying unused. Though it is not a station where a lot of people change buses and need to remain at the bus stand, still the need for toilets for women cannot be overlooked. This sub depot was submerged in the 2018 floods.

2.It was observed that the need for facilities also varied by the nature of travel and destination. For example, the respondents in Alappuzha who were mostly out station passengers (long distance travellers), other than clean and neat toilet facility they urged for the need of rest rooms, incinerators, washbasins and other facilities like Wi-Fi and mobile charging etc. In the case of North Paravur bus depot, the respondents were only concerned about a neat and clean toilet. Given the different needs depending on nature of travel, this may be a major reason why such responses were coming from the feedback collected from Alappuzha bus station. Kalpetta had a very spacious toilet for women, with one Western style also (which however was kept locked and opened only on demand). Here too regular cleaning appeared necessary- buckets were not clean and the floor was covered with water giving the toilet an unhygienic look. The toilets in Adimlay bus station also were in dire need of maintenance.

3.Chalaky was one of the depots in which the 11th Plan scheme for toilets, restrooms and accommodation for women staff and a feeding room, had been implemented. However, the whole complex badly needed maintenance. Women

staff were staying on the first floor and found this facility very useful. There was a set of 4 toilets but with dirty mugs and buckets. One positive aspect we found was that generally water did not appear to be a severe problem.

4. We were interested in surveying Pathanamditta bus depot due to its proximity to Sabarimala and hence heavy use by pilgrims from nearby states also. The toilets were reasonably well located and with sufficient space; however, the condition of the toilets was really bad; a common dirty bucket for waste and sanitary napkins was kept outside; the common wash basin in the toilets was broken. Inside the toilets, the closets were worn out and mugs/buckets were broken. We were informed that a new Bus station was under construction and almost complete which would certainly have a good, clean set of toilets.

5. Besides these six bus depots we visited a few major depots like Thampanoor, Neyyatinkara, Attingal, Poovar, Vizhinjam, Venjaramoodu sub depot, Kaniyapuram sub-depot with a heavy footfall, of domestic/ tourist visitors and were near Trivandrum.

6. Thampanoor Bus station as we know was reconstructed and so is relatively new. It has a feeding room for lactating mothers and toilets at either end of the station which were in a bad state but have been renovated recently and operating on a subcontracting basis. The toilets in Neyyatinkara for staff were in a dismal situation. While a spacious restroom has been built on the premises for women and children passengers, the attached toilets are not well maintained and one or two closets were broken. In Vizhinjam, the one toilet available, run by KSRTC was not in a usable state. In Attingal, a fairly new restroom and toilets are available for women but are not open to public; opened only on demand. The old set of toilets is at one end of the bus station but not clean or with proper buckets/mugs. In Kaniyapuram sub depot, there is a room for staff with attached toilet. This is used

for staff and passengers. While the room was cluttered with a lot of clothes hanging and, cleaning materials stacked around, the bathroom was in a reasonably good shape. The situation in Venjaramoodu sub depot was not as good. The bus depot did not have a toilet at all but a set of toilets had been built by the Nellanad panchayat, bordering its outer wall, across the depot being run on a sub-contract basis; once again hygiene and cleanliness were lacking. Even outside waste and other materials were strewn around.

Conclusion

Considering the responses of women passengers from the field and our own fact finding survey on toilets for women in bus depots highlights the fact that top priority is to be given for clean toilets, with water, clean mugs, buckets, a wash basin and at least one pedal bucket for disposing sanitary napkins. The lack of clean toilet facilities is a major concern among the women passengers especially those who travel much longer distances. Measures must be taken to improve the basic infrastructure in such Depots, like proper rest room facilities for women commuters, especially during menstruation, having a breast feeding child or during pregnancy as also for those who are disabled to make it more gender friendly; mobile/laptop charging facilities would be helpful. It is interesting to note that in most major bus depots, toilets are there on adequate space. What is urgently needed is retrofitting them to make them user friendly in a clean, hygienic environment with new sanitary equipment in the existing space. Those bus depots with heavy footfall of long distance passengers should also have other facilities mentioned above. Since some of these findings were discussed with the KSRTC officials, who were very keen to review this issue, despite the financial problems of the organisation, and very often raised in official meetings, the Government is

taking steps to address the issue of toilets in all Bus depots together with KSRTC, at the earliest.

Even though the study was not able to interact with any transgender person at any of the depots visited, it was evident from our observation that all the existing facilities lacked the ability to accommodate them, and hence the report suggests to consider this matter as well.

Appendix 1

Questionnaire on Women's Toilets - continuation of Study on Post flood Needs Assessment of Women and Children in 6 Gram Panchayats

1. Does the depot/sub depot have toilets
2. If so, are there separate toilets for Women and Men with separate entries
3. Are they located within easy reach of where buses stop or are they at a distance.
4. Are there lights in the toilet and on way to toilet (very important for late night buses)
5. Is water available in the toilets; is there bucket and mug
6. Do the flushes work; is there a wash basin; is there soap available
7. Is there a separate waste bin for disposing sanitary napkins
8. Is there an incinerator in the toilet. If latter, is it working.
9. Are the buildings intact, that is, can the doors be closed; is there a hook to hang bags in the ladies toilets
10. Are the toilets kept clean (floor and toilets)
11. How often are the toilets cleaned in a day
12. Any slab for changing baby's diaper

Appendix 2

Questionnaire for women passengers : continuation of Study on Post flood Needs Assessment of Women and Children in 6 Gram Panchayats

1. Are the women's toilets in good condition- are they clean and usable
2. Is water there with bucket and mug.
3. Is there a wash basin; is soap kept there
4. Is there a hook to hang your bag
5. Is there light in the toilet
6. Can the door be closed
7. Is there a slab for changing baby's diaper
8. Is there a separate waste basket for disposing sanitary napkins
9. Is there an incinerator
10. Is the toilet located within easy reach or far from where the bus stops
11. Is there a fee charged- if so, how much
12. Is there any rest room in the bus station

