



Analysis and Use of Alternative Affordable Pads



Milundikwa Secondary School

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Introduction

This research project aims at finding alternative way of how girls who comes from poor families can afford pad during their menstruation cycles for primary and secondary level students. This projects intend to make this young girls find an alternative way of having pads that are made up of cheap and available materials. The project aims to reach girls that miss their studies and feel ashamed during their menstruation period by lacking pads and giving them an alternative method on how to afford pads that are made from cheap and available materials that we use in our daily lives and with no or less cost. The project requires cheap and easy available materials in preparation of local pads such as needles, thread, napkins, gauze, handkerchiefs which are easily available at low costs. The preparation of this pads have got few steps that should be followed in preparing them as been indicated in the methodology bellow.



When this project is exposed to young girls at schools in regional and country at large it will reduce the number of absentees due to unhandled menstruation complication and the students will have mental peace and relaxation during this period. If this project becomes successful majority of young girls who cannot afford to purchase the pads will have an alternative way of having them and enjoy their school life.

Method

The method that were used in data collection are experimental and questionnaire methods where five (5) schools where involved in data collection and a total of five hundred (500) school girls between 15 years old to 18 years old in various secondary school where involved in collecting data. The students where been instructed on how to prepare the alternative pads from the cheap and available materials and where supplied to them to use then after a month the students where asked about the usefulness of the pads.

The schools that where involved in collection of data in this project where Milundikwa secondary school, Chala secondary school, Kipande secondary school, Nkundi secondary school and Nkwamba secondary school all found in Nkasi district. One hundred (100) students from each school from different classes where involved in the project data collection. The primary school girls are one among the girls targeted in this project but where not involved in this project data collection because of their age they cannot provide free and correct information.

The table and the graph below shows the data collection from all five schools and their responses toward the project:

Results

The table above shows five hundred (500) students were involved in data collection where one hundred students (100) from each school practiced the preparation of local pad, interacted with the pads where three hundred and sixty five (365) showed cooperation and make a total percentage of 73% where one hundred and thirty five did not cooperate (95).

The project aims at finding the alternative way of using pads that are made from cheap and easily available materials as substitute of industrial manufactured pads. The project was put forward after observing the challenges that are faced by young girls in schools during the menstruation period caused by failing of affording to purchase industrial pad and it show that the project is helpful.

The findings of the research project shows that the pads that were been prepared from the local cheap available materials was so helpful and even more useful than the pads that are prepared in industries and this is because of the fact that this pads perform the same function as the industrial pads and have no body reaction or irritations as the industrial pads.

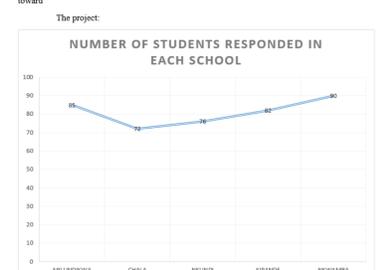
The total number of about three hundred and sixty five (365) out of five hundred (500) students which is about 73% of all students who responded on the project research said that the pads where so useful and helpful since it reduced the challenges that they faced in their studies during their menstruation cycle periods. The pads have bring joy and happiness to the young girls who were not able to afford the industrial made pads and also have no complications such as skin reaction, rushes, bruises or irritations compared to the industrial pads.

Table 01: data collection from all five schools and their responses toward the project

S/N	SECONDARY SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN EACH SCHOOL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS RESPONDED IN EACH SCHOOL	% OF STUDENTS RESPONDED IN EACH SCHOOL
1.	MILUNDIKWA	100	85	85
2.	CHALA	100	72	72
3.	NKUNDI	100	76	76
4.	KIPANDE	100	82	82
5.	NKWAMBA	100	90	90



Graph 01: graph below shows the data collection from all five schools and their responses toward the project



Graph 2: graph below shows the results of all five schools and their responses toward the project

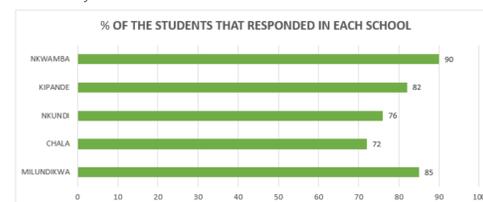


Table 2: result of all five schools and their responses toward the project

S/N	SECONDARY SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT DID NOT RESPOND	NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT RESPONDED	% OF THE STUDENTS THAT RESPONDED
1.	MILUNDIKWA	15	85	85
2.	CHALA	28	72	72
3.	NKUNDI	44	76	76
4.	KIPANDE	12	82	82
5.	NKWAMBA	10	90	90

Conclusions

The results of this project of analysis and use of alternative affordable pads to school girls shows that there is higher possibility of making and use local pads that are made from cheap and available materials instead of using industrial made pads that are very cost full and even have a lot of complications to users in one way or the other such as bruises, irritation and even occurrence of fungus. If the project is exposed to many young girls in both primary and secondary young school girls, societies and communities in regional and country at large it will help to reduce the complications that young girls pass through during their menstruation period and make them enjoy the school life and improve their academic performance.

The data collected in this project shows that the project was very successfully and to about 81% and this shows that the alternative pad project was successfully and have an impact to young girls and it was so interesting to majority of the girls in various schools.

Acknowledgments

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