

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Bhuj, Gujarat, India. The foreground and middle ground are filled with a dense cluster of multi-story residential buildings, many with flat roofs. Some buildings have satellite dishes or antennas on their roofs. A prominent tall, lattice-structured tower is visible in the middle ground. In the background, a large, forested hill rises against a clear sky. The hill has several peaks, with a small structure or fortification visible on the highest peak. The overall lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

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THE CITY CALLS

BHUJ VISION 2022 - TOWARDS DECENTRALISATION



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Supported by:



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Published by:

Homes in the City Programme

Year of Publication: 2017

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

With a great sense of pleasure and satisfaction, we express sincere thanks to participants of the workshop, without whose participation and support, the organisation of workshop would have not been possible.

Our sincere thanks to Shri Vasantbhai Ahir, Parliamentary Secretary, Ms. Nimaben Acharya, MLA Bhuj, Shri Tara Chand Cheda, MLA Mandvi for their participation in the workshop and guiding us by expressing their views on initiatives taken under the HIC programme. We express thanks to Shri Kiritbhai Sompura, Chairman, BHADA, Shri Ashokbhai Hathi, President, Bhuj Nagarpalika for their active involvement and support to organise the workshop.

We are highly grateful to Ms. Paromita Roy, Dy. Director (Arch.), DDA, Mr. Hitarth Arya, Urban Planner, Nascent Info Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Clinton Vaz, Founder, vRecycle, Mr. Sanjay Chittora, Aajeevika Bureau, Ms. Geetha Nambisan, Jagori, Mr. Saurabh Shah, Excel Industries Ltd., Mr. Jay Shah, UMC Ahmedabad for sharing their experiences in the workshop.

Thanks are to the Chairpersons and panellists of all the thematic groups for providing background inputs for and conducting proceedings of all the parallel sessions. We are thankful to them and also to other participants from Kutch Engineers and Architect Association, CREDAI, Prof. Dinesh Mehta, CEPT University, Shri A.K. Singh, CGWB. Several organizations and individuals have contributed to the successful organization of this workshop. We are grateful to Khamir, Jalstrot Sneh Samvardhan Samiti (JSSS), Bhuj City Advocacy Group, Banni Pashu Ucherak Maldhari Sangathan, Bhuj Pashu Ucherak

Maldhari Sangathan, Resident Welfare Association, Ramdev Nagar and Elected Representatives of Bhuj Nagarpalika.

Workshop organising team - Mr. Nimish Gor, Ms. Nilam Sompura, Ms. Aruna Joshi, Mr. Vimal Mehta and Mr. Gopal Reel – deserve our sincere thanks for ensuring proper arrangements and management throughout the workshop.

Several staff members of HIC partner organizations, Bhuj Nagarpalika and Bhuj Area Development Authority (BHADA) provided admirable support for smooth conduct of this workshop, which is acknowledged with thanks.

We would also thank to Shri Vinod Chawda, Member of Parliament, Kachchh for attending one of the sessions in the workshop and motivating and guiding us with an assurance that he would support these kind of initiatives in future for the development of the city.

We do acknowledge and thank Ms. Layana Thallasserri for editing, proof-reading and finalising this workshop report.

Misereor deserves our sincere thanks for financial support to organise this workshop.

Last, but not the least, our special thanks to HIC Steering Committee members, Shri Arunbhai Vachhrajani, Shri Upenderbhai Upadhyay, Shri M.H. Pir and Ms. Fatimaben Jat for their guidance throughout the event.



01 CONTEXT

The last couple of years have been significant, as several pilots that were developed through the HIC programme were acknowledged by the Municipality as relevant for expansion. They adopted these and sent them to the State Government as the city's proposals for funding. Further, the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Bhuj, Ms. Neemaben Acharya and the Member of Parliament (MP), Mr Vinod Chavda took special efforts to organise that the proposals are heard and sanctioned by the relevant departments in the State.

This year's theme for 'The City Calls' is setting a vision and developing the modalities for implementing these models on larger scale in the city in the next five years. All these pilots have three important attributes - they have innovated to ensure that citizens are in better control of the management of these programmes; they are technical solutions that can be deployed at decentralised scales with ecologically sensitive and low carbon footprints; and all of them benefit by providing dignity and place to the disadvantaged in the city.

The pilots that have been or are under consideration with the state government are as follows:

1. The rain water recharging technology demonstrated in Jubilee Colony was considered significant, as it reduced the problems of flooding colonies during high intensity rainfall; and the recharged water into the local aquifer improved the quality of drinking water for the residents. It was adopted by the State government. Four other recharge bore wells were constructed under the AMRUT programme of the government whereas 12 more such recharge bore wells are proposed for construction in the



Inauguration of workshop by dignitaries through lighting the lamp

next phase under the same programme.

2. The Solid Waste Management pilots of collecting segregated waste from households directly, and their recycling by engaging rag-pickers at ward level was demonstrated with the support of Municipality. Subsequently, a comprehensive waste management plan for the city was prepared by Sahjeevan and submitted to Gujarat Swachhta Mission through the Bhuj Municipality. This plan suggests financial reforms to make the operations viable and self-sustaining.
3. The demonstration in Ward No. 2 and 3 of how ward offices, ward committees and ward level financial plans can involve the citizens in their own governance was accepted by the Municipality. Another four wards have been authorised to follow the guidelines developed by the pilot.

Ms. Nimaben Acharya addressed participants,

“People who care about this city are present here. Various proposals for city development are either approved or at approval process to make city liveable in coming future. Now, we need citizens’ participation and support to make Bhuj as a favourite tourist destination in future.”



4. The construction of 300 homes by the slum-dwellers and their committees under the Rajiv AwasYojana (RAY) encouraged the Municipality to propose another 1091 homes under the newly launched Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in the same lines. This is under active consideration by the State.



Participants in the inaugural session of the workshop

5. The owners of cattle in slums were federated to develop a pilot, to scientifically manage the animals in Animal shelters and provide clean milk to the city. This pilot has been accepted in principle by the State, and funding arrangements are being developed.
6. The migrants, who come to the city from several states looking for labour, were surveyed and a pilot developed to provide them a single window service. This includes rented hostel facilities, crèches, schooling for their children, food rations and banking services. Land has been allocated by the Revenue department for the hostel and the proposal has been accepted for funding by the State.
7. Ward No. 8 demonstrated that their ward has significant floral and faunal biodiversity that needs protection and other areas that can be nurtured to develop habitats for increasing it. The Gujarat Biodiversity Board has invited the city to do similar planning for the complete city. The plans can be provided legal teeth under the Biodiversity Act and a legal committee of citizens can be formed to enhance its work.

Shri Vasnbhai Ahir said,

“In the Bhuj city, NGOs, citizens, and government departments are working as a team and this need to continue in future.”





A large number of citizens, representatives from public authorities and civil society organizations participating in the workshop.

8. The Municipality has decided to form a Vendors Committee and has invited HIC to assist in the process. Earlier a plan was prepared for finding solutions for the traffic and the problem of street vendors in 1km stretch of Mundra Road (from Jubilee Circle to Bhuj Haat) in the city.

In continuation to the above context, a two days' workshop was organised on 12th and 13th May, 2017 in Bhuj to share and understand initiatives being executed so far under this programme and to frame a vision for Bhuj – 2022 collectively by citizens, elected representatives, government officials and voluntary organisations.

In these two days, theme-wise works were presented and discussed before citizens, elected representatives, officials from various government departments and voluntary organisations. Entrepreneurs from other parts of the country also shared their experiences and the best models for the same themes on which HIC partner organisations and urban development agencies are working in the city (Refer Annexure-1 to know about the themes discussed in the workshop).

This workshop was inaugurated by Sri Vasanbhai Ahir, Parliamentary Secretary, Ms. Nimaben Acharya, MLA Bhuj, Shri Tara Chand Cheda, MLA Mandvi, Sri Kiritbhai Sompura, Chairman, BHADA, Shri Ashokbhai



Shri Sandeep Virmani introducing the theme of workshop and works of HIC partners

Hathi, President Bhuj Nagarpalika and few other dignitaries.

Workshop was introduced by Shri Sandeep Virmani whereas introductory session was chaired by Shri Vasanbhai Ahir. Mr. M.H. Peer welcomed all the guests and participants presented in the workshop.

Shri Upendrabhai Upadhyay completed inaugural ceremony with vote of thanks to honourable guests and participants. This publication is an effort to document the proceedings of the two days workshop as well as to showcase the initiatives started jointly by the administration and different organisations in the city to make Bhuj as model city in coming days.



02 SLUM FREE CITY

Bhuj is a small city with a population of 1.48 lakh (Census of India, 2011) out of which a large proportion, about 13,979 families, live in slums. According to a study by Hunnarshala Foundation in 2016, about one third of the city population lives on only 6 per cent (270 hectares) of Bhuj's land. None of the slums are notified yet whereas few of these settlements are 40 to 70 years old, existing from even before independence.

Survey conducted by K-link and Hunnarshala Foundation under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, Housing for All (Urban) – 2022 reveals that Bhuj city has 77 slums accommodating 13,979 families with a total population of 46,140. Indeed, slums contain 31.2 per cent of the total city population. Average household size in the slums is 3.35 persons per household.

The first phase of slum redevelopment in Bhuj was initiated in 2013 covering 314 homes in three locations, under Rajiv Awas Yojana, for slum redevelopment. The program is about to complete. Unique features of this programme are mentioned below.

Owner Driven:

The slum dwellers received the money in five instalments as they built their homes themselves. This ensured design satisfaction, cooperation to reduce costs, recycling of old materials and therefore, adding up to 30 per cent costs by the beneficiaries.



Housing structures before completion at Ramdev Nagar slum rehabilitation site.



A beneficiary happily staying and well accommodated in their new house.

Planning:

The design ensures social cohesion as the homes are organised as *falias* or clusters. The families can grow vertically by adding floors to their tenement. The pedestrian and vehicular movement is separated for people, especially children to walk to any part of the settlement without encountering traffic.

Technology:

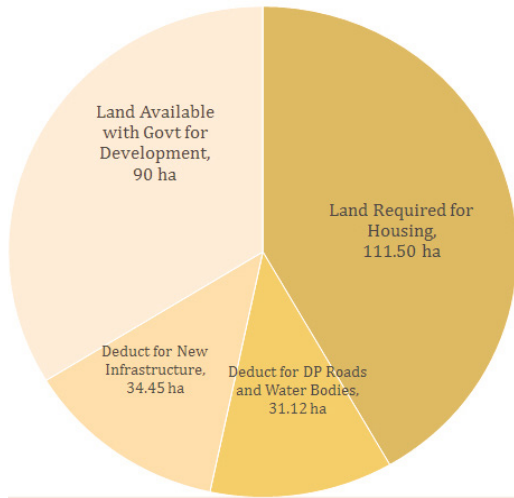
The homes are provided with sewage recycling for flushing; recharge bore-wells to improve the quality of ground water, desalination Any-Time-Water machines. This will bring water efficiencies to the tune of 30% from the baseline of how water is used in Bhuj. Solar street lights are provided. Several homes have used a unique earthen flat roof, called cloister domes; and a sloping roof design with a radiant barrier. These technologies reduce carbon emissions and keep the house cool in summers.

Releasing land:

Presently, 267 hectares of land is covered by 77 slums but the proposed plan needs only 177 hectares of land to develop housing and allied infrastructure and this way 90 hectares (30 per cent of 267 hectares) of land will be available for the city (refer pie chart).

