



# Building Sakharaba's Toilet Shelter Associates Case Studies

Sakharabai Tuzare is a 68 year old woman who lives in Yamuna nagar near Yerawada. For the past 30 years she has been living in this vasti with her family in a less than modest home. Her house was made of corrugated tin sheets and after her husband's passing, she had no resources to improve the situation. She raised her two daughters herself and when time came, got them married.

In 2013, a sewage pipeline had to be laid by the corporator and the pipeline passed from underneath her neighbour's house. Due to its fragile condition, her house did not sustain the impact of the construction happening in her neighbour's house. The entire hut collapsed leaving Sakharabai homeless. When she approached the corporator, he told her there was no remuneration that he could offer her since they had not worked on her property. They only rebuilt the neighbour's under whose house the sewage line was laid. The nagar sewak promised her that they would help her rebuild her house after Diwali. Sakharabai has faced excruciating mental and physical pain for over a year. She set up a sheet of tarpaulin under which she keeps all her belongings. She sits, eats and sleeps out in the open where her modest house once stood. The open space that was once her house has now started acting as passage for other women from the settlement to access the area behind for open defecation. Despite her protests, women continue to defecate in the open close to where Sakharabai cooks her food. People often harass her to sell her land to them. But she is unbending.



***'I am not ready to die yet. I will fight for as long as I am alive.'***



She says, *"I am not ready to die yet. I will fight for as long as I am alive."* Sakharabai works as a casual labourer to support her living. After having taken care of her sick daughter and helping her in difficult times, she believes that she can endure anything.

Sakharabai has no house, no place to call her own and still in this situation, she displayed a presence of mind that no one could believe. She decided to build a toilet before she could build a house. When we asked her how she would be able to afford it, she said, *"I have done everything against all odds up till now. I can do this too! I will build this toilet and my house no matter how long it takes!"*

Her response left us perplexed. A woman who spends her day figuring out where her next meal will come from and has no roof over her head had just shown courage and zeal beyond our imagination. Sakhabai is an outstanding woman who showed her mettle by taking such a bold and brave step that defied all norms of social thinking.

We are proud to be helping her build her own toilet and we hope that she continues to show such passion in overcoming her obstacles.



***"I have done everything against all odds up till now. I can do this too!  
I will build this toilet and my house no matter how long it takes!"***