



Sanitary Pad Incinerators for Economically Challenged Community. Rotary International District - 3060, India.

The problem of improper disposal of menstrual waste is a major roadblock to our achieving the goal to create a clean India. Inappropriate disposal of menstrual waste is problematic for several reasons.

The first reason stems from the fact that plastic sanitary napkins have replaced cloth napkins to a large extent. The material used to make plastic napkins is non-biodegradable, thus leading to the accumulation of used napkins in large heaps in landfills. Used sanitary napkins that have not been disposed off properly sometimes block the drainage system. Burning plastic sanitary napkins causes harmful toxins to be released into the atmosphere, and is therefore not an environment-friendly solution to the problem. Women from lower economic backgrounds who cannot afford to buy plastic sanitary napkins use cloth napkins, and often either do not dispose them or dispose them in ways that are not hygienic.

Another problem of accumulated menstrual waste is the fact that menstrual blood on napkins stagnates for longer duration, thus allowing pathogens to thrive in it. Stagnant menstrual blood accumulates a lot of bacteria such as *Escherichia coli*, which rapidly multiplies at an exponential rate. The red blood cells in the menstrual blood nourish the bacteria and emit a foul odour when they die. Heaps of sanitary napkins with a large amount of disease causing bacteria on them pose a significant threat to the hygiene in the surrounding areas.

The improper disposal of sanitary napkins is a problem that needs to be dealt with right from the grass root level. The process of menstruation is considered taboo, and people refrain from talking about it openly. Young girls and even certain older women are not aware of the hygiene problems caused by the improper disposal of sanitary pads. Efforts must be made to create awareness about the importance of menstrual hygiene and the problems caused by the lack of it. We must also find an alternative to plastic sanitary pads that is biodegradable and easy to dispose.

In an effort promote proper disposal of menstrual waste and promote the Swachh Bharat Mission, sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators were

installed in two women’s hostels. One of the best ways to dispose menstrual waste is to incinerate sanitary napkins using electrical or physical fire-based incinerators without allowing the smoke generated in the process to escape into the atmosphere. Napkins must be incinerated immediately after they are used, without giving time for pathogens to grow on them. This incinerator is small in size and very easy to use. It restricts the smoke generated in the process of incineration to a specific chamber and prevents it from entering the atmosphere.

To Address this Problem Rotary District 3060 has taken up the initiative to promote menstrual sanitation and proper disposal of menstrual waste forward by creating awareness, encouraging every woman to use eco- friendly incinerators and promoting research to find a biodegradable alternative to plastic sanitary pads. With the Help of Clubs of District 3060 Sanitary Pad Incinerators will be installed at schools and Public places for Economically Challenged Community. This would help in proper eco-friendly disposal of Sanitary Pads.

Project Budget

Exchange Rate 1 USD = 70 Rs INR

| # | Category Description Supplier | Cost in INR | Cost in USD |
|----------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| | Sanitary Pad Incinerator Machines (380 Nos. X Rs. 20,000) | 76,00,000 | 1,08,572 |
| 2 | Training and other ancillary Items | 2,00,000 | 2,857 |
| Total budget: | | 78,00,000 | 1,11,429 |

Project Financing

| # | Source | Details | Amount (USD) | Total |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Cash Contribution from Clubs of Dist. 3060 Rs. 4,500/- x 380 numbers | 3060 | 24,428 - 5% | 23,206 |
| 2 | District Designated Fund (DDF) | 3060 | 19,310 | 19,310 |
| 3 | District Designated Fund (DDF) | Intl Partner | 19,000 | 19,000 |
| Total Contribution | | | | 61,516 |
| TRF Matching – DDF & Cash | | | | 49,913 |
| TOTAL Finance | | | | 1,11,429 |

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