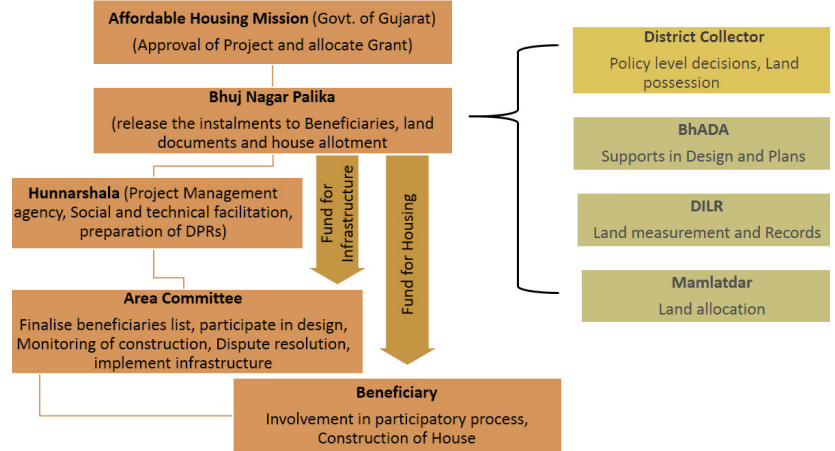
Social management:

The communities have been registered as RWA's (Resident Welfare Associations) with the objective of self



Pie chart shows land use pattern at project site after completion of slum redevelopment.

IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE



The diagram highlights the involvement and role of various organisations at different levels.

managing their services and social development.

For these reasons, in 2015, the project was included in the list of ‘Best Practices : Habitat Planning & Design for the Urban Poor’ published by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India.

New Proposals for the redevelopment of 6 new slums is being prepared under the new housing scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Housing for All which will benefit 1091 more families. It is envisaged that the process of housing the poor of Bhuj will bring dignity to them while simultaneously releasing 90 hectares of land for the city.

Way forward:

- Dialogue with Municipality and District Administration to notify 77 identified slums in the city under PMAY.
- Approval from State Government for the proposed 1091 houses in 6 slum areas under PMAY.
- Preparation of Housing for All Plan of Action (HFAPoA) under PMAY for Bhuj city.
- Completion of on-going construction work for 300 houses with infrastructure under slum rehabilitation project.



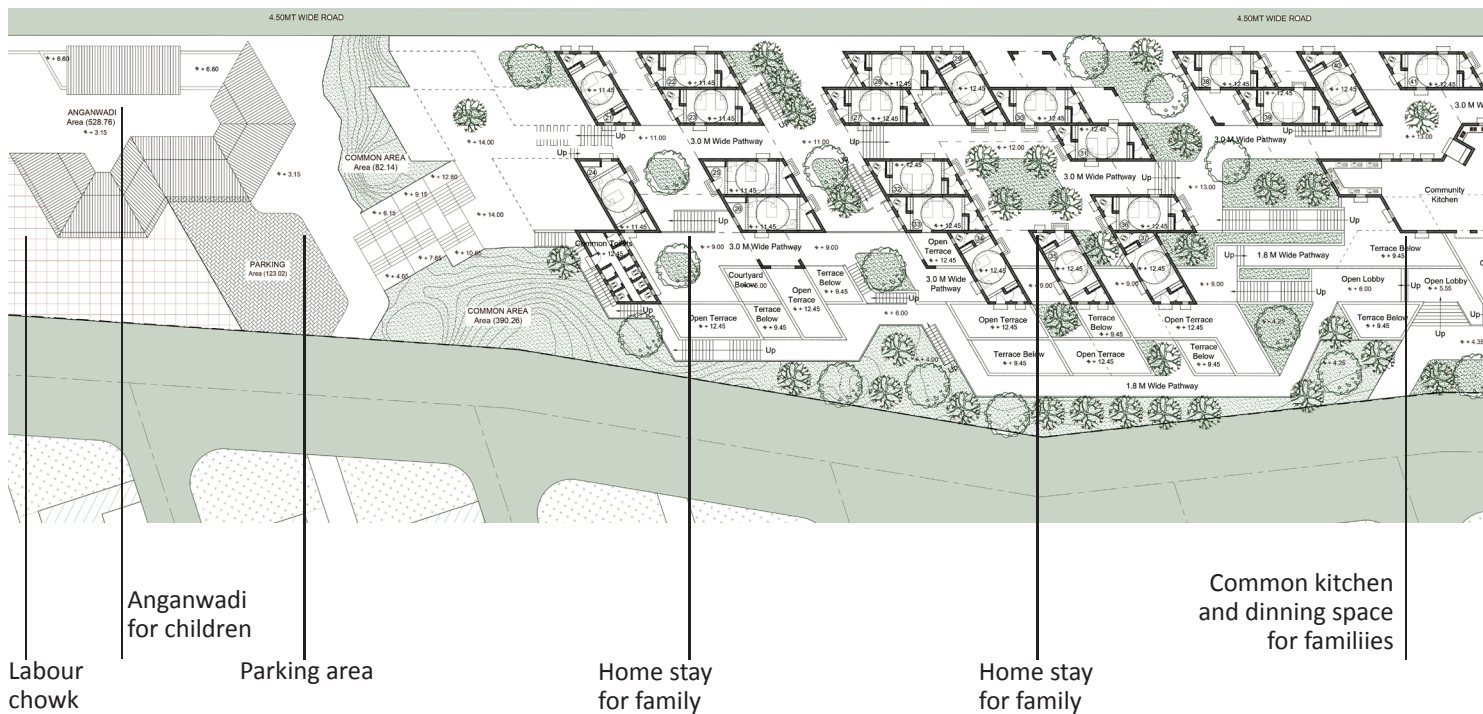
03 SHELTER AND SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS

There are 22 migrant communities of 1098 families and about 300 single men living in temporary settlements without basic services like sanitation, electricity, water in various locations across the city (Urban SETU, 2017). Majority of them are from neighbouring states, such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, while there are also people from farther states, like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. Tribal people from Dahod, Godhara, Anand and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat also come to Bhuj for livelihood. Most of the communities have strong ties with their native villages where they spend a period of 2-6 months every year.

The National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) aims to provide shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless. The shelter will also provide a single window system to register them, and link them with social and economic benefits.

Following activities have been carried-out so far by SETU (with support from Aajeevika Bureau) and Hunnarshala in collaboration with Nagarpalika:

1. Creating a data base and understanding migrants contribution to the city and their problems,
2. Getting land allocated by the District Collector for a migrant hostel having capacity of 600 beds,
3. Submission of proposal and design by Nagarpalika to the State Government,
4. Organising migrants to avail government services and schemes,
5. Coordination between Makan Ane Bandhkaam Sramik Kalyan Board (Housing and Construction

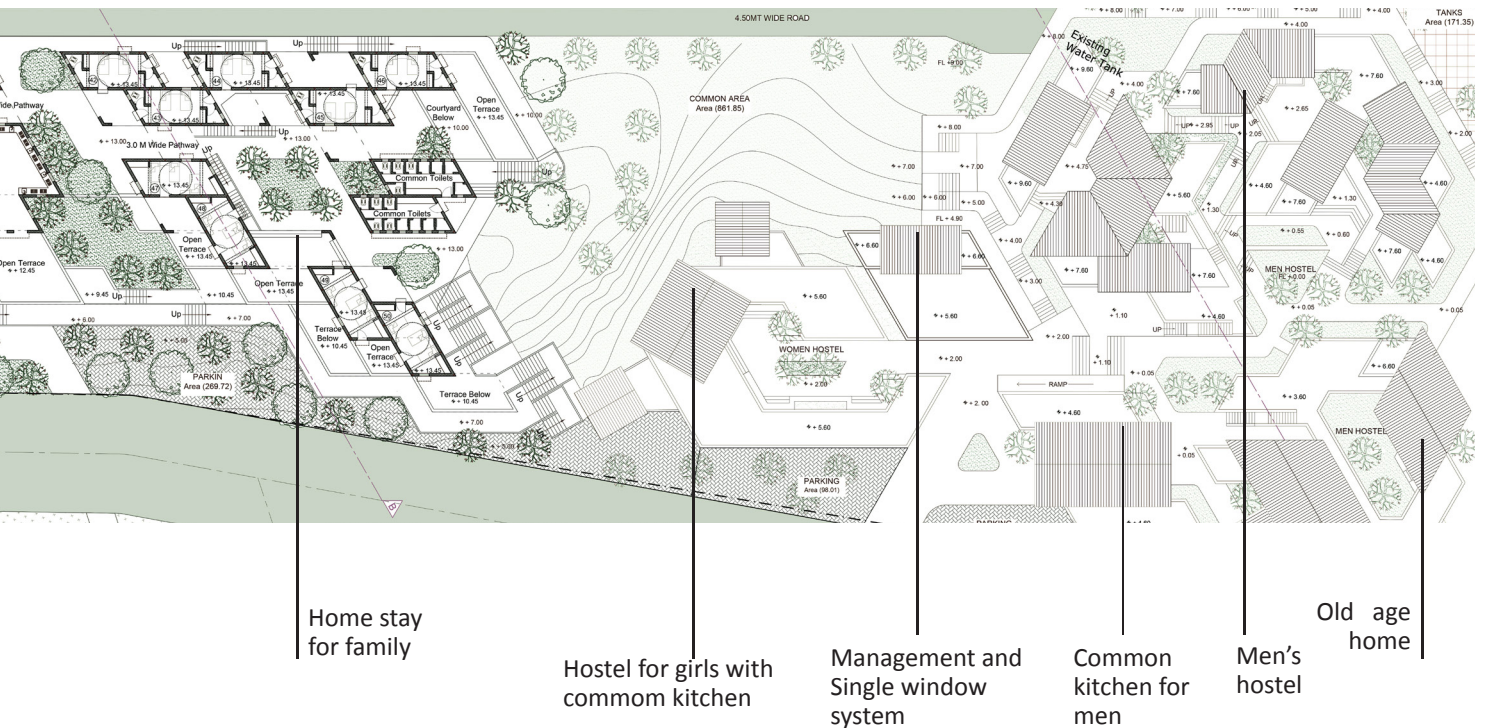


Labours Welfare Board), Gujarat and migrant labours for issuing Sramik Card (ID card) to migrants. Sramik Card enables labours to access various government sponsored schemes exclusively meant for them.

Besides shelter and basic services, their other main problems are children's care and education, and keeping their earnings secure. Their children are most vulnerable as frequent migration prevents them from educating their kids, thus, keeping their communities in a constant cycle of poverty and low socio-economic status. Most of the children end up working as child labourers to support their family incomes. As they do not have secure places to keep their payments, the contractors keep their money until they leave for home, which leads to further exploitation.

