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The research project is carried out by the Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI) along with various contributors through household surveys, observation surveys, photo documentation, community interviews and secondary research, spanning over an eighteen-month period from June 2018 to December 2019. It is an unbiased study which presents factual information at the time of the survey, and a technical assessment of the same. UDRI does not lay any claim to the substantiation and accuracy of the facts, the data or the content, relying rather on the information gathered through the surveys at that point in time. UDRI, therefore, cannot be held responsible for any data and representations.

Introduction

The Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI) has been working with the indigenous communities of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) – the koliwadās, gaothans and adivasipadas – to understand and assist in determining, defining and addressing several of their urban issues through planning policy and governmental frameworks. The fundamental issue lies in the fact that these settlements have not been demarcated by the civic administration since the 1960s, leading to complex issues of place ownership, threatened livelihoods and poor or no essential infrastructure. As a result, these communities, albeit some of the oldest in the Region, are beginning to lose their identity. Their settlements, encumbered by extremely congested living conditions, are being incorrectly labelled as slums, and the community faces eviction notices on a regular basis.

Under the larger rubric of *Empowering indigenous communities and primary livelihoods of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region including facilitation of housing upgradation and sanitation infrastructure* and through continuous engagement with the communities since 2017, UDRI has been working towards achieving solutions for:

- i. Inclusion in the Coastal Zone Management Plan to protect koli settlements (fishing villages) and their primary livelihoods, which are entirely dependent on the sea;
- ii. Demarcation of core and extended koliwadās, gaothans and adivasipadas to regain their space and identity in the city, and inclusion in the Development Plan;
- iii. Formulation of Special Development Control Regulations (DCRs) for the demarcated settlements to facilitate upgradation of their housing and fishing allied activities;
- iv. Empowering primary livelihoods and empowering women through establishing their presence in market places, upgrading the market infrastructure and protecting the market places from being usurped for redevelopment;
- v. Settlement infrastructure upgradation to address micro-level issues of:
 - Water
 - Sanitation
 - Solid waste management
 - Social amenities and facilities

This handbook aims to serve as a guiding document for the various stakeholders involved in empowering indigenous communities i.e. community members of koliwadās and gaothans, bureaucrats, architects, planners, social workers, amongst others. A series of handbooks comprising technical information has been compiled to supplement planning for indigenous communities.

INTRODUCTION TO THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

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What are indigenous communities?



- Communities which are the original inhabitants (native) of a particular region
- These are distinct social and cultural groups that share collective ancestral ties to the lands and natural resources where they live, occupy or from which they have been displaced.

Examples: *Kolis, East Indian Community, Adivasis*



Koli Community
Koliwada is a fishing village, housing the Koli community or fisherfolk.



Adivasi Tribe
Adivasipada is a small hamlet in a forest, housing the Adivasi tribe



East Indian Community
Gaothan is an urban village, primarily housing the East Indian Community

Image sources for 2 & 3:
<https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-east-indian-community-members-list-their-demands-want-obc-status-2322090>
<https://www.thehansindia.com/hans/opinion/news-analysis/injustice-in-the-name-of-ativasi-development-a-perspective-from-below-639959>

Background research

In early 2018, UDRI began researching and working towards safeguarding the rights of the indigenous communities



- UDRI commenced research on sanitation infrastructure in 2018;
- The research mainly focussed on the settlements of the indigenous communities and the informal settlements in MMR;
- Other issues pertaining to housing, land ownership, transport etc. were discovered in the process

The Koli Community

- The **Kolis** are an ethnic fisher folk community native to Maharashtra and a few other states in India, involved in fishing and allied activities
 - They have been residing and working for Mumbai and the Region since over a century
 - Koliwada** is a fishing village, housing the Koli community or fisherfolk
 - Activities such as fish drying, sorting, net weaving and boat repair usually take place within the koliwada;
- Examples: *Mahim Retibunder Koliwada, Vasai Koliwada.*
- Some of the issues faced by the community include loss of identity in the city, climate change, depletion in fish catch, poor sanitation infrastructure etc.



