

Healthcare entrepreneurship

with Dr Karin Högberg
and Nils Lindh

Talking points

Knowledge & Comprehension

1. How does stigma around menstruation affect women and girls in different parts of the world?
2. Which United Nations Sustainable Development goals does Spacerpad address?
3. What is the difference between staple fibres and filament fibres?
4. How is Spacerpad made, and why is it more efficient and hygienic than other currently available sanitary products?

Application

5. What questions would you ask Karin and Nils to learn more about their approach to developing Spacerpad?

Analysis

6. How can products like Spacerpad help reduce inequalities between people in high-income and low-income countries?

Evaluation

7. Should access to menstrual products be considered a human right? Why or why not?
8. What skills do you already have that would help to formulate an idea for a needed health product, and to bring your vision to life? What do you think you would enjoy about the process? What skills or knowledge might you still need to develop?

Creativity

9. 'Spacerpad It Forward' is an innovation enabling people to buy a Spacerpad and "pay for a pad for a sister." What other ideas can you think of that would enable people to pay for a product for someone else who needs it?

Activity

Become an entrepreneur

Karin and Nils were guided by the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, a global plan to make the world fairer, healthier and more sustainable by 2030, separated out into 17 different goals.

Spend some time individually or in pairs exploring all 17 goals. Think about what each goal is trying to achieve and the global or local problems it addresses: sdgs.un.org/goals

In small groups, discuss the areas of need highlighted by the goals, and pick one goal that particularly sparks your interest.

- Mind map ideas of how a need could be met. For example, Karin and Nils identified that a new sanitary product was needed which would be suitable for women with minimal finances and with little access to private spaces, clean water and sanitation.
- Do solutions already exist? If so, what would make your idea different and better?
- Think about the communities and cultures your idea aims to support. What hurdles might you come up against? Think about social or cultural attitudes, access to resources, and current knowledge and understanding of the area.
- How would you overcome these hurdles? How could you get the community involved in your solution?
- How could your solution be made affordable for the people who need it most? How could subsidies, local production, partnerships or innovative business models like the 'Spacerpad It Forward' idea devised by Karin and Nils help?
- What might be the environmental impact of your solution? How could you make it environmentally friendly and sustainable?

Present your idea to the rest of your class and, afterwards, ask for feedback and additional ideas. How might your audience's comments and ideas change or improve your solution? How does working with others make a difference when trying to devise entrepreneurial solutions?

More resources

- Follow the progress of Spacerpad on social media:
Facebook: facebook.com/p/Spacerpad-100093830349140/?locale=sv_SE
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/spacerpad-ab
Instagram: instagram.com/spacerpad
- This TED talk explores the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, current progress and different opinions about them: youtube.com/watch?v=eSbDfaQvXTU
- This TED talk suggests three different steps that can be taken when addressing the sustainable development goals: youtube.com/watch?v=-pryCzwDbXY