Tata Institute Of Social Sciences
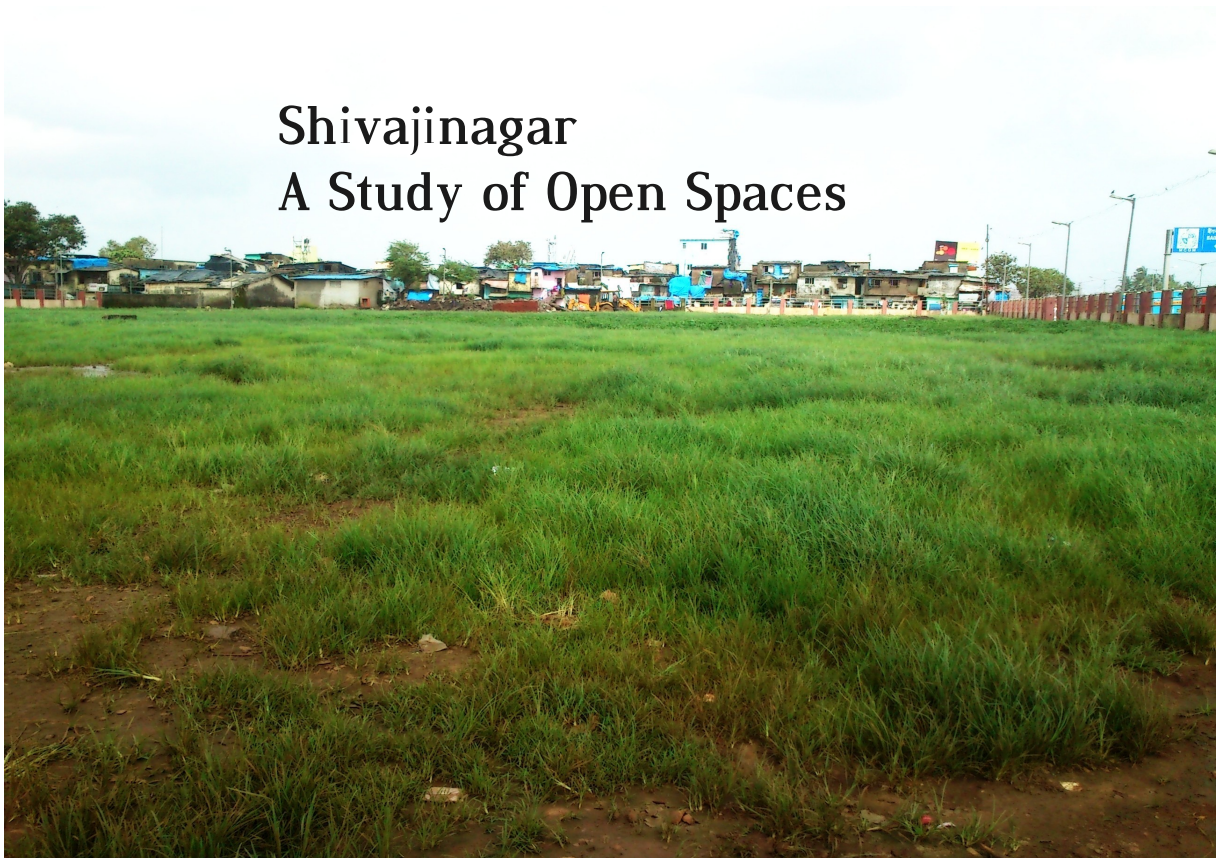
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PLANNING STUDIO
Group Report

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Shivajinagar
A Study of Open Spaces

Introduction

Shivajinagar is situated in M(West) ward of Mumbai and is notorious for its closest proximity to The Deonar dumping Ground , the communal polarisation over the years and last but not the least as first planned settlement for the victims of development activities in Mumbai.

If one thinks of Govandi Railway Station as a reference point , One needs to get down at Govandi (west) railway station , take a turn from Deonar Abattoir and then need to pass the busy traffic junction at Ghatkopar- Mankhurd Link road to reach the locality.

The physical location of shivajinagar is quite interesting. To the south of it runs busy Ghatkopar – Mankhurd Link Road, Marshy Land , Mangroves forest and Thane creek form the North , North east and Eastern margin of it while the densely poputated locality stretching up to eastern express highway falls on the west of Shivajinagar. At first instance Though the shivajinagar appears to be one monolithic area comprising of many settlements or ' the zopadpattis' as middle class bias would describe it , the situation is bit differnet. There are as many as 11 settlements within the Shivajinagar , each one having a different history , different socio economic composition and a dynamic , criss crossing presence of Communities.

The very first settlement in this area is Lotus colony , settled between 1972- 1975, and famous as LOTUS.The very name Lotus has a intersting history behind this. People settled here come from Worli in central Mumbai . There was a very famous cinema hall named Lotus Cinema and when people settled around it had to make a move to Shivajinagar the picked up the very same name for their new colony. But the residents here are not only from worli they have also come from Matunga Labour Camp when the camp had to make way for Dharavi Urban Health Centre. We see a mix of hindu and muslim presence here with varying livelihood patterns. The colony is in a much better shape now with people having formal housing , mostly ground plus one structures , and one can easily sense a strong community sentiment here. Lotus has become the experimental lab for many CBOs with APANALAY having its office in lotus , Mumbai Environmental Social Networks or MESN Working On Advanced Locality Management And A Union Of Ragpickers In Place. Along With Lotus Came Shivajinagar -Phase 1 But Actual Settlement Began In Mid 70s Only.

