

Exposure visit...

In the mean time, the Sarpanch and Vice Sarpanch of Navabupeta have attended the Mandal level meetings and orientations on Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) conducted by Mandal Officials. During the meetings, all officials and members from other Panchayats commended the work done in sanitation in G.Medapadu and under villages. The officials and external Resource persons encouraged that interested members may visit these villages to learn more about sanitation. The Sarpanch and vice Sarpanch showed keen interest and later visited the two villages. G.Medapadu and under villages belong to two different Mandals in East Godavari district. These villages have been implementing sanitation activities since long time and stand as model in Community sanitary toilets and solid waste management practices not only in the district but also in the State.

The visit to the villages gave insights to Sarpanch and the Vice Sarpanch and decided to construct community sanitary toilets with individual ownership for 8 households as these households did not have space in their houses. The Lack of Space, which stood an obstacle, has thus been resolved. The second decision taken immediately was to construct a model solid waste management unit in a place, where open defecation was usual practice.

IEC activities yields good results...

Rallies with schoolchildren, Posters, Pamphlets and orientation sessions taken up by Gram Panchayat with support from Mandal officials were useful in mobilizing households in construction and usage of toilets. The district collector, East Godavari district Sri. Hari Kumar and other officials also visited the village during construction of toilets and solid waste management unit. The Collector also conducted a walk in the village emphasizing the need for toilets. The visits of Collector and IEC activities have motivated the households. As a result, the households showed more interest than ever before.



IEC and Other exposure activities being conducted

Photo Credit: R. Srinivasa Rao, Program Officer, PRIA

Construction of toilets by Gram Panchayat as third party agency:

As initial construction cost has become an obstacle for households, the Panchayat decided to take up construction as third party agency. Panchayat thought that doing bulk construction would certainly reduce cost and save time and toilets could be constructed within the stipulated time. The Vice sarpanch has invested the initial cost and the expenditure incurred over and above the incentive was borne by him. All material was procured in bulk quantities from nearby outlets. The GP constructed toilets for 8 households at a common place adjacent to Solid waste Management unit in the centre of the villages.

Success factors:

- Keenness of the elected representatives of Gram Panchayat to do some good to the village irrespective of party to which they belong;
- A strong Coordination between Sarpanch and Vice Sarpanch;
- Cooperation and support from Government officials;
- Adequate IEC activities;
- Exposure visit;
- Initial financial investment by Vice Sarpanch;
- Construction of toilets by Gram Panchayat which acted as third party agency; and
- Regular monitoring

Sustaining ODF...

To sustain ODF, the Panchayat has constituted a committee with 20 members @ 2 per ward. The Committee shall take up regular ward wise meetings, sensitize wards and appraise the GP the ward wise problems. The GP is also planning to formulate certain norms with mutual agreement towards.