

The Unsung CityMakers

A Study of the Homeless Residents of Delhi



Indo -Global Social Service Society (IGSSS)
New Delhi

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*This inverted bowl that we call the sky
Cooped under which we live and die
Look not up to it for help
For it moves as impotently as You or I
- Omar Khayyam*



Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS)

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Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is a non-profit organisation working with the mandate for a humane social order based on truth, justice, freedom and equity. Established in 1960, IGSSS works for the capacity building and enlightenment of the vulnerable communities across the country through a rights-based framework for their effective participation in development. With its presence in 17 states of India, IGSSS has set its thematic focus on promoting sustainable livelihood, energising the youth as change makers, protecting lives, livelihood and assets from the impact of hazards, advocating for the rights of CityMakers (homeless citizens) and developing a cadre of leaders from the community as well as civil society organisations. Gender is an underlining theme across all its interventions.

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Foreword

“The homeless ain’t the criminals, the system is”ⁱ

“The right to adequate housing is the right of every woman, man, youth and child to gain and sustain a safe and secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity”ⁱⁱ

Being homeless is a gross deprivation of human dignity, an insult to anyone’s sense of worth and self-esteem. As demonstrated by this study, thousands of our fellow residents of Delhi are forced to live in the dehumanising state that homelessness implies. Being homeless connotes the violation of a range of human rights – the right to security of the person, the right to adequate housing, the right to be free from inhuman and degrading treatment, to name a few.

Yet the homeless do not lead hopeless lives. The homeless are, as this study details, productive residents who labour for their survival – they are the ‘CityMakers’ who play a critical role in sustaining the city.... and yet they do not have the rights available in the city where they live and work.

A city offers a myriad of rights – health, housing, livelihood, food, water. It should be a matter of common sense, of justice and entitlements governed by basic human rights principles, including non-discrimination and equality, that those who sustain the city must be able to exercise their right to what the city has to offer.

The CityMakers and the city should be in a mutually beneficial relationship. Yet for the homeless this is not the case, if anything the city and its decision-makers deliberately exclude the homeless from the benefits that a democratic and well resourced city should offer to all its residents. The homeless, far from being recognised as the asset they are to the city are seen by the decision makers, especially the bureaucracy that rules Delhi, as the ‘other’; the ‘criminals’; the ‘beggars’; the ‘outcast’; the ‘unclean’. Thus they are rendered and treated as being less than human.

Yet in the midst of this sense of despair and permanent dislocation there are signs of hope. Slowly but surely Delhi is becoming a more caring city for its homeless. This new found sensitivity towards the city’s vulnerable is, let us be clear, not because of bureaucratic largesse or the sudden realisation of responsibility by our elected representatives. The change is occurring because of the tireless and unrelenting efforts gained from mobilisation of a range of actors led by civil society leaders, including new leadership that has emerged from the ranks of the homeless themselves. The change we are witnessing is a result of: first and foremost the formation of Shahri Adhikar Manch – Begharon ke Saath (Urban Rights Forum – With the Homeless); the authoritative guidance provided by the Indian Supreme Court and the High Court of Delhi, and the media’s increased alertness and sensitivity to the injustice faced by the homeless.

Much, however, remains to be achieved. The study by IGSSS, including its valuable recommendations, can be of great assistance to all who care to protect the basic dignity and human rights of the city’s

homeless, and are willing to work alongside these CityMakers to realise their aspirations for a life lived in dignity.

The crisis of homelessness anywhere in the world is a crisis of health, of adequate housing, of livelihood. The crisis cries out for the satisfaction of immediate needs and for the promise of a permanent solution. The need of the hour is to combine a humanitarian and a human rights approach.

The humanitarian approach calls for the immediate provision of permanent shelters and adequate services, including the critical recognition that the homeless are not a homogenous group but that different parts of the homeless population - the women, the youth, the children, the men, the families – need distinct spaces, their own shelters.

The human rights approach, that needs to be developed and implemented simultaneously, calls for the elaboration of a housing policy that takes as its central pillar the housing continuum concept. Such a framework would allow for the possibility for the homeless to move from shelters to more permanent housing that meets the requirements of adequacy as elaborated in international human rights instruments and in numerous judgements of the Indian Supreme Court: security of tenure, availability of services; location; habitability; affordability; accessibility; cultural adequacy; physical security, participation and information; freedom from dispossession; the right to resettlement, restitution and return; access to remedies; education and empowerment and freedom from violence against women. The adoption of the housing continuum concept would also set the stage for the provision of a range of housing options (shelters, supported housing, hostels, rental, ownership housing and so forth) across the country. Such an approach would also assist us in removing the structural factors that continue to create homelessness.

Ultimately any caring society that claims to be truly democratic, in spirit and in actions, can only be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable. Why it is so important for us all to achieve the inevitable task of realisation of the human rights of CityMakers is the major contribution of this study.

Miloon Kothari

Executive Director, South Asia Regional Programme

Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)

Former Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, United Nation's Human Rights Council

New Delhi

7 March 2012

i. Graffiti on a wall in a depressed neighbourhood in New York, USA.

ii. Kothari, Miloon (2006), Report of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, E/CN.4/2006/41 14 March 2006, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G06/118/59/PDF/G0611859.pdf?OpenElement>

Preface

It takes a lot of poverty to create wealth.

The homeless and marginalised in any society are testimony to the fact. In Delhi, as perhaps in any other city, the homeless are like flotsam, doomed to be tossed about eternally with no hope of redemption.

They are perceived variously as an eyesore, an embarrassment or even a nuisance, but they are seldom seen for what they really are, a disempowered segment denied access to the most basic of human rights: shelter. Slum dwellers are often the focus of attention because the land they occupy has commercial potential. Street dwellers on the other hand take up no space and therefore find none in anyone's priority. This issue comes under the responsibility of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi; the Department of Social Welfare does not accept the homeless population as its responsibility, which is why the homeless are not able to claim benefits under the state government schemes. The schemes stated by the Central Government for night shelters have also not been used effectively.

The fact that they are rank bottom in the list is also evident from the fact that studies and research on this issue border on nil. Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan (AAA), of which some of my colleagues have been part right from day one, started working on the issues of homelessness in 2000, by conducting an important study to understand the ground realities. Though this study and the ensuing actions created some impact, it did not result in too many organisations taking up the cause of the homeless.

This study comes nearly a decade after the AAA study. Naturally a lot has changed over the years but unfortunately not for the better. Delhi has concentrated on metamorphosing into a capital of the new world, a granite, glass and steel temple of consumerism with little place for the disempowered and the displaced. The homeless are routinely swept under the carpet, metaphorically and claims of decreased homelessness are made.

This study aims to dispel such pronouncements and any doubts that may exist regarding homelessness in the city. It helps us see that face of Delhi, which is not known, or if known, is being hidden. We hope that this study will be able to rouse the voluntary sector, the government, members of the media and the civil society to take some corrective measures for making Delhi a more humane city.

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) saw a lot of value in this important piece of work. We are thankful to Shri indu prakash singh for guiding us and keeping us informed about the new developments in this area and sharing his knowledge base. We would like to thank the team of investigators who worked with us during the night to do the survey and counted and interviewed homeless people in the most trying conditions.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the homeless people whom we had a chance to interact with. They were most kind and took out their time to talk to us and provided valuable insights into their lives and 'issues'. Without their support this work could not have been completed.

I take this opportunity to thank Miloon Kothari for his very motivating and encouraging foreword and justice V.R. Krishna Iyer for sending his message for this publication.

It gives me immense pleasure to note that this report has been used by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, for ordering one shelter, for one lakh population, as stated in the Master Plan for Delhi 2021; and the findings of this study was also submitted in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

In the end, we hope that this work will be able to start a new thinking in changing the status and real concerns that affect the homeless population and that there will be a movement in the direction of real change for their rights.

Dr. Joseph Sebastian
Executive Director, IGSSS

A Few Reminiscences from Vague Recollections

Delhi is a big city and capital of great Bharat. It houses the cultural capital of the world's most civilized nation as Max Muller the German Philosopher put it. But still part of the third world, full of poverty and privation of slums and deprived humanity. It has a glittering sign of pomp and structures of palatial dimensions and a marvellous Rashtrapati Bhavan. To be true to history the city accommodates great religions, the holy Yamuna and the beginnings of the wonder of Himalayas. Such is the pluralism of Delhi where Princess meet and empires have collapsed. But still the great Parliament looms large. Against this broad vision of a magnificent city are some thoughts of mine which I put down here, not so much of a message but as sublime reminiscence of my memory.

Sages, centuries of history Delhi has seen, Bharat has nurtured. Those sages and saints, rishis and epics are compressed in the few paragraphs I set down below like the huge concrete jungles and the Himalayas. They are the unspoken messages of the past. Delhi has a tryst with destiny which it is impossible to convey in a message but with a sense of brevity I have put down here to show that Delhi is the conscience of the Nation.

From the mineral to the saint there is one universal presence, the non-negotiable and the rarest of the rare divine life. All sublime thinking, through all great religions is the manifestation of the divinity in every form of creation. God has given life, man cannot take it away through gun or guillotine through the hangman's rope or the most malignant disease. The holiest act that we humans should do is to cherish life, treasure it and never commit any act which will endanger life or harm the preservation of that wonder known as life. Civilization is this art and science by which the noblest trust of God namely 'Life' is the grace and glory of the supreme divinity. This is culture at its highest civilization from the beast and the bird from barbarity to the beauty of life. Civilization has evolved and produced what we call cultural excellence. The final perfection of which is the Buddha when Swami Vivekananda described thus:

Let me tell you a few words about one man who actually carried this teaching of Karma-Yogi into practice. That man is Buddha. He is the one man who ever carried this into perfect practice. All the prophets in the world, except Buddha, had external motives to move them to unselfish action. The prophets of the world, with this single exception, may be divided into two sets, one set holding that they are incarnations of God come down to earth, and the other holding that they are only the messengers from God; and both draw their impetus for working from outside, however highly spiritual maybe the language they use. But Buddha is the only prophet who said. "I do not care to know your various theories about God. What is the use of discussing all the subtle doctrines about the soul? Do good and be good. And this will take you to freedom and to whatever truth there is." He was, in the conduct of his life, absolutely without personal motives; and what man worked more than he? Show me in history one character who has soared so high above all. The whole human race has produced

but one such character, such high philosophy, such wide sympathy, yet had the deepest sympathy for the lowest animals, and never put forth any claims for himself. He is the ideal Karma-Yogi, acting entirely without motive, and the history of humanity shows him to have been the greatest man ever born; beyond compare the greatest combination of heart and brain that ever existed, the greatest soul power that has ever been manifested. He is the first great reformer the world has seen. He was the first who dared to say, "Believe not because some old manuscripts are produced, believe not because it is your national belief, because you have been made to believe it from your childhood; but reason it all out, and after you have analysed it, then, if you find that it will do good to one and all, believe it, live up to it, and help others to live up to it." He works best who works without any motive, neither for money, nor for fame, nor for anything else; and when a man can do that, he will be a Buddha, and out of him will come the power to work in such a manner as will transform the world. This man represents the very highest ideal of Karma-Yogi.

No war, no peace but shanthi. This quintessence was best achieved in India whose capital is Delhi. Max Muller has described this culture of Bharat thus:

If we were to look over the whole world to find out the country most richly endowed with all the wealth, power, and beauty that nature can bestow—in some parts a very paradise on earth—I should point to India. If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered over the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions of some of them which well deserve the attention even of those who have studied Plato and Kant—I should point to India. And If I were to ask myself from what literature we here in Europe, we who have been nurtured almost exclusively on the thoughts of Greeks and Romans, and of one Semitic race, the Jewish, may draw the corrective which is most wanted in order to make our inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, in fact more truly human a life, not for this life only, but a transfigured and eternal life—again I should point to India.

Jawaharlal Nehru, when India liberated itself from imperial monstrosity stated that 'We, the People of India' entered into a treaty with destiny in his own words:

Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity. At the dawn of history India started on her unending quest, and trackless centuries are filled with her striving and the grandeur of her successes, and her failures. Through good and ill fortune alike she has never lost sight of that quest or forgotten the ideals which gave her strength. We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and

achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?

Freedom and power bring responsibility. The responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom, we have endured all the pains of labour and our hearts are heavy with the memory of this sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now. That future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving so that we might fulfill the pledges we have so often taken and the One we shall take today. The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over.

The soul of this splendour of Delhi is to share and care in a spirit of unity of humanity. Delhi is where the ancient saints the Islamic brotherhood and Christian compassion met and merged. It is this Delhi which is the conscience of creation. In a marvellous message Vivekananda in an exhortation urged:

Feel, my children, feel for the poor, the ignorant, the downtrodden; feel till the heart stops and the brain reels and you think you will go mad.