Shivajinagar Is Situated Bang Opposite The Dumping Ground. Shivajinagar Had Planned Housing Plots , Well Laid Out Roads And Many A Open Spaces Assured In DP 1981. What We See Today Is Vanished Open Spaces But Remnants Of Laid Out Parallel Roads. When The Bandra Abattoir Was Shifted To Govandi People Working There And Staying Around Were Also Shifted To Govandi. They Were Mostly From Muslim Community. So Right From The Early Days One An See A Typical Pattern Of Livelihoods And A Ghettoised Community. In Early 80s Began The Phase 2 Of Shivajuinagar And Now It Is Known As Baiganwadi. Many People Settled Here

Have Come From Different Parts Of Mumbai And Migrants Form Marathwada Region Of Maharashtra Forms The Major Chunk Of The Population In Baiganwadi. Though They Belong To Hindu Community , They Are Together On The Very Strong Caste Identity ..mainly The Schedule Castes. The Political Activeness Of Baiganwadi Is Remarkable. Though Over The Years The Caste And Community Matrices Of Baiganwadi Have Altered .

Post shivajinagar settlements we can see coming up of many small localities. The exact settling
patterns are very hard to mention as they have not been meticulously documented. We See Gajanan Colony Quite Adjacent To Lotus And Next To Gajanan Is Rafiq Nagar And Baba Nagar On The Western Margins Of Shivajinagar. On The Eastern Margins We See A Series Of Slum Settlements Next To Baiganwadi And Adjacent To The Road Leading Upto Dumping Ground.They Are Shanti Nagar , Buddha Nagar , Indira Nagar , Adarsh Nagar And Kamala Raman Nagar. Shnatinagar Is Known To Have Biggest Presence Of Waste Rag Pickers And They Come From Marathwada Region. The Caste Factor Is Most Dominant In Shantinagar. One Can Find The Political Awareness In Shantinagar In The Persoanl And Professional Lives Of The Residents. The Rag Pickers Have A Strong Union In Shantinagar. Nirankari Nagar , Immediate Next To The BEST Bus Depot , Also Has Remarkable Presence Of Ragpickers And Is Generally Seen As As Enchroachment On The Dumping Ground Land.

One can easily see the reflection of communal riots of 1992-93 in Mumbai , the influx of Migrants From UP And Bihar And Also The War Refugees Of 1972 Bangladesh War In Shivajinagar. The Slums Of Buddha Nagar , Indira Nagar And Adarsh Nagar Largely Have Migrants From UP And Bihar. Babanagar Has A Predominant Presence Of Bangladeshi Migrants , Esp War Refugees. One Of The Reasons For Overpouring Of Migrants In This Perticular Locality Is Availability Of Social Networks For Migrants To Get A Foothold In The City Of Mumbai. Baba Nagar , Indira Agar And Adharsh Nagar Are Denotified Slums Of The Locality And They Always Face A Threat Of Eviction. From 2000 Onwards These Slum Settlements Face Demolition Drives As Frequent As 6-8 Times A Year. The Reason Behind This Is Pretty Clear. The Slum Rehabilitation Act 1995 Of Maharashtra Government Has Set A Timeframe Of The 1995 For Eviction And As It Follows From The Act Baba Nagar , Indira Nagar And Adarsh Nagar Fall Under ' Post 1995 Construction' Category. The Slum Development Schemes Like RAY – Rajiv Aawas Yojana Are Accepted In Maharashtra But Not In Mumbai .So Other Slums Have No Scope To Fit In This Scheme For Development.
In the era of booming real estate market , given the potential of its locality amidst the rumours of partial closure of dumping ground, Shivajinagar has attarcted many a builders – developers and future of the poor slum dwellers lies hanging in uncertainity.

Facts and figures :

Total area = 1214056 sq.m.
Total population as per M Ward authorities = 4 lakhs
Total population as per Shivajinagar police = 6 lakhs
Population Density = 3.036 per sq.meter as per 4 lakhs and 2.024 per sq.meter as per 6 lakhs
Total open space as per DP 19991 = 18176 sq.m.
Open space per capita as per population of 4 lakhs = 0.046 sq.m. per capita
Open space per capita as per population of 6 lakhs = 0.031 sq.m. per capita

Area diagnosis and Analysis of DP 1991

The shivajinagar Locality is the planned settlement colony as per Development Plan 1981. But in 2012 when we look at the locality we see that the plan has gone for a toss, most of the reservations have been changed and amidist the thick of the population hardly any open spaces are left in the conventional sense of the term 'Open Space.'
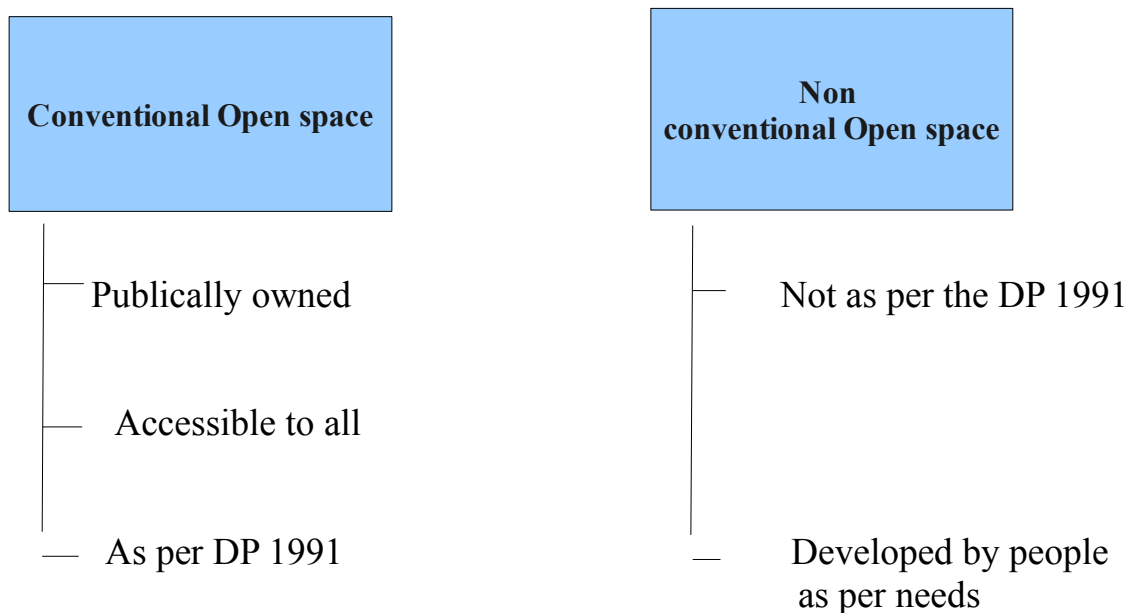
We could recognise following open space s -

1. The Vast stretch of Ambedkar garden adjacent to the main highway
2. The small ground besides ambedkar garden and next to the Municipal School
3. The Lotus Garden
4. The play ground of Sree Geeta Vidyalaya
5. The play ground of Sanjaynagar Municipal school
6. The 90 Feet road between shivajinagar and dumping ground
7. The vacant plot lying next to the Bus Depot.
8. Temple complex near baiganwadi best bus depot

Though it appears to be such a big list of open spaces for Shivajinagar , the school playgrounds are always closed and not accessible to common man.