The proposed Migrant hostel in Bhuj will ensure the following provisions for the migrants:

- Access to permanent shelters and basic infrastructure with common kitchen where they can bring their ration and cook.
- Provide access to various entitlements, viz. social security, pension, Public Distribution System (PDS),



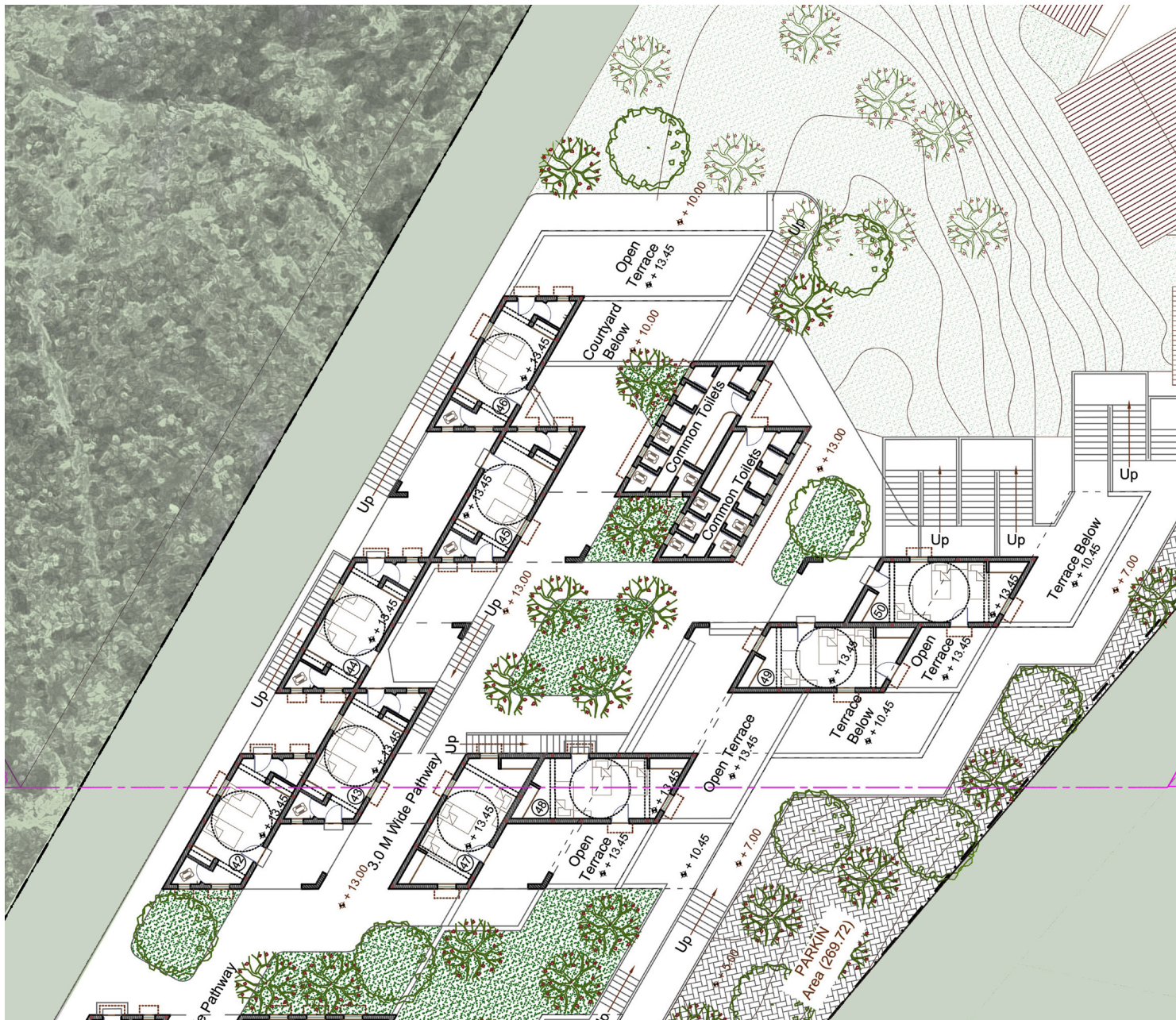
Lay-out plan of proposed migrant hostel

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), identity, financial services, education, affordable housing, etc.

- Cater the needs of vulnerable segments like the aged, disabled, mentally challenged as well as homeless people in the city by creating special sections within migrant hostel.
- The hostel will be run by Sakhi Sangini, a women's collective in Bhuj.

Way forward:

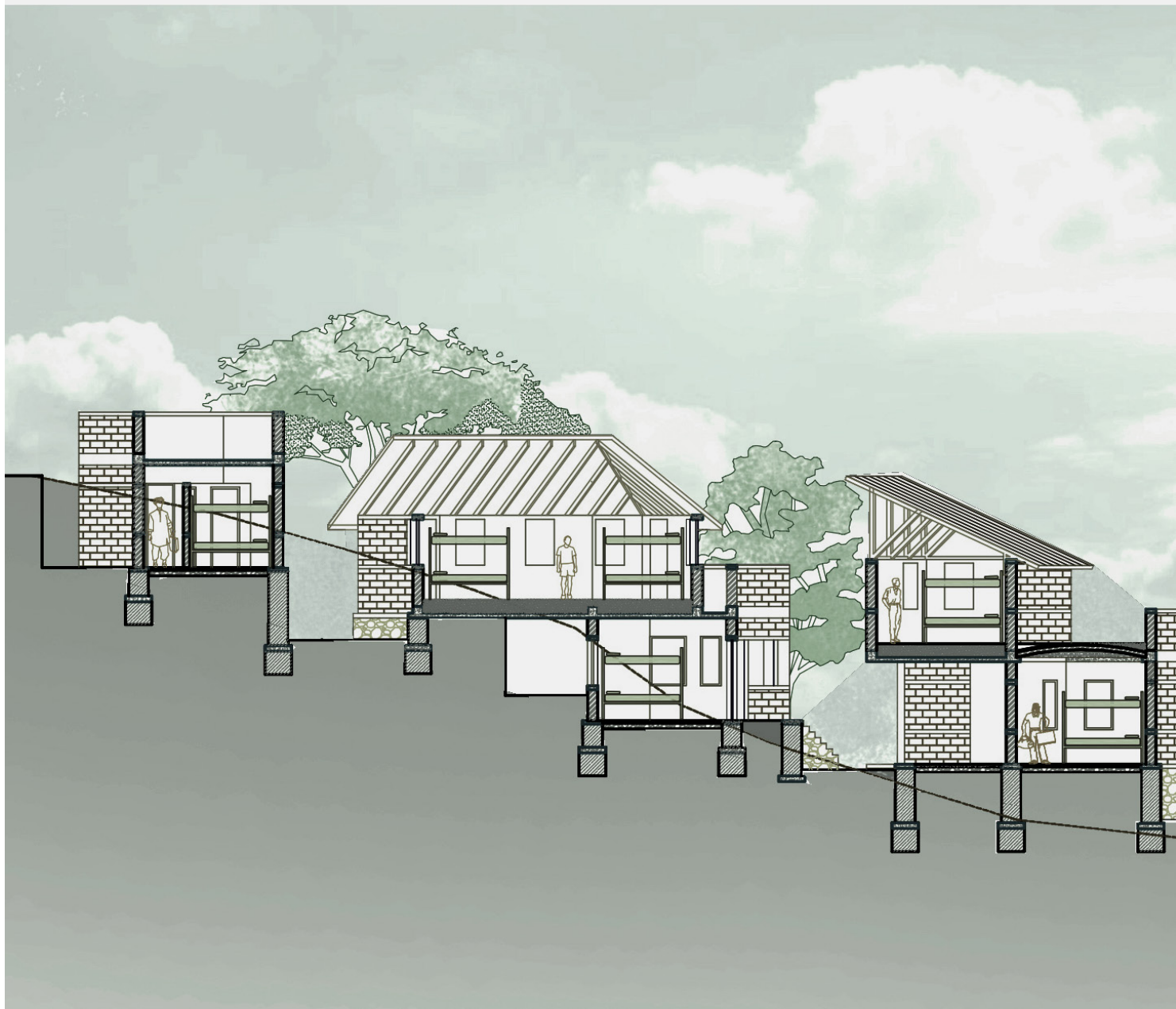
- Coordination and dialogue will be made with Bhuj Nagarpalika and Urban Development Department to approve detailed project proposal for migrant hostel and execute the work.
- In order to have adequate information about migrants, Municipality will be asked to start registering migrants living in the city.
- Process will be started for formation of labourers' union in Bhuj.
- Organise skill upgradation training programmes.
- In future, sufficient number of migrant hostels will be proposed to be setup by the government so that shelter for each and every family living in the city can be ensured.



Proposed part plan for migrant hostel



Interaction with migrants to understand issues and problems faced by them.





Cross section of the proposed project for migrant hostel



04 STRENGTHENING LOCAL WATER RESOURCES FOR DECENTRALISED WATER SUPPLY

The work of Arid Communities and Technology (ACT) and Hunnarshala Foundation along with the Nagarpalika has shown that Bhuj city has the technologies to make rain and ground water as the primary source of water; albeit supported during shortage by Narmada waters.

As per the study done by ACT in 2015-16, the city requires 27 MLD (Million Litre per Day) of water. However, 56 per cent of this comes from groundwater sources, whereas 44 per cent is supplemented by the Narmada water. The Nagarpalika subsidises this cost enormously. It costs the city Rs. 13.5 per kilo-litre while citizens pay only Rs. 4 per kilo-litre (Bhuj Nagarpalika, 2015-16). That amounts to 82 per cent subsidy.

The rainwater available to the city is eight times the annual requirement of 9,000 Million Litres (ACT 2015-16). If this water can be harvested and our sandstone groundwater recharged, it is possible to solve much of the existing water problems. Our forefathers placed Bhuj on an aquifer of sandstone that is confined in 100 sq.km. area and is 100 metres deep. They developed three rivers with dams, diversions, and spillways to cover a catchment of 34 sq.km.

The works completed over the years has given the confidence to adopt a robust strategy:

- A tremendous hydrology and geo-hydrology database has been put in place, including catchments, geology, pipelines and management, wherein 88 bore-wells are monitored monthly for fluctuations



Ground water recharge points at Jublee colony



Roof rain water harvesting system installed in a primary school building

and quality.

- In order to enhance storage capacity of lakes, desilting has been carried-out for 10 lakes, out of 43 lakes in the city.
- A unique recharge technology has been developed and demonstrated in Jubilee Colony. Based on this, four more have been supported by the government through its flagship program AMRUT.
- 15 schools have installed roof water harvesting that collects more than 4.55 lakh litres of water. Consequently, all the children get safe drinking water throughout the year.
- Six settlements in slums have developed comprehensive water solutions for about 650 families.
- Decentralised sewerage treatment systems have been installed at Badami Chella and GIDC covering 250 families through which the water is recycled and used.
- A peoples' organisation, Jalstrot Sneh Samvardhan Samiti (JSSS) has been continuously sensitizing citizens on water related issues in the city.
- Six Para Water Engineers have been trained who assist colonies to work on water related issues in their areas.

Way forward:

- To develop a pricing strategy that incentivises and encourages colonies to maintain and manage their own sources and recharge bores and seek Narmada water only in case of shortages.
- The management of the water supply and infrastructure will be decentralised to the wards and colonies.
- Sufficient number of recharge bore-wells will be created in the city in order to recharge maximum rain water that will improve ground water level in the city.



Drawing competition organised by ACT for Mass Awareness on water where students from different schools participated.



05 TOWARDS ZERO WASTE CITY

Solid waste management is an important basic urban service, by and large performed by municipalities. Despite various measures to treat wastes, the municipalities are presently unable to satisfactorily fulfil their general duties. Thus, piled up waste heaps are a common sight in most towns and cities in India. Here, attempts are being made for handholding and support to Bhuj Municipality towards management of 60 tonnes of household waste that the city generates in such a way that waste is recycled and has value added to it, bringing dignity and financial stability to the waste pickers of the city.

In the last three years, a range of experiences have been generated by Sahjeevan, KMVS, Khamir, Hunnarshala, Sakhi Sangini, the Animal Rearers with the Bhuj Municipality and the waste pickers. These have helped us create a model that will work in Bhuj if adopted at city scale. The initiatives taken so far are mentioned below:

1. Sahjeevan helped Bhuj Municipality to prepare a comprehensive city level Solid Waste Management Plan to get state and central support under Swachh Bharat Mission. The Plan has been submitted for approval to the State Government which is worth Rs. 3.5 crores for first phase to build the collection and recycling infrastructure for the city and improve the existing ones. The Municipality has recently allocated space for the first recycling centre at the Nagor dump site. Slum redevelopment sites under Rajiv Awas Yojana will also have similar waste recycling centres. Salient features of SWM Plan are as under:
 - 100 per cent segregation of waste at its source,



Door to door collection of garbage throughout the Bhuj city



Blue bin placed for the collection of wet waste.



Plastic purse and bag made by recycling of waste polythene bags.

