CASE STUDY

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Sarpanch - The force behind success

**Introduction**

It has been observed, that if the Sarpanch gets determined to make its village ODF, then there can be no issue in making a village Open Defecation Free. Below is a story of a Sarpanch of village Doomardih, in block Lundra of district Sarguja. Munna Khan was motivated to make his village ODF. The target of toilet construction was 124 and constructed were 125.

Munna Khan started farming with only 10gms of tomato seeds. With time he learnt the process of making the crops more productive. Soon he taught the villagers the same skill. The result was that as the production increased the villagers started becoming economically more stable and in turn it also increased their trust on Munna Khan. Soon they decided to make Munna Khan their Sarpanch.

At present every crop of tomato is able to earn 1lac/field. The villagers know what ever Munna Khan asks them to do is for their benefit. Munna Khan has
received the target of 124 toilets for construction, three months back. He visited each and every house of the village and convinced the people, not to go in open and construct the toilets. All the inhabitants were motivated and completed the work in a month.

The speciality of the toilets constructed was that the tanks are connected to a tap which opens inside. This facility supports the sustainability of use of toilets.

One more important thing is this that the toilets are made in the premises of house; this makes the approach more convenient. More the comfort, more the usage and longer the sustainability. The study brings to light two facts, one if the Sarpanch wishes and takes the initiative he can make his village ODF. Secondly if the toilets are accessible it increases the comfort which leads to sustainability.