Slum Transformation Action Rehabilitation

A Journey Over Two Decades
It gives me great pleasure, as a founding member, to offer an overview of Shelter Associates’ work over the last two decades. Practising in the development sector has been a huge learning curve for me as an architect as we have often had to break new ground to bring about change and make a difference in the lives of the urban poor.

This book captures the spirit of this journey, which has resulted in several milestone projects that have changed the way urban development is viewed in India. While we have engaged at both the micro and macro scale, we have diligently stuck to our governing principle that the poor must be central to the processes that lead to their upliftment. The government has been the third partner in our work, from the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) to the state and the central levels. It has given us insight into the complexities of governance and challenged us to find ways of working within the system to advocate for an inclusive and participatory model. Our aim has been to work towards the recognition of informal community dwellers as legitimate citizens with rights to basic services and secure tenure.

We pioneered the way real-time data could be captured using technology in a very innovative and practical way. Our methodology of using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is now a recognized tool for planning and has been adopted by the Government of India (GoI) in their national policy governing urban poverty.

Our future efforts will continue in the direction of advocating for a data-led and community-driven city-wide approach for development of unofficial settlements. We will also push for institutionalization of processes that will bring about accountability and transparency in the systems and enable appropriate, sustainable and scalable solutions to be provided. We now look forward to creating a world where resources and services are distributed more evenly, and where the poor can live in healthy and dignified conditions.

Pratima Joshi (July 2014)
Our Vision
An India where every citizen has access to basic infrastructure and secure tenure, leading to a better quality of life.

Our Mission
To improve the conditions within informal settlements by empowering communities to pursue their right to dignity by: (1) creating intelligent data that can be used for negotiation with the government; (2) assembling in large numbers to advocate for the improved delivery of essential services like water and sanitation; (3) formulating city-wide planning approaches for tenure securement and the efficient use of land; and (4) establishing inclusive procedures to ensure the participation of the beneficiaries in the processes.

Our Philosophy
To work with all stakeholders, including ULB administrative officers, elected members of the local government and the marginalised communities, to generate an inclusive approach to urban planning. Planners must recognize that the less privileged should be equal stakeholders and central to the processes that bring changes in their environment, so that polices framed for their upliftment are effective, sustainable and scalable.

Our Strategy
Intending to impact government policies aimed at improving living conditions of the urban poor, we prioritize the conceptualization and implementation of exemplary pilots, and use our experience and research findings to raise awareness of development issues in India.

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The Landscape

What is a slum?

It is the most enduring physical manifestation of social exclusion within the world’s urban space. Since it first appeared in the 1820s, the word ‘slum’ has been used to identify the poorest quality housing that often lack clean water, sanitation, and other basic services. Slums are places considered as sources of crime and health epidemics that ravage urban areas.

In modern times, slums have come to include vast informal settlements that are quickly becoming the most visible reflection of urban poverty in the developing world. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), describes a slum to be “A compact settlement with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together.”

According to the 2011 census there are 14 million slum households in India and most large cities have 35-65% of their population living in slums.

**Under the bright lights of the city, the poor seem invisible**

Economic opportunities, political unrest and natural disasters continue to stimulate rural to urban migration, leading to an increase in India’s urban population. The public sector has failed to plan for this influx, straining already overburdened infrastructure and resources. While cities depend on services provided by the informal sector, the residents of slums are often neglected, reaping imbalanced gains. The urban poor, though large in numbers, are thus instrumental in the growth of the city but unseen by its managers.

**The land they left behind...**

At the core of all these problems is a lack of tenure. According to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, “government must ensure that everyone possesses a degree of security of tenure, which guarantees them legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats”. Without security of tenure, the poor find it difficult to improve their living conditions, as they lose their incentive to invest in home improvements.
The Change

If you cannot give basic dignity to your fellow human beings, what kind of progress can you talk about?

