



# Localizing Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of Two Gram Panchayats in Kerala

**Jos Chathukulam**

Director

Centre for Rural Management (CRM)

Kottayam . Kerala (India)

**Presented in the IIPS International Seminar 2022**  
*Population, Health and Sustainable Development*  
(March 10-12, 2022)

# SDGs & India

- SDGs are prescribed as the answer to address the development challenges in various countries including India.
- India is a signatory of SDGs 2030 and has offered its strong commitment .
- Flagship Programmes and National Development Goals are reflected in SDGs.
- For instance, the flagship programmes of the Government of India such as, *National Nutrition Mission, National Health Protection Scheme, Care for the Girl Child and Aspirational Districts Programme* have the potential to address the challenges highlighted by SDGs. Then centrally sponsored schemes including MGNREGS are directly or indirectly aligned with SDGs.
- Moreover, the '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas*', mirror the essence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- With the Principle of Cooperative Federalism, the states are the primary stakeholders in ensuring the success o?
- Localization of SDGs is of central importance in ensuring the success . The SDG goals needs to be translated into policies at local level.

# Attempts to Localize SDGs in India

## A.The Attempts by NITI Aayog in Localizing SDGs

- NITI Aayog is the 'Nodal Agency' for coordinating and monitoring the SDGs in India.
- NITI Aayog periodically conducts reviews on SDG adoption and reaches out to the States and UTs.
- In 2018, NITI Aayog released SDG India Index: Baseline Report 2018.
- "The SDG India Index" is a single measurable Index to map progress of States & UTs towards 2030 SDGs. It documents the progress made by the States and UTs towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets.
- In 2019, NITI Aayog published a report on Localizing SDGs, Early Lessons from 2019.

# Attempts to Localize SDGs in India

## A Critique of NITI Aayog's Approach in Localizing of SDGs

- For NITI Aayog, 'localization' in terms of SDGs refer to as a *"process of recognising sub-national contexts."*
- NITI Aayog asserts that sub-national governments especially those at State play an important role.
- Based on the *SDG India Index: Baseline Report 2018* and the *Localizing SDGs, Early Lessons from 2019*, NITI Aayog's focus on localization is limited to States/ UTs and to some extent at the district level. It only offers limited attention on the significance of localization of SDGs at grassroots level.
- No evaluation and assessment on the present status and performance of localizing SDGs at the grassroots level has been attempted.
- There are only passive references to localization of SDGs at Grassroots Level involving Local Governments .
- NITI Aayog's focus is largely on sub-national governments rather than Local Governments.

# Attempts to Localize SDGs in India

## The Attempts by the MoPR in Localizing SDGs

- **Empowering Local Governments** is one of the solid strategies for ensuring community ownership, integration and localization of SDGs at grassroots level, primarily due to the fact that the members are directly elected by the people, and are mandated to undertake planning exercise for “social justice and local economic development” in consultation with the people.
- **29 Subjects** that are assigned to Gram Panchayats cover the SDGs.
- **Many of the SDG targets** are within the purview of these functions listed in the 11<sup>th</sup> Schedule.
- There are also the various flagship programmes such as *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* and *Jan Dhan Yojana* which are at the core of the SDGs. Local governments play a pivotal role in many of these programmes.
- MoPR has been advocating to integrate SDGs with GPDP and have started to prepare guidelines to support this integration.

# Attempts to Localize SDGs in India

## The Attempts by the MoPR in Localizing SDGs

- The GPDPs are prepared in a participatory manner and needs to be approved by the Gram Sabhas. Thus, integrating SDGs into GPDP is an important step in localizing SDGs at the grassroots level.
- The GPDP process supported by the MoPR has created conducive conditions for the Gram Panchayats to integrate SDGs into development action .
- MoPR is committed to the achievement of SDG goals through *Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan* (RGSA).

# Attempts to Localize SDGs in India

## The Attempts by the MoPR in Localizing SDGs

- Among the 17 SDGs, MoPR has identified 13 Goals where it could intervene at the grassroots level. Those selected SDGs are:
  - ✓ Goal 1 – NO POVERTY
  - ✓ Goal 2 - ZERO HUNGER
  - ✓ Goal 3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING
  - ✓ Goal 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION
  - ✓ Goal 5 - GENDER EQUALITY
  - ✓ Goal 6 - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
  - ✓ Goal 7 - CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY
  - ✓ Goal 8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
  - ✓ Goal 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES
  - ✓ Goal 13 - CLIMATE ACTION
  - ✓ Goal 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER
  - ✓ Goal 15 - LIFE ON LAND
  - ✓ GOAL 16 - PEACE JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTION

# Attempts to Localize SDGs in India

## The Attempts by the MoPR in Localizing SDGs

- MoPR has constituted an Expert Group in 2020 to provide recommendations and way forward for localizing SDGs through PRIs.
- The Expert Group has prepared a Report on Localization of SDGs in PRIs.
- It acts as a blueprint to understand how SDGs can be localized to engage PRIs .
- It provides a framework for ‘localizing’ the implementation of SDGs through capacitating local governments.
- The Report aims at empowering local governments to plan, monitor and implement SDGs.



