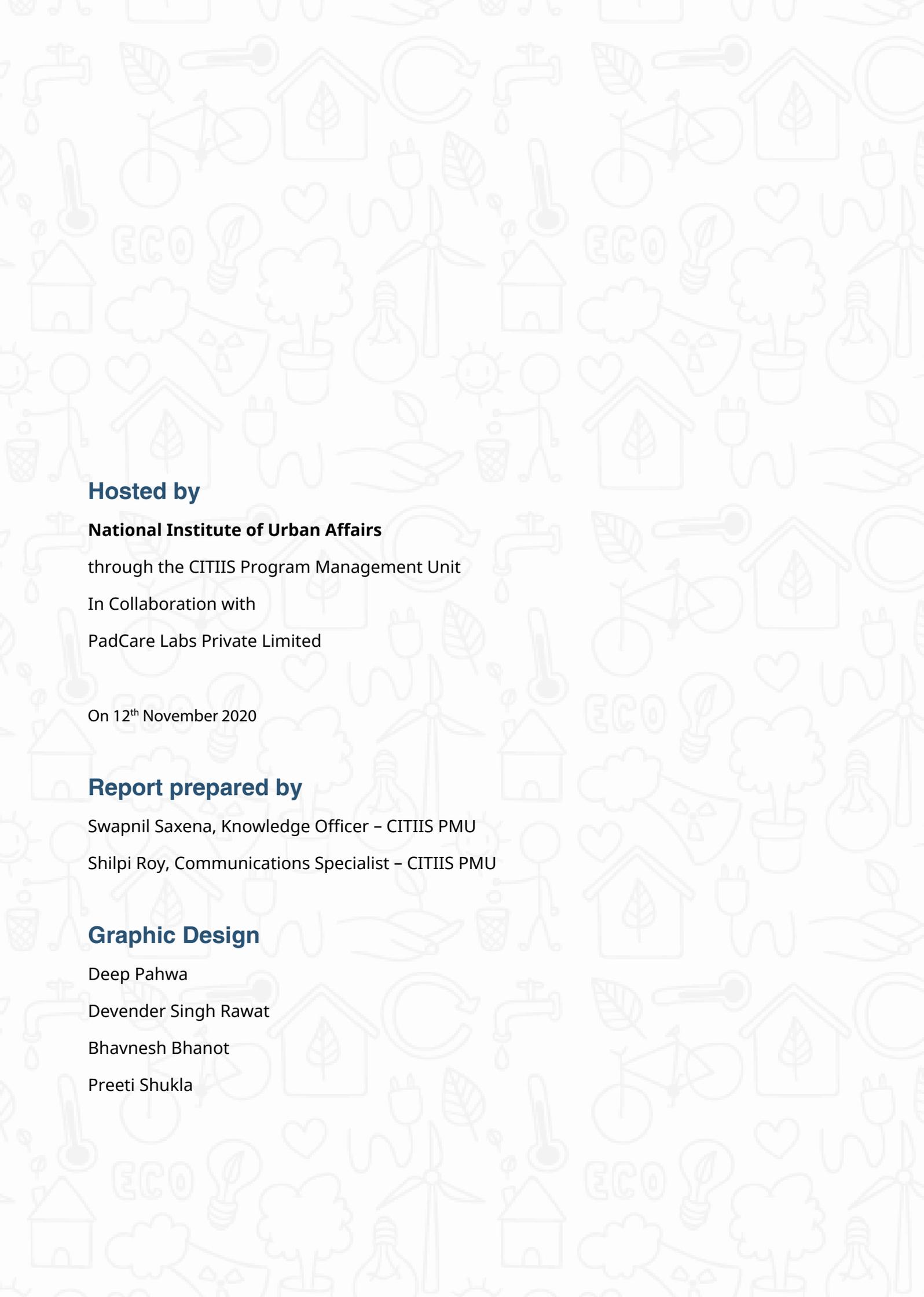


Workshop Report on Innovation in Menstrual Waste Management

12th November 2020





Hosted by

National Institute of Urban Affairs

through the CITIIS Program Management Unit

In Collaboration with

PadCare Labs Private Limited

On 12th November 2020

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Participants

Twelve Smart City SPVs part of the CITIIS program.
Attended by the Project In-charges, the Public Engagement Officers, Environmental and Social Nodal Officers, and Technical Assistance, including International Mentors and Domestic Experts.

Presenter

Ajinkya Dhariya,
Founder,
PadCare Labs Pvt. Ltd

Avani Darne,
Market Associate,
PadCare Labs Pvt. Ltd.

Moderator

Swapnil Saxena,
Knowledge Officer - CITIIS,
National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

Background

Innovation, Integration, and Sustainability are the key values of the CITIIS program, which all the 12 SPVs under CITIIS have imbibed. The innovative quick-win projects are a prime example of this.

