For the students in BUDS Institutions, the country is observing lockdown to fight back the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. In these tough times, we are trying to extend services to the vulnerable communities and lonely people through our organisational system. Kudumbashree is implementing various activities focusing on the specially abled children who are unable to come out of their houses (to BUDS schools) during the lock down. Various activities are being implemented by our beloved teachers of BUDS institutions, focusing on each children. As you all know BUDS Institutions are convergence project of Kudumbashree and Local Self Government Institutions. A total of 270 BUDS Institutions are functioning in 14 districts across the state. 8521 students are studying in these institutions and there are a total of 414 teachers in these schools. Each teacher of the respective schools have prepared personal plan for each of their students knowing their special needs. It is as per this plan, the students are given special activities and
training (by the teacher themselves). We requested our teachers, through the respective District Programme Managers, to develop special plans and frame activities for the children which could be practiced at homes. The concept is to send the same to the parents of these specially abled children and to engage the children through these activities, monitored by parents. The suggestion was given on the first day of lock down. Based on the proposal, BUDS Institutions in the districts framed various activities. Drawing, reading newspapers, study about letters, music class, stitching class, various trainings to attain self reliance, join in the work at kitchen etc were some of the activities suggested to each of the parents as per the personal plan. Parents were asked to send the pictures of the activities of the children to the teachers. The teachers of every BUDS Institutions therefore make regular contact with the parents of their students.

‘Draw something and paint it’ - This was the lock down challenge given by the Hawkings Buds Rehabilitation Centre functioning at Thrikkadeeri Panchayath to their children. They directed the parents to send the sketches and photos (taken while they were drawing pictures). The same is being collected, posters are made using the same and the same are being published. The Prateeksha BUDS School at Pandikkad asked the children to be part of farming in the name Haritham Programme. The BUDS institution functioning at Pokkottor of Malappuram district directed the parents to send the activities of each students in their houses and collected the same. The teachers of Veliyannor BUDS School and the BUDS Institution at Kadakkal had given detailed plans for the activities. Because of the space limitation of this article series, the activities of all the teachers in the BUDS Institutions are not elaborated here. We could see that all the teachers took up the activities for their children with full dedication and committment. In addition to this, the teachers are taking care of the health of each students. They make sure that the students are getting proper, healthy food and medicine regularly and if anything is needed, they arrange the same through Kudumbashree Organisational System or through Local Self Government Institutions. Along with this, mental support is extended to the parents of the BUDS students through the community counsellors of Kudumbashree. We take this opportunity to congratulate all the teachers of the BUDS Institutions who are becoming the sole support of the specially abled students, who (and their families) need special attention during this time of crisis.