Fish drying, Vasai Koliwada



Net weaving, Versova Koliwada



Fish sorting, Madh Koliwada



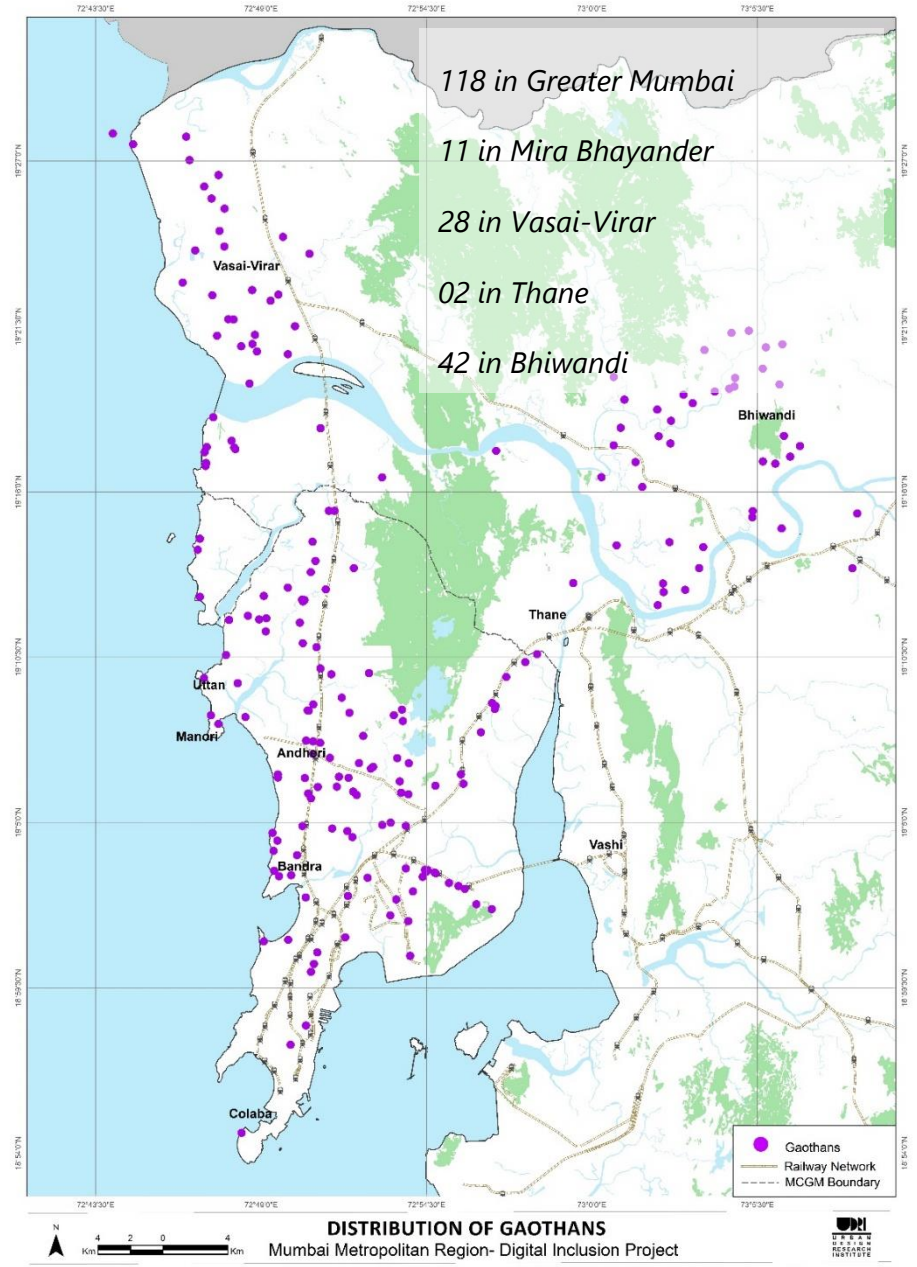
Boat repair, Versova Koliwada

Koliwadass in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region



Note: The data shown on the map is indicative based on currently available information. All information may be substantially altered in the light of future data and analysis

Gaothans in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region



Note: The data shown on the map is indicative based on currently available information. All information may be substantially altered in the light of future data and analysis

Core Concerns

 <p>No land rights</p>	 <p>Threat of eviction and demolition</p>	 <p>Losing identity and labelled as slums</p>
 <p>Deterioration of settlement fabric</p>	 <p>Dense living conditions</p>	 <p>Inadequate & crumbling infrastructure</p>
 <p>Poor or no sanitation infrastructure</p>	 <p>No access to trunk infrastructure</p>	 <p>Community threatened by man-made & natural disasters</p>

UDRI's areas of intervention

Working with indigenous communities (koliwadars, gaothans and adivasipadas), since 2018, to understand and assist in resolving the following:



A. Environment Rights: Inclusion of their settlements, livelihood and allied activities in the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)



B. Land Rights: Demarcation of extended koliwadars, gaothans and adivasipadas;



C. Development Rights: Formulation of appropriate Development Control Regulations (DCRs) for upgradation of their settlements;



D. Livelihood Rights: Community empowerment through conservation of their livelihood;



E. Quality of Life: Infrastructure upgradation for water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, energy etc. and access to public amenities

