



Innovative Affordable Housing Solutions For The Santhal Community

Durgapur, West Bengal

Building Strength, Stability and Self-Reliance
Through Shelter and Sanitation in
Partnership with



NIRMAN
B. D. BANGUR ENDOWMENT

MESSAGE

Message by the Managing Director

"My daughter wants to be a teacher when she grows up, I will strive hard to make her dream come true. This house is the stepping stone for my children's better future."

- Chunko Soren, Habitat Homeowner, Durgapur (West Bengal)

The human right to adequate housing is more than just four walls and a roof. Habitat for Humanity India has been working with low-income, disaster-affected and vulnerable communities for the past 35 years to empower them through shelter and sanitation solutions. This philosophy is mirrored in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 that aims to 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

Over the three and half decades, Habitat India has seen the tremendous impact that affordable housing has on helping people create better lives for themselves and their families. What began as a humble housing project impacting 60 individuals has now become a nation-wide movement serving more than 2.1 million individuals in 26 states of India. Our aim is to serve 51 million individuals by 2022 and help them achieve their dream of living in a safe and a decent home.

Our housing project for the Santhal tribes in Durgapur (West Bengal) in partnership with Nirmaan B. D. Bangur Endowment is a testimony of the same belief that everyone deserves a decent home to live in. I would like to thank Mrs. Manjushree Bangur, Advisory Member, Nirmaan B. D. Bangur Endowment for placing their faith in us. We firmly believe that these new homes will provide these 10 families with an opportunity to achieve strength, stability and self reliance to build a better future for themselves and their families.

In Partnership

Rajan Samuel
Managing Director
Habitat for Humanity India





DURGAPUR

Durgapur is the 3rd largest urban agglomeration after Kolkata and Asansol in West Bengal and happens to be the 2nd planned city in India after Chandigarh. Planned by two American Architects- Joseph Allen Stein and Benjamin Polk in 1955, Durgapur has a beautiful amalgamation of the energy of a metropolitan city and the charm of a village life.

With a total population of less than half a million, Durgapur is situated on the banks of Damodar river in the Bardhaman district of West Bengal.

Paschim Bardhaman district is predominantly an urban mining-industrial region in West Bengal.

Therein lies Kanksa, a community development block in Durgapur sub-division. Coal mining and steel manufacturing are the major economic sources for the people living in the region. The total population of the region is around 1,78,125 of which a little over 10% (18,239) people are scheduled tribes.

Habitat for Humanity India
Intervention:

- Sundiara village
- Rangre village
- Palasbani village
- Bhalukunda village



● **DURGAPUR**

West Bengal

The Santhal Community

The third largest tribe in India, Santhal Tribes populate the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam. Belonging to the pre-Aryan period, Santhals were known as one of the greatest fighters during British regime in India. The Santhal tribe stays in a community or group occupying a particular land or village. They are a minor community but mostly found in the eastern Indian region. People belonging to the Santhal Tribe worship the spirits and Marangburu and Bonga Gods through nature especially in West Bengal. During the spring and autumn, they offer their prayers through music and dance. Sal tree, found in abundance in this region, is also considered pious.

The livelihood of the tribe is dependent on hunting, fishing and cultivation. They possess special skills in making musical instruments, mats and baskets from the local vegetation. This talent is passed from generations.

The government provides this tribe with schools and hospitals with regular check-ups for the progress of the tribe along with support for building their homes and sanitation units for the families. However, due to restricted lifestyle and lack of information on advancement, the tribe remains highly neglected .







About New Homes and Habitat Homeowners

In Durgapur, the Santhal community has been living in mud houses with thatched roofs for many generations. The houses comprised of a small space for kitchen and a small living room. The houses lacked ventilation and natural light. The homes had no toilets in the house hence the families were forced to go out in the open to defecate. There was no water supply or electricity in the houses. People had to travel almost 7 to 10 kms every day to get potable water for themselves.

Learning about these fundamental challenges faced by the community, Habitat for Humanity India partnered with B. D. Bangur Endowment to build homes for the people belonging to the Santhal tribe.

