**Introduction**

Kodiya gram panchayat, is a part of Durg block situated in Durg district, Chattisgarh. It has achieved ODF status on 7th July 2015. The GP has taken various steps to attain ODF status, which if adopted can also help other GP’s attain ODF status.

Kodiya has a population of about 2000 people and 345 families. There were only 90 toilets were constructed, as per the given target. Kodiya is a well-planned village, with adequate facilities, a primary school, a public health centre and proper water resources.

After the construction of toilet it was realized that, only construction of toilets would not lead to ODF village. Thus the Sarpanch along with the other members of panchayat, called a Gram Sabha, in which it was decided that groups will be formed which would work to make the village Open Defecation Free.
**Steps taken by the GP to attain ODF status**

- The group divided the village into smaller clusters and each group was made responsible for a particular cluster. The groups went and counselled people and requested them to use their own toilet.

- Till the time the toilets were under construction, the Sarpanch made the panchayat’s, schools and AWW’s toilets open for all for a particular time.

- In order to motivate the community and groups the panchayat organized Plantation and Hand Washing Day were observed.

- The Panchayat also hired a mobile toilet, in order to reach the needs of the complete community. Thus leaving no space, for reason to go out.

- Nigrani Samiti played a vital role in counterchecking the open places used for Open Defecation. At morning and evening, the members of the Samiti used to stand at these area, as a result the people after seeing the Nigrani Samiti, returned and had to go and use their own or public toilet.

- The Panchayat also stopped issuing any type of cards, if the concerned person was defecating in open.

- The Collector of Durg is focusing on triggering of school students, by imparting training on behavioural change of the students. In school the name of students, not having toilets, should be avoided to be mentioned on the board as it may have bad impact on the innocent mind of the children.

- Last but not the least, the Village was fortunate to have a society of Gayatri Parivar. The Society also played a good role in making the GP ODF, by also opening its own toilet office toilet, for those who had none.

- The society is also playing a supportive role in Solid Liquid Waste Management. People dump their waste in the courtyard and the society supports the process of conversion into compost. This compost is used in growing medicinal plants for the villagers and also exported.

- Lok Shakti is the only NGO, working for the benefit of the village, in matters of WASH. Thus its support is remarkable as it keeps guiding the Sarpanch and the community on the technical know-how of toilet construction.

The GP was given the target to become ODF in April 2015 and it achieved ODF status on 7th July 2015, i.e. just 3 months.

To conclude, it is very important to have a proper plan with motivation of the community and various stakeholders involved is very important.