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Migration, Informal Settlements and Local Infrastructure in Urban Conglomerations

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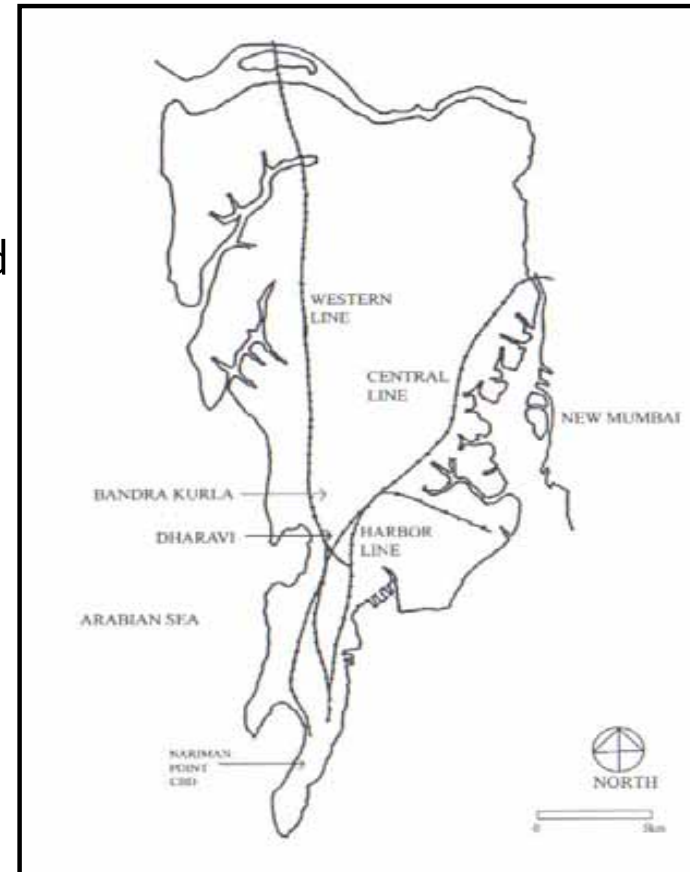
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Migration, Informal Settlements and Local Infrastructure in Urban Conglomerations

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Migration and Mumbai

- The current population of Mumbai is estimated at around 14 million people
- Around 44% is migrant
 - 68% of which are rural (2001 census)
 - Mostly from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Karnataka
- Most of this growth is in the western suburbs
 - Where most informal settlements are located
- Most end up:
 - Living in informal settlements
 - 54.1% of the city lives in informal settlements
 - Working in poorly paid and low-skilled jobs
- Key challenge: unequal distribution and investment rather than population



