Hope you all would have read about the special activities formulated and implemented by Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Kannur, Wayanad and Thrissur districts on their own. The activities are implemented for preventing the spread of the disease and for making use of the lock down period in an effective way. Today also, we will explain about the special interventions of districts. Lets know more about the lock down activities of Ernakulam district today.

‘Ernakulam’ always

27,067 NHGs are functioning under the 101 CDSs (Community Development Societies-Panchayath level federation of NHGs) in the district. 3,94,749 families are part of Kudumbashree system in the district.

1. ‘Cyber Jalakam’ Online NHG meetings:
As the social distancing is to be observed and the gatherings need to be avoided, the Ernakulam district team introduced an innovative way, named as ‘Cyber Jalakam’, for conducting NHG meetings. If the meetings were not conducted regularly, it might weaken the organisational system. It is on this realization, the district
team had decided to conduct the meetings online. All NHGs were directed to form Whatsapp groups and Google forms were sent to these groups. Google form containing all agendas of an NHG meeting except the financial transactions was thus shared. The NHG members marked their opinions in the google forms using their smart phones by sitting at their homes itself. The challenges faced by each NHG member in connection with the corona virus spread, the solutions for settling the issues, the participation of NHG members in community kitchens, janakeeya hotels etc were understood through this. Also it also helped in understanding the services extended to the beneficiaries of Snehitha Calling Bell, Destitute Free Kerala projects through Snehitha Gender Help Desk, interventions of NHGs, sanitizer-mask production, Agriculture Challenge, Whatsapp competitions organised for improving the creative skills of Balasabha children and NHG women etc. Through the Cyber Jalakam Online NHG meeting, it was possible to analyse the activities of Kudumbashree Ernakulam District Mission and how these have made impact in Kudumbashree NHGs. Discussions were also made on how the needs of the Kudumbashree members could be compiled for overcoming the effects of the virus spread. More than 1 lakh members from 26,504 NHGs took part in the first online NHG meeting organised on 17 May.

2. Oruma Rapid Action Force
The ‘Oruma Rapid Action Force’ team initiative is a novel idea implemented at Kumbalangi panchayat. The team, formed by the NHG members of Kumbalangi is helping all those who could not go out to buy essential goods. People may give the list of the groceries to be brought to the mobile number- 9562081207 and the same would be delivered on the very next day. Kumbalangi is a island like area which has 17 wards. The Rapid Action Force team was formed by Smt. Mary Lalji, Smt. Sheethal Nelson, Smt. Reshma Season, Smt, Dhanya Jithin, NHG members of Oruma NHG of the Ezhupunna Ferry (8th ward). The groceries as per the demand received on the previous day is bought in bulk, assorted and are delivered to the households. Scooters and cycles are used for transportation. Only Rs 25 (maximum) is charged as transportation fee. This service is being extended to an average of 50 families.

3. Frustration Box
Frustration Box was the idea conceived and implemented by Snehitha Gender Help Desk for alleviating the mental stress faced by the women in the district due to lock down. Through the ‘Frustration Box’, women may share any mental issues they face to the mobile number 8594034255 and get advises. The service is provided by 2 counsellors and 5 service providers who work round the clock. Women may communicate the issues they face in any form. They may communicate the issues by making phone calls, or by sending voice messages through whats-app or as photos. Till date, 346 women have communicated their issues to the Frustration Box which was started on 20 April. Appreciations to the Ernakulam team who are formulating and implementing various ideas that are helpful for the public and the NHG members who extend wholehearted support for the same.