Pratima Joshi, Founder & Executive Director, Interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (2005)

1993: idealism brings forth a new perspective

Three architects had a vision to bring about change at the grassroots. It was this dream to build better cities that saw the birth of Shelter Associates, a Pune based Civil Society Organisation (CSO) in Maharashtra. The beginnings were simple: to introduce financial savings to empower female slum dwellers. The founding members believed that change should be catalysed with the most significant stakeholders: the deprived communities and the government’s mandated to serve them. To date, we continue to act as a link between communities and all levels of the government to facilitate long term, tangible change. The methodology we have developed ensures appropriate housing and sanitation options for the urban poor, proven scalable and replicable with government involvement.
Rajendra Nagar: the winds of transformation

Our first slum rehabilitation project was initiated by the sudden demolition of Rajendra Nagar, Pune on the first day of the 1996 monsoons. Working in partnership with the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC), the task at hand was to ensure that the 50 families of the slum were resettled into formal housing a kilometre away, in the nearby area of Dattawadi, through a community-based, participatory and women-centred approach.

This ensured the needs and the financial circumstances of these beneficiaries were taken into account during the process of development. The building was designed by us in close consultation with the community, particularly the women. The design included a 7 feet high loft above the kitchen to allow some privacy, for example, which also maximised the usable space with little additional cost.

Our wider objective was to demonstrate a workable alternative to the restrictive choices of Government of Maharashtra (GoM) sponsored housing. A pilot that could act as a model for future slum rehabilitation projects, Rajendra Nagar thus became a learning site for communities, non-profit organizations and government officials.

Kamgar Putla: the floods of change

In 1997, Pune faced one of its worst floods since 1961. The state government directed the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to plan out a resettlement project for the affected people. The PMC asked us to carry out detailed surveys of six slum pockets along the river Mutha. Kamgar Putla, one of the oldest slums in Pune, was the worst hit. Flooding was an annual occurrence, during which the community would temporarily shift to nearby PMC schools for a few days. However, in 1997, within two weeks of the monsoons, 379 houses were submerged and 150 houses were completely destroyed.

Seeking secure homes away from the ravages of flooding, 175 families formed a strong collective with our support. The hard work and determination of the collective transformed a devastating situation into a historic precedent for Pune’s poor in their struggle for decent, secure housing.

Top and Middle: Kamgar Putla before and after the flooding (1997). Bottom: Community meeting (2008).
This project enabled the people to actively move away from a flood prone area to a safer location, selected in partnership with the ULB. *It countered conventional rehabilitation thinking, that the poor will oppose any attempt to resettle them to areas far from current employment, schools, and other social amenities.* The community of Kamgar Putla chose to move away from hazard, even though that meant moving 8 kilometres away to Hadapsar.

The project was partly financed through the “Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana” (VAMBAY) program of the Gol, and housing loans were acquired by the poor from financial institutions to provide gap funding. *This also went against typical slum rehabilitation thinking, where financial institutions are unwilling to lend to the poor as they believe them to be high risk customers and willful defaulters.*

The Sanitation Struggle

First steps into sanitation

A historic city-wide community toilet building project was set in motion in 1999 by then Municipal Commissioner of Pune, Mr. Ratnakar Gaikwad, in partnership with local non-profit institutions. The idea of involving non-profit groups in the construction was itself revolutionary: it was the first time groups representing the beneficiary communities were consulted and involved in the design and maintenance of community toilets. As a sensitive CSO, we realized that the lack of access to toilets govern many human issues: personal hygiene and safety, public health and above all, dignity. This project marked the beginning of our work in the sanitation sector.

To ensure that the project was implemented according to community needs, we partnered with ‘Baandhani’, an informal federation of the poor men and women from informal settlements in Maharashtra. Baandhani surveyed, counselled and mobilized the communities, with whom our team planned and refined the proposed outputs prior to implementation.

Innovations that addressed the ground realities became important. Water connections to the toilet blocks were made mandatory and aqua privies were replaced by safer septic tanks, built of ferro-cement and cast in-situ. Also, during the initial stages of the project, old community toilets and the associated septic tanks, had to be demolished; we insisted that the existing septic tanks be cleaned by mechanical means, as opposed to the traditional method of manual excavation, to address the appalling working conditions.

