A Pubbada village along with 10 more habitations is a Gram Panchayat (GP) in Seethampeta Mandal of the tribal belt in Srikakulam district. Though there are roads to the GP, being situated on a hill, the journey becomes quite difficult because of the sharp turns while ascending and descending the hill.

Lack of drinking water is a major problem in the GP but the local govt. is constantly trying to provide facilities despite the challenges.

- Not one toilet in 5 out of 10 habitations
- Two of these habitations are in more remote forests - No support reaching there.

However it was learnt from interactions that there is complete support from residents for any developmental activity carried out by the Govt. in the GP.
Toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) are today in a bad state. Few have also not been completely constructed and a few more left unused. Lack of awareness and water scarcity are two major challenges that the GP is battling. The statistics of unused toilets are rather disappointing. For eg, only 5 out of 22 toilets built in Pubbadaguda and 20 out of 56 toilets built in Pubbada are being used.

Few toilets were abandoned as they were completely damaged due to Hood-Hood cyclone that hit the coast in October 2014. Some of the other toilets are being used either to store cattle or were damaged due to poor construction quality.

Pubbada GP indicates the need to increase in awareness activities in the absences of which resources such as time, effort and money became futile.

Important recommendations/observations from Pubbada’s experience:

- Utilization of toilets should be given equal importance to construction of toilets. Therefore, awareness about the ways to utilize and maintain the toilets should be given even after construction is complete.
- Monitoring the usage should be done for about one year after construction.
- Awareness is key to the success of any developmental activity and high motivation will aid in the context based alternatives to keep the spirit of the programme alive.
- Sustainable use of resources specifically water should be an integral part of the planning process of the GP.
- Usage and maintenance by the people can accelerate the process in achieving sanitation for all.

Way forward:

Mandal officials promised to take up work in the remaining 5 habitations, which have not yet been touched by any sanitation activity. In addition, it was also assured that necessary efforts will be taken to ensure sufficient water for utilization and maintenance of toilets.

*Pubbada presents a case of lack of utilization of toilets despite construction caused by water scarcity and Lack of awareness.*

*Solution for GPs like Pubbada is focusing on utilization along with construction, monitoring usage post construction and planning for future resource availability.*