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Volunteer shows the path of hygiene to villagers

Correspondent

Villages in Laxmipur block were affected with diarrhoea sometime back

Bighneswar helped the villagers in cleaning their village

Health posts were organised to treat the villagers

KORAPUT: The entire village was waiting for their Liaful alias Bighneswar Bhatra for they had invited him to attend the village function at Marichamala in Laxmipur block of Koraput district today. He was not from this village nor was born to any one related to any of the villagers here. But he was the most sought-after person among everyone in the village. He is Liaful (a person who keeps on smiling) for the children and for the elders he is Lichu (a visitor who transforms the house).

And yes, he has been reason for a major transformation in the village that might have taken years with the normal and traditional practices and procedures. It was a perfect example to reaffirm one's faith on bringing change with one's commitment, Sanjit Pattnaik, Secretary of SOVA, an NGO from Koraput said.

Now the village looks clean, waste material from each household are collected and thrown in a pit dug outside the village. But it was not so, before Lichu came to this village, Krushna Nayak, a villager said.

The villagers started giving preference to sanitation a few weeks back when the entire Laxmipur block was under the effect of diarrhoea, he added.

Even though the village was just five kilometers away from the health camp no one visited the camp till Bighneswar arrived.

Tough job

It was not easy to convince the villagers to keep away with pigs and dirt that gathered in front of their houses.

However, due to the commitment of health volunteers to make the difference, led towards the desired transformation.

Ignoring all the odds and unhealthy atmosphere prevailing in the village he dared to stay in the village community centre, conducted regular meetings with the people to draw the importance of living in healthy atmosphere.

The first time he cleaned the village created a sensation and many hands contributed to clean up the village roads and streets. Thanks to the way he was involved in renovating the village. Drains were cleaned , pits were dug , waste materials were disposed off and people affected with diarrhoea were shifted to the health camp at Charada , Mucha and Nayak.

Good news

Fourteen persons were sent to the health camp for the treatment during his 10-day stay and not a single person had died of diarrhoea in the village because of his timely intervention, proud Bighneswar added.

While complementing the efforts made by the volunteers like Bighneswar, Sanjit Patttnaik said that a series of measures were taken in the areas affected with diarrhoea in Dasmantpur and Laxmipur blocks with the support from Save the Children.

Mobile health camps, known as health post were organized in all affected villages. The nearby villages were covered by the volunteers and health workers for involving themselves in identification and referring the patients to the nearby health post.

The teams were also collaborating with the Health Department for the referral and treatment of the people, he added. Further all the affected villages were sterilized by the health team and community with bleaching power.

However the real joy had come to the organization when people carried the message of cleanliness into their own lives, he added.