

KERALA

Labour bank of tribes being formed



K.A. Shaji

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To ensure better wages to workers and address labour shortage

Scripting yet another success story in empowering the tribal community of Attappady, women members of 586 tribal Kudumbasree units in the region are now launching an exclusive labour bank comprising skilled and trained youth of the area with the objective of ensuring them better wages and addressing the shortage of skilled manpower.

Supported and monitored by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), the labour bank would be launched by January middle and it would have a digitally available pool of skilled and trained tribal workers.

Already, 3,000 youths from 192 tribal colonies of Attappady have joined the initiative and efforts are on to bring more people under the ambit of the labour bank, which also aims at effective and transparent implementation of various governmental schemes aimed at tribal welfare.

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Over two dozen governmental agencies are implementing various developmental and welfare projects here and they all require skilled local manpower. Though many masons, carpenters, plumbers, and construction workers are available among the tribal community, the contractors and officials prefer workers from outside. Conducting construction activities using members of tribal labour bank will not only ensure them better wages but also help ensure transparency and accountability in work implementation,” said Vanchi Krishnaswami of Kulukkoor colony, who is a Kudumbasree coordinator.

“Our youngsters are falling victims to illicit liquor and narcotics because of the difficult living and financial conditions. Apart from women empowerment, tribal Kudumbasrees in Attappady are now concentrating on efforts to boost morale of the tribal youngsters and men. The labour bank and creation of various arts and sports clubs are in the direction of addressing their concerns,” said Valli Ravikumar, coordinator from Dasannur hamlet.

Private establishments and individuals can also make use of the labour bank; but all payments have to be made through banking system.

“The labour bank aims at permanently ending the prevailing method in Attappady of paying lower wages to high risk jobs. Each job should be compensated with fair and just wages,” said Seema Bhaskar of the NRLM.



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