Some of the spaces are such that they were never envisaged to be used as open spaces but are being used as most active open spaces while the spaces which could have been considered as open spaces in traditional sense are out of reach of common man and have become like private spaces.

Given this background we have classified open spaces into 2 categories

Conventional Open space	**Non conventional Open space**
Publically owned	Not as per the DP 1991
Accessible to all	
As per DP 1991	Developed by people as per needs

➢ **Conventional Open space includes :**   **Non conventional Open Space :**
    -Ambedkar Garden   -The 90 feet road
    -The School grounds   -The Temple complex
    -Lotus garden

Research Questions

1)Avilability and 'Creation Of Open Spaces'

In the scarce presence of " conventional open space" and taking into consideration the pathetic situation of whatsoever open spaces (eg. The lotus Garden, Ambedkar Garden) are available how do people make best use of it ? How does that shape their conception of 'open space' ? Do they come out with any 'alternative plan' ?

We came across a very dynamic situation in shivajinagar regarding the use of open spaces. Our very first observation was the way reservations has been kept in DP and the way they have been changed has led to the skewed pattern of development of open spaces. Naturally ' the proximity to the open space' becomes sole criteria for 'best use 'of it by
the people staying nearby and ' NO use' at all by people staying far away.

As a result the traditional or very middle class conception of open spaces like that of a green garden or a well maintained open ground or side walks acroos the lakes find no trace here. For most of the people we talked to ' the road outside' was the most convinient open space.

Alternatively people have come up with ' development of nonconventional open spaces (eg. The 90 Feet Road , The footpaths oposite their houses , the nodes outside public toilets or common taps) or 'creation of some space' (development of temple complex, created by filling up the marshy land).

2)Accessibilty Patterns

Who gets to access these open spaces?
Does gender , religion , economic conditions , political influence affect the
' availability of access' to these open spaces ? Is there any relation between
' livelihood activity' and the ' existing / created' open space ? If yes how ?

We found that people staying near the open spaces develop ' a sense of belonging ' for that place. They make best use of it ranging from defecation activities to having afternoon naps to celebrating the family functions. The case of ambedkar garden is very   telling ...the people staying in adjecant lanes use it to the maximum but for people staying at Shanti nagar , Buddhanagar or Nirankari nagar the Ambedkar garden does not make any sense. Parents do not send their chidren for security concerns as it is far away and next to a busy highway , adolescent girls and women find it insecure to be there , aged people find it far away and thus all these people turn their backs to the 'open ground'.

Even the **economic conditions** play a role here. A portion of the The Ambedkar garden can be hired on rent for some functions. But the rates can not ob affored by most of the people. Naturaly a well off family can do so and access the ground.

The case of ' Lotus garden ' is exactly opposite. The garden has become heaven for drug addicts and they come from as far as chitta camp mankhurd or govandi for the sake of drug   consumption. They are either armed or very rough . So localites can not take them on for fear of life. Because of a nexus between them and police the garden has become a dump space and dead asset for local people without any free access to it.

When this was the condition regarding 'traditional open spaces' the nontraditional open spaces had a more free access to all . He space was being used for **brisk livelihood activities**. The ragpickers were seen using part of the 90 feet road for rag seperation and loading , unloading of it."The small shop eateries had their tabled n chairs led out on road, hawkers had occupied the road and even the footpaths in deeper localities were used for 'laundery business'. The 90 feet road was used for parking the trucks . Same was the case with portions of Ambedkar gardens.

Religion also plays a major role in getting access to open space. The example of Temple Complex which is a newly created open space reveals a lot about it . The access is restricted to hindus and for hindu festivals . The muslim community is denied access unofficially under different veils. At times it is claimed t be a private space , at times issue is politicised , at times a reason is given that muslims may use the space in and around their masjids. The curious attemp revealed that this attitude has developed after the 1992-93 riots and the area has become a place of unseen communal tension.

3) Current Status of Open spaces

Which factors contributed to the pathetic situation of 'open spaces' ? Do local people fight against it ? If yes how? If no why ?

When an attempt was made to change the reservation of ambedkar garden the localites faught a bitter fight with BMC and the reservation was kept the same. But we could not witness this fighting spirit wrt Lotus Garden. So we enquired curiously about it . We wanted to know why the local people are not coming together to bi up the antisocial elements and drive them out . The answers we got were startling .

Most f the drug addcits are very rough and abusive. At times they are armed as well. There have been incidences where localites have been brutaly assulted by them under the influence of drugs. Or else when police had drive them out they had threatned people on the very next day. R the fear of life localites have given up taking action and their claim on garden as their local open space.

Secondl a nexus between criminals and police and the apathy of the police to take a consistent stringent action have made the matters worse.

But the initiative taken by Mumbai Environmental Social Networks about Advanced Locality Management has started yeilding results.

