

Sanitary napkin unit set up

20 SHG members assigned to operate the centre

L. Renganathan

KULITHALAI: The Kulithalai Municipality has initiated steps towards ensuring personal hygiene among women, especially in the rural areas, by establishing a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit here. Twenty self help group (SHG) members have been assigned to operate the unit.

The manufacturing unit has been set up by the municipality at Rs.2.50 lakh with financial assistance from the Karur Vysya Bank. The SHG members have been trained by WOMAN, a NGO based at Keeranur in Pudukottai district.

Each member can produce 100 napkins a day, enabling them to earn Rs. 75. The municipality will supply raw material for manufacturing the napkins while WOMAN will initially take care of the marketing side.

"Considering the importance of y menstrual hygiene management. The subsidised cost of the napkins would help them in hygiene management," said Kulithalai Municipality chairman A. Amudhavel.

Chairperson of WOMAN



HYGIENIC: A women engaged in making sanitary napkins at the manufacturing unit in Kulithalai.

and president of the Menstrual Hygiene Management Consortium of Tamil Nadu, Kannagi said SHGs in the Tiruchi region were producing five lakh sanitary napkins a month and a majority of them were being sold among rural women. We are targeting educational institutions and conducting intensive awareness campaigns on the need for using napkins, she said.

The Consortium is keen to ensure that napkins are disposed of hygienically as spe-

cially made incinerators costing Rs.3000 each are being promoted.

The Union Ministry of Health has sanctioned Rs.17.5 crore in the current year for manufacture and supply of sanitary napkins at subsidised price throughout the country. The self help groups in Tamil Nadu will play a crucial role in producing quality napkins and supplying them at Re. 1 a piece. Dalit and economically weaker sections would benefit a lot.