

Climate change in Asia

Projects by
Soroptimist clubs in
Asia

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Thank you Kimann.

1. I would like to start off by talking about climate change in Asia and then go on to share projects done by our Soroptimist clubs in Asia. Climate change is intensifying the occurrence of floods, droughts, heatwaves, rising sea levels, melting glaciers etc- and the vicious cycle is never ending.
2. Asia sits precariously on the front line of the global climate crises. Also, the climate change adversely and directly impacts the lives of women & girls across the world.
3. If we want to prevent at least some of these changes & preserve what we are now left with, Immediate action must be taken. The efforts of the clubs has made us more aware that small steps can make a difference too!
4. There are numerous influences which contribute to climate change, but today, I would like to focus on 3 important & impactful projects done by our Soroptimists clubs in Asia.
5. Other members from our Asia cluster will cover individual projects in more detail.

Floods and cyclones

- Damage done by the floods
- Impact of floods on women & girls
- Help extended by Soroptimists



1. One area of great concern is floods & cyclones.
2. Floods & cyclones continued by incessant rain destroys hundreds of homes & entire villages built on river banks.
3. The Asia pacific region has borne the brunt of climate disasters. These disasters not only impact the environment but also livelihoods, health & economic well being of wome.
4. Now, clubs across Asia have made a positive & lasting impact through their projects that are timely,resourceful & generous.
5. Collective efforts were carried out to provide food, clothing, temporary shelters & other basic essentials for the flood victims.



The new mantra:

Plant more trees



**Women inspiring action
transforming lives**

Tree planting

1. Trees are as valuable as gold and are called Green gold. Planting of trees is one of the simplest, most effective & fool proof way of tackling climate change & restoring bio-diversity.
2. Many of our Soroptimist clubs in India & Bangladesh have together planted around 45,000 saplings over a period of 2 years.
3. A variety of trees have been planted from the medicinal Moringa, fruit & flowering trees to the more popular hardy native trees by using the Miyawaki method wherein the trees grow in a more healthy & sustainable manner.
4. These projects also address the issue of livelihood by providing income generating activities for women & girls through tree planting & maintenance.
5. Here in the last picture you can see how the native saplings have grown into a mini forest in about 2 years time. Soroptimists from different clubs are seen planting trees in different cities.

Being Sustainable with Sanitary Napkins

- Impact of the use of sanitary napkins
- Importance of Bio degradable sanitary napkins.
- Solutions to counter this.



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Now coming to the sustainable period.

1. The sanitary napkins commonly used by most women contain super absorbent polymers which don't decompose but contaminate the soil, water, air & even get into the food chain.
2. Some clubs in Asia have taken up this issue to bring about a change by educating & creating awareness for women & girls on the importance of Biodegradable, compostable & reusable pads.
3. Bio- degradable napkins & even diapers are the need of the hour as they reduce our carbon footprint, are much better for the health of women & are a great way for every woman to contribute to the ongoing fight against climate change.
4. While one of our clubs distributed a year long supply of bio degradable napkins to tribal girls, another club has set up a manufacturing unit. They have started distributing it free of cost to women & girls in the very remote areas who have no access to sanitary napkins. Later, they have plans to offer them at a very subsidized rate to make it more affordable for all women & girls.



There is no Planet B

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it”.

Robert Swan

1. The solution to climate change will not come from the world's Governments but will have to come from conscientious citizens who have to save resources in their daily lives.
2. Climate change is affecting us negatively day by day- like the recent calamities in Bangladesh, Pakistan & certain parts of Eastern India which has left a huge number of innocent people dislocated.
3. In conclusion, I would like to quote the very powerful words of Robert Swan- “The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it”
4. Thank you and I would like to hand it over to our very young & dynamic SI Delhi member, Anuja.