The Case studies

- **Ambedkar Garden (Publicly accessible conventional open space)**

- **The Lotus Garden (Publicly Accessible conventional open space with ALM)**

- **The 90 Feet road (Non conventional open space)**

- **The Temple complex (non conventioanl open space , access for a perticular community)**
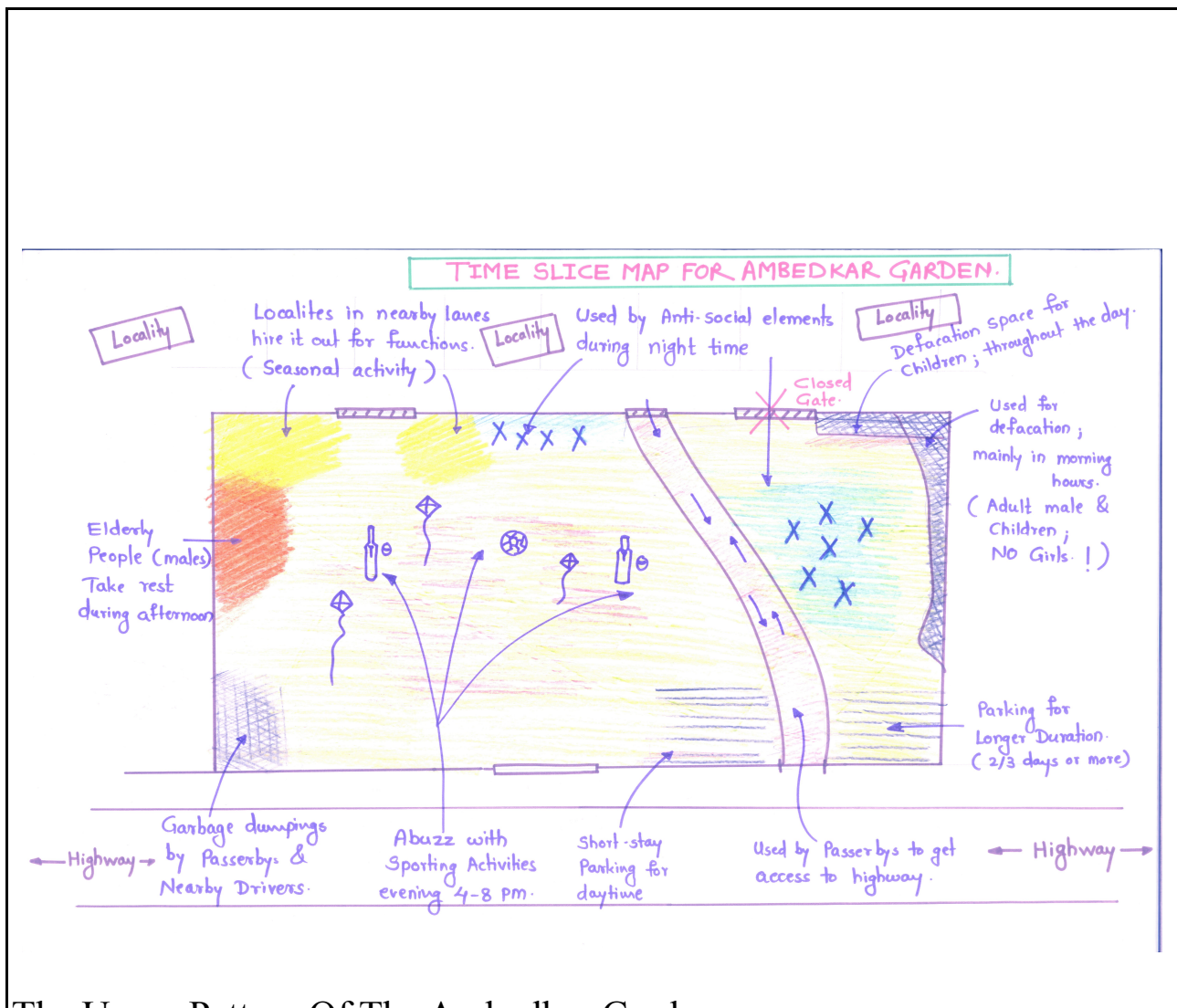
Ambedkar Garden
(Publicly accessible conventional open space)

Ambedkar Garden is the most prominent and easily recognisible and accessible open space in Shivajinagar locality. It is situated right across the Ghatkopar -Mankhurd Link Road.

The Garden has been shown as a Recreation ground in Development Plan 1981 and it still exists in the same form and category. Officially the ground belongs to the BMC but the stake holders from the adjacent and nearby localities have a fare say in managing the affairs wrt this ground. The testimony to this is the agitation waged by people along with the help of local NGOs and CBOs to revert the decision of BMC to change the reservation of the ground for some commercial activity a few years ago. The prime locality of the ground , its proximity to the highway and shere expanse lures in many builders developers for its acquisition and such grey possibility always exists there. The ground is very close for some of the residents of Shivajinagar and those of Baiganwadi. They use it actively for recreational purposes. But its very interesting to see the usage patterns here.

TIME SLICE MAP FOR AMBEDKAR GARDEN.

Locality

Localites in nearby lanes hire it out for functions. (Seasonal activity)

Locality

Used by Anti-social elements during night time

Locality

Defacation space for Children ; throughout the day.

Closed Gate.

Used for defacation ; mainly in morning hours. (Adult male & Children ; NO Girls !)

Elderly People (males) Take rest during afternoon

Parking for Longer Duration. (2/3 days or more)

Highway

Garbage dumpings by Passerbys & Nearby Drivers.

Abuzz with Sporting Activities evening 4-8 PM.

Short-stay Parking for daytime

Used by Passerbys to get access to highway.

Highway

The Usage Pattern Of The Ambedkar Garden

small informal road passes through the road which is used by the people to access the highway. This very route becomes the invisible dividing line for the ground. The part right next to this road is used widely by children of all the ages as playground. One can see many teams playing cricket in the evening while small kids running kites in the afternoon times. The space around active play area is used for parking commercial vehicles which is a perennial activity. But quite interestingly the owners of the parked vehicles are hardly from this locality . They are from nearby localities like Bhimnagar or Zakir Hussain nagar...even the stray vehicles are parked for short duration especially when drivers has to rest for some time.

