



An Enlightened Ray of Hope

In this technologically advanced era, we still come across a few households who struggle to get the basic necessities of survival. A small step towards development acts as a boost for any family willing to change their conditions and adopted a better standard of living.

We witness the story of Sitabai Khude, from Awchit Nagar, one of the slum settlements in Kolhapur, who has been born with poverty and vulnerability. Got married at a very young age owing to the prevalent societal practices and received very little support from her husband who was a casual labour and picked up scrap and waste for survival. Adding to her woes, her husband who was eventually indulged in alcohol consumption, died of a road accident on one fateful day, leaving behind his wife and 3 daughters, one of them being mentally challenged. The financial condition of family went from bad to worse. Being a single mother, Sitabai had to go through a lot of challenges and hardships to raise her daughters. She worked as a rag picker for 5 days in a week along with her daughters and on the other days would visit from house to house asking for religious donations.



Sitabai Khude with her daughters

What came as a blessing was the 'One Home One Toilet' initiative of Shelter Associates, which facilitated the family in having their own household toilet which not only contributed towards safe hygiene and sanitation but also ensured the safety and security of Sitabai and her daughters. Another intervention by SA was introduction of Mr. Kishor Malekar, member of Lambhakur Yuvak Mitra Mandal, who provided solar lamp and an innovative water lamp made from disposable plastic bottle to be installed on the roof, which acted as a boon for Sitabai and her family who had been living in darkness for all these years.

At every stage, SA has facilitated Sitabai, who through a perfect amalgamation of environment, religion & innovation have encouraged positive changes, may it be picking up waste, preaching religion or adopting a new innovation.



Water Lamp using Disposable Plastic Bottle



Solar enabled lamp