NIUA has been supporting the SPVs in this endeavour by connecting urban innovators, subject experts and grassroots organisations at multiple stages. As part of the knowledge capitalisation and peer learning ethos of CITIIS, the initial workshops focused on 'Building as a Learning Aid' (BaLA) model and the 'Fazilka' model.

Agenda

The session agenda comprised introducing the CITIIS project teams about PadCare's vision and work, specifically to discuss how their innovative products (the Sanibin and the Saneco) could be integrated within their projects to ensure effective sanitation and menstrual waste management. The detailed agenda is listed below:

1. To introduce PadCare.
2. To highlight various examples of integration and sustainability in existing program frameworks.

Presentation

Through a detailed presentation, where the need for efficient menstrual waste management by stating factual information around the disposal of sanitary waste in India was explained.

It is estimated that over 12 billion used sanitary napkins are disposed of in India annually, 98 per cent of this goes to landfills and water bodies. Considering it will take over 800 years required to decompose single sanitary napkin, it becomes paramount to explore alternative ways of disposal and sustainable management. PadCare's solution on menstrual waste management addresses the need for safe, accessible, eco-friendly and instant disposal facility at women's washroom.

PadCare's approach comprises 4 stages in menstrual waste management. Starting from segregation, collection, processing, and recycling, the aim is to close the loop by creating a circular economy.

Continuing this endeavour of connecting global 'Urban Innovators' to have a direct dialogue with the SPVs, the CITIIS Program Management Unit had organised a session on Innovation in Menstrual Waste Management, on 12th November, 04:00-05:00 p.m. IST.

Padcare Labs, an innovation-driven start-up, solving unmet needs of hygiene, by exercising a sustainable, innovative and product-driven approach shared about their innovative products for menstrual waste management.

3. To achieve the goal of providing women and girls with privacy, safety and hygiene at individual washrooms.
4. To ensure that sanitary and hazardous waste gets handled and managed in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner, safe for all.
5. To eliminate the violation of SDGs – 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) with the help of their latest technology.

The two products by PadCare, that is, the Sanibin and the Saneco, were explained in detail during the presentation. The Sanibin is the product for sanitary waste collection and storage. It has a storage capacity of 30 pads in a day, using a safe, odourless mechanism. The Saneco is a breakthrough innovation as it is the world's first smokeless and odourless menstrual waste management system. Patented with a 5-D technology, the Saneco has a capacity of treating 1,500 pads in a day. It has been tested and certified as per norms of the Government of India.

The PadCare team also discussed one of their recently completed projects called the Ti-Bus which involved the installation of 4 Sanibins in bus toilets. The pilot was a success as the product blended well with the rest of the bathroom, did not occupy much space and also gave women the privacy for safe disposal of sanitary napkins. The continuous monitoring of the project showed some impactful results. With over 350 beneficiaries a week, the system ensured more than 250 pads in a week.



The PadCare team also discussed ways in which their products can be integrated into their projects:

For cities projects focusing on public open spaces, housing, and livelihoods:

- Awareness of sanitary waste management during installation and encouraging segregation at source;
- Segregation of menstrual waste from the households by providing identifiable and sterilized eco-friendly material to wrap their sanitary napkin in – will ensure faster and smarter collection and segregation;
- Installation of community dustbins/storage bins with Sanivap technology that will ensure that the waste remains sterilized for a month, thus reducing the cost of frequent transportation and collection;
- Ensuring secure collection of menstrual waste from all the sites and eco-friendly disposal at SANECO installed at a central location;

For cities focusing on school infrastructure, e-solutions:

- Installation in all-female washroom and cubicles of schools;
- Awareness drives about Menstrual Hygiene Management and Sanitary Waste Management;

- Training on how to dispose sanitary waste at the household level and institution level – ensuring they are trained and educated to segregate the waste;

- Decentralized Waste Disposal Approach - which can process and dispose waste and reuse the processed waste generated;

- Eliminates incineration of Sanitary waste complete giving an eco-friendly and extremely hygienic environment for adolescent girls;

For cities focusing on sustainable mobility:

- Better transportation will lead to more transportation hubs and depots – eg. Bus Junctions, Food courts, bus depots and halt points.

- All bus stops could become the common community collection/storage points of menstrual waste from that area, with enhanced collection mechanism; and

- The end goal is to ensure smart sanitation facilities at bus stations and depots.

Session Outcome

The presentation was followed by a 'Question & Answer' (Q&A) round moderated by Swapnil Saxena, Knowledge Officer, CITIIS PMU. These questions focused on product rating, product costing, operation and maintenance of the product etc.

In the end, the PMU reiterated this is in no way an endorsement of the product/service/individual by the CITIIS program or its program partners (MoHUA, NIUA, AFD, EU) and that the PMU was merely providing a platform for the SPVs to meet innovators who are developing scalable products to solve some of the pressing urban needs. The SPVs are required to conduct due diligence and decide if they wish to engage with the particular innovator/product/service.

The webinar can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3r0vlEn>



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