



# **KERALA GRAMA PANCHAYATH ASSOCIATION (KGPA)**

Ahammed kurikkal Panchayath Bhavan  
Observatory Hills, Thiruvananthapuram 695 033  
Phone: 0471- 2325185, 0471- 2735156  
Email- [keralagpa@gmail.com](mailto:keralagpa@gmail.com)

## **About KGPA**

Kerala Grama Panchayath Association (KGPA) was the first to be organized in India for Local Bodies. It was organized in 1966 as an autonomous body by the Kerala Government Order (No.85191/pt.sppl.1/66/A & R.D.D dated 29.12.1966). Existing 941 Grama Panchayaths in Kerala are affiliated with this association. It has a General Body- representing Presidents of Grama Panchayaths or standing committee Chairpersons and members of Panchayaths which is decided by Panchayath Committees. From the Executive Committee, there will be a governing body- President, General Secretary, three Vice- Presidents, and three Secretaries. All districts will have District General Bodies and a governing body, consisting of nearly twenty-five persons. Here we have an efficient faculty team to provide proper guidance and appropriate academic support at the district and state levels. The term of the Governing Body will be five years. Its head office will be at Thiruvananthapuram. It will have all facilities, ranging from office, library, and dot.com center, AC halls with a capacity of 700, Mini AC Hall with a capacity of 50, and accommodation facilities for Fifty-five people.

We executed many commendable programs and activities independently as well as with the collaboration of SDC-CapDeck, KILA, Social Justice Department, Kerala Women's Commission, Total Sanitation Mission, Kudumbasree Mission, Agriculture Department, Panchayaths, Academic and Training Institutions, Colleges, MG University extension center, and NGOs are collaborating with our activities.

## **Important goals and objectives of KGPA**

1. To help and support in strengthening and ensuring the effectiveness of the business of the panchayaths.
2. To help the Panchayaths to share the varied experiences
3. To act as a mediator between Government and Panchayaths.
4. To do functions (study, research, conduct meetings and consultations) in order that the policy and drafting laws and rules of the government will be more in favor of Panchayath Raj.
5. To engage in research and study to make Panchayath Raj more effective.
6. To develop the national view within the panchayaths
7. To initiate legislation and amendments of existing laws for the development of panchayaths.
8. To conduct training and seminars for elected representatives and other state holders at panchayaths for governance and other development activities.
9. To ensure the active participation of women in governance and activities.
10. To bring to the notice of the government the problems and issues being faced by Panchayaths and to try to find solutions to them.
11. To help people to be self-reliant and develop a sense of mutual cooperation and support.

12. To monitor and evaluate the governance, Plan Formulation, and Implementation of panchayaths to strengthen the effective functions of panchayaths.
13. To prepare and publish books, periodicals, and pamphlets.
14. To help panchayath to be in constant contact and liaison with research institutes and academic institutions.
15. To contact other local government associations in Kerala and other states in India and abroad.

### **Some Important Assignments brilliantly executed by KGPA 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan**

1. Held discussions in all districts of Kerala with experts and elected representatives of local bodies on the drafting of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, collected ideas on amendments and additions, and submitted them to the Chief Minister of Kerala at a function- we organized at the state level.
2. The 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan is another turning point of power Decentralization and Decentralized planning in Kerala. Kerala Grama Panchayath Association had shouldered an important role, and made these fabulous and bold changes- Local Bodies got more freedom, the planning and approval process became online, and introduced new processes for increasing participation in the planning process and governance of local bodies.
  - We prepared an approach paper of the 12<sup>th</sup> five-year plan and held discussions in districts of Kerala with elected representatives and officials in all tiers and Experts to collect additions and amendments.
  - Conducted State-level discussion of related and renowned subject experts and state-level officials for collecting opinions and suggestions about the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan approach paper we have prepared.
  - We submitted our reports of suggestions for the 12<sup>th</sup> five-year plan to the Chief Minister of Kerala in the presence of five other Ministers and State Planning Board Members at functions, we conducted at the state level.
  - We had done timely intervention, lobbying, and gave suggestions and corrections when the state government had prepared the 12<sup>th</sup> five-year plan. Guideline and related government orders for local bodies.
  - We had a crucial role in preparing subsidy norms and publishing PWD-rated revisions in time.
3. In the middle of the plan preparations of Grama Panchayaths, they faced various problems related to data entry, online process, and approval of their projects and development plan. We had conducted state-level related officials meeting to discuss how to solve the problems faster and easier. At the same time, we gave detailed reports to the government for policy-level discussions and to issue government orders. And also, conducted District Level one-day workshops for panchayath Presidents, Secretaries, Vice Presidents, and Plan Clerks in all districts to clear doubts and further panchayaths.

