

# **Tsunami Ready Programme (TRP) Training Program Edavanakad Panchayat Ernakulam Overview**

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On June 20, 2024, the Edavanakad panchayat stakeholders participated in a comprehensive training session aimed at advancing their community towards achieving the Tsunami Ready Programme (TRP) certification. The event was led by Dr. Midhila Mallika, the State Project Officer from the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), who guided the stakeholders through the TRP's framework and essential steps required for certification.

## **Welcome Address and Introduction**

The training session commenced with a welcome speech delivered by Ms. Anjaly Parameswaran, the Hazard Analyst of Ernakulam. Ms. Anjaly emphasized the significance of the TRP in enhancing community preparedness and resilience against tsunami hazards. She outlined the objectives of the program, which include improving public awareness, developing robust emergency response plans, and ensuring effective communication during a tsunami event.

Following Ms. Anjaly's address, Panchayat President Ms. Aseena Abdul Salam extended a warm welcome to all stakeholders and participants. Aseena's remarks underscored the collective effort required to achieve the TRP certification and the importance of community involvement in disaster preparedness initiatives.

Vice President Mr. VK Iqbal provided a perspective of the lived experiences of Edavanakad panchayat during the devastating 2004 tsunami. His reflections on the catastrophic event highlighted the urgent need for structured disaster preparedness programs like TRP. Iqbal's narrative reinforced the importance of proactive measures to mitigate future risks.

## **Training Session by Dr. Midhila Mallika**

Dr. Midhila Mallika then took the stage to conduct the core training session. She detailed the various components and criteria of the Tsunami Ready Programme, emphasizing the steps necessary for the Edavanakad panchayat to achieve certification. The training covered key areas such as hazard assessment, community education and outreach, and the development of an emergency operations plan.

Dr. Midhila's session was thorough and interactive, providing stakeholders with practical insights and actionable steps. She explained the importance of regular drills and exercises to ensure the community's readiness and the need for a continuous review and update of the emergency plans.

## **Interactive Session and Community Engagement**

Following Dr. Midhila's presentation, the floor was opened for an interactive session with the participants. The ward members and community representatives eagerly engaged in discussions, sharing their experiences and concerns regarding the impact of sea level rise and its implications on their livelihoods. This interactive segment was vital in addressing specific community issues and tailoring the TRP framework to meet local needs.

Dr. Midhila, along with Hazard Analyst Ms. Anjaly Parameswaran and LSG DM Plan Coordinator Mr. Abhimanyu M, addressed the queries raised by the participants. Their responses provided clarity and guidance, ensuring that the stakeholders felt supported and informed throughout the process.

## **Coordination and Support**

The successful coordination of the training program was managed by Secretary Mr. Lawrance Antonio Almeda, Assistant Secretary Ms. Usharani MV, Hazard Analyst Ms. Anjaly Parameswaran and LSG DM Plan Coordinator Mr. Abhimanyu M. Their efforts ensured the seamless execution of the event, facilitating a productive and engaging environment for all attendees.

## **Conclusion**

The Tsunami Ready Programme training session for Edavanakad panchayat stakeholders is a crucial step towards preparedness for future tsunamis. By raising awareness, understanding the certification process, and fostering community engagement, the panchayat can significantly improve its ability to mitigate the impact of tsunamis and safeguard its residents. The collaborative efforts of the KSDMA, local authorities, and community members underscore the importance of comprehensive training and community engagement in achieving the TRP certification.

**Photos:**















