

Self-dependent with good hygiene and comfort

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Parents always work tirelessly in giving a good life to their children, while sacrifice their own dreams, aspirations and comfort and often neglect their own well-being. Individuals therefore need to be selfdependent while leading a healthy and stress-free life.

This is the story of Kapurdevi Ramvilas Sharma, a resident of Chinchpada slum settlement at Navi Mumbai. 50 years ago, Kapurdevi got married to Ramvilas Sharma and is presently residing at Chinchpada for the last 30 years. She is blessed with three daughters and 2 sons. Ramvilas Sharma is a carpenter and along with wife Kapurdevi, worked hard in raising their children. But today in their old age, there is nobody to look after them. Their daughters are married and the sons stay separately. Kapurdevi opened a small kirana store inside her house to earn a

livelihood and support her husband in taking care of the daily expenses. The sanitation situation too was bad as there was no home toilet and both of them had to go to the community toilet located at a distance from their house.

The absence of a home toilet did not affect the family until the day when one incident completely changed their mindset. One day while going to buy vegetables, Kapurdevi met with an accident which got her leg fractured. This incident left her partly handicapped and she was unable to do her daily chores neither could she go to her kirana store. She had to face lot of day to day obstacles and going to the toilet was her biggest challenge. Since the community toilet was far from her place, she needed her husband's support during her every visit. This brought in both embarrassment and helplessness to Kapurdevi.

This incident made her realise the importance of a home toilet and its dire need in their old age. But her financial condition prevented her from constructing her own toilet. Shelter Associates' One Home One Toilet' initiative came to her as a blessing. Upon receiving free toilet construction



Kapurdevi Sharma



Home toilet facilitated by SA

materials, she could easily get herself a home toilet and a relief during her old age. All her worries vanished in a few days and she was a proud owner of an individual household toilet.

Its better late than never! Shelter Associates, with the support of Bank of America, is successful in providing a life of comfort and well-being to Kapurdevi and Ramvilas in their old age. Even without the support of her children, she could facilitate herself good sanitation and a stress-free living.