Borgaon is a small GP of Kondagaon block of Kondagaon district which consists of two revenue villages i.e. Borgaon & Kariyakata, situated 17 km away from the district headquarter. Total population of the panchayat is 1183, which contains 248 households and 11 wards. The population is mostly dominated by tribal people. This is the only GP which has been declared ODF (Open Defecation Free) in the entire district.

A joint effort by the community, PRI members & government functionaries opened up opportunities for achieving the status on 24thJune’15 which demonstrates a collective action & sincere effort from all.

Achieving ODF status was a challenging task for the villagers, the initial response of the few community members were not encouraging but consistent effort by panchayat paid, in the end.

**Borgaon GP: An example for others in implementing SBM (G)**

The district administration selected this panchayat to implement under SBM (G) as they received good response from the PRI members.
Inspired by the Swachh Bharat Mission (G), the leader of the panchayat, Sarpanch played a key role to develop understanding among the Ward members (panch) about harmful effects of open defecation & requested all to take an active part in the change process. Within few days all other key stakeholders i.e. school teachers, AWWs, ASHAs, Secretary (Sachiv), Cluster Coordinator, Swachhata Doot, Prerak showed their keen interest by joining their hands together to make this initiative successful.

In the beginning, consciously a collective decision was taken to record all the activities by passing the resolution in the Gram Sabha to maintain transparency. To accelerate the process of Implementation a series of meeting were organised at different public gathering places & also door to door visit was made to sensitize the villagers.

**Behaviour Change: A step forward…**

As Panchayat was entrusted with the responsibility of implementation, on 5th April’15, Gram Sabha meeting was organised where all the community members participated under the chairmanship of Sarpanch. It was understood and observed by the government functionaries & PRI members that, to attain ODF status there is a need of change in the attitude & behaviour of the community members. In the meeting government functionaries from district & block related to sanitation were also present & they oriented the villagers on the harmful effect of open defecation. When panchayat felt that to achieve the status of ODF within a stipulated time, they took a decision & formed “NAVRATNA” on 08th April’15 who were engaged in generating mass awareness, initiated self-realization process & value of sanitation & hygiene in promoting healthy living, dignity & cleanliness among the community members. Along with NAVRATNA, Ward Members, Cluster Coordinator, PRERAK were also actively engaged with the community to discuss & share about the ill consequences of non-disposal of human excreta safely.

In the entire implementation process, the role of women in the community cannot be ignored, during the initial phase few showed their reluctance in involvement in the process but later on proactively they participated, even 12 SHG members took the training on Masonry which helped in expediting the process of toilet construction.

One of the SHG member says “We all are ordinary village women with no education, we were unaware of the impact of poor sanitation, when a series of meetings were held, we could understand & realize its importance –Now We all strongly believe that we are living a dignified life.”

The School teachers & FLWs especially AWWs have given their best possible effort in changing the attitude & behaviour of small children & students.

**Personal Initiative’s**

**Nakchidiram Koram** Panchayat Representative is a motivated volunteer who had taken the responsibility to generate awareness in his ward, says “Although it is difficult to change one’s behaviour which he/she is practising for so many years, but we made this possible by discussing with them about the issues”.

Indeed, Borgaon GP especially PRI members proved that through proper participatory planning, concerted effort, collective action & decision making involving all stakeholders turned dream into realities.