

Sangli: Launching Federation Activities

Building on our community experiences



Produced by Shelter Associates, Pune, July 2002.

Background: **SMKMC** was formed in 1998 and has been trying to introduce many innovative programmes. In mid-June 2001, **Baandhani and Shelter Associates** were invited by the **SMKMC** to make a presentation of their work in front of the councillors and administrative officers. This was a result of the **FIRE** initiative through which they were trying to explore the possibility of involving a **NGO/CBO** to carry out slum surveys in Sangli. The results of this survey would directly feed into the proposed privatisation of water and sewer networks in the city on a pilot basis to be carried out later by the **IL & FS**. Baandhani and Shelter Associates made a joint presentation of their activities with special emphasis on the **GIS** project which they were implementing in Pune, through which a detailed census of all the slums was being carried out. It was probably the first time that the poor were making a presentation to the city representatives and this was followed by a lively discussion between the elected members and the Baandhani members.



Lively discussion between Baandhani and SMKMC members!



Meeting with Municipal Commissioner Mr. Ashwani Kumar.

This was followed by visits to a few slums with senior officers of the **SMKMC** and a few councillors. Baandhani members had their first experience of slums in Sangli. They soon realised that these settlements were much smaller and also very under-serviced as compared to Pune. The houses were made of materials like thatch, bamboos, mud and plastic and the sloping roof topped with Mangalore tiles were a striking feature as compared to Pune where kuccha houses were invariably made of tin sheets with tin roofs.

There were several round of meetings with the Municipal Commissioner thereafter, which finally led to SA\ Baandhani being invited to carry out a slum census in **SMKMC**.



Slum visits with SMK-MC officials. Seen here are senior officials of the Corporation with SA social workers and Baandhani leaders.