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Shuchithwatheram initiative of Kumbalangi grama panchayat

- A MODEL VILLAGE IN KERALA

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Introduction

Kumbalangi, an island village on the outskirts of Cochin city, was selected as one of the model villages by the Kerala Government in 2003. The Kumbalangi integrated tourism village project is intended to transform the hamlet into a model fishing village and tourism spot. The project aims to create job opportunities for the villagers, while also ensuring that the tourists experience real village life. Recognising the challenges and responsibilities normally faced by tourist destinations especially with respect to waste generation, the Panchayath has taken serious efforts in waste management. During the last financial year, the Panchayath initiated a cleanliness drive "Shuchithwa theeram 2017-18" as part of the Haritha Keralam Mission of the State Government, which has helped the village to look clean and attract tourists.

Mode of collection/ transportation/processing of wastes

As part of the "Shuchithwa theeram" programme, cleaning up of littered road sides, streets, canals and public wells as well as mosquito control programmes were undertaken. Steps were taken to process the biodegradable wastes from households at source as well as to collect non-biodegradable solid wastes in separate gunny bags for sending to recycling plants outside the state. The villagers were given instructions to collect/treat wastes accordingly from their own households and also to clean their premises and adjacent streets/roads. Initiatives were also taken to get participation of school students in this drive. The Panchayath has installed 600 biogas plants in different parts of the village to manage degradable wastes. Kumbalangi is the first Panchayath in the state to set up such an efficient waste management system. Workshops on "Waste Management" were conducted in all wards in the village to create awareness regarding treatment of biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes and about reuse/recycling of plastic wastes.

Economical aspects

The project is being implemented by the Panchayath with financial assistance from the state government.

Impact

The most remarkable achievement is that this drive has helped to create awareness among the local people on proper waste disposal/management and has immensely benefited the local population and also to attract tourists.

