



Enabling a dignified living!



Vaishali Dongre, a resident of Sathe nagar, Nocil Naka in Navi Mumbai resides with her parents and four elder brothers.

Her father, Mr. Brahmachari Dongre, settled in this settlement around mid 1980's and originally belonged to a village in Vashim district. Having moved here, he took up odd jobs to financially sustain and meet his daily needs along with taking care of his family's needs. Vaishali was born mentally and physically challenged, much to her parents' surprise. Nonetheless they both accepted her with open arms and refrained from distinguishing between her and their four sons.

Presently, all his four sons are married and three of them have moved out and started staying by themselves with their respective families. The youngest son, his wife and their baby stay with Brahmachari, his wife and Vaishali in the same house. Due to old age, Brahmachari has stopped working. The only bread earner in their family is the youngest son who works as a driver, earning around Rs. 7000 per month.

Vaishali has been facing many other health related issues like asthma and very recently has hearing problems too. With so many difficulties, it is very challenging to interact with her and make her understand anything at a given point in time. Unable to hear, or understand along with being mentally unstable, she is perpetually irritated and gets angry and wild frequently. To worsen the condition, she also has been facing some neurological disorder and has undergone surgeries twice as the nerves in her neck and throat region are entangled. As there is barely any development of her brain, she has had to quit school and hence cannot study further.

She's 32 years of age and during menstruation has to face enormous problems. She has to rely on her mother and sister-in-law to help her change her sanitary cloth pad. Having such issues at her back, accessing the community toilet block has been posing as a threat to her for years.

Several times, she has fainted too while approaching the toilet block, hence her parents ensure that she is always accompanied by some family member while going to the toilet block which is situated far away from their house.

On hearing about SA's intervention, Brahmachari was extremely keen on getting a household toilet built on priority as he could not see more of his daughter facing such trouble. Now they have a household toilet and this could not have eased them more! Access to safe, secured and dignified sanitation has been a blessing to them!



Vaishali Dongre

