

ELECTRICITY IN AMBEDKARNAGAR, DHAYARI, PUNE

Ambedkar Nagar was the first settlement chosen for the pilot project by Shelter Associates (SA)/ Baandhani and Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB). This is a small settlement of 80 structures situated along a canal at the base of a slope. The entire settlement was mapped with the exact locations of hutments and other infrastructure including electric poles using plane table method of survey. There was a special questionnaire drawn up jointly by the MSEB and SA staff in order to record the status of electricity distribution and usage both at the settlement and individual hutment level. Initially the MSEB staff trained some of the Baandhani members to carry out surveys in about 5 huts. Later the entire settlement was surveyed by the core members of Baandhani and Dhayari.



Demonstration to the MSEB officers in their office

The survey also indicated the number of borrowing families who were ready to take their own individual connections which amounted to almost half the number of families. It was decided that SA would help MSEB to organise meetings in the settlement.

Accordingly, a meeting was held in the Area Resource centre of Dhayari which was attended by the divisional MSEB officers who explained the procedure for obtaining individual connection. It was decided that the payment could be split into two instalments to make it easy for the families. Many families were ready with their first instalment of Rs. 900 which was collected by the local Baandhani leader, Bayadabai Pawar.



MSEB Officers in the Dhayari Area Resource Centre

Some families who had been getting exorbitant bills were also able to discuss their billing problems and the MSEB has agreed to resolve these by making spot assessments.



Surveys being carried out by Baandhani

The map and the data were connected to each other on a GIS package and then analysed. The results were presented Mr. Shethji and the staff of MSEB on the computer at the MSEB. The presentation showed:

- ‡ the number of huts which had individual meter connections,
- ‡ borrowed connections,
- ‡ those which had no electricity.
- ‡ They were also able to see the houses that were served by the 5 electric poles in the entire settlement as they had different colour codes.
- ‡ The houses which were lending electricity to their neighbours could also be identified on the map by querying

The presentation clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of using the GIS enable monitoring of electricity distribution within slums.

