India’s massive sanitation drive ‘Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)’ launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to fix by making sure every house in the country has a toilet of its own by 2019 and making India Open defecation Free (ODF). To achieve this dream government supporting technical, financial, motivation and behavioural change awareness campaigns. The progress regarding the construction is quite encouraging but the usage especially in rural areas it is much below the expectations. Now the toilet usage is a big challenge in rural areas to achieve the dream of ODF.

Kandulavari Palle Gram Panchayat (GP) includes three habitations, in that Naravaripalle is the native village of Andhra Pradesh C.M Sri. Nara. Chandra Babu Naidu Garu. Kandulavari Palle GP also faced more struggles to initiate the toilets construction process under SBM. For construction SHGs played a key role and declared as ODF. Building toilets does not mean that people will use them and there seems to be a host of cultural, social and personal ownership reasons. Once people need to be taught the value of sanitation then only they can feel individual responsibility and they can give preference for sanitation. Until then Sanitation achievement is just a dream.

“Construction we can, But what about usage?”

Learning’s from the GP:

- Total households: 160
- Population: 594
- Number of toilets constructed under SBM: 54
- SHGs role: Supported amount for toilet initiation
- Solid Waste Management- held up due to funds problem
- Toilets are using as living and store rooms
**SBM process Initiation:**

As a part of SBM, the District and Mandal level officials are targeted Kandulavari Palle GP also. Initial GP level meetings conducted and generated awareness on importance of sanitation. Immediately the GP team started baseline survey and found that 54 households not having toilets including three habitations in the GP. The GP team got the approvals from Mandal level team and started initiation process. In initial stage self motivation and self construction process happens, but most of the households are not interested to build the toilets due to lack of initial amount as well as old age people are giving preference for open defecation due to old habitual process. Almost 3-6 months the GP team continued motivation, in spite of that results are poor.

Finally the State and district teams are consider the ground level issues and suggested that use SHGs or VOs fund in initial stage and once after getting incentive fund please return to VO groups. For this mutual understanding the GP team agreed and distributed certain amount to beneficiaries. Apart from this Sarpanch also personally contributed his money and time for material procurement and other motivational activities to follow up the work.

Finally construction process completed and the district and Mandal level teams are motivated beneficiaries to use the toilet and declared as ODF. As per mutual understanding the beneficiaries are returning back the amount to VO groups. It was observed that toilets are constructed in good quality across the GP. But toilet usage is lagging much behind especially in Naravaripalle colony. In random observation out of 10 houses almost 6 houses are using toilets otherwise as living store rooms etc. The reasons behind the open defecation were observed that...

**Reasons for open defecation**

- The households are not having Pakka houses, due to that they are using as living or store rooms
- Toilet construction and sanitation they are feeling as government necessary and their program
- Households not feeling responsibility while in construction as well as usage
- Lack of awareness and motivation for marginalized communities

**Other constrains:**

- Solid waste management plant initiation was started long back and due to lack of funds process getting late
- Cultural habits and open place near to marginalized communities leading for open defecation
- Need to provide basic facilities better than toilet
- Need to generate ownership and awareness towards better sanitation practices

Planning is the key component to achieve the ODF goal. Kandulavari Palle arranged his own resources for toilets initiation and GP team supports is worked as a key factor. But when it comes on usage, the GP should need more concentration on toilet usage through generating awareness for marginalized communities. Once this should happens then only the GP can achieve the dream of complete sanitation.