

## The Tale of Swachhata Balveer

Teaching kids about good sanitation is a perfect starting point to putting the power of a clean society into their hands. In fulfilling the dream of making Jashpur an ODF District, children were made an integral part of the School Led Total Sanitation Campaign. The District administration wanted to work in every possible way to address the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by people who lack access to toilets and sanitation.

The selected team of children are a vibrant enthusiastic group locally known as '*ChhauwaToli*' and have been doing amazing contribution in spreading awareness about cleanliness and hygiene among the villagers. Their efforts motivated many people to adopt healthy and hygienic practices. Many of these kids were felicitated as '*Swachhata Balveer*' by the district administration for their motivation to others to build toilets. A few of these stories of the Swachhata Balveer have been given here:

- a) Two brothers who happen to be students of Primary School Garighat, Sameer Paikra and Ritesh Paikra were successful in convincing their parents that having a toilet constructed in their home will give them two more hours to study. This encouraged their parents to build a toilet at their home and thus the practice of open defecation came to an end.
- b) Khushbu Tirki, Madhuri Tirki and Nancy Tirki, three sibling sisters, and students of Makdibandha Primary School, went on a hunger strike persuading their parents to get a toilet constructed in their home with immediate effect. Finally their parents agreed and the work started and now they have a toilet built in their home.
- c) Anjali Nayak, a student of Primary School of Sarudih, was a very brilliant student and always secured first position in her class. Anjali was determined that she will be first even in cleanliness, and so started convincing her parents and soon enough, got a toilet made at her place. She also motivated neighbours to have toilets constructed in their homes, and very soon, with Anjali's motivation and follow up, many people have toilets at their homes.

