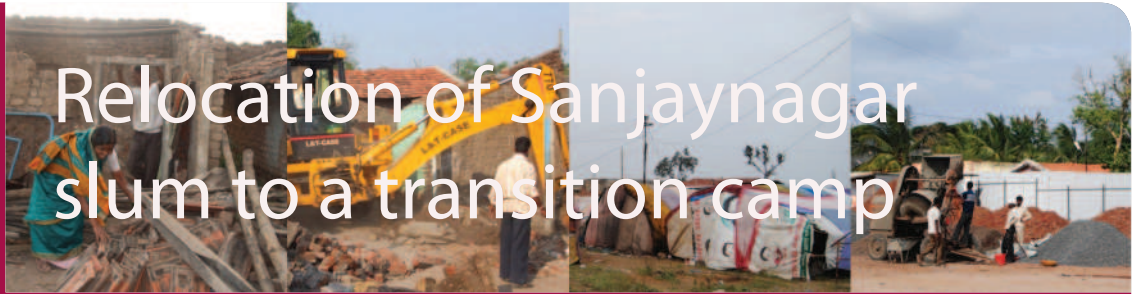




Relocation of Sanjaynagar slum to a transition camp



This factsheet covers the 6 months journey of the community's efforts with Shelter Associates (SA) to get relocated to a temporary transit camp. It is a story of the endless hurdles that were resolved collectively with all stakeholders including the Corporator, the Urban Local Body (ULB) and legal support.

Prior to the IHSDP

Traditionally, the relocation of slums is a traumatic experience for all those who are involved: the communities, because they get evicted suddenly without prior notice; the police, who have to carry out this unpleasant task; and the ULB as the process undermines the socio-political stability of the area. However, these issues can be avoided if the relocations are executed differently. By taking the slum communities into confidence from the outset, a peaceful transition is not only possible but inevitable.

The IHSDP

This is exactly what has happened with the relocation of the Sanjaynagar slum in Miraj. SA had been intensively involved with the slum community from the socio-economic and biometric surveys to designing their new homes. This dialogue



developed confidence and trust between the slum community and SA. This effort was aided by the Corporator who also participated in all efforts to build this confidence with the slum dwellers. And Regular weekly meetings convened by the Municipal Commissioner and attended by representatives of the community and other stakeholders added to this trust building exercise.

However, approximately 20% of the residents were opposed to the project and continuously hampered the efforts to relocate the slum by introducing legal hurdles to the process in the form of Stay Orders which ordered the work to be halted.

Beneficiaries meeting .



The Mayor, Municipal Commissioner and Shelter Associates visit the Sanjaynagar Slum to discuss the project and the details of relocation.

SanjaynagarMirajslumpeoplepeacefullyrelocatedto
thetransitioncampandtheyhavestartedtheirroutine
life happily.





Community members make a court appearance.

Two sites were lost in these legal battles due to poor representation in court; it became apparent to the ULB that the legal cases were not getting adequate representation due to the lack of communication between them and the appointed legal advisor. The advocates competency was also called into question and resulted in the appointment of another lawyer. The new advocate was given able support by the slum department, SA, the Corporator and the community leaders.

A third transition site was identified, and again lost due to the involvement of a politician who proposed a fourth site. Once the location of the transition camp was confirmed another Stay Order was initiated, however, this Stay Order was associated with the

existing slum which cited “lack of local support” as the reason for halting the works.

The community members quickly signed affidavits in support of the rehabilitation of their slum and fought the opposition in court at the beginning of October 2011. This collective effort resulted in the court vacating the Stay Order and issuing orders for the relocation of the slum in a phased manner to the transit camp. The order stated that everyday the ULB should shift 50 families and should provide them with support in terms of transport and labour as required. A report to this effect had to be submitted, with the signatures of the 50 families, at the end of each day to the court. The ULB complied fully with the order and within a week 372 families were relocated to the transition camp.



Community people dismantling their own houses.



Transition camp.

The families carefully dismantled their own homes enabling them to reuse the material at the transition site; bulldozers were only employed to assist with the demolition of pucca houses that could not be demolished by hand. The ULB provided several tempo's and trucks to help shift the material to the transition site, and provided each family with Rs.2000 to procure additional materials for building their temporary homes in the transition camp. The money was issued to the slum dwellers in the presence of SA representatives and the Corporator. The beneficiaries moved to the transition camp on the 10th October 2011 where they constructed their own temporary accommodation using skills present within the community.

On the first morning SA visited the transition camp and provided breakfast for the pioneering families who had just completed their first night.

The ULB had provided basic amenities at the transition site such as water, electricity and communal toilets; however, the community provided additional social services to suit their own needs such as a local shop and a 'Anganwadi' for the children of the camp.

Once the majority of Sanjaynagar was vacated the contractor took possession of the site and started the process of leveling the site and marking out the first 7 buildings and SA started the process of monitoring the progress of the work. The process of monitoring has already proven to be beneficial as issues have already been identified and communicated by Shelter Associates to the ULB at the weekly progress meeting at the Municipal Corporation Head Quarters. These weekly progress meetings are a condition of the Road Map which was drawn up by SA and the ULB and

• Services on transition camp

• Water



• Toilets



“The ULB had provided basic amenities at the transition camp.”

• Local



• Anganwadi



“The community provided additional social services to suit their own needs.”

are attended by all members of the project team including members of the Sanjay Nagar community, the Sanjaynagar elected representative, and the contractor. These progress meetings provide a forum where issues relating to the implementation of the project can be discussed.

image caption...



Summary

Prior to the IHSDP in Sangli & Miraj these types of exercise were carried out as evictions where the people affected were not informed when the normal process was due to commence, this led to situations of people being removed from their slums with no notice and no pre-arranged alternative in place.

The IHSDP in Sangli & Miraj sets a precedent for relocation exercises because of its core principal of involving the slum community to achieve a peaceful, safe, democratic and dignified transition.

We believe that community participation is necessary for the relocation of slum dwellers and should be incorporated within Government of India guidelines and policies as a mandatory condition for all future slum rehabilitation schemes.

