

# Evidence for the Integration Of Menstrual Hygiene Management in WASH Facilities

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Presenting



# MHM Safe Disposal Project Partners



## Survey Research Team:

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# Menstrual Waste Disposal Often Neglected



# Menstrual Waste Often Poorly Managed



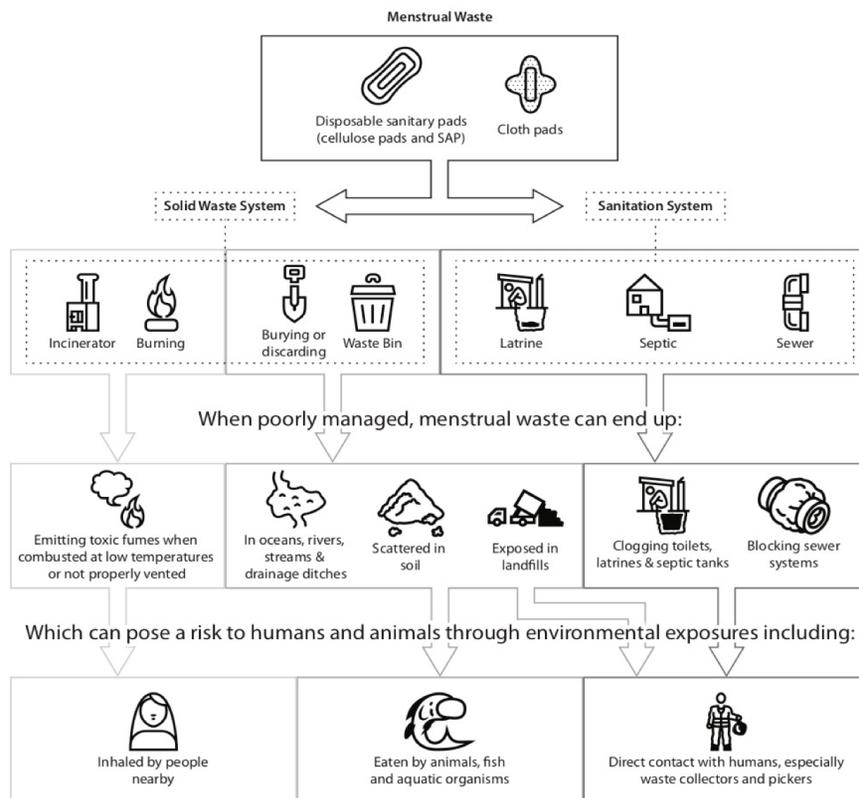
# Incinerators Can Be a Solution or a Risk



## Safe MHM Disposal = Positive Impact



# MHM Disposal Pathways



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## Menstrual Hygiene Management and Waste Disposal in Low and Middle Income Countries—A Review of the Literature

# Novel Data on MH Waste Streams

- Sanitation practices at public spaces
- Absorbent type and use patterns
- Absorbent disposal practices
  - Type of disposal behaviour, in general
  - Type of disposal practice, at given site
  - Wrapped? Washed?
  - Experience w/ on-site incineration
- Aspirational designs for menstrual waste disposal
- Perspectives on incineration



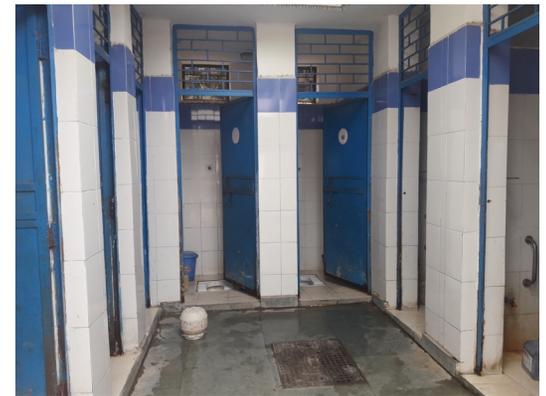
## Sample from Varied Public Spaces

- Ahmedabad, n = 57 (SEWA)
  - factory, community toilet block, public toilet, campus housing, university housing
- Delhi, n=35 (WaterAid)
  - metro toilet complexes, market toilets, low-income community toilet complexes
- Coimbatore, n= 53 (PSG)
  - factory, university housing & campus public toilets, community public toilet, secondary schools
- Durban, n= 13 (EWS, Cranfield)
  - Low-income community toilet block



