I had already explained about the various activities implemented exclusively by the district teams in ‘Making an Impact’ Article - 281, ‘Making an Impact ‘Article - 282 etc. The activities being implemented by Palakkad district team converging with Palakkad District Panchayath is notable. Many activities were implemented in the district through this convergence. Through these activities and projects, different sources of livelihood is opened for NHG members. A few such activities are given below.

1. Ajasamrudhi
Ajasamrudhi is the programme which ensures job and income for women through goat rearing. In the last four years, District Panchayath had given a subsidy of Rs 25 lakhs to the 250 women of 50 enterprise groups. As part of the programme, a group consisting of 5 members is given 20 goats each of Attappady Black breed.

2. Ksheera Samrudhi
Through this programme, livelihood opportunities in the dairy sector are opened for NHG members. 85 women of 17 groups are finding their income by producing milk and manufacturing milk products. Rs 21 lakhs was given by the District Panchayath as subsidy.

3. Support for Cafe Kudumbashree Canteens
17 canteens were started with the subsidy of District Panchayath in the last 4 years for ensuring livelihood for 120 NHG members. Rs 30 lakhs was given by the District Panchayath as subsidy.
4. Tailoring Units
Rs 1.90 crores was given by the District Panchayath as subsidy for the 110 groups in the tailoring sector which has 795 NHG women as members. District Panchayath gave 50 % subsidy for the units having Rs 5 lakh investment. This was done for encouraging the enterprises in textiles sector.

5. Oruma Transgender Canteen
District Panchayath supported Kudumbashree Palakkad district team to start the first transgender canteen in the state. 10 transgenders are finding their livelihood through this canteen. District Panchayath gave Rs 5 lakhs for the ‘Oruma’ Canteen opened at the District Collectorate.

6. Sanitary Napkin Production
Palakkad District Panchayath is giving financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs for starting units to those who completed training in sanitary napkin production. Through the 10 groups in this sector, 100 women could find their livelihood. Rs 25 lakhs was given as subsidy.

In addition to these livelihood programmes, convergence with District panchayath provided support to many other programmes implemented by Kudumbashree as well. Rs 8 lakhs was provided for arranging basic amenities in the Gender Resource Centres opened in 20 panchayats (Rs 40,000 each was given for 20 Panchayats). Gender Resource Centre is also opened at the District Panchayath Office as well.

In addition, District Panchayath had given financial assistance of Rs 2.60 lakhs for the community counselling centres which were opened aiming at improving the mental health of women in 13 blocks of the district. Palakkad team who makes such effective convergences possible with the District Panchayath deserves a warm appreciation.