



# Young minds taking big initiatives

Priyanka Dattatray Pol, aged 22 years is a resident of Kalpataru Chawl at Jaybhavani Nagar, Thane. While her mother stays at Satara, Priyanka had to stay with her father in Thane for pursuing her education. Few years ago, her father had to shift to another place due to some personal reason and Priyanka had to stay back alone.

When Shelter Associates' representative approached her, she confided that lack of access to a household toilet adversely impacted her attendance in college since the community toilet block (CTB) was far from her house. She wasted a lot of time in commuting to the toilet and waiting for her turn. The single CTB accommodated 6 toilet seats and was frequented by school going children, working men and women and housewives who rushed to go back to their household chores. Long queues were a routine, especially during morning time. Priyanka always felt hesitant to use the toilet with men and boys staring around her. During her menstruation days, she found it more convenient to use her college toilet as there was more water available.

As she had to fend for herself, it was difficult for her to practice safe sanitation and stay healthy. She suffered from frequent bouts of nausea while visiting the dirty CTB on a daily basis. She even skipped eating for one or two days to avoid going to the loo.



**Priyanka Dattatray Pol**

The 'One Home One Toilet' project of Shelter Associates came as a relief. She immediately decided to construct a toilet at home and called her father to organise the finances. Since their house was below the drainage line, the only option was to rebuild the house with a higher plinth which her father was hesitant to undertake due to financial constraints. But Priyanka's constant nagging made him accede to her wish. He arranged for 2.5 lakhs which was spent on house construction with an inbuilt toilet facilitated by Shelter Associates. Priyanka now feels relieved and can pay more attention to her education. She thanked Shelter Associates for improvising her standard of living. This step ended her worries leading to a healthy life.



**Toilet facilitated by SA**

**Youth voices matter  
because we are not the  
problems but the  
solutions.**