The far corners of the ground especially facing the highway are used as garbage dumps. While the corners near to houses are used for defecation. In the morning hours even men use if for defecation while kids use the cornering areas for defecation through out the day. The space besides parked vehicles or right next to playing area is used by antisocial elements right from evening till morning. Some of them are from the locality while some of them come from outside localities as they get free access for their activities.
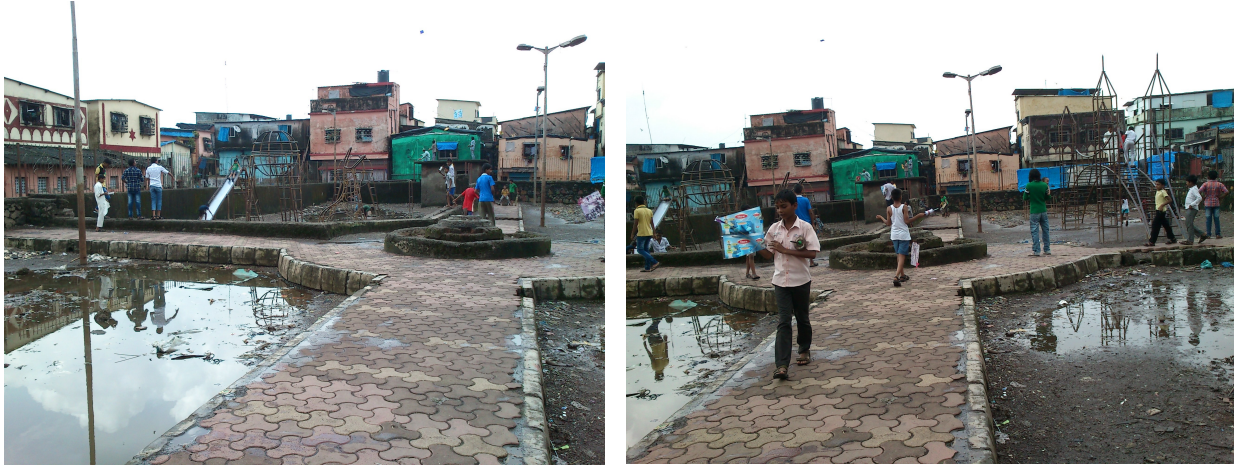
Very naturally the girls hardly come to the ground. It is considered unsafe for girls by there parents and thus access to the open space is denied to girls . Small girls keep roaming on the footpaths besides their houses. The women folks never turn up on the ground except when they have to drop their kids to school. So in the early afternoon times women use the road passing through the ground but that too out of sheer lack of any other option. In the late afternoon elderly men of the locality come to ground either to play cards or have some rest. Even the drivers and cleaners of trucks parked in the ground use the ground for resting a while.

Apart from these day to day activities the ground is mainly used for some functions. Localites hire it out from BMC for a day or two and they celebrate either family functions like marriages , birth day celebrations or community functions like festive time celebrations.There is no formal arrangement for maintenance of the ground. Every user group cleans up the space that he wants to use and neglects the other area. So the ground appears to be maintained at some patches and appears to be highly neglected at most of the places.

But it can be easily noted that not whole of the Shivajinagar prefers to access the ground.eg. The ground being quite far from Shanti nagar or Baba Nagar and Lotus , people staying there hardly turn up on the ground. Their children prefer to play on nearby roads. Small kids from far flung localities are not seen on the ground. Even when it comes to hiring the ground for celebrations it is seen that mainly people from Baiganwadi or kamala raman Nagar are using it more freqently and not the people from Gajanan Colony or Rafiq nagar.Because of this have emerged alternative patterns of using non conventional open spaces.Thus the informal ownership of the ground rests with people who have houses near to the ground. But when it comes to driving out the drug addicts the strict community action is missed out as a result of which the ground is not used to the fullest capacity in all possible manners.

The Lotus Garden
(Publically accessible conventional open space)

The lotus garden is in the lotus colony between 1972-75 which is on the western side of the Shivajinagar.The name Lotus has an interesting fact behind its name.The settlers are from Worli in Central Mumbai.There was a very famous cinema hall named lotus Cinema.
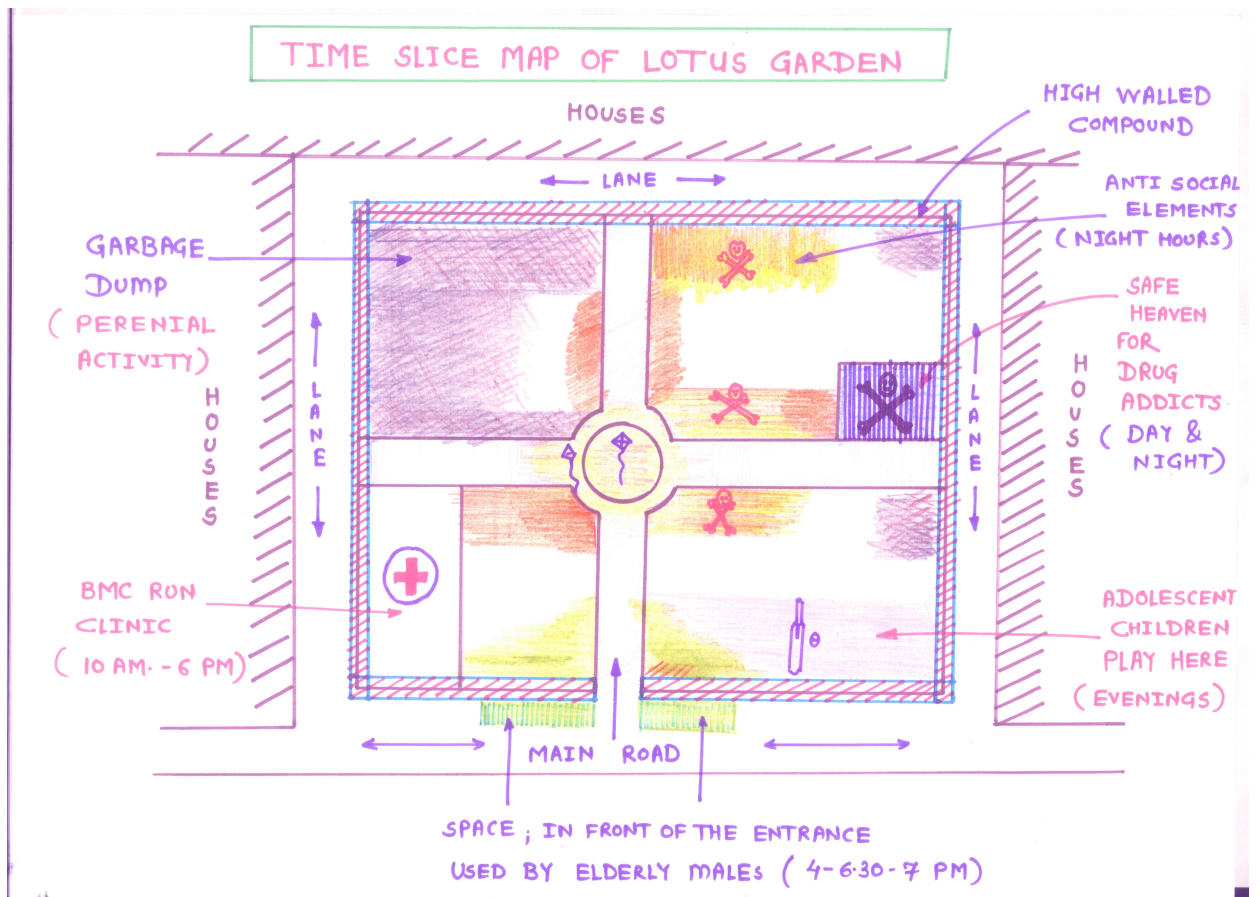
The Lotus garden is the conventional open space in this locality.This garden is well laid and nicely designed.Surrounded by high walls on all sides.The houses are built around this garden.The lotus colony is known as the grey area as mostly seniour citizens live here.This area is at plot no. 80. The Advance locality Management(ALM) project initiated by Mumbai Environmental Social Networks (MESN) is the part of this locality's maintenance activities.This area has become the experimental lab for many CBOs and APANALAY.

