

Washing Cum Exercise Machine

Remya Jose hails from Kizhattoor Panchayat in Malappuram district, Kerala. Remya's mother fell ill during her 10th standard exams and her father was undergoing cancer treatment. She had to change three buses while going to and coming from school and spend about two hours each way. As there was no washing machine at home, the chore of doing the laundry fell to her and her twin sister. So instead of just wishing futilely for a washing machine, she decided to try her hand at making one during the vacations. She had watched the functioning of an electric washing machine and thought of substituting the electrical power with mechanical power.

Her model consists of an aluminium cabin in which there is a horizontal cylinder made of iron net wire. The cylinder is connected to a pedaling system which consists of a cycle chain, pedals and a seat. In appearance it looks like an exercise cycle - usually seen in a gymnasium - which is connected to a cabin. Clothes are put in the cylinder, the cabin is filled with water to the level of the clothes and washing powder is added and left to soak for at least 10 minutes. Then pedal for three to four minutes. The cylinder rotates at a very high speed with the clothes inside, cleaning them thoroughly. Soap water drains out, the barrel is refilled and the process repeated. By pedaling, the washed clothes are centrifuged and become about 80% dry. By attaching a cycle-like device to it, it can be used as an exercise machine thereby serving the twin purposes of keeping fit as well as doing the laundry. It is quite cheap as costs would be limited to about Rs.2000. An added bonus- it is portable. So the innovation is highly practical for use in the rural areas and stays within the budget of the common man.