- Widespread use of colour coded twin bins at household level,
 - Involvement of Waste Pickers' Association in smooth functioning of Zero Waste Centre, where 100 per cent dry wastes collected from households will reach,
 - Use of organic waste convertors to produce compost,
 - Institutional partnership with recyclers in order to ensure re-use of collected and segregated recyclable waste materials.
2. Sahjeevan and KMVS initiated the door to door collection system with Sakhi Sangini members for 10,000 families in the old part of city in 2009-10 whereas entrepreneurs having loading auto-rickshaws were engaged in two other wards of Bhuj. The experience showed that households are willing to pay Rs. 30-50 per month if a daily service is efficiently provided. At present, the municipality only collects Rs. 5 per family per month. Therefore, Rs. 20 more is required to run the service efficiently.
 3. Based on the past experiences and integral component of waste management plan prepared by Sahjeevan, Bhuj Municipality has initiated and achieved 100% door-to-door waste collection on alternate day basis.
 4. Three technical experiments have been evolved and tested by three organisations for recycling of waste. (a) Khamir, a craft organisation, takes 40 micron plastic bags and recycles them into high quality products, such as handbags and mats. (b) Sahjeevan collected the kitchen waste from over 300 households under the 'Blue Bin' project and made it available to cattle rearers to feed their cattle.

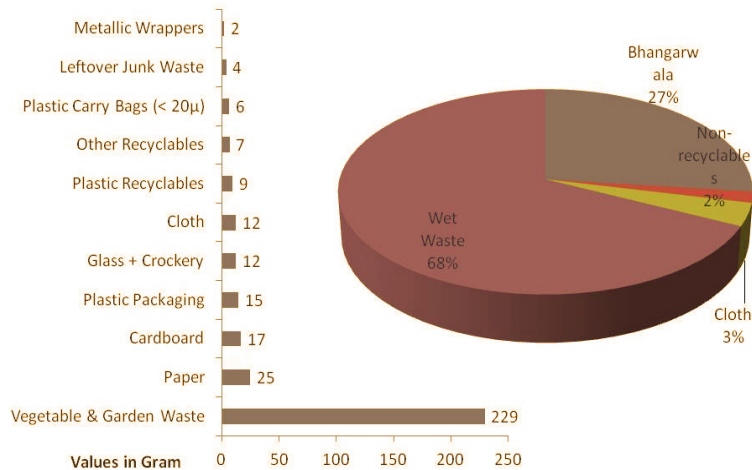


Diagram showing composition of waste generated (338gm/capita/day)

Proposed model for waste management in Bhuj city

However, cattle rearers were supplying milk in exchange to the households. (c) Hunnarshala has developed the technology to recycle the construction waste, which converts about 25% of city waste into construction blocks.

- Sahjeevan has organised the waste pickers of the city to segregate and aggregate waste to be supplied to intermediaries who supply waste for recycling to industries.
- Institutional campuses are provided services by Sahjeevan and KMVS for a zero waste centre that collects and adds value to the waste within the campus. Lalan College and the Army campus are such examples.

Bhuj MLA Nimaben who has supported these initiatives , says;

“For a city to be clean; residents have to be responsible and the municipality has to be strict, then the technologies and NGOs’ efforts can bear fruits!”

Way forward:

- Facilitating Municipality to execute components of Solid Waste Management Plan prepared for the City.
- Setting-up ‘Decentralised Waste Segregation and Recycling Centre’ and linking waste pickers to run the centre. Five such centres are required to manage the entire waste generated by the city.
- Waste pickers will be organised to run scrap shops as collective enterprises.
- Waste recycling facilities (machineries) will be established at waste segregation centre with financial support from State Government.



06 ANIMAL SHELTER AND MILK PRODUCTION IN THE CITY

Primary livelihoods, such as agriculture and livestock rearing are gradually decreasing in the age of urbanisation and industrialisation. While this is leading to a decrease of milk production, the demand for milk is increasing with the growing population. There is a famous saying, “A health mind dwells in a healthy body.” And milk is well known to be ‘complete’ food. Considering the importance of peoples’ health and livestock activity in the city, this initiative has been taken up with the objective of providing quality milk to the citizens by improving status of cattle as well as cattle owners.

In the slums of Bhuj there are 370 people engaged in milk production through 6500 cows, 1800 buffalos and 3000 goats and sheep (Sahjeevan, 2013). The cows alone produce 13,000 litres of milk every day with a consumer base of over 9000 families that amounts to about 18% of the city population (ibid).

The State government’s Gau Seva Ane Gauchar Vikas Board has for the first time considered proposal for establishing an Animal Hostel to scientifically manage 500-750 animals. It will help the city to plan and allocate space for animal homes to deal with the menace of stray animals roaming around the city and minimize waste management costs. The Animal house will adjoin the owners’ homes at the end of a *falia*, or cluster of homes. It will be equipped with a shelter, water facilities, storage of dry fodder, milk processing facilities, an outlet for milk and milk products. The Cow dung will be converted into cooking gas and supplied back to the owners’ homes. The cattle owners already have an arrangement with the farmers of adjoining villages for the production and supply of green fodder.

Studies show that each cattle owner with about 20 cows can earn a minimum of Rs. 20-25,000 every



Milk collection center being inaugurated by the guest and Maldharis.



Distribution of dry fodder arranged with the support of local donors for the animals.

month (Sahjeevan, 2017). Setting up animal hostels will ensure a clean production system, direct contact between consumers and producers, cutting down the costs of value chain production in dairies ensuring the management of stray cattle from roads, recycling kitchen food waste as fodder for animals, and better health and living conditions for the animals. By setting-up 13 to 15 such Animal homes in Bhuj can ensure 50-70% supply of the milk that the city needs.

Sahjeevan, Hunnarshala and Satvik three organisations that have come together along with the administration to make this possible. The following activities have been accomplished so far:

- A detailed survey of the animals and producers has been conducted.
- An association of the producers was registered in October 2016, with an initial membership of 115 members; an executive council of 11 elected representative members was also formed.
- The association has set up ties for the supply of dry fodder. A milk collection centre has been set up and the surplus milk is being supplied to the dairy.
- Proposal for the first Animal House has been considered for approval by Gau Seva Ane Gauchar Vikas Board, to be built along with housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for cattle owners residing in Machhunagar, having 500 large cattle and 2000 small ruminants.

Shri Manoj Solanki, Member, Gow Raksha Sewa Samiti says,

"The Maldharis (animal rearers) in Bhuj provide high quality milk to us at low prices with inept infrastructure. If they stop this production, we will be forced to buy low quality dairy milk at higher prices."





Participants raising their hands who were willing to support setting-up animal hostels in the city and also prefer milk directly supplied by Maldharis to their homes.

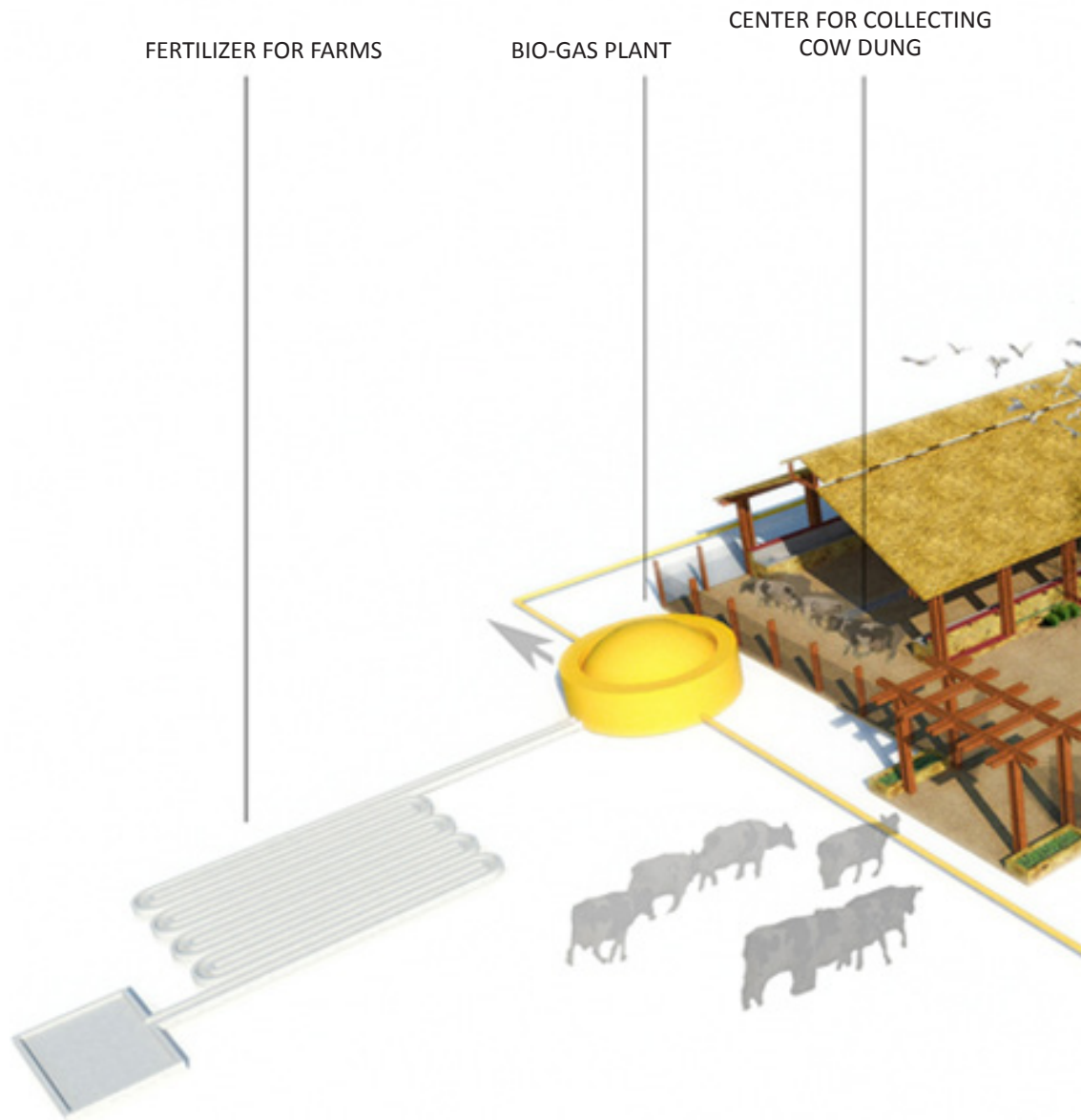
A Consumer says,

“I am willing to pay Rs. 50/- per litre for the cow milk from the Maldharis because quality milk is essential for my children’s health. Right now, I am assured about the quality of milk as cow is milked in front of me at milkman’s place.”

- Detailed analysis and improvement programme for animal production and enterprise has been completed.
- Sale of cow urine of 250 animals has been linked with organic farmers in return for supply of green fodder for cattle in a barter exchange.

Way forward:

- Setting-up Milk Parlors managed by cattle owners to ensure clean milk retail system in the city.
- Increasing income from animal husbandry through sale of cow urine and dung for agriculture; and further more by ensuring green and dry fodder supply from agriculture.
- Initiate dialogue with Forest Department for accessing reserve grazing areas by cattle breeders in and around the city.
- Start activities that enhance working capacity of Bhuj City Animal Breeders Association.



Conceptual diagram of the proposed Animal Hostel

DRINKING
WATER

SHED FOR
ANIMALS

MILK
CHILLING
PLANT

FOODER
ROOM

MILK PARLOUR

HOMESTAY
FOR
MALDHARIS



ROUTE FOR SUPPLY OF BIO-
GAS TO OTHER HOMES



07 WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND SAFETY

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS) promoted federation “Sakhi Sangini” provides a platform to resource poor women of Bhuj city and adolescent girls for voicing issues of their concerns. This federation is committed for women’s empowerment and safety.

As part of this vision, the federation facilitates capacity building and nurturing for these women and girls; create spaces and opportunities for them, and also executes programs and interventions that determine their identity as leaders.

For economic sustainability and security of the women members and their families, the Self Help Groups (SHGs) of 11-20 women are formed in different areas. Every month, the SHG members carryout saving and lending activities. The SHGs are becoming viable and dependable sources for catering to the financial needs of the members and they are also getting rid of the exploitation from moneylenders. Total SHGs federated are 187, covering 2770 members, their total savings till date being Rs. 91,21,500 and total internal loans rotated being Rs.3,85,00,000. In addition to this, 126 SHG members have also provided housing loans worth Rs. 45,00,000 to 126 poor families.

