

Feminine Hygiene in Rural Tamil Nadu, India: A *Basic Right. Period.*

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eco•femme

Problems and Impacts:



Almost *all* rural girls *cannot* afford or obtain sanitary napkins.



68.5% use newspaper, soil, sand, or rags as menstrual absorbents.



77% hide wet absorbents from men due to cultural stigma.



64.1% suffer from UTIs and vaginal infections.

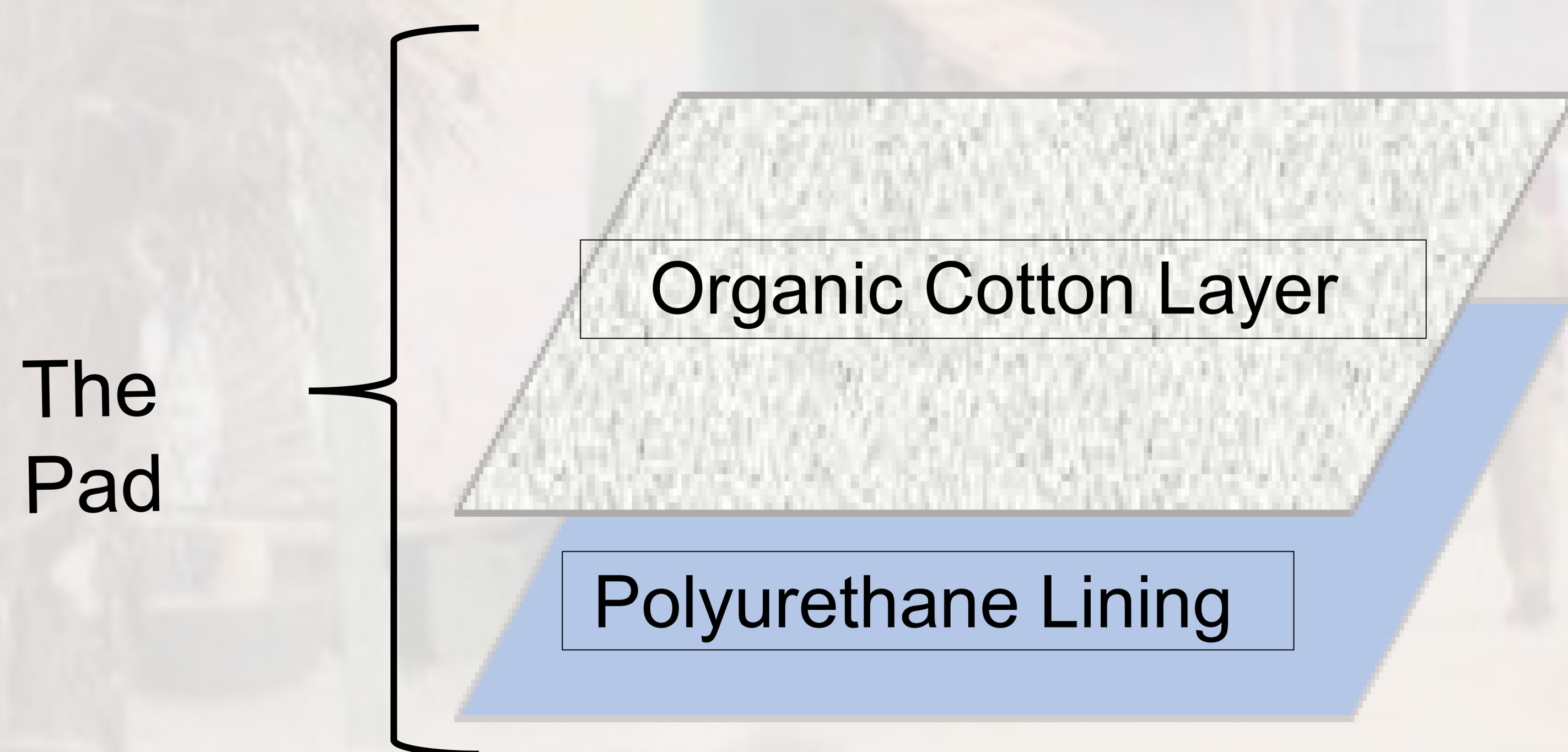


77.3% burn and bury their used rags in landfills.



85% believe menstruation is impure.

