



The good investment.

This story is a heart warming experience shared by Shelter Associates about a man who did everything in his capacity to help his family live a life of dignity.

Balasaheb Kamble and Laxmi Kamble live less than a modest living in Bheem nagar with their 4 children. Mr. Kamble earns his living as a daily wage worker. He provides for his family but wishes he could do more for them.

The family used the community toilet block on a 'pay and use' basis. The expenditure was a lot to bear for the family but they did not have a choice. Moreover, the community block used to be shut after evening hours. The family used to go out in the open at such times. Balasaheb Kamble felt deeply ashamed when his wife and daughter had to go out during the night. He wished that they could live their life with more dignity.

When Shelter Associates approached Mr. Kamble with their individual toilet scheme, he jumped at the opportunity. He expressed his wishes of building a toilet in the house for his wife and daughter. His wife on the other hand had her

Balasaheb Kamble with his family



reservations. She expressed concerns regarding managing the space. Perhaps, she did not want to spend the money they had saved, on a toilet. It could have been possible that she was thinking about the money as a reserve for her daughter's wedding. She had managed to save very little because of her husband's drinking habits. But Balasaheb Kamble recognised the importance and urgency of the need. He immediately called his daughter to bring their piggy bank. He broke open the piggy bank in front of us and gratefully handed over his share of the money to construct a toilet.

This is a rare case where in a fundamentally patriarchal community; a male member has used his authority to offer a better quality and dignified life for his female family members.

Mr. Kamble breaking open his piggy bank to pay his share

