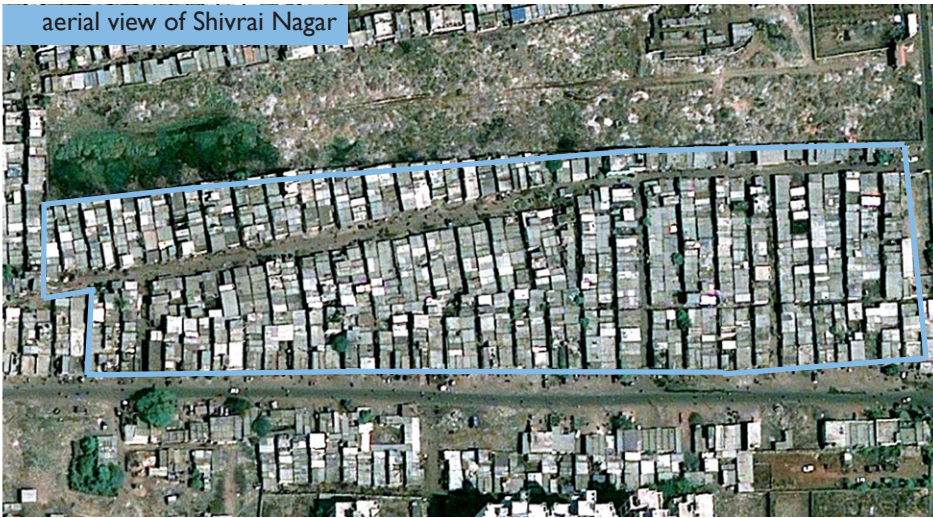




Individual Toilet Project Shivrai Nagar

This project is a good example of the way in which NGOs, communities and the local ward office can work successfully together. In this case, Shelter have not only worked to facilitate basic sanitation, but have been active in educating and mobilizing the community. The community has responded by grasping this opportunity towards a healthier living environment.

aerial view of Shivrai Nagar



Background

Shivrai Nagar is located at Bibwewadi in the city of Pune. The settlement is positioned on a hilltop and divided into tiny plots of approximately 200 sq.ft in area. These plots were purchased by people who subsequently built their own houses from either kutchra (corrugated metal) or pucca (masonry), depending on what they

could afford. The houses are laid out in rows with common walls and narrow lanes between them. The area is vulnerable since it is shown as a non-buildable zone on official city plans. The population has grown dramatically since the first residents arrived 15 years ago - today around 1200 families live here.

Shivrai Nagar's main road



Before the project got under way, more than 2000 people had no choice but to defecate on open land

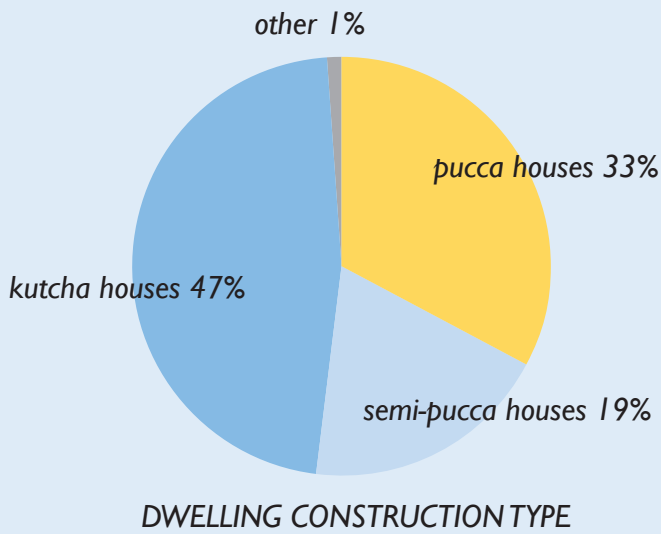
The Situation

Since the residents officially own the land, it is *not* recognized as a slum according to the rules of Pune Municipal Corporation. However, residents here lack some of the basic facilities like toilets, waste management and a water supply, that are provided even to slum-dwellers. In many ways, the conditions in Shivrai Nagar were worse than a slum.

