In October 2014, the coastline of Andhra Pradesh experienced a severe storm which destroyed homes, cattle, businesses of Lakhs of people. Most of the Gram Panchayats (GPs) hit by the cyclone have not able to completely restore to their original status. Lodagalavanipalem (L.V.Palam) of Anandapuram Mandal, a GP on the coastline of Visakhapatnam is one such area that has been badly affected by the cyclone.

**Conditions of the village:** L.V. Palem is a G.P including within it four habitations namely Nelteru, Eegalavanipalem, Schedule Caste Colony and Backward Caste Colony, with total of 671 households. Fewer households starting from Total Sanitation campaign in 1999 to Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan in 2012 have constructed toilets in the GP. However L.V.Palam situated on the coastline witnessed the huge damage due to ‘Hood-Hood’ in October 2014 leading to damage of houses along with toilets in the few households that had constructed toilets in the previous schemes.
Toilets damaged in the cyclone

SBM interventions

After recovering from the cyclone, under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) rallies were conducted to sensitize people regarding the importance of sanitation and to explanation of the provisions under SBM. 46 households have agreed to construct toilets of which 15 have been completed and 10 are in process.

Attitudes of the people

Upon observation, it was noted that L.V.Palam is a large GP of which the lower sections of people live close to the coastline and have been affected by the cyclone the most. There is another half of the population living in the interiors not affected more by the cyclone. Households in this part of the GP were also observed to lack toilets in their houses. “What is the scheme you are talking about? Are we also eligible for it?” asked one of the respondents (who seemed well to do) indicating that motivation and awareness activities did not happen in full swing and there is a part of population still unaware of the scheme and its components. “Money is not a real problem for many people in this GP; they just don’t think sanitation is their responsibility. They expect the Govt. to pay for toilet construction” says the Panchayat Secretary re-establishing the fact that there is a need for triggering activities to motivate the residents of the GP.

Political unease and internal politics between people in power and the ones not in power is another challenge for the GP. It was brought to notice that inhabitants of the main GP by close relatives, which is a major challenge for the GP team. No force or motivation in terms of ration cuts etc... can be taken up as it will lead to unrest in the family situation.

Core Challenge

Further, water issue existing in the G.P stands as a challenge as the GP has to depend on the nearby Gram Panchayat called Boni for water resources. Schedule Caste and Backward Caste colonies suffer the most due to water scarcity.

Issues to be addressed

- Necessary focus should be laid on the floating population needs who are on the Highway (L.V. Palam is a rest point for many Heavy Vehicle drivers).
- Cyclone affected areas need to be addressed.
- Need to be increase effective motivation on Open Defecation Free (ODF).

*It can also be concluded that many coastal GP affected by the cyclone might need special measures with respect to sanitation as not many of them are in the financial state to initiate constructions.*