

White Paper

ENHANCING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE ACCESS: INSTALLING ELECTRONIC SANITARY PAD DISPENSERS AT RAILWAY STATIONS

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LIFE Foundation

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WHITE PAPER ON Enhancing Menstrual Hygiene Access: Installing Electronic Sanitary Pad Dispensers at Railway Stations in Kerala

Executive Summary:

This whitepaper discusses the impact of installing electronic sanitary pad dispensers at railway stations in Kerala, India. The initiative aims to improve menstrual hygiene management for women passengers by providing free and accessible sanitary pads. The paper identifies the most suitable railway stations for dispenser installation, based on daily footfall data. The goal is to install a total of 1,000 machines across various railway stations, each loaded with 25 sanitary pads.

Introduction:

Background and Context

In Kerala, women passengers face challenges in managing menstruation while travelling by train due to the lack of accessible and affordable sanitary products at railway stations. This whitepaper proposes the installation of electronic sanitary pad dispensers at railway stations in Kerala to improve menstrual hygiene management for women passengers.

Objectives

This whitepaper aims to:

- Explain the rationale for installing electronic sanitary pad dispensers at railway stations in Kerala
- Identify the most suitable railway stations for dispenser installation based on daily footfall data

Estimate the number of machines required to meet the demand for sanitary pads

Scope

The analysis focuses on the installation of 1,000 electronic sanitary pad dispensers at railway stations in Kerala, each loaded with 25 sanitary pads. The paper does not cover other aspects of menstrual hygiene management in detail.

Rationale for Installing Electronic Sanitary Pad Dispensers at Railway Stations in Kerala:

The Need for Improved Menstrual Hygiene Management

Lack of access to sanitary pads during travel can lead to anxiety, embarrassment, and stress for women passengers. Furthermore, poor menstrual hygiene management can result in health risks such as urinary tract infections and reproductive tract infections.

The Benefits of Electronic Sanitary Pad Dispensers

Installing electronic sanitary pad dispensers at railway stations in Kerala can improve menstrual hygiene management by providing free, accessible sanitary pads for women passengers. This initiative can enhance women's mobility, promote women's health, and create positive sociocultural impacts.

Identifying the Most Suitable Railway Stations for Dispenser Installation:

Selection Criteria

The selection of railway stations for dispenser installation will be based on daily footfall data, ensuring that the initiative reaches the highest number of women passengers.

Data Source for Daily Footfall

Daily footfall data will be obtained from the Indian Railways (2018) to determine the most suitable railway stations for dispenser installation.

Estimating the Number of Machines Required

Based on the footfall data, the number of machines required at each railway station will be estimated to ensure adequate coverage and accessibility.

Priority Table for Dispenser Installation:

The following table outlines the priority of railway stations for dispenser installation, based on daily footfall data. The table is divided into three categories: top priority, medium priority, and lower priority stations.

Top Priority Stations (Higher Daily Footfall)

Railway Station	Daily Footfall	Machines to be Installed
Thiruvananthapuram Central	50,000	40
Ernakulam Junction	45,000	36
Kozhikode	40,000	32
Thrissur	35,000	28

Medium Priority Stations (Moderate Daily Footfall)

Railway Station	Daily Footfall	Machines to be Installed
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Alappuzha	30,000	24
Kollam Junction	25,000	20
Kannur	20,000	16
Palakkad Junction	18,000	14

Lower Priority Stations (Lower Daily Footfall)

Railway Station	Daily Footfall	Machines to be Installed
Chengannur	15,000	12
Kottayam	12,000	10
Tirur	10,000	8
Shoranur Junction	8,000	6

The tables above have been adjusted to reduce the number of machines to 20% of the previous estimates in all stations.

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