

Warangal Rural Sarpanch leads by example



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Not by words but by actions great things are achieved, it is said. This is truly applicable to the Sarpanch of Mariyapuram, Sri Allam Bali Reddy. Passionate about village development, he has given focus to personal hygiene, sanitation and solid and liquid waste management activities which have made the village visually clean.

A tiny village in Geesugonda Mandal of Warangal Rural District in Telangana, Mariyapuram has a population 760. The people are highly disciplined, follow the government programmes and enthusiastically try to develop them. Best of all, the people are united and elected the current sarpanch unanimously.

As a part of village maintenance, numerous saplings have been planted under Telanganaku Haritha Haram which is state government flagship programme to increase the green cover of the village. Every sapling has been protected with a tree guard and is watered regularly.

Having donated a tractor, a tanker, and a trailer worth about Rs.9.70 lakhs, the Sarpanch ensured that a segregation shed, and a well were constructed ahead of other neighboring villages. Given that the activities in the village were towards village development, the village became a role model and the Sarpanch an ideal village leader in the district.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the Sarpanch showed his mettle. Demonstrating visionary style of governance, he created awareness on covid safety protocols such as staying at home, using masks and sanitizers, washing hands frequently, and maintaining physical distance. Among the measures that he put in place were imposing a fine of Rs.500 for spitting; compulsory home quarantine for those found positive; and providing masks, rations, and medical kits to homes. They were so effective that the village remained safe, incurring no loss of life, even during the second wave.

He created a WhatsApp group called 'Mana vooru Mariyapuram' and personally visited homes to check on people, ensuring that they observed quarantine rules.

Lately, to encourage people to take the covid vaccine, he led by example and took the first vaccine and posted his picture on WhatsApp. Seeing this, others in the community followed suit. Starting from those above 60 years, he provided transportation for all people to go to the vaccination centre located in the Mandal headquarters.

So far, all eligible people have been vaccinated.

"One for all and all for one - the whole of Mariyapuram is my family," is the Sarpanch's philosophy in life, an adage that he applies to all his work that has brought about overall development to his village.

