



# Enhancing livelihoods

Born and brought up in Awachit nagar, Jayashree at the age of 18 got married to Sanjay Patil from the same slum who was working as a peon in a factory. They lived as a happy family with their 3 sons. Jayashree contributed to their family income by working as a maid in few houses while taking care of growing up children and family. Everything was going on well for the happy family.

Unfortunately one day while shifting a fire extinguisher cylinder in the factory, a lid /nipple of the cylinder got pushed up and got stuck in Sanjay's throat and Sanjay died of suffocation! Suddenly Jayashree was left with lots of single handed responsibility of feeding and bringing up 3 sons. She boldly decided to fend it herself and refrained from taking refuge at her parents' house.

She realized that it would be impossible to feed her family by working as a maid in few houses. She had observed that lots of students come to nearby 3 colleges and Kolhapur University too. She took initiative to put up a tea stall opposite university gate and shortly was encouraged to add 'Vada Pav' to her menu.

Jayashree is happy about her struggle and contented about the results of the struggle. Her Renuka vada Pav has become very famous and gets sold in large quantities regularly. All along she was confident of herself and did not pay any heed to taunts of relatives and community who criticized her openly for running a roadside tea stall which was never done by daughter in laws of Patils!

She is happy and knows that her future is safe! Her older sons quit studying and got on to working at a firm and driving respectively. She got them married in time. Third one also did not show much interest in studying. He too left school and now helps Jayashree in vada pav business which she says has increased because of the younger one's participation.

The family specially their daughters in law used to face lots of inconveniences while using community toilets. Hence as soon as Shelter Associates started it's intervention in Awachit nagar, Jayashree opted to build a toilet at home.



Jayashree at her tea and vada pav stall

*Jayashree is very grateful to Shelter associates for providing a basic necessity such as a toilet in their community. While praising Shelter, she remarks that their vasti has improved a lot because of Shelter's intervention and it has majorly incentivised her livelihood!*

