Teepakhol is a very beautiful and a small village surrounded by jungles and natural springs under Gram Panchayat Khairpur, Raigarh Block of Raigarh district with a population of about 253 disbursed under total 77 Households (HHs). It was identified by the DWSC for conducting Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) triggering so as to make the village community aware of sanitation. Because of the jungle this place has a lot of venomous snakes, Boars, elephants and they are found frequently in this village which made it difficult for the village community to go for defecation during rainy season and nights. This particular problem was one important factor, so they agreed easily for constructing toilets, except a few.

Without offering external subsidies to purchase hardware such as pans and pipes to the communities to stop defecating in the open and to build and use latrines, CLTS acts as a bullet which propels for a better life just in contradiction to the bullet stopping the journey of a life. Through the use of PRA methods community members analyse their own sanitation profile including the extent of open defecation and the spread of faecal-oral contamination that detrimentally affects every one of them. The CLTS approach ignites a sense of disgust and shame among the community.
Once ignited, the CLTS triggers almost immediate action and communities start digging holes for construction of homemade pit latrines. Families start making toilets within their means, or share toilets in order to become a 100 per cent open defecation-free village.

Do making a village community realize the terrible impact of open defecation: that they quite literally will be ingesting one another's ‘shit’ so long open defecation continues mobilizes them into initiating collective action to improve the sanitation situation in the community?

The answer of the above question is hidden in identifying one of the major obstacles coming in the way of making India an ODF country.

The answer is surely no, that’s not enough. It can only happen when the community is facilitated properly. But, they will definitely oppose if they are not clear on the value of output against the input they will be laying in terms of money and labour. The community persuades only when they know the technical details of the latrine unit as well. Especially, the size of the pit is a big point of reluctance for most of the village communities.

Resistance from some of the villagers for digging a pit of recommended dimension (1m by 1m) as they have notion that a pit of this size will fill soon, in a village CLTS scenario is very crucial.

The story of Kishore Gupta from village Teepakhol, Khaipur GP, Raigarh block of Raigarh district is very interesting and inspiring to understand the importance of technical clarity.

The story started when Mr. Gupta, didn’t come to a common consent on building a toilet inside his house premises after the CLTS triggering in his village by experts from Knowledge links as he was not convinced with the size of the pit that is recommended under SBM (1m by 1m). He had a notion that it won’t sustain even for a period of 1 year as he has a big family. Then, they village sanitation group consisting of Anganwadi worker Smt. Latika Gupta and Panch Smt. Parboti Nayak, two local NGOs, representatives from State SBM and district administration whose capacity building on CLTS triggering was done by Knowledge Links, took the lead to persuade Mr. Gupta. They made it clear to him that only excreta will remain in the pit and the liquid will be absorbed by the surrounding soil and the excreta gets decomposed to manure due to anaerobic bacterial activities; so it will sustain for at least 7-8 years.

The decision of making this village ODF started with Gram Sabha Meetings initially and it was followed by CLTS triggering in each ‘Para’ door to door.

After that not only he helped in the construction work at his house, along with the masons provided by the GP but, also he has been himself voluntarily contributing to the CLTS triggering in other villages since then.

Mr. Kishore Gupta- A champion of CLTS