Differential infrastructure



Bandra-Kurla complex



High Street Phoenix Mill, Parel



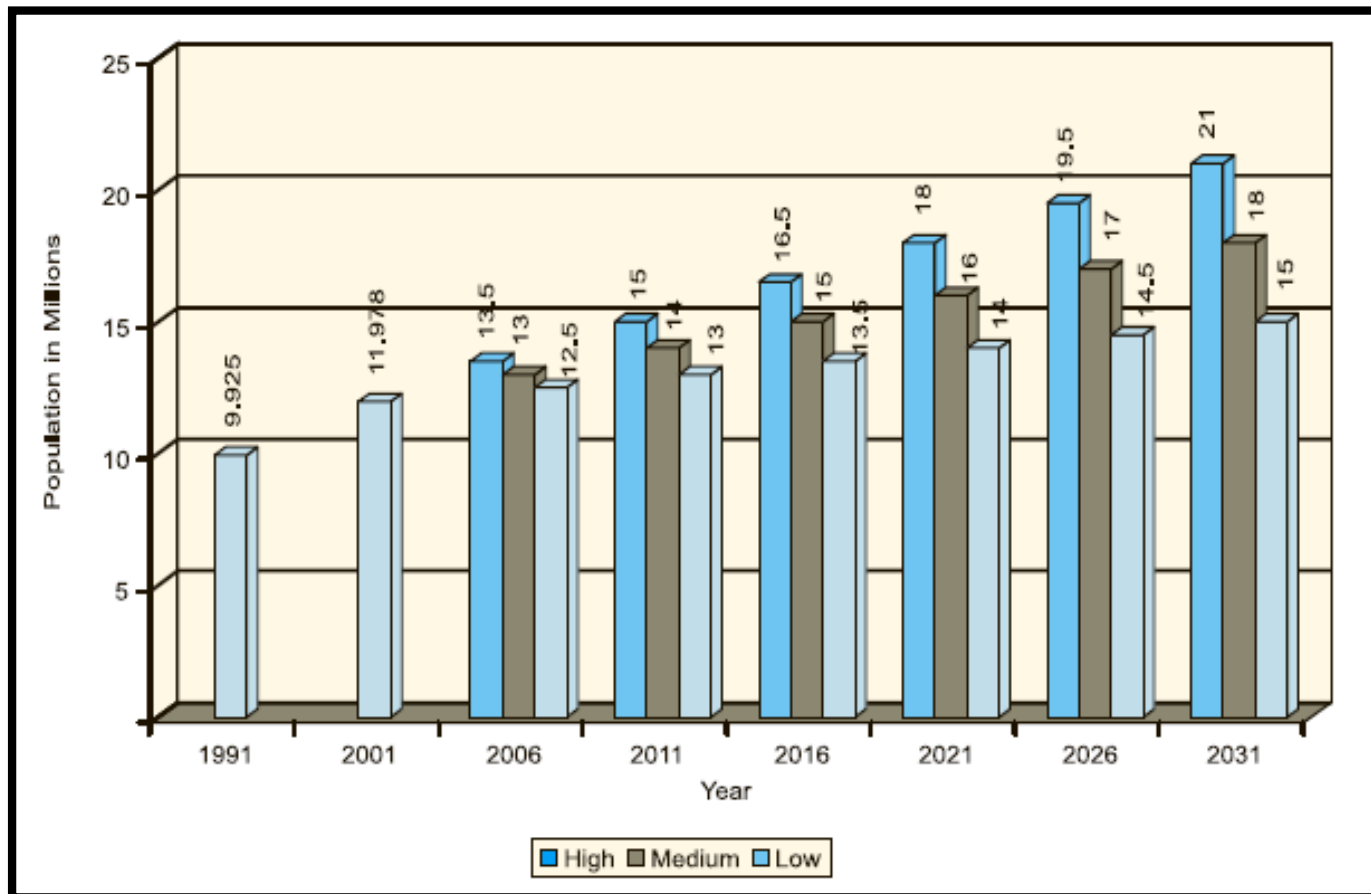
Godiwali complex
Khar, Bandra (W)



Rafi Nagar (NE)

Migration and Mumbai's future

- Projected future population growth of Mumbai
 - *Source: 2009 Mumbai Human Development Report*



- 1. Partnership solutions?
 - The Slum Sanitation Programme (SSP)

Sanitation

- 2001 survey of informal settlements:
 - 63% dependent on public toilets
 - Average ratio of persons per toilet seat of 81:1
 - varying from 273:1 to 56:1
 - 39% had electricity, 14% had water, 31% connected to sewer system
 - Poor maintenance
 - Population forced to defecate in the open estimated at 28% (1.78 million)



Slum Sanitation Programme

- SSP: a citywide, long-term project to improve informal settlements
 - Shift from 'vote-bank' sanitation provision?
- 1) Governance
- 2) Technical infrastructure
- 3) Cost recovery

1. Governance

- Partnership, participation, empowerment
 - World Bank, Municipal Corporation, NGOs, community based organisations, and engineering companies
- December 2004:
 - 69% of the work orders were issued to the only NGO on the programme, SPARC (part of the 'Alliance')
 - Largest allocation of developmental work to an NGO in India
 - Rs. 64 crore had been awarded (€10.8million at 2004 exchange rates)
 - 8,000 toilet seats in 400 toilet blocks spread
 - More than €1200 per seat (including all costs)

