**Embrace Freedom** 

## Life Cycle





"Every life traces back to a woman's cycle. Let's honour and respect the force that births us all."

### **FACT**



# No to green washing!

Periods remain a taboo topic worldwide. We shy away from toilet talk, but I've found the courage to speak out. As a jewellery consultant entrenched in the Indian export scene to the UK, I often advise companies on how to attract major British brands. Recently, one asked about winning business from a sustainability-focused UK brand. My advice: step up sustainability efforts beyond greenwashing. As a consultant, I can see beyond the fake efforts, paying a company who claim to plant trees. Reflecting on my journey, I pondered the real changes needed. As a woman, I intimately understand workplace challenges. Each month, I grapple with stress, privacy, and period worries. It led me to a critical question: how do women in India manage? Inspired by their resilience, I've launched this campaign for women. My aim is to get British and Indian brands to support me.

Thank you
Jayne Bond

## PERIOD POVERTY

88% of Indian women resort to unhygienic alternatives due to cost.



## 663 MILLION Women live in India

Nearly 1 in 3 girls in In rural areas, only 23% of girls drop out Stigma leads to South Asia lack pre-12% have access to of school due to are commonly used menstrual education. sanitary products. 88% of women resort Only 58% of women Lack of hygiene leads Clean water and to unhygienic to reproductive tract alternatives due to menstrual protection. Disaster relief Inadequate waste Period poverty affects Lack of awareness disposal causes mental well-being. pollution. Government Burden falls Cultural beliefs Menstrual hygiene schemes aim to empowerment is disproportionately on reinforce gender impacts school provide subsidized hindered by period marginalized groups. inequalities. attendance. pads. poverty. Community-based Engaging men is Menstrual education NGOs and grassroots Sustainable solutions crucial in challenging should be integrated organizations play a interventions show offer cost-effective stigma. into school curricula. crucial role. promise. alternatives. Corporate Multi-sectoral Period poverty partnerships can intersects with other approach needed for drive meaningful inequalities. menstrual equity. change.

# Do you know disposable sanitary towels are 90% plastic, equivalent to 4 plastic bags?

### DISPOSABLE SANITARY TOWELS CONTRIBUTE TO:

- Plastic Pollution
- Landfill Accumulation
- Resource Consumption
- Water Pollution
- Carbon Footprint
- Microplastics





"The plastic content in a standard sanitary towel can be as high as the equivalent of four plastic bags, encompassing materials in packaging, backing, and adhesive strips, according to certain estimates."

MILLIONS OF TONNES OF PLASTIC WASTE

- Assume an average of 5 days of menstruation per cycle.
- An average of 13 cycles per year (28-day cycle length).
- Total reproductive years: 40 years.

#### Calculation:

- 5 days per cycle x 13 cycles per year = 65 days of menstruation per year
- 40 reproductive years x 65 days per year = 2600 days of menstruation over a lifetime
- Assuming an average usage of 4 sanitary towels per day:
- 2600 days of menstruation x 4 sanitary towels per day = 10,400 disposable sanitary towels used over a lifetime.

That's around 52 kilo of plastic waste per woman POPULATION OF WOMEN IN INDIA 663 MILLION DO THE MATHS









#### Menstrual Hygiene

- Change your sanitary napkin every 4-6 hours
- · Wash yourself properly
- · Take a healthy diet
- Use clean undergarments & change them regularly
- Discard the sanitary napkin properly
- · Do not hesitate talking about it

India introduced "Free Days" in rural villages.

Sanitary napkins made with plastic = Sanitary waste

India is going backwards, not forwards with the use a single use solution!

## THE LANCET Regional Health Southeast Asia

#### Summary

The UN projects that India is now the world's most populous nation. However, with this rising population comes a significant need for safer period product disposal systems. Current practices include local incineration or burial of sanitary products, with harmful health and environmental impacts. This Viewpoint proposes a three-sphere model to develop long-term solutions for sanitary waste disposal in India, focusing on education, national organisation, and sustainability. Proposed solutions are developed and criticised with a consideration of why change has been limited thus far. A case study in Kerala is considered where all three spheres are incorporated with the help of a local non-governmental organisation, however, with limitations that could have been alleviated with national organisation. In effect, the Indian government must develop a centralised system for tackling sanitary waste disposal before a tipping point is reached.

#### **SOLUTION**

#### **PERIOD PANTS**

Reusable Leak Proof Period Underwear lasts for up to 3 Years



#### SUSTAINABLE SPOTLIGHT WILL BE ON INDIA

#### THE ECONOMIC TIMES | News

PM Modi proposes to host COP33 in India in 2028

#### Synopsis

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed hosting the 33rd Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 33) in 2028. Speaking at COP 28 in UAE, Modi stated India's commitment to the UN Framework for Climate Change process and its 11-year ahead of time emission intensity targets.



COP28: PM Modi proposes to host COP33 in India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that he proposes to host the 33rd Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 33) in India in the year 2028. Speaking at the opening ceremony of high-level segment at COP 28 in UAE, PM Modi expressed his desire to host the summit in India.

#### SUSTAINABLE GALS DEVELOPMENT







































23%

Girls drop out of school because of their menstrual cycle

### Sustainable Goals Achieved by Period Pants

SDG 1: No Poverty: Providing sustainable period pants offers a costeffective solution for women in poverty. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being: Promotes hygienic menstrual management, reducing health risks. SDG 4: Quality Education: Reduces school absenteeism among girls, promoting gender equality in education.

SDG 5: Gender Equality: Empowers women and girls, addressing a specific gender-related challenge. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation: Reduces environmental impact of menstrual waste on water bodies and sanitation systems.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: Creates opportunities for local production and economic empowerment.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities: Addresses inequalities in access to menstrual hygiene products. SDG 12: Responsible
Consumption and
Production: Promotes
responsible consumption
by offering a reusable
alternative.

