

The Mandal team conducted Gram Sabhas and regular sensitization activities under SBM. The Sarpanch of the GP, Smt. Soubhagya-vathi and Sri. Venkata Rami Reddy, who served as sarpanch for two terms in whose term the GP got NGP award in 2008, supported the activities. Under close coordination and monitoring, 35 households built toilets by utilizing incentive under the scheme. The households received incentives immediately after construction (within one week). This was possible because of quick geotagging, processing by Mandal team and availability of funds.

Timely release of incentive plays role..

Timely release of incentives to the households has really been a motivating, factor for other households. Witnessing this, another 20 households took up constructing toilets under SBM. Indeed, these households had a deaf ear despite sensitization activities and regular motivation by officials,. The quick payments only encouraged the households to construct toilets individually.

Solution for financial difficulties..

Although interested, 8 households explained their inability to initiate construction as they did not have money to start the work. Under the SBM, beneficiaries receive the first installment after completion of the basement. Up to the basement, the beneficiary has to bear the expenditure. Hence, the beneficiaries requested the mandal officials to construct toilets with the incentive. Responding to the request made and based on the advice by mandal officials, Sri. Prabhakar, Mandal Resource Coordinator acted as a third party agency and constructed toilets for the 8 households with his own source of funds. Later, the households repaid him after receiving the incentive.



Toilets constructed by Third Party

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

Solution to stubborn.

Still, there were 13 households to be covered for attaining ODF status. Sri. Prabhakar made a door-to-door visit and assured them to construct toilets for them, as he did for 8 households. In addition, Mandal team and sarpanch held frequent meetings to motivate and persuade them. Nevertheless, all the efforts were in vain. The households were rigid, expressing their comfort in open defecation. Finally, the mandal officials forcibly convinced them with a warning that their pension, Ration and other services from the government be withdrawn if they would not construct toilets. The warning of stoppage of facilities really worked, as the households showed their consent to have toilets. Sri. Prabhakar constructed toilets for these households too.

Sustainability of ODF.

Post ODF follow-up is critical to sustaining the ODF. However, mandal officials and GP team made efforts as part of meeting the targets, regular follow-up mechanism need to be worked out. As part of this the GP and Mandal team proposing vigilance committees in the village for monitoring, fine and severe warnings with respect to temporary stoppage of Pension and Ration facilities in the matter of families who continue to practice open defecation.