



**SA**shelter  
associates

# Sanjay Park Slum, Nagar Road Ward, Pune

Sanjay Park slum is situated on the Pune-Ahmednagar road in close proximity to the grand Phoenix mall. This slum is hidden behind a fence of vertical galvanized sheets on the road to the Lohegaon Airport. It is flanked by restricted land of the armed forces on one side, on the other is a private property and in the front is the main road.

This slum with around 250 households in the Nagar road ward is an unrecognized slum, and hence, residents of this slum have always been under the threat of relocation. Residents of Sanjay Park slum mostly work as laborers on construction sites, few women work as waste pickers while few women work as domestic help in housing societies located nearby. Due to limited space available within the slum, the lanes are very narrow and congested. The slum has a community toilet with 5 seats each for men and women; however, the maintenance of the toilet is poor. Only 2 of the five seats in the women's section are in use. Very often children from the slum were forced to defecate openly on the

*Community toilet situated at the entrance of Sanjay Park slum*



footpath besides the road. The problem was further compounded as the slum did not have a garbage collection system in place resulting in choked sewerage lines. This created a health nuisance to the entire neighbourhood which has been 'up in arms' against the community.

A few women from the Sanjay Park slum, visited Yamunanagar -a nearby settlement where Shelter Associates (SA) was working on the issue of sanitation. They saw the work undertaken there and requested SA to build toilets in their slum too.

*Transformation from Kutcha houses to Semi-pucca or Pucca houses*



*Congested path within the slum*



## SANITATION

The first step was to clean the existing drainage line which was done by deploying special machinery as the lanes were very narrow for trucks to enter. Even after cleaning the drainage lines, the problem persisted. However, due to lack of household waste management system in place, the drainage lines would again clog. It was then that SA and the ward office decided to tackle the situation in a different way. First, a door-to-door household waste collection system was set up, as a next step, toilets were constructed and later drainage lines were cleaned; in this way the strategy was formulated. SA trained the community in household waste management, they were taught to segregate dry and wet waste. Few women from the community who were waste pickers agreed to collect the household waste for a monthly fee. A kind of mesh (jalis) was placed at appropriate places around the chambers along the drainage lines. After this SA commenced the facilitation of individual toilets. The survey results showed that only six households amongst the 250 had individual toilets when SA started working in



Women from the community along with Shelter staff in the ward office to request for provision of clean and safe drinking water



the Sanjay Park slum. From 17th July 2015 as SA started its work, more and more people started participating in the project and within two months of inception nearly 200 individual toilets were constructed in the slum. Before SA started its work in the community, barely 4-5 houses were pucca houses while all other houses were built of tin sheets. Residents immediately took decisions to convert their kaccha houses to pucca houses. The triggering factor for this was the toilets.

Almost 80% of the houses converted from kaccha to pucca. Those, who were living for years in bent and broken tin sheds were now living in a pucca house with brick walls and concrete roof.

Space constraint was not only experienced by the residents but also by the residents in the surrounding area. Residents from the slums would usually put their clothes to dry on the road divider which was an ugly sight especially for those driving to the airport. To hide this unpalatable sight, the ward office built up a tin fence around the slum and tried to hide the slum.

Women from the community have volunteered to offer the service of household waste collection in the slum

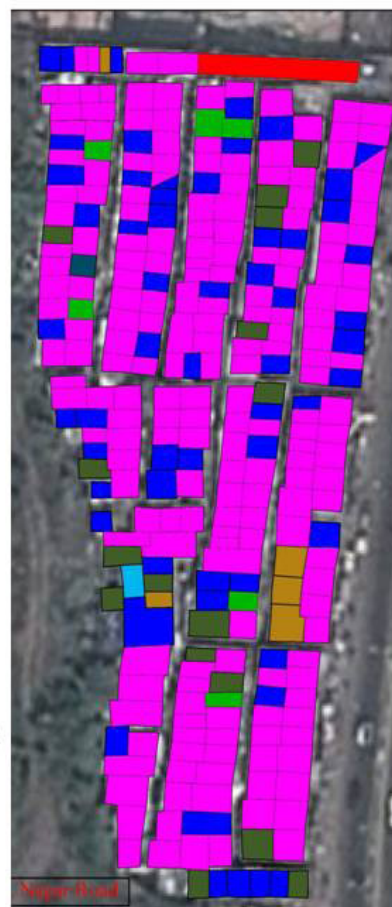


A strong committee of women to tackle local issues was set up with the help of SA which has been negotiating with the local ward office through the Mohalla committee meetings to get access to other services like water. Local residents of the slum are grateful to SA as they are now receiving those services which they were deprived of for years. “Shelter has worked with us to identify our problems and taught us to find solutions for them and we would continue to seek their support for other issues too” is what the residents of the slums have to say. The slum which is now ‘open defecation free’ and has a strong household waste collection system and a committee in place which is working collectively to resolve issues in a democratic way.

Cleaning of drainage lines with the help of the ward office



The physical changes are very visible as the lanes have neatly lined up pucca houses which are almost two storey in height reflecting the aspirations and upward mobility of the community.



### Impact in Sanjay Park slum on GIS Maps

#### SANITATION