We talk foolishly against material civilization. The grapes are sour... Material civilization, nay even luxury, is necessary to create work for the poor. Bread; I do not believe in a God, who cannot give me bread here, giving me eternal bliss in heaven. Pooh; India is to be raised, the poor are to be fed, education is to be spread, and the evil of priestcraft is to be removed...more bread, more opportunity for everybody....

This is Delhi to share and care:

He Prayeth best, who loveth best; All things great and small; For the dear God who loveth us; He made and loveth all.

A broad glance at the territorial sweep of Delhi will reveal a boundless wonder of great historical building—the North Block, the South Block, the presidential palace, the India International Centre plus, plus. While these are glorious the unorganized workers and their homeless destitution speak a difficult story. Their revolutionary conditions speak of political ideologies. Why? In spite of all these misery is there no socialism except in print in the constitution. Yes. The grand history of Indian destiny has yet to find economic expression. It will wait. India has many centuries gone by and many more still to unfurl.

Delhi's message is endless, I do correctly grasp or understand the mind of Mr. Indu Prakash Singh. The epics are great pieces of literature. We have great poetry in Rabindranath Tagore and other literary geniuses. I had to wind up for what it is worth by quoting a stanza from Gitanjali:

The song that I came to sing remains unsung to this day.

I have spent my days in stringing and in unstringing my instrument.

The time has not come true, the words have not been rightly set; only there is the agony of wishing in my heart.

V.R. Krishna Iyer

Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India

February 16, 2012

In Ernakulam (Kerala) on 14th October 2010, on the occasion of the National CityMakers Caravan (nCMc) visiting the city; the Chief Guest of the meeting, eminent former judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, said that the Constitution of India starts with 'We the People', where the definition of 'people' is humans within the territory of India. The laws of the country are for all citizens and it must be ensured that the state guarantees rights to all. Justice Iyer said that we all need to have feeling for our fellow brethren and we cannot live happily unless all are happy. If there is even one homeless person in the country, it means we all are homeless. There is a need to have a multi-dimensional approach, which can be achieved by the means of Caravan.

He termed the effort of Indo-Global Social Service Society and other partners of nCMc as ushering 'Indo-Global Happiness'; implying that if we assure well being and happiness of our people in India, it will be a step towards ensuring greater happiness in the world.

Homeless Mind vs. Structured Homelessness

'What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.' - Pericles

"If there is even one homeless person in the country, it means we all are homeless."

- Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, Eminent former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, 14th Oct., 2010,
National CityMakers (nCMc)

This is not Peter Berger's Homeless Mind that we are talking of here, where due to the sacred canopy disappearing, the western mind lost its moorings. Where segmentalisation, componentialisation became the order of the day. People lost the holistic and meaning in life. Badly disconnected, totally isolated. Here in India, in Delhi, Patna, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, and other cities, the homeless are persons, non grata. It's not homeless mind, but rather homelessness inducing unjust/discriminating/excluding/dehabilitating/debilitating/expelling social structure, customs, practices, economic and political divides

The problems faced by the homeless citizens are not in the nature of being: ontological, teleological, or phenomenological. It's existential. As Simone de Beauvoir said in *The Second Sex*, "One is not born woman, but becomes a woman." Similarly one becomes homeless. The truth of being homeless is not in the being of homeless, rather becoming homeless. And the biggest contributor to this illegality and inhumanity, is none other than the governments of this country: central/ state; past and present.

The factors that make one homeless are:

1. Poverty
2. Unemployment
3. Destitution
4. Social dissonance (riots, caste atrocities/ expulsion/exclusion, communalism {like the one in 2002 – Gujarat carnage})
5. Familial violence – scaring out children and wives/ widows
6. Natural calamities (floods, earthquakes, fire, landslides, Tsunami, cyclone, etc.)
7. State violence (likes of Salwa Judum, Police, Army {in North East & Kashmir}, by political party in power)
8. Evictions in cities and
9. Land usurpations for SEZs, STZs, expressways and other projects for private interests than public.

Our studies in 2000 and 2008 have shown that most of the people who are homeless are due to poverty and unemployment. And bulk of them are in cities due to socio-economic compulsions (Push factor) than for the glitter and glamour of the city (Pull factor).

Homelessness

Our studies and interactions with homeless across the country, have shown that **people come to cities as a last resort, each one due to one of these reasons: poverty, unemployment, destitution, heavily in debt (of usurious money lenders), atrocities (against dalits, women ...), communal riots, drought, floods, cyclone, earthquake and personal hardships** (usurpation of property by relations/ dominant castes etc., disowned elderly parents, ...). . The homeless then are deprived, dislocated/dehabilitated, dispossessed, disentitled, and disenfranchised people. Unlike, what our bureaucrats and economists are wont to think that the people from rural areas coming to cities do so, as they are attracted to the cities due to its glow and glamour; we have been informed by the homeless that they are in the cities for they were compelled to leave their villages. It is not volitional. Strong structural/systemic processes of destitution and distress are responsible for pushing people to the cities, over which many vulnerable communities in rural areas, have no control.

Data on the number of homeless in other cities are given below:

Number of homeless people in cities

Sl. No.	City (Year in which the survey was conducted)**	Number of Homeless	Men	Women
1	Delhi (2000) By Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan (AAA)	52765* (100,000+)	---	---
2	Chennai (2003)	40533	22810	17723
3	Lucknow (2003)	5397 (10,000+)	---	---
4	Hyderabad (2003) By Asra Abhiyan	20560	14625	4858
5	Mumbai (2003/04)	32254	----	---
6	Kolkata (2003)	58,997	14,578 15,351 (boys)	14,749 14,319 (girls)
7	Patna (2004)	13000	---	---
8	Pune (2004)	4899 (10,000+)	---	---
9	Delhi (2008) By Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS)	88,410** (150,000+)		
10	Bangalore (2010) By Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS)	17, 441*** (50,000+)		
11	Delhi (2011) The Supreme Court Commissioner's Office (SCCO- planned and executed by them), DUSIB, and MNGO (& it's HCRCs)	324,375 (a new methodology adopted and promoted by the SCCO, nationwide)		

* : There would be about 1 lakh homeless people in Delhi. Since when we were doing the head count people were still working at night 2-3 am, and as they were not sleeping on the footpaths we didn't count them. And also we could not go into all the alleys and by-lanes. So we maintain that for every one counted there is at least one who we missed.

** : Cities headcount (except the last one – 11th one) was guided by me, when I was in ActionAid International india (AAA: {March 2000 – June 2003}; & AAI-I: {July 2003 – Oct 2008}) and also while I have continued working for IGSSS.

*** : for every one counted at least three missed due to Ugadi (New year), Anti- begging drive – month long, and Municipal elections

+: Estimated

The entire talk of some of the bureaucrats to put a check on migration from rural to urban areas is not only unjustified and inhuman, it is also unconstitutional, as it is violation of Article 19 of the Constitution of India. **Article 19 empowers the people of this country with the freedom to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.**

There's a senior bureaucrat, the then Principal Secretary, Revenue, in Delhi who when asked by all of us, in the meeting on Friday, 27th November 2009; to pitch 70 tents for the homeless that year; shot it down to 17 tents. He scoffed at the idea saying, " You hardly have winters in Delhi. Winter needs to be enjoyed. (Dilli mein thand padti kahan hain, thand hoti hain anand lene ke liye)" For the deaths that took place of the hapless homeless citizens, that year 2009-2010, shouldn't he be held accountable. Shouldn't he be behind bars.

I raised this matter publicly with him, in the Delhi Secretariat on 4th Feb., 2010 after the meeting with the Chief Secretary got over (held on the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi). When I told him that I was angry with him for his statement of 27th Nov., 2009, he said "you may be". I reminded him what he had said. He told me that was his freedom of expression. To which, I asked him why should he not be held accountable for the deaths (which were actually murders) of the homeless that winters. He asked me to mind my speech. To which my response was, "I'll not". Truly it's arrogance of power and authority that our bureaucrats enjoy. And this is what desensitises them. Leaving us still shocked.

Who has made the existence of bulk of the homeless and the urban poor illegal, if not the government itself?

Be it homeless: women, children, elderly, disabled, destitute, mentally ill, chemical dependents, men, families ..., anywhere in India, no one has escaped the beatings of the most brutal force in the country, the police. Think of services, schemes, entitlements, social security – shelters, health, sanitation, human rights, voters cards, birth registrations, PDS, livelihoods, security, education, etc.; and underwrite it with the homeless, they will all disappear. There's not one scheme worth the name for homeless as such. Add women to that there is still nothing that exists for them. Short stay homes that mushroom in so many city centres do not cater to the homeless women. The so called institutional centres (called nari niketans and beggars homes) are truly speaking worse than jails.

When it comes to homeless women not one in any city of India would escape sexual abuse. For there are hardly any shelters worth the name for them. In Delhi, till today there are just two shelters for women, one open 24 hours (run by IGSSS) and other for mentally ill women (run by Sudinalaya). This is the story of homeless women in the capital of India, New Delhi. In fact there not even one in the NDMC area, the richest municipal body in Asia. And an area where most of homeless women are found.

Homeless (women, children, disabled, destitute {people surviving on the sharings/offerings of caring citizens, let's not call them beggars, it's not just demeaning but inhuman as well to do so and dismissive of the onus of the state}, mentally ill, elderly, men ...) is a person who has no roof over her/his head. Even if a person has a home in the village, is that home of any use in the urban context. Besides, if the home in the village could serve all the purpose of a HOME: security, love, health, education, employment, food, land ... why would anybody leave it to sleep on (in) the Footpaths/ corridors/parks, flyovers, handcarts, rickshaws, night shelters (wherever it is there)... of a city. Our surveys in all the cities have shown that it is not the pull factor which is dominant but rather the push factor. Majority of the homeless in almost all the cities have had no livelihood option in their villages. So it is not the glamour of the cities which invites the poor, rather it is abject poverty, unemployment, atrocities, riots, droughts, floods, etc. which pushes the vulnerable communities out of the villages to cities. It's purely a distress migration.

And in the city the homeless citizens and the urban poor work and subsidise the cost of living of the elite. They are the real builders of the city. And when the time comes to share the fruit of their labour, they are shunted out to the fringes of the city. Dubbing their existence as illegal.

Thankfully, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Supreme Court of India now have asked the government to provide shelters to the homeless citizens, across the country (1 shelter, per 1 lakh population {1 shelter / 100,000 urban population}).

Census of India

The biggest fraud played against the homeless is by none other than the Census Department of the Registrar General of India. In 2011 and 2001, we supported the Census authorities to enumerate the homeless in Delhi. We saw with our own eyes how hundreds and thousands of homeless citizens were not enumerated.

Little wonder, in 2000 we (AAA) counted 52,765 homeless citizens in Delhi. In another headcount done in 2008, by IGSSS, 88,410 homeless were found. We maintain for everyone counted we at least missed one. That now takes the figure to over 150,000 homeless people in Delhi. As per 2001 Census, Delhi had 24,966 homeless. Just half of what we counted in 2000. How is it possible?

The issue is simple if you show less people as poor, homeless there will be less allocation in the budget for them. And since over 95% of the homeless have no voters cards / ration cards they are no constituency for any political party.

Composition of Urban Poor

In a survey done by HUDCO in Bodhgaya, the proportion of urban poor was likewise: over 67 % were SC, 31% were OBC, the general population was barely 1.18 % and 0.87 % were physically handicapped. It only shows that amongst the urban poor, dalits comprise the majority.

In the IGSSS study of 2008 in Delhi, we found that of the homeless that we interviewed 37.41 per cent were Muslims, which is much higher than the national average of Muslim population. It shows that much of the urban poor and the homeless are from excluded and marginalised sections, including minorities.

Housing Shortage: Promoting Homelessness

To top it, at the end of 10th five year plan (2007-2008), there was a shortage of 24.71 million houses (2.5 crores) in urban areas of the country. 99% of the shortage is in the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Group (LIG). And then the govt pronounces the urban poor as illegal inhabitants of the city. Many of their settlements (Yamuna Pushta) are destroyed like the one in 2004, by Jagmohan. And they are rendered homeless. Some moved 45 kms away to Bawana and many left with no redress. Muslim women in Bawana are in the morass of permanent poverty. The place from where they were evicted, now houses Akashardham Temple and the Common Wealth Games (CWG) village. Apartments being made here for sports persons (for a mere stay of less than a fortnight in October 2010) are being sold by Emaar MGF builders as river view apartment for over Rs. 1 crore. So much in the name of CWG; JnNURM; Master Plan of Delhi, 2021; the Eleventh Five Year Plan; The National Habitat and Housing Policy, 2007; the Constitution of India and the various UN Covenants and Conventions to which India is a signatory, notwithstanding. More than Rs 25,000 crores has been spent for the CWG preparation and the beautification (?) of Delhi.

