

# Kudumbashree to make TMC shield developed by medicos

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Thiruvananthapuram: The Kudumbashree project has stepped forward to mass produce TMC shield, a protective gear that can be used by medical staff engaged in treatment of Covid-19 patients.

TMC shield is a special mask developed by PG doctors of Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. This shield, according to its developers, would protect the N-95 mask and goggles worn by doctors and medical staff from becoming carriers of the virus through droplets.

Though the doctors and medical staff wear personal protective equipment (PPE), the mask and goggles along with it have a possibility of becoming carriers of virus through droplets from the patients when they cough or sneeze. The shield can be used only once and the team of doctors who developed it are forced to work overtime to supply sufficient number of shields to the staff here. It is at this juncture, the Kudumbashree project has stepped up to assist them.

Kudumbashree executive director S Harikishore said a self-help group under Kudumbashree at Karakullam village has been trained for the mass production of TMC shield. The doctors, who developed the TMC shield, visited the unit, Akshayam, which is originally involved in the production of LED bulbs.

“We are planning to manufacture 1,000 TMC shields in the first batch. We expect to complete the production and hand over the first batch by Wednesday,” Harikishore said, adding that the TMC shields manufactured by Kudumbashree workers will be used by doctors and medical staff at Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College. The production cost of each TMC shield is below Rs 10. Polyform sheets, cloth and overhead projector film are the raw materials needed for the manufacture of TMC shield. The unit engaged in the manufacture have already been supplied with sufficient raw materials, he said.

“If we get a government sanction, we will make arrangements to manufacture the protective gear for government hospitals across the state. For that, more Kudumbashree units will have to be trained,” Harikishore said.

TMC shields was developed by Dr Muhammed, a third-year PG student of Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College Hospital, along with junior doctors Rihana Basheer, Mariyam, Ritwik and Sona. Dr Rihana Basheer is the wife of Dr Muhammed. Dr Ritwik and Dr Sona are also a couple.