



# A hope for survival!

“I lost my husband to a heart attack last year.” A household run by a mother of 4 daughters. A household with no father. No husband or for that matter even a male individual to support them financially, mentally or emotionally.

Deepali Dilip Pawaskar, widowed at the age of 40 years, and was left behind with 4 daughters who are still pursuing their studies. Deepali works as a tailor to support her family and resides in the settlement of Shastri Nagar. “There are days when I only earn Rs.25 or some days I don’t earn a single penny. We did not even have any savings hence sustenance has been difficult but we are currently surviving on loans that we have taken from our relatives and from self help groups, but the interests charged are very high and I hope we can pay them off.”

With an already difficult life that the family led not only was this the concern of the mother of 4, but also another issue that kept her on her worked up was the ease in accessing a hygienic toilet facility. “All four children study in school and colleges, the community toilet blocks are not that far away, but are dirty and often one can see long queues outside the blocks. Due to which they sometimes get late for school and sometimes they go to school without using the toilets.”



Completed toilet and upgraded house

There were situations where if one of Deepali’s daughters wanted to use the community toilets late at night, she would wake up too to accompany them while she locked her other daughters in the house from outside while they were asleep. Life was hard for them. With no one to talk to or share their problems.

However with Shelter Associates working in that slum, Deepali found a solution to some of her problems. She was one of the first beneficiaries who opted for the OHOT Model. Now her daughters do not have to stand in long queues or even get late for their school and college. Deepali now does not worry about them venturing out alone at night or crossing the busy roads to use the CTB. Not only has she built her individual toilet but has also renovated her house. “I still have a lot of problems to overcome but I am happy that this burden is now off my shoulders. Thank you shelter associates for giving me a solution to this problem.”



Deepali and her daughters

