

## **CASE STUDY:** **COMMUNITY RESPECTED and VALUED DRY WASTE CENTER**

We can see, waste is generally seen as a nuisance and neglected, it is commendable to respect and value the waste and take it as a part of our daily lives.

Earlier in Bannihatti G.P., waste management was difficult due to lack of proper system for waste storage unit. There was a lack of funds for the construction of a waste storage unit, and there was only one way to make an ad hoc arrangement. When it was discussed in the GP, it was found that the old school building was vacant behind the current Government school in Bannihatti village. When the vacant building was planned to be used for waste storage unit, there was some debate started.



How to keep waste in the middle of the village? That also near school, houses & temple? Doesn't it smell? Does not affect health? Such questions raised in the discussion. This was explained in a very understandable way by Saahas to the gathering that Only dry waste is being collected in the GP and no bad smell comes from its storage. Hence no health effects. Also, it was made clear that there is no other option for storage except this space.



The explanation went well and result of that, GP took responsible for convincing the villagers if they object to this. Also asked the SHG to be part of this convincing. As expected, later, some villagers rebelled on keeping the waste in the middle of the village. GP accompanied with SHG and some residents and explained the importance

of waste management and its storage without any problems. Also explained the situation of lack of storage issue. Later, the people who rebelled, also understand the situation, and convinced.



Apart from all these, despite having a temple, school, and residences around the storage place, which is religiously and emotionally connected, it is commendable that the community valued the waste by agreeing to give space in their daily life and rituals. As it was a very sensitive process, where could have created different clashes, GP handled it meticulously. Also, the efforts of the self-help group in convincing their own members and community people, are truly amazing.