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Image Credits

Tarlika Rokade

Executive Director

Anuradha Parmar

UDRI Studio Team

Anuja Vora | Harsh Shah | Mehak Tikku | Manish Sharma | Raveena Gadkar | Shruti Vanne

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.

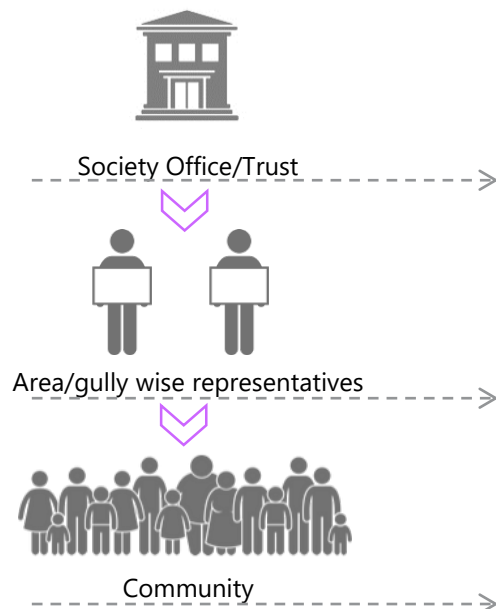
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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

At the Koliwada Level

Typically, each koliwada is governed by:



Duties of the Society Office:



Dispute resolution



Organising festivals



Registering complaints with the ward office or local MP



Equitable distribution of water and diesel for fishing activities



Small loan provisions to residents for important events/house repairs

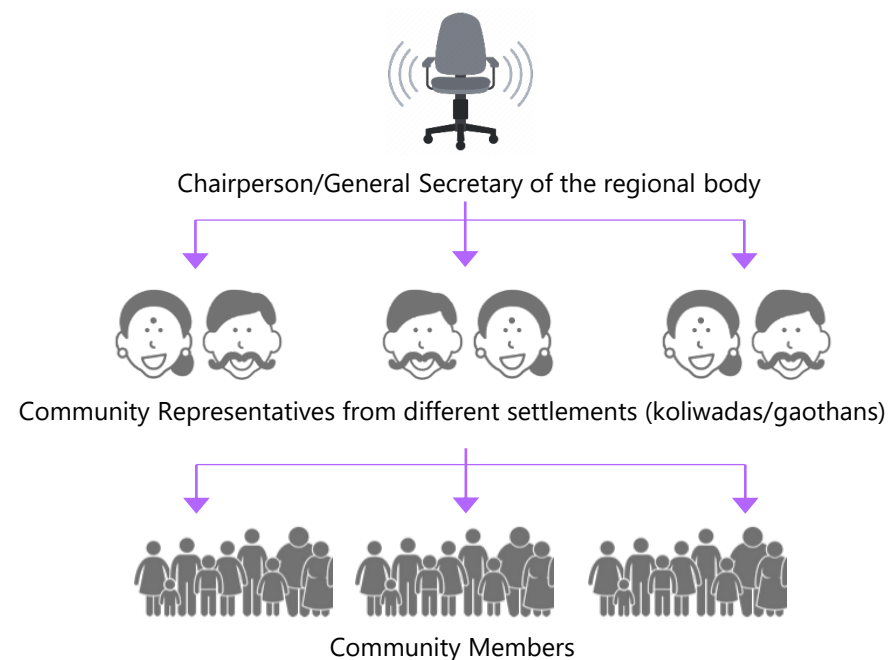
Example - Shree Martand Prasatra Colaba Matsyodyog Vividh Karyakari Sanstha Ltd.



At the Regional & City Level

Various independent organisations comprising representatives of the koli/ East Indian community work towards advocating rights for the community as well as generating awareness amongst their fellow community members

Organisational structure:



Residents of different koliwadars across Greater Mumbai/MMR are members of these organisations.

Examples:

- Koliwada Gaothan Vistar Kruti Samiti (KGVKS)
- Mobai Gaothan Panchayat <https://mobaikar.in/>
- Koli Ekta Manch
- Maharashtra Macchimar Kruti Samiti

**LEARNINGS FOR
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



These engagements are usually **long term** and require ample **time & resources**;

The EIC project and engagement took close to 3 years



It takes **continuous engagement and trust-building** with a community, to make them comfortable in sharing their concerns and opinions



Educating indigenous communities requires **timely meetings, stakeholder interactions, follow ups** and several rounds of explanations in the local language



One must **avoid over committing** to the community



Data collected on-site, other than observation based study, is largely **through word of mouth** by the local contacts, not through empirical data/study



The **physical form of the settlements** is **transient**, and is constantly undergoing minor and major changes, such as construction of additional storeys, small extensions, changes in infrastructure etc. thus making first-hand site surveys redundant over time



Validation of data is key throughout the process



It is important to **involve the ULB, the state and central government bodies** for **timely interventions**



Community engagement



Meetings for educating indigenous communities



On-site data collection



Involvement of ULB for timely interventions



Settlements undergoing physical changes



Settlements undergoing physical changes



Workshops for capacity building and data validation

