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Fire without Smoke

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Location of Indira Gharkul in SMKMC

The Smokeless Chullah

Size: 30 cms by 29 cms.
Weight: 7.1 kgs
Reduces carbon monoxide by 50 percent.
Reduces use of firewood by 30 percent.
Reduces particulate matter by 50 percent
Cost per chullah :

Supplier of these chullahs: ARTI, Pune



THE INDIRA GHARKUL STORY

Indira gharkul is a peri-urban settlement of Sangli. It is a settlement which has been selected for re housing under the IHSDP. The communities have put up a resistance as the existing VAMBAY housing schemes do not suit their lifestyle, mainly because of the size of the houses within the scheme. The people of Indira Gharkul are some of the poorest in the SMKMC area. 40 percent of the families use fuel as firewood and they require housing which allows them to cook outside, because their houses get filled with smoke. SA's socio economic survey looked at this problem seriously and came up with the idea of a smokeless chullah

This is the reason why SA re-housing people in low-rise high-density structures with an entrance lobby space which can be used for storage. As the smokeless chullah introduced uses very small sticks of firewood, this space becomes storage space for even the firewood.



The SA / Baandhani Philosophy

It is not the chullah which is important. It is the understanding of local needs and using appropriate technology to support those needs in order to ensure healthy living conditions, a fundamental human right to dignity.

Working With Women

The women want to sit and cook. That is what they are used to. The chullah allows them to do that and adapts to their lifestyle. It does away with the stand-up kitchen ota which reduces the cost of the total house. It gives them a well deserved sit-down break as well, as they are always on their feet. Health of the entire family improves, particularly women and children since no smoke is generated. The chullah is small enough to store away and requires small sticks which can be stacked away. This smokeless chullah has also worked as a major mobilization tool to bring women together.



SA's proposed conceptual plan for re-designing of Indira Gharkul houses