

**SSMI**

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*Empowering women and children to achieve their potential with dignity*

24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2010

Dear Ms. Sujatha Rao Garu,

I thank you for suggesting and encouraging me to visit Tiruchirapalli and study the making of Sanitary Napkins by WOMAN a NGO. Kindly find attached a very brief report.

There are two major reasons for women not having access to sanitary napkins. These are i) Cost and ii) Awareness. WOMAN a Tamilnadu based NGO, headed by Ms. Kannagi, has developed a technique that could address both these issues, provided there is effective support from the Government.

The technology is so simple that sanitary napkins can be made with a domestic kitchen grinder and other equipment worth about Rs. Five hundred (excluding sterilization). Not more than an hour's training is required. From this very simple level technology the system can be improvised and made more sophisticated to increase the productivity and volume of production.

It is my considered opinion that the cost per napkin could be brought down to within a rupee with a) incremental improvement and standardization in manufacture and b) blending of wood pulp with bamboo pulp or other low cost materials etc.

Not only would availability of napkins at a low cost make a difference in the life and mobility of women, but there is a potential for creating large size low skilled employment for women.

May I suggest that you invite Ms. Kanagi and the undersigned for a lecture demonstration to a group of policy makers so that this excellent initiative could be taken further.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/-  
(K. Ashok Rao)

Ms. K. Sujatha Rao Garu  
Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Govt. of India  
Nirman Bhawan,  
New Delhi