During this time of covid-19 pandemic, the discussions about the safety of the medical practitioners and about the Personal Protection Kits (PPE) are ongoing. We saw the news about making cost effective face shields (called TMC shields) that could be useful as an additional layer to PPE. This face shield made using the raw materials available aplenty in the market, caught our attention. The news was about the PG students of Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, who made face shield in the name ‘TMC Shield’ and the same is getting publicity among the doctors. It was published in the newspapers of 30 March 2020. It is then, we had a thought that, if we would be able to start making these face shields in an enterprise model, it would be helpful for the doctors and thereby, our micro entrepreneurs could earn some income.

Doctors get involved themselves with the patients wearing protection measures like face masks and goggles. But when the patients, cough or sneeze,
the droplets get stick on to these. If one uses a face shield, the chances of the face masks and goggles getting infected could be reduced. Other than doctors, people including the security personals who involve directly with the patients may also make use of face shields. On making follow up about this news story, we contacted Dr. Muhammed, 3rd year PG student and his friends who made this face shield and discussed about the same with them. They taught the technique of making face shields to our Kudumbashree units.

After the discussions, as a trial, Akshayam Enterprise unit from Karakulam of Thiruvananthapuram district, engaged in LED making was selected to make face shield called as TMC shield. The 10 membered unit is now started making face shields using polyfoam sheet, OHP sheet, Fevicol SR 505, and synthetic cloth. Rs 10 is the approximate cost for making a single unit of face shield. In the first phase, we are planning of making 1000 face shields and hand over the same to Health Department. After getting necessary vetting/ approval of Government/ Health Department and Doctors for these face shields, it is expected that we would be able to start the production of face shields in enterprise model.