Livelihood Programme for the mothers through BUDS Schools

Hope you all have read about the BUDS Institutions, BUDS festivals and the livelihood programmes for the children studying @ BUDS in the ’Making an Impact-30’, ’Making an Impact-107’ and ’Making an Impact-108’ articles respectively. In some cases mothers accompany their children to BUDS Institutions. They come to BUDS Institutions to assist the teachers look after the children and to extend extra care to the children who needs specific attention.

These mothers stay at the BUDS Institutions from morning till evening. We decided to provide skill training during their stay in BUDS school. The aim is to help them start micro enterprises of their own, so as to be engaged in a job and earn some income of their own. Though it is not
possible to continue it as a full time engagement, we gave them training in livelihood activities like umbrella making, bag making and stitching which calls for only a little time of some working days.

In the first phase, this activity was launched initially at Kasaragode district of Kerala, with the financial assistance of Malayala Manorama. At BUDS Institution of Neeleshwaram, Kasaragode district, skill training was provided to 9 mothers in bag making, umbrella making and their enterprises were formed. Following that, at Periya BUDS Institution, training was given in umbrella making, bag making and cloth making for four people.

In the first phase, we were able to give the entrepreneurs, a work order for 10,000 umbrellas received from the Kerala State Financial Enterprises Limited (KSFE). Following that trainings were extended to the BUDS institution at Enmakaje, Kannadi, Pallikkal, Ongallur, Thrikkadeeri, Eloor, Vengoor, Kunnukara and Karukutty by including in the ‘Prathyasha’ Entrepreneurship Development Programme. Now the enterprises of mothers are coming up in more BUDS Institutions.

Finding market for the products produced by mothers is the challenge in front of us at present. Along with identifying markets for their products, we also plan to spread this model to more areas.