I had already explained in ‘Making an Impact’ Article - 116, that we had obtained the administrative sanction to implement projects worth Rs 250 crores through Kudumbashree as part of the Rebuild Kerala Project. As part of this, we had presented ‘Connect to Work’, a new concept and got approval. This project is in the implementation phase now.

Though there are as many qualified youth in our society, they find it difficult to find jobs or connect themselves to jobs. Deficiency of soft skills, lack of knowledge on how to attend an interview, the inability to identify jobs through online and other media and the lack of skills in turning such opportunities to jobs etc pose great challenges to them and they fail in getting the right job on time. We came to know that many people in the society are facing such issues and they need support and assistance to ‘connect to work’. This led Kudumbashree to think of implementing ‘Connect to Work’ as a finishing School programme.

In the first phase it is planned to select one panchayath each from 152 blocks in the state and 33 people each from every panchayath would be given training which will equip them to get jobs. It is planned to connect 5000 people to job in phase 1. The selected youth would be provided with our course of 120 hours duration. They would be taught personal skills, social skills, organisational skills, professional skills, presentation skills, entrepreneurship skills etc. We believe that those who complete this course have high chances of employability. Based on the success of the first phase, the training for more
batches will also be started.

At present, 152 CDSs had already been selected. They were given directions to do convergence with local bodies so that panchayats will provide their own existing facilities to implement ‘Connect to Work’ Project. Each CDS had been given Rs 2,10,000 each for arranging computer, projector, board, table, chair, travel allowance for the students, and for arranging the honorarium for the resource persons for coordinating the training centres. The actions for setting up the basic amenities in the panchayats is progressing. Resource Persons had been entrusted in every panchayats to coordinate the activities. The activities to select the first level trainees has also been started. The trainees would be selected before 15 August 2020. When the crisis of covid-19 would be ended, the training would be started on getting the direction of the government. We have come in contact with ASAP (Additional Skills Acquisition Programme) for extending the training. ASAP trainers would lead the classes at 152 centres. The training module is getting prepared. The training centres would function under the respective CDSs.

The programme, which identifies the drawbacks of each individual, resolves it and extends the best quality training has reached its implementation stage. We hope that this programme could bring in a big change in society and help many to improve themselves and find livelihood of their own.

(Those people with qualifications such as ITI, Polytechnic Diploma, Graduation, Post Graduation etc could participate in this training programme. Any family member of the trainee should be part a Kudumbashree Neighbourhood Group member or he/she should belong to a BPL (Below Poverty Line) family. Maximum age is 35. Interested ones may contact the nearest CDS.)