4. We prepared suggestions to give the government and State Planning Board for the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> five-year plan guidelines issued by the State Government. We collected the suggestions by conducting various discussions at panchayaths, district, and state levels.

## **Action Research**

- Action research is getting progressing on twenty-one subjects in seventy-two panchayaths. At the time of the 11<sup>th</sup> plan, almost eighty percent of the work on subjects such as natural resource management, Grama Sabha, Comprehensive health plan old age, Scheduled castes, Road Connectivity plan, Education, and MGNREGS was already finished. But unfortunately, we can't continue the remaining activities.
- We selected one panchayath in Wayanad district named Meenangadi and gave continuous support for integrated total development. The following activities were done there: -
  1. Conducted one-day grama sabhas for planning each year. Before it panchayath had been conducting the special grama sabhas of aged people, women, children, scheduled caste, challenged people's family gatherings, and scheduled tribe Oorukkootam.
  2. Selected one scheduled tribe colony for integrated development named TRIDS- the rest of the activities are going on. And now the panchayaths have selected another two colonies to upscale the activities.
  3. Panchayath constituted an organizational structure for children named 'Mugulungal' (6 - 18) from ayalsabha to panchayath level. It has an academic team to prepare a manual to run Mugulungal.
  4. Panchayath constitutes an organizational structure for aged people and conducts many activities for them.
  5. Panchayth selected Anganvadi to develop as a model.
  6. Panchayath developed an academic center named the Human Resource Development Center (HRDC) to give all academic support to all activities of the panchayath.
  7. Participatory Budget
  8. Well-furnished and working front office system and public service center (Jana Sevana Kendram) etc.
- Now we are conducting action research in various subjects like a total integrated plan for the production sector, happy village, healthy and happiest school, integrated old age development plan, integrated challenged person plan, and tourism.

## **Agriculture Sector**

Kerala Grama Panchayath Association selected 50 Panchayath from the fourteen Districts in Kerala to develop an "Agriculture Total Integrated Sustainable Development Plan" through the leadership of each Grama Panchayath with the collaboration of the Agriculture Department and KILA. We gave training and guidelines to conduct this program. Twenty-one Panchayaths completed preparing production status, fifteen panchayaths also completed organizing Krishikkoottangal (Agriculture Group/Farmers Group) and twenty-three Panchayaths started Karshika karma sena from fifty Panchayaths as part of this program. We give continuous support

to the Panchayaths we selected next three years for planning, implementing, and monitoring this program.

### **Karshika Karmasena (Agriculture Taskforce)**

We selected 92 panchayaths to make it possible total agriculture development with the support of agriculture departments and the technical support of Kudappanakunnu Karshika Karma Sena. Karshika Karma Sena has three tire systems 1. Advisory committee- chaired by the president and convened by the agriculture officer. 2. Governing body of 42 farmers. 3. Technicians-trained agriculture laborers. The youth trained to simplify agriculture using hi-tech machines (brush cutter, power tiller fixed with garden blade, garden tiller, soil digger, sprayers, coconut climbing devices, etc.), provide all the agricultural services ie., clearing weeds in coconut gardens, the opening of basins, application of fertilizers and manures, cultivation of intercrops, harvesting in coconut, undertaking plant protection measures and installing organic terrace gardens in grow bags with three times efficiency compared to conventional methodology.

