



The lack of earning opportunities in Baramati forced Maya Khandale to shift to Pune. Her family moved in with her in-laws in Pune's M.I.D.C. She began her life in a small temporary home with tin roofs. The times were extremely difficult and the current financial condition forced her to work as a maid at a company.

The years passed in great hardship and by the time her 3 children were married, she was well into her 50's. Her family grew, but their financial condition remained the Shelter Associatesme and it was impossible for her to move into a temporary house. Her daughters-in-law too lived in a temporary house. They were forced to use the community toilets. The unclean community toilets, filled with stench were unbearable. Their house being at the corner of the road, and the toilet outside, Maya's daughters-in-law faced tremendous difficulties, especially during their monthly menstrual cycles. Their personal health and hygiene was severely affected.

During such a time *Shelter Associates* approached her for toilet construction at their house. In the following months she received material for the construction of the toilet. The promise of better Shelter Associatesnitation paved the way for the hope of an improvement in their overall living conditions. This fuelled her longing to have a permanent house for her family.

She convinced her children to invest into the construction of a permanent house along with a toilet. She explained to her children the various problems faced by their wives when they used the community toilets and the health consequences her daughters-in-law would have to face eventually. She made her sons realise the need to protect the self-esteem of their wives and provide them a life of dignity and well-being which Maya was deprived of all these years.

The family then decided to take a loan to facilitate the construction of the house and toilets. This ensured their well being and they now have a place to live with dignity. They have a sense of accomplishment in improving their lifestyle. This also ensured that her future generations will start their lives in an improved condition.

She *genuinely thanks Shelter Associates* for their assistance *and Shelter Associates*ys : "Shelter Associates gave me material for construction and today all my children have a permanent home and a toilet. My heartfelt thanks to Shelter Associates"



From community toilets



To having toilet in their own houses

