



A holistic Approach proving to upgrade lives of many!

Sainath Wadi, an urban slum in Navi Mumbai, a declared slum located near the railway station. It was established about 42 years ago and declared in 2001-2002. It has an estimated population of 5,260 dwellers residing in 1052 structures. It covers an area of 38,262 sq.mts.

Kavita Vilash Tapase and her family was one of the first families who adopted Shelter Associate’s OHOT model and since then have led an uplifted status of life. “It has been a year since we have built our own individual toilet at home and our lives have become so easy since then. Not only did we construct our own toilet but also renovated our house, it looks beautiful and homely and moreover we do not have to use the dirty community toilets or even wait in long queues for our turn to use the toilet.” Along with building the toilet and renovating their house Kavita’s family received individual tap water connections, and got drainage access which they previously lacked.



Kavita Tapase

“Earlier we had to use the unhygienic community toilets which had no water facility and lacked enough seats compared to its users. They were so dirty that my youngest daughter aged 9 years often puked as she could not tolerate the unbearable stench. She skipped using the community toilet for 2 days and eventually fell sick and had to be admitted to the hospital for a span of 8-10 days. We had to spend around Rs. 50,000 towards her treatment. My husband works as a security guard, how can we afford if this went on? We approached the Nagar Sevak to provide us with a solution but as always we were turned down.”

The solution that Kavita was in search of for so many years was provided by Shelter Associates when they started working in this slum. “All my prayers were answered and SA has done a good deed to me and many more families of Sainath Wadi.”

Shelter Associates not only provided the dwellers with individual toilets and all the other facilities that came along with it but also arranged a competition called “Majhi Galli Swachh Gall”. The competition was held between two gallis of the slum. “It was a memorable day for all of us, we all woke up early in the morning by 5:00 am, wore beautiful saris, cleaned our houses, made rangolis both inside our house and on the streets. It was an event for us as huge as Diwali. We all took the competition seriously and our galli was awarded the first prize.”



House upgradation completed while construction of toilet

15 days before the competition started, the on field members of Shelter Associates called a meeting and explained the members of both the gallis the rules of the competition and on what basis would they be judged. Maps were made and circulated amongst the houses. Every day the members of SA walked by the two lanes to see if each lane abided by the rules and marked them on the same.

The lanes were marked on the basis of how clean they were, minimal wastage of drinking water, proper waste management, drains should not be clogged by plastics or leftover foods from households and they should not be kept open instead should be covered with its lids. Extra marks were also awarded on how attractive the lanes looked. “The efforts put in by the members in each lane were commendable and beyond our expectations. On the day of the competition the lanes looked beautiful, they had taken a lot of efforts and it could be seen,” said one of the onsite members of Shelter Associates.



Mazhi galli swachha galli competition held by SA

After the Majhi Galli Swachh Galli competition it has been observed that the slum dwellers keep the lanes more clean and have become more efficient users of water. Not only do they keep their households clean but also make sure their neighbors do the same. The competition has indeed been a very innovative initiative which was not only a 15 day challenge but a challenge the dwellers took on for

“I would really like to thank SA for providing toilets in every household for which life has become easy for us and we also have been able to reap additional benefits out of it. We earlier used the dirty community toilets due to which our children used to fall sick very often. It is because of SA’s scheme we have all the benefits and are really happy in our lives with little to worry about. For all that SA has done for us, I thank them whole heartedly and hope and pray for their success in the long run,” says Kavita.