Habitat India carried out an intensive survey in 292 households – consisting of 1300 individuals - living in poor housing conditions in Kanksa block. All the



households had a monthly family income of less than INR 6000. People worked as daily wage labourers in the farms or as masons in the village.

The findings of the survey enabled Habitat India to identify 10 families in dire need of a decent shelter. While the need for housing is huge among the tribe, B. D. Bangur Endowment

joined hands with Habitat for Humanity India to build homes for the Santhals in a phase-wise manner. In Phase one, for these 10 families in phase In the phase one of Habitat India's intervention in the community, 10 households were identified in dire need of a decent shelter.

IMPACT MATRIX

VILLAGE SIZE: 292 FAMILIES

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED: 292

PEOPLE IMPACTED THROUGH HABITAT INDIA'S INTERVENTION: 37

NEW HOMES BUILT: 10

FOR A BETTER CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION



MANJALI AND CHUNKO SOREN

"My daughter wants to be a teacher when she grows up, I will strive hard to make her dream come true. This house is the stepping stone for my children's better future. My son's health will improve due to better ventilation in the house. He will be able to accompany his sister to school!" - Chunko Soren

Chunko Soren used to live in a mud house on the outskirts of the Sundaria village, Kanksha block, Paschim Bardhaman district near the highway connecting Durgapur village.

Being near the road, Chunko and his wife, Manjali always feared their children's safety as there was no door in the house. The children would run towards the highway not realising the potential danger caused by the speeding vehicles on the nearby highway. Lack of decent ventilation and water supply kept the children perpetually ill.

Chunko works as a daily labourer with a minimum earning of INR 4000 per month. A new home was a distant dream from Chunko and his family. His wife supports the family income by making and selling plates made of Sal leaves.

With the new house built in partnership with Habitat for Humanity India and B. D. Bangur Endowment, Chunko can feel at peace with his children's safety while earn for their better future.





Sunil Hembrom

Habitat Homeowner

“We miss our father dearly, but we are also happy that his last wish was complete. He could see our new house being built in front of his eyes. It was because of support from Habitat India and B. D. Bangur Endowment, we were able to fulfil his dream of giving the family a decent home.”

BUILDING SELF-RELIANCE AND FINANCIAL STABILITY

BALU MURMU

"My family now has a permanent roof over their head. This is one big worry off my shoulder." – **Balu Murmu.**

Balu Murmu lives in Balachonda village, Kanksha Block, Pashchim Bardhaman with his daughter and son-in-law. Balu was getting old and with no constant source of income, the burden of the house fell on the son-in-law and daughter who started working as daily wage labourers. Their old house was giving way with cracks in the walls. The thatched roof would blow away due to strong winds and harsh weather. Moreover, the house lacked ventilation and with addition of two grand children the space was not sufficient for the family.





Habitat India in partnership with B. D. Bangur Endowment supported Balu to build a safe home for his daughter and his grand children. After completion of the house, the entire family was overwhelmed to see the structure.

The kitchen garden will help the family grow vegetables for their own consumption and even to contribute to their family income. With the provision of a sanitation unit in the house, the family does not have to worry about open defecation.

“My grandchildren feel safe and secure. We can now save better for their education and their future. My family can finally lead a life with some respect,” said **Balu**.



Baideshwar Hembram

Habitat Homeowner

“A new home has given me hope. I used to consume alcohol to avoid apprehension of my children’s future. Thanks to Habitat India, B. D. Bangur Endowment and a proper roof over my family’s head, I am now at peace. I have given up drinking and my entire energy and focus is on saving money for children’s education and a better future.”



Raju Ruidas

Habitat Homeowner

“With a new house, I was able to get my family back home. I was not able to provide a decent home to my wife and children, due to which they were living in my in-laws home, away from me. I can’t contain my happiness as I can see my children grow in a decent home right before my eyes. No words can express my gratitude towards Habitat India and B. D. Bangur Endowment, because of whom my home is complete.”