### **Main Objectives of Karshika Karma Sena**

1. Give good services at low expense to farmers. In the same technicians get a better monthly salary as possible as the present conditions of that locality, respect, and dignity.
2. Give continuous and better-quality support in time by the support of machines when the farmer demands.

### **Activities of Karshika Karma Sena Completed**

1. The state, regional, and district level training of panchayath presidents, agriculture officers, welfare standing committee chairpersons, vice presidents, and Panchayath Secretaries completed.
2. 52 Panchayaths completed the formation of Karshika Karma Sena and its registration.
3. 52 Panchayaths completed 16 days of training of agriculture technicians within the panchayath with our support.
4. 51 panchayaths conducted the inauguration and started their work.
5. We prepare draft guidelines for the State Government by our experience of Karshika Karma Sena.
6. We completed 203 Panchayath levels, two Municipality levels, and one Corporation level Karshika Karmasena in Kerala

### **Scheduled tribe Sector**

We selected Sholayoor GamaPanchayath from Kerala at Attappadi to develop an Integrated Sustainable Scheduled Tribe Development Plan with the leadership of Tribes, ooru, and Panchayath with the support of KILA. Through this program, they will develop individual plans, Family plans, and Ooru Plans. Panchayath will consolidate this plan and prepare an umbrella sustainable integrated plan for tribes. We will give continuous support to the Solayoor Panchayath next three years for planning, implementing, and monitoring this program. Now

they collected approximate ninety percentage of primary data by the leadership of panchayath and ooru mooppan.

## **SDG**

To experience a sustainable Development model and its processes as an action research approach, we selected 32 panchayaths and will be giving all support in the next three years. Each panchayath selected two subjects to reach its depth of activities with the situation and ideas of each panchayath. Here we have received extreme support from KILA. We completed thematic training for elected representatives, related officials, and resource persons from selected panchayaths in Child-friendly villages, Poverty-free villages, Healthy villages, water-sufficient villages, clean and green villages, and good governance villages with the support of KILA. Now the panchayaths collect data and will be going to the next level of action after the data collection we will prepare a Total Integrated Sustainable Development plan for each subject in each panchayath with the involvement of people participation and the use of local expertise by the leadership of Panchayath.

## **Good governance**

We selected Aryanade Grama Panchayath at Thiruvananthapuram and Nadapuram Panchayath at Kozhikkode to experience Good Governance in's extreme. Aryanad Grama Panchayath started Grama Bhavas in all wards, HRDC (Human recourse Development Center), E-Education (Citizen Charter available online, all online services from panchayath, government, and Grama Bhavan, how to use other one-line services), Ward and Panchayath level planning committees, Kudumbakootam (Family groups, average fifty families), SEDC (Socio-Economic Development Center).

## **Senior citizen-friendly Panchayaths**

We had selected 62 Grama Panchayaths from the fourteen Districts in Kerala, Ottappalam Block Panchayath and 8 panchayaths within the area, and Kozhikkode District Panchayath, 8 block panchayaths and 70 grama panchayats within the district, all to Participate in this program with their own decision. Through this program, we formulated a Senior citizen neighborhood group with an average of fifty houses, ward-level Senior citizen's clubs, and a Panchayath-level Senior citizen's club. Also, we are preparing a Total integrated Sustainable plan for Senior Citizens at neighborhood groups, Ward, and Panchayath levels. Through the consolidation of this plan, we also prepared the Block Panchayath and District Panchayath Plan. With the support of this information, Kozhikkode DPC will come to make a change in the District Plan. This program is conducted with the support of the KILA, the State Planning Board, and the Social Justice Department. We shall give continuous support to the Panchayaths we selected next three years for planning, implementing, and monitoring this program.