SDG 13: Climate Action: Reduces carbon footprint associated with disposable menstrual products.



## What is India's CSR mandate?

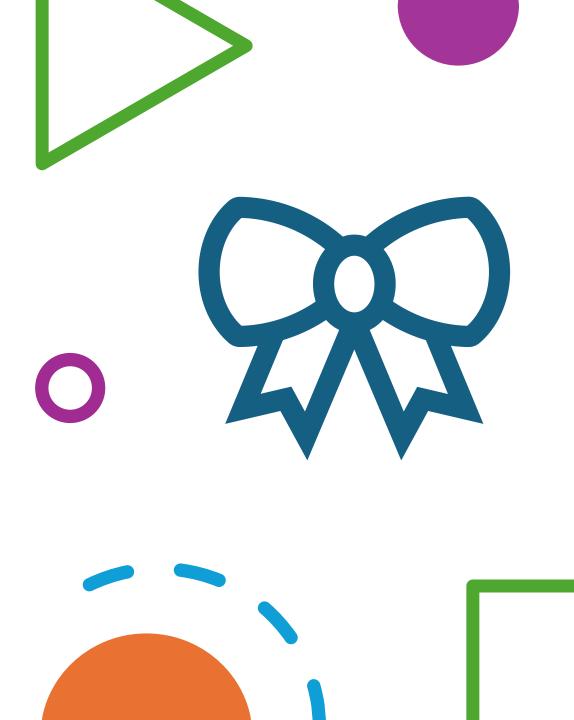
The Companies Act, 2013 provides for CSR under section 135. Thus, it is mandatory for the companies covered under section 135 to comply with the CSR provisions in India. Companies are required to spend a minimum of 2% of their net profit over the preceding three years as CSR.

22 Sept 2023



# HOW CAN EMPLOYERS HELP?

- Support Prime Minister Modi with his sustainable pledges.
- Urge Indian companies to provide free period knickers for female staff, promoting CSR and workplace equality.
- Highlight period knickers as tools for fostering supportive, productive environments.
- Encourage support for CSR projects providing period knickers to women in need.
- Emphasize donations' impact beyond the workplace, empowering communities.
- Call on UK & European buyers to influence factories to back the campaign.
- Stress the importance of period knickers for women's mental health and productivity.
- Advocate for a workplace culture prioritizing women's health and empowerment.



#### **GAOKARS: BEYOND PERIOD POVERTY**



Gaokars "Kurma Ghar" refers to a menstrual hut where women are secluded during their periods in certain cultures like rural India due to menstrual taboos. However, this practice is controversial and criticized for its safety, hygiene, and human rights concerns, sparking efforts to abolish it and promote menstrual health and equality.

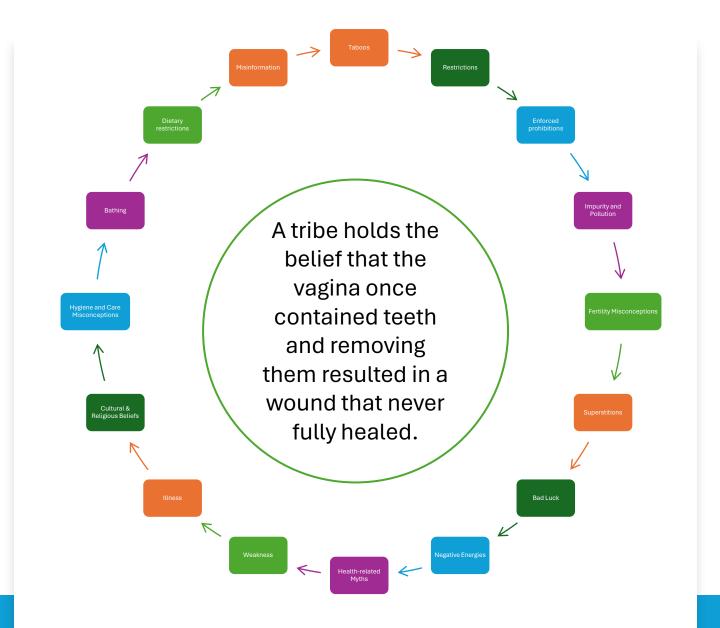


Our goal is to provide a monthly set of period pants to 2000 young women in the Gadchiroli region, primarily from the Madia Gond tribe. Each care package will include hand wash instructions and a fact sheet debunking menstrual myths. These welfare packages will be distributed by Dr. Dilip Barsagade of Sparsh.

sparshgadchiroli-org

## MYTHS, TABOOS & BELIEFS

Lack of education leads to the perpetuation of myths through cultural norms and societal beliefs.



### GIVING THE FUTURE OF CHANGE

Pants made in India for Indian Women. Reusable. Domestic delivery. Environmentally friendly. Life changing freedom. Educational. Myth busting. EMPOWERING!



Fabpad Teen Girls Reusable Leak Proof Highly Absorbent Period Panties/Underwear lasts for up to 3 years



**COST** 

Empowering Change: Educate and Secure Period Freedom for Girls, Just

£50

Per Person



TARGET 2000



### WORKPLACE ENROLLMENT



Period knickers could significantly improve work life for Indian women in several ways:

- Comfort and Convenience
  - Productivity
  - Mental well-being
    - Confidence
  - Cost-effectiveness
  - Environmental Impact
  - Employee Well-being
  - Reduce staff sickness
- CSR and Sustainability

Overall, introducing period knickers in the workplace can lead to a win-win situation, improving the work life of Indian women while also offering benefits for the company.

We can tailor a program to align seamlessly with your company's requirements.