When Shelter Associates surveyed households in Shivrai Nagar, they found that 40% of families they spoke to had no toilet access at all. There was no community toilet in the settlement and only one public toilet, located 1 km away. This left more than 2000 people with no option than to use open space for defecation.

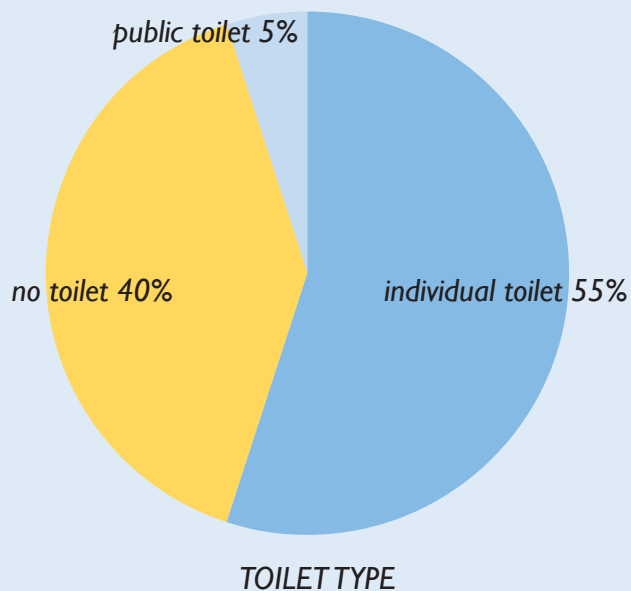
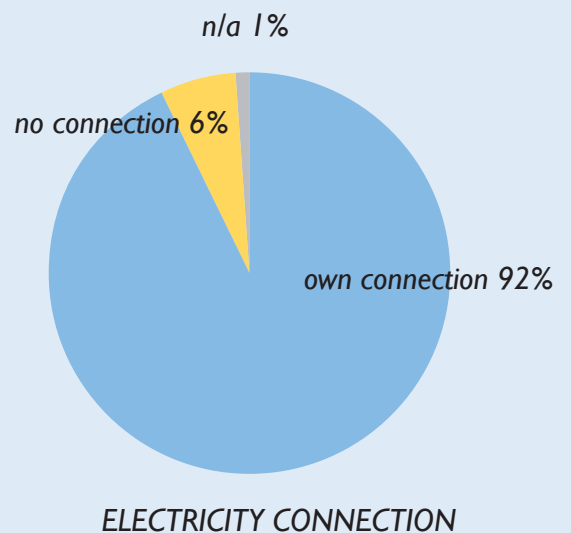
Some Survey Results...

The following information gives a brief illustration of the socio-economic conditions and access to basic services in Shivrai Nagar before the project began:



EMPLOYMENT

Most of the residents of Shivrai Nagar are skilled and unskilled construction workers. A very small percentage run their own small scale businesses such as scrap shops and grocery shops. Some women are self employed and engaged in activities like bidi (cigarette) making and tailoring.



Starting Off

The NGO Swadhar has been running a school for the children of Shivrai Nagar for many years. While they were working, the activists of Swadhar noticed that the sanitation problems were acute. So they approached Shelter Associates with their concerns, particularly relating to toilet provision.

Social Workers of Shelter Associates discussed the issue with the authorities, but the Pune Municipal Corporation explained that it was unable to extend its funds. Since Shivrai Nagar is a private settlement situated in a non-buildable zone, no money could be allocated from the funds that exist to support the building of individual toilets in slums.

