

MENSTRUAL AWARENESS SURVEY [AUGUST 14TH, 2018]

The Legal Aid and Awareness Committee (LAAC), in order to promote the Menstrual Hygiene of the women in its adopted village Surpura, has taken up the task of making women aware about the clean menstrual practices. These awareness campaigns are a precursor to the installation of sanitary pad vending machine and incinerator in Surpura. The campaign includes various steps: Survey of the conditions in village, screening of 'Padman' and workshop on clean menstrual practices and once the village women begin to open about the issue and start adopting better practices LAAC will order the machine and incinerator.

Before the committee could take up a workshop for the females, it decided to first survey the following:

1. How many women use cloth and how many use pads?
2. The reasons behind not using pads?
3. What age group uses pads?
4. What is their approach towards menstrual hygiene?
5. How open they are towards the idea of even beginning a talk about the same?

Findings:

We found out that out of 61 women 33 women used pads and 28 used cloth. There were varied reasons. They were unaware that cloth is not a hygienic option. They have a misconception that just by washing the cloth, the germs are removed. Also many women thought pads are costly and cited reasons like they are not provided money by their families for buying pads. Few of the women said that since a proper disposal system is not available, therefore they do not use it.

Mostly girls of 20 and below use pads as they get the same from the school. They don't discuss menstrual health amongst themselves, not comfortable in talking about the issue, they are stuck with their present conditions, and they are not willing to save money for the pads every month.



