



Inspiring lives... transforming lives!

Geeta Nimbalkar was born and brought up in Awachit nagar. At the age of 17 she was married to Uday Nimbalkar who was a tailor by profession. In due course the couple became parents of a son and a daughter. Unfortunately the habit of drinking took a toll on Uday's life and Geeta was left alone to fend for herself and take care of two young children. She returned back to her parents' house in Awachit nagar with two young kids. She bought 2 buffaloes and tried to sell their milk. The returns from this business were not as expected. She sold the animals.

Meanwhile she had been observing that a lot of students from nearby villages come to 4 colleges and Kolhapur university to study. These colleges are at a close distance from Awachit Nagar. These students do not get good food nearby their colleges/hostels at reasonable rates. Hence a thought occurred to her that she could help them by providing good home cooked meals at reasonable rates! She started with 2 dabbas of home cooked food at reasonable rates to 2 students!

Slowly her business started growing with increasing demand from students for good tasty food! As time passed by, her daughter was of a marriageable age. Geeta could afford to educate her upto 10th standard. But Geeta did a wise thing by admitting her daughter to a sewing class which would be more beneficial to her in later life! Soon the daughter was married away to a suitable person.



Geeta along with her women invloved in cooking



Geeta's son Omkar was not good in studies. He somehow passed 10th standard and joined his mother in her venture to deliver the food dabbas to respective students.

Geeta always wanted her son to study more and do well in life. Omkar did fulfill his mother's wish by passing a diploma in Electronics and is now working in a company in Gokul Shirgaon.

Seventeen years have passed since Geeta started her venture with providing two dabbas! Today she is providing tasty morning and evening meals through 75 dabbas! In her Mess she has employed 5 needy women from her slum. Geeta pays them well so that they can save for rainy days! She runs a monthly 'bhishi' also of these women and is very considerate of their needs and aspirations. When Shelter Associates started its intervention in Awachit nagar, Geeta immediately availed the initiative and built the toilet without any delay!

She impressed upon the women working with her to take benefit of an organization like Shelter who are providing required construction material to have an individual toilet. 'We must take advantage of this scheme as it's the first time where any organization is coming to our rescue like this and is so well meaning! The women too agreed with her and constructed toilets in their homes. She fought her war against many odds alone and came out a winner!

She started in a one room dwelling unit and now has a 4 roomed big house where a big room is built on ground floor for cooking activity and 3 smaller rooms on upper floor for family. Cleanliness in the mess is observed diligently by all.

Story of Industrious Geeta from an average family is an inspiration to hundreds of girls and women in society.