## **Finance Commissions**

1. We formed a committee under the chair of famous economist Dr. M.A. Oommen to voice the opinions of the panchayaths and KGPA and submitted its detailed reports to the 13<sup>th</sup> Central Finance Commission, after collecting the required information and held discussions with experts and elected representatives in all districts.
2. A report of this kind was also submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Finance Commission by KGPA we formed an expert committee to prepare the report. Its chairman is also Dr. MA Oommen.
3. We prepared a memorandum with the support of former 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Chairman Prof: MA Oommen, Dr. Shaheena, Assistant Professor Economic Department of Agriculture University, and KILA to submit to the 14<sup>th</sup> Central Finance Commission. The memorandum we had presented and submitted in front of the commissions. We prepared a memorandum to submit in front of the 15<sup>th</sup> Central Finance Commission.
4. We prepared a document with the support of experts and collected various ideas from different discussions at district and state levels and it was submitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> finance commissions in Kerala.

## **Other Activities**

1. We are collecting and giving an ear to the problems, issues, suggestions, and dissenting of all panchayaths in plan formulation, implementation, governance, Govt policies, GOs, etc. And after the study and discussions, we will be submitting before the government for follow-up actions.
2. We formed a committee to mobilize the opinions of the panchayaths on the eve of the KER amendment and submitted its report to the KER amendment committee constituted by the government.
3. Supported activities to start the front office system in all panchayaths in Kerala.
4. We collected the status of staff availability from all panchayaths and submitted a report to the government to revise staff patterns based on the new functions and responsibilities of panchayaths.
5. We have been collecting various issues from panchayaths they were facing and submitting them to the government and various departments to resolve them.

## **Training**

- Vigilance Committee (Jagratha Samithi) constituted in all grama panchayaths in Kerala to protect women and girls from harassment from anywhere and anyone on the guidelines of Kerala Women's Commission. We gave training to all grama panchayaths and municipalities in all districts with the financial assistance of the Kerala Women's Commission.
- Almost 1,500 citizens were given training in grama sabha with the assistance of KILA.
- We conducted training for selected 17 panchayath presidents, education standing committee chairpersons, and ICDS Supervisors to organize a one-year adolescent training in their

panchayaths with the support of the Grama panchayaths association and SAKHI. We will give 3 years of support to conduct the training.

- We conduct two days of district-wise training for panchayath presidents in Kerala with the support of KILA

## **Decentralized Platform**

Now we decided to constitute a decentralization platform to protect, stimulate, and develop the growth of decentralization and decentralized planning

## **Seminars**

1. We conducted an experience-sharing workshop to share the best practices of panchayaths and work together with panchayaths and NGOs. After the workshop, we took 3 best models of women-friendly panchayaths, total immunization, and plastic management to conduct courses for other interested panchayaths in these selected panchayaths.
2. Three-day seminar was conducted to develop ideas and visions to prepare a way forward to KGPA. In this seminar, executive committee members, subject experts, and heads of the various departments participated.

## **Publications**

- Published a handbook entitled ‘Vikasana Guide Volume-1’ (‘Development Guide Volume-1’) comprising details about different schemes of the Central and State, their phone numbers, and addresses.
- Now we have started to prepare the second edition of Vikasana Guide Volume II.
- KGPA gave expertise to develop participatory budgets in a grama panchayath and published a handbook, based on this experience of participatory budgeting and its execution of that panchayaths for three years.
- We prepared a methodology and process to assess the environmental impact of panchayath’s development activities. Evaluation and monitoring process of panchayaths and to increase the unity of elected representatives and officials of panchayath for the development and good governance.
- We gave technical help to eighteen panchayaths to conduct action research on old age welfare. Based on this action research and Central and State old age policies, we published a handbook on how to prepare old age policy and action plan in Grama Panchayath.
- We developed a handbook of methodology for preparing a district plan
- We prepared a leaflet of methodology assessing the environmental impact of the development activities of Panchayaths.
- We prepared a handbook of Ayalsabha (Neighborhood Group) which is under printing.
- Prepared the guidelines of Happy and Healthiest School for help to implement at Panchayaths.



## **Resources**

- Annual Subscription fee- 6000 from all panchayaths and rental income from rooms and auditorium, support from KILA, and other Departments for the programs.

K.M Usha  
President  
9947074907

K. Suresh  
General Secretary  
9061844063