Little drops of water add up to make an ocean. Similarly, if every individual practices sanitation, the society at large will achieve sanitation. Sanitation practices differ across regions, groups, states, etc… though sanitation is the main goal. But irrespective of these differences, sanitation practiced in whatever form will help society at large to win the battle against the ill effects of insanitary practices.

Efforts for Sanitation

Details of the Gram Panchayats:

- 173 total households
- Located on Odisha border on the banks of a river
- Considerable population from Odisha Cultural practices are closer to Odisha than Andhra Pradesh

Statistics of Sanitation:

- Till 2014 only 100 toilets were constructed under previous schemes and personal funds
- Remaining 73 toilets construction began under SBM
- Field Assistant played an active role in motivating the residents to take up the construction

Cultural Practice: Challenge

Culturally, residents believe in cleansing themselves before entering homes after defecating and therefore bathe right after defecation. As the GP is on river-bank it people habituated to complete their natural call near by river. Women, however carry out other domestic activities such as washing clothes etc… before sunrise in addition to defecation and bathing.
Challenges

• The habitual defecation close to the river which is now a traditional practice has turned into a challenge in motivating the residents to stop defecating in open.
• Financial incapability of residents who engage in daily wage labour for income.
• On one hand, in summer the river bed dries and there is no access to a sufficient amount of water for both construction of toilets and also utilization.
• On the other, in the rainy season there is no sand available for the construction. The residents depend on sand of near by river and during rainy season sand not available, therefore, the construction is delayed.

To be noted:

It was also observed that due to low awareness on method of construction under SBM even among local body members, “septic tanks” are being constructed in place of “leech pits”.

This work against the purpose of a leech pit which is the reduction of time taken by the pit to fill

Despite these challenges, 20 households who are slightly well-off, procured material on their own and constructed toilets in the last year. Around 13 toilets are now in progress and around 40 need to begin construction.

Remote and poor villages such as Nadasandra need more hand-holding from Mandal and District level officials in order to avoid mistakes in construction. Proper awareness on sanitation, toilets and ways of using toilets is to be ensured to GP level officials who can support residents in achieving complete sanitations.

If necessary, support is made available to Nadasandra, the GP will soon emerge as SWACHH NADASANDRA.