



A boon & a blessing!

“Shelter Associates has come into our lives as a boon and we cannot thank them enough.”

Karan Sitaram Phatak, a 50 year old individual, who unfortunately lost his capability of locomotion at the age of 20 years to a fatal train accident has been one of the first few beneficiaries to opt for Shelter Associate’s OHOT Model. He has been residing in Shastri Nagar in Thane, with his sister, Savita who has devoted her entire life to her elder brother and his nephew, Rahul. “She refrained from getting married, after my accident, As I lost both my legs, I could not move much, but my entire movement got restricted when I got diabetes. My sister then decided to stay at home and look after me.”

Before Shelter Associates had begun their work in the slum of Shastri Nagar, he was helped by his sister or his nephew to use their bathing area as a toilet. With no facilities readily available for the handicapped, families like Mr. Phatak’s have always had a challenge using the basic amenities to their fullest.

“The last 6-7 years have been very difficult for me, even when I had lost both my legs I could still drag myself but now I cannot even do that, getting diagnosed with diabetes, even the slightest movement is painful for me.”

The family had desired the construction of a toilet in their house for a very long time. The community toilet block was located not too far from their house, but would always be very dirty and unhygienic and secondly, leaving her brother alone in the house always kept Savita on her two feet, tensed and worried. With the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014, the family felt their problems could be eased out but to their dismay they were denied the model by the corporation due to the absence of a document- “we earlier lived in Hajjali and after the accident we had the handicapped certificate of Hajjali hospital. In 1994, we moved out of Hajjali and started living here. After the Swachh Bharat Mission Model was launched we wanted to apply for it but they asked for a handicapped certificate from a hospital in the current area.



Karan with his sister and nephew

It is really sad to see that people get deprived of basic amenities because of meager absence of the right documents”, says Savita. Shelter Associates has not only provided them with an individual toilet but along with the community development department they are trying to arrange a doctor for Mr. Phatak from the civil community hospital of Thane to come to their area and conduct a thorough check thereby issuing the family a handicapped certificate which will ease out their problems. “We could never believe that we could build a toilet in the house, however Shelter Associates motivated us, boosted our aspirations, provided moral support and aided us at every step to fulfill our dreams.” With that in mind the family has not only built their own individual toilet but has also renovated their house leading to an uplifted lifestyle.



Upgraded house along with their toilet

