

# CASE STUDY

2016/No. 70



G. Medapadu Panchayat  
Samalkota Mandal  
East Godavari District

## A Sustainable model village for sanitation



Photo Credit: E. Manikanta Reddy, Program Officer, PRIA



“The future of India lies in its villages and the soul of India lives in its villages”- said by Gandhiji. After 70 years of the independence also we are unable to achieve the dream of Gandhiji. “Sanitation is more important than independence”. In spite of huge number of sanitation schemes are unable to provide basic sanitation facilities in rural areas. But here this village scenario is completely different on sanitation. The village is not depended on sanitation schemes its only following the dreams of Gandhi from the past 8 years and completely Open Defecation Free (ODF) village as well as with 100% sanitation facilities and it is none other than but a village called G. Medapadu Gram Panchayat (GP) in East Godavari District.

### Highlights of G. Medapadu:

- Population: 8681
- Households: 1976
- Toilets constructed under- SBM: 85
- Toilets constructed under-NBA: 902
- Individual cum community sanitary toilets: 235
- Special committees for ODF monitoring
- ODF places are income generating sources
- Plastic ban/ SLWM process/ Menstrual hygiene management. Etc

### **First step towards basic sanitation:**

Mr. P. Srinivasa charya Chowdary was elected as a sarpanch in 2006 and the GP problems welcomed him to think about some changes. The GP is facing with the problems like improper roads, drainages, improper sanitation in the GP as well as community sanitary toilets (CSTs), open defecation practices and diseases, etc. All these issues have been brought to the attention of Mr. Chowdary and he started the developmental activities. First he demolished the CSTs across the 11 places in the GP. That time all villagers were very uncomfortable on his decision. Immediately Mr. Chowdary brought 902 toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA). For this scheme the Govt. provided Rs. 2700 and Mr. Chowdary spent extra Rs. 2000 for each toilet to ensure the quality. Out of this 902 almost 235 households are not having place to construct the toilets in the house premises. For them Mr. Chowdary constructed Individual cum community sanitary toilets (ICST) in 6 places in GP land. For this ICST the GP took responsibility of ensuring the water and power facilities. To ensure the maintenance facilities the GP formed a five member group within that toilet members in all the places. These groups will ensure the maintenance of ICST and regularly reports on the issues, etc. The village achieved Nirmal Gram Puraskar Award in 2009 with the awareness created by the Grampanchat and its sustaining the ODF status from the past 8 years..

Achievement of Nirmal Bharat award is not a big thing, because most of the GPs have achieved it across the state as well as country. To continue the ODF status is a big challenge and in Andhra Pradesh we won't find even 10 GPs also. But we can find ODF sustainability in G. Medapadu GP. To ensure the future need once again the GP utilised the SBM scheme and found that 85 new households are in need of toilets. The GP leadership is changed but Mr. Chowdary is still continuing his development activities towards complete sanitation of the GP.

### **Learning's in sanitation:**

- 235-ICST for landless households out of 902 under NBA in 2008
- Monitoring and Maintenance of ICSTs with the help of group members
- Ensuring of water, power and regular maintenance of ICSTs
- Achieving of Nirmal Gram award in 2009
- ODF places become income generation sources for GP such as market yards
- Solid and Liquid Waste Management mechanism (SLWM)
- Door to door waste collection and segregation and fertilizer processing
- Cement roads and its cleanliness
- Plastic ban in the GP premises
- Menstrual hygiene management across the GP providing separate dustbins and disposal mechanism
- Drinking water supply and water security plans
- Model high schools and health facilities, etc.



Photo Credit: E. Manikanta Reddy, Program Officer, PRIA

Solid Waste Management Processing mechanism



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Individual cum community sanitary complex

*Achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) is not a big challenge, but ensuring the ODF sustainability is a big challenge. When the villages are free from ODF then only we can find the real dream of Mahatma. G. Medapadu is following the Mahatma pathway and moving towards ODF plus activities and its one of the best model village in sanitation in Andhra Pradesh.*