



DA's Participation in a Workshop on Menstrual Waste Management

Development Alternatives (DA) was invited to participate in a day-long workshop on 'Menstrual Waste Management' conducted by CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) on 12th June 2018 in Nagpur. Through deliberation with delegates from various NGOs, research and academic institutions, and other invitees, the workshop sought to highlight the issue of increasing heaps of non-compostable sanitary napkins – a wet source of microbial contamination – and spread awareness in public on the importance of proper disposal of menstrual waste. It also aimed at providing industries and beneficiaries with technical services for collection, disposal and potential treatment options for management of menstrual waste. Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi (Vice President, DA) played a key role in the discussions and emphasised the need for technical interventions to ensure that the waste management solutions are both socio-economically and environmentally sound. She has reiterated DA's commitment to the technologies developed by CSIR-NEERI. These technologies include 100% biodegradable sanitary napkins that can be composted, incinerated or carbonated, and a complete menstrual waste collection unit that is a zero-touch system. This system, demonstrated in the workshop, comprises low-cost, biodegradable, anti-microbial and odour-free collection bags, which prevent the growth of microorganisms and avoid leakage of blood; and dustbins covered with anti-microbial linings to handle menstrual waste, besides a pasteurisation and treatment system. Mayor Nanda Jichkar was the chief guest at the event, applauding the measures for scientific management of menstrual waste across the country.