Talking abaout the Lotus garden there is no such element present which holds it to be called as a 'Garden' , no green plants, no cleanliness:-

- As mentioned earlier,it is surrounded by houses from all sides and is a high walled compound.
- Walking pavements are built inside the garden.
- The garden has been compartmentalised in 4 areas and heavy beautification drives have
resulted in weared constructions inside the small garden
- The garden has very high compound walls and it is impossible to pip inside from the roads.This works in favour of drug addicts and other antisocial elements in wee hours .

Advance Locality Management

- The Advanced Locality Management is being implemented in Lotus and Gajanan Colony
  with the initiatives of an NGO , Mumbai Environmental Social Networks.
- After an extensive survey MESN found that there is no point in spending huge ammount of money in beautification drives of the Lotus Garden . Very basic amenities like
  public garbage cans , facility to collect the household garbage are not made available to
  people. As a result people use the corner spaces of Lotus arden for throwing garbage.
  The space is wasted and people , especially ladies in the locality consider it safe to have a chitchat in front of the public toilets and common taps.
- MESN came forward with the idea that let the local residents come forward , manage their garbage collection and dumping on their own and if this runs successfully and it becomes a habit not to use the garden corners for throwing garbage , beautification drives can be
  undertaken once again.
- Currently MESN is helping people to collect and manage the garbage . There is a great apathy on the part of BMC that these people have to conqer and MESN is helping them in the same.

TIME SLICE MAP OF LOTUS GARDEN

HOUSES

HIGH WALLED COMPOUND

LANE

ANTI SOCIAL ELEMENTS (NIGHT HOURS)

GARBAGE DUMP (PERENIAL ACTIVITY)

HOUSES

LANE

LANE

HOUSES

SAFE HEAVEN FOR DRUG ADDICTS (DAY & NIGHT)

BMC RUN CLINIC (10 AM. - 6 PM)

ADOLESCENT CHILDREN PLAY HERE (EVENINGS)

MAIN ROAD

SPACE ; IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCE USED BY ELDERLY MALES (4 - 6.30 - 7 PM)

The usage pattern Of Lotus Garden

- There is a BMC run clinic in the corner of the park which is open from 10 am to 6 pm.
- One corner is entirely used for garbage dumping which is carried out by the surrounding people and the people living a bit away from the garden.
- The park is also used by many anti-social elements like Drug addicts during the nights and the day time.
- Small children and adolescent children play in the evening time.
- Children also fly kites.
- Since pavements made for walking are more than 1 feet high during the rainy season water logging takes place and there is no proper drainage pattern for this water to flow out.It gets collected in the park and thus leads to the contamination of the environment.This makes the park unaccessible during the rainy season.
- This makes the garden unaccessible during the rainy season.
- The space infront of the entrance is used by the elderly males for sitting or talking or have meeting during the evening time generally.

90 feet Road

(Non conventional open space)

As the name suggests, this road is a 90 ft wide road.It is the main road in Shivajinagar which is adjacent to the Dumping ground.The road leads to the Shivajinagar BEST Bus depot. The analysis of the road in terms of the usage of the road and the accessibility patterns forms the basic element of the case study.

The road is in existing form as was proposed in the DP 1981.Looking at the road it was found that it is used widely not only for transportation but also as open space in many context when it comes to the usage of the road. It is the most active road of Shivajinagar locality.Commercial units are situated on both sides of the road. In the morning time the side of the road which is close to the wall of the Dumping ground is used for defecating purposes by the people. The main observation of the road is that it is divided into two equal parts and the half of the road is used for parking heavy vehicles like trucks by the people.The other half of the road is used as two way traffic. It was interesting to know that this road is used as open space which is not supposed to be the according to the proposed DP.

In the evening time mostly small children and boys play cricket and fly kites over here.

Use of the road – As mentioned, the use of the road is on a larger scale.