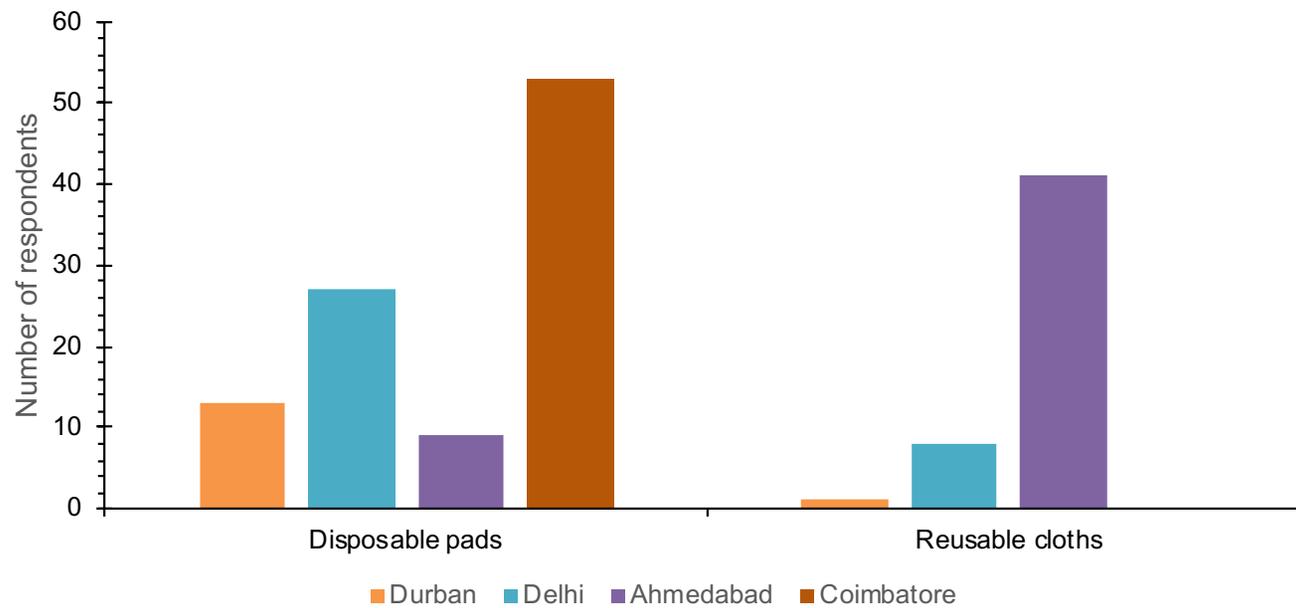
# Toilet Use During Menses

- Toilet use patterns remain largely unchanged during menses
- Facility amenities matter
- Public toilets: pay per use, timings can shape absorbent changing and disposal patterns
- Washing of absorbent before disposal (AHM only)
- Discrete disposal a concern in public spaces
- Carrying away waste also has risks, brings anxiety



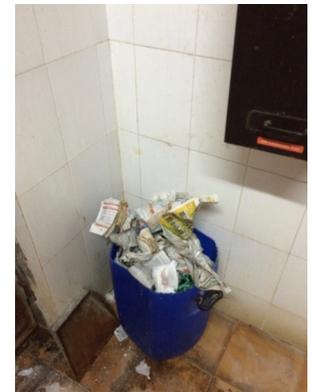
# Absorbent Use

Absorbents used around the city/at work



# Reported Disposal Practices

- Dustbin
- Toilet floor or window ledge
- Flushing pads in toilet
- Burning (Coimbatore)
- Throw in municipal waste bin (Delhi slums)
- Absorbents wrapped in newspaper or plastic bag before disposing
- Washing before disposing to reduce potential visible blood (AHM)



# Issues with On-site Collection

- Absence of discrete collection options
- Waste collection centralized by cleaning personnel
  - Gender of caretaker
  - Unreliable, timely collection
  - Caretakers lack protective clothing, dislike handling MH waste
- Functioning incinerators
- Caretakers responsible for batch-mode incineration operations

