

New lady Sarpanch inspires field functionaries



The newly elected Sarpanch of Jagannathapuram Gram Panchayat, Mrs. Saripalli Lakshmi Harshitha has commissioned Swachha Swagathi Development Society to effectively manage the solid waste of the GP, in a bid to make it clean and litter free.

The decision was taken at a recent Gram Sabha organised to deliberate on the issue of hygiene and sanitation and has the approval of entire community. It is certainly in keeping

with the Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam, a Government of Andhra Pradesh ODF programme that is currently underway across the state.

Situated in Mogalthur Mandal of West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh, the GP consists of 4 habitations, a population of 2346 and 458 households.

Soon after the elections, Mrs. Harshitha, an engineering graduated was bent upon improving the hygiene and sanitation in her village. Having studied the prevailing situation, she realised that with the limited manpower and financial resources, there was little hope of making Jagannathapuram a litter free and clean village.

Hence, she conducted several awareness meetings with SHGs, youth groups, shopkeepers, and households. After several rounds of discussion, she held a Grama Sabha where it was resolved to make Jagannathapuram a clean and green village by availing the services of Swachha Swagathi Development Society, an NGO that has been rendering services in solid waste management.

The Grama Sabha also resolved to collect Rs.100 per month per household as peoples' contribution and utilise that amount towards outsourcing fee to be paid to the NGO for a green vehicle, manpower and maintenance.

With the sum raised, not a single rupee was spent from either GP funds or 15 FC grant. The entire expenditure for the project is being met from peoples' contribution collected at the rate of Rs. 100 per family per month.

In addition, a committee under the chairmanship of Sarpanch was formed to work out the modalities and to work as a liaison mechanism between the GP and the outsourcing agency.

Under this model, the entire responsibility of door-to-door collection of segregated waste from all households in the GP (on alternate days), transportation to the solid waste processing centre (SWPC) shed, stacking of wet waste in NADEP troughs and dry waste in the respective troughs, engaging one driver, 2 workers, fuel, repairs, and maintenance lies solely with the agency.

The GP will pay monthly charges and supervise the activity. Field functionaries in the village are greatly inspired by the Sarpanch, a swachhata champion who is determined to get the job done.