



Say NO to unsafe sanitation

For a long time people from drought affected Solapur district have been migrating to industrial towns like Mumbai, Pune etc. in search of livelihood.

One such example is the family of Janabai Shivraam Pingale, popularly known as Janaaji, who migrated to Pune years ago in search of employment. The family neither had a home to stay nor a basic job to earn a living. Luckily for them Janaaji's distant relative whom she contacted for employment opportunity told her about the on-going construction work of Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Hospital in Bhosari. This proved to be a God sent opportunity for Janaaji's family since the family undertook onsite labour job and started earning a decent amount for the survival of the family.

This marked a new beginning for Pingale family as even though they were a part of an unfamiliar city and environment, getting the basic means of survival was the most relieving. The family built a hut alongside the construction site with other workers.

As years passed, the hospital buildings were at its completion stages due to which the worker's huts had to be removed from the site and the family of Janaaji along with other workers were homeless.

The whole community collectively approached the local councillor who acknowledging their plight and accommodated them at Mahatma Phule Nagar, Bhosari. Casual labour work was also made available to the people. While the basic amenities of food, clothing and shelter was available, what created inconvenience to Janaaji and her family was the absence of sanitation facilities. Clean toilets were far from their reach. The community toilet block used by the family was unclean and poorly maintained. To avoid such unhygienic conditions, Janaaji walked a distance of 1 kilometre to Y B Chavan Memorial hospital toilet on a daily basis. She had to leave at 5am to reach the hospital toilet while having the fear of darkness and reptiles along the way. She overlooked all the problems since this was a better option compared to the community toilet block at Phule nagar.

One fine day, Janaaji got a chance to know about 'One Home One Toilet' project of Shelter Associates (SA) which was in progress at Mahatma Phule Nagar. Without wasting any time, she got in touch with SA representatives for being facilitated with an individual toilet for her family. She filled the application form immediately and within a few days, toilet construction materials were delivered at the family's doorsteps. The family got their toilet constructed on a priority basis.

Janaaji is now very happy and content and has left behind all the troubles and inconveniences that she and her family faced in the absence of a household toilet. She can now concentrate on her work and other activities and no longer face hardships to have a basic amenity of a clean and hygienic TOILET!



Janabai Pingale with her household toilet

