



Fighting the Pandemic through Individual Sanitation

Janardhan Gopal Jadhav is a native of Ramkisan Bhaiyaji chawl at Parshiwadi Kopari in Thane district of Maharashtra. Due to his seniority and helpful nature, Janardhan has gained a good dominance and respect from the residents. Everyone Looks up to him and follow his every decision.

Having no drainage network at Parshiwadi led to absence of household toilets in most of the families. With Shelter Associates' intervention in the slum, the drainage work was undertaken by the Smart Cities authority but was hugely opposed by Janardhan and other residents. The reason behind the protest was the fear that the drainage lines will further cause inconvenience to the residents. Some of the drainage lines passed in front of people's houses and the drainage gutters were narrow; therefore, the residents feared that the sewage from the chambers will enter their houses in the event of blocked chambers.

Shelter Associates team and the Corporator Mrs. Malati Ramakant Patil took multiple efforts to convince the people but the residents of Ramkisan Bhaiyaji chawl weren't convinced on the benefits of laying the drainage network. The mobilization efforts of Shelter Associates continued till people were convinced that the developments were meant towards the well-being of the people.

Days passed, and then one day, the wave of Corona Virus Disease (COVID19) entered the whole nation. Lockdown happened and various informal settlements came under the purview of COVID19 containment zones. People were scared to visit Community/Public toilets. People couldn't afford to pay thousands of rupees to get back to their villages.

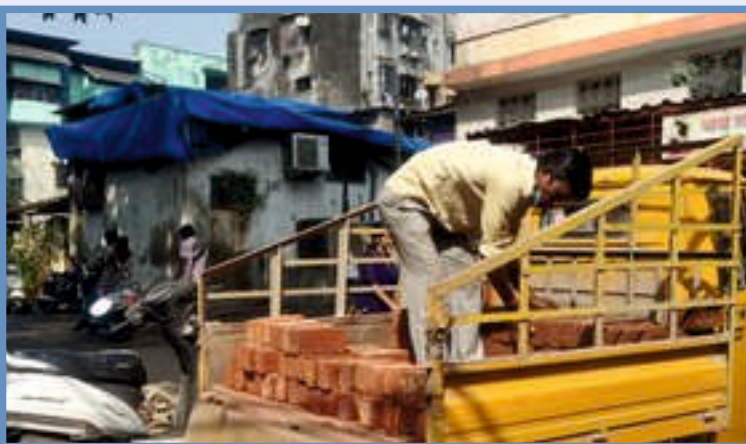
The residents of Parshiwadi felt remorse on opposing the drainage work initiated by the Urban Local Bodies and the support rendered by Shelter Associates in providing home toilets. People started realizing the importance of individual toilets. The residents took the initiative in following up with the corporator for the commencement of drainage work and simultaneously took the support from Shelter Associates in getting the toilet construction materials.



Janardhan Jadhav

Toilet Construction materials were distributed to the needy families in different phases. The families got their toilets constructed which paved way towards good health and better hygiene conditions even during the pandemic.

The guidance provided by SA through its community mobilization efforts and more importantly through the facilitation of household toilets in partnership with Bank of America is noteworthy. Janardhan Jadhav and the other resident of Parshiwadi thanked Shelter Associates for showing them proper direction and helping them through such difficult times.



Distribution of toilet construction material

