Oxigen

WOMEN HYGIENE DRIVE

WHAC/41/2019-2020

LI School, Bajgerha, GGN January 30th, 2020

Installation of Sanitary napkin Vending machine and Incinerator by Sahyog Foundation A Small step towards creating better health and hygiene for Women and girls.

Sahyog foundation has successfully installed Sanitary Napkins Vending Machine at literacy India School, Bajgerha Village on 29th January 2020 .The vending machines was installed to ensure an effective, safe and convenient mode for any time access to the sanitary napkins. The purpose is to promote safe and hygienic sanitary practices among the women and girls.

Whenever any girl in the School would need a sanitary napkin, she would either have to ask the Faculty in charge or rush to a nearest medical store to purchase a pack of sanitary napkins or back home .After installation, a small demonstration in English & Hindi was given to all the girls students from class 6-10 standard, Teaching & Non-Teaching staff. Females from the Housekeeping & Security also attended the session. The Demonstration video is also circulated to create awareness and easy accessibility.

Using a sanitary napkin vending machine is no rocket science. A girl requiring sanitary pad needs to put a virtual coin in the machine and outcomes the sanitary napkin. Female Coordinator of the School said that 23 per cent of girls miss school or drop out of school due to non-availability of hygienic sanitary products inside the educational institution; this is the need of the hour and will ensure hygienic practices among girl students. It is likely to bring down absenteeism during menstrual periods, as well as prevent infections and promote hygiene.

On this occasion an awareness session of rural school girls was conducted by Oxigen & Sahyog Foundation CSR Activist to around 130 girls from 6th-10th classes, at session they were made aware of menstrual hygiene, associated topics and use of sanitary napkins. A large number of adolescent girls from rural areas of India are still not aware about issues related to menstruation and maintaining personal hygiene during this period and dealing with associated physical problems. They usually don't get a proper platform to get information or discuss such issues.

An awareness session was conducted in which all associated topics related to menstruation were explained to adolescent school girls, like what is menstruation, calculation of the period, physical problems faced by girls during their periods and ways to deal with it, maintaining personal hygiene during this period and importance of maintaining hygiene, avoiding the traditional methods of using dirty cloths and promoting use of sanitary napkins, etc. Traditional myths and misconceptions in rural areas related to menstruation were discussed. FAQs by the girls related to the topic were answered by the facilitator.

After the classroom awareness session, a live demonstration of the functioning of a sanitary napkin dispenser and incinerator was given by the Facilitator, which are installed inside girls' toilet for privacy. The facilitator explained the functions of both the machines and also explained the importance of incinerators in destroying the used napkins to keep the environment clean.

After the session and demonstration, girls were very happy to get new information about menstruation and also about the napkin dispenser and incinerator, which give them privacy to use the napkins as per their needs, and they don't have to ask anyone for assistance.

It was an interactive session wherein the audiences clarified their doubts and were enthusiastic to try out the new healthy method of menstrual hygiene.

Seema Khurana CSR Lead & Activist