Which doors do the homeless knock, now? Who is the conscience keeper, when our Constitution is being violated, in broad day light? Despite violence meted to us, we still believe in Gandhi and Buddha! Our struggle goes on. Do join us. Our lives are entwined. Together we can set the ills right. And that's our hope. Hope in "We, the People of India!"

Thankfully we have an enlightened Judiciary, who came to our help. Or else, the CityMakers would have died in large numbers, unnoticed. And nothing would have still moved. Judiciary is the last resort. Governance is the first. How many more years for this first ladder to perform? Gandhi betrayed by his own nation!

CityMakers: Homeless No More

We call the Homeless Citizens, CityMakers (CMs) because they are the one's through whose labour, drudgery and sweat, any city gets made. They are the unsung builders of the nation, called India or any country in the world. They continue to remain on the fringes. CityMakers is a positive connotation on what they do in the city. While homeless term is a situational description. CityMakers also subsumes the worth of the makers and their values, who might be poor due to lack of reach / access to resources; but they are rich in terms of their labour, which brings the being of a city into existence. It's a tribute to the sacrifices the CityMakers have made. And now the time has come for their being acknowledged and provided all their entitlements. They richly deserve. As a right, not as a dole.

This is also inherent in the World Charter on the Right to City. The term CityMakers springs from the positive human rights discourse. This discourse is supported by the Constitution of India and various UN Charters, Covenants and Conventions to which India is a signatory. What better than having new CMs (not Chief Minister, rather CityMakers) of the city, not one but hundreds, thousands and millions. Each empowered by their rights. Each contributing, and the contribution being richly rewarded.

We have learnt to hope against hope. We are diehard optimists. Nothing can scare us. It's not that we are brave. We are caring CityMakers Rights Defenders working to ensure that the fruits of our democracy reach all, and not just a minuscule number.

We live every moment, and when death strikes, whichever way – natural, diseased or unnatural, we will live beyond it too. As the spirit of our freedom fighters breathes and throbs in us.

indu prakash singh

Technical Advisor

CityMakers Collective

(Eliminating Homelessness, Urban Poverty -- Ensuring rights)

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS)

Executive Summary

70,000 years ago, modern man moved out of Africa, establishing settlements, civilizations and a firm pattern of migration. Ever since, migration has been intrinsically linked to human behaviour. Desire for a better life has been a driving force behind man leaving a known environment for an unknown other.

The 20th century especially is testimony to this fact. As the world grew increasingly industrialized, more and more people from rural areas flocked to urban pockets to better their prospects. Today a century later, the same continues to hold true for Asia and Africa. The benefits of development do not percolate down to the lowest levels in real time, leading to great disparity in standards of living. People continue to relocate hoping for a better life - more economic opportunities, social acceptance and a future for their children.

Needless to say the journey doesn't always end well.

In India, many migrants find themselves trading one set of negatives for another. Yet others find the move akin to jumping from the frying pan to the fire. Migrants who come because of the dismal conditions of life in their native place are the worst hit. They have little or no education, hardly any skill and very little awareness of their rights and entitlements. Consequently, this population is pushed to the periphery. Those who can, cling on tenaciously, others simply fall off into the void that defines the existence of the urban homeless.

This study is specifically about the homeless in Delhi.

The Census of India expounds 'houseless population' as one not living in a census house, which is defined as a structure with roof. Enumerators therefore count people in places such as the roadside, pavements, drainage pipes, under staircases, in the open, in temple *mandaps*, railway platforms, construction sites and even welfare shelters.

Going by these parameters, the Census of India (2001) counted 24,966 'homeless' persons in Delhi, whereas *Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan* in its survey (2000) had a figure of 52,765.

A 2007 report by the Institute of Human Development prepared for the Government of Delhi has a figure of 46,788, and the present study has counted 88,410.

Part of this disparity in numbers stems from the lack of a clear definition and part from the fact that the homeless population is best counted when sleeping at night. There are many who work at night and therefore fail to find a berth on the census list. But most of all the disparity exists because no one really cares enough to find out the truth.

This study is an attempt to do just that. It was initiated to put a face to the faceless men and women

who simply do not exist, either in our development priority or social conscience.

The main objectives of the study were:

1. to do a head count of the homeless;
2. to see the status and problems homeless are facing and changes that have come about;
3. to see the change in the socio economic status of the homeless since May 2000 after the interventions of NGOs;
4. to see the process of empowerment of the homeless;
5. to understand how the interventions for the homeless can be most fruitful and come out with a set of recommendations for macro and micro strategy for their empowerment.

Both qualitative as well as quantitative data was collected and counting was done by dividing the area into seven major zones and then dividing it further in micro areas.

Enumeration/ head count was done by conducting a survey for 20 days from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. in the morning.

Major Findings

The study threw up the following facts:

- ⇒ The number of homeless people counted in Delhi is 88410; of these 4164 are women and 7568 are children.
- ⇒ While men form the major section of homeless population, women and children are also seen on the streets.
- ⇒ The Walled City has the highest number of homeless people while East Delhi has the lowest. Maximum adult homeless males are in the Walled City and the highest number of homeless women and children are in South Delhi.
- ⇒ Hindus and Muslims form about 80% of the homeless population in the city.
- ⇒ More than 70 percent are Dalits; among them OBC and SC constitute about 30 percent.
- ⇒ Unemployment and poverty are the major push factors for people to migrate to Delhi.
- ⇒ Most are illiterate but at the same time seven percent are graduates.
- ⇒ More than 50 percent of the population is in the working age, ie, below 50 years. Children form 20% of this. Most are unskilled manual workers; rickshaw pullers and labourers form the largest numbers.
- ⇒ Children are mostly engaged in rag picking, begging and also vending. It was found that most of the homeless do multiple jobs and most of the work is seasonal.

- ⇒ Catering is popular during the wedding season. It results in comparatively higher earnings.
- ⇒ Health is an area of concern, as majority of the homeless do not consult doctors keeping it as a last resort. They usually prefer any charitable organisations and religious centers for treatment.
- ⇒ Consumption of drugs and other psychoactive substances is rampant among all the age groups and sexes. Children too use drugs very frequently.
- ⇒ Most homeless people prefer to sleep in night shelters as living on pavements, multiplies their vulnerability manifolds.
- ⇒ However they don't use it as the conditions in night shelters are not good and there is a fear of beating and theft.
- ⇒ The homeless do not usually want to change their sleeping place. When something happens or the police force them to evict, they temporarily move to another place but after few hours (sometimes days) they return to the same place.
- ⇒ Frequent eviction and police harassment are the major threats. Natural occurrences like rains and cold waves also pose a problem.
- ⇒ Though aware about very few organisations (only three) that work for their rights, they are critical of their working.
- ⇒ They are not aware about the government initiatives and shared that political parties are basically using them.
- ⇒ Most of them want to have an identity and life of dignity. They shared their agony of being marginalised and discriminated.
- ⇒ Homeless families are a new phenomena and perhaps the result of the state policy of slum demolition and eviction.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the research team was able to recommend the following course of action for different stakeholders.

What the Government and Local Bodies can do:

- ⇒ Activate the Joint Apex Committee and co-opt more members from NGOs as well as from the Government. Giving it more powers will help provide better facilities and services for the homeless and street children.
- ⇒ Increase the number of 24-hourshelters. There are many government buildings that have been lying vacant for years; the same can be converted into shelters. Where such buildings are not

available, government should construct new shelters.

- ⇒ Create 24 * 7 * 365 shelters for families, women and children on priority basis. These can be on the similar lines of the NDMC on R. K. Ashram Marg, which was converted as shelter for the migrants from Kashmir.
- ⇒ Explore the Private-Public Partnership model while building shelters; local businesses benefit from the presence of homeless people so they have a stake in the welfare of their workforce.
- ⇒ Construct more pay-and-use toilets especially in zones, which have high concentrations of the homeless.
- ⇒ Effectively manage existing night shelters.
- ⇒ Convert the night shelters from 12 hours to 24 hours; AAA is already doing this. IGSSS shelters are also open 24 hours, throughout the year.
- ⇒ Provide more avenues for relaxation at these shelters; indoor games, newspaper, counselling, medical support and vocational training can be provided in-house.
- ⇒ Issue Voter Identity cards and ration cards as soon as possible.
- ⇒ Implement relevant government schemes: Stri Shakti camps, pension for the aged, etc.
- ⇒ Start a mobile health service for the homeless in the evenings and ensure that it reaches the high concentration zones.
- ⇒ Scrap anti-poor laws such as the Bombay Prevention of Beggary Act, 1959.
- ⇒ Give the homeless tehbazaari rights and space in DDA market complexes for setting up shops.
- ⇒ Holistically address the economic/livelihood issues of the homeless.
- ⇒ Formulate effective policies for the homeless and thereafter implement it in a time bound fashion.
- ⇒ Effectively and sincerely implement the schemes for the homeless, which have been made available by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
- ⇒ Involve NGOs and important locals in the management of shelters.
- ⇒ Conduct more studies on different aspects of homelessness and do a headcount every five years to know the exact status of the homeless people. This data should constantly feed support mechanisms created for them.
- ⇒ Adhere to the criteria of 1 shelter per 1 lakh population (100,000) as laid out in clause 4.3 of Master Plan for Delhi 2021. These shelters should be open 24 hours, 365 days, throughout the year.
- ⇒ Accept homelessness as the serious issue that it is and take corrective and humanistic steps to address the same.

What the NGOs can do:

- ⇒ More NGOs need to take up this issue.
- ⇒ NGOs working on health, drugs and women's issues need to work on the issues of the homeless because of their interlinks.
- ⇒ NGOs can partner with the government in providing services to the homeless.
- ⇒ They can develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy, aimed at all levels of the government, to address this issue.
- ⇒ Sensitisation workshops need to be conducted for government departments (police included) and civil society to change their attitude towards homeless people.
- ⇒ A common platform can be developed where different NGOs interested in working on homelessness can come together and make a time bound program.
- ⇒ Piecemeal efforts will have no impacts. It needs to be targeted for the whole city. The program should be participatory where the homeless people are equal partners and take up the responsibility of ensuring that the efforts coming in remain consistent and that resources are shared equally.
- ⇒ NGOs should pressurise the government for provision of basic services and stopping the harassment of the homeless people as well as scrapping of the anti poor laws.
- ⇒ More training programs and awareness drives about the rights of the homeless, preventive health care and vocational training can be done in the existing shelters for homeless citizens.
- ⇒ Efforts to be made for organizing the homeless and helping them form unions and Self Help Groups.
- ⇒ NGOs can take financial support from Central Government Schemes meant for homeless people.
- ⇒ To develop Corporate-Government and NGO partnership as without the presence of homeless even the business houses will suffer.
- ⇒ Involving more and more stakeholders in this issue like academics, students, lawyers, doctors, etc. who can take up the issue at various forums.
- ⇒ More micro level studies need to be done to highlight each and every issue pertaining to the homeless community.
- ⇒ NGOs can come forward and take up the management of shelters and provide other services like, medical, training, awareness, vocational training, etc. in the shelters to the homeless.

What the Civil Society can do:

- ⇒ Civil society needs to be more sensitive toward homeless people.
- ⇒ It needs to empathise with the homeless; the tendency to accord them disrespect, consider them anti-social and keep complaining to the police about them needs to go.
- ⇒ Market associations can give identity cards to the homeless people working on a regular basis in their markets and perhaps help set up shelters for them.
- ⇒ The homeless are an exploited lot and have little leeway of redress. Supporting the homeless people when they are being cheated and speaking up against police harassment can help.
- ⇒ Religious institutions and schools can open their premises for the homeless people to sleep there.
- ⇒ The civil society needs to be involved in the management of the shelters.

I. Homeless: Understanding the Semantics

The term “homeless” seems to be lost in semantics. There are no universally acceptable definitions. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS Habitat), pointed out that since ‘home’ signifies not only personal space but also an environment that includes family and friends, terms like houseless, shelterless and dwellingless might define the situation more aptly.²

It therefore defines the homeless as “people sleeping rough, on the street, in public places or in any other place not meant for human habitation”. It also identifies less visible types of homeless i.e. those sleeping in shelters provided by welfare or other institutions. In the Compendium of Human Settlement Statistics, the expression “Homeless household” refers to “¼ households without a shelter that would fall within the scope of living quarters. They carry their few possessions with them sleeping in the streets, in doorways or on piers, or in any other space, on a more or less random basis”.³

The Census of India defines the notion of ‘houseless population’ as people who are not living in ‘census houses’. The latter refers to ‘a structure with roof’, hence the enumerators are instructed ‘to take note of the possible places where the houseless population is likely to live, such as on the roadside, pavements, drainage pipes, under staircase, or in the open, temple mandaps, platforms and the like’. It also includes people living in temporary tenements.

The homeless in India, as across developing countries, need to be recognized not by a definition but by their situation as a whole.

