

Total Sanitation Development of the Community

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| Watershed Name | : Pappampatti |
| Villages under covered | : Pappampatti, Kalangal, Appanaickenpatti pudur and Peedampalli |
| Block | : Kalangal and Sultanpet |
| District | : Coimbatore |
| No of Beneficiary | : 130Nos |
| No of toilet constructed | : 130Nos |
| No of awareness training programs: 18Nos | |
| Duration | : FY2020-21 |
| Contribution collection | : Physically / Financially |
| Beneficiary identification | : Baseline survey with approval of VWC |

Before Intervention:

The 4 project villages in Kalangal and Sultanpet block were selected for improving the sanitation facilities of the villagers and to address their requirements. Due to severe water scarcity in the villages, people used to defecate in open fields and along the roads to avoid using the toilets due to lack of water in the areas. The literacy rate in the project villages was also low and estimated at only 30%, due to which there was very low awareness on the ill effects of poor sanitation and hygiene practices within those villages. Most of the people living in the project villages are economically backward and mostly depend on agriculture as their primary source of income, in addition to daily wage labour as a meager addition to their household income. This poor financial status discouraged many from giving priority to constructing a toilet for their families due to other priority family expenditure. This situation posed a real challenge for women and young girls in the villages as they faced the most embarrassment and difficulty accessing the open areas dictated by time and social norms. Many young girls and even women faced health issues due to improper access to safe hygiene and toilets.

Even though the Villages had a common toilet, it was in a dilapidated condition and not very safe for usage. In addition to the common toilet being poorly maintained, it barely was sufficient to cater to the large community.

It was with this background that L&T together with National Agro Foundation decided to intervene and help to promote total sanitation by constructing Individual household toilets and educating the community through various trainings and awareness drives on the importance of sanitation, hygiene and the ill effects of open defecation on the community and the environment.

Proposed Interventions:

In order to alleviate the felt needs of the community across the 4 project villages, NAF had proposed the following interventions to address the lack of water scarcity and total sanitation.

- Soil and water conservation activities
- Construction of Individual household toilets
- Awareness training program for the community on importance of sanitation and its environmental impacts, ill impact of poor sanitation, women health and hygiene, disease caused due to open defecation and individual social responsibility and maintenance of newly constructed toilets.

After Intervention:

The scenario of the villages began to change in a positive manner after the implementation of the above mentioned interventions, with cooperation from the local panchayat and villagers, they now have new sanitation facilities, which are being maintained by the community and there is a palpable increase in awareness on hygiene and sanitation in the area.

Through various NRM initiatives, the ground water table has been restored to a healthy level, proving water even in dried up tube wells and community pumps, making water available for not just household consumption, but for sanitation as well.

The villagers are not more aware of the ill effects of open defecation and communicable diseases due the same. They actively participated in various trainings organized by L&T and NAF and were able to gain knowledge on safe and hygienic practices to be followed.

130 households benefitted from construction of individual household toilets in the past year and have also received training on proper toilet hygiene and maintenance. They were also given hygiene and sanitary kits for toilet maintenance.

The common toilets in the villages have been renovated and become fully functional with availability of water and the upkeep and maintenance being undertaken by the local community through the VWC. These toilets are largely benefitting the poorer population,

who are landless labourers and migrants who are on rental properties with no toilet facilities in the villages.

The local community has realized the value of this initiative and has whole heartedly supported the initiative by L&T and NAF for promoting Total Sanitation in the area by contributing a total of 8.5 lakh for Papamppatti watershed. Each member contributed both physically through labour and financially for the cause.

Feedback from Beneficiaries:

- The entire community places on record their sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to L&T and NAF for their tireless efforts in bringing total sanitation program to their village and striving to make it open defecation free.
- The women and girl children in the villages are especially grateful for the construction of household toilets, as their difficult and challenging days of accessing the open areas are now over. They can now access their own toilets, maintain proper hygiene and privacy and feel safe within their houses itself. This is a big blessing for the elderly population, who used to find it difficult to walk long distances in the wee hours for some privacy, they too are grateful for the household toilet
- The entire village community have come together to pledge against open defecation and promise to maintain clean sanitation and hygiene of their communities. They are very grateful to L&T and National Agro Foundation for their wonderful service and dedication towards making their community open defecation free.



