



## Case Study

Temporary Homes for  
Waste-pickers in Medi Agrahara



Land allotments for waste pickers are hard to come by. Even harder if it is their first time being inducted into the system.

A big community of waste pickers had been living under the bridges and on the footpaths of Cox Town for a few years now. We enumerated them under our social security program and helped them to get their documentation and bank accounts in place. Since then we have been trying to find them land allotments through the Karnataka Slum Development Board.

2 years ago, they were allotted land in a far away location. This made it inconvenient for the waste pickers for finding work in that neighbourhood and to travel for work. Instead they preferred Medi Agrahara to the original location. Through DSS (Dalitha Samara Sene) they demanded for the land allotments to be made in Medi Agrahara.

The Slum board promised that they will eventually build homes for these waste pickers in Medi Agrahara. But on the condition that until then only temporary housing structures can be built on the allotted land. The residents lived in rented accommodations in the area for nearly 2 years before the land allotments were finally given in March 2020.

Building permanent homes is an expensive affair. Considering the fact that the Slum board will be demolishing all existing structures on the allotted land. We planned to build temporary homes that will last them for about a year or more until the Slum Board shall construct and hand over their new homes. Initially, we advised the households to save up to Rs. 2000 each before we beginning the construction.



**W**e started planning for the homes just before the lockdowns began. Unfortunately, the lockdown derailed all our plans. It had to be put on hold until we could move materials from the market to the site and find requisite labour.

Once land allocations were certain, we started collecting materials for construction. We had detailed discussions with the home owners to explain what can be done and cannot do with the available funds. We broke down the costs and showed them the feasible scenarios to choose from.

A budget of Rs. 50,000 was assigned to each home. Out of which they would be getting:

A properly constructed 10x10 room, hard cement flooring, a plinth, a shallow but firm foundation, cement sheet roof, labour costs for the construction, cost for setting up water and electricity connections and a toilet to be shared between 4 households.



On the 1st of June 2021 we began the construction on site with the family members contributing physical labour.

The residents hired local masons to help reduce the dependence on labour risking to come to work from outside during the pandemic. DSS helped by providing water tankers at cheaper rates and facilities like water storage bins and other implements to use during construction.

The homes were to be ready by the 10th of June for the residents move in by then. With the excess cement available on site we constructed small storage facilities, steps and such additions around the house.

### Cost Breakup:

	Item	QTY	Cost/unit	UNIT	Total Cost
1	DUST (M Sand)	0.75	7000	Truckload	5250
2	Roofing sheets	4	820	Sheets	3280
3	Hollow bricks	400	32	pieces	12800
4	Doors	1	5000	Lumpsum	4000
5	Windows	1	2000	Lumpsum	2000
6	Cement	11	390	bags	4290
7	MS Angle	13		Lumpsum	481
8	Water+Misc	1	2000	Lumpsum	Self
9	Shared toilet Cost	1	3000	Lumpsum	3000
	Labour, electricity, etc	1	14000	Lumpsum	11000
	Miscellaneous expenses	1		Lumpsum	900
	<b>Totals</b>				<b>50000</b>



We sourced the doors and windows for the houses from the used goods markets in the area to keep our costs in check. This helped us to get quality goods at a lower price.

The money left from what was allotted for the doors went into buying stones to set up as lintels on the door frames.



Once the home owners moved in, the surplus money from the budget was then used to construct small sheds around the house to extend the living quarters for accommodating the families.







Gouri, has recently received her house through the program. You can listen to her talk about her journey from being unsheltered to having a home of her own, here.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5NuPoGB\\_so](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5NuPoGB_so)