



A role model for the communities

Being a role model is the most powerful form of educating.” John Wooden

In every walk of life we need a good role model who can impact other people's lives in a positive manner. Dipak Khandale, aged 40 years has been residing in Mahatma Phule Nagar in Pimpri-Chinchwad for the last 40 years. Originally hailing from Baramati, Dipak stays with his wife and 3 children. To support his



Dipak Khandale with his daughter

family, Dipak works as a driver. For over the years, Dipak and his family lived in miserable conditions with no proper house nor a good road network, which eventually led to the practice of open defecation, until 1994 when community toilet was introduced by the government at Mahatma Phule Nagar.

Over the years, the community toilet block started deteriorating. Lack of access to a household toilet adversely impacted Dipak's work since the community toilet block (CTB) was far from the house. He wasted a lot of time in commuting to the toilet and waiting for his turn. The CTB was frequented by school going children, working men and women and housewives who rushed to go back to their household chores. Long queues were a routine, especially during morning time. He found it more convenient to use the office toilet due to

unclean CTBs and also to save time. The government sanitation workers too provided very little support in this matter. Dipak's wife and children too faced a lot trouble to visit the community toilet especially during night time. Plastic toilets were also installed at the roadside but of no avail as the residents had to go across the road to visit the toilet. Children needed accompaniment of their parents if they wanted to visit the toilet as crossing the road alone wasn't safe.

After knowing about Shelter Associates and its initiative on household toilet facilitation, he raised the necessary finances for getting a toilet constructed in his house. Within 2-3 days, the toilet construction material was at his doorsteps. Not only did he get the toilet constructed, but also got the house repaired transforming from kutcha to pucca solving all his and family's major issues, after which his happiness knew no bounds. With the excitement Dipak invited his friends and neighbors to boast about his newly built toilet while also distributing sweets and explaining how the toilet has brought an end to all his worries.

Dipak not only acted as a role model to his family but also motivated the neighboring households to use individual toilets instead of Community Toilet Block or Open Defecation for the health and betterment of his family and his own.



Toilet facilitated by SA