With an interest of effective implementation, the Municipal Commissioner convened weekly progress meetings with all CSO representatives and ULB officers engaged in the project. It became overwhelmingly clear to us that regular monitoring, involving all stakeholders, is vital for the success of any project, as it provides a forum where issues of implementation can be discussed and resolved.

The project, which took a generalist approach due to a lack of spatially organised beneficiary information, illustrated that a data-based methodology could potentially lead to more targeted and sustainable solutions. This led to the beginning of what has become the cornerstone of our organisation’s culture: poverty mapping.

Each toilet block included separate sections for males and females. The buildings also contained residences for caretakers and their families, allowing for maintenance staff to be on-site 24/7. The caretakers were also responsible for collecting a monthly household fee for using the toilet; the money charged funded the blocks’ cleaning costs. Another design feature was the inclusion of ‘baby channels’ within the ladies’ sections to counter the common perception that children can openly defecate without any health implications to the community. In these new toilet blocks, the children could instead safely squat under their mothers’ supervision.

Inclusive involvement facilitated community ownership of the end product as well as its accountability with regard to maintenance. The process also allowed for the emergence of local leaders, who took on the responsibility of quality control.

**Top**: Example of a baby channel within the ladies area of a community toilet (2007). **Middle**: Residential area for the caretaker and their families (2012). **Bottom**: Some of our community toilets have included a bio-gas feature, where the gases given off from human waste are collected and used as cooking fuel (2013).
Outsuts and Impacts

This [IHSDP] project has made an impact on the central government [slum rehabilitation] policy, which is reflected in the Rajiv Awas Yojana. The slum-by-slum redevelopment method has been replaced by a city-wide approach to make slum free cities.

Mr. Gautam Chatterji, Ex-Housing Secretary, State Government of Maharashtra

We are happy because earlier, we used to live in dirty areas... here it is clean and has open space for our children to play.

Beneficiary speaking about the Hadapsar project in Pune

All the amenities will be fairly close by... having a house of my own – that's my biggest dream that will be realized.

Beneficiary speaking about the IHSDP project in Sangli-Miraj

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Mapping poverty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td>Community toilets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Individual toilets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Solid waste management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Central government level</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Output</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.50 lakh families</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1,731 houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 seats</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2,000 toilets</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>250 families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajiv Awas Yojana policy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Completed outputs and impacted policies, as of July 2014.
A central hindrance to inclusive urban planning and development stems from a situation where, to other denizens of Pune... slum dwellers are typically either invisible, or an eyesore... or considered invalid urban residents. Thus the first objective of this project is to actually create a census... to validate the existence of [Pune] slum dwellers in the city, by providing concrete information about their residence in and contribution to the city.

“The Pune Slum Census: Creating a Socio-Economic and Spatial Information base on a GIS for Integrated and Inclusive Development”, Habitat International
(S. Sen and J. Hobson, 2003)

**Making the Invisible Visible**

**Paradigm shift in mapping poverty**

The PMC asked us to conduct a complete census of the city’s slum dwellers in 1999. The task was based on a pilot we had pioneered using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to map poverty, capturing existing infrastructure and understanding communities through socio-economic surveys. This approach allows for the spatial organisation of data, which can be queried on maps to pinpoint service delivery gaps. Insight gained helps us view degraded areas in the context of the neighbourhoods, allowing us to design better facilities, support citywide planning and create strong advocacy programs, while working in cohesion with communities. This became India’s first ever attempt to create a spatial, socio-economic census, processed and analysed on GIS.
Shelter Associates slum census

Settlement and household level data are methodically collected and linked with accurate maps using GIS technology in combination with Google Earth®. The settlement level data is collected and verified with the support of ULB officers, while community members who have been trained by us gather the household level data, which contains information on family demographics, finances and access to services. This data set is uploaded to our system and arranged spatially across the cities where we work. Our unique data-led process earned us the title of Google Earth Hero (2009) and a place in the Google Impact Challenge India finals (2013).

