

## **Panchayat leading the way in toilet construction in Chanpatiya Block of West Champaran, Bihar**

### **Introduction**

The current scenario in Bihar is a compelling case for large scale community engagement for sanitation improvement. It requires new reinvented community approach for seeking elimination of open defecation under the ongoing NBA / SBM program. The new approach needs to create sanitation demands for better utilization of NBA funds by migrating to next step on the sanitation ladder.

Many community wide sanitation approaches emerged during the last decade. Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is among one of the approach tested on large scale in different settings with impressive initial success. Evidence is emerging that CLTS is an effective approach to improve hygiene and sanitation behaviors where large scale open defecation is in practice. Till date CLTS facilitation techniques have not been employed in Bihar. In this context, CLTS can be an empowering approach in Bihar to seek open defecation free communities, improving the usage of constructed toilets and creating demand for sanitation under ongoing NBA.

Overall purpose of introducing CLTS in the state is to demonstrate a functional and replicable model of the community led approach for hygiene & sanitation promotion. However the more specific purposes are:

- Evidence generation for BSWSM for state wide scale up of the approach for open defecation free communities.
- Capacity & confidence building of DWSCs for using the CLTS approach in the district.
- Facilitate institutional learning and internalization by PHED.
- Enhance sanitation uptake and adoption of safe hygiene practice in rural Bihar.

### **Objective**

The specific objectives of CLTS piloting in the identified blocks are:

- i. Conduct Rapid Situational Assessment (RSA) in the identified block/district.
- ii. Facilitate district level action planning for CLTS intervention.
- iii. Extend technical support for environment & capacity building at the district/block level.
- iv. Provide hand holding & mentoring support to identified block for making the block ODF using CLTS intervention.
- v. Facilitate promotion of WASH facilities in all schools & anganwadis in the block.
- vi. Strengthen the supply chain mechanism in the identified block.

- vii. Establish & operationalize multi level participatory monitoring mechanism in the identified block.
- viii. Adequate and timely documentation and reporting of the CLTS intervention in the district/block.

## Process

We met the Executive Engineer (PHED), Deputy Development Commissioner & District Magistrate to familiarize them about our DFID SWASTH Project & CLTS approach (Community Led Total Sanitation). Initially we wanted to organize a one day orientation workshop for all district official so they get familiarized with CLTS Concept. When we shared our district level orientation workshop proposal with District Magistrate, W. Champaran, he has flatly refused. He told us to make 2–3 Panchayat ODF (Open Defecation free) using CLTS within three months. It was a big challenge for us. After that we started making a liasioning with DWSC (District Water and Sanitation Committee), West Champaran regarding support. DWSC W. Champaran was not in favour of CLTS because it is community oriented & Incentive less so DWSC has not shown his benefit. We tried to involve DWSC (EE & DDC) on the concept of CLTS, its process i.e. triggering, community participation, motivation and dedication to construct the toilet but he has shown least interest. Initially we initiated triggering activities in 5 Panchayats, but in Lakhora Panchayat, the Mukhiya gave us a ray of hope. He took an oath to make his Panchayat Open defecation free in a month without any incentive from the DWSC.

