

## Mukhiya Sonamuni Murmu is a difference maker



Women have been at the forefront of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) from its initial stages. That was because toilets to them meant safety, dignity, and well-being of their families. One such woman who was responsible for making her Gram Panchayat ODF was the Mukhiya of Narkera Gram Panchayat in Chas Block of Bokaro District in Jharkhand who was inspired to improve the lives of others and make a difference in her villages.

“I have always wanted to make certain that our villages have adequate water and sanitation facilities,” the Mukhiya who has taken a great many initiatives in the sector for over five years said.

The objectives of the SBM-G campaign caught her attention from the outset. Convinced of the importance of the programme, she strived hard to make her villages open defecation free (ODF), knowing that it would improve the lives of the community.

Once all the villages in her GP were declared ODF, she continued to motivate her community to always use their toilets and keep their surroundings clean and tidy. How else could the villages appear green and clean?

Having moved on to solid and liquid waste management (SLWM), with the support of the district coordinator – Mr. Goswami she now organizes awareness sessions on various aspects of SLWM. She has generated funds for a handwashing unit, pipeline water supply and more.

Having earned her respect, she is extremely popular among her people and the district administration. In fact, because of the success she has had in various SBM-G initiatives, she is

asked to share her experiences and best practices at workshops, trainings, and other meetings on sanitation, many a time. The Directorate of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin, Drinking Water and Sanitation Department-Jharkhand recently invited her to share her experience with officers at a State Level Workshop on SBM(G) Phase-II.

