



Voices that matter!

Shelter Associates has been implementing its 'One Home One Toilet' project in the settlement of Awachit Nagar in Kolhapur for over a year. Having facilitated household toilets to over 270 families here, its impact has penetrated deep.

Ms. Chaya Pawar, the councillor along with other political representatives have been extremely happy about SA's work and the inclusion of the community in the process. The elected representatives have shown keen interest and sped up the processes of drainage network laying and connections of toilets to drainage lines on priority basis.

Simultaneously, the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has also picked up pace in this settlement where beneficiaries receive 2 instalments to get their toilets constructed. It was observed that few families failed to receive the entire amount of the instalment and they availed loans to get their toilets built. Also the funds allocated through SBM have proven to be insufficient due to additional costs that need to be borne in cases where drainage lines are absent and septic tanks need to be built to which toilets are connected.

While contrary to this, some families also seemed to abuse funds received and spent them on other urgent needs. Hence families have expressed their dissatisfaction over this.

Whilst the SA model was also being implemented around the same time here, beneficiaries witnessed the change in our approach and found SA's model more flexible, convenient and speedier.

What came as a delightful surprise was that around 19 SBM beneficiaries expressed their desire to surrender their SBM instalments and instead sign for SA's OHOT model.

Their key reactions were as follows:

1. Under SBM they would receive only a smaller amount as the first instalment which would not suffice and they would have to spend from their pocket additionally after which there was no guarantee whether they would get their 2nd instalment immediately.
2. There are chances that on receiving money in the bank, if something urgent arises, the money is spent towards addressing that issue whereas in SA's model, as materials are delivered at the door step, families end up constructing the toilet at a faster pace on priority.
3. Some said the materials given by SA would be extra and hence that also allowed them to construct a pucca wall in cases where houses had tin sheets as walls.

Such evidence based data has led to a rise in the outreach of SA's model and we wish to reach out to more vulnerable communities with this scalable, sustainable, cost sharing and holistic OHOT model.