And they are easy enough to spot. These are people whose existence is completely and horrifically devoid of any power, economic or social. This leaves them without either a face or a voice and with practically no access to the most basic of services associated with citizenship.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, while recognising the wide range of definitions of homelessness, for the purpose of his report, focused on “homelessness as the lack of even the most basic shelter.”⁴ He further pointed out that a narrow definition of homelessness should not in any way be confused with the broader issue of inadequate and insecure housing and shelter in distressed conditions.

This report uses the more specific definition of homelessness, one that encompasses all those people living without basic shelter on the streets, under flyovers and bridges, in public parks and other common spaces that pose a significant threat to their privacy, health, personal security and safety.

² ‘Strategies to Combat Homelessness’, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Nairobi, Kenya 2000.

³ ‘Principles and recommendation for population and housing censuses’, Statistical Papers, Series M No.67/Rev.1. Sales No. E.98. XVII. 8, United Nations, New York 1998.

⁴ Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Miloon Kothari. E/CN.4/2005/48/3 March 2005. available online at: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G05/117/55/PDF/G0511755.pdf?OpenElement>

II. The Homeless in India

History has proved time and again that unless deliberated, development of a few is usually at the cost of many. A democratic state ostensibly exists to bring parity and ensure that maximum people are able to enjoy the fruits of progress, but in India the reality is usually to the contrary and clichéd.

A country that is vying for the tag of a superpower ranks 127 on the Human Development Index (UNHDI 2003); 280million of its 1.1 billion population lives below the poverty line. Yet another 450million lives on less than a dollar a day.

285 million live in urban settlements. Of these, at least a 100 million live in sub-human conditions. Most of the latter are people who came to the cities in search of a better life disheartened by the bleak reality of their oppressed existence in the villages.

According to a report based on the consultation 'Space for the Homeless and Marginalized in Delhi', organized by ActionAid India and the Slum and Resettlement Wing of the MCD in July 2003, there have been some efforts during the Census and by some NGOs to estimate the magnitude of homelessness in the country, but the situation being complex, no authentic figures could be arrived at.

The latest Census 2001 figures indicate 13 million 'houseless households' i.e. equal to 13 million families; this may multiply to nearly 6.5 crore houseless population. Estimation of homeless population becomes difficult in the absence of any fixed abode (sans domicile fixe)⁵.

Amongst the urban poor, the homeless form the bottom of the pyramid deprived of even the most basic of human needs: shelter. In case of developing countries like India, the marginalised rural migrants form a large chunk of the homeless, displaced from their roots either due to development-induced displacement without rehabilitation or, pushed out by poverty.

Another segment comprises of those slum dwellers/pavement dwellers that, due to misfortune or forced evictions, ends up on the street. Street children and women also form a large homeless population and are a cause of major concern and challenge for urban planning and policy initiatives.

The issue of homelessness is inextricably interwoven with the larger issues of poverty and inequity in our country, where hundreds of millions have no access to food, shelter or the basic facilities that constitute dignified human existence. In an urban metropolis like Delhi, people sleeping at night under flyovers, on pavements, benches, parks and temple steps are the defining strokes of this grim picture of lop sided development.

They are the debris of development that we wish away.

⁵ Amod Kanth: 2003: Homeless and Marginalised in Delhi: A Status Report, Action Aid.

Table 1. Total Homeless Population

Houseless population (Census 2001)		
S. No.	State/U.T.	Houseless Population
1	India	1,943,476
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	242
3	Andhra Pradesh	163,938
4	Arunachal Pradesh	442
5	Assam	13,355
6	Bihar	42,498
7	Chandigarh	2,722
8	Chhattisgarh	28,772
9	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1,471
10	Daman & Diu	1,071
11	Delhi	24,966
12	Goa	5,280
13	Gujarat	220,786
14	Haryana	59,360
15	Himachal Pradesh	8,364
16	Jammu & Kashmir	12,751
17	Jharkhand	10,887
18	Karnataka	102,226
19	Kerala	16,533
20	Madhya Pradesh	231,246
21	Maharashtra	340,924
22	Manipur	2,607
23	Meghalaya	1,827
24	Mizoram	336
25	Nagaland	2,002
26	Orissa	42,871
27	Pondicherry	1,662
28	Punjab	46,958
29	Rajasthan	143,497
30	Sikkim	286
31	Tamil Nadu	86,472
32	Tripura	857
33	Uttar Pradesh	201,029
34	Uttaranchal	14,703
35	West Bengal	110,535

Source: Census of India 2001

Comparative data of household and houseless population can provide a better picture of the homeless population in India.

Table 2. Comparison between Household and Houseless Population

(population in lakhs)

Year	Total Households	Houseless Population
1971	5.65	19.85
1981	6.16	23.43
1991	5.22	20.07
2001	4.48	19.44

Source: Census of India.

III. The Homeless in Delhi

While many of the homeless in Delhi are migrants from poorer states like UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, there is a factor other than migration that aggravates the situation of homelessness in Delhi: the State's recent policies on land use and urban space.

Slum demolition, without rehabilitation measures for the dislocated, has created a section of homeless population that did not feature in earlier studies. The presence of large number of homeless families is indicative of such state apartheid.

Lalit Batra of the Hazards Centre, an NGO working for housing rights, said: *"At least one lakh jhuggis (slums) have been demolished since 2000. In Yamuna-Pushta alone, we estimate that around 50,000 people have been rendered homeless. Only 30,000 were rehabilitated."*

International human rights law makes it obligatory for India to fulfill the basic right to housing and land. The Indian State is legally obliged to recognise, promote and fulfill the human right to adequate housing for all, both by international and constitutional law.

However, the very issue of homeless is overlooked in most of the studies and research reports. Very few studies have been done so far in case of urban homeless.

The research on the homeless in Delhi is even more meager than those in metros like Mumbai and Calcutta. Most of these studies correspond to the urban poor such as slum dwellers, and people living in illegal resettlement colonies.

The first time an enumeration of the homeless was done by any NGO, was in 2000; *Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan* published a report called *The Capital's Homeless*. For the first time an account of the overall situation of the homeless was published which also addressed the myths attached to homelessness.

So how many homeless people are there in Delhi? And what is the state of their existence?

The 2001 Census puts the figure at 24,966 (we've already mentioned earlier as to how the Census 2001, was a farce so far as the homeless are concerned, at least in Delhi); *Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan* counted 52,765 homeless people in 2000; the NGO, Lokayan, found that just the number of homeless rickshaw pullers in the Capital was about 88000 while the Delhi Development Authority [DDA] estimates that at least 1% of the city's population is homeless.

This study counted 88,410 homeless people, of this 86.6% were male. Women and children made up the rest. Disabled and old people also feature in the homeless list.

While there may be disparity in numbers there is little disagreement on the plight of these people. The homeless in Delhi are definitely children of a lesser God.

They are a non-skilled, uneducated population that ekes out a living working at construction sites, collecting garbage, plying cycle rickshaws, pulling handcarts and, selling newspapers, magazines, flowers and other goods at traffic signals. Since they are homeless they have no vote and hence are *persona non grata* when it comes to development. Resultantly they have no access to even the most basic of services and no one is in a hurry to change the situation. The homeless workers form the largest chunk of the unorganised sector; they are exploited and have little scope of redress.

Most of the homeless in Delhi are concentrated in the trading areas where opportunities to earn through manual labour abound. (The Walled City, which is the trade hub of the city, has the highest concentration of homeless people.)

The plight of the homeless or 'street children' is especially abysmal. Most of these children live and work on the streets. They polish shoes at the railway platform, sell newspapers, work in small hotels and shops and clean cars. They are vulnerable to sexual and economic exploitation and as a result grow up much before their time.

On the footpaths, there is little space for life, let alone childhood.

Table 3. Comparison between Homeless and Urban Population

Category	1981	1991	2001
Houseless Population	22516	18838	24,966
Total Population	6048149	9152833	12819761
Percentage	0.37	0.21	0.19

Source: IHD Report on Shelterless people in Delhi (2007)

Table 4. Comparative Figures of Houseless Population

Zones	Census 2001	IHD Survey
North West	2536	8435
North	7059	7305
North East	903	4407
East	835	3781
New Delhi	709	1647
Central Delhi	5676	5425
West Delhi	1985	5071
South West	1524	2092
South Delhi	2676	8625
Total Urban Houseless population	23903	46788

Source: Census abstract of 2001, IHD Head count survey 2007

Table 5. Area-wise Populations of Homeless

Area	Men	Women	Children	Total	AAA Counting 2000	% Increase from 2000
Walled City	0 (92.6%)	0 (2.7%)	0 (4.7%)	0 (100%)	15595	22
Old Delhi	(0.926) (95.8%)	(0.027) (2.0%)	(0.047) (2.2%)	(1) (100%)	4943	161
Central Delhi	(2.81) (85.5%)	(0.074) (5.3%)	(0.116) (9.2%)	(3) (100%)	5388	92
North Delhi	(6.475) (89.9%)	(0.201) (3.2%)	(0.324) (6.9%)	(7) (100%)	5616	127
West Delhi	(13.849) (83.5%)	(0.434) (5.6%)	(0.717) (10.9%)	(15) (100%)	7196	94
East Delhi	(28.533) (83.8%)	(0.924) (5.4%)	(1.543) (10.8%)	(31) (100%)	8391	60
South Delhi	(57.904) (68.1%)	(1.902) (11.1%)	(3.194) (20.8%)	(63)(100%)	5636	24
Total	(116.489) (86.6%)	(3.915) (4.7%)	(6.596) (8.7%)	(127) (100%)	52765	68

Source: Counting of homeless people for this survey.

Note: The Capital's Homeless is the AAA survey.

Figures in bracket are the percentage from the total population.

IV. The IGSSS Study: An Overview

In the last few years, the country's economic boom has fuelled the surge in urban growth. Consequently, millions of subsistence farmers who seemed to have gained little from the economic boom have fled the relentless poverty of the countryside in hope of better jobs and livelihood.

With the Commonwealth Games lurking around the corner, the urban landscape of the Capital has been undergoing massive transformation. This is leading to dislocation of slum dwellers and other marginalised people. Since there is no clear rehabilitation programme, many of the dislocated people are being rendered homeless.

For a voice to speak on behalf of these marginalised people, it is important to first get the facts correct but there appears to be a paucity of reliable information on the homeless people of Delhi.

This study, sanctioned by Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS), is an attempt to put a face to the faceless and a voice to their unspoken thoughts. Efforts have been made to keep the methodology including questionnaire as similar as possible to the study previously conducted by *Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan* (AAA) in June 2000.

This has been done so that the situation and the change in the numbers of homeless people can be compared.

Aim:

To have an estimate of the homeless population in the city and to know the problems they are facing.

Objectives:

1. To do a head count of the homeless people in Delhi.
2. To know the status and problems faced by the homeless and changes that, have come about.
3. To see the change in the socio economic status of the homeless since May 2000 after the interventions of the NGOs.
4. To see the process of empowerment of the homeless.
5. To understand how the interventions for the homeless can be most fruitful and come out with a macro and micro strategy for their empowerment.

Stages of Work in Conducting a Survey

The study was divided into two parts:

- A) Preparatory stage
- B) Survey and Head count.

A. Preparatory stage

As this survey was conducted during night it required some amount of preparation. This preparatory work took almost 20 days and involved the following stages:

Stage 1: Reconnaissance Survey:

A reconnaissance survey was undertaken by a two-member team to see if the concentration areas of homeless had changed since the AAA Survey of 2000. The team went to all the zones and the concentration areas. It took four days to cover whole of Delhi.

Stage 2: Development of Detailed Methodology:

After completing the reconnaissance survey, a detailed methodology along with the questionnaire was developed. This methodology included all the aspects of the survey like:

⇒ *Geographical division*

The survey of the homeless was to be conducted in whole of Delhi. For this purpose Delhi was divided into seven zones. These seven zones were further divided into smaller regions within the zone; these regions were subdivided into areas. The zones were divided on geographical basis. They were:

- **The Walled City:** This is the area enclosed within the wall of Old Delhi, being accessible through six gates: Delhi Gate, Ajmeri Gate, Lahori Gate, Kashmere Gate, Mori Gate and Turkman Gate.
- **Old Delhi:** the area comprises that part of Old Delhi, which surrounds the Walled City. The boundary of this zone is from Boulevard Road in North till the old Delhi Railway line in the South, in the West between Rani Jhansi Road and the Railway line and from the crossing of Boulevard road and Rani Jhansi Road till Paharganj Road in the South. In the East the ISBT fly over makes the North Boundary and the Electric Crematorium marks the southern boundary.
- **North Delhi:** the southern boundary of this zone is Boulevard Road, the western and south-western boundary is the old Rohtak Road, and north of Rani Jhansi Road and eastern boundary is the Yamuna River.
- **South Delhi:** The Lodi Road forms the northern boundary, the Gurgaon Road forms the western boundary and the Yamuna River forms the eastern boundary.
- **East Delhi:** the whole area across River Yamuna.
- **West Delhi:** the area lying between the Old Rohtak Road and Dhaula Kuan and the eastern boundary is the Rani Jhansi Road starting from Idgah.
- **Central Delhi.** The area between the Lodi Road and Asaf Ali Road and from Paharganj Road to River Yamuna formed this zone.