Shelter Associates are one of nine organisations across the globe awarded the title of ‘Google Earth Hero’ for our innovative use of Google Earth® to address a social issue.
The Pillars that Empower Poor Communities

Shelter: from slums to societies

We were appointed as consultants, in 2009, to submit a proposal under the GoI’s Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) scheme for the rehabilitation of almost half of the slum population in Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad. This is a small urban area in the state of Maharashtra, with a population of approximately 5 lakh (500,000) according to the 2001 census. The IHSDP was introduced for the purpose of combined housing and infrastructure improvement in the slums of the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission’s (JNNURM) project cities. The GoI approved our project as a special case, and awarded a larger budget, due to its innovative, holistic and inclusive city-wide approach.

The unique feature of our proposal was its citywide perspective and the use of our GIS - Google Earth® methodology. We designed four-story ‘walk-up’ housing that rehabilitates the existing slum dwellers and also creates an additional housing stock used to rehouse slum dwellers from nearby slums.

Top: Core components of our methodology. Middle and Bottom: The strategy for the city-wide slum rehabilitation of Sangli-Miraj (2009). The blue slums are being redeveloped to a higher density so that they can accommodate the red slums, which are on land that cannot be redeveloped due to their proximity to roads and railways.
Our sensitive approach, with great consideration for ‘origins and destinations’ of the 22 slums eligible for relocation to the 7 project sites, maximises the number of families provided with security of tenure and proximity to essential services. This city-wide approach is a sustainable alternative to the traditional method of slum rehabilitation, which either relegates beneficiaries to the edge of the city, where transportation, water and drainage services are lacking, or seeks to upgrade slum huts on a slum-by-slum basis. Both of these conventional approaches are detrimental: relocation to the outskirts of an urban area pushes beneficiaries deeper into poverty, and the in-situ upgrades are inefficient developments that limit the lands’ usability. We believe that shelter should be provided to beneficiaries in locations that take into consideration their needs, and that land, which is a finite resource, should be used optimally.

Top: Ground floor of a residential building. Middle: Floor plan of a residential unit. Bottom: Sanjay Nagar site under construction (2014).
Sanitation: a holistic, city-wide approach

This holistic sanitation initiative, funded by Dasra Giving Circle and Google Giving, advocates for: (1) individual household toilets in slums, challenging the GoI’s traditional sanitation approach of only providing community toilets; (2) bio-digester individual toilets as a viable ‘treat-at-source’ sanitation option for area lacking adequate sewage infrastructure; and (3) city-wide solid waste collections systems.

**One Home, One Toilet**

Even though the National Urban Sanitation Policy states that the “provision of individual toilets should be prioritised” (2010), in the absence of infrastructure and service data, the ULBs default to providing community toilet irrespective of ground realities. As a result, we are working to establish a pragmatic, data-led, individual sanitation model, which addresses the operational and maintenance issues associated with community toilets in the urban setting. We believe that household toilets eliminate the need for the government to invest time and public funds in maintenance as this responsibility is instead transferred to the beneficiary.

Applying our GIS - Google Earth® methodology, we are surveying all slums in Pune and Sangli-Miraj, using the collected data to generate ward-wide vulnerability indices for each of the cities’ administrative wards. These indices allow us to identify and target each ward’s most vulnerable slum for selection as a project site. In these areas, we facilitate the construction of individual household toilets on a cost sharing basis with community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reach</th>
<th>Individual family toilet</th>
<th>Ten seat community toilet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of seats to people</td>
<td>500 persons</td>
<td>500 persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditure</td>
<td>1:5</td>
<td>1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 year maintenance costs</td>
<td>Rupees 15 lakhs</td>
<td>Rupees 20 lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Rupees 7 lakhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rupees 15 lakhs</td>
<td>Rupees 27 lakhs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Comparison between the cost of providing household toilets and community toilets for 500 persons.
beneficiaries. In the two project cities, we look to offer complete sanitation solutions benefiting over 20,000 people in the next three years.

Building on our previous experience of providing sanitation in slums and informal communities, we have created a blueprint that can be scaled up by states and the Gol to include not only the 300+ slums across Pune and Sangli-Miraj, but also those across Maharashtra and India. We believe that individual toilets, when supported by a city-wide, data-led methodology, are the most scalable and sustainable sanitation option for India and provide the service to the best value.