To create violence free safe environment in the city, “Hello Sakhi” helpline (a collaborative initiative of KMVS and Police department), and safety counseling centres have become means for imparting necessary information, trainings, guidance on legal issues and providing necessary support to the needy and victims of harassment. The trained Para-legal women are linked with the Mediation Centre of court



SHG members busy in keeping their accounts.

for trainings and service providing. The federation has also initiated process of safety mapping and focused group discussions in areas of Ward No. 2 and 3 with women. The outcomes of these processes have been presented before the Municipality by the Area and Ward Committees for dialogue and seeking concrete actions. 57 Para-legal workers have been trained and a total of 374 cases have been registered in the safety centre for counselling.

To regularise the basic government programmes with quality services, including Aanganwadi /Primary Schools and Fair Price Shops (FPS), 52 Sakhi Sangini leaders have been trained as cadre responsible to facilitate monitoring and organizing of awareness campaigns for various schemes and programmes with people in different areas. As of now, the work has been implemented in 21 Aanganwadis, 10 primary schools and 8 FPS, resulting gradual improvement.

Sakhi Sangini, in partnership with “Hunnarshala Foundation”, another partner organization of HIC program, is also working on access to housing for slum dwellers in the city. While Hunnarshala Foundation takes up the responsibility of designing technical aspects and preparing the Detailed Project Reports for urban housing schemes, Sakhi Sangini does the social mobilization processes and organizes the communities for the same. Till date, Sakhi Sangini has supported 126 families to access loans and 314 families have thus been able to build their own homes under the urban housing program in three slums of the city.

Sakhi Sangini also aims to organize the women from most vulnerable sections of the society like Rag



Meeting with Rajiv Awas Yojana beneficiaries in Ramdev Nagar

Pickers, Female Sex Workers (FSWs), women engaged in the unorganized sector. The objective is to include them into the mainstream federation 'Sakhi Sangini' and gradually address issues concerning their lives. As part of this agenda, 85 FSWs have been visited and their case studies are being documented to understand their situations. Further, to protect them from HIV-AIDs and Reproductive Tract Infections, a condom distribution depot has been started in TB Hospital, Bhuj. Their regular health check-ups are organized in the Government General Hospital. A comprehensive study has been undertaken to understand the situation of women working in unorganized sector in collaboration with Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand.

Organizing the adolescent girls and providing them the platform of Sakhi Sangini has also been initiated to provide them a space so that they can raise their voice. These girls are systematically nurtured on different issues through interesting games/ exercises and interactive activities. The overall aim is that these adolescent girls should be aware of their rights and become responsible citizens in future.

In addition to this, Sakhi Sangini leaders are encouraged to be part of the area and ward committees and contest the municipal elections with the objective to ensure women's participation in politics.

Way forward:

- To expand Sakhi Sangini's work in other areas of the city and to make efforts for initiating dialogues among women belonging to different sections/classes of the society.



Sakhi Sangini Cadres discussing various issues in a meeting.



Adolescent girls engaged in fun and learn activities during Kishori mela.

- Organise programmes, trainings and events in collaboration with government departments in order to make city safe for women and adolescent girls.
- Organise women working in the informal sector in order to improve their socio-economic condition, organise vocational trainings by experts, and link them with better jobs and with government's social security schemes.
- Make attempts to understand the condition of FSWs and coordinate with government departments to address their health issues, emancipate them from this work and link them with better livelihood options.
- Plan different activities so that women can use Sakhi Sangini's platform to address their issues.
- Encourage drop-out girls to resume their studies.
- Expand Sakhi Sangini Cadres' work to more areas to ensure quality of services provided by Anganwadis, Primary Schools and Fair Price Shops running under specific government schemes.



Para legal Cadres with certificates after training on legal matters.



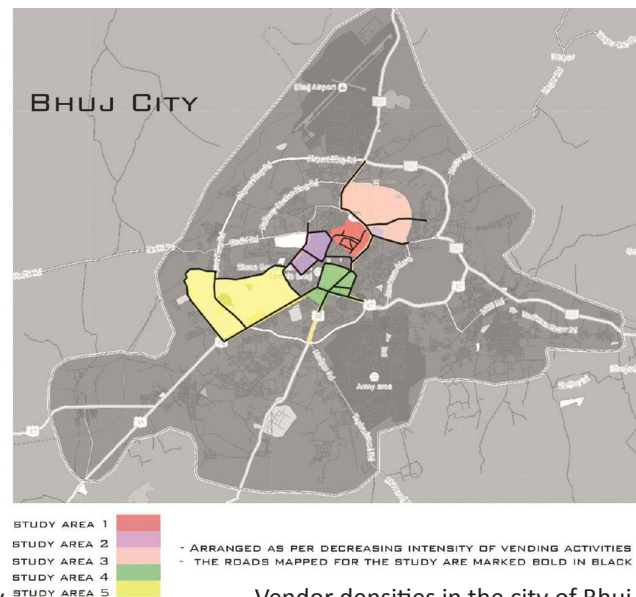
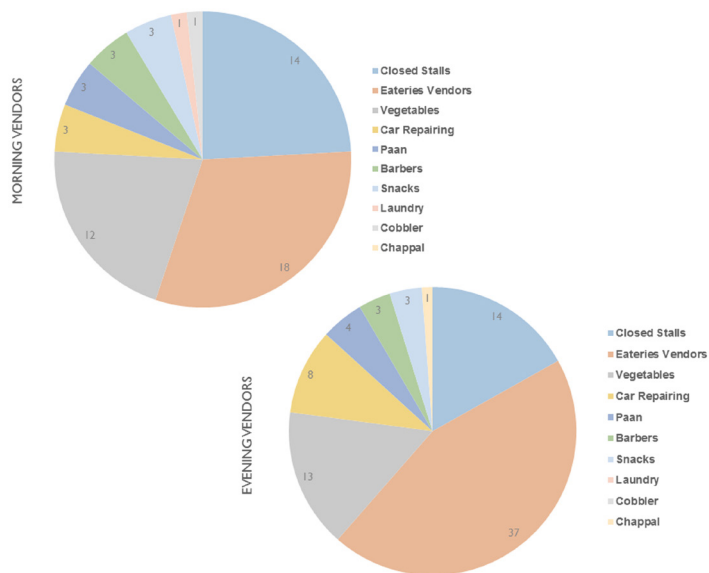
08 FORMALISING VENDORS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Streets have always been the most vibrant spaces in the traditional cities around the world. They have always been an important platform for exchange of goods, information, and culture. The exchange of goods was a stable source of livelihood for a large section of the population. Connection to places, and delivery of infrastructure services, have only been some of the multiple utilities that the streets provided. However, with time, the functions of the streets have begun skewing towards being more of infrastructure delivery lines and less of exchange spaces. The spaces of exchange have begun to shift out of streets and into exclusive spaces. Motorised vehicles have started invading the streets aggressively. And today, the image of a street in any city around the world that comes to our mind is always as something that caters only to vehicles.

This shift has been the result of a planning process that is essentially a top down model aiming at dictating the usage of space in a sophisticated and conservative manner. Moreover, this has been generally done by professionals who specialise in engineering fields, and hardly understanding social sciences. The outcome of this has been a conflict at the ground level between the 'planned', and the 'unplanned but natural'. The profession of street vending has been at the forefront of this conflict. Eviction of vendors from the streets is a common story not only in India but all over the global south.

The case of Bhuj

Bhuj is a remarkably spread-out city given the population that it holds, and hence has a relatively large street-area per capita. About a third of its population is noted to reside in informal slum settlements, and



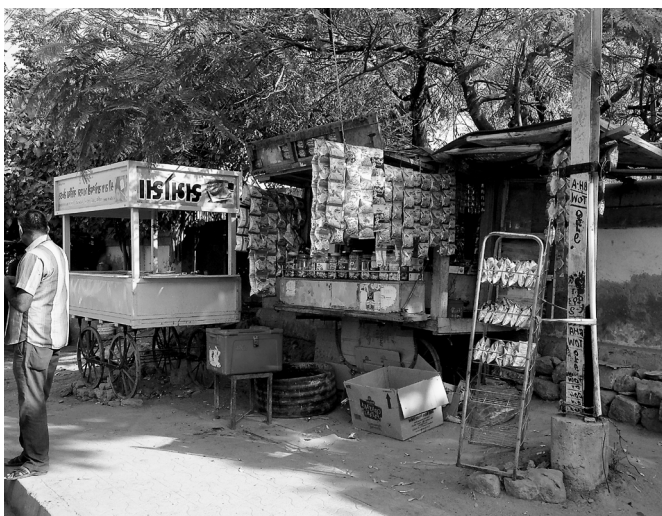
Vendor densities in the city of Bhuj

Category of vendors during morning and evening times of the day from Jubilee circle to Bhuj Haat.

belong to economically weaker sections of the society. Street vending is a common livelihood option for the residents of these informal settlements. However, due to frequent conflicts between the authorities working towards a planned city and the street vendors who are a part of the unplanned, natural city, it becomes a profession that is economically and socially insecure for this group of economically weaker sections. Hence, it becomes imperative to address these conflicts in a manner that is equitable and more grounded to the realities of the city.

Government of India in its attempt to address the issues of street vendors has floated several legal mandates, which includes acts, guidelines, schemes etc. Under the umbrella scheme of National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), there is a provision to 'formalise' the street vending activities in the cities. The Support to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV) component of the NULM directly looks at the street vendors. The said legal mandates follow a standard definition for street vendors suggested by the supreme court of India, is mentioned below:

"A street vendor/hawker is a person who offers goods for sale to the public at large without having a permanent structure/place for his activities. Some street vendors/hawkers are stationary in the sense that they occupy space on pavements or other public/private places while others are mobile in the sense that they move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or baskets on their heads."



Vendors on the jubilee road in the city of Bhuj



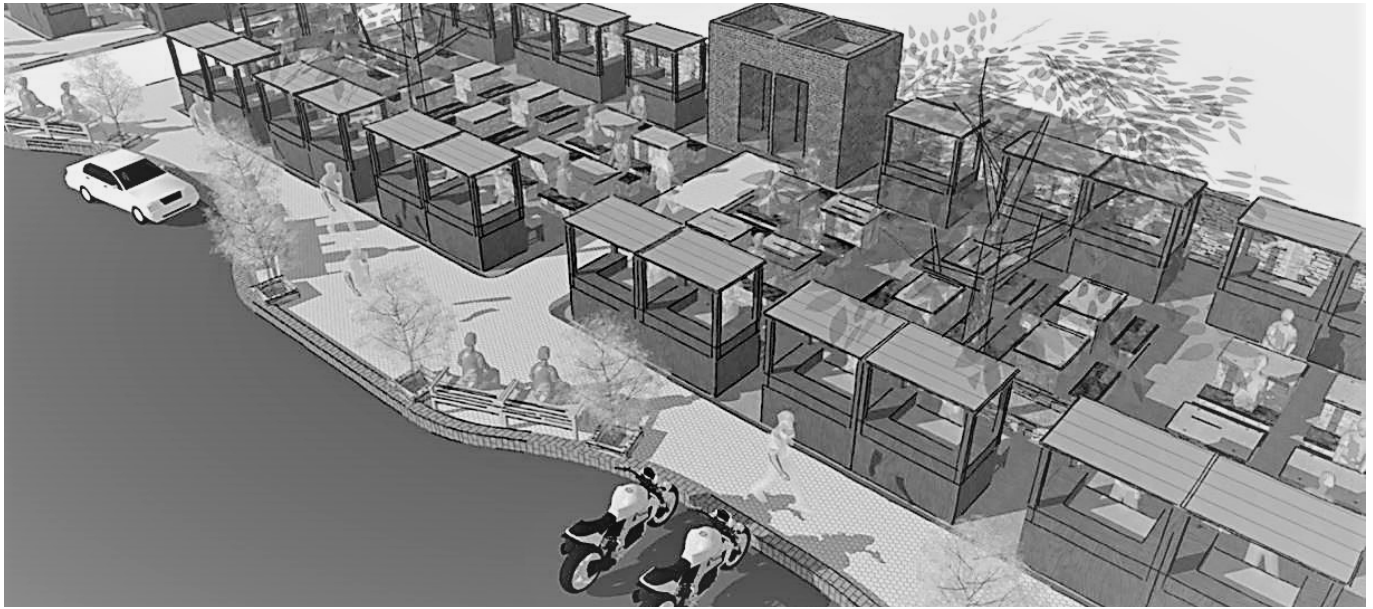
Conversation with the vendors before planning and designing of the proposed market.

