**CASE STUDY**

**December 2015/No. 6**

**Optimal Utilization of Resources in SBM**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Dhansuli gram panchayat, is a part of Tilda block situated in Raipur district, Chattisgarh. Dhansuli has a population of 1241 and 238 families. Dhansuli is a well-planned village, with adequate facilities, a primary school, a public health centre and proper water resources.

As a part of SBM and in order to make the village ODF, a plan was made to construct toilet, target of toilet construction was 150 and there was a need of constructing 129. 21 were already there. There is also a community toilet complex.

The Panchayat had a formidable challenge to the construction of 129 toilets without any financial support. The construction of 129 toilets would require 15,48,000 (129 toilets x 12000 incentive/construction) and time limit was one month. Thus it was a challenging task, especially when the villagers were not supportive, since they had come to know that the Sarpanch is under the pressure of government and would thus have to fulfil the targets anyhow. The availability of masons for construction of at least 4 toilets per day was another big challenge.
The Sarpanch, Mr Khemnath Nayak along with the Sachiv planned and decided to wisely utilize a part of Royalty which comes through the mines keeping behind the other development work of the village and procured labour from the far off villages. The royalty proves to be a boon to the villagers as it leads to overall developmental work which also includes toilet construction at the same time also provides employment to 50% of the inhabitants. Thus due to employment opportunities, the villagers are economically stable, since almost everyone is employed, as a result the families are economically stable, another interesting fact is that there was no case of malnourishment, the mother was healthy and at the same time the child was having no preventable infection like diarrhoea which occurs due to Open Defecation.

At the same time the mines dug act as water reservoir during rains and help in irrigation in dry seasons.

The ODF mission was also supported by the 9 navratna of the village, amongst whom the construction target was divided. Inorder to keep the Navratna motivated their names are mentioned on the wall of Gram Panchayats office.

The village is also supported by CSR activities of Indian Oil under which, IEC paintings and capacity building of school going children, towards sanitation was done.

**Conclusion**

Dhansuli, is very near in achieving the 6 Millennium Development Goals out of 8 goals- Eradicate extreme hunger and Poverty, Achieve Universal Primary Education, Gender Equality, Reduce Child Mortality, Improve Maternal Health, Combat HIV, Malaria and Other Diseases, due to presence royalty of mines. Till date the Gram Panchayat has only received 5,00,000 against the incentive amount for toilet construction. This focuses on the fact that when there is a will there is a way.

The primary school principal told that the attendance was almost 90%, since the child and the mother both were healthy.

The school children were under strict supervision for not defecating openly by closing the school gates on school time.

The women are able to take care of the children since the resources of earnings are available near.

RALU Chhattisgarh, Managed by PRIA, Supported by Water Aid
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