

Swachhata committee monitors hygiene & sanitation in Aima GP of Himachal Pradesh



Community participation has been the hallmark of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) campaign in Sughar village of Aima Gram Panchayat in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh as in the rest of the country. To ensure ODF sustainability and supervise solid and liquid waste management activities to sustain their ODF Plus status, a Swachhata Committee consisting of senior citizens has been formed.

According to Ms. Varsha, IEC Consultant-SBM-G, one senior citizen from each of the 13 wards of the district were selected to form the Swachhata Committee. This committee along with other village leaders is responsible for generating awareness amongst the community on the importance and benefits of maintaining hygiene and cleanliness of their surroundings and the villages. They also coordinate with the government committees and mobilise the community to participate in weekly cleaning and sweeping of roads and public spaces.

Further, sign boards propagating messages on safe sanitation have been installed in all public spaces of the village.

Consisting of four revenue villages namely - Sughar I, Sughar II, Aima I and Aima II, Aima Gram Panchayat which is situated near Neugal Khadd has several tea gardens and individual household kitchen gardens. Lately, owing to the increasing movement of monkeys in the area, there has been a loss to agricultural crops.

Aima GP was declared open defecation free (ODF) in 2016, after constructing 6 IHHLs and 2 community sanitary complexes, and ODF Plus in 2018. In Phase II of SBM-G, both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste including plastic waste are collected door to door each day. While the kitchen waste is converted into compost, the plastic waste is shredded using bailing, shredding and extruder machines and thereafter recycled. Further, an incinerator has been installed for sanitary waste.

As far as greywater is concerned, 90 per cent of the households have individual soak pits, leaving no room for stagnant water or overflowing of greywater onto the village paths.

