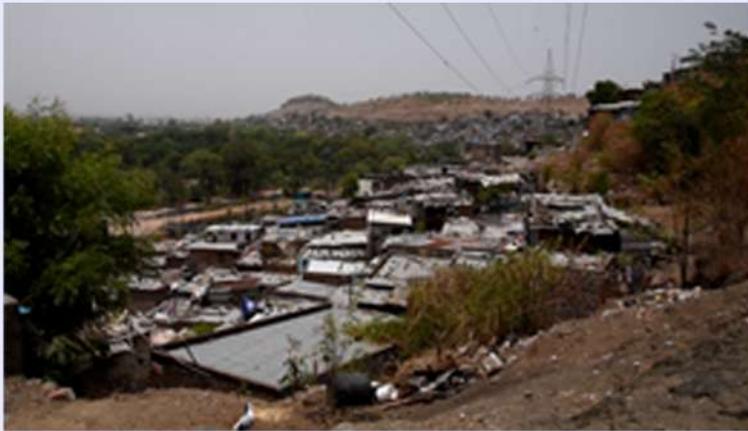




Janata Vasahat-sprawling across the hills of Parvati

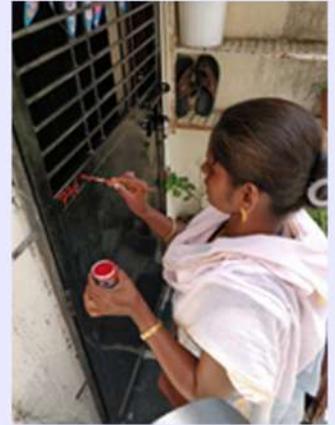
Shelter Associates has conducted around (RIM and RHS number). With the advent of the SBM model in 2014 PCMC adopted both models of SBM and SA and excelled putting them to use. SAs OHOT model was put to use a lot under PCMC and eventually SA decided to bridge the gap that existed between PCMC and PMC in the rate of work progress and Janata Vashat, the largest urban slum of Pune was tapped into e v e n t u a l l y .

Janata Vashat, Pune's Dharavi comprises around 9,500 hutments, which accommodates about 47,500 people in a 60-acre area making it Pune's one of the largest urban slums. It is seen that every year, one Janata Vashat is added to the city. It is hard to believe, but around about 48,000 poor migrants enter our city annually, making the city's slum population unmanageable. The density in the slums is about six times more than the normal density of the city.



View of Janata vasahat slum

Lead by a group of 8 members from Shelter Associates and 4 volunteers the first step taken up according to SA's 3 key components put to use in the OHOT Model, i.e. using GIS for the slum surveys. GIS is useful for mapping the location of the slum in relation to the city as a whole. The map shows the location of slum settlement across the urban area, in a form which can be easily updated and manipulated. Followed by this, RHS i.e. Rapid Household Survey on Janata Vashat was carried out. The houses were numbered and house to house survey was conducted. Till now survey of 5873 houses have been conducted. Members of SA went to each household to gather basic information through RHS.



Process of numbering the households

Shelter Associate aims to deal with all these issues efficiently but they too face certain barriers that are difficult to cross or overcome such as- topography, economical conditions, solid waste management issues, etc. Topography being one of the major issues, Janata Vashat is situated on the slope of Parvati Hills making the terrain rough and pretty steep. This leads to increased labor charges for commutation of construction materials which often discourages the members of the families to opt for the construction of the same. The by lanes that run throughout the slum are 'S' shaped making it difficult to construct drainage lines.



Rapid Household Survey (RHS) being conducted

Slur and sewage often get clogged resulting in increased maintenance that cannot be borne by the Ngo's or the residents. Some households often have financial issues. Solid waste management also is a huge trouble- push carts cannot be pushed up the steep uneven by lanes, but to deal with this dustbins have been set up in every by lane where each household dumps their dry and wet waste.

Another huge and the most prominent barrier that Shelter Associate faces is gaining the trust of the residents. Being hoaxed through the SBMs contractor and installment model they are not ready to trust the SAs model so readily. Most households who opted for the SBM model under the contractor were highly disappointed by their work.

