

CASE STUDY

2016/No. 64



Pabba Puram Panchayat
Chintakomma Dinne Mandal
YSR Cuddapah District

Bottlenecks to achieve to ODF



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

Pabba puram Gram Panchayat (GP) in Chintakomma Dinne Mandal in Cuddapah District is struggling to achieve Open Defecation Free Status (ODF). Though the Mandal Officials have selected the GP as first one in the mandal to make ODF to begin with, keeping in view of the small size village with 268 households expecting support from the community this village selected. Pabba puram has two habitations with total households of 268 namely, Kotha Pabba puram (127 HHs) and Patha Pabba puram (141 HHs) having a sum population of 1058. Of the 268, 148 households already have access to toilets constructed under various schemes prior to Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). If the GP wants to achieve ODF, 120 toilets have to be constructed and used.

Incentive and size of the toilets becomes matter...

There are 18 toilets sanctioned under NREGS and still not constructed. Under this programme each beneficiary released an amount of Rs. 1800 and initiated a bit of work and stopped. Now, these people are expressing that though toilets sanctioned but not completed, as there is no adequate money where as under SBM they can get an amount of incentive Rs. 15000/- instead of Rs.12000/- under NREGS. In addition, the size of the toilet will be 4/6 than 3/4 under NREGS, which is larger and comfortable for use.

The Sarpanch and officials declared that since the toilets have already been sanctioned under different scheme now it is not permissible to consider under SBM. However, if you initiate construction and complete the toilets, an additional amount of Rs.3000, which is equivalent to incentive under SBM will be considered.

Despite the efforts, households are reluctant to initiate the construction. Officials and Sarpanch continue to motivate these households by making weekly door-to-door visits. Lack of finance is another key reason for not initiating the construction of toilets..

Efforts of Mandal Officials ...

Mandal Officials conducted grama sabhas and sensitized people about Sanitation and the SBM. This was done in the months of August and September 2015 after selection of the GP for achieving ODF. Then, as a result, about 8 households constructed toilets utilizing the incentive under SBM. This has happened after two months of grama sabhas conducted.

Again, the mandal teams conducted grama sabhas with the active support from the Sarpanch. During the Grama Sabha, people assured that they would initiate construction of toilets. Hardly, after the grama Sabha two households constructed toilets.



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Lack of finance...

In the third meeting, the households expressed their inability to initiate construction due to financial troublesome. Most of the households depend on daily wage to earn their living. Hence, requested the mandal team and sarpanch to construct toilets for them. Taking the request of the households into account, the mandal team discussed the matter with the Sarpanchand asked him if he could construct toilets. The Sarpanch while expressing his inability, assured to arrange a third party.

Local leader interference in the construction of toilets by third party..

As assured, the Sarpanch found Mr. Latif of Asif Minority institute from Cuddapah as third party agency for construction of toilets. Mr. Latif as third party initiated construction and completed basement for 8 numbers of toilets. Meanwhile, a local leader, Sri. Sekhar Reddy from Pabba puram village creating a non-sense, which badly resulted in discontinuation of a third party from the construction. The local leader (who belongs to an opposition party) strongly opposed the construction of toilets by bythird party, opposeddthe work entrusted to a non- local person from Kadapa. Further, he continued saying that he would take up construction of all the toilets in the village. In fact, when the mandal team and sarpanch searched for a third party from within the village, no one wished to be a third party. He, later, approached the Mandal officials with political support. Visualizingthe further hurdles to achieving ODF, the Mandal officials and Sarpanchengaged the local leader as third partyclearly mentioningthe construction of toilets with households consent .

The Local leader as third party further delayed theconstruction process..

In the circumstances stated above, as the political support paved the way, the local leader started acting as a third party. Afterthe finished basement for 24 toilets, he stopped further construction showing no interest. When the Sarpanch and Mandal Officials persisted, he with an unavoidable situation completed 12 toilets in full, ready to use shape. He almost took 5 months for 12 toilets.Later, he absconded, leaving the remaining 12 toilets at the basement level. The Officials insisted him to complete at least the remaining 12 toilets as he did basement.As he was pressurized, he again started construction in the month September, 2016 and the toilets are yet to be completed.

Bailer (also known as tapi maistry) engaged by local leader becomes third party.

In the course of time, the Mason engaged by the local leader for construction of the toilets came forward to take up construction asa third party. As the local leader already delayed, the mandal officers and Sarpanch without hesitationengaged him as third party hoping early construction toilets in the GP. Taking the consent from the beneficiaries, the bailer initiated construction and laid basement for 10 toilets for which he received first installment under SBM incentive. He then started delaying construction.

Sarpanch Determined to be third party..

In spite of the above efforts, about 50 plus toilets are yet to be constructed. The Sarpanch, Sri. Narayana Reddy shouldered the responsibility to take up construction of the remaining 50 plus toilets.In addition, he put pressure to third parties to complete toilets they had started.

Other issues in implementation..

Human Resource

The field assistant post (who geo tags and process the applications) at the village level is vacant.

Mandal Resource Coordinator has resigned to his post 3 months ago which also caused coordination problems



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

Geotagging of Toilets

Conclusion:

Pabba puram GP is one of the two GPs selected in the first phase during the year 2015 to achieve ODF in the mandal. Though one year passed, hardly 50 toilets were constructed in spite of close coordination, monitoring and regular follow-up by mandal officials. Community led total sanitation activities need to be taken up to involve the community and create ownership among them. Recruitment of Field assistant and MRC coordinatorvacancies need to fill up to gear up construction.