



Ganjimal, Kolhapur



TRANSFORMATION LED BY AN INDIVIDUAL

THE STORY OF GANJIMAL



Admin Ward 1, KMC



Established in 1978



Like most of the other slums in Kolhapur, Ganjimal slum came into being when people from nearby places migrated to Kolhapur in search of employment in 1945. They settled in a place where hay sacks (Ganji) were once collected for sale in nearby big ditch. The name Ganjimal came from this unique use of the place.

With time the shacks which were built with hay sacks got converted into more livable huts. Like all migrants without any skills, the men worked as casual labor or coolies and women as housemaids in nearby houses.

The settlement which had started with around 10-15 families in the beginning had grown into a slum of 178 families now! Ganjimal slum was getting referred as Ambedkar Nagar too!

When people came here to stay life was very hard without any kind of sanitation facility. Open defecation was practiced for many years which brought with it the danger of getting bitten by snakes and scorpions too! Especially for women it was a nightmare to go for defecating in open! Having Electricity connection was out of question but even drinking water needed to be fetched from long distances!

Over the years people started raising their voice to get minimum facilities and getting their settlement Ganjimal a status of declared slum. It did happen in due course and then elected councilors started to bring in many basic services to Ganjimal slum.

Few years back a Councilor, Mr. Ravi Awale, brought electricity and water connections to each house. He also got a community toilet block built for the community. Later, other elected members brought in more amenities into the slum like roads and storm water gutters etc. One councilor built an arch at the entrance of the slum with 'Ambedkar Nagar' written on it!

Recently ex-councilor Mr. Sachin Chavhan (at present his wife is a councilor) visited few slums where OHOT projects of SA were being carried out. He was impressed by the commitment and efficiency with which SA's staff was carrying out the project and he wished he also should provide this basic amenity to people of his ward.

Being a committed person who is always striving to improve the conditions in their ward, he immediately contacted Shelter's social workers to find out how to go forward in this respect.

He promised his people that, if SA is providing free building material for toilet to them, he will spend on the construction cost from his own pocket! Further he will also strive to get it connected to drainage line from KMC.

Without wasting any time, he gathered a team of 11 from his area which consisted of masons, plumbers and carpenters. His intention also was that all the people living in the vicinity should get employment opportunity. He called a meeting of 30 people from the slum and explained to them the methodology of Shelter's OHOT project and how they should carry out the project in their slum in a systematic manner.

In this meeting the modus operandi was explained. Mr Chavan made 3 groups of 10 houses in each lane and a team of 10 workers was allotted to each lane to carry out the project.



Each house was checked by Mr. Chavan with SA representative. Even the material for 10 houses was to be delivered at one place. The team responsible would shift it from there as per requirement. He also made it clear to all that those who do not need to put "Patra" on top should return it to SA. He sternly told everyone the process to follow while constructing the toilet.

Mr. Chavan regularly visits and inspects the sites where the work is going on and checks on quality of work. The residents of the slum are very happy that now they do not need to go to community toilets and will be protected from the multitude of infections which they were exposed to before!

They expressed their gratitude towards Shelter Associates and Mr. Sachin Chavan saying that they are indeed indebted to Shelter associates and Mr. Chavan, because of whom all of them could get their own basic amenity of human being: A toilet of their Own!

SA representatives checking house to house status of toilets.



Mr Sachin Chavan congratulating a woman on having her own toilet.



INDIVIDUAL TOILET STATUS IN GANJIMAL

GANJI MAL, WARD NO - 1, KMC.



19.10.2018

Shelter associates

Total Agreement [28]

- Completed [9]
- Under construction [19]
- Own toilet [41]
- SBM (Installation) [1]

SA TOILET STATUS

- Locked house [28]
- Unoccupied house [7]
- Remaining Houses [73]
- Existing Drainage Line

■ Community Toilet Block [1]

Total Houses (178)

0 10 20 30 m

SANITATION



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