

## SAFETY, HEALTH & DIGNITY!

Turbhe Ward, Navi Mumbai



**Fulabai Kamble with her daughters-in-law**  
H.no. 197, Ganpati Pada  
Turbhe, Navi Mumbai

### CASE STORY FROM GANPATI PADA

Man, as we know is a social animal and has been migrating through ages in search of food, clothing and shelter. With growing needs, families move to places away from their homes in search of livelihood. Similarly in the 90's, Vijay and Fulabai Kamble and her 2 sons migrated to Mumbai from a small village of Kingaon in Latur. They shifted to Ganpati Pada slum settlement in the Turbhe ward of Navi Mumbai. In a few years' time, the sons got married and the family of four was extended to 8 members.

Bigger the family, bigger are their needs. The growing inflation affected the urban poor families in the areas other than the bare necessities. The Kamble family too faced the brunt with shortage of money and difficulty in meeting the family needs. Vijay worked in a company at the nearby MIDC area. The sons were employed too but that wasn't sufficient to cater to the family's growing needs. Fulabai also supported financially by working as a housemaid, but off late, her work has stopped due to the COVID19 lockdown situation. To top it all, the community toilets at the settlement too were an expense to the family. For every visit, the user had to pay Rs.2/- to the CTB Caretaker.

On an average, the Kamble family had to pay Rs.20/- per day, amounting to Rs.600/- per month. Their yearly expenditure to use a basic facility such as a toilet was Rs. 7200/- which was a huge amount for the Kamble family. This unavoidable expense was a burden to the family. Fulabai was always worried about providing a complete meal to the family and ensuring good health of all her family members, especially her small grandchildren.



*Kamble family's completed home toilet*

Amidst all the worries, one initiative changed their lives forever. Shelter Associates, an NGO and its funding organisations namely IKEA India and Collective Good Foundation came together to provide comprehensive sanitation solution to the residents which also included giving toilet construction materials to those in need. The project 'One Home One Toilet' (OHOT) of facilitating urban poor families with individual household toilets came as a boon for the Kamble family. Not just that, the extensive community mobilization activities conducted by the Shelter Associates team has been an added advantage that helped spread positive awareness and knowledge on the importance of maintaining a good hygiene and staying safe from the COVID19 pandemic.

**'The cost of using only a public toilet is more much more compared to building a home toilet through OHOT, not forgetting the numerous challenges the families face while using the community toilets.'**

Even though the family had to bear a minimum cost for the toilet construction, it was very little compared to the long-term recurring expenses and the endless problems that the family had to face. After years of hardship, the Kamble family could now be relieved of their worries. The home toilet has not only helped the Kamble family financially, but also escaped the hassle of standing in long queues and visiting the community toilet during odd hours. The family can now save to have a better present and a brighter future.