The further sub division into regions and areas was done on the basis of the concentration areas of the homeless. These zones were marked on the map of Delhi and the concentration areas in each zone were also marked on the map so as to facilitate the faster survey work.

Sample size

It was decided to make an effort to cover a minimum of 1000 people in the following ratio: 60% adult males, 15% adult females and 25% should be children. The study covered 1096 persons whose break up is as follows:

Total Sample Size

Zone	Total	Men	Women	Children
Walled City	259	224	10	25
Old City	187	160	7	20
South	119	49	30	40
North	141	101	10	30
West	130	60	37	33
Central	131	68	21	42
East	129	75	25	29
Total	1096	737	140	219

Timings

The Survey was conducted from 7 p.m. in the evening to 5 a.m. in the morning for 20 days. Survey time was divided into two time slots of:

7 p.m. to 12 a.m. for gathering the information through questionnaire

12 a.m. to 5 a.m. for the purpose of doing a head count of homeless.

Stage 3: Taking permission

As the work had to be done at night and the Night Shelters surveyed, it was necessary to seek permission from both the agencies managing the night shelters as well as the police. A letter was sent to the office of Police Commissioner of Delhi informing him of the survey and also to the Slum Wing of MCD, ActionAid and Butterflies seeking permission to conduct the survey in their respective night shelters.

Stage 4: Selection and training of team

It was decided at the onset that the field investigators would consist of paid workers as well as volunteers. Efforts were made to have paid workers from the homeless/slum community only and volunteers from different organisations. 10 homeless persons were selected as field investigators and letters were written to different organisations requesting volunteers for this work.

Once the selection of the field investigators was complete, a two-day training was organized in which the finer nuances of the questionnaire were discussed. Also the investigators were briefed about the manner in which they were supposed to do the work and the possible difficulties that they could encounter. All the investigators were taken to Jama Masjid for the questionnaire testing and to find out about the difficulty in filling the questionnaire.

B. The Survey

The survey had three components:

1. The questionnaire
2. The head count
3. The observation

Questionnaire

The questionnaire was closed-ended and information was gathered under the following heads:

- *General Characteristics*: this recorded the socio-demographic pattern of the homeless.
- *Migration*: this was to understand the push and pull factors, which plays a very important role in making a person migrate.
- *Economic activity*: this was done to understand the nature of their livelihood and assess if it was adequate to support their families and what could be done to improve their work environment.
- *Living Conditions*: this was done to get a rounded view of the conditions in which they lived.
- *Sleeping Pattern*: this head was put in to understand the factors to which sleeping patterns are linked; why people choose one place over another, how often they change their sleeping place and why, etc.
- *Linkages with place of origin*: this was to understand his/her links with native place and circumstances of his/her going back.
- *Political Affiliations*: this seeks to find out the role being played by political bodies for the benefit of homeless and to ascertain whether they were the mute spectator in the whole process.
- *Personal situation*: this pertains to the personal life of a person regarding his/her social well-being and whether s/he can have some time and how s/he spends it.
- *Initiatives*: In the past few years there have been efforts both by NGOs and Government to improve the conditions of the homeless. This section investigates what further support is required/expected by the homeless.
- *Observations and comments of the investigator*: This section is for the researcher to record his/ her feelings about the whole interview and also record anything unsaid and uncovered in the questionnaire.

The Head Count

The head count was the physical count of the people sleeping on the streets. In this category *the rickshaw pullers and other people working in the night, auto drivers, nomadic people, workers who are staying on the roadsides, travelers sleeping at the railway platforms and, precariously housed people* were not counted. The head count also differentiated and counted the women, children and men separately.

The Observation

The observation of the researchers had three important aspects

- The physical environment in which the homeless live
- The mental and physical self of the homeless
- Their living conditions.

Limitations of the Study

The study has tried to cover whole of Delhi but despite best efforts it was not able to count all the homeless people. It was felt by the survey team that at least two third people [66%] like *those working in the night, those sleeping in the dark alleys, secluded places, non-visible places from streets, etc.* were not counted. Thus the number of the actual homeless population may be higher than what is being presented in the study. Further the number of women and children counted may be less as in the night it was not possible to lift the blanket or sheets to do the counting.

While doing the interviews time was scarce and in some areas interviews could start only after 10 p.m. So the sample was small and had more number of men as compared to women and children. The figures for the families could not be arrived at, as it was very difficult to demarcate families from amongst men, women and children sleeping together. Thus, the data for families could not be reported.

Further, during the survey period there were bomb blasts in Rajasthan; security became tight and homeless people were chased out and thus many were missed. Also, during the survey period apprehension of rain caused many homeless people to shift out or move to unknown places.

The interviews and data could not be collected from the night shelters; agencies like ActionAid (Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan- AAA) did not give permission to undertake counting in the night.

V. The Study Area

Delhi is a social as well as economic melting pot; a place that is home to several people and professions. The city is not homogenous in its population spread. Different parts have a distinctly different character and it is important to understand these parts to understand the city a whole.

As mentioned earlier, Delhi was divided into seven distinct zones for the purpose of this study.

The Walled City:

The Walled city is a 2.15 sq km maze of congested narrow lanes, alleys, bazaars and some truly spectacular moghul architecture. This area is enclosed by a high wall, erected in 1638, which has six arched gateways. The Delhi Gate in the south, the Ajmeri Gate in the east, and the Kashmere Gate in the north are the better-known gateways. With passage of time it has become the most congested area of Delhi with a very high density of population.

It consists of large wholesale markets, like Dariba Kalan for Gold Bullion, Lajpat Rai Market for electronic goods, Bhagirath Place for electrical goods, the Khari Baoli for grains and spices, Chawri Bazaar for paper and Nai Sadak for books and stationary.

The Red Light area of Delhi is also in this zone. The Walled City also houses, the Old Delhi Railway Station. It is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as handling the largest number of trains in a day. This station also has the dubious distinction of being the alighting point for about 30-35 runaway children daily, as observed by the Prayas railway Project. Both ISBT and New Delhi Railway Station flank this area on the North and the South side respectively.

The bustling economy of the area provides a big economic opportunity for the unorganised workers. There are specialized “labour chowks”. These are points where workers for a particular job assemble and can be picked up by prospective employers.

The main labour markets of the areas are:

- Fountain Chowk for Catering workers
- Bankhandi Mandir for Dhaba and catering workers
- Fateh Puri Masjid and Khari Baoli Chowk for loader and unloaders
- Jama Masjid (Chawri Bazaar Crossing), Lahori Gate, Hauz Qazi Chowk, Ajmeri Gate Crossing and Chandni Mahal Chowk for construction workers.

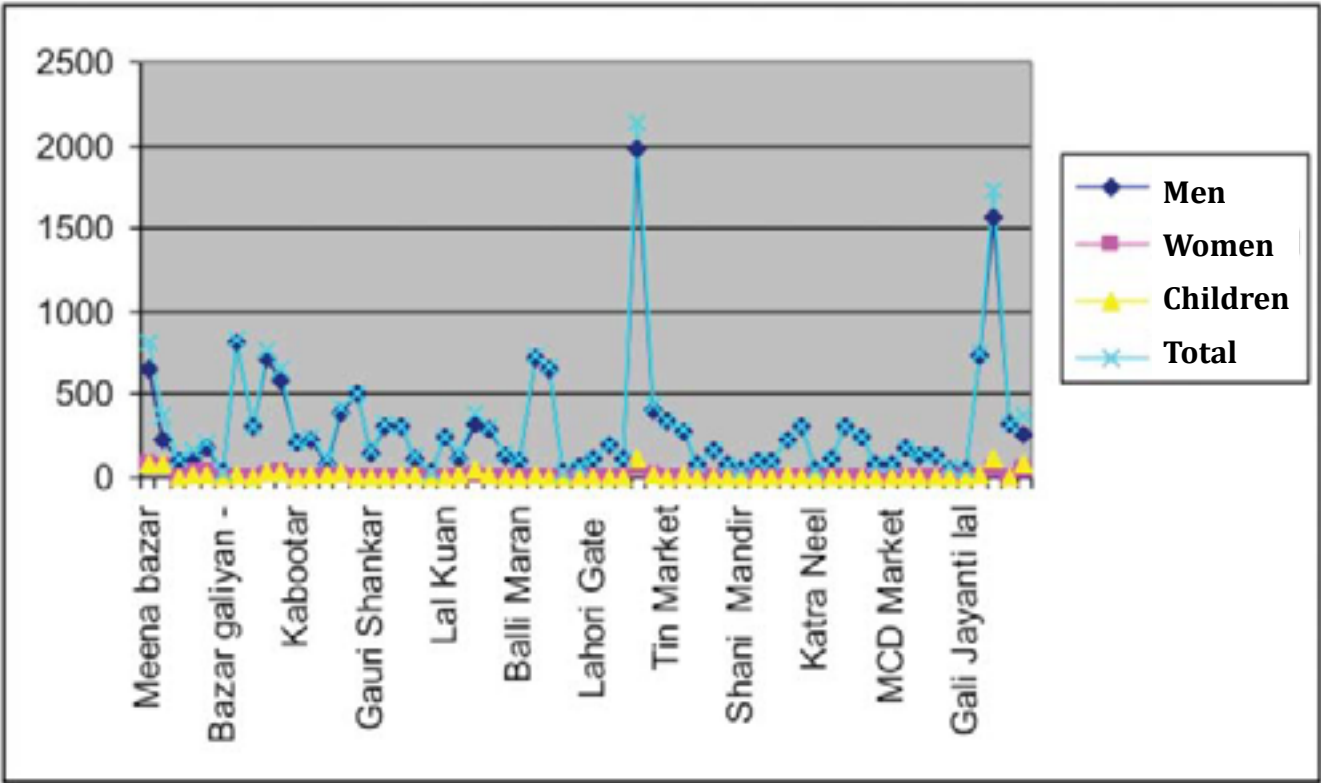
This area also has the largest number of homeless population in Delhi. Even in the survey conducted by AAA in the year 2000 the largest numbers of homeless were found in this area.

The total number counted in 2000 was 15,595 and in 2008 this number has gone up to 19,018 showing an increase of 22%.

The main areas of concentration of the homeless are Jama Masjid, Bankhandi Temple, Town Hall, S.P. Mukerjee Marg, Chandni Chowk Road, Subhash Marg, Darya Ganj, Asaf Ali Road, Shraddha Nand Marg, Bhagirath Place, Church Mission Road, Khari Baoli, etc. (Details given in Annexure 1). These areas have remained more or less unchanged since the last 15 years. There are four night shelters in this zone. All these shelters are the oldest and the biggest in whole of Delhi (See Annexure 2 for details).

Figure 1 presents total population of homeless in the Walled City and different areas. In this it becomes very clear that majority of the people are males as the line of total and males are almost similar. The women and children in all the counted places are less than 500 in each location. The counting was done in 60 locations in the Walled city.

Figure 1. Population of Homeless in Walled City



Old Delhi:

For the purpose of the survey, the area encircling the Walled City is called Old Delhi. It starts from Yamuna Bazaar on Ring road to Boulevard Road and Rani Jhansi Road up to Jhandewalan round about.

The economic activity of this area is similar to the Walled city. The area has large wholesale markets like Sadar Bazar for utensils, Azad Market for plastic and canvas goods as well as markets for beads and imitation stones.

In Paharganj area many hotels have come up because of its proximity to the New Delhi Railway Station. The Kashmere Gate market is famous for auto parts while Rajender Market has the flower mandi from where flowers are supplied to whole of Delhi.

Old Delhi has some important Government offices like The Office of the Election Commissioner, District Court at Tis Hazari, the Zonal office of the MCD and the Office of the Registrar of Societies. The largest bus terminal in Delhi is also at Kashmere Gate.

