

KANKU BEN Patel



DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI



Kanku Ben Patel and her husband live with their two children in Ahir Falia, Dokmardi, Silvassa. She works as a domestic house worker and her husband is a watchman at an industry nearby. The life transforming story of the family is heartwarming. She got married at a very young age and lived in dilapidated house made with mud walls and sticks. For a very long time, Kanku felt that she was destined to live a life in poverty.

Her problems never came to an end, she faced several challenges like a leaking roof, flooding, unhygienic kitchen and most importantly security issues as there were no toilet within the house. The fact that her children had to also lead a life like this bothered her very much.

As they say, fortune favours those who want to change their destiny. Her husband once saw a hoarding of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with information about the PMAY(U) Scheme. The couple went to the ward councilor and asked if they could be enrolled. They received financial assistance and the family collectively engaged in finishing the construction of the house. The new pucca house has brought pride, peace and happiness to the family.

Her experience influenced the community around her, from having lived in an era where women were oppressed and helpless and left to be dependent on their husbands. Once she got her own pucca houses, she mobilized other women in the neighbourhood to get enrolled in the scheme. She is proud that she is a change maker who brought confidence, self-reliance not just personally but to several other women.

The family does not stop thanking the Hon'ble Prime Minister for launching such a great Scheme for poor and homeless people.