NULM- Support to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV)

The SUSV component of the NULM scheme specifies guidelines for addressing the livelihood issues of the vendors in the city through actions from the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The objectives of this component are as follows:

- Survey of street vendors and to issue Identity Cards,
- Formation of Town Vending Committee and preparation of city street vending plans,
- Infrastructure development for vending zones in the city,
- Training and Skill Development,
- Financial Inclusion,
- Access to credit,
- Linkages to social security schemes.

The government of Gujarat has already formulated its guidelines under the SUSV component and has directed the cities around the state to move ahead with the implementation. Agencies have already been empanelled to carry on the survey of the street vendors, and consequently fulfil the first objective of the SUSV component. The Bhuj Nagarpalika is currently working towards facilitation of the city-wide street vendors' survey and formation of provisional town vending committee.

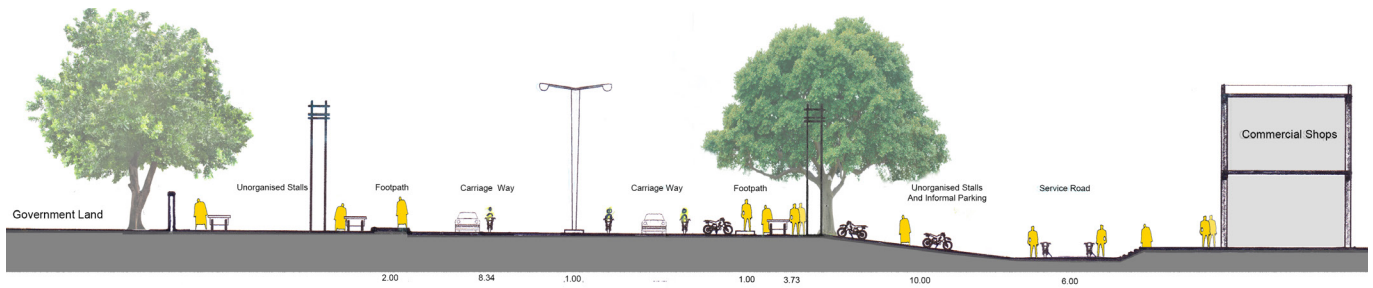


A view of proposed rehabilitation plan for vendors between Jubilee Circle and Bhuj Haat

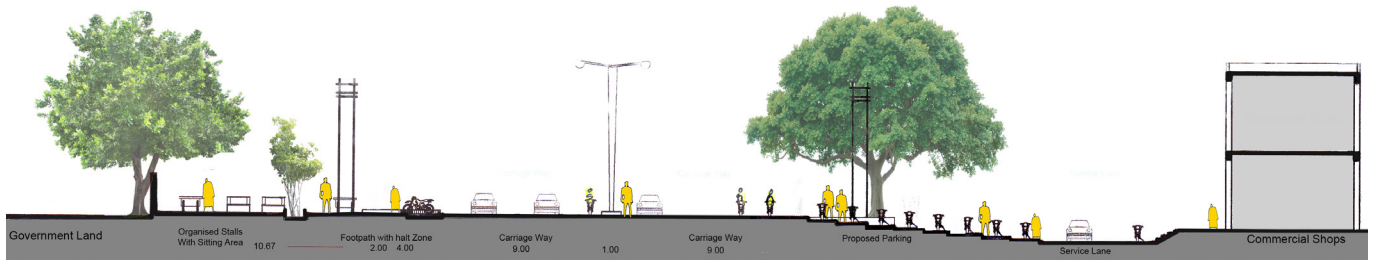
It is envisioned that Bhuj moves towards a more inclusive and equitable city for the street vendors, who form an essential part of the informal economy of the city. This can be done through recognition of their important role in the society and providing them the platform for exchange that they rightly deserve. This can be further strengthened by setting up of a mechanism for provision of social and economic security to the vendors of Bhuj city, by linking them to basic infrastructure and services. A multi-pronged approach is essential to address the vulnerabilities of the urban street vendors, keeping the existing conflicts in the context.

To follow this vision and to test it, a pilot project was taken up. This was for one of the most important and most visible junctions of the city, Jubilee circle, stretching up to Bhuj Haat complex on one side. This gave us the opportunity to understand the conflicts and also attempt to see the possibilities of resolution in the given frame of legal, physical and social boundaries. Salient features of the proposal made for this stretch are:

- Participatory design approach.
- Organisation and utilisation of 100% space available on the streets. This is done based on physical survey, vehicle survey (for peak load calculations), vendor survey and discussion with the stakeholders.
- Temporal nature of vending is considered and the project has been developed in a manner that when there is no vending activity happening, the site becomes a garden/park for the nearby dwellers.



An existing cross section of the road between Jubilee Circle and Bhuj Haat



A proposed cross section for the road between Jubilee Circle and Bhuj Haat

- Adequate space for smooth pedestrian flow as well as vehicle halting has been provided. Equitable distribution of access to the street space to all groups of people attempted.

Present status:

- The proposal has been shared with officials of the local government bodies.
- Bhuj Nagar Palika (BNP) is in the process of forming a provisional town vending committee and consequently getting the vendor survey done for Bhuj city through the government appointed agency.

Way forward:

- Facilitating BNP for formation of provisional Town Vending Committee (TVC), and consequently the final TVC after due elections.
- Facilitating BNP in survey of the street vendors through selected agency.
- Raising awareness amongst the vendors and other stakeholders about the government schemes and their rights.
- Broad study of the streets of Bhuj to understand the true function of the streets in the city.



09 REVIVAL OF DESALSAR LAKE

Lakes have always been a very important and necessary element of human settlements around the world, through ages. They along with being a major source of water, have also formed a vital community space for the settlements. They often hold religious importance for the community. However, with the advent of industrialisation and piped water supply, slowly the settlements have turned their backs toward these lakes. Nowadays, urban lakes are often filled-up to get more land for construction, or are used as dumping areas for garbage and sewage. It can come as surprising to know that there were 83 lakes in the Bhuj city at a time, but as of 2011, there are only 43 lakes recorded in the city (ACT, 2011). Also, this number is continuously decreasing. Desalsar, one of the lakes which has long held prominence traditionally, has been selected for revamp through design and hydrological interventions. This is an attempt to create a model that can be replicated to conserve other lakes in the city.

Desalsar Lake

As the stories go, Desalsar was created by king Desalji in early 17th Century, and used by travellers coming to Bhuj to as a source of refreshment. It was majorly used by the Bakali community for fulfilling their water requirements, including that of agriculture. Desalsar presently lies hidden amidst various small shops and informal settlements. Several activities around the lake are contributing towards degradation of the lake. Along with sewage inflow and garbage dumping, vehicle service centres around the lake can be seen as major threats to the lake ecology. The informal settlements around the lake are dependent on it to wash clothes and bathe cattle. However, they do not use it as a source of drinking water as the water quality is severely affected due to heavy sewage inflow. One of the most defining activities around



Rampant disposal of garbage in the lake

the lake edge is the feeding of a large number of cattle. Leelo Charo (green fodder) is collected early morning from several sources and then fed to the cattle. The activity lasts till early afternoon. Desalsar is also home to several bird species, which makes it a very lively space. The presence of some amount of water all throughout the year in this largely arid region, gives a staple supply of food to these birds.

The rampant degradation of urban lakes has become a common story around the country. One of the major reasons for it is the false belief that the lakes have become irrelevant in the urban context, and their usefulness is slowly being forgotten, generally limited to waste dumping. There is a need to look back at these lakes as a valuable resource for the cities, instead of neglecting them. The important functions of these lakes need to be acknowledged and conserved, making them more useful to the citizens as well as birds and animals.

It is envisioned that these neglected urban lakes become public spaces that are protected and appropriately developed. In order to rejuvenate and conserve Desalsar lake ecology, the lake-edge activities have to be organised and integrated in a holistic and sustainable manner that provides the city a useful public space



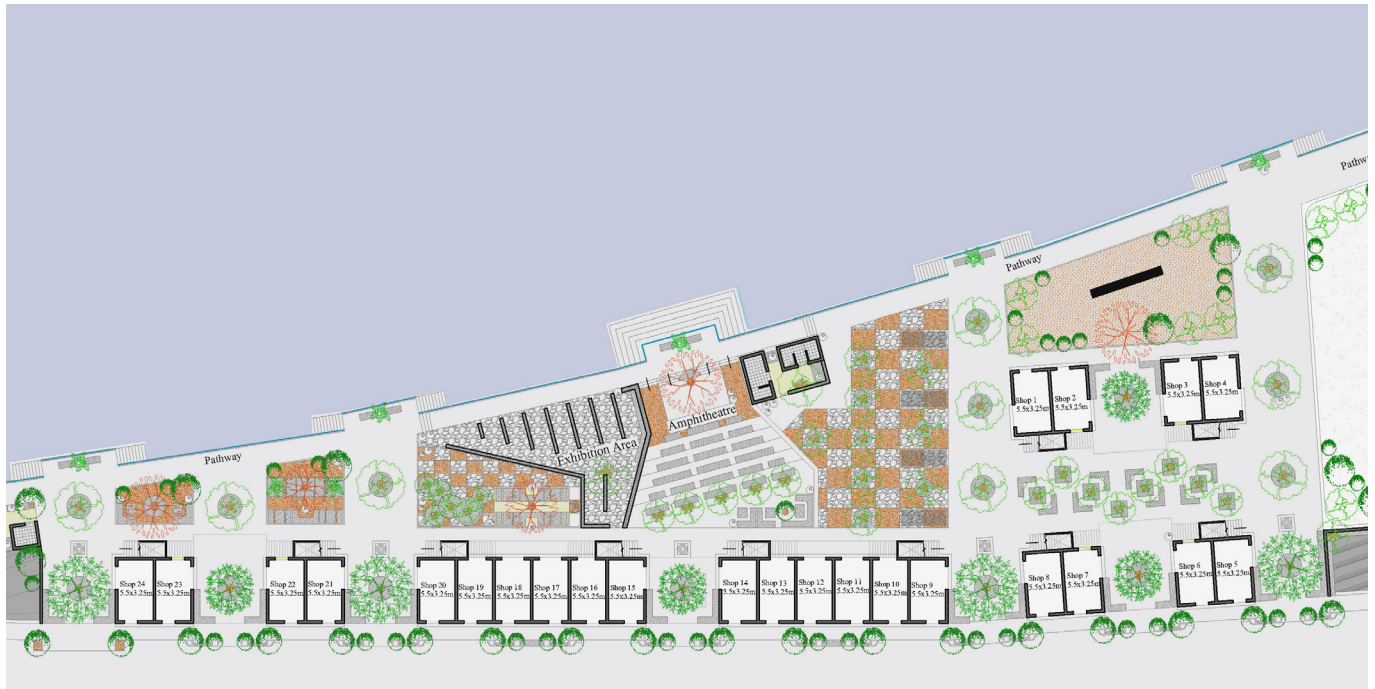
Existing lakefront of the Desalsar lake with the fort wall at the back.

with an aesthetic appeal.