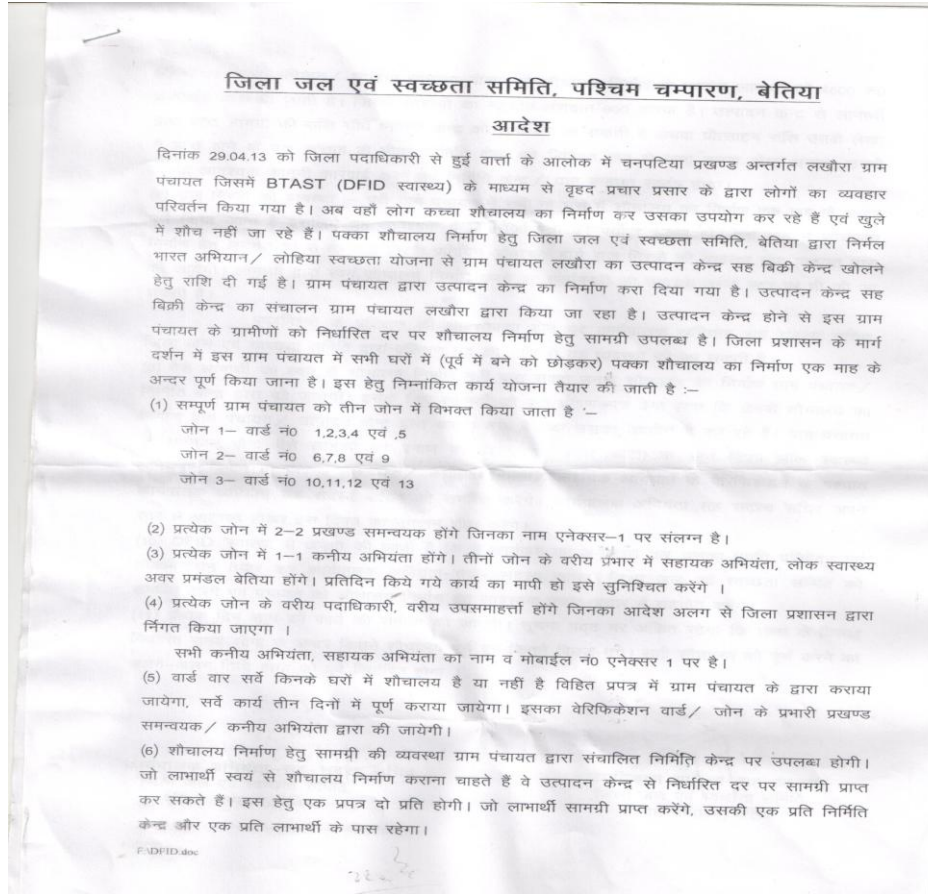
We began to work with the villagers to change behavior. Our tools were basic social emotions: disgust, shame and pride. First the villagers were asked to draw a map of the village and to point out where each householder went to defecate. The amount of excrement lying around was totaled up, and as always it added up to metric tons. And then the realization came: flies fly from this excrement to food, and everyone was eating poop. As long as one family continued to defecate outside, everyone could be contaminated. Such disgust and the shame are the triggers. Although villagers defecated outside since time immemorial, toilets began to be built. Some were just dry pits with a simple grass superstructure, but it was still a beginning.

The Sarpanch, Mukhiya —village leader—leads around the village with great pride. He has made village monitoring team, young lads who get up daily at 3:30 A.M. to patrol the streets for open defecators and try to persuade them verbally: "It's easy to build a toilet, so why don't you? You are spending more on medical bills than a toilet would cost." In other villages children do this patrolling; banging pans when they find a defecator, or giving them shame garlands of leaves. The methods differ but the truth they are based on does not: Open defecation is a community sin.

Within three months, 95 per cent of households had Kachha toilets which kept the environs clean and fly-free. The Panchayat then called an '*Aam Sabha*' and declared their Panchayat open defecation free. At our request, the District Magistrate, W. Champaran visited Lakhora Panchayat three times and become very happy to see the community

mobilization efforts & the dedication of the people about their health, environment & Sanitation. He has appreciated our efforts and instructed the DWSC to construct Pucca toilets within one month under NBA by PRIs. Initially Lakhora Mukhiya was given Rs 2.5 Lakh to make Production centre but later that was increased to Rs 7.5 lakh. He then constituted a monitoring team with our help.

(Letter is attached).