Madhuri Ragunath Kolge and her family has been a victim to the contractor's SBM Model. She says that "the contractors took only a day to construct the toilet but the work was much below our satisfactory level. The contractor has used cheap materials for the construction and the toilets have been left incomplete rendering them useless. We are 15 members in a family and were initially promised 3 well built toilets but now we just have 1 that we all use and the contractors are not even completing the incomplete work. One of the toilets that the contractor has built is not even connected to the drainage line, the flooring was made of cheap tiles making it difficult walk on them. Now we will have to repair the previously made toilets." Several other families like that of Madhuri have the same problem and are not financially that well equipped to carry out the repairs or construction and hence most of the toilets now stand there as a mere store houses.



Madhuri's HH toilet now being used as a store room

Under SBM Model the contractors admittedly worked to complete the construction quickly but compromised on the quality of the material and construction and seldom took the responsibility for connecting the toilets to the drainage networks. On the other end even though in the installment model the beneficiaries had the liberty to design their own toilets and choose materials and fixtures according to their likes and capacities, it was often a time consuming process. It was often seen that the first installment was released on time while the PCMC stalled the second installment leading to financial overload for the beneficiaries with a significant percent having to resort to their own savings to cover the cost and complete the work that was left incomplete. As under the contractor model another problem too arises - the contractors often complain that the amount paid is insufficient as the cost of cartage and storage of materials, the cost of escalations, etc, are not considered into the basic unit cost of toilets (i.e. Rs.16 000/unit). Hence due to inadequate supervision, the contractor is often seen to cut costs and compromise on the quality of the material and construction.

While the SBM Model seemed to have more glitches than perfection, the OHOT Model by Shelter Associates seems to fill up and come up with a solution to all the faults in the SBM Model. The construction process is quick taking less than 15 days to complete the construction work along with that SA provides constant on-site support and supervision. Before construction of the toilets start SA makes sure of the existence of functional drainage system and if there are some households that are not connected to the drainage lines SA mobilizes the PMC to construct or upgrade the sewer lines. Moreover the cost involved in the process of construction of toilets under the OHOT model is only Rs 5,000 as the beneficiaries have to bear nothing more than the labor charges.

Even though majority of the households have their own toilets which they either built themselves or adopted the SBM Model there exists still a certain portion of families who use community toilets and also engage in open defecation. Many of these individuals voiced their concerns and issues for not constructing a toilet in their house like, small area of the house, tenant issues, financial problems, drainage system issues, lack of willingness, satisfaction with the community toilets, cultural issues, fear of bad smell, etc. People who live as tenants to avoid tenant owner clashes have not mentioned to their owners their eagerness of constructing a toilet inside the house or live in very small houses due to which construction of toilet in the house is a major challenge and some live so close to the community toilets that they don't find the need or understand the importance of having their own private toilets. "The community toilet is just behind my house, and anyways my house is so small and I already have 6 people living, eating and sleeping, there is no place to even build a toilet. We pay Rs.30 per month and use the community toilet that is kept clean by a care-taker," said one of the residents of Janata Vashat. Vijaya Vijay Vare expressed her concern for her young daughters who still use the community toilets as they live as tenants and the owners have not yet stirred the topic or made an attempt to construct a toilet in their house. "The community toilets are on the other side of the road, my husband and I we leave for work and come back in the evening, my heart always pounds at the thought of leaving the children alone in the house and them crossing the roads alone every time they need to use the toilet. At night also be it 12:00 am or 2:30 am either me or my husband has to go with the children to the community toilets, we cannot leave our children alone at night, it's not safe."



One of the CTBs of Janata vasahat



Slum aerial view

A survey that was started on 16th April, 2018 on the largest slum of Pune by Shelter Associates aims to complete the entire process by 31st April, 2018 and to also add Janata Vashat in their line of success stories by bringing in elements of innovation and planning that could strengthen the implementation and enhance the efficiency of SBM.

