

## VISION TOWARDS HEALTHY LIVING!

Turbhe Ward, Navi Mumbai



### CASE STORY FROM GANPATI PADA VEEDOL SETTLEMENT

Wandering to meet their basic needs, Rekha Borude's family came to Mumbai from Tambula village in Lonar taluka of Buldhana district. In the late nineteenth century, the family constructed a small hut in the informal settlement of Turbhe. At that time, Rekha stayed with her husband Baburao and daughter and worked as construction labour. As time passed, the family of three grew and comprised of three daughters and a son. Her husband was later addicted to alcohol which costed him his job and his life. Rekha had to take care of the entire family all alone. Working as a housemaid, she raised her children and got them educated. But as responsibilities grew, Rekha's health got ignored completely. She had cataract in both her eyes. Due to untimely treatment, she had to lose both her eyesight.

Year passed, Rekha got all her daughters married and her son Krishna started earning to support the family. While everything went smooth, one thing that was being ignored due to lack of finances was an individual household toilet. The son was wholeheartedly taking care of his mother but could not see the troubles she faced due to the absence of a home toilet. The community toilet was very far from their place and Rekha faced inconvenience on a daily basis.



*Rekha Borude with her son Krishna*

At the same time, Krishna got to know that toilet construction materials are provided free of cost by a social organization called Shelter Associates along with partner organisations IKEA India & Collective Good Foundation. Without any delay, he showed interest in getting the materials and later invested in the toilet construction. "Now I can go to work without worrying about my mother. Most importantly, we don't have to live in a rented house even after having our own house which my mother has built with her hard work & affection." says Krishna.

Soon realising the problems faced by his mother, Krishna decided to stay at a rented room having a toilet inside so that his mother would not face the trouble of visiting the community toilet. But Rekha did not want to leave the house where she spent over 2 decades and saw her children grow up. She had a lot of memories which she didnt want to wipe off. This often resulted in lot of arguments with her son.

"My blindness had made it difficult for me to cover the long distance between our home and the community toilet with my son insisting that we rent a house elsewhere to ease my troubles. But being emotionally attached to my home, I was reluctant to shift. I am very grateful that this initiative helped address our biggest worry by enabling a home toilet"

- **Rekha Baburao Barude**  
(Resident of H.No. 318, Ganpati Pada Veedol, Navi Mumbai)



*Borude family's completed home toilet*