



A loss or a gain?

Mary John has been residing in the settlement of Lokmanya Nagar in Thane for over 38 years. Their family comprises of 6 people. Only for the last 25 years or so, the settlement has Community Toilet Blocks, before which they would resort to open defecation in the woods nearby.

Thankfully, the Community Toilet Block has been fairly maintained and hence availing this facility was not as grave as one would possibly assume. Nonetheless, for the elderly and the children, it poses to be very burdensome as the toilet block is distantly located and walking up there every single time is a task. Mary's husband has been a paralysis patient for the last 13 years and in such a condition using the toilet block was a serious challenge.

Mary expresses that we have been in a dire need of having an individual toilet within our home. Since a majority of their income is spent on her husband's medical treatment, they were sadly not in a position to allocate finances towards toilet construction.

Their immediate priority was to get her husband treated and put in all the money required to get the best results out of him.

As luck would have it, they came to know of SA's work commencing in their settlement and they were more than delighted to know that they only had to bear the labour cost for construction. This relieved their stress and everyday worry as to how to get Mary's husband to the toilet block. Not just did they construct a toilet, but also went in to get a Western water closet fixed to ease her husband's trouble.

As fate seemed to get better for them, a very untimely and unfortunate incident occurred where, Mary's husband succumbed to a cardiac arrest at the railway station while he was boarding a train. Mary weeps today as she recollects all these moments "we got the toilet built for him, but he is no more with us. But we are happy that atleast all the others can avail this facility now and it is for our betterment."



Mary John



Western WC in Mary's toilet