- There are ragpickers who use it for rag seperation in the day time.
- The economical aspect of this road shows that many hawkers or the vendors carry out their selling activities on the sides mostly at the evening time.
- Recreational aspect of the road also has the strong hold.Children play cricket during the day time and the evening time also where the market activities are not carried out.
- The commercial units on the sides of the road have stretched till the road and they use the road to put their stocks and saleble items infront of their shops.
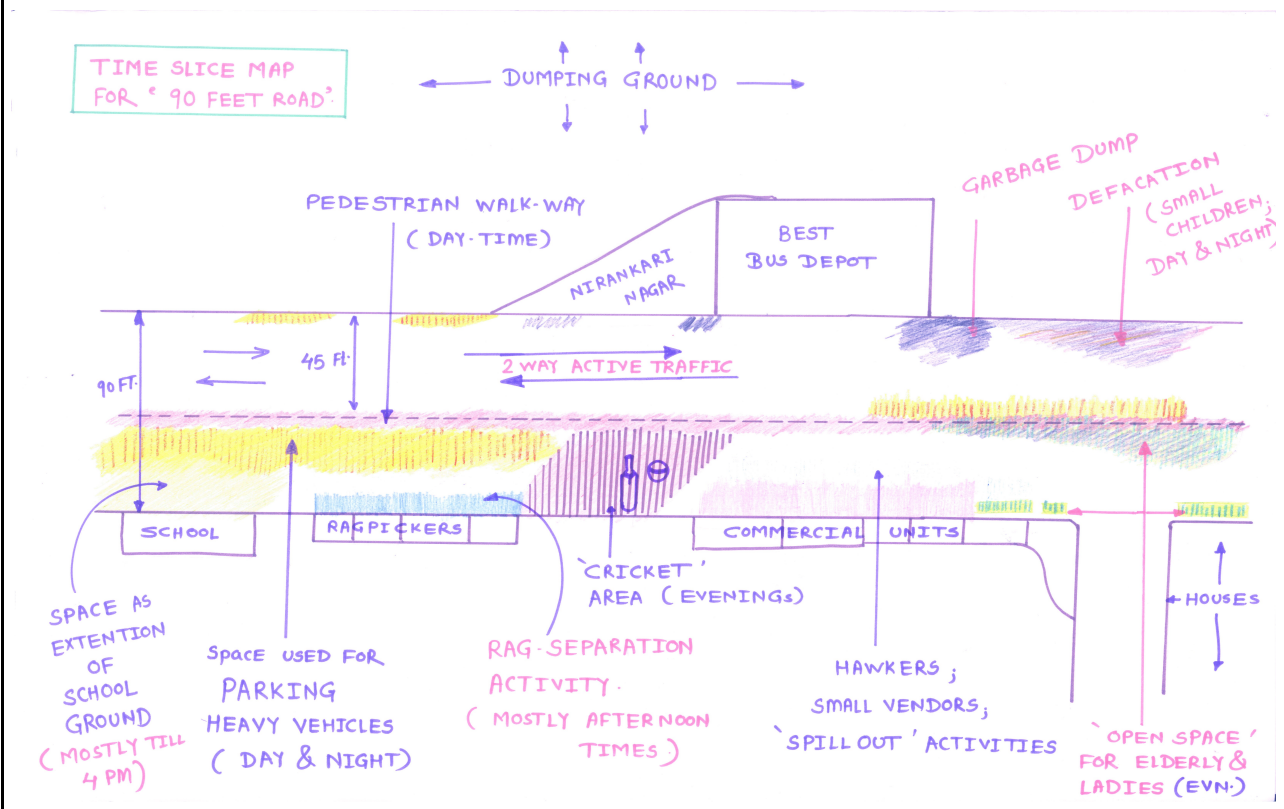- In the evening time the road becomes very busy and thus faces traffic

congestion.
- Market takes place in the evening.And it is at this time the road is seen

    crowded with people who come for shopping.
- Also the side of the road is used for garbage activities by the people.
- The half of the road is fully occupied and no transportation activities take place here. This part is totally used for parking heavy vehicles by the localites.
- Children play on this part of the road.
- Autorikshaw drivers also use it for parking their autos.

Users of the road - The main public living next to the road , hawkers and small vendors,used by children, ragpickers and shopowners.These users are from nearby areas who are settled in the locality. Some hawkers are from the nearby areas like Baiganwadi,Rafiq nagar and Nirankarinagar
The market takes place daily and these vendors are the permanent users of the road to carry out their selling activities.During the day time only the permanent shopkeepers are seen using the road for the keeping of their slaeble items in order to display it. The children play cricket in the day time.

Maintenance aspects of the road – The road is well laid out.The BMC garbage collection vehicle is not regular and visits very less often to pick up the garbage.The portion infront of the depot is in a damaged condition and it is used for garbage and toilet purpose.Thus creating the unhygenic environment for the people living nearby.

TIME SLICE MAP
FOR '90 FEET ROAD'.

← DUMPING GROUND →

PEDESTRIAN WALK-WAY
(DAY-TIME)

NIRANKARI NAGAR

BEST BUS DEPOT

GARBAGE DUMP
DEFACATION
(SMALL CHILDREN;
DAY & NIGHT)

90 FT.

45 Ft.

2 WAY ACTIVE TRAFFIC

SCHOOL

RAGPICKERS

COMMERCIAL UNITS

HOUSES

'CRICKET'
AREA (EVENINGs)

SPACE AS
EXTENTION
OF
SCHOOL
GROUND
(MOSTLY TILL
4 PM)

Space USED FOR
PARKING
HEAVY VEHICLES
(DAY & NIGHT)

RAG-SEPARATION
ACTIVITY.
(MOSTLY AFTERNOON
TIMES)

HAWKERS ;
SMALL VENDORS;
'SPILL OUT' ACTIVITIES

'OPEN SPACE'
FOR ELDERLY &
LADIES (EVN.)

The Usage Pattern of The Road

The usage pattern of the road indicates that this is actively used by the Men. Women only come in the evening time for shopping and walking.The rest of the day it is used by the children for playing and the vehicle owners for parking their vehicles and street vendors .There are also women whos sell vegetables and fruits along with the male sellers.The people living by the side of the road use it for sitting in the evening time and they are generally the old people.

