

'One Home, One Toilet'

The Shelter Associates' Toilet Revolution

Sheena, a 50-year-old mother of two, waited most of her life to achieve her dream of having a toilet inside her house. Until a little over a year ago, she and her two daughters had no option but to either visit the poorly maintained community toilets, or take a walk to answer nature's call.

Over the past 4 years, sanitation has achieved mainstream prominence and success especially in rural areas, however, there still is a need to address sanitation challenges in urban areas. Our partner Shelter Associates is one such organisation that helps the urban poor gain access to sanitation facilities in their own homes, thereby improving their living

conditions, health and safety.

Based in Pune, Shelter Associates (Shelter) comprises of architects, social workers, technical experts and community workers. What makes Shelter's approach unique is their use of technology, government participation and community mobilisation in unison. Through their 'One Home, One Toilet' model, they are able

to deliver sanitation solutions and work with the community to address issues such as access,



maintenance and security (for women & children at night). Using GIS mapping tools and Google Earth they are able to understand the demographics, need and demand for individual toilets. Shelter also shares accurate updated city-wide slum data to the Municipal Corporation and works very closely with them.

On November 15, 2019, Shelter Associates celebrated their 25 years' anniversary and as part of a day-long seminar on data driven development, inclusive sanitation and housing for the urban poor, the H T Parekh Foundation was invited to share their thoughts and suggestions on 'The role data has played in addressing sanitation, hygiene and health goals in urban slums'.

Driving sustainable change depends on a multi-stakeholder collaboration that brings together government and local residents, as well as private sector organisations in finding appropriate solutions, which Shelter has proved to be capable of.

The Panellists included Mr Manas Rath (Senior Advisor of BORDA & CDD Society), Mr Ratnakar Gaikwad (Former Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra) as the Chairperson in the panel, Dr Ketaki Ghatage (Medical Officer, Solid Waste management PMC), Pooja Kamath (H T Parekh Foundation) and Mr Sasanka Velidandla (CEO of CDD Society). 