2. Technical infrastructure: design and construction

Progress until October 2004

	Work orders complete (%)	Water connection at site of completed w.o. (%)	Electricity connection at site of completed w.o. (%)
BU	96	95	96
BNA	92	89	89
ALLIANCE	82	65	59
TOTAL	86	75	70
2001 Total	--	14	39

- 91% of blocks lacking a water connection Alliance-built
- 93% lacking an electricity connection Alliance-built
- One official estimated that only 28% of blocks are connected to sewers
 - Compared to 31% in 2001
- Improved performance by 2010

3. Cost recovery

- Sanitation not for those who need it most, but for those who can pay a contribution
- Two sites:
 - Khotiwadi
 - Rafi Nagar

■ Khotiwadi

- Established, authorised informal settlement made up of relatively well off families living in *pukka* (concrete) housing
- Toilet block built in collaboration with the Alliance



■ Rafi Nagar

- One of the poorest unauthorised informal settlements in the city
- Water and sanitation constitute the largest monthly outlays for many people
- Combination of cost and long queues means that most people do not use blocks and instead use the nearby dumping ground



A more sustainable infrastructure?

- Dangers of over-emphasis on particular NGO's
- A need for greater flexibility
 - In infrastructure and in costs
- Some success and marks a shift from 'vote-bank' provision
 - But remains an *ad hoc* model of sanitation provision

- 2. Activist responses
 - Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)

Slum / Shack Dwellers International

- The Alliance again crucial to the development and operation of this movement
- Exchanges; daily savings; negotiating strategies; enumeration; exhibition...



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SDI COUNTRIES ▾ SDI RITUALS ▾

SAVINGS

All Federations in the SDI network are collectives of slum-dweller women's savings schemes. Whenever a Federation enters a community, be it in Accra or Johannesburg, this is the most basic and essential building block of the entire structure. This is the most basic and essential building block of the entire structure. When a collective in an area is strong, then entire federation is strong.

is the operation of savings and credit groups. It does it through form saving and credit groups. This is a key strategy. When a women's savings

SDI RITUALS
SAVINGS
ENUMERATION
ROLE OF WOMAN
TENURE
EXCHANGES
HOUSE MODELS
WATER
BROKERING
ADVOCACY

Construction and exchange



Community toilet infrastructure

- Eco-san toilet block, Harare



Building model housing



Model house, Nairobi

“As the model went up, the people pulled out boards, nailed things up differently, changed this, argued about them. Measurements altered, ceiling heights were raised then lowered, Window positions shifted, bathrooms and kitchens swelled then shrunk.”

Asian Coalition for Housing Rights

Power and translocal activism

- The Alliance
 - “What you have to do is see Mumbai as a hub that’s like the crucible. All the new ideas [e.g. housing exhibitions, enumerations, savings]...it’s the most difficult place to work...the size of the city, the scale of the problem, a very dense environment...If you can solve something in Mumbai you can solve it in other places, and that’s one of the reasons that we are not anywhere else”.
 - “The mother base”; “a model”; “a crucible”
 - Marginalising local concerns

An alternative urbanism?

- SDI:
 - New imaginaries of housing and infrastructure
 - Structured by unequal relations of power, knowledge and resource
 - A politics of accommodation: a *realpolitik* rather than an oppositional alternative force

Conclusion

- Migration to Mumbai is a product of India's structural inequality
 - Most migrants end up working in the informal sector and living in vulnerable informal settlements
- A key response to inadequate infrastructures is that of state-civil society-private partnership (e.g. The Slum Sanitation Programme)
 - Some success, but exclusionary and over-dependent on particular civil society organisations (Alliance)
- Through SDI, the Alliance also involved in translocal activist campaigns for infrastructure and housing
 - New imaginaries of urban infrastructure and housing
 - A politics of accommodation rather than alternative urbanism
- Taken together, both examples illustrate the possibilities and limits of civil society organisations in responding to the challenges of urban infrastructural inequality