

Jaipur-Case Study of Positive Deviants

This family symbolizes tenacity in the face of extreme adversity. The family, comprising a mother (65), two daughters (25 and 27) and a son (24) migrated from Gujarat to Jaipur for the treatment of their son who was suffering from cancer. In their struggle to get him treatment, they faced great ordeals in Jaipur as they moved from one hospital to another. The situation was compounded by the fact that they did not belong to the state. Having migrated, they found it difficult to apply for citizenship entitlements like Unique Identification Number or Aadhaar and ration cards, which made it difficult for them to apply for the state government's health insurance scheme. The son soon passed away due to lack of proper treatment.

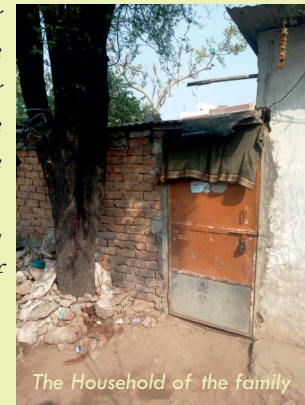
Shortly afterwards, the mother was also detected with throat cancer. Not giving up, they settled in a small tent in Badodiabasti, which was near a naala (a dirty water channel). Without basic amenities such as a toilet, electricity, drinking water supply, they eat and sleep in their small tent. The two daughters are the breadwinners of the family. They barter small steel vessels in return for old clothes that are recycled. Through their meagre earnings, they take care of their mother.

Despite the many problems they face and lack of basic facilities, they are the quintessential 'positive deviants' that you find across resource-poor setting. They keep their tent clean, get their drinking water from the nearby pipeline and store it in clean vessels. They boil and filter the water before drinking. The family uses the nearby community toilet in Swami Basti, and when there is an urgent need, they use their neighbor's toilet. The girls are aware of menstrual hygiene practices and use sanitary pads. The challenge is to go to the community toilet at night, due to lack of safety. They are also quite aware of the importance of handwashing.

The family have been approaching many leaders and officials to provide them basic facilities but nothing has materialized so far, but given their determination and grit they are not willing to give up the hope of seeing better times. Narrated by Sumitra



Depicts the two sisters near their HH



The Household of the family



Temporary arrangement of bathroom at the HH