Shelter Associates (SA) has been implementing its ‘One home one toilet’ program in slums within Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. The projects are being implemented on a cost sharing model where the construction materials are provided by SA and the families supervise and build the toilet at their own cost. It was identified the toilet program is also creating positive housing impacts. We undertake to observe in particular slums where Shelter associates has been facilitating toilet construction in homes, a number of incremental changes were observed.

By the year 2019 the Swachh Bharat Mission aims to make India open-defecation free. Supporting this goal Shelter associates has been implementing its One Home one toilet scheme in the slums of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad funded through corporate social responsibility (CSR) and has efficiently constructed --- number of toilets in the year 2016 itself.

Random cases from two slums Ambedkarnagar and Prem Nagar were taken up to observe the incremental changes in the homes. These changes were initiated due to the toilet program and have led to reconstruction of part homes or entire homes in the slums. In Ambedkarnagar most houses are kuccha that is made of tin sheets. When the toilet program was initiated the beneficiaries were free to choose where they want the toilet to be built. This helped them to reconstruct the internal space as well as make changes in the facades to improve them from kuccha to pucca homes.

In house 1654 the toilet was built in place of the initial washing area. One external wall was rebuilt along with the toilet improving internal space.

In house no. 1509 the external wall was used for the toilet. After seeing the toilet being constructed house no. 1508 also decided to build it.
Transformation from homes to streets:
Prem Nagar
In another settlement in Premnagar the dwellers of house number 667 started renovating their home on account of the toilet provided. After that 7 other homes (668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 674, 675) in the same street followed trait and upgraded their homes in similar manner. Some homes have intelligently built a floor space and not used any additional external space. The street section has completely transformed and also the drainage chambers have been cleaned, cemented and set in place on the street. The residents have spent up to Rs. 4,00,000/- for the renovations and happy with the process and toilet initiative taken by Shelter associates.

Conclusions: The one home one toilet initiative is certainly creating positive changes in the houses and built environment of the slums along with sanitation. Some houses have reconstructed entirely from metal sheets to pucca 4 walls. This has certainly improved the situation of homes in extreme weather conditions. The nationwide housing for all scheme envisions “every family will have a pucca house with water connection, toilet facilities, 24x7 electricity supply and access” by 2022. The toilet initiative is already creating such impact in its own way and needs to be evaluated from these perspectives.