# Attempts to Localize SDGs in Kerala

## Capacity Building for Localizing SDGs by KILA

- KILA has been undertaking CB&T for multiple stakeholders on SDGs by including a module on SDGs on 'Social Education Programme'.
- KILA, has been designated as the CB&T partner on SDGs and has setup the 'Centre for SDGs and Local Governments'. It has prepared a draft [Local Indicator Framework \(LIF\)](#) incorporating 16 SDGs and its Sub-Indicators.
- KILA has prepared an Online Dashboard, on the attainment of SDGs.
- KILA has developed [SDG Training Tool Kit](#) for setting targets and monitoring SDGs that enable the functionaries at district and sub-district levels to track and monitor the progress on SDGs.

# Attempts to Localize SDGs in Kerala

**Localizing SDGs and 25 Years of Experience in Planning and Decentralization (PPC)**

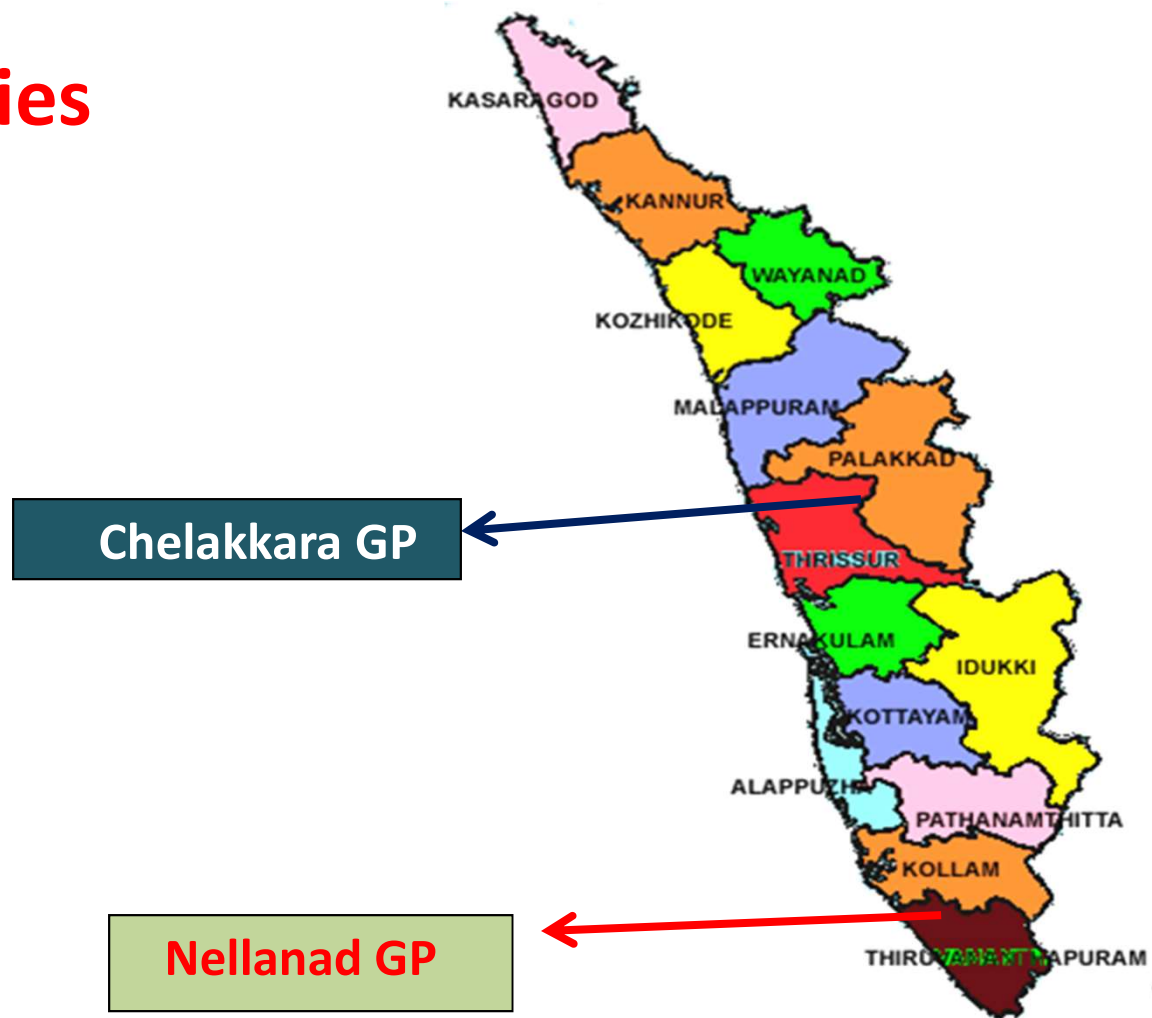
- **Kerala which has 25 years of experience in planning and decentralization affords the best opportunity for Localizing SDGs.**