Given the nature of its activities, a large labour force is needed here. As within the Walled City, this area also has specialized labour chowks:

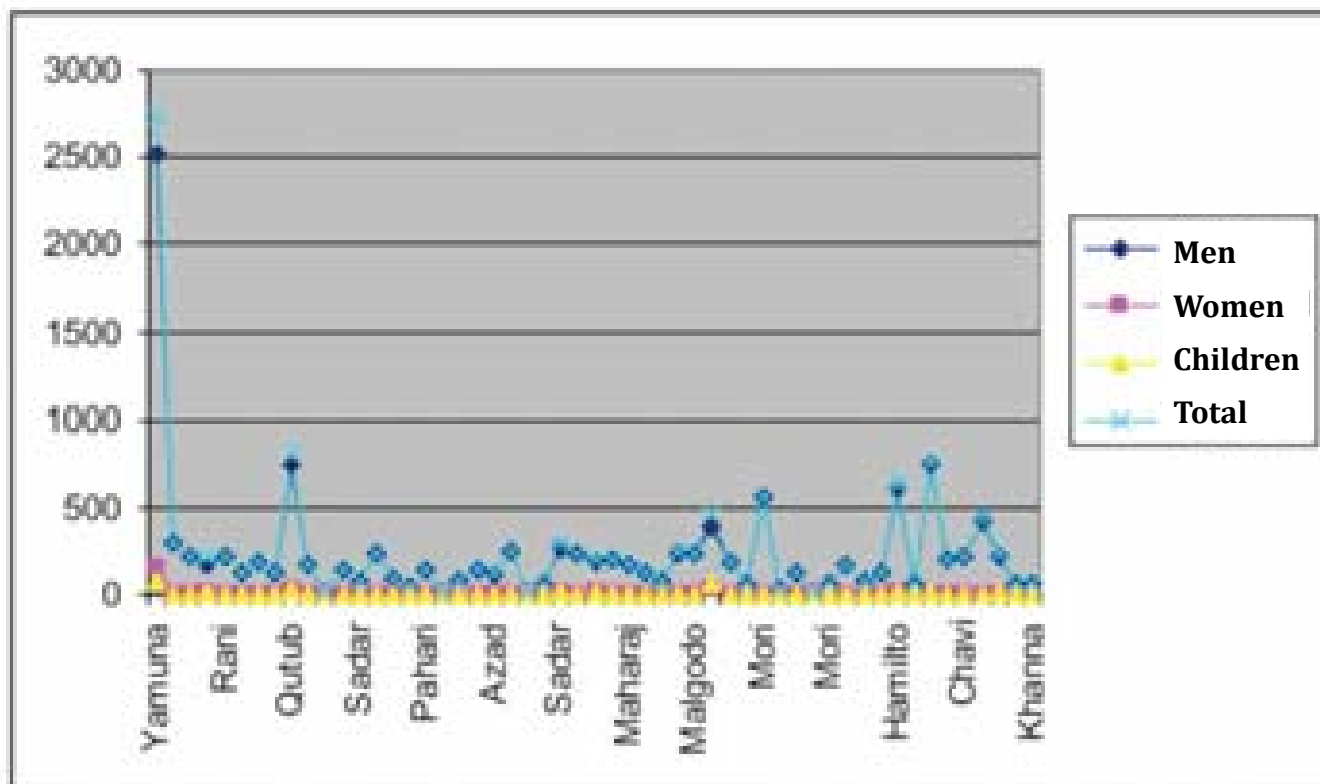
- KashmereGate market is for motor mechanics
- Baradari Chowk for loaders, unloaders, and cartpullers
- Paharganj Labour Chowk for construction workers
- Azad Market Labour Chowk for palledars (Coolies)
- Andha Mughal Labour Chowk for carpenters
- Jhandewalan Labour Chowk for mechanics.

The Yamuna Bazaar area in this area is infamous for its drug peddling; a large number of people can be seen taking drugs here.

During the survey it was found that the homeless population of this area has increased by 161% from AAA survey. At that time there were 4943 homeless people, now the number has gone up 12887. The homeless in Old Delhi are to be found mainly in Yamuna Bazaar, Hamilton Road, Rajender Market, Kashmere Gate, Mori Gate Terminal, Qutub Road, Sadar Bazaar railway station, Azad market, Jhandewalan, Bara bazaar ISBT, etc. (details in annexure 1). This area has four Night Shelters managed by AAA.

Figure 2 gives the picture of homeless population in Old Delhi. This is quite similar to the Walled City and here too the population of women and children at all the locations is less than 500. The counting was done in 53 locations.

Figure 2. Population of Homeless in Old Delhi



Central Delhi:

This is the power centre of Delhi. Almost all the Central Government Ministries and Delhi Government offices are to be found here. This includes the offices and residences of ministers, bureaucrats and high profile businessmen.

This area is characterised by a very strong demarcation between the haves and the have-nots. On one end of the spectrum are the elite zones: Connaught Place, Khan Market, Sunder Nagar Market and on the other hand are areas like Paharganj, Ranjit Singh Marg, Timber Market, Takia Kale Khan which are areas sans the most basic of facilities.

Trade and commerce in Central Delhi is robust and long established. The furniture market in Panchkuian Road, construction material market in Paharganj, the timber market at Maharaj Ranjit Singh Marg and Shankar market are landmarks in their own right. Apart from these markets the area around New Delhi Railway Station is also a bustling commerce zone.

The long-established wholesale markets in Central Delhi provide ample space to accommodate homeless people. Though homeless people are also found in the VVIP areas, their percentage is very less, compared to the people found in the market areas.

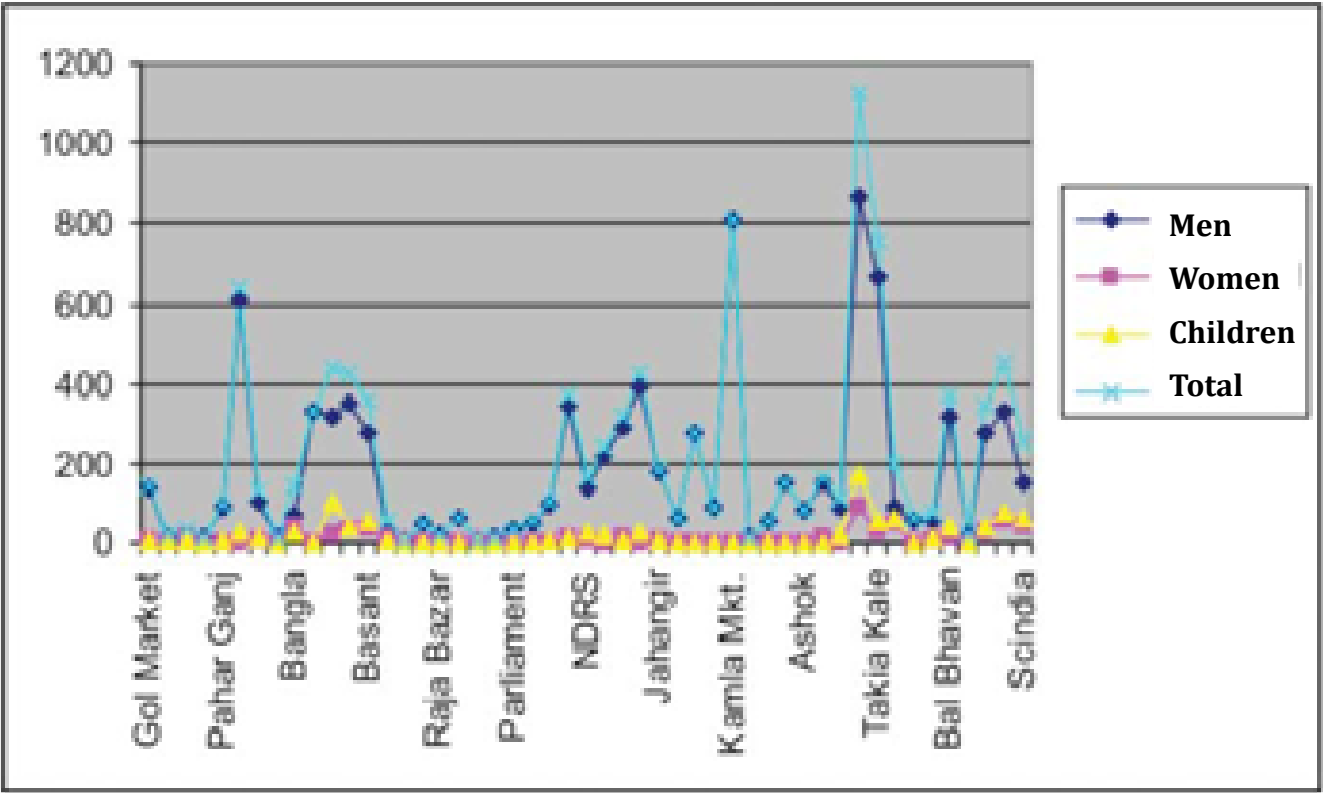
This area has labour chowks at Paharganj for construction workers, at Minto Road Crossing for the mechanics and construction workers and the timber market crossing for general daily wagers.

Central Delhi has also witnessed a marked increase in the population of homeless people. The AAA Survey had counted 5,388 people, whereas during this study the number has gone up to 10,358, which is an increase of 92 %. Compared to the Walled City and Old Delhi the percentage of women and children in this area is more; together they constitute 14.5% of the total population of homeless. The main concentration points of homeless here are at Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place, Paharganj, Panchkuian Road, Aram Bagh, Minto Road, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Marg and Takia Kale Khan (details in annexure 1).

Despite having a large homeless population, there are no night shelters in this area. Initially there were 2 night shelters run by government prior to 2000, but they were closed down. There were efforts made by AAA to start a women’s shelter in this area but NDMC did not allow it to function. Despite initially giving space for the shelter, they threw out the women staying there soon after the shelter became functional. Assurances given by the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh and the then UPA Chairperson Ms. Sonia Gandhi in 2004 were of no avail.

Figure 3 presents a picture where the total population and the male population make up a large part of the homeless; the population of women and children are below 200. Their percentage is higher here than their counterparts in Old Delhi and within the Walled City. These figures are the result of counting that took place in more than 49 places.

Figure 3. Population of Homeless in Central Delhi



North Delhi:

The decision makers of Delhi sit here. The Delhi Vidhan Sabha, Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the residences of many senior Delhi Government officials are located in this zone.

North Delhi is a mix of low, middle and high-income residential colonies like Model Town, Ashok Vihar, Rajpur Road, Jahangir Puri, Rohini, Pitampura and Mukerjee Nagar. Delhi University has its main campus in this zone and a Police Line is also located here.

The economy of this area is mix of retail, wholesale and formal as well as informal industries.

Kamla Nagar and Subzi Mandi are the main retail markets; each locality has its own market. Azadpur Mandi is the largest wholesale market for fruits and vegetables. Wazirpur Industrial Area, Mongolpuri Industrial Area, Shakarpur Industrial area and Samaypur- Badli Industrial areas are the main industrial estates located here.

Sanjay Transport Nagar and Roshanara Road serve as the main hub for road transport. The area also has informal industrial hubs like Inderlok for coolers, Trinagar for printing and Rampura and Shazada Bagh for miscellaneous industries.

The main labour chowks are located in the trade-heavy areas of the region. Thus the main chowks are:

- Ghanta Ghar Chowk
- Roshanara Road Chowk
- Trinagar Chowk
- Avantika Chowk
- Rohini-Vishram Chowk
- Rohini-Samaipur Chowk
- Rohini- Rani Bagh Chowk
- Rana Pratap Bagh Chowk
- Hakikat Nagar Chowk.

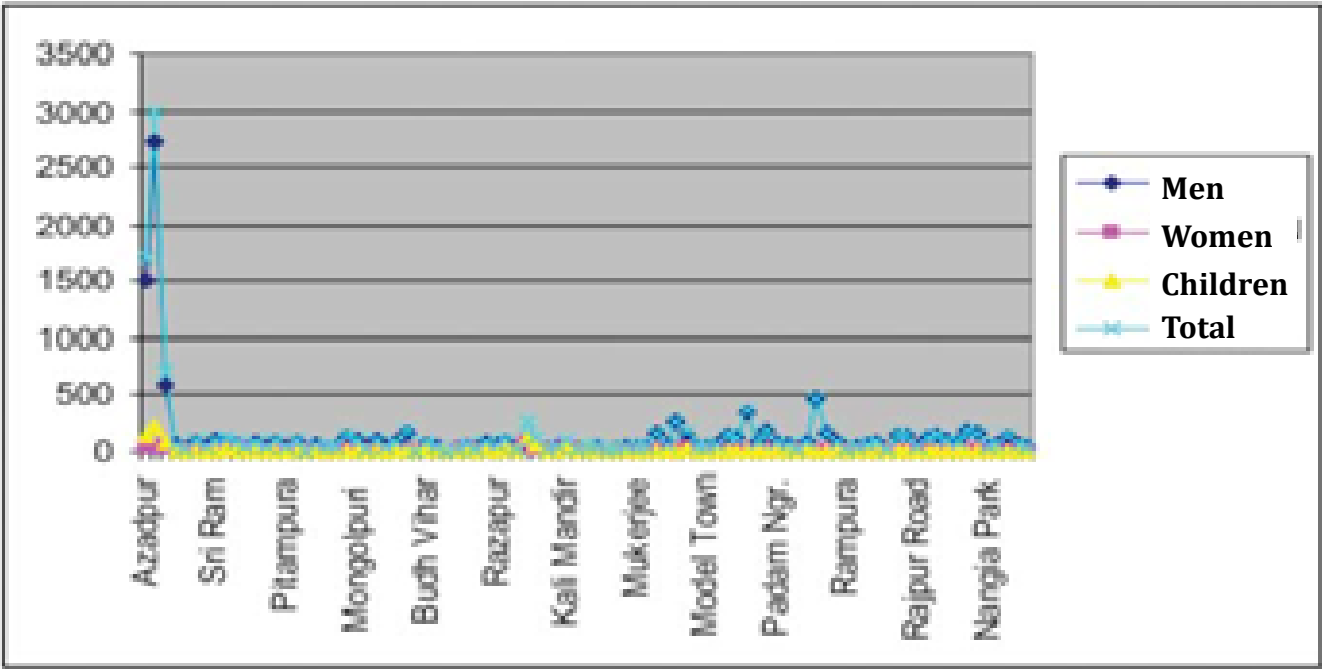
The homeless population in this area is spread out. As per the AAA survey of 2000, the homeless in the area were 5616. At the time of this survey, it had increased by 127% to 12,748. Out of this, the survey found 3.2 % to be women and 6.9% to be children.

