

# CASE STUDY

2016/No. 59



Pennbarthi Panchayat  
Nellore Rural Mandal  
SPSR Nellore District

## Solved Water Problem and CLTS Approach Achieves ODF



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

“Our attitudes have changed with the CLTS activities performed in our village. We, irrespective of party, caste and groups worked together towards sanitation and finally achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) Says Sri. Venkateshwar Reddy aged 56 years, Pennbarthi, a natural leader, who constructed 330 toilets as third party agency.

A beneficiary from ST Colony (Cheruvulo thanda) in Pennbarthi Gram Panchayat (GP), Smt. India. Vimala, aged 50 years, Says, “Our water problem has been resolved. Each household in our colony now has individual tap connection and has adequate water supply. All long years, we have suffered with water problems, which prevented us from constructing toilets. Now under Swachh Bharat, each of our households constructed toilets and regularly uses them as we don’t have water scarcity”.

Pennbarthi is a first ODF Gram Panchayat in SPSR Nellore Rural Mandal in SPSR Nellore district. The District Collector, Smt. Janaki, IAS, held meeting in the GP on April 22, 2016, declared ODF and felicitated Natural Leader, Vigilance committees.

### What really worked...

**The resolved water problem** in ST colony (Cheruvulo thanda), a hamlet in Pennbarthi Gram Panchayat and the **Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach** followed in the GP to gear up construction & usage of toilets have been critical factors for achieving the status of ODF. The CLTS approach has been in implementation from January 27, 2016 in the Gram Panchayat after a team from Delhi conducted activities under CLTS. **The natural leaders and vigilance committees** formed as part of triggering activities worked on mission mode irrespective of party, caste and groups to achieve ODF being inspired by the Collector, who visited the GP on 1st February 2016. The enthusiastic natural leaders not only acted as third party agencies but also borne some expenditure in construction of toilets related to poor families that do not have initial investment. **Proper coordination and frequent visits made by district and Mandal officials and their night stays** in the village had an impact on the community.



## The scenario before SBM...

The Pennbarthi Gram Panchayat has 5 hamlets namely, 1.Penubarthy (main village), 2.ST colony (High school), 3.SC colony, 4.Pallipalem (BC Colony) and 5. ST colony (Cheruvulo thanda) and the total households are 541.

Prior to Swachh Bharat Mission, there were only 60 toilets in the main village, where OC population lives. No other hamlet in the GP had toilets. Open defecation was usual practice.

## The survey under swachh bharat discloses no of toilets required..

Under swachh bharat, a survey conducted during November 2014 in the hamlets by Gram Panchayat with the help of SHGs, Anganwadi and Field assistant, NREGS reported the requirement of total 481 toilets to cover the entire GP. Subsequently, in a meeting held by the MPDO of Nellore rural Mandal, the MPDO stressed the need for construction of toilets for all those who do not have toilets under Swachh Bharat and urged the Gram Panchayat to mobilize and facilitate construction of toilets immediately.

## A total 321 toilets constructed until January 2016... and poor usage...

Until January 27, 2016, there was no organized effort, which resulted in slow progress of construction & utilization of toilets. Between November 2014 and January 2016 that is to say in 15 months time 321 toilets were constructed in two phases (first phase :55 toilets from November, 2014 to June, 2015 and another 266 toilets by end of January 2016 in second phase). This tells that, on an average, the GP could facilitate construction of 21 toilets per month. In spite of construction, most of the toilets remained unused. Still 160 toilets needed to be constructed besides 100 achieving percent usage. This was the challenge facing by the GP to realize the firm goal "ODF".

## CLTS activities by Delhi team ...

While the situation was so, the collector requested a team from Swachh Bharat Mission, New Delhi to visit the district to perform CLTS Demos in some villages to speed up the process in the district. As requested by the Collector, a team of members from Delhi had visited the district. The Collector had suggested the team to visit Pennbarthi GP keeping in view of the good progress, which no other village in the district has and asked the team to conduct sensitization activities to speed up the process so that, the GP could be made first and model ODF soon in the district.

On January 27, 2016, in the earlier hours of the day (4.00AM) the team from Delhi along with district and Mandal officials reached the GP. The team went round in the village and held detailed interactions with GP staff, elected representatives and social activists in order to know the status of the activities and issues under swachh bharat.

Later, the team conducted triggering activities as part of CLTS approach. About 100 households attended the event. Awareness about sanitation, need for elimination of open defecation and creation of clean environment for healthy living, identification of natural leaders who can take the sanitation activities forward and members for vigilance committees from within the community were some of the activities carried out by the team. The team informed the villagers that the collector would visit the village on 1st February to interact with the villagers.



Sections on CLTS approach

Photo Credit: GP Team, Pennbarthi

## Collector sanctions funds for revival water supply to SC colony..

As informed, the district collector, Smt. Janaki, IAS., visited the GP on 1st February and reviewed the status of activities being implemented and the issues in implementation. One of the key obstacles brought to the notice of the collector is acute water problem faced by ST Colony. Collector immediately responded assuring them restoration of water supply from the main village, where water tank is located. Then, She emphasized the need for toilets and their regular usage by all members for clean and healthy environment in the GP. Within a couple of days after visit, Collector sanctioned Rs. 10.00 Lakhs to revive water supply to ST colony (Cheruvulo thanda). As a result, new pipes in place of the damaged ones were constructed and water supply is revived. Now the

thanda has access to water supply. As promised to the collector, every household in the thanda has constructed toilets and using.

## Construction of remaining 160 toilets..

The impact of CLTS activities, which were further, continued by natural leaders and vigilance committees and solving of water problem in ST Colony (where 28 households reside) led to construction of 160 toilets by 20 March 2016.

## Sustainability of ODF...

The attitudes of people in the GP have been changed with sensitization activities, Cat Method (One who defecates in the open must cover the faeces with soil as cat does when it goes for defecation) stoppage of pension and other facilities for one month for those who practiced open defecation in spite of efforts. The Gram Panchayat wants to continue the actions with the help of vigilance committees formed as part of triggering activities.

Above all, the major threat to sustaining ODF is Migrants to the GP. Every year During November – December and March – May migrant labour (About 300 Nos each season) from Krishna and Prakasam districts comes for agriculture works and stays in the GP till the end of works. Providing toilets for them becomes perplexed issue for the GP. As a solution to the problem, the GP proposes that the farmers who engage the migrant labour should provide temporary toilets until GP works out permanent solution like construction of Community Sanitary complex.