

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

People must change their age-old habit of open defecation and start using toilets. Proper sanitation facilities and clean drinking water are absolutely necessary for leading a healthy life and improving the quality of life of those living in remote areas.



Hon'ble Minister, Sri Biswabhusan Harichandan addressing the gathering at Malkangiri

Addressing the volunteers of the SHGs, NGOs, members of PRIs and officers at Malkangiri on 19th June morning, Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development, Sri Biswabhusan Harichandan laid

emphasis on raising people's awareness on health and hygiene.

emphasizing the need for better sanitation and clean drinking water.

In the afternoon, a meeting was organized at Nawarangpur, where the Minister also dwelt upon the

task of generating people's awareness on health hazards associated with open defecation. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Orissa Legislative



Participation

Assembly, Sri Prahallad Dora, the local MP, MLAs and the Member Secretary of the State Water & Sanitation Mission also spoke on both the occasions.

AFTERWORD

In the past few months, there has been a perceptible increase in people's interest in matters relating to sanitation, which is reflected in the number of toilets set up in households and school premises. The construction of toilets is not an end in itself; it is important that people have felt the need for these facilities for leading a healthy and dignified life. They are beginning to realize that sanitation is not a matter of luxury; it is a necessity.

Behavioral change, the change that involves a whole community, is possible by raising people's awareness through intense mass campaigns. Such campaigns formed a part of the constructive programmes taken up during our freedom movement. In 1934, when Rama Devi and Gopabandhu Choudhuri chose Bari as the center of their activities, the first task volunteers took up was digging pits for latrines. Not only did they use and maintain these latrines, they also persuaded people to give up the practice of open defecation. They had realized the truth that freedom becomes meaningful only when people are freed from their bondage to unhealthy habits and unclean practices. Unfortunately, almost half a century after India won independence, the situation in our countryside had not improved considerably.

However, the situation has steadily improved since the Total Sanitation Campaign was launched in our State. Hope, with the active involvement of all concerned, we shall soon create a healthy environment in our countryside by curbing the menace of open defecation.

Aurobindo Behera
(Aurobindo Behera)
Member Secretary, SWSM



"Missiles and motorcades cannot confer prestige on nations without taps and toilets."

Sir Richard Jolly