So far, 105 individual toilets have been constructed in Shivrai Nagar

Action

As a solution to the crisis Shelter Associates decided to introduce a scheme in which an individual toilet could be provided on a cost-sharing basis. Approximately 30% of the cost had to be contributed by the family and SA would fund the rest. Swadhar organized a meeting on 3rd July 2010 at the settlement, at which Mrs. Pratima Joshi (Director, Shelter Associates) discussed the scheme. A large number of community members were present for the meeting and showed an overwhelming interest in the scheme.

*Construction began on 10th July, and to date, 105 toilets have been built. The cost-sharing model has proved to be an incentive for some of the residents living off lanes that previously had no sewerage lines. The families along **nine** such lanes have pooled funds to lay these drainage lines, as well as contributing 30% of the total cost of their individual toilets.*

open drains in the streets where children play



Survey

Shelter Associates conducted a rapid survey in Shivrai Nagar. Each and every house was numbered and a map and master list was created on Shelter's GIS platform. Detailed information was gathered about each household including the names and ages of each family member, their education, occupation and income. Information was also gathered about access to essential services such as water, electricity and waste disposal.

Through conducting surveys like this, Shelter Associates was able to build up a detailed picture of many other problems faced by the residents of Shivrai Nagar. Problems included waste disposal, poor sanitation, and lanes with no sewerage lines. This research formed the basis of many other initiatives to make the settlement a better place for human beings to live in.

A great relief for women

The Dasari family has been living in this settlement since 2000 in a largely solid construction. The economic condition is fairly good as there are two earning members. The man is a tailor by profession and his woman is a cigarrate - maker. previously the household had no option than to defecate on open land due to absence of toilet facilities. The four women had to control their natural calls and wait till early morning or late at night when it is dark outside. In order to avoid going to the toilet during the day the women used to eat and drink less which in turn used to affect their health. A major share from their income used to get wasted on medicine. A toilet in the house comes as a great relief to them.



the family and their new toilet

A toilet for young and old

The Kamble family has been living in this settlement since 2000 in a kutchha house. The economic condition is fairly poor since there is only one earning member working as a hotel waiter. There are five members including two small children and their elderly grandmother. All the members had to use the open land for defecation as there was no toilet available.

It was especially difficult for the grandmother to walk to the open space to defecate and someone was always needed to accompany her. Having a toilet in the house not only made things easier for the grandmother, but helped to improve standards of sanitation and cleanliness for the whole family.



the youngest members of Kamble family

A toilet to be proud of

The Shaikh Mehub family has been living in Shivrai Nagar since 2000 in a kutchha (metal sheet) house. The family do not earn a great deal but they were very keen to make the most of the opportunity to have their own toilet. The new toilet is of stronger construction than the rest of the house, with a new door and shiny white tiles. The family are very proud and hope to bring the rest of their house up to the same standard of construction over time.



the completed toilet with its new door

Waste disposal project

While working in Shivrai Nagar, Shelter Associates became aware of serious problems with waste disposal in the settlement, There was only one garbage container for the whole community, which was insufficient for the amount of waste being produced. On top of this, the garbage was not collected regularly so that the one container could not even get emptied on time. Garbage had spread to the surroundings and all available open spaces were filled with litter. From many perspectives this situation was worse than a slum.

The NGOs Shelter and Swadhar worked together to bring in SWACH, a cooperative of waste pickers involved in garbage collection across the city. SWACH, Swadhar and Shelter Associates met with the local authority to discuss the issues raised, which the ward officer promised to solve, step by step.

Shelter have facilitated meetings between the field workers of SWACH and community members to explain the importance and advantages of waste management. Meanwhile after months of campaigning, Swadhar and Shelter have successfully persuaded the local authority to relocate the garbage container to a more suitable area. Through the collective effort of all involved, a “ghanta gadi” (wheel barrow) has been introduced in the settlement which, for Rs.20 per family, collects the garbage from each and every house. A community worker from Shelter Associates accompanied the waste collector of SWACH for a month to facilitate garbage collection and raise awareness about the need to keep their environment clean.

before: the terrible rubbish situation outside the school



after: cleaner streets outside the school



SWACH collectors at work

