‘Thanal’ - Online Therapy starts for extending support to the students of BUDS Institutions

We elaborated about the BUDS Institutions being run by Kudumbashree converging with Local Self Government Institutions. BUDS are established for ensuring mental development and for providing continuous training for the intellectually challenged children. Initial essay on BUDS was in ‘Making an Impact’ Article - 30. Also, we had explained about the various activities implemented by these institutions in other articles. A total of 293 BUDS Institutions (143 BUDS Schools and 150 BUDS Rehabilitation Centres-BRCs) are already functioning across the state. 9002 students are studying in these institutions altogether. They are provided with the needed support in their day to day life, rehabilitation and skill training.

When lockdown was notified as part of countering covid-19 by State/ Central Governments, the functioning of the BUDS Institutions were stopped and the students and their parents had to face many difficulties. We are implementing various activities for each and every child in BUDS Institutions, giving individual focus on their personal growth plans. Those children who need regular therapy are given such services through these BUDS Institutions. When these institutions were temporarily closed, it was not possible to give these therapies. And this had turned into a major crisis. As a solution to this, we have now started activities for extending online therapy through Composite Regional Centre For Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons With Disabilities (CRC). CRC is an institute under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, headquartered at Kozhikode. CRC is now supporting our children from all the BUDS Institutions across the state.
As per the proposal submitted by CRC, this project was implemented as a pilot in the name 'Thanal' at 2 BUDS Institutions at Thrissur and Malappuram districts from June onwards. Therapist from CRC provide classes to the parents of the students through convenient channels such as WhatsApp, telephone and other online media. These classes are given after studying the present health condition of each student and the parents give therapies to their children. The services extended includes physiotherapy, vocational therapy, speech and hearing therapy and clinical psychology. A total of 111 students are given therapy in these two districts as a part of pilot project. 1191 classes of 20 to 40 minutes duration are given until now. Primary assessment of 345 children had also been completed by CRC.

Shri. A. C Moideen, Minister, Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala officially inaugurated (today) the activity of extending this programme to all districts across the state. Inauguration was held at the BRC at Pazhuyakunnummel, Thrivananthapuram (as online function). Shri. V Sathyan, MLA. Attinthal Constituency presided over the function. Prof. C. Raveendranath, Minister for General Education, Government of Kerala extended the keynote address.

Appreciations to all those who took the upper hand to formulate and implement such an activity for extending support to the students of the BUDS Institutions and their parents.