

Over 530 Swachhagrahis trained in ODF Plus in South 24 Parganas



Eager to transform its villages into clean and green communities, the district administration of South 24 Parganas in West Bengal has commenced training of Swachhagrahis (front line workers) and other SBM-G (Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen) functionaries working at district, block, Gram Panchayat levels as well as SHG leaders and youth club members.

The five-day residential training programme is in line with the capacity strengthening initiative launched by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Government of India; to ensure sustenance of open defecation free status and taking up ODF Plus agenda along with improved access to safe and secure water supply through the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Programme.

According to District Coordinator (SBM-G), Ms. Shatarupa Modak; other than theoretical sessions, training included visits to households, institutions and community spaces to assess ODF sustainability and ODF Plus measures that needed to be implemented. Demonstration of retrofitting and pit emptying was done. Participants also experienced real time triggering in communities for Solid and Liquid Resource Management (SLRM), including use of trigger tools and carried out follow up visits for SLRM. Counseling for ODF sustainability was another area covered during the training.

Training programmes conducted so far:

Sl.No	Dates	Block	Participants
1	23-27 December 2019	Kakdwip	28 (Self Help Group {SHG} members)
2	24-28 December 2019	Namkhana	56 (SHG members)
3	26-29 December 2019	Sagar	89 (76 SHG members and 13

			village resource persons {VRPs})
4	26 February to 1 March 2020	Mathurapur -I	48 (43 SHG members, 3 VRPs and 2 facilitators)
5	26 February to 1 March 2020	Mathurapur-II	53 (48 SHG members, 5 VRPs)
6	2-6 March 2020	Kultali	42 (SHG members)
7	2-6 March 2020	Joy Nagar - I	90 (27 SHG members, 21 ASHA workers, 10 Gram Panchayat staff, 32 VRPs)
8	2-6 March 2020	Joy Nagar - II	56 (19 SHG members, 31 VRPs, 6 facilitators)
9	2-6 March 2020	Gosaba	72 (61 SHG members, 11 VRPs)



While selecting participants, preference was given to those who had worked towards facilitating ODF status using community approaches. They were selected to represent various sub-division, blocks and GPs; so that the trained facilitators could be designated to cover the entire district.

Venue: The district administration had informed the management of the venue that waste had to be reduced at all cost. In this regard, plastic water bottles, plates, spoons, cups were not permitted.