

## Telangana's Pedharapally GP to transform into a model GP



Pedharapally Gram Panchayat (GP) will soon be transformed into a sustainable model village showcasing best practices that other villages across the District and State can replicate. It will be an ODF Plus village that will sustain its ODF status and have in place systems to effectively manage solid and liquid waste, leading to visual cleanliness of the village.

Situated in Hanwada Mandal of Mahabubnagar District in Telangana, the GP is one of the 70 GPs selected from 441 GPs of the District to be converted into a model GP with technical support from UNICEF.

The decision was taken following a preliminary village level assessment under the exercise 'GP grading', conducted across the entire district, by team Swachh Bharath Mission. The exercise was carried out to understand and identify the challenges at GP level with respect to 10 parameters and 39 sub-parameters pertaining to water and sanitation hygiene. This GP grading system helped in preparation of GP level action plans, crucial for carrying out future interventions. Of the 438 GPs that were graded, 45 were found to be average, 373 good and 20 excellent.

Pedharapally with a population of 2074 population spread across 465 households was chosen for the intervention of creating model GPs in Mahabubnagar District.

Community participation and involvement are key in planning for the creation of model ODF GPs. This was ensured by conducting a focused Gram Sabha involving the Sarpanch, Panchayat Secretary, ward members, youth, and households. During the village meeting, the issue of continuing Nigha committees or ODF monitoring committees that were formed to create ODF GPs and to strengthen Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) was discussed and finalised. The responsibility of sustaining open defecation free status and

waste segregation by households, and institutions was handed over to these two committees. It was also discussed, and a resolution passed to make the GP plastic free.

Infrastructure and behaviour communication are critical to ensuring that waste management is carried out at household level. Towards this, the GP distributed two bins to each household and conducted a door-to-door awareness campaign. This behaviour change campaign focused on segregation methods to collect dry and wet waste separately.



The GP also employed a team of sanitary workers to visit households for collection and transportation of the waste to solid waste management units where further segregation and processing takes place.

Similarly, to ensure liquid waste management, the GP formed teams to construct community soak pits at Panchayat level institutions such as panchayat building, schools and anganwadis; and Magic soak pits at the household level covering all the households. In addition, low-lying areas where water logging takes place were filled to ensure mosquito breeding is prevented.

As far as covid safety were concerned, with the consistent intervention of the GP members and selected volunteers, awareness, and distribution of masks and sanitizers and levy of fines for breaking COVID-19 protocols was done. The GP is now COVID-19 free and is on its way to achieving the status of a model ODF Plus village.

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