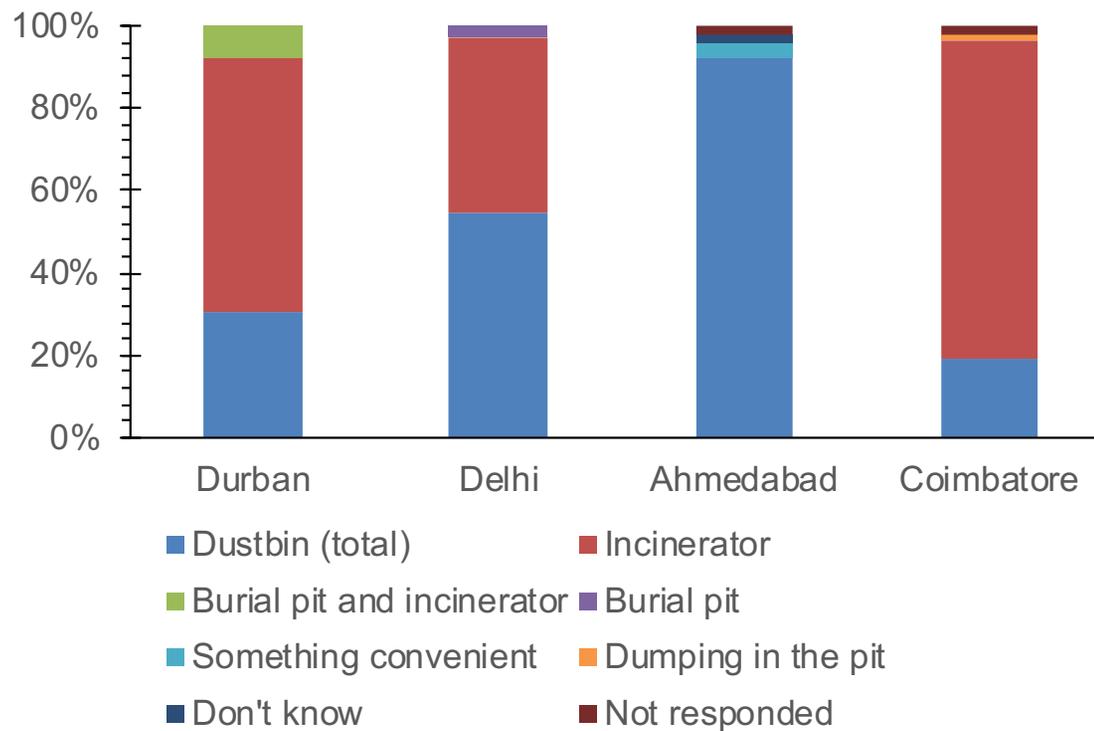


# Opinions on On-site Thermal Treatment

- Coimbatore - very positive
- Delhi – mixed
- AHM – mixed (social norms on burning)
- Durban – positive
- Limited exposure to actual hardware or practice
- Preference to have caretaker operate burning, after user exits
- Taboos, some beliefs that burning by user may cause infertility
- Better if someone else burns the absorbent, after exit
- Like discrete collection, waste reduction



# Preferred Option for On-site Disposal



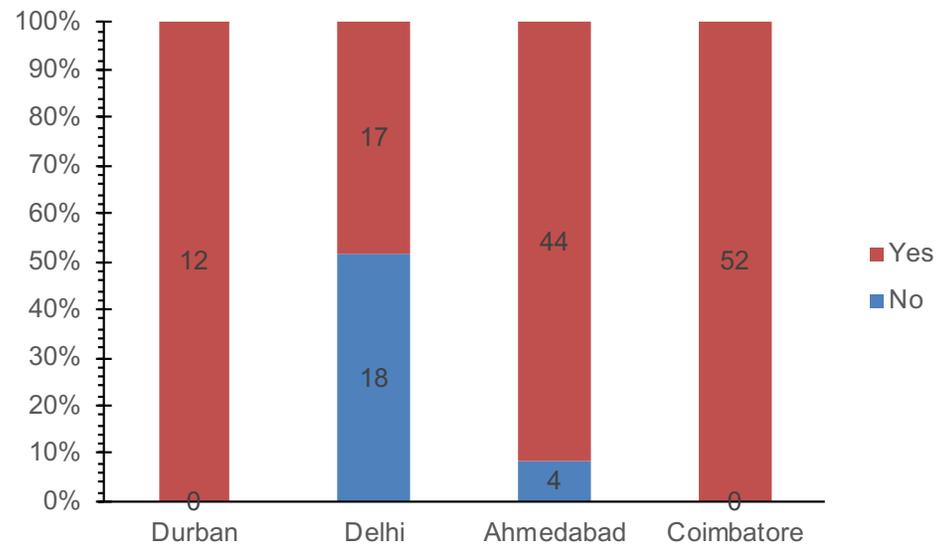
# Aspirations for MH Waste Management

- Reduce contact with waste:
  - Mechanical collection and handling
  - Dustbins with lid and/or foot pedal
  - Dustbins available in individual toilet stalls
- Reliable, female caretaker, dislike male caretaker
- Cabins with space, light, locking doors
- Water and soap for washing, changing
- Paper for wrapping
- Thermal treatment



# MH Waste Handling & Facility Use

Are you more likely to use this facility if there is a private and well-managed disposal bin on site at this facility?



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