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Livelihood support scheme for Pernambut and Timiri soon

VELLORE: The Vazhdhu Kaattuvom Scheme, meant to open up decent livelihood avenues to the poor, implemented in Gudiyatham, Alangayam and Madhanur unions in Vellore district since 2005-06, will be implemented in Pernambut and Timiri unions before the end of 2008.

The following six objectives comprise the 'Uyir moochu' (breath) of the scheme joint decision by the villagers, ensuring transparency in all actions, giving priority to women, uplift of the poor, supporting the physically challenged and the weaker sections, and utilizing the village funds with integrity.

All decisions, including the preparation of project proposals and identification of the beneficiaries, are taken by the Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRCs) formed in each village. These committees are the actual implementing agencies for the scheme in each village.

According to Nithya, Secretary of the committee in Melmuttukoor of Gudiyatham panchayat union, meetings are organized under the concept of participatory rural appraisal (makkal pangerpudan makkal ayvu) to identify the beneficiaries who are to be provided loans and subsidy under various schemes.

The president of the village panchayat concerned in the president of the committee, while the persons targeted by the scheme are the members. Representatives are selected from each hamlet in the panchayat by conducting meetings in all the hamlets.

The secretary of the panchayat - level federation (PLF) of women's self-help groups shall be an ex-officio member of the committee. T.Kalaivani Thiruvengadam, President of the Melmuttukoor village panchayat in Gudiyatham panchayat union said that the VPRC has provided business loans ranging from Rs.2,000 to Rs.3,000 to 10 differently-abled persons and 16 persons belonging to the weaker sections for setting up tiffin shops, camphor sale, slipper unit-cum-shop and beedi rolling.