## **Localizing SDGs and The Case of 2 Gram Panchayats in Kerala**

- **Our paper offers detail case studies on localizing SDGs in 2 GPs in Kerala – Chelakkara GP in Thrissur district and Nellanad GP in Thiruvanthapuram district.**
- **Our paper documents the best practices emerged from localizing SDGs as in the 2 GPs and will look into the feasibility of scaling up this model across India.**
- **It will examine the experimentations undertaken in localizing SDGs in these 2 GPs from a theoretical perspective of Gandhi-Kumarappa framework on political economy of development and environment.**
- **Our paper further suggests that the convergence of SDGs with the annual Mission Antyodaya Survey and grants by Union and State Finance Commissions can facilitate the localization of SDGs in an affordable and speedy manner.**

# Localizing SDGs and The Case of 2 GPs in Kerala

## Case Studies



# Nellanad Gram Panchayat

## Basic Statistics

<b>Total Population</b>	<b>26000</b>
<b>No. of Elected Functionaries</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Households</b>	<b>6585</b>
<b>Head of the Panchayat</b>	<b>Women</b>
<b>OSR (2021-2022)</b>	<b>Rs 1.9 Crore</b>
<b>Receipts (2021-22)</b>	<b>Rs.16.34 Crore</b>
<b>Payments (2021-22)</b>	<b>Rs.10.89 Crore</b>
<b>Total Projects (2022-23)</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Plan Size (2022-23)</b>	<b>Rs.12.03 Crore</b>
<b>Present Political Regime</b>	<b>Congress (UDF Coalition)</b>

# Linking with the SDGs

- Organized workshops, consultations, training, awareness programmes , campaigns for the office bearers and elected functionaries and local citizens.
- KILA has provided full support and mentoring .
- Local Indicator Framework (LIF) has operationalized.
- Has formulated a new vision for preparing the targets and linking with the SDGs.
- Prepared a vision document to implement 6 key programmes in tune with the SDGs with a common tagline - *Nellanad Nalla Nadu* ( Nellanad – a Land of Wellbeing)&No such tagline for Chelakkara GP.



# Nellanad Gram Panchayat

**Programme I- *Malinya Muktha Nellanad*  
*(Solid Waste and Liquid Waste Free*  
*Nellanad)***



# Nellanad Gram Panchayat

## Programme II- (Comprehensive Watershed Development)





# Nellanad Gram Panchayat

## Programme III-VIDYA VELICHAM (Enlightenment through Education)



# Nellanad Gram Panchayat

**Programme IVa- Panchayat Level Sahitya  
Academy-(Literary & Cultural Forum)**



# Nellanad Gram Panchayat

## Programme IVb- Panchayat Sports Council



# Nellanad Gram Panchayat

## Programme V- *Labour Hub*- (An Employment Platform)

1 NO POVERTY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



# Nellanad Gram Panchayat

## Programme VI- *THANAL*-(Shadow for Senior Citizens)



# Chelakkara Gram Panchayat

## Basic Statistics

Total Population	44389
No. of Elected Functionaries	22
Households	11115
Head of the Panchayat	Women
OSR (2020-21)	Rs.1.54 Crores
Receipts(2020-21)	Rs.14.85 Crore
Payments (2020-21)	Rs.7.47 Crore
Total Projects (2022-23)	154
Plan Size (2022-23)	Rs.13.50 Crore
Present Political Regime (2022-23)	CPI(M) (LDF Coalition)

