

## Swatch Bharat Programme for Thiruvallur District

The Prime Minister's Swatch Bharath Programme emphasises on making India an open defecation free country. The Tamilnadu Chief Minister has announced to achieve this goal by 2015 to make Tamilnadu an open defecation free state.

Accordingly, a one-day training programme was conducted at Thiruvallur district for Panchayat officials of Thiruvallur District on Solid and Liquid Waste Management as part of Prime Minister's Swatch Bharath Programme on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014. It was organized by the District Rural Development Agency, Thiruvallur District at Hotel Akshaya Bhavan, Thiruvallur.

The training programme was inaugurated by the District Collector Thiru.K.Veeraragha Rao, IAS followed by the introduction and briefing by the Project Director of DRDA, Mr. S.S. Kumar. The training was conducted by the Managing Trustee, Ms. Mangalam Balasubramanian.





The participants were drawn from the 37 village panchayats of the Thiruvallur district. The participants were Panchayat leaders, Vice Presidents, Hygiene coordinators, Panchayat Secretaries, Block Development Officers, Block Development Coordinators of the 37 Villages of the district.

Open defecation is inter-related with Solid and Liquid waste management. In order to achieve open defecation free status, Solid waste and liquid waste has to be managed properly. The training programme focused on the effects of open defecation, objectives of the Solid and Liquid Waste management strategies to be adopted in the village panchayats, activities to achieve the strategies. Practical solutions for many waste management issues were suggested during the training. A detailed guideline has been provided by the DRDA, which the village panchayats have to implement in their respective villages.

**The training programme was a very interactive one eliciting active participation from the participants. The participants reached a commitment saying that they would start the programmes in their panchayats soon after the release of funds from the DRDA. The next training programme from the DRDA will be conducted for the Hygiene animators.**