**Bio-digester toilets**

In Sangli-Miraj, where two-thirds of the urban area is unserved by municipal sewage lines, we are piloting the use of individual toilets connected to biodigester tanks. The tanks contain a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) bio-digester culture that decomposes human waste into inert water, which can be discharged into storm water drainage channels without posing health and safety risks. We believe that the Gol should invest in testing this technology as an option for decentralised, treat-at-source waste disposal.

**Garbage Management**

Achieving city-wide sanitation also requires implementing solid waste management solutions, where waste that would normally be dumped and burnt in open spaces is instead diverted into the municipal waste disposal system. The waste becomes part of the formal system through the use of wheel barrows, called ghanta gadies, whose operators segregate wet and dry garbage at source. We work with ULBs and communities to establish this system of waste collection and also initiate composting of wet garbage when possible for the use of local kitchen gardens.
**Well-being**

The data and the relationships nurtured with the communities help us to understand and connect to the needs of the poor beyond just shelter and sanitation. Using information gleaned from the poverty mapping process and our conversations with community members, we generate well-being initiatives in receptive areas where there is an identified need. Our livelihood and health activities are continuous engagement programs that are contextual, targeting skills development and bettering health awareness.

**Cloth bag project**

We focus on creating self-generated income opportunities for women in Pune and Sangli who possess basic sewing skills but have relatively few options for safe, secure and sustainable employment. The project trains women to stitch a range of designer, special purpose and reusable shopping bags at home, so that they do not have to leave their children to find work. Being able to earn a consistent income and help support their families gives the women confidence, increased independence and a stronger voice in their families and wider communities.

**Smokeless chulla (stoves)**

To combat the hazard of indoor air pollution caused by biomass-fuelled open fires, we made smokeless chullas available to families in slums throughout Sangli. Acquired through the Appropriate Rural Technology Institute (ARTI) they are incredibly durable, practical, and significantly reduce toxic emissions in their fuel use, thereby directly impacting the health of women and children. The chullas, which use readily available fuel, cost approximately Rupees ~1,000. A payment plan was developed allowing slum dwellers to pay for their new stoves in affordable instalments.
Milestones

- **Dattawadi, Pune**
  - 56 evicted families relocated

- **Hadapsar, Pune**
  - 176 flood-affected families relocated

- **IHSDP, Sangli-Miraj**
  - 3,798 families rehabilitated on 7 sites

- **Rajendra Nagar demolished**

- **Kamgar Putla flooded**

- **11 slums, Pune**
  - 1,600 families provided with 13 community toilets (155 seats)

- **Sangli-Miraj**
  - 3,600 families provided with either individual or shared toilets

- **Bibwewadi, Pune**
  - 1,700 families provided with sanitation; 500+ individual toilets built

- **Pune and Sangli-Miraj**
  - 1,700 individual toilets being built under ‘One Home, One Toilet’

- **Pune and Sangli-Miraj**
  - Census of 99 slums in Sangli-Miraj and 300 slums in Pune (100,000 families)

- **Khuldabad, Maharashtra**
  - Mapped and surveyed all slums (8,000 families)

- **Nashik, Maharashtra**
  - Mapped and surveyed 65 slums

- **Established**

- **Awarded grant from Google Giving**
- **Awarded grant from Dasra Giving Circle**
- **Awarded title of Google Earth Hero**


- **Shelter**
- **Sanitation**
- **Mapping Poverty**
- **City-wide**

- **Event**
Inclusive Planning

Relationships with stakeholders have always formed the 'software' component of our approach and supported the 'hardware' interventions, such as shelter and sanitation. We have observed that for projects to achieve long-lasting and sustainable change, all concerned parties must be active participants in the process of development.

Community participation

Urban planning, as it is often practised in India, is exclusive and consequently, the poor often have no voice or influence in projects that are designed and implemented for their benefit. In order to develop relevant interventions, reliable and comprehensive qualitative information about the slums and their residents is prerequisite. To work within a slum community, it is necessary to build understanding and trust, which we establish through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and workshops.

