The BioLoo’s value lies in its unique technology solution, initially developed by India’s Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO). The bio digester system, which can be attached to any form of toilet, treats human waste at the source using a set of anaerobic bacteria formulated and adapted to work at low or high temperatures. The system disposes of waste in a 100% eco-friendly manner and creates pathogen-free water that is healthy for gardening and agriculture purposes. It also produces biogas that can be used for heating, lighting and cooking, and thus provides a truly circular solution that enhances human dignity and health, while also protecting the environment.

BioLoo has successfully treated human waste by saving and recycling over 100,000 liters of water daily. As effluent water from the BioLoo system is re-used, the need for fresh water from municipal sources is reduced for gardening and non-drinking purposes.

BioLoo has implemented sustainable sanitation at 400 homes starting from the end of 2016.

School attendance has increased at schools fitted with BioLoos, especially amongst girls, and dropout rates have significantly dropped.

**About Every Woman Every Child**

*Every Woman Every Child* is an unprecedented global movement that mobilizes and intensifies international and national action by governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society to address the major health challenges facing women and children around the world. The movement puts into action the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children's and Adolescents' Health which presents a roadmap on how to enhance financing, strengthen policy and improve service on the ground for the most vulnerable women and children.

www.everywomaneverychild.com
PARTNERSHIPS

Namita Banka, a woman entrepreneur, founded Banka BioLoo with the realization that only about 21% of waste water is treated in India, and that 58% of the world’s open defecation takes place in India. This has a high impact on health, productivity, malnutrition, school attendance and other indicators.

Banka BioLoo initially rolled out the BioLoo technology by partnering with the Indian Railways to solve the major challenge of hygiene for the millions of people living near railway tracks by replacing the old open-chute toilet system in the train coaches, wherein the human waste drops on the rail tracks and causes various negative health effects for those living close by.

Instead, the BioLoo bio digester system offers an easy-to-install option that not only disposes of human waste in an environmentally-friendly manner, but which also produces biogas that can be used for heating, lighting or cooking. BioLoo technology is flexible in that it can be attached to any type of toilet in any type of environment and it meets all the regulatory and environmental compliance requirements. It has a lifetime usage period and therefore does not require refill or replacement.

Banka BioLoo has successfully extended its reach by collaborating with large companies to provide BioLoos for girls in schools through the companies’ corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives and with a focus on the most economically underserved sections of society. BioLoo is now also being rolled out at household level.

Banka BioLoo supports and supplements the Indian government’s Swachh Bharat Abhiyan “Clean India Mission”, the largest sanitation program in the world ever, aiming to make India open-defecation-free by the end of 2019.

LESSONS LEARNED

Installation of quality BioLoos in schools has strengthened education and the school attendance rate of girl students has increased, while dropout rates have drastically dropped.

Given the strong patriarchal system of society, most decisions at the household and community level are taken by men including around sanitation and hygiene. Explaining the daily challenges faced by women and girls by not having proper sanitation facilities can therefore be complicated given that women are very rarely the decision makers in the households.

NEXT STEPS

- Banka BioLoo will expand geographically, from 2018 to 2020, providing BioLoos in the remaining 9 states in India that have not yet been reached.
- By 2020, Banka BioLoo will provide accessible, affordable and sustainable sanitation solutions to more than 200,000 women and girls across India.
- Banka BioLoo will continue to build sanitation infrastructure through BioLoos for girls in 500 more schools, thereby reaching 3,000 schools by 2020.
- Banka BioLoo will continue to advance and adapt waste management technology for better sanitation and sustainability.