

Assessing the Impact of *Haritha Karma Sena* in Solid Waste Management in Rural Areas in Kerala

C V Balamurali & Jos Chathukulam

Centre for Rural Management (CRM)

Kerala (India)

Presented in the 5th *International Kerala Padana Congress* on 25 & 26 August 2024 at Kottayam

Methodology

- Selection of GPs : Two 'Best Performing GPs' & Two 'Least Performing GPs' in a District
- Data Collection: Interviews, FGD with Executive Committee Members of Consortium, *Haritha Karma Sena* Members, Verification of Records, Field visit & Structured Questionnaire for data collection.

Objective

To understand the Structure, Process and Outcomes of Rural Solid Waste Management System in Kerala

Formation of *Haritha Karma Sena*

- Based on Government order - GO No. 10394 – D – 2017 dated 23.04.2018.
- *Haritha Karma Sena* started functioning in ‘Best Performing GPs’ in 2019
- *Haritha Karma Sena* started functioning in ‘Least Performing GPs’ in 2021 & 2022

Details of *Haritha Karma Sena* activities in year and month wise

Year	GP 1		GP 2		GP 3		GP 4	
	Active No. of Months	No. of Wards Covered out of 20	Active No. of Months	No. of Wards Covered out of 20	Active No. of Months	No. of Wards Covered out of 13	Active No. of Months	No. of Wards Covered out of 13
2019-20	2	10	11	10	0	0	0	0
2020-21	8	10	5	7	0	0	0	0
2021-22	12	16	8	17	7	6	0	0
2022-23	10	20	12	20	11	7	3	2
2023-24 (4 Months)	3	20	3	20	4	10	4	2

Year wise Details of Average Number of Households, Shops & Institutions

Year	GP 1			GP 2			GP 3			GP 4		
	HHs	Shops	Insti	HHs	Shops	Insti	HHs	Shops	Insti	HHs	Shops	Insti
2019-20	1773	134	0	838	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020-21	2431	103	0	894	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021-22	5710	353	11	3182	117	0	804	218	0	0	0	0
2022-23	7402	415	52	5024	261	0	740	623	0	292	0	0
2023-24 (4 Months)	8795	552	126	8041	461	187	1957	773	0	315	0	0
% of Coverage in last year	94	-	-	92	-	-	55	-	-	8	-	-

Income Generated

Year	GP 1		GP 2		GP 3		GP 4	
	Total Collection (Amt. in Rs.)	Average Collection (per month) (Amt. in Rs.)	Total Collection (Amt. in Rs.)	Average Collection (per month) (Amt. in Rs.)	Total Collection (Amt. in Rs.)	Average Collection (Amt. in Rs.)	Total Collection (Amt. in Rs.)	Average Collection (per month) (Amt. in Rs.)
2019-20	42545	21273	323445	29404	0	0	0	0
2020-21	375610	46951	288780	57756	0	0	0	0
2021-22	2392323	199360	1361370	170171	153330	21904	0	0
2022-23	4193250	419325	3368950	280746	247700	22518	54150	18050
2023-24	1572600	524200	1429750	476583	261100	65275	25550	6388

Availability of Mini MCF

- GP1 – One per ward
- GP2 – Two per ward
- GP3 – only one in active wards
- GP 4 – only one in active wards
- The quality of the Mini MCFs are below average.
- It is Overloaded.
- There is no proper cover for protecting from rain
- Surroundings of the Mini MCFs developed as a dumping yard

Mini MCF and Surroundings



Status and Facilities Available in MCF

- Size of the MCF is small. Storage capacity is not sufficient. It is overloaded
- Old buildings or surroundings are converted as MCF
- There is no segregation facility
- There is no toilet facilities, water supply, resting place & hand washing facility
- Other facilities such as Baling Machine and Weighing Machines
- The overall environment is not conducive as a workplace for segregation

Material Collection Facilities (MCF)



Protective Gear and Equipment for available for *HKS*

- No proper gloves(surgical gloves are issued but no use)
- No proper shoes (Heavy shoes are difficult to wear and carry. Demands for canvas shoes)
- Demands for safety glasses, ear plugs, hard hat, respirators, coveralls, rain coat & mask
- It is felt that gloves and heavy shoes suited to women are not available in the market.

Status of *Haritha Karma Sena*

- There is a two member team in every ward of best performing GPs
- However there is a shortage of 3 to five members at GP level
- Least performing GPs 2 to 7 wards only covered

Social Status of *Haritha Karma Sena*

- Relatively better social status when compared to traditional rag pickers. This is because of the involvement of Local Governments and *Kudumbashree* and Government Tag
- Stigma has reduced at considerable level still it is there in different forms.
- Organized and became members of Trade Unions

Economic Status of *HKS*

- Rs.10000 to Rs.28000 per month in 'Best Performing GPs'
- Rs.1000 to Rs.6000 per month in 'Least Performing GPs'
- Considerable amount is available with Consortium
- Consortium amount varies from Rs. 4 lakhs to 9 Lakhs & around 50 % of amount is utilized for loan among the members
- No micro enterprises have been started in any of the GPs

Discussion and Conclusion

- Kerala has succeeded to develop a structure, institutions and systems for solid waste management. Sustainability ?
- However, it is not functioning as the expected level
- Citizen education is needed
- Innovations are needed at all levels starting from door to door collections to Clean Kerala Company (CKC).
- It gives an impression that CKC is not functioning as it is expected. (In the last two to six months, the CKC is not in a position to deliver the service to LSGs)
- Training & Capacity is needed to all the key actors

