



Student Award

Idea: Modified hand pump

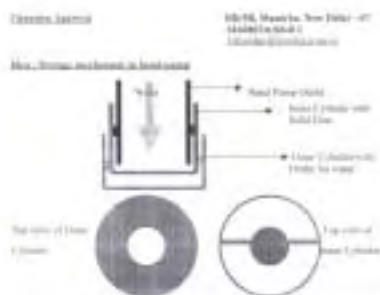


Shri Chandan Agarwal

Modified hand pump

Large number of people in the country still use handpumps to meet their drinking water requirements. But anyone who has tried to use hand pumps single handedly to drink water directly from the taps knows how difficult it is to pump and store water in the spout of the pump at the same time. While in some of the modified pumps, the handle has been fitted on the same side as the delivery pipe, the problem still remains because the output is much more than can be consumed using hands. The result, therefore, is that lot of water is wasted. Chandan suggested a simple improvement to attach a valve and a tap on the delivery pipe so that one can pump and store the water in the body and the outlet pipe. And after pumping enough water, one can go to the other side, unscrew the tap and drink water with as much flow as one can conveniently drink with the hands. With increasing water scarcity, saving every drop matters apart from increasing the convenience of using the tap. This idea evolved in a first year class at IIMA where every student of ISPE course has to come out with a new idea of a product or service or improvement in the same in the class. All the students participate in evaluating the ideas and judge the best idea for award. If every student of the country is constrained in the likewise manner, how many problems of everyday life can be solved improving efficiency, reducing drudgery, adding convenience and of course conserving resources.

A BE, M.Tech and a PGDM student from IIM, Ahmedabad, Chandan Agarwal had always thought that it was difficult for someone to drink water from a hand pump when he has to pump and drink water simultaneously. But he had not thought about overcoming this problem till a ISPE class of PGDM course forced him to think. It was made compulsory for everybody to come up with at least one new idea of a product or service. He thought of an idea, which could make the life of millions of people using hand pump easier.



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Student Award

Idea: Wood saving matchsticks

Shri Ashutosh Jagdish Sharma

Wood saving matchsticks

Most of us having used match sticks for igniting fire for one or the other purpose have realized that more than three-fourth of the match stick goes waste after we extinguish the fire. However, this waste, colossal as it is triggered a thought in the mind of a first-year post-graduate student of IIM-A. As a part of a course (ISPE), every student is asked to come out with a new idea for product or service or think of an improvement in existing product and services. Mr. Ashutosh thought about the fact that hardly one-fourth of the matchstick near its head was consumed. He proposed an idea of a match box which will have the sticks of one-third size, popping out of the match box when pressed and held by a match stick holder for the ease of lighting.

It is in creditable that the same very idea was further modified by three students (Sankalp Upadhyay, Gaurav Gupta, Kunal Singh) next year who suggested several modifications such as having a slightly longer stick with inflammable head on both the sides of the stick, or having a bar-be-cue kind of a stick. With inflammable powder attached at three or four points on stick depending upon the length. It shows how simple ideas can be improvised through individual or collective creativity saving cost, effort and contributing to environmental conservation.

Ashutosh Sharma is a second year student of PGDM course at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. During one of the first year course (ISPE), everybody was asked to think of idea for new product or services or improvement in existing product or services or utopia. This is when the idea of a modified matchstick struck the mind of Ashutosh. He received appreciation from his classmates for this idea.

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