Salient features and components of the proposal:

The major issue with the development of the lakefront is the presence of commercial establishments that presently completely cover the lake frontage. The livelihoods of the shop owners depend on this encroached property and this presents a socio-political complication that needs to be dealt with in a sensitive manner. It is suggested that the development of the lakefront be undertaken in a phased manner and through a participatory design approach. Due consent and feedback should be taken from the stakeholders at every stage so that the acceptance of proposal is high, which is necessary for a project of such nature.

Phase-wise development has been proposed based on the land availability around the lake. The phase One aims at maximisation of land availability which is expected to make it relatively easier for further construction in subsequent phases. Once some shops are constructed here, the shop owners can be shifted to the new location and the next phase can commence. This is expected to be more acceptable to the shop owners as it would have minimal effect on their day to day business.



Proposed lay-out plan for one of the edges of Desalsar lake.

The second phase will deal with the most congested part of the lake. Here, it is proposed that the commercial establishments be realigned, and some of the shops can be relocated in the other phases based on the suitability of the business and acceptability of the owners themselves. This also is a prime location for the lakefront and hence should be developed primarily as a public space.

Other than the above-mentioned characteristics of the proposal, the following will be the components of the proposed interventions:

1. Connected walkways around all of the perimeter giving plentiful views to the lake,
2. Existing shops integrated in the proposed development, without harming the livelihood of the shopkeepers as well as giving the lake its deserved status of a public space for the city,
3. Development of seating-courtyards between shop-structures giving direct view of the lake from the adjacent road,
4. Development of terraces of the shops as accessible seating and viewing spots,
5. Break-out seating spaces along the walkways,
6. Demarcated spaces for vending, integrated with seating spaces,



Proposed model for lakefront development.

7. Provision of public toilets and drinking water facilities at regular intervals.

The project proposal was submitted to Bhuj Nagar Palika on 15th October 2016 for consideration under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme with an estimated cost of Rs.4.8 Crores.

Way forward

- Follow-up with the government agencies for approval of the submitted proposal.

Gugal/Guggul



Gundi/Dora



Gho



Sugari



Mamejavo



Gorad/Kher



Chameleon



Pilichanch Dhonk



Kerad



Pilu/Khari Jaar



Khiskoli



Pelican



Flora

Fauna

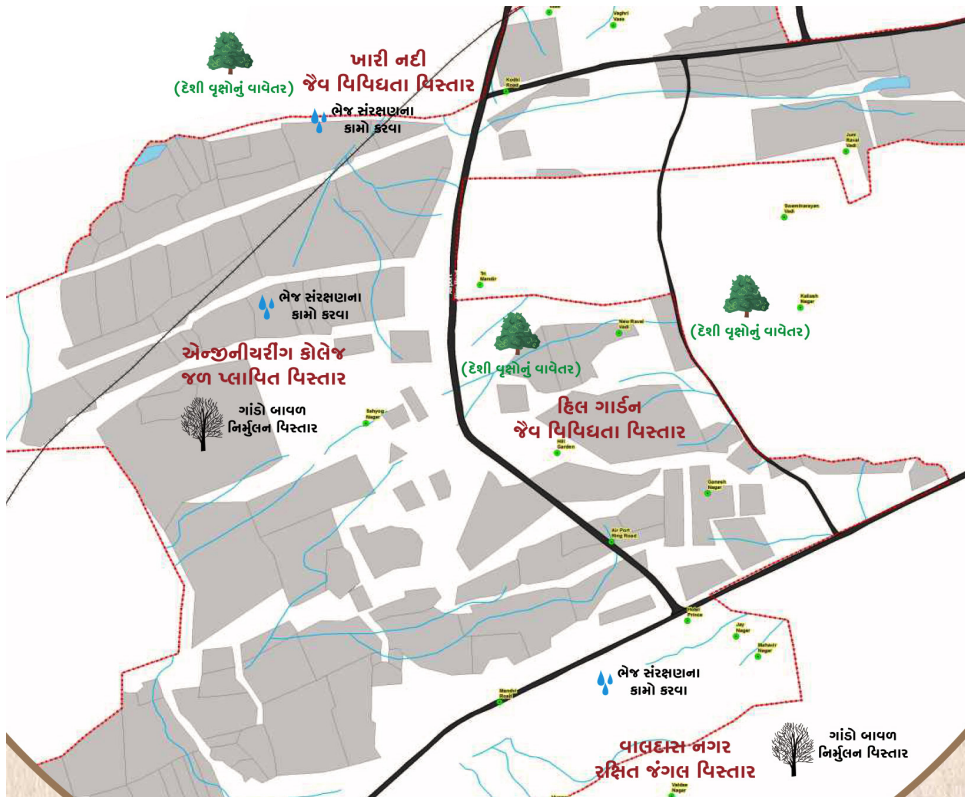
10 BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE IN BHUJ

Bhuj is home to a diversity of ecosystem in terms of forests, wetlands, hill ranges and so on as well as several endangered floral and faunal species. Bhuj, thus possesses a distinct identity coupled with its history and cultures. Process of urbanization has overlooked the importance of biodiversity in the city and the functions and ecosystem services that it provides. This has posed a threat to the ecosystem including the distinct floral and faunal species. Biological Diversity Act, 2002, provides an opportunity to Urban and Rural local governments to document and register the bio-diversity in their area and prepare an action plan for conservation and further to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) to execute and manage the conservation plan.

Sahjeevan, with the help of a group of environmentalists and environmentally sensitive citizens of Bhuj initiated to document the bio-diversity in Ward No. 8, a ward having some forest area and a Bio-diversity Park. The objective of this process was to document the biodiversity in terms of flora and fauna; to understand the major threats on these species; to prepare a conservation plan for the same; to make citizen aware about biodiversity and about having a unique urban ecosystem and its importance in urban habitation; and most importantly to enable Bhuj Municipality to implement the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 i.e. to prepare a Peoples' Biodiversity Register for the city; to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee and to prepare an action plan for its conservation.

Activities accomplished so far:

- Natural resource mapping and mapping of biodiversity areas was done; and an action plan for Ward No. 8 has been prepared for conservation of the identified biodiversity rich areas.



Identified bio-diversity rich areas of Ward No. 8

- Sensitization meetings with citizens of Ward no.8 were conducted and an informal group of environmentally sensitive citizens was formed for conservation actions.
- Biodiversity document for Ward no. 8 was formally submitted to Bhuj Municipality and further orientation of officials and key office bearers of Bhuj Municipality was done as per Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its provisions.

Shri Ashokbhai Hathi, President, Bhuj Municipality says,

“With changing environment, especially in urban context the conservation of bio-diversity both flora and fauna is important. Public awareness on these issues will help conserve endangered and threatened species. Bhuj Municipality will definitely support this initiative to document and conserve the rich biodiversity in the city.”





Ward wise meeting with Citizens and ward councilors

Shri Navinbahi Bapat, a naturalist of Bhuj says,

“Despite growing population in the city, Bhuj has been preserving and conserving the rich biodiversity of the place. This has been a result of citizens’ sensitivity, dedication and love towards it.”



Way Forward:

- Document and Register Biodiversity in the remaining 10 wards of the city and prepare Peoples’ Biodiversity Register (PBR) for Bhuj Municipality.
- Assist the Bhuj Municipality to constitute Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) for the city to conserve and manage the biodiversity.
- Help Administration to declare Bhujiyo hill as a Biodiversity Park and prepare an action plan for the same.



11 DECENTRALISED URBAN GOVERNANCE THROUGH WARD COMMITTEES

In the past few decades, it has been a realization that deepening democratic governance is of paramount importance to address the problems of poverty, marginalisation and injustice in the society. Decentralised governance encompasses effective and efficient delivery of services to citizens and emphasises participation and civic engagement in policy formulation, planning, resource allocation and utilisation, and service delivery performance. The 74th Amendment to the Constitution provides a comprehensive structure for urban local government institutions. The constitutional status of municipalities enable them to function as institutions of self-government. Participation of the people in local governments is an important objective of this amendment. For instance, the ward committees in towns and cities ensure proximity between the people and their elected representatives by providing a structured platform for addressing the local problems of citizens. Therefore, initiatives have been taken for the formation of ward and area committees in different wards having balanced gender representation with the support of citizens. Ward committees would have their offices in the respective wards and the committees would prepare development plans for social, economic and physical development of the ward.

Bhuj Municipal area is administratively divided into 11 wards. As of now, ward and area committees have been formed in Ward No. 2 and 3 by Urban SETU. A large number, about 80 per cent, of the population resides in informal settlements having insufficient access to basic amenities and services in these two wards. This was one prominent reason for taking these two wards for pilots. A considerable number of families were not even enrolled under social security schemes and hence, were deprived from getting benefits of schemes meant for them.



President of Bhuj Nagarpalika inaugurating Ward office in Ward No.3



Selected ward committee members through democratic process in Ward No. 3

With the support of Urban SETU, Ward Committee has been formed for Ward No. 2 that comprises 43 areas having population of 16,852 (4003 households). The similar structure has also been formed for Ward No. 3 that has population of 12,722. The number of Ward Committee members in Ward No. 2 and 3 are 13 and 15 respectively. The major strategies adopted for formation of these committees were as follows:

- Ward Committees have been formed through a democratic process with prescribed norms in the presence of the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality;
- Ward development plans has been prepared by the Ward Committees based on available primary and secondary data and knowledge of local residents,
- 'Mahiti Mitra' (Information Centre) has been set-up as a kiosk enabling easy access to information on Government Resolutions and entitlements for the citizens.

Achievements of Ward Committees so far:

- Computerised household map-based database has been created for the first time for Ward No. 2. This online Urban Planning Support System (UPSS) database is regularly updated and can be accessed by anyone for planning and other purposes.
- About 80% of the citizens have received Aadhar Cards; ward committees have coordinated with concerned departments to provide other entitlements to the citizens.
- Ward plan with a budget was prepared for the financial year, 2016-17 for Ward No. 2 and 3. This was



Road repairing work is on going under supervision of ward committee in Shaikh Falia in Ward no. 2



On going excavation work to lay down water supply pipeline in Bhagatwadi area in ward no. 3



Ms. Hemlataben Gor, Ex. President, Bhuj Municipality

"Every ward in Bhuj should set up a ward committee. This will provide tremendous support to the councillors and their work will become fast and efficient."

Shri G.K.Chandappa, Chief Executive Officer, Bhuj Municipality

"We have learned a lot from the detailed annual plan prepared by Ward Committee of Ward No. 2. It is based on data and figures. We have decided to adopt this planning system for all wards of Bhuj. This will help us allocate our budget to all wards based on their area and population."



officially submitted to the Municipality. A large number of proposed works have been considered by the Municipality.

- The quality of all implemented works, including construction of roads, gutter, school, toilets have improved because of close monitoring by the Ward Committee.

Presence of an active Ward Committee in each ward is very essential. It would help Councillors and citizens in planning and implementation of works in a desirable way, as per the requirements in their wards.



People came for Adhar card in a camp organised by Urban Setu at ward office in ward no. 2

Capacity building:

A training was organised for the newly elected Ward Councillors and Ward Committee Members where they were informed about their roles and responsibilities regarding their ward and the city, meaning of decentralisation and decentralised governance, functions of Municipalities as per constitutional provisions. The idea was to train councillors so that they could understand their roles and the power they hold for the development of their wards. This training ultimately helped them to work more efficiently towards the development of the city. This training was attended by 27 Councillors and 18 Ward Committee members.

Functions of ward offices:

Ward offices have been established in Ward No. 2 and 3. The features of these ward offices are mentioned below:

- Monthly meetings of Ward Committees take place at ward offices where members discuss issues in their ward and develop interventions for the same;
- Ward Committees have meetings and discussions at ward offices for preparation of development plans



Sharing of Ward Plan with Municipal Officials, ward councillors and citizens by Ward Committee members.