(7) निर्मल भारत अभियान/ लोहिया स्वच्छता योजना से शौचालय निर्माण के पश्चात लाभार्थी को 4600 रू0 प्रोत्साहन राशि दी जाती है। जिसमें लाभार्थी का न्यूनतम अंशदान 900 रूपया है। उत्पादन केन्द्र से लाभार्थी द्वारा प्राप्त सामग्री की राशि सीधे निर्मिति केन्द्र को जमा की जा सकती है अथवा प्रोत्साहन राशि उनके लेखा में प्राप्त होने के एक सप्ताह के भीतर निर्मिति केन्द्र को निश्चित रूप से जमा करना होगा अन्यथा उनके विरुद्ध आवश्यक कानूनी कार्रवाई करने हेतु निर्मिति केन्द्र/ ग्राम पंचायत स्वतंत्र होगा।

(8) राज मिस्त्री की व्यवस्था :- पूरी ग्राम पंचायत में सभी के घरों में शौचालय का निर्माण एक माह के अन्दर पूर्ण किया जाना है इसलिये यह आवश्यक है कि राजमिस्त्री की पर्याप्त संख्या हो। एक माह में शौचालय निर्माण हेतु लगभग 50 से 60 राज मिस्त्री प्रतिदिन आवश्यक होंगे राज मिस्त्री की व्यवस्था ग्राम पंचायत द्वारा की जायेगी। लाभार्थी द्वारा स्वयं शौचालय निर्माण करने पर राजमिस्त्री की व्यवस्था उनके स्तर पर भी की जा सकती है।

राजमिस्त्री के प्रशिक्षण की आवश्यकता होने पर कार्यपालक अभियंता सह सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति द्वारा प्रशिक्षण मद की राशि से यह व्यवस्था की जा सकती है।

(9) जैसे लाभार्थी जो स्वयं से शौचालय निर्माण नहीं करा सकते उनके शौचालय का निर्माण ग्राम पंचायत/ निर्मिति केन्द्र द्वारा की जायेगी। इसके लिए लाभार्थी को एक प्रमाण-पत्र देना होगा कि उनके शौचालय का निर्माण ग्राम पंचायत/ उत्पादन केन्द्र द्वारा कराया गया है तथा उसका उपयोग वे कर रहे हैं। ग्राम पंचायत / उत्पादन केन्द्र जैसे लाभार्थी का प्रमाण पत्र (शौचालय सहित फोटो) के साथ विपत्र लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग के प्रखण्ड सन्न्चयक/ कनीय अभियंता/ सहायक अभियंता के वैरिफिकेशन के पश्चात कार्यपालक अभियंता सह सदस्य सचिव को समर्पित करेंगे। कार्यपालक अभियंता सह सदस्य सचिव अपने स्तर से आवस्त होकर इस विपत्र का भुगतान शीघ्र करेंगे।

(10) DFID 'स्वास्थ्य' से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे कार्यक्रम का अनुश्रवण कर उसका प्रगति प्रतिवेदन एवं डोकुमेन्टेशन तैयार कर कार्यपालक अभियंता-सह- सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति को समर्पित करेंगे एवं पंचायत को शौचालय निर्माण हेतु आवश्यक प्रचार-प्रसार में सहयोग करेंगे।

(11) प्रत्येक दिन शाम को कार्य की समीक्षा की जाएगी। सूचना पट्ट पर अंकित रहेगा कि लक्ष्य के विरुद्ध निर्धारित समय सीमा के अन्दर कितने शौचालय पूर्ण हुए कितने पिछड़ गये। सभी शौचालय को पूर्ण करने का अलग-अलग तिथि होगा जो पूर्व निर्धारित होगा।

कार्यपालक अभियंता-सह-सदस्य सचिव,  
जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति,  
पश्चिम चम्पारण, बेतिया

उपविकास आयुक्त-सह-अध्यक्ष,  
जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति,  
पश्चिम चम्पारण, बेतिया।

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Presently 95 per cent Pucca toilets have been constructed by PRIs with the help of beneficiaries and all of them are being used. Based on this model, 8 Panchayats (Lakhora, South Gogha and Musarai senwaria, Bankat puraina, Chargaha, Baisai pokhariya, Paschim turhapatti and Sirisia) of Chanpatiya Block are now Open defecation Free.

Minister of Public Health & Engineering Department, District Administration & DWSC – West Champaran regularly visit Chanpatiya Block and with the help of BTAST (A DFID Project) in a bid to make West Champaran district Open defecation free.

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