The homeless in the area are concentrated at Azadpur Mandi, Sarai Pipal Thala, Subzi Mandi, Karnal Road, Ghanta Ghar, Roshanara Road, Inderlok, Majnu Ka Tilla, Shakarpur, Rohini Sec 4 and Tri Nagar (details in annexure 1).

In this area there are only three night shelters, which are functional; the Government runs them. The shelters are located at Jahangirpuri, Roshanara Road, Shazadabagh and Mongolpuri. The total capacity of these shelters does not meet even 5 % of the total population of the homeless.

Figure 4 presents an interesting account where it becomes clear that one area of Azadpur has the maximum population and rest of the areas have a population of less than 500 homeless at each point. The number of women and children in all the areas even at Azadpur is less than 500. The counting was done at 86 points in whole of North Delhi.

Figure 4. Population of Homeless in North Delhi



West Delhi:

This area can easily be divided into east and west with the Ring Road forming the division. Both sides have different characteristics. The eastern side is old and has well-known residential as well industrial areas. The land use here is more mixed.

The west side has newly developed zones. It has clearly marked residential and industrial areas. The main residential areas of the eastern side are East Punjabi Bagh, Karol Bagh, Rajinder Nagar, Patel Nagar, Anand Parbat, Inderpuri, Raja Garden and Rohtak Road, whereas in the western side the main residential areas are Janakpuri, Dwarka, West Punjabi Bagh, Rajouri Garden, Tagore Garden, Vikaspuri, etc.

The residential areas on the eastern side have people ranging from upper class to low-income groups whereas the majority of residential areas on the western side have middle and low-income group.

The economic activities of this area are a mix of trading and industries. Delhi's oldest and largest industrial belt is in this region. Sylvania Laxman, Philips, Coca Cola, and other large players have a presence here. Other industrial areas are Naraina, Mayapuri, Nangloi, Pira Garhi, etc.

Informal industrial areas have emerged in the places like Uttam Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Raghbir Nagar, Zakhira, etc. The need for labour is more in the informal areas, thus we find that main chowks are located either near the informal industrial areas or near the trading places.

The main trading areas are Kirti Nagar and Jail Road for furniture, Karol Bagh for clothes and other household goods and Raja Garden for marble.

The main labour chowks of the zone are:

- Ajmal Khan Park
- Deshbandhu Gupta Chowk
- Jhandewalan Chowk
- Idgah Chowk near S.P. Mukerjee Market
- Milan complex
- Zakhira
- Karampura Chowk
- Uttam Nagar Chowk
- Palam Chowk
- Dabri Mor Chowk
- Inderpuri Chowk
- Shadipur Depot Chowk
- Raja Garden Chowk
- Raghbir Nagar Crossing
- Tilak Nagar Crossing
- Anand Parbat Crossing
- Various chowks at Karol Bagh, etc.

The homeless population of this area is also spread out because the zone is expansive. In 2000 the total population counted here was 7196; it has now increased to 13,928, translating into a 94% increase. Out of the total population women are 5.6% where as children are 10.9%.

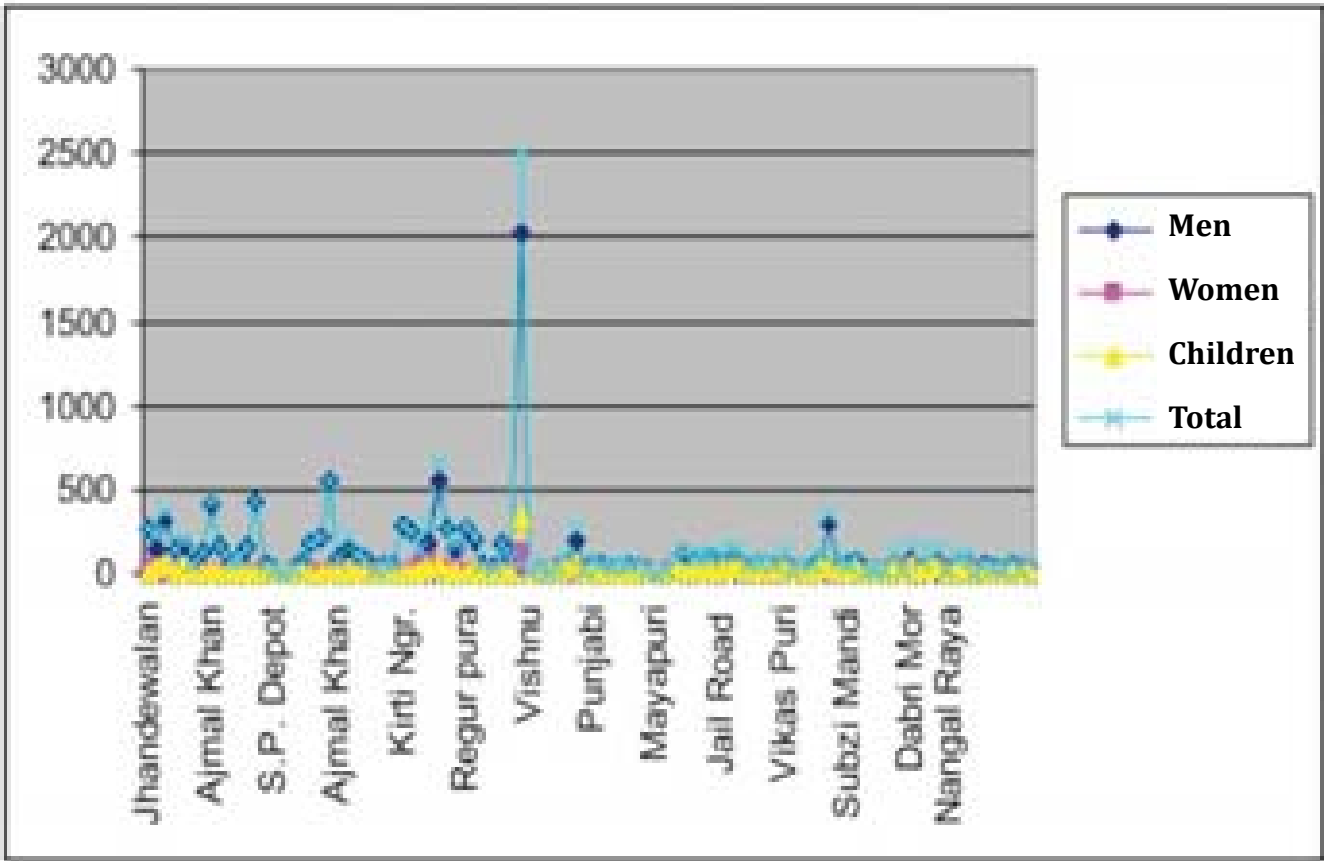
The homeless in this zone are mainly concentrated at Karol Bagh, Anand Parbat, Dev Nagar, Milan Complex, Karampura, Raghbir Nagar, Hari Nagar, Ghanta Ghar, Jhandewalan Market and S.P. Mukerjee Market.

It is very clear that more than 60% homeless people are found in the eastern side. Karol Bagh has more than 4400 homeless and Dev Nagar adjoining area of Karol Bagh has more than 2400 homeless people (Details in Annexure 1).

This area had one of the oldest night shelters at Ajmal Khan Park; it was demolished and a musical fountain constructed in its place. Now it has just one night shelter at Raja Garden with a capacity of 200 people.

Figure 5 presents the population of homeless in West Delhi. Like North Delhi, this region too has one area where the homeless are more heavily concentrated. Apart from that area the population is between the ranges of 300 to 600 people at each point in this area. The total points covered are 112.

Figure 5. Population of Homeless in West Delhi



East Delhi:

The area across the Yamuna is referred to as East Delhi. This area has been primarily settled on by migrants from UP and Bihar. This area can be divided into three separate zones divided by a railway line. The area north of Shahdara railway line is called North East, the area between Shahdara Railway line and Patparganj railway line is called Central East Delhi and the area south of Patparganj Railway line is referred as South East Delhi.

North East areas like Welcome, Seelampur, Bhajanpura, Seemapuri, Karawal Nagar, etc. have low-income group settlements. The central part, which includes high profile areas like Madhuban, Preet Vihar and Swasthya Vihar, has a mix of all socio-economic group.

Patparganj and Mother Dairy are dominated by middle-class housing co-operatives. The Eastern part across the drain consists of High Income group houses in areas like Vivek Vihar, Anand Vihar, Karkardooma, etc.

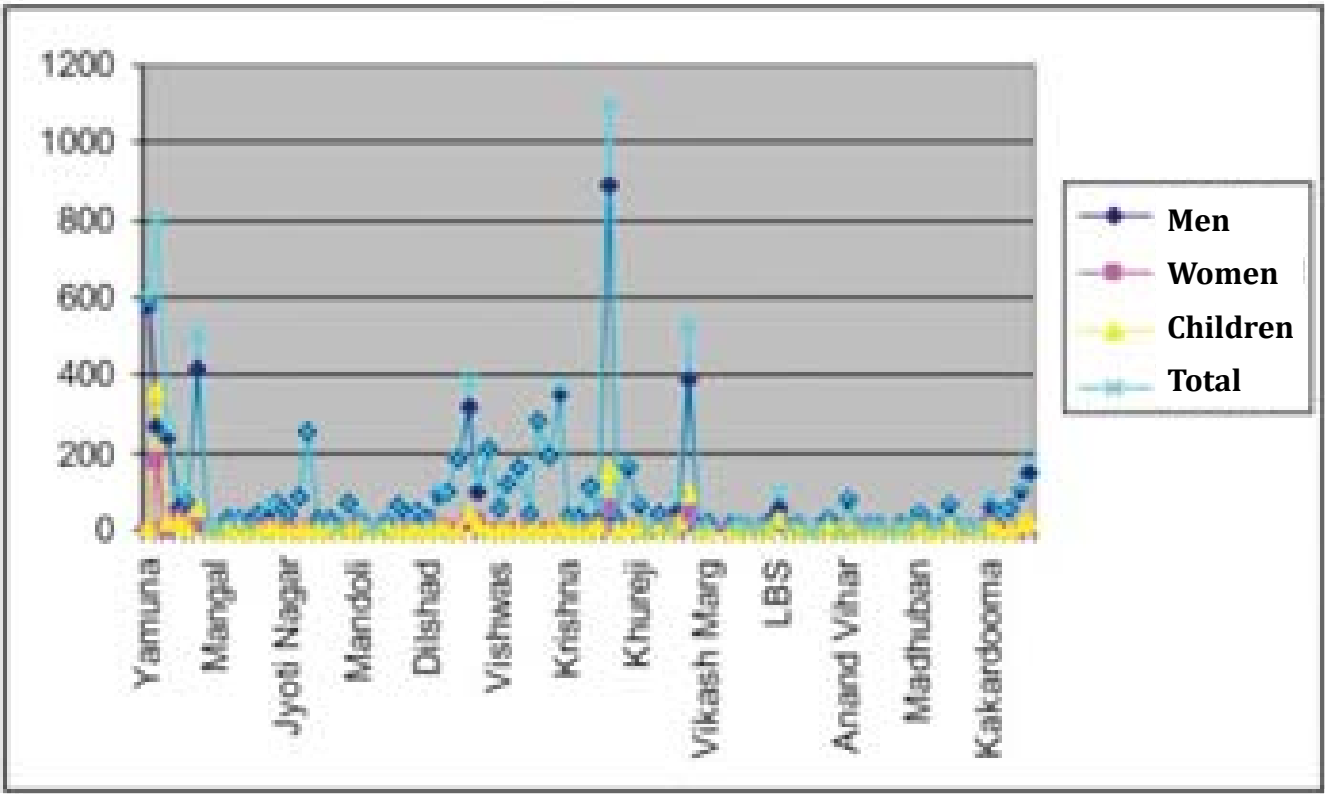
The economy of the area is mixed and dominated by the informal sector. The main industrial area is in Patparganj. Rest of the area has predominance of informal sector workers and retail and wholesale markets. The largest wholesale market of garments is located at Gandhi Nagar, wholesale market of meat and chicken is at the Ghazipur village, whereas Welcome and Seelampur are big markets of wood.