Thus, the overall picture of the 90 feet road when compared to the DP 1991 states that this road was laid for the common transport of Shivajinagar to facilitate the BEST bus service smoothly which is located here in Shivajinagar adjacent to this road.But the current scenario here prove it to be one of the non-conventional open space.It is used by the people for many daily activities like toilet usege and garbage use. Ragpickers use it for their rag seperation activities.small vendors and hawkers sell on the road and thus earn their livelihood. The half road is paralysed and is only used for parking heavy vehicles and autorikshaws by the people living here and nearby areas..Children play cricket matches and fly kites.This shows the threat of accidents while playing on the road.

Temple Complex
(Non conventioanl open space , access for a particular community)

      The other case study is on the temple complex known as 'Hanuman Mandir' which is in the Baiganwadi area .It is also classified under the non conventional open space.The History of this place reveals that earlier there was an open space filled with dirty water and was a bushy area.But slowly the localites living here levelled it and made it accessible.But later it was occupied by the Hindu community and they built temples over here.There are three temples in this compound. The whole compound is surrounded by wall from all sides and it is well guarded by a huge gate symbolizing the presence of Hindu community and the temples.The compound looks dirty, where one corner of the area is filled with slush and other drainages from the nearby settlers.Beside the wall next to the gate there is construction debris. The walls are This enables only the accessibility pattern for a particular community.Though it was an open space located near the Baiganwadi BEST bus Depot it is now no more open for all.During the evening time *Satsang* is organized inside the Temple and people join this religious activity.But yes during this time anybody can come and be the part of *satsang*.

      The Hanuman mandir is maintained by Mahant Mohangiri who is the caretaker of this temple and lives here from more than 25 years and settled here after coming from Varanasi.The tepmple is registered under the Act 21,1860.The Temple is owned and funded by the Trust Pancham Giri, Varanasi. Just at the entrance of the gate there is a Carpenter's shop.Sometimes the compound is used for parking the autorikshaws by the traders belonging to the Hindu Community.They take part in the satsang organization and big Artis during the navratris and other Hindu festivals. At the backside of the temples labourers and caretakers of the temple are settled.

Thus, the important questions which arise from this Occupied Non-conventional open space is that :-

Who Owns it ?

Owned by Trust Pancham giri,Varanasi. It is said that this area earlier was water logged and bushy but later the Hindu community people levelled it and turned it into an open space.And they occupied it by barricating it by a huge gate.

Where are they from ?

They are mainly from Uttar pradesh and Bihar and got settled here.Also there are Localites who are from Hindu community   come and do worshiping here.

What is the accessibility and the usage pattern ?

As mentioned earlier , the accessibility is limited only to the particular community of the locality and that is the Hindu community.Sometimes during the day time small kids come and play here.

Intervention plan

1) Intervention plan For Ambedkar Garden

- ➢ No proper drainage is there so most of the part of the garden / maiden lies unused and the outsiders ,especially drivers of heavy vehicles use it for parking.
- ➢ We propose to give some authority to local people to collect tax / cess / parking charges from the truck owners which will be quite handsome amount and use it for the up keeping of the maidan.
- ➢ Local corporators can persue BMC about the same. Whenever maidan is rented to the people outside this locality (for festivals or marriages), some tax should be charged upon them and that money is to be managed by local people.
- ➢ Here we would like to cite the example of maintenance of ground at Ghatla by " shaym raju smriti manch". This same model can be applied In Ambedkar Garden.
- ➢ Along with this we propose to construct some toilets across the walls of the ground so that defecation will be checked .
- ➢ The ground needs to have proper and more bright lighting so that antisocial elements will not get a free hand.

2) Intervention plan For Lotus Garden

- ➢ The very first intervention is to demolish completely the high compund walls and to
  replace them with an open bar reiling.
- ➢ The constructions made inside under the name of beautification drive have proved to be a major cause of water logging . We strongly recommend to remove such strutures and
  to plant some robust bushes their . The advantage of such bushes is they add to natural beauty , consume less water and help in creating a sense of compartmentalisation without
  giving rise to water logging.
- ➢ In the four corners of the park 'openspace newspaper reading places' can be started. If proper bright lighting is provided across the four corners such paper reading places will
   easily prove to be natural 'vigil points'
- ➢ Implementation of the care taker policy with the ALM is recommended.
- ➢ In nutshell , our most prominent intervention is all about creating more and more 'open ' environment in the garden.

3) <u>Intervention plan For The '90 feet road '</u>

- ➢ Road Modification.
- ➢ Reduce the length of road to 60 feet leaving 15 feet on each side. People are going
  to use it as open space any which ways . This can be the official intervention.
- ➢ Encourage more CBOs and NGOs to work within bylanes of shivajinagar and implemnt ALM for develoment of meeting nodes.
- ➢ Keeping area clean, providing dustbins and making arragements to collect it near public toilets and tap.

4) <u>Intervention plan For TheTemple complex</u>

    Some serious interventions are to be proposed.

- ➢ First of all there has to be some solution for the use of temple complex only for

celebration of hindu festivals and the way muslims are discouraged to have their celebrations there.

- ➢ So BMC along with local corporators and community leaders (Bade-Bujurg / elderly people) can come forward ,acquire the land in the best interest of the society and can throw it open for everyone. But this might lead to escalating communal tensions.
- ➢ In that case the open space can be kept with hindu community only and that can be made available to muslims only on select occasiosn, or in soem part of the complex a garden can be developed, well-laid and properly lit up where girls can come n play for some fixed time, elderly people can take rest or can go for a walk (we propose a jogging track kind of arrabngement) and last but not the least, the BEST drivers/ conductors can rest for some time.

- ➢ The same corner/garden can be thrown open for bhajan/kirtans in the night so that addcits / antisocial elements can not have a free run and the serenity of the temple complex will be maintained.
- ➢ If Hindu community is ready for this the money can be raised from corporators fund, donations from teh localites and more than anything else "shrama daan" drive can be arranged for basic building /construction

  activities.

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