



## 'Project MHM (मेहरार-चो-मान)'

Transforming The Lives of Tribal women in Dantewada by Skilling & bringing Behaviour change in them to Manufacture and Promote the use of *bio-degradable* Sanitary Napkins.

### Introduction

Dantewada District is one of the **Aspirational districts**, in Chhattisgarh. Dantewada is inhabited by several tribal groups, out of which three particular tribes are found widely in the district namely Halba, Muriyas/Dandami Mariyas or Gonds, Dorla. MHM is a district level scheme, of manufacturing and supplying free sanitary pads to underprivileged women of Dantewada.

**Aim & Objective:** To counter Poor Menstrual Hygiene practices amongst the tribal female population in Dantewada and to achieve Menstrual Hygiene Awareness in the communities in Dantewada.

**Statement of the Problem:** Traditionally in the tribal hinterlands of Dantewada, use of **unhygienic dirty old** clothes as pads, or the use of ash, straw etc, during the periods are prevalent.

### Intervention that shaped into a District Level Policy and Nationwide Coverage

At present, we have opened **8 new centres** that are being functional by 90 women SHG members, promoting rural women entrepreneurship.



- I. **(Design and Implementation) PHASE-1: Distribution in Schools and Tribal Hostels:** It's been 1 Year since the school children aged from 12 years and above are being covered under the MHM project. Currently, **90 hostels** students are getting direct benefit and also the qualities of pads are being improvised based on the **monthly feedback**. The students are turned as Brand Ambassadors of MHM- Dantewada, spreading awareness among elders and younger relatives/friends on menstrual health and hygiene practices. Girls are able to focus better in their education by reducing the absenteeism rate in the schools.
- II. **PHASE-2: Gram Panchayats model:** (a) to ensure the smooth functioning and implementation of the MHM was taken to GPs where the **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)** is created and roles were given to AW karyakartas and NRLM's SHG. NRLM looks after the finance, production and organises monthly awareness meetings at village levels, while the WCD looks after the distribution and supply chain. (b) The ground workers (NRLM/WCD) are also briefed about the various diseases that are born due to unhygienic menstrual health; many times such diseases are unreported such as Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), Uterus cancer, Bacterial Vaginosis etc. The tribal women are using the sanitary pads that are being given by the Dantewada District Administration under the CSR funds from the NMDC. **SHG Women have earned 11 Lakh, 93 thousand** via MHM. The District administration has decided to support the project for a period of 1 Year and handhold the women to become Village Level Entrepreneurs'. CG government is considering, MHM to be replicated in other districts and recently Karnataka government too, is in talks with NMDC to replicate a pilot model based on MHM in one of their district.

Number of Grams Covered	Number of SHG's promoted	Number of Grams to be covered under MHM program	Number of Community Cadre Trained	Women Benefitted
23	8 (1 in Process)	234	78	19, 556