



*Touching Lives.  
Changing  
Destinies.*

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Welcome to the official newsletter for SPARSH Global!

We recognize that a nonprofit is only as strong as the community that surrounds it, and we thank you for your interest in and support of our organization.

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## **SPARSH Global Addresses Period Poverty**

In 2019, our partners in the Ramtekdi slum of Pune approached SPARSH Global to help them address women's and girl's health issues. Stacey McCully took on the project and began to research ideas that could be implemented. In that research, Stacey had the opportunity to watch the Oscar-winning documentary, "Period. End of Sentence." The documentary, which addresses the topic of "period poverty," opened Stacey's eyes, and in turn SPARSH Global's eyes, to the impact of "period poverty" upon young women in India, particularly those in the India slums.

Here are some of the facts:

- 71% of girls have little to no knowledge of the menstruation process at the time they first experience it themselves.
- 88% of women in rural India have limited access to disposable sanitary products and continue to rely on cloth rags, hay, ash, wood shavings, newspapers, and dry leaves during their periods.
- Significant numbers of young women in India miss school, or drop out of school altogether, at the onset of menstruation due to a lack of period products and sanitary products, and the young women's resulting anxieties.
- Women having their period are often barred from temples and prayer, and from working in the kitchen because they are culturally considered unclean.

70.62 million people in India live in extreme poverty, often on less than \$1.90 per day. The average Indian woman needs 300 rupees (\$4.20) per month for menstrual products. For many low-income households, the cost of sanitary pads is simply unattainable. Moreover, talking about menstruation remains a major cultural taboo. Women, and men, should see it as part of the very special God-given gift of having children. SPARSH Global is committed to funding education projects, as well as initiatives to provide products to young women in need of resources, in an effort to reduce "period poverty" in Ramtekdi and other parts of India.

**BVBC Women on Mission Team Up with SPARSH Global to  
Provide Hygiene Products**



The Women on Mission ministry of Blue Valley Baptist Church, Overland Park, Kansas, have teamed up with SPARSH Global to make and provide reusable sanitary pads for the young women of the Ramtekdi slum in Pune, India.

Over the past several months, in an effort spearheaded by Delores Hanneman, more than 25 women have taken part in cutting, assembling, and sewing 1,000 reusable sanitary pads!

Betty Playford graciously made 100 drawstring bags so that each young lady will get a drawstring bag with 10 reusable pads, as well as donated new underwear! According to Delores, this project has brought many women to the group that have not attended before this project. There has been a real interest in helping these young ladies of Ramtekdi!

Stacey McCully showed the documentary “Period. End of Sentence” and spoke about the need for the project at the ministry’s February 2021 meeting. We are so very grateful for the generous and kind gifts of time, talents, and treasures from these ladies! Well Done!



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