The number of homeless people in this area has increased by 60% from 5636 in 2000 to 9030 in 2008. Out of the 9030 homeless, the percentage of women is 5.4% and children 10.8%.

The homeless were found concentrated on G.T. Road, Shahdara (nearly a 1000 homeless people were found in the vicinity of the Shahdara flyover) and Shashtri Park (more than 507 people).The other areas were Gandhi Nagar, Patparganj Road, Jheel, Karkari Mor, Welcome Metro station, Shahdara Railway Station, Navin Shahdara and Pushta Road.

The population of homeless is spread out and there are many areas where the population is more than 500 and between the ranges of 300 to 500. No one area outscores the other. Even the population of women and children in the areas as percentage to total population is high. 88 points were covered in this zone.

Figure 6. Population of Homeless in East Delhi



There are two night shelters in this area. The one at Kabul Nagar is amongst the oldest in Delhi and is run by MCD. AAA manages the other at Radhu Palace; it was constructed in 2004.

South Delhi:

High-Income Group colonies and Diplomatic Enclaves characterise this area. The residential areas like Vasant Vihar, West End, Anand Lok, Vasant Kunj, Greater Kailash I and II, Hauz Khas, Kailash Colony, Kalkaji, Sainik Farms, etc. are inhabited by the rich people of the Delhi.

Chankyapuri is the diplomatic area. Even the markets in South Delhi are very costly and most of them deal in retail. The low-income group people are more in number in the south east of this zone. The urban villages like Munirka, Mohammadpur, Humayunpur, Hauz Khaz, Sant Nagar, Chirag Dilli, Khirkee, Mehrauli, etc. have been completely urbanised. This area also has many government colonies for the middle and low-level staff. They are all located in prime locations like Hauz Khas, Greater Kailash, Khel Gaon Marg, R.K. Puram, Chankyapuri, Lodhi Estate, etc.

The economy of the area is clearly divided between West, Central and East. The eastern side has the biggest industrial estate of Delhi called Okhla Industrial Area, which also houses the Okhla Fruit and Vegetable Mandi. It has got the biggest container depot at Tughlakabad.

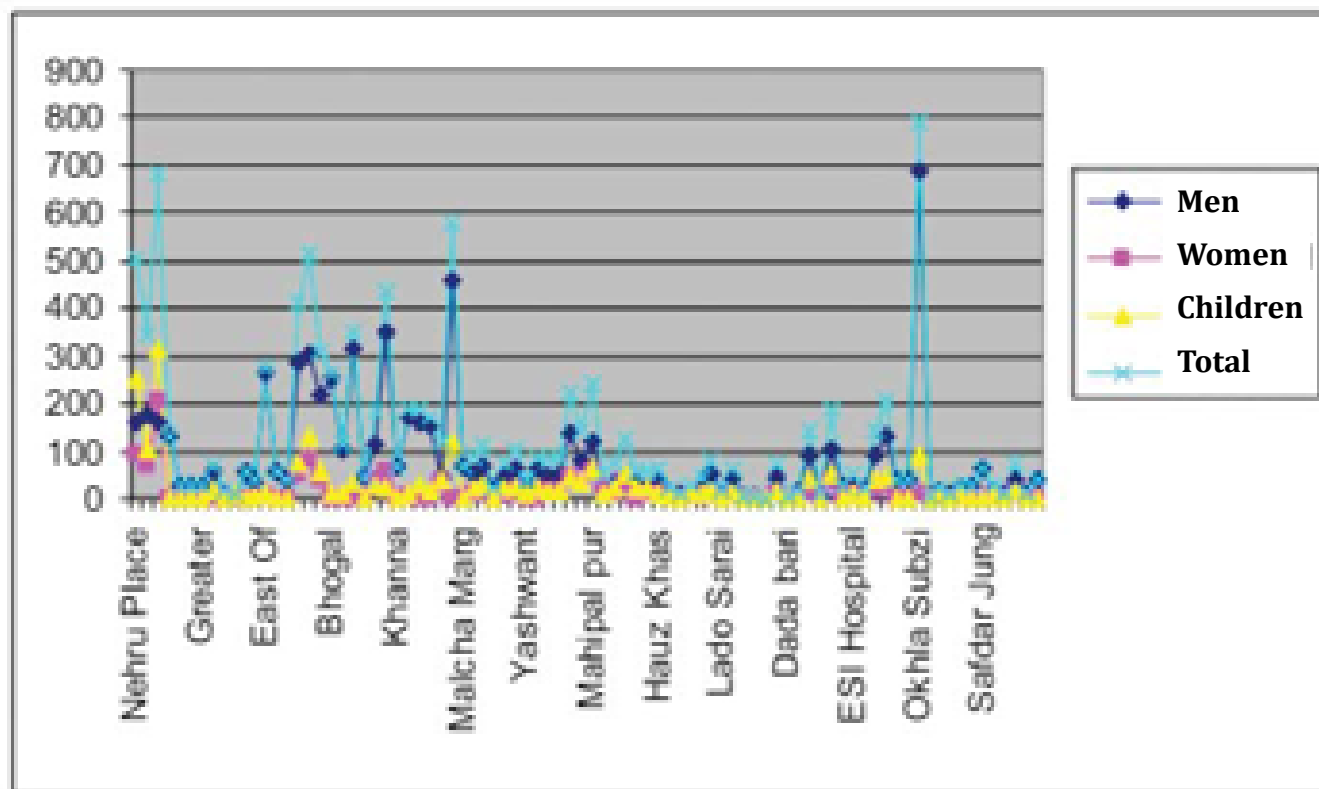
Apart from this, there are markets that generally deal with retail goods for the middle and low-income groups. The central and west side has markets for high-income groups. The main markets here are, Hauz Khas, M-Block -- Greater Kailash Part I and II, South Extension Part I and II, Vasant Vihar, INA Market, Khanna Market, etc.

In South Delhi, the homeless exist in pockets. In fact certain areas are totally devoid of homeless people: Chankyapuri, R.K. Puram, Vasant Vihar, Greater Kailash and Sainik Farms fall in this category.

The homeless here appear to be concentrated on the eastern side with Okhla Flyover, Okhla Mandi, Kalkaji Temple, and Nizamuddin being the main areas. The population of homeless here has also increased by 24% from 8391 in 2000 to 10441 at present. This area has the highest number of homeless women and children compared to other areas (Details in annexure 1).

Figure 7 presents the picture of distribution of homeless people in South Delhi. It can be seen that in some areas the population of women and children is almost equivalent to the population of males. The population here is also well distributed in all parts and no single area has very high percentage. The total points covered are more than 89.

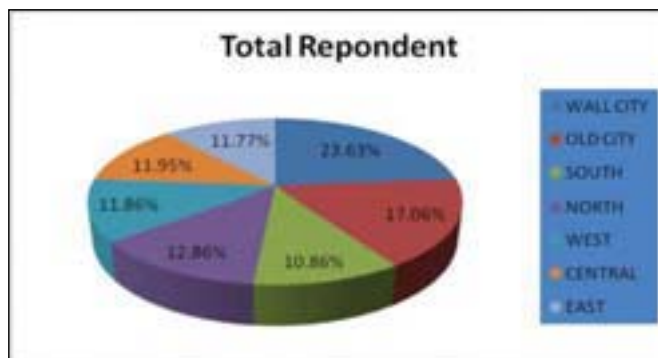
Figure 7. Population of Homeless in South Delhi



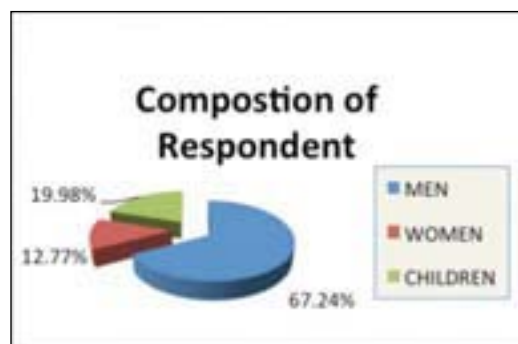
VI. The Results

The findings of this study are based on the primary data that came from the survey of those people who are sleeping on streets with no shelter. The sample size was 1183 out of which 1096 samples were found to be correct, including that of families.

Of the 1096 sample size, 12.77 percent were women and 19.98 were children; the rest were adult males. To keep the sample more representative, the maximum samples i.e. male, were taken from the Walled City as it has the highest population of homeless.



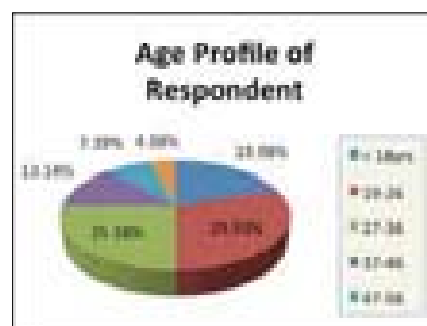
Maximum numbers of women were from West Delhi; this area has more women living on their own than in other areas. Similarly, surveyed children were highest in Central Delhi even though, the population of children and women is highest in South Delhi.



While outlining the demographic profile of the homeless, apart from the predominance of single males, familial units were seen in almost all the areas. This trend is very recent and arising out of state discriminatory policy against the urban poor.

Age & Literacy Profile:

An age group wise breakup of the samples indicates that the majority of the homeless comprised of young people belonging to the age group 19-36 years (604 respondents). This means more than 50 percent (55.11) of the population is below 36 years of age. This is the age group, which has potential workers and forms the major work force in the informal sector.



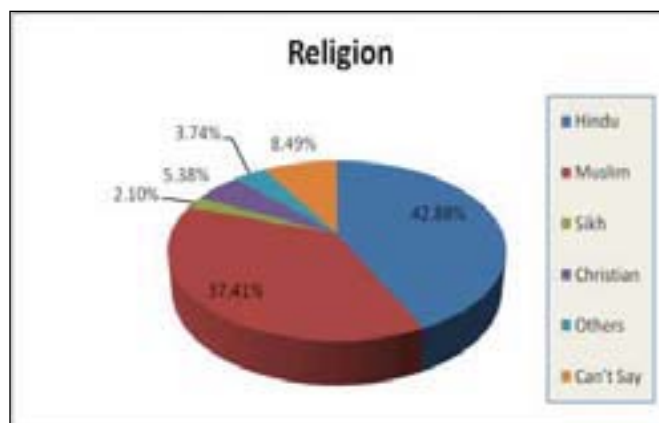
Children also form the significant increase of 5 percent in comparison to the earlier AAA report, 19.98 percent of the population is below 18 years of age, whereas only 11.77 percent is above 50 years of age.

The proportion of people who are illiterate is another indicator of socio-economic backwardness. The study

shows that 50 percent of the respondents are illiterate and only one fourth of the population has studied beyond the primary school level. The lower literacy level is the reason why this population is involved primarily in casual labour.

Caste & Religion:

The study distinctly shows that the distribution of homeless is not caste specific though the majority belongs to the lower castes consisting of members of other backward castes (OBCs), schedule castes (SCs) and schedule tribes (STs). Among the lower castes 30.02 percent are OBCs whereas 32.21 percent are SCs. General Category label corresponds to 19.98 percent of the respondents. Maximum percent of SCs were found in East Delhi, where they made up more than 50% of the homeless. Maximum percent of OBCs were found to be in South Delhi. Maximum percent of General Category were found to be in North Delhi. The Walled City, which houses the highest number of homeless, showed a homogenous mix.

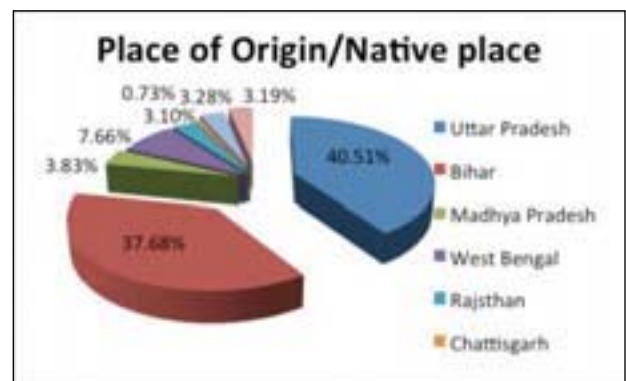