BUILDING A SWACHH BHARAT

KALOMONI MURMU

Kalomoni Murmu worked as daily wage labourer and struggled to make ends meet after she lost her husband many years ago. Living in a thatched home in Balochonda village, Kanksha block, Paschim Bardhaman district, Kalomoni lived with her two children in a dilapidated house for more than 10 years. With limited income, Kalomoni couldn't afford to repair the cracked walls. The roof leaked during monsoon, and with no toilet in the home, the family had to no option but





to defecate in the open. The family used to spend sleepless nights due to the fear of snakes and insects entering her home.

Habitat India and B. D. Bangur Endowment worked with Kalomoni to build her home comprising of a sanitation unit. Kalomoni wants to lead by example and wants to spread the advantage of a toilet in the home among her neighbours.

“With the area surrounded by reptiles, there was a constant fear when we were forced to go out in open to defecate. With old age open defecation gets even more difficult. With the new toilet in the house, I can now use it at will. The toilet makes my home feels complete,” said a proud **Kalomoni**.



Rabindranath Maddi Habitat Homeowner

“My wife is unwell and she used to find it difficult to go out in open to relieve herself. With the new toilet in our house, she can use the toilet at her will. With support from Habitat India and B. D. Bangur Endowment, I was able to provide the most necessary entity that my family needed, a safe environment and a clean toilet. I am sure this house will bring health and prosperity in my family.”



Sonatan Murmu

Habitat Homeowner

“My house has a majority of women and our old house didn’t have a toilet. All the women had to go out in open to defecate. When we built a house with Habitat India and B. D. Bangur Endowment, my main focus was a toilet in the house. With that fulfilled, I don’t have to worry about their safety.”

Technology for Building Stronger Homes and Stronger Futures

While Durgapur is a planned city, many villages situated in Durgapur are now developed. Villages like Palasbani and Sundiara are in the stage of development. The families in these villages live in small shanties or houses made of mud with thatched roofs or tarpaulin sheets. This has stunted the development of the people and has resulted in making the villages financially weak.

During the survey conducted by B. D. Bangur Endowment and Habitat India, it was observed that due to limited financial conditions and substandard housing conditions, the families continued to live in a cycle of poverty.

Habitat believes that safe, decent and affordable shelter plays an absolutely

critical role in helping families to create a new cycle, one filled with possibilities and progress.

Habitat for Humanity's Technical and Engineering team developed a floor plan for the houses taking into consideration space, geographical and cultural context. At the same time, the construction cost was kept minimal. The homes comprise of a living room, kitchen, bedroom, a bathroom and a toilet which has entrance from outside the home.

Environment friendly material like cement, fly ash and sun-dried bricks was used in construction of the home.

There is a plinth protection and earthquake resistant foundation with

interlocking system giving an extra layer to the foundation which makes the houses disaster resilient. The roof has Reinforced Concrete Composite (RCC) material to protect from rainwater seeping in the house. The house has open spaces for circulation of air in the house providing proper ventilation. There is CGI (Corrugated Galvanised Iron) roofing with frame to cover cooking area with minimum cost and provision for incremental construction.

The special feature of the house is the space given for kitchen garden owing to the high level fertile soil. This will help the family to cultivate necessary vegetables in their own backyard.



FINANCIALS

Particulars	Amount (in INR)
Core Cost: Construction of 10 New Houses	44,50,000
Assessment, Selection and Community Meetings	40,500
Monitoring and Supervision	3,31,778
Project Implementation and Execution Cost	2,08,250
Technical Assistance	1,06,537
Documentation and Reporting	1,27,830
Endline Evaluation	24,500
Project Support Cost - National Office in Mumbai, Maharashtra	1,95,655
Total Cost	54,85,050

About Habitat for Humanity India

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort. The housing organization has since grown to become a leading global non-profit working in more than 70 countries. In India since 1983, Habitat for Humanity has supported more than 2.1 million people to build or improve a place they can call home. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower.

A World where everyone has a decent place to live.



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Habitat for Humanity India is rated 1A by CRISIL

