**National Science Film Festival of India**

24th to 28th January 2019

Chandigarh University, Chandigarh, Punjab

**Category: Out of the box**

**Swwampurna 3: Menstrual health; surmounting the ignominy of disposing used Female Hygiene Products**

**Synopsis**

Menstrual Health and efforts thereof is now a nascent concept but fortunately a fast growing one. What is universal here is the discomfort that accompanies menstruation. This is common knowledge and efforts are on to address various issues related to this. What still go unaddressed **are the manner in which used sanitary napkins are disposed and the ignominy that accompanies the menstruating woman – young or old in this process**. This discomfort primarily arises due to the unavailability of healthy and dignified manner in which the menstruating women and girls can dispose their used female hygiene products (FHPs) - whether cloth or pads.

The story of SWWAMPURNA III (the third SWWAMPURNA Film) revolves around a small town girl moving to a city for her further studies. Here, the film tries to portray how the girl who is both unaware of decent ways of disposing hers used pads and consequently is perpetually harassed and agitated by her ignominious efforts to get rid of her used pads both in the city as well as the small town where she grows up; *In fact her trouble trebles in the city with the so called space age infrastructure*. The protagonist is never made aware by her mother or any other member of her family regarding either her social obligations or in the scientific manner in which she should dispose her napkins. **SWWAMPURNA III is an effort to spread popular awareness and understanding of this universal but hardly addressed issue of the proper disposal of the used FHPs as well as why it should be so done.**

Girls and women should be aware of the consequences of disposing used menstrual products in open space and flushing them in the toilets as it’s commonly done in contexts like India. Ignorance, misconception, unsafe practices and illiteracy of people regarding the menstruation are the root cause of many problems. This is accompanied by a huge drop in available infrastructure -such as a well equipped common public toilet. This indicates the importance and necessity of right instruction especially at school level where teachers are trained and sensitized as part of their in service training and making due infrastructure available in abundance as toilets are **ALSO USED BY WOMEN TO CHANGE AND DISPOSE THEIR USED FHPs**.

Title of the film: **Swwampurna 3: Menstrual health; surmounting the ignominy of disposing used Female Hygiene Products**

Language: English

Sub Title: N/A

Duration: 11 mins 10 seconds

Producer: Dr. Suparna Dutta, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Programme on A&m (**Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Noida off-campus**)

Director: Nayanika Prasad, B.Sc A& M, Semester V, BIT, Mesra, Off Campus Noida

Research: Nayanika Prasad, Anupriya Raj, Priya Gupta (Under the guidance of Dr. Suparna Dutta) Semester V, BIT, Mesra, Off Campus Noida

Script: Anupriya Raj (Under the supervision of Dr.Suparna Dutta) Semester V, BIT, Mesra, Off Campus Noida

Cinematography: Ananya Garg, Nayanika Prasad (DO)

Sound Recording & Design: Nayanika Prasad

Editing: Ananya Garg (DO)

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Signature

Date: 12 November 2018

Place: Noida

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