# Chelakkara Gram Panchayat

## Programme I- Health for All



# Chelakkara Gram Panchayat

## Programme II- Energy for Solar Panel





# Chelakkara Gram Panchayat

**Programme III- *Malinya Muktha Chelakkara***  
***(‘Solid & Liquide Waste Free Chelakkara’)***



# Chelakkara Gram Panchayat

## Programme IV- Fitness Centre for Women



# Chelakkara Gram Panchayat

## Programme V- Mini Industrial Estate

1 NO  
POVERTY



3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



# Chelakkara Gram Panchayat

## Programme VI- Child Friendly Panchayat



# Chelakkara Gram Panchayat

## Programme VII- Protection of Water Bodies

1 NO  
POVERTY



2 ZERO  
HUNGER

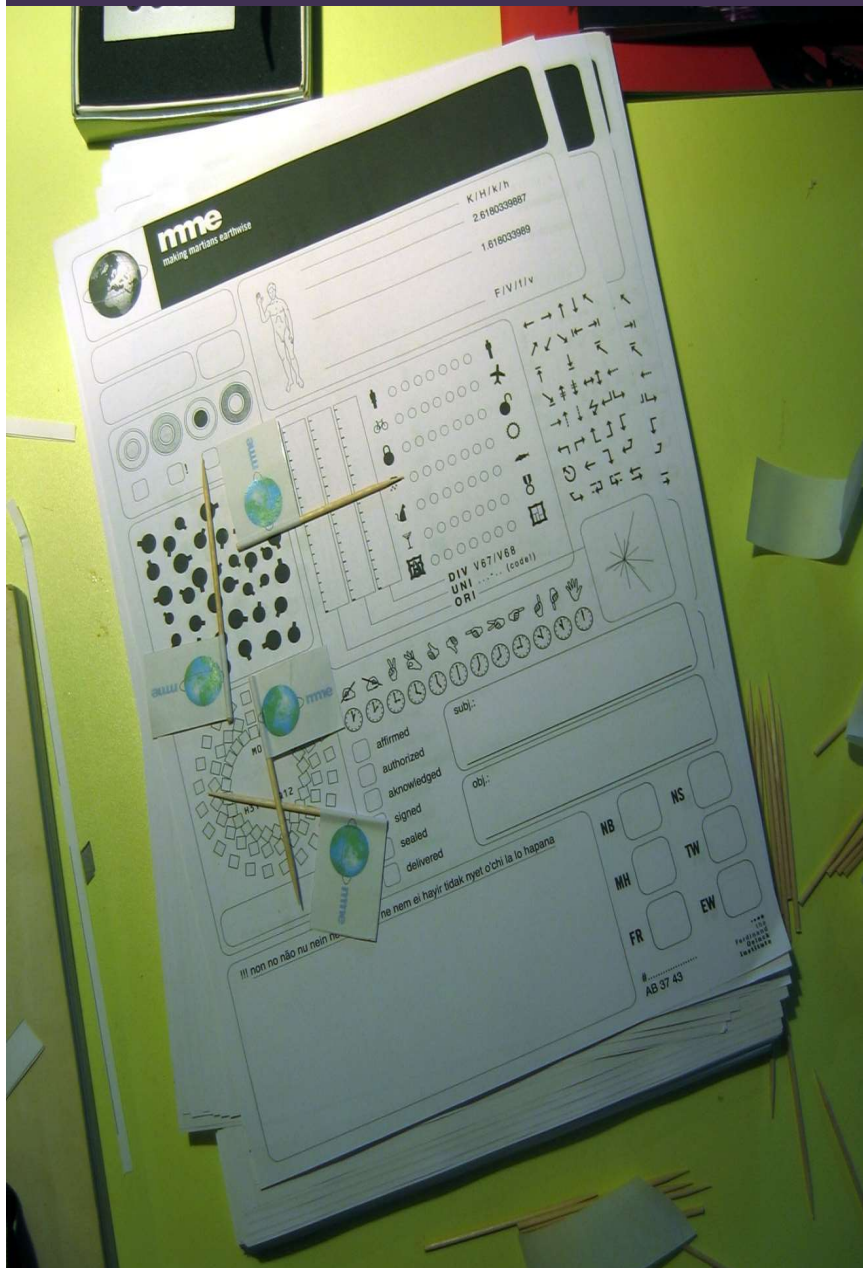


# Challenges in Localizing SDGs at Grassroots level in Kerala

- There are many conceptional and operational issues on “Localizing SDGs at Grassroots”.
- Elected functionaries at the grassroots level and other rural stakeholders have not been able to fully internalize the SDGs in general.
- Capacity deficit in using available secondary data from different sources.
- Lack of quantitative and qualitative data in terms of SDGs at the local level.
- Lack of proper measurement framework for quantifying SDGs at the local level.
- Lack of support from local bureaucracy (within the GP and out side the GP).
- Deficit in vernacular literature on SDG and related concepts.
- Deficit in expertise (both academic and praxis domains) on the subject on localizing SDGs at Grassroots.
- Serious methodological issues of aggregation and disaggregation of SDGs.

## Conclusion

- ✓ The experimentations in localizing SDGs in these 2 GPs (and many cases all over the country) have the feasibility of scaling up this model across India.
- ✓ The experimentations in localizing SDGs in these cases have some theoretical perspective of Gandhi-Kumarappa Framework on Political Economy of Development and Environment.
- ✓ Our paper suggests a Hypothesis that *the Localization of SDGs at the Grassroots through Local Governments in an affordable and speedy manner may be possible if there is a proper convergence of SDGs with the annual Mission Antyodaya Survey ,GPDP, Grants from Union and State Finance Commissions and Flagship Programmes.*



THANK YOU  
by  
*Jos Chathukulam*



# Local Indicator Framework (LIF)

*Draft*



[Back](#)