

Community Project

Rice Husk Briquettes

Background

The students during MYP Year 3 have the challenge of creating a community project in groups or individually. They have to identify a need in the community, based on personal interests and make a proposal for action.

This student worked individually and took an interest in air contamination, however, she did not want to work on one of the more common problems to everyday life such as pollution from cars. During her initial inquiry she found out that rice husk is one of the main causes of air contamination in the city, because the owners of factories do not use all of it, so they burn it. The development of this student's action can be seen by her proposal for a new use for the rice husk and how this can also be a business opportunity for poor people.

Student:

I decided that my project was going to focus on an environmental problem and see how I could suggest a solution to that problem through scientific and technological advances. I have always really wanted to contribute to helping the environment in some way especially to help stop gas emissions that deteriorate the ozone layer and increase global warming. There are a lot of different ways that our environment is affected so my objective was to identify a problem that is happening in my community. I didn't want it to be one of the ones everyone knows such as car, aerosols etc.

I finally decided that I was going to focus on the burning of rice husk in rice factories which because of the high humidity level, burns really slowly and it produces a lot of air contamination. These same companies that produce the rice take off the rice husk because it is not edible, and because they do not realise the various uses that rice husk can have, they burn it.

Rice Husk sample