- with financial plan for socio-economic and physical development;
- Ward offices are used as a platform where citizens approach their elected councillors and municipal staff to register their complaints as well as provide suggestions for improvement,
- Ward offices also provide information about various government sponsored schemes for welfare of poor families and facilitate their access to the benefits of these schemes.

Way forward:

- Coordinate and cooperate with Ward Councillors and Municipal Officials so that Ward Committees can be formed in each ward of the city.
- Facilitate Ward committees to prepare plans and budgets for holistic development of their wards.
- Establish Ward office in each ward so that decentralised public service delivery, decentralised planning and governance can be promoted in the city.
- Dialogue with the Municipality to start property tax collection through its ward offices in order to increase the tax collection by the Municipality.



Citizen with candles in an event organised by Bhuj Bole Chhe near Hamirsar Lake on 26th January 2015 in memory of the people who died in the earthquake on 26th January 2001 in Kutch.

12 BHUJ BOLE CHHE - CITIZENS' PLATFORM

Cities are observed as a territory where people come from different regions, religions, cultures etc. and work for their survival as well as development of the city and nation. Due to the growing population in cities, there is always a scarcity of housing, shortage of water, poor cleanliness etc. But these urban areas also lack spaces for interaction, exchange of ideas, views and problems. In our democratic set-up, Ward Councillor, Member of Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament are directly elected by the citizens in five year intervals but there is hardly any space where citizens can directly interact with the government on a regular basis. With this realisation, an initiative known as Bhuj Bole Chhe (BBC) was started as a citizens' platform for citizens of Bhuj with the following objectives:

- Citizens can interact; exchange their views with each other on various aspects related to the city.
- Public authorities can get feedback and citizens' views on this platform. At the same time they may also use this platform to convey their messages and share their expectations from citizens.
- This platform would treasure information related to heritage, culture and history of the city so that not only citizens of Bhuj but outsiders also know about the past glory of the city.
- This platform provides information on on-going activities/events in the city that are directly or indirectly related to citizens' lives and opens the platform for further discussions, views and suggestions by the citizens.

Presently, more than 600 citizens are connected with this platform through the website of BBC (www.bhujbolechhe.org). BBC also has a facebook page that has around 8,500 followers, not only from India but also from other countries too. This website also includes experiences and views of citizens who live

A screenshot of BBC website

in slums and don't have access to internet. BBC team approaches them and records their day-to-day life experiences and their views on different development issues on a regular basis.

The main features of BBC are mentioned below:

1. Blog section: Here, citizens have their own blog posts where they put their experiences and views on the city. They also write articles on current issues and on-going development works in the city.
2. Our voice: In this section, citizens, formal and informal groups working in the city, schools, colleges and other institutions raise their voice; events organised by them and attempts being made by them towards betterment of the city. Other citizens may respond to the posts, give their views and discuss matters.
3. Concern management: This is another separate section where citizens post their problems which



Ram Kund, one of the significant heritage sites in Bhuj, being cleaned and decorated by school children on World Heritage Day 18th April 2017.

could be related to access of basic amenities and services, safety and security, poor sanitation in their area etc. In this way, concerned department such as municipality, police, electricity board etc. may get regular feedback and can improve their services as well as redress concerns raised by the citizens promptly.

4. There is a section where information about the city such as history, communities living in the city, various government schemes like schemes related to health, education, social security, travel related information, contact numbers of different departments etc. are available that can be accessed by any citizen.

Other initiatives through BBC:

BBC documents communities living in the city for a long time and have contributed a lot in enriching



Cleanliness drive by the citizens of Bhuj at the riverbed of Khari nadi



An elderly citizen sharing information of historic places and monuments in old city of Bhuj with the school children.

the city on social, economic and environmental aspects. These documents highlights time period when they came to the city, their culture, custom, music, social structure etc. BBC aims to document 84 such communities living in the city, of which twelve communities have been documented so far.

- There are several historical monuments, heritage places and buildings in Bhuj that depict the rich history and culture of the city. However, many of these monuments are in poor condition because of the negligence by public authorities. Thus, most of these historic places and heritage buildings are documented and displayed on BBC website to spread awareness about protection and preservation of this heritage (<http://bhujbolechhe.org/en/infos/heritage-buildings-bhuj>). Simultaneously, in order to sensitise students and citizens, heritage and nature walks are organised time and again under the banner of BBC.
- BBC identifies and honours citizens working voluntarily for welfare of the deprived and vulnerable sections, for stray animals, birds etc. Their exemplary contributions to the city have been displayed and are available on the BBC website.



Documentation of history, culture and customs of Siddi and Koli communities living in the city

- This communication platform also covers all the on-going activities and demonstrations created under HIC programme. BBC team publishes articles in vernacular newspapers and facilitates coverage in the local TV channels. In one such attempt, real stories of 50 inspiring and struggling women were covered in the supplement of a daily popular vernacular newspaper 'Kutch Mitra'. This supplement is published every Tuesday with the name 'JEDAL'

Way forward:

- Promotion of BBC as citizens' platform so that more people, civil society organisations, public institutions, students, and professionals can use this platform and come forward collectively for betterment of the city.
- Sensitise citizens towards conservation of heritage and monuments in the city and also approach concerned government departments for the same.

ANNEXURE

01 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AND THEMATIC SESSIONS

Date: 12th and 13th May 2017

Venue: Dosabhai Dharamshala, Beside Kutch Mitra Press, Bhuj

First Day (12th May)

Timing	Programme	Concerned Person
03:30-03:35	Welcome to the participants	Shri M.H. Peer
03:35-03:40	Honour to the Guests	
03:40-03:50	Introduction to workshop	Shri Sandeep Virmani
03:50-03:55	Launching of book on 'Condition of Women Working in Informal Sector' by Guests	Ms. Alka Jani
03:55-04:20	Address to the participants	Ms. Nimaben Acharya, MLA Bhuj, Shri Kiritbhai Sompura, Chairman, BHADA, Shri Ashokbhai Hathi, President, Bhuj Nagarpalika
04:20-04:30	Presidential address	Shri Vasantbhai Ahir, Parliamentary Secretary
04:30-04:35	Vote of thanks	Shri Upendrabhai Upadhyay

Urban Planning

04:35-04:55	Transit Oriented Development (ToD) –A Case Study of Delhi	Ms. Paromita Roy, Dy. Director (Arch.), Delhi Development Authority
04:55-05:10	Open discussion	
05:10-05:30	Hamirsar Lake Development Plan	Shri Sanjay Ishwarbhai Desai Mass Consultant, Bhuj
05:30-05:45	Open discussion	
05:45-06:15	Refreshment	

Second Day (13th May)

Timing	Programme	Concerned Person
10:30-10:50	Revised Development Plan of Bhuj 2025	Mr. Hitarth Arya, Urban Planner, Nascent Info Technologies Pvt. Ltd
10:50-11:00	Open discussion	
	Session 1	Session 2
11:00-11:30	Promotion of milk production through Animal Hostel in Bhuj Ms.Nita Khubchandani,Sahjeevan Mr. Aditya Singh, Hunnarshala	Women empowerment and safety Ms. Aruna Joshi and Ms. Jigna Gor, Sakhi Sangini
11:30-11:40	Open discussion	
11:40-11:50	Comment by panellists	
11:50-12:05	Decentralised Waste Management – A case study of Goa Mr. Clinton Vaz, Founder of v-Recycle	Open discussion and Comments by panellists
12:05-12:15	Solid Waste Management Improvements Mr. Jay Shah, UMC Ahmedabad	

12:15-12:30	Open Discussion	Women Safety
12:30-12:40	Solid Waste Management attempts in Bhuj Mr. Dharmesh Antani, Sahjeevan Mr. Ghatit Laheru, Khamir	Ms.Geetha Nambisan, Jagori
12:40-12:50	Centralised and De-Centralised Waste Management Mr. Saurabh Shah, Excel Industries Ltd.	
12:50-01:00	Open Discussion	Open Discussion
01:00-01:10	Comment by Panellists	Comment by Panellists
01:10-02:00	Lunch-Break	
	Session 1	Session 2
02:00-02:30	Owner driven housing Mr. Rupesh Hurmade, Hunnarshala	Shelter for homeless and organising street vendors Mr. Dinesh Charan, Mr. Karman Marvad & Mr. Aditya Singh
02:30-02:45	Open discussion	
02:45-03:15	Water vision for Bhuj city -Mr. Yogesh Jadeja, ACT	Migrant labours and administration -Sanjay Chittora, Aajeevika Bureau
03:15-03:30	Open discussion followed by panellists comments	Open discussion followed by panellists comments
03:30-04:00	Tea-break	
04:00-04:45	Public participation in urban governance Mr. Vishram Vaghela & Ms. Minaxi Chouhan	Bio-diversity conservation Mr. Pankaj Joshi, Sahjeevan
04:45-05:00	Open discussion	
05:00-06:00	Way Forward	
06:00-06:05	Vote of thanks	

ABOUT HIC

In 2008, a group of citizens working with Civil Society Organisations in the rural hinterland of Bhuj city, reflected on their own participation and contribution as citizens of Bhuj, giving birth to the 'Homes in the City' programme. Beginning with volunteering in their own colonies where they lived, and contributions through their expertise for the betterment of the city, the initiative have now grown, to hundreds of citizens being given an opportunity to make Bhuj a humane, happy living place for all.

The program was initiated by the workers of five voluntary organisations, with the following principles:

1. To push for democratic decentralisation to allow citizens to build communities and have better control over the development; and promote engagement with their immediate neighbours to govern their services, assets, facilities and future,
2. To ensure that the interventions are environmentally and ecologically conducive,
3. To work towards building equity, and therefore prioritise empowering the disadvantaged and marginalised, such as the poor, migrants, women, socially stigmatised and also the animals.

Over close to a decade, the programme strategy has been to organise citizens, demonstrate pilots based on the above principles and advocate for institutionalisation and adoption by the state for the city. The program is steered by a committee represented by eminent citizens, NGO representatives and slum dwellers. The programme offers fellowships to demonstrate pilots and invites civil society organisations to take up advocacy. A biennial seminar called 'The City Calls' (Saher Pade Saad) presents on-going efforts and demonstrations under the programme in the city.

HIC program has helped several citizens organise themselves into formal and informal collectives including ward and area committees, Resident Welfare Associations, issue based collectives like Jalstrot Sneh Samvardhan Samiti on the issue of water, Maldhari Sangathans on the issue of livestock and milk production, a large women's collective called Sakhi Sangini, a street vendors association and migrants collectives.

The programme has developed and piloted technical solutions in the area of water and waste-water management, housing and solid-waste management and uses IT-based data management and communication technologies to improve access to information and entitlements.

The initiating partners and their work in Bhuj city are given below.

Sahjeevan is the current secretariat for the HIC programme, works on the issues of solid waste management, livestock management in cities and urban biodiversity. (<http://www.sahjeevan.org>)

Arid Communities and Technologies (ACT) works on decentralised water management including, roof water harvesting, aquifer management and recharge technologies, lake management and watershed management. (<http://act-india.org>)

SETU Abhiyan specialises in strengthening decentralised governance by providing information services, capacity building and organising marginalised sections in rural and urban local government bodies. (<http://www.kutchabhiyan.org>).

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS) organises the poor women, working on their livelihoods, ensuring women's participation in relevant programme and securing entitlements. Sakhi Sangini is an initiative of KMVS helping to run a large savings and credit programme, organising Female Sex Workers (FSW) and adolescent girls in the city on their awareness and safety issues. (<http://kmvs.org.in>)

Hunnarshala Foundation works on Slum Housing and services, design of shelters for Migrants, Street and vending plans, lake development and city planning, shelters for livestock and waste water technologies. (<http://www.hunnarshala.org>)

HIC programme also coordinates and works with Satvik, an organic farming organisation, and Khamir, a platform for the crafts, heritage, and cultural ecology of Kutch region of Gujarat. (<http://www.khamir.org>)

