



# Aspirations that lead to a better living!

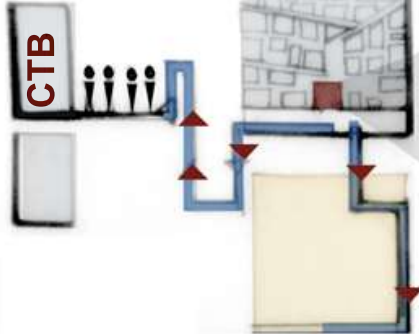


In Belapur, Chaya Shinde lives with her family of 7 in utmost poverty in Ramamata Ambedkar Nagar. Her family includes her husband and 5 daughters out of which one is handicapped. Chaya, being a maid and her husband being a watchman; they have been on a very low and fixed income. As one of their daughter's health started deteriorating and she had to undergo three operations, whatever money they made would be spent in her treatments, also they had to take loans for the same. Due to these operations, their daughter became permanently paralyzed and was unable to walk.

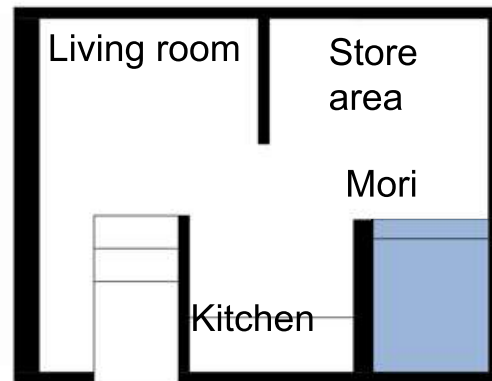


Chaya Shinde with her 2 daughters.

LONG QUEUE SETTLEMENT



INCREASE IN OPEN DEFECACTION



Since they did not have a household toilet, they had to use the CTB which was situated at the edge of the slum. Being a paid facility, it started to get financially burdensome for the family, due to which they resorted to open defecation at times. The situation got more difficult for their family due to their daughter's deteriorating health. They either had to physically carry her to the CTB to defecate or dispose her faeces outside.

■ - House      ■ - CTB



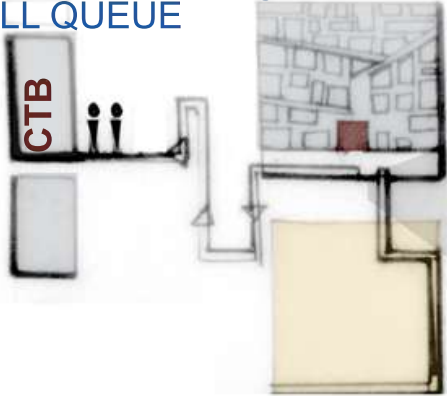
Map showing the distance between the CTB and their house.

BEFORE INTERVENTION

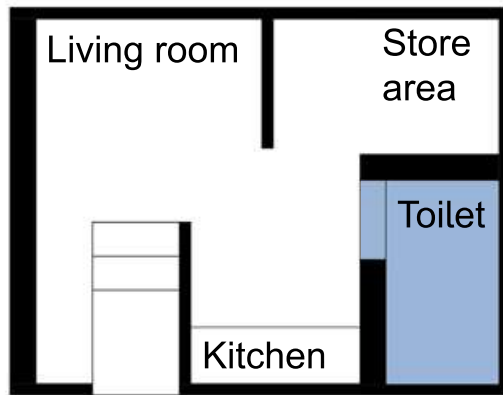
Both these situations resulted in lowering their daughter's confidence. She started cutting down on her food intake to avoid defecating, which in turn worsened her health. Also, the CTB's surroundings were unsafe for girls as men would often keep staring at them & indulge in eve-teasing. Hence most of the times their other daughters too would avoid going to the CTB and compromise on their appetite to avoid defecating. Thus, the situation kept getting worse day by day for the entire family.



SMALL QUEUE SETTLEMENT



DECREASE IN OPEN DEFECACTION



When Shelter Associates intervened in their settlement by introducing the 'One Home One Toilet' model, several community mobilisation activities were conducted to generate awareness regarding sanitation and hygiene. In spite of the family being economically weak and uneducated, they seemed to be very understanding & immediately took cognizance of the need of an individual toilet.

They started saving money for the same and promptly signed an undertaking to construct a toilet. Once the construction materials were delivered to them, they appointed a local mason and got the construction started. Their toilet stood ready within 4 days.

This made a drastic change in their daughter's life, not just in terms of health & hygiene but also with regards to upliftment of her personality. She started pursuing various hobbies which in turn built her confidence. Their other daughters also started eating well leading to a healthier lifestyle. Such families always prove to be good examples of having witnessed an upgradation in their lives



Toilet after construction.

AFTER INTERVENTION

