

## **Micro Level Innovation For Alternative Forms Of Development - A Case Study Of Co-Operative Hospital Trikkakara, Cochin (Kerala)**

Prof.N.remakanthan

Consultant SDC CapDeck

Thiruvanthapuram

E-mail :remakanthan@hotmail.com

Health department indicate of kerala are comparable to high income countries with high per capita expenditure on health and related support service. The high rate of investment in health service and medical education combined with people's health awareness have facilitated the attainment of these high standards. Kerala's achievement in universal immunization, low prevalence rate of major public health diseases, institutionalization of deliveries, accessibility of health care institutions, availability of hospital beds per lakh population, achievements in population stabilization make the high health standard. But this doesn't mean that everything is safe and sustainable. Kerala has recorded the maximum dengue deaths among the various Indian states where the fever has been reported. A large number of public health diseases like dengue fever, Japanese viral fever, viral hepatitis, pneumonia etc are slowly coming up and the intervention of government at different levels is not effective to tackle the baffling issues of public health.

As part decentralization of power a large number of public health responsibilities and the management of health care institution have been transferred to local government of different tier. Local governments in Kerala are now empowered to formulate alternative forms of department leading to efficient social service and environmental sustainability. Many new organization form have been developed experimentally in different panchayats. The local bodies drew from the experience of Kerala's rich democratic tradition of co-operatives and practiced this organizational form in local development. The co-operatives hospital at Thrikkara Grama Panchayath, Ernakulam district provide important lessons for community involvement for cost effective health care. This micro level development experience had a direct bearing on the decentralization planning campaign in Kerala.

### **New Venture Of Convergence :**

The co-operative hospital at Thrikkara, Ernakulam was started with the personal initiative of a few resource person as voluntary activist of the people's plan campaign under the leadership of the Thrikkara Grama Panchayath. Within a period of five years it has become one of the vibrant and sustainable local level initiative with massive community participation. The people's plan campaign started in 1996 opened up a new avenue for local governments as well as the community for positive intervention in the performance betterment of public services. The campaign envisaged to provide quality service in the health sector and to curb poverty and environment related diseases through improving sanitation facilities and good quality water.

The new policies of the central and state government aimed at decreasing budgetary support to social sector like, health, education, child care and food security. This has led to an unprecedented assault on the public health facilities and support to the underprivileged and poor section of the society. It is

commonly accepted that to the underprivileged and poor section of the society .it is commonly accepted that the indebtedness of the poor people is caused by expenditure on health care. The facilities provided by a primary health centre and hospital are not suited to satisfy the health care needs of community need of the community and there for, people rely on private hospital. The new policy thrust of the government in the area of health is to abandon its responsibility and to encourage private hospitals and to establish their monopoly .the health care infrastructure facilities in the government run primary health center and hospitals are poor not because of their inherent nature but because funding for such services has been grossly inadequate.,onthe other hand private hospital are sprouting with high tech facilities catering to the 'high end' of the market. such facilities are not accessible or affordable to the common people.

As part of the need identification for local plan formulation at grama sabhas ,people articulated their demanded for providing better health care facilities at an affordable cost.since manjority of the people of trikkara consists of middle class and lower class this demand deserves particular attention.while formulating the development strategy and prioritizing the project the local government of thrikkara gave top most priority for enhancing the quality of health care by providing additional facilities to the existing primaryhealth care and to start a new health care institution in the form of a co â€‘operative establishment.in the first year plan the local body attempted to strengthen the existing primary health center by providing lab facilities and developing other infrastructure facilities .but it has not produced expected results due to the lack of poers to intervene in the day to day functioning and the limited space of the local government to manage the department controlled health system. The dual control that exist in kerala further worsened the situation .this has paved the way for initiating an alternative institution for health care

### **An alternative approach in health care :**

Kerala has a rich culture for co-operatives but, the successful co â€‘operatives establishments in the health sector are very few. The reson for the failure of co â€‘operatives hospital are complex and the issues in their management cannot be addresses by the enthusiasm of the voluntary workers alone.the local government functionaries along with the voluntary activists seriously thought of the form of organization and finally decided to start a hospital with a difference under the banner of a co-operative establishment.

### **The objectives of the hospital.**

- To provide quality treatment at an affordable cost to the common people.
- To make available the service of specialist doctors,departments and equipments at an affordable rate.
- To curb the exploitation of private hospitals and private doctors and to save the poor people from indebtedness.
- To make better convergence of efficiency in the private sector and affordability of treatment cost in the public sector.
- To propogates values of health for all and democratization of public health system.
- Demystify the exploitation of the five star culture in private hospitals and private doctors.
- To promote health and environment education programmes and to promote community participation in all the public health programmes and to promote community participation in all the public health programmes of the local government.
- To meet the current challenges of environmental degradation, changing life style, deseases, health hazards created by urbanization, withdrawal of a financially sapped government and their negative impact on public helath.