Current Solution: *EcoFemme's* Reusable Pads

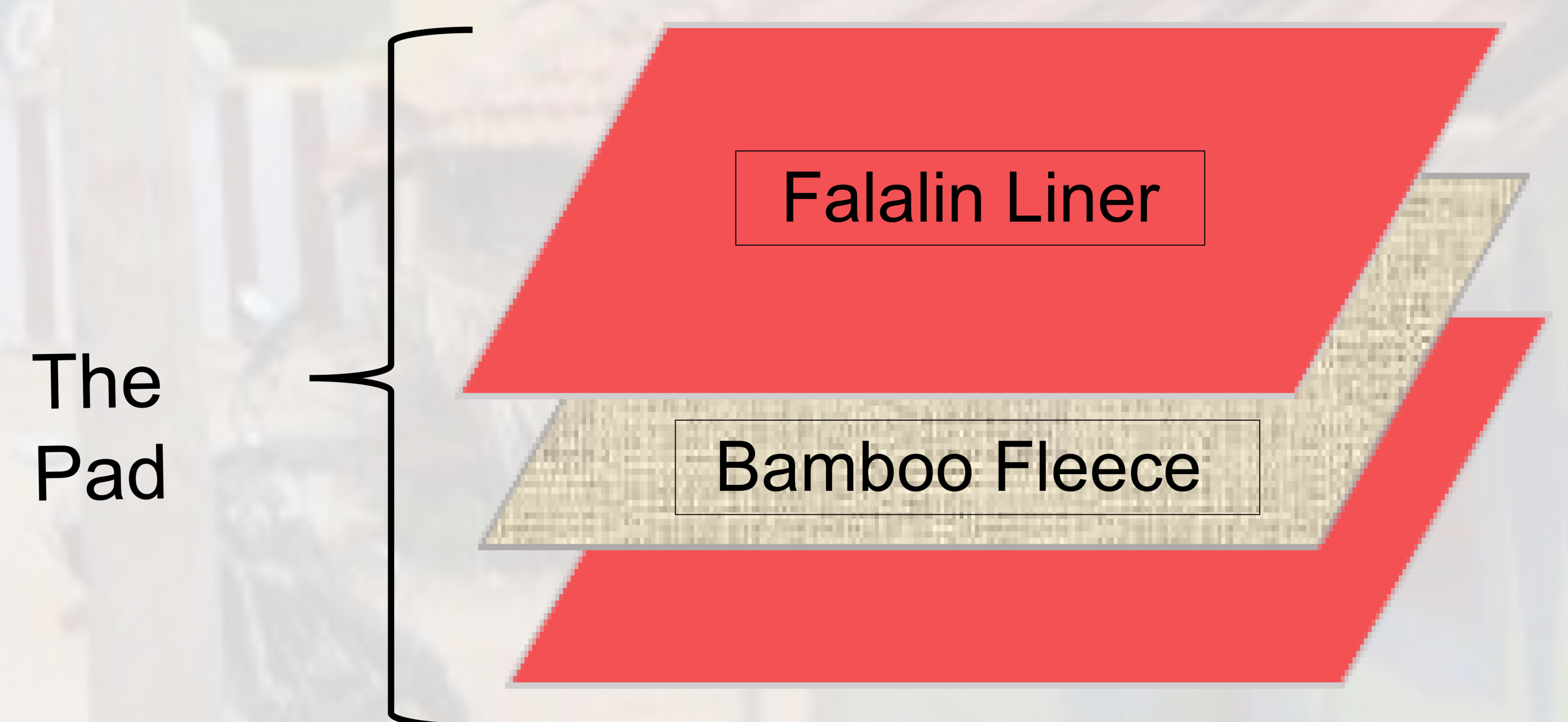


Cost: ₹₹₹

Environment: Cotton is biodegradable; *all parts* reusable.

Health: Users prefer not to dry it in sunlight due to stigma around pads.

Our Solution: Falalin Bamboo Reusable Pads



Cost: ₹

Environment: *All parts* are biodegradable; *falalin* is reusable.

Health: Falalin lining can be dried in sunlight as red color hides blood.

Implementation and Assessment:



1. Contact *EcoFemme*, an existing pad distributor, for collaboration purposes.



2. Use the Auroville Bamboo Centre and *EcoFemme* sites in Auroville, Tamil Nadu to construct pads.



3. Distribute pads to schools during *Pad for Pad*, an *EcoFemme* information session.



4. Return to school in three months to collect surveys and redistribute falalin pads.

References

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Image Citations

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