PMC project to rehabilitate 5 slums in Dhankawadi
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Pune: The Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana (RAY) that aims at a slum-free city is being implemented by the Pune Municipal Corporation in Dhankawadi. The pilot project aims at rehabilitating five slums. The project is in the first stage of implementation and will provide in-situ slum rehabilitation. By April, the work on the project will begin.

Poonam Mehta, livelihood development specialist, appointed by the PMC, says, "We are trying to implement the scheme in Dhankawadi as it has only five slums. Once it is successful here, we will replicate it in other areas. This time we are trying to give a lot of importance to community participation. This will enable us to communicate better with the beneficiaries".

At Dhankawadi, NGOs have begun their work. “Our volunteers along with local women residents are speaking to every family in the slums. We are recording their ration card, voting cards, bank accounts details and then accordingly we will submit a proposal regarding the budget to the PMC,” says Savita Sonawane, member of NGO Mahila Milan. Once the survey is done, PMC will issue a list of beneficiaries for the programme.

National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDF) volunteers have been working in the area. “A slum rehabilitation or relocation project is met with a lot of resistance” says Dhanajay Sadalapure, Project in-charge. "Most of the time, PMC only sends notice for clearances or relocation of slums. This is met with resistance. We are trying to act as a conduit between PMC and beneficiaries, to help them arrive at a solution.”

The project also aims at providing design solutions for slum dwellers. The locals will be consulted on how they want to rebuild their houses. This is being followed in all the in-situ slum rehabilitation work under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) scheme implemented in Yerawada slums.

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