



Nagappa Shinde
House No: 766, Laxmi Nagar

While some strongly claimed that coronavirus cannot be transmitted to them, the number of patients infected with the disease in Pune had begun to rise. Kothrud's informal settlement of Laxmi Nagar was no exception. A corona patient was discovered in the settlement and the number of patients grew day by day. People used to enter the settlement at night because they were afraid of the disease being spread in the daytime in the presence of people. The invention of the vaccine was the much awaited relief for everyone, except for a few.

Getting people vaccinated was initially quite challenging. Since most of the people of the informal settlements are daily wage earners, getting a day off would cost them a day's earnings. During vaccination camps organized by the Government or private agencies, there was usually a long queue of people waiting to get vaccinated which made it necessary to take the day off. This was the major reason preventing the daily wage earners from getting vaccinated. Furthermore, because of a lack of information and technological limitations, a majority of individuals were unable to register themselves or their families online on the CoWin app.

Soon enough Shelter Associates (SA) began its Vaccination Drive in the settlement, where they witnessed the same issues with people from different communities. With the belief that 'If we want to defeat Covid, we must vaccinate each and every person'. SA organized vaccination camps in different communities to vaccinate individuals in the surrounding regions.

They also went door to door with the doctors and vaccinated those who are blind and handicapped and are unable to visit the vaccination centre. 55 year old Nagappa Shinde, is a Karnataka native who now resides in Kothrud, Laxmi Nagar. He had an accident two years ago due to which he suffered major spinal cord injury resulting in his limbs becoming stiff and unmovable. In such a situation, getting to the vaccination centre was impossible for Nagappa and moreover, Nagappa's wife was worried that getting vaccinated would cause additional harm to her husband. Such difficult circumstances and the misinformation with regards to the corona vaccine prevented Nagappa from getting vaccinated.

Understanding his plight, Shelter Associates went the extra mile in getting the designated doctor at Nagappa's house to get him vaccinated. The fear in the mind of Nagappa's wife was also addressed by the mobilization team. Nagappa Shinde and his wife showed their gratitude towards SA for organizing such camps and getting them vaccinated in the comfort of their homes.