

Entrepreneurship Education

PROJECT: Making charcoal briquettes, designing a poster for advertising them and making a package for the briquettes

By the end of this project, you should be able to:

1. Identify the right materials needed for making charcoal briquettes.
2. Make charcoal briquettes.
3. Explain three benefits of using charcoal briquettes in relation to ordinary charcoal.
4. Write a brief report on making charcoal briquettes explaining some of the challenges faced while making the briquettes, how these were overcome and any lessons learnt from the project work.
5. Design a poster for advertising your charcoal briquettes.
6. Identify the right materials for making packages, design a package for your charcoal briquettes and Label it.

NOTE: You can use any material you think will make your package attractive.

Read the scenario below and respond to the instructions given.

SCENARIO

HOME MADE SOLUTIONS TO EFFECTS OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The world registered the first case of Coronavirus (COVID 19) in December 2019, in Wuhan City in China. The disease was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11th March 2020. By 14th April 2020, the pandemic had spread to 210 countries infecting over 2,000,000 people with close to 120,000 deaths registered.

To mitigate the spread of the virus and to avoid creating a fertile ground for its spread, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni ordered the closure of public gatherings like Schools, Churches and Bars, and suspended public transport on 20th March 2020. He further put in place a Task Force to steer the fight against the **spread** of the disease. Among the measures taken, was to declare a national lock down and curfew from 7:00pm to 6:30am for 14 days.

The effects of the coronavirus are enormous, ranging from health, social and economic among others. Indeed, following the lockdown, a number of people have complained about failure to feed their families. Consequently,

government provided food for such families. However, due to the lock down, fuel specifically charcoal, became expensive and scarce yet majority of families especially in the urban areas use it as a source of energy. As a learner of entrepreneurship, you are expected to provide solutions to business challenges.

Activity one

At your home, you have several resources like domestic waste, peelings and soil which you can use to make charcoal briquettes, to solve the problem at hand.

Task

- i. Identify the right materials needed for making the charcoal briquettes.
- ii. Make charcoal briquettes using the materials you have identified following the step by step procedure provided below.
- iii. Write a report, explaining some of the challenges you faced while doing the project work. How did you overcome the challenges? Mention any lessons you have learnt from the project work.
- iv. Explain three benefits of using charcoal briquettes.
- v. Assuming you want to make briquettes for sale, design a poster to advertise your charcoal briquettes, using either your exercise book or a plain sheet of paper whichever is available. Make your poster as attractive as possible.
- vi. Design a labelled package for your charcoal briquettes. You will present your report, the poster and the package to your class teacher when schools reopen after the lockdown.

Note: The project may not be finished in one day, you may choose to take a few days doing it. You can keep some of the briquettes for home use but keep some for presenting to your teacher as part of your project work when schools reopen.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

SN	ITEM	ALTERNATIVE	QUANTITY
1	charcoal dust	Fresh cow dung	4 (tumpeco) cups
2	Soil	Anti-hill soil/brown soil/Clay	2 (tumpeco) cups
3	Water		4 (tumpeco) cups
4	Basins	Container	3
5	Gloves	Polythene bag/open hand	1 pair
6	Plastic cup (tumpeco) = ½ litre	Mug	1

Instructions

1. Make charcoal briquettes using some of the readily available materials at your home.
2. Use the cup (tumpeco) or mug to measure the materials.
3. Place the materials in different containers.
4. In case you do not have charcoal dust you can use cow dung in the same quantities.
5. Make sure you do not miss out on any step.
6. Record every step followed in the making of briquettes in your note book, because you will have to write the report for submission to your teacher.
7. Using your note book or a sheet of paper, design an advert for your charcoal briquettes.
8. Design a package for your charcoal briquettes. You will submit the report, the advert and the package to your teacher on the day of reporting to school.

Step by Step Procedure of Making Charcoal Briquettes

Please pay attention to every detail outlined in the step by step process provided below.

Step one: Preparing the waste materials

Using a pair of gloves, polythene bags or your free hands collect the waste materials to use as guided below. Be very careful with the safety of your hands.



Fig. 1. Putting on Gloves

Collect four cups of charcoal dust and put it in a container. If you do not have charcoal dust, you can use carbonized charcoal dust or fresh cow dung in the same quantities and follow the same procedure.