To supplement our quantitative findings, we conduct FGDs, which are informal, demographic-specific discussions on various sensitive topics, such as menstrual health and sexual assault. Workshops are more general in their content and target population, focusing on topics such as basic sanitation, solid waste management and water conservation. Knowing that children are effective agents of change, we host a series of creative environmental workshops to foster a sense of community and increased awareness about the environment.

**Government involvement**

In all of our work, whether poverty mapping or providing shelter and sanitation, the government has always been an important partner for formulating context appropriate and sustainable interventions. Though established on an ad-hoc basis in the past, it is our opinion that these relationships should be a requirement under policies governing slum development.

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**Inclusive planning is about...**

- Facilitating problem definition and problem solving with all stakeholders.
- Creating an environment to encourage an active dialogue where all stakeholders are heard and their ideas considered.
- Ensuring transparency and accountability of decision making.
- Presenting communities with relevant options to suit their situations.

*Right: Workshops with children.*
Our Governing Body Members

Lata Shrikhande

- Post Graduate in Sociology (Mumbai University)
- Involved with issues of garbage and recycling and closely associated with other movements such as the Environmental Education and Research Centre, World Wildlife Fund and International Coastal Cleanup
- Current President of Shelter Associates’ Governing Body

Supriya Vaidya

- Home Science graduate (Nagpur University) with a Bachelors in Education (Mumbai University)
- Serves the spiritual organisation, Shri Ram Chandra Mission, in various capacities
- Actively guides and trains members of Shelter Associates’ cloth bag livelihood project

Vishal Jain

- Bachelors in Electrical Engineering (BITS Pilani) and an MBA (Yale University)
- Actively involved in the social sector, serving as a trustee on the NGOs PROOF and Janwani
- Advised the Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporations on solid waste management
- Currently runs a niche insurance BPO based in Bangalore and Pune
Vaishali Bhagwat

- Bachelors in Computer Science and Law Graduate (Pune University)
- Civil and cyber crime litigation at Pune’s Trial and District Courts and Mumbai’s Appellate Authorities
- Active Rotarian, involved in implementing adult literacy programs in Pune and Raigad Districts

Vijay Paranjpye

- M.Phil in Economics and Post Graduate in Economics and Political Science
- Areas of specialisation are Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of displaced persons, environmental law and management planning of protected/special areas and urban/rural development planning
- Chairman for the Gomukh Trust and Blue Cross Society

Latika D. Padalkar

- Bachelors in English Literature and a Masters in Political Science and History (Pune University)
- Qualified for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1964 and allotted to the Tamil Nadu cadre
- Posted in the Departments of Agriculture, Social Welfare, Industries, and Administrative Reforms

Dr. Nirmala Pandit

- Ph.D in Human Rights (University of Pune)
- Former trafficking advisor to the UN’s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Trustee of the Centre for Empowerment and the Sakaal Relief Fund
Pratima Joshi

- Founding member and current Executive Director of Shelter Associates
- Aga Khan scholar (1986-87), completing her Masters Degree in Building Design for Developing Countries at the Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, London
- Identified as a leading slum architect in India by the British Broadcasting Company in 2005
- Recipient of the Ashoka Fellowship in 2007 for her work as a Social Entrepreneur
- Featured by The Strait Times of Singapore in their 2008 feature, ‘New Asian Heroes’
- Recognised for her innovative use of Google Earth® technology in December 2009 under their Google Earth Hero series
- Nominated by Times Now as an ‘Urban Crusader’ in their series, ‘Amazing Indians’
- The only architect from India invited as a speaker at the 24th World Congress of Architects in Tokyo in 2011
Volunteer with Shelter Associates

We are always looking for volunteers with experience and expertise in the following fields:

- Architecture and Urban Planning
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Media and Communications
- Public Health

Donate to Shelter Associates

We are happy to accept assistance in the form of financial support, services and IT donations. Or, support our 'One Home, One Toilet' vision for India by sponsoring an individual toilet for a family living in an informal community.

Please visit our website or contact our head office for more information.

We need to push for equitable distribution of resources. You cannot have homes that lack the most basic services.

Pratima Joshi, Founder & Executive Director, Interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (2005)
Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services...

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

SHELTER ASSOCIATES

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