Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitalization, Wayanad (Kerala)

Innovation (District)

Wayanad, a scenic District of Kerala with mountainous topography spread across 3 Municipalities and 23 Gram Panchayats has the highest tourist footfall in the State. It is home for the largest tribal population in the State (19%). Wayanad is prone to natural disasters and human- wild life conflicts. The massive floods during 2018 and 2019, caused huge damage to life and property and basic documents of people were lost.

The economic backwardness of the tribal groups and reluctance to interact with the outside world often deprives them from Government aids. To bring the tribal groups to the mainstream, Wayanad District Administration along with Kerala State IT Mission/Akshaya District Project Office, Local Self-Governing Department and Scheduled Tribe Development Department initiated Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitalization (ABCD), an initiative to provide basic documents to all the tribal communities through convergence of different Government

Departments and with the support of civil society organizations. These documents include Ration Card, Aadhaar Card, Voter ID, Birth Certificate, Bank Account, Health Insurance Card and other services.

An initial need assessment survey was conducted to assess exact number and extent of service requirements, followed by special camps organized under Local Self- Governing Institutions (LSGIs), where all the tribal groups within the jurisdiction assembled together to avail these services within a short time,

which would otherwise take days' or months' efforts. DiGiLocker, a secure cloud-based platform for storage, sharing and verification of documents & certificates, introduced by Government of India, is utilized to store all the documents provided at camps. This aids in seamless document retrieval in case of loss or damages.

ABCD programme is monitored by District Collector with Sub Collector as the nodal officer. Monitoring Committees have been formed at District and ward level including

various stakeholders to coordinate different activities. As a result, Wayanad was declared the first District in India to provide and digitalize all basic documents to all the ST communities.

The unique feature of ABCD programme is the convergence and coordination of various Government Departments and other civil society organizations. While Kerala State IT Mission, Tribal Development Department and Local Self-Governing Department were the implementing departments, the success of the programme is attributed to the combined participation of all the stakeholders, which included Health, Election, Revenue, Banks, Civil Supplies, Kerala State Electricity Board, BSNL and various volunteer groups.

Since ABCD programme, through its Local Self- Governing Institutions (LSGIs), could effectively cater the existing needs of the target group, the sustainability of the programme will be ensured through the Akshaya Tribe friendly Counters. After the success of the programme in Wayanad, many other districts in Kerala have organized similar programmes for vulnerable groups. ABCD opened the doors of development to the most vulnerable section of citizens, bringing Government to their doorsteps.