Scaling Global South Climate Solutions | Washable & Reuseable Sanitary Pad - Malaysia





Washable & Reuseable Sanitary Pad is a community led environmental initiative in Malaysia. The project build silver economy for the elderly in Taman Dato Harun, a low cost flat community in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. The project equip community with machines and skills to produce washable and reuseable sanitary pad for their own usage and selling for income generation. The solution brings environmental impact as well as income the community.

Challenge

Sanitary pad hit landfill at about 2.4 billion pcs a year in Malaysia (The Star). This conventional pads are made of 90% plastic materials and do not decompose fast, creating a waste management and hygiene problem. This is affecting communities at urban as well las at rural. Looking at this, there is one more are of gap that needs attention which is period poverty. Ladies from deprives communities unable to purchase pad, ending up using unhygienic sanitary practices and there also cases where ladies keep becoming pregnant to avoid period. The two issues here, sanitary pad in landfill and period poverty Is being tackled with the project.

Solution

The approach is mainly to bring in funders, identify community, bring in expert partners to impart knowledge and open door for social sales. The multi-stakeholders contribution is key all the partners play active role in the project. Equipment and materials were brought in from the funding, Training is given to in 4 months (12 sessions minimum) and sales has started. The participants are also using the pad within their family members such as children and young members as well as selling them . The cost of production was at 30% and revenue is fixed at 70% with each pad was sold at RM20. The first batch produced about 1,000 sanitary pads with possible sales RM20,000. It's a easily replicable project and needs technical assistance on the cloths and equipment's needed to accomplish this initiative. It's also a model solution to be taken up with communities that has waste management issues such as rural and interior communities.

Contact

paniirj@gmail.com | Website





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Impact

1. SDG 12 & 13 - 1,000 pcs of pad produced, can be used for 1 year and easily washable. Divert from single use pad which ends in landfill each time to reusable pad. An environment positive impact.
2. SDG 1 & 8 - RM20,000 sales from the first batch of pads (when sold at RM20 each). Enabled silver economy income to the community.
3. SDG 3 - Awareness on personal hygiene: Awareness on reusable pad to the immediate participant and the families and extended to buyers, donor and other members of the society.
4. SDG 8 - 10 elderly ladies has income generation, therapy based program and having sales.
5. SDG 17 - Partnership between APPGM-SDG, the local organisation, Tylor's University (expert partners), Donor and the community members were strategically maintained thoroughly.

Partners

APPGM-SDG: Community introducers & program regulators & booth sales enabler & social procurement enablers
Rotary KL: Funder & Sales support
Tylor's University: Technical partners in training & production support, sales training, e-commerce, online sales & booth sales.
Persatuan Seni Kraf Wanita (Local Organiser): Local community organiser & community manager, responsible for community sewing centre built from this project.

