



A mighty heart

This is a story of an exemplary woman, Suvartha Pachjigorila, who despite of her hardships, continues to show great compassion for her neighbours and the children whom she teaches.

Suvartha Pachjigodila's, born and brought up in Pune has her roots set in Andhra Pradesh. She has been a resident of Balaji nagar, Kondhwa ward for the past 30 years. Suvartha married her husband at a tender age of 14. She had to learn to fly before she could learn to walk. Being responsible for a family of eighteen taught her lessons of adulthood at the age of fifteen.

Friendly and open hearted, Suvartha always believed that helping others was her moral responsibility. When an aanganwadi in her community was being shut down, she empathized with the children. Her compassion and the support lent by her family drove her to offer her own house to run the aanganwadi. At the same time, she also started a small stitching class for young girls in the community.

Suvarthas's family used the community toilet block daily. Due to the poor hygiene conditions of the toilets, her family timely succumbed to

Suvartha Pachjigorila with children from the aanganwadi



infections. They had to spend a big part of their earnings on medication. She understood and accepted that to maintain good health, her family would need to build an individual toilet. But the family had extremely limited resources. It was a difficult decision for the family but they decided to borrow money, take help from Shelter Associates and build an individual toilet in their home. This ability to make brave decisions sets Suvartha apart from others in her neighbourhood.

Children playing in the aanganwadi



Suvartha's unfaltering faith and compassion didn't stop at the aanganwadi. Knowing the importance of using a clean toilet, she could not let the children in the aanganwadi or the girls who came to her class use the community toilets. She willingly permits all of them and whoever wishes to, to use the new, clean individual toilet facility in her house.

Suvartha stands as an example to us and everyone in the community. Her tenacious effort of helping others despite having meagre resources is highly commendable.