

GETA Young Scientist

Samsya Khoj Contest 2025

31.05.2025

<i>Result</i>	Consolation 06
<i>Problem Title</i>	Combatting Menstrual Hygiene Challenges Among School Girls
<i>Problem Description</i>	<p>In India, a significant number of adolescent girls face challenges related to menstrual hygiene, which directly affects their education and well-being. The lack of access to sanitary products, inadequate sanitation infrastructure in schools, and deep-rooted menstrual taboos result in high absenteeism, poor academic performance, and in severe cases, school dropouts. This is not only a public health concern but also a gender equality and education issue.</p> <p>High Absenteeism: Girls often miss 3–5 days of school each month due to menstruation. Over time, this can add up to more than 20% of the school year, affecting their academic performance and participation.</p> <p>Inadequate Facilities: Many government schools do not have clean, private toilets with running water, which are essential for girls to manage their periods with dignity and comfort.</p> <p>Social Stigma and Taboos: Cultural beliefs in many regions consider menstruation impure. This results in girls facing shame and exclusion, sometimes even from teachers, further affecting their confidence and mental health.</p> <p>Health Risks: Due to the unaffordability or unavailability of sanitary products, many girls use unsafe alternatives such as old cloth or newspapers. This can lead to serious infections and long-term health issues. A UNICEF report highlights that 1 in 5 girls in India drops out of school after they begin menstruating.</p>
<i>Affected Audiences</i>	<p>Adolescent Girls:-School-going girls, especially in rural and low-income urban areas, are the most directly affected. They suffer from absenteeism, health risks, stigma, and emotional distress during menstruation.</p> <p>Health Systems, Families of Affected Girls:Families bear the emotional and economic burden when girls miss school or drop out, limiting future opportunities and perpetuating poverty cycles.</p>
<i>Impact Size</i>	Hundreds and more
<i>Location</i>	Universal
<i>Scope</i>	National
<i>Place</i>	Universal
<i>Occurrence</i>	Frequently
<i>Life risk involved?</i>	Yes
<i>Financial loss or Saving potential</i>	Thousands or less

<i>Result</i>	Consolation 06
<i>Student</i>	APRA MISHRA , 7th Class
<i>School</i>	BHAVAN'S NTPC VIDYA MANDIR , Nagpur District, Maharashtra
<i>Guide Teacher</i>	MISS. KARTIKI KAWALE

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