



TRANSGENDER INCLUSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

KERALA STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Brainstorming Session with Transgender Community

Towards participation in Disaster Management

on 27/10/2020 at 11.30 AM via

Online Google Meet

Gender equality has recently been acknowledged as an important consideration in the international law and policy-making on disaster risk reduction. So far, the efforts to mainstream gender equality especially LGBTQI communities within these frameworks are not grounded in human rights obligations. Social stigma is considered to be the major cause for this, apart from other reasons like lack of adequate documents. This stigma, is also reflected with respect to various disasters or emergencies that this community face. Vulnerable communities such as LGBTQI are disproportionately affected during disasters.

It is in this context that Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) organised an online consultation meeting on 27-10-2020 with the Transgender friends in Kerala to understand and listen to their views and thoughts on the various disasters that struck the state in the last three years. This was a follow-up session based on the experience and lessons learnt from the training programme that Malappuram District Disaster Management Authority conducted on 5-3-2020. In Malappuram, the transgender community received the training arranged by the DDMA in Covid19 pandemic response and also for the monsoon preparedness in 2020.

The online meeting via Google meet started at 11.30 AM. Ms Amrutha Kolangad, Hazard Analyst welcomed the gathering with her opening remarks, Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA gave the keynote address in which he expressed the vision of KSDMA in taking up an initiative like this, he also requested all the participants to share their views and experiences related to the subject.. Mr. Joe John George (State Project Officer facilitated the discussions, Mr Pradeep G S(Hazard & Risk Analyst)proposed vote of thanks. State Transgender Cell Member Ms. Shyama Prabha, Neha C Menon, Viji Rahman and others from different Districts attended the brainstorming session. (Participants details - Annexure 1)

The discussions were mainly emphasising on the challenges that the community go through during the events of Disasters / Emergencies the coping mechanisms being adopted in such cases, the training requirements & expectations

It was a highly interactive session and responses to their experiences were captured by KSDMA officials in a semi structured focussed group discussion tool (FGD question answers annexed here as annexure 2)

Recommendations

- It was suggested to form a state level core committee group including representatives from Social Justice Department / Kerala Social Security Mission, State Transgender Cell, Gender Park, Lawyer who is well versed in the matters for transgenders, Media Representative, community Representatives, Academicians, NGOs and KSDMA officials.
- It was suggested to conduct trainings for the Transgender community as the first responders during disasters as well as in first aid & survival skills. This will facilitate a shift in the perception towards them and help in breaking the existing barrier and stigma.
- Policies to be made more inclusive, recognizing the needs, capacities, skills and role of the Transgender communities in building resilient communities.
- Engage community member's participation in Panchayath ERTs.
- . The general trainings & capacity building programmes conducted shall be made inclusive of transgender communities.

Annexure 1

Participants List

1. Dr Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary & Head SEOC, KSDMA
2. Mr. Joe John George, State Project Officer, KSDMA
3. Mr. Pradeep G S, HRA
4. Ms. Amrutha K, HA
5. Ms. Shyama Prabha, State TG cell Member
6. Ms. Neha C Menon
7. Ms. Sreemayi
8. Ms. Viji Rahman
9. Ms. Sonia Byju
10. Ms. Monisha Sekhar
11. Ms. Ammu
12. Dilha M K
13. Ms. Neelanjana Neelu
14. Ms. Tansi Haneefa
15. Ms. Husna Cheriyan
16. Made in Kochi

Annexure 2

Focus Group Discussion

Target: Transgender Community | 27th October 2020 | KSDMA

1. What do you mean by a (any) disaster?

Disaster is an event that may disturb the normal course of life of humans and animals. It may be natural or man-made.

Natural Disasters are like Land Slide, Earthquake, Flood etc.

Man Made Disaster are Accidents, Gas leakage, COVID 19 etc.

2. Are you aware about various disasters in your neighbouring areas?

Flood, Landslide, Mud Slip, Fire, Electric and gas leakage in Households.

3. What are the possible disasters you/we need to be concerned of?

Flood, Land Slide, Fire Accidents

4. Have you experienced any emergency/disaster situation in your life?

COVID 19, Flood and Tsunami

5. Do you think you are at a greater risk during/post disaster? Why?

Yes. We are the most vulnerable people in the society. We have not got much consideration from the Government. General population have the opportunities to tackle all disaster situations but we don't have. We are not in the frontline of society.

6. What are your concerns regarding the above?

Accept what we are and no other options other than to live with the limitations

7. Have you attended any training in D.M/Emergency/First Aid training?

We have attended only the training arranged by DDMA Malappuram so far. Ammu from Malappuram attended Sannadha sena training.

8. If not, what type of training would you prefer? (Training Needs)

Camp Management, First Aid etc

9. Have you heard about emergency Kit? Have you made Emergency Kit at Home? In your case, what are those items/equipment's/tools you would like to carry at the time of evacuation?

Some of them are aware of this who attended the DM training in Malappuram

10. Are you involved in NGOs / SHGs / Kudumbashree / other associations / etc. in your locality?

Yes. Transgender community welfare NGOs

11. What suggestions would you like to give for better awareness/preparedness on disaster management?

Inclusive Risk reduction planning

12. Are you aware about Early Warning Systems in disasters?

No

13. In case KSDMA conduct trainings, is online more (Cisco WebEx) preferred?

Yes

14. Do you use android phones?

Yes

15. What time would you prefer?

Preferably afternoon

16. How to reach out to other transgender elsewhere in Kerala (rest of Malappuram)

We have a state level and district level transgender justice boards. They are closely working with District collector and Social Justice Departments. The total number of Transgender members can be collected from respective TG justice board. Suggested to form a State level Core group for the continuation of this training.

Annexure 3

Media reports

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/kerala-mulls-countrys-first-transgenderinclusive-disaster-management-programme/1965595>

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/education/1287634-kerala-mulls-countrys-first-transgender-inclusive-disaster-management-programme>

<https://www.jagran.com/news/national-kerala-mulls-country-first-transgender-inclusive-disaster-management-programme-20968890.html>

<https://www.ibc24.in/news/Kerala-to-involve-transgender-community-in-its-disaster-management-programme-103032>

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/other-states/other-cities/kerala-to-include-transgender-community-in-its-disaster-management-programs/articleshow/78910787.cms>

Event Photo