Fig. 2. Charcoal dust



Fig.3. Carbonized charcoal dust



Fig. 4. Fresh Cow dung Fig. 5. Plastic cup

Step two: preparing the charcoal dust

Sieve/filter the charcoal dust and remove the big particles, plastics and any other unwanted materials using your hands to remain with fine charcoal dust. (You can also crash the bigger particles into powder form and use it).



Fig. 6. A boy sieving charcoal dust.

Step three: preparing the soil

Collect two cups of soil preferably brown or anthill soil or Clay soil if its available but normal soil can also be used. Put it in a second container.

Sort the soil removing the bigger particles, sticks, broken glass, stones and plastics.

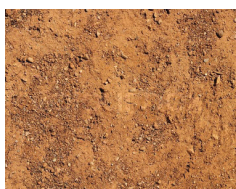


Fig. 7. Brown Soil

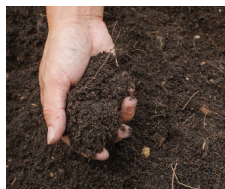


Fig. 8. Any other soil



Fig. 9. Clay Soil

Step four: Measuring the quantity of water

Get a small Jerrycan/Jug or any other container and pour in four cups of water.

Step five: Making the mixture

Measure off two cups of charcoal dust and one cup of soil. Put them in a third container and mix them well using your hands until they are thoroughly mixed.



Fig. 10. Mixing Charcoal dust, soil & water

Add water. Start with a small amount of water and mix it into the mixture using your hands. Keep adding water until the mixture becomes easily moldable. When squeezed, your mixture should hold together easily. When the mixture is too soft add more charcoal or soil, and if it is too hard add more water.

Step six: Molding the briquettes

Take a hand full of your mixture and mold using your two hands until it is hard enough. The mold or briquette can be in a round shape or any other shape you want. You can make briquettes of any reasonable size.



Fig. 12. Picking a handful of mixture



Fig. 13. Molding the mixture into briquettes

Step seven: Drying the briquettes

Place the molded briquettes on a flat surface ready for drying. Set your briquettes in a dry place. Briquettes need 2-3 days to dry properly before you can use them. If placed in an open place do not leave them outside because in case it rains they can get spoilt. Alternatively, you can dry them under a shade.

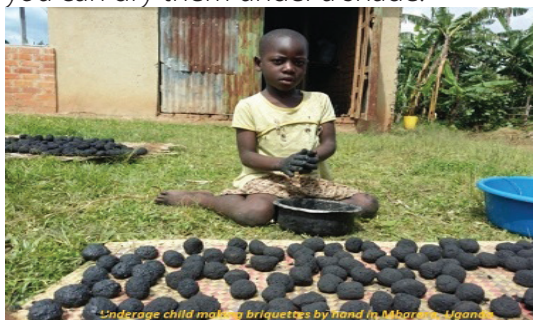


Fig. 14. Laying molded briquettes on a flat surface for drying.

Step eight: Using your briquettes

Light your charcoal stove using a few usual charcoal pieces. When it is hot enough add the

briquettes and cook.



Fig. 15. Lighting the charcoal briquettes and cooking.

Summary

After going through the step by step process, it is assumed that you now know what briquettes are. Below is an explanation of what briquettes are.

These are small, compact blocks made from organic waste which you can use for cooking in the charcoal stove or fire. While some briquettes require expensive machinery to make, others can easily be made at home from the locally available waste materials with no machinery required.



Fig. 16. Sample of Charcoal briquette

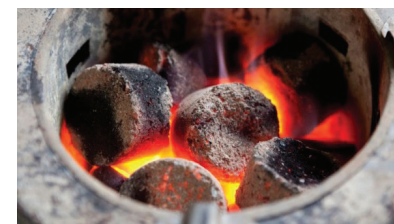


Fig. 17. Briquettes burning in a charcoal stove

Follow up activity

- Continue practising the making of charcoal briquettes until you perfect the process.
- You can sell the excess briquettes to your neighbours at the end of the lockdown. This will help you to save your earnings.
- In case you have access to the internet, you can make further research using Google on the other ways and materials you can use to make charcoal briquettes.
- Practice designing several adverts for the briquettes to have a variety from which to choose the best.
- Practice designing several packages for the briquettes to have a variety from which to choose the best.

NOTE: This project will enable you to answer Paper one at senior four during examinations.