Achieving complete sanitation is no longer seems to be a difficult task for Nallajerla Gram Panchayat (GP) located in Nallajerla Mandal of West Godavari District. It is seen to be progressing fast in achieving complete sanitation (i.e., 100% Construction & Usage of toilets, Community Sanitary toilets, Liquid and Solid waste management activities).

Today, the village is becoming model for other villages in other Mandals and Districts. The Zilla Parishad Chairman, West Godavari district, Sri. Mullapudi. Bapi Raju played a key role by providing initial investment for the above activities, particularly construction of underground drainage, which was reimbursed to him at a later stage.

“The Mandal Parishat Development Officer (MPDO) is instrumental in mobilizing community towards construction and usage of toilets. By conducting frequent visits the village early mornings (Between 4.30 -5.00 AM) he ensures to council and motivate residents defecating in open despite having toilets” said the Sarpanch Sri Yalamati Srinivas Rao recalling his experiences about the GP’s efforts to achieve sanitation for all. He added that “The MPDO Sri. Ch. Chinna Rao’s has played a commendable role in initiating Solid waste management activities”.

Construction of toilets...

Of the 1897 total households, 1332 already have access to toilets. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), the Panchayat has, through third party, constructed 540 toilets by procuring material in bulk quantities from nearby places with the support from Mandal Office, due to which the construction was finished within the incentive of Rs.15000/- under SBM. In addition, Households contributed by digging pits and helping masons in construction. Sri. Kandepu Venkata Ratnam, Social activist and native of the village acted as third party agency. The GP also planned to levy a fine of Rs.100/- for practicing open defecation in addition to using the help of police to counsel residents whenever required.
Further, about 25 households are facing a space constraint to accommodate individual toilets. The Panchayat is planning to construct community sanitary complexes with individual ownership for such household son the common land in the Panchayat limits.

**Initiation of Solid waste Management…**

Being the Mandal Head Quarters and situated, there are a number of shops, hotels and commercial complexes generating a large amount of waste every day. As the unmanaged solid waste has become a problem of sanitation, a dump yard has been constructed with Panchayat funds for management of this solid waste.

Door-to-door garbage collection is in implementation in all wards on alternate days through an outsourced agency. MPDO played key role in enabling this system by identifying unemployed youth in the village, training them and enabling their services in managing solid waste.

Door-to-door garbage collection began two months ago with a 4-member team and is at present, collecting mixed waste that is transported to the dump yard. The mixed waste transported to dump yard is segregated and biodegradable waste is being converted into vermin compost through beds in the yard.

“Every household has to pay a sum of Rs.20 per month towards garbage collection from which the salaries of team is met. Each person is paid a monthly remuneration of Rs.6000/-,” says Mr. Rajesh who runs the activity using an auto trolley for collection of garbage. He further adds that on an average Rs. 30000-36000 is earned per month from households which served as a source of salaries for these 4 members in addition to the diesel and miscellaneous costs. Apart from the monthly income, an additional income of Rs.20000 from 170 stores for waste collection which also serves as an incentive to the youth involved in waste collection.

The Panchayat is planning to take up further sensitization activities for people in the village on solid waste management.

**Way forward…**

2. Beautification of Tank
3. Completion of remaining 6 km underground drainage
4. Open well for overcoming water shortage at Harijana wada and BC colony

On the whole, the Panchayat is striving for achieving complete sanitation with strong determination. The concerted effort by all those involved caused for progression of activities. Soon, the village would become Open Defecation Free (ODF) and achieve what it wants to be.

**Liquid waste management…**

An underground drainage covering 13 out of 19 kms allocated for Liquid management has been constructed by tapping funds from MGNREGA (50%), Gram Panchayat (20%), Zilla Parishad (20%) and Public contribution (10%). The initial investment of 50% of the total cost has been borne by the ZP Chairman, which was later reimbursed to him.

**Wayforward…**

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On the whole, the Panchayat is striving for achieving complete sanitation with strong determination. The concerted effort by all those involved caused for progression of activities. Soon, the village would become Open Defecation Free (ODF) and achieve what it wants to be.

Nallajerla Gram Panchayat works on all aspects of sanitation simultaneously such as construction of toilets, usage of toilets, solid and liquid waste management etc... While most GPs plan to work step by step i.e., achieve utilisation of toilets after achieving 100% construction, this GP shows a good example of working simultaneously to achieve complete sanitation and not just 100% construction of toilets.