

First Demo Latrine Construction

Rural Support Programmes Network's social mobilizers visited the village of Panjatha UC Kryala on July 31st 2015 to introduce the Diarrhea Prevent and Control Project. The social mobilizers' motivated the community to form a village health and hygiene committee (VHHC). After reaching an agreement, the community members formed an 18 member committee named as Jazba Welfare Society. On their visit, the social mobilization team briefed the committee on the CLTS approach to achieve the



status of an Open Defecation Free (ODF) village. Mr. Muhammad Yaseen, a member of the VHHC, took a keen interest in the efforts being made by the committee. During these meetings, the unhygienic conditions caused by open defecation were also discussed.

The approaches employed are based on the understanding that some households within the community do not have latrines because they are unable to afford them and due to the absence of low cost latrine options. It was imperative to demonstrate to the community how they could construct low cost latrines in the community to bring an end to the practice of open defecation. The VHHC took the initiative to raise funds for households who could not afford the construction of a latrine.

Before the meeting with the RSPN team, Mr. Yaseen was not aware of the problems the entire village was facing because of open defecation and unhygienic conditions. Mr. Yaseen, along with 13 other members of his family, was living in a small two bedroom house made of mud without any latrines. They used to defecate openly. As part of the project intervention, awareness sessions were held regarding the importance of latrines. However, many households were unable to afford the construction of a latrine.



The Village Health & Hygiene Committee (VHHC) collected data regarding sanitation, water and hygiene from the village. It was reported that 5 households were without latrines. Considering the vulnerability of the households, Mr. Yaseen was on the top of the priority list to be provided with a demo latrine under the project. All the processes were done through the

VHHC in order to ensure transparency and accountability at all levels. To date, the VHHC has collected Rs. 1400 and is still raising funds to provide to other households on a self-help basis. The VHHC is expecting more funds during the rice harvesting seasons to provide relief to other marginalized families of the village.

In the light of the VHHC resolution, the demo latrine construction was completed under the supervision of the VHHC during September 2015. The construction was completed by the masons duly trained as part of the project on “low cost latrine options”.

It was also noticed by the VHHC members that the family of Mr. Yaseen needed a protective boundary wall around the house. The VHHC collected the necessary funds and provided support for the construction of a boundary wall around the premises. As a result of project interventions, the family is using latrines and avoiding Open Defecation (OD) resulting in a healthier and disease-free environment.