



Hardships come to an end!

Santaram and his family of 5 have been staying in this slum for a longtime. All along he has been working as a laborer. His wife and daughter are supporting their family by working as domestic helps in the neighborhood. Santaram is above 60 years of age. He has been fending for his family with full honesty and sincerity though life has not been very kind to him. His married daughter returned back to their home 15 years ago due to the unfortunate ill treatment she was put up with by her in laws. His 2 grown up sons regularly indulge in drinking and do not bear any family responsibilities. To add to the misery, his third son has been physically handicapped since birth. His lower body is dysfunctional. Santaram needs to carry his son from place to place. Now as the son is an adult, it is nearly impossible to do so and hence he is forced to crawl everywhere he needs to go. Visiting the community toilet meant somebody needed to accompany him and this would get really challenging during the monsoons. Santaram mentioned "During rains it used to be so painful to watch him drag himself on muddy filthy roads full of stones ... but could'nt help him in moments!"



The family felt elated when SA offered material to build a toilet at home. Unfortunately, the family did not have enough funds to build it. Then the father joined an annual camp in nearby D.Y.Patil hospital where every day one meal with Rs. 100 in cash would be given to all registered persons. By saving all that money plus their daughter's savings from working as a maid, they were able to get their toilet constructed in their house! The day the toilet was built and was ready for use, the tired but committed father expressed his feelings by saying, "now my invalid son will not have to drag himself on stony, filthy road to community toilet." He can now live as a human being! Santaram thanked SA, whole heartedly with folded hands with tears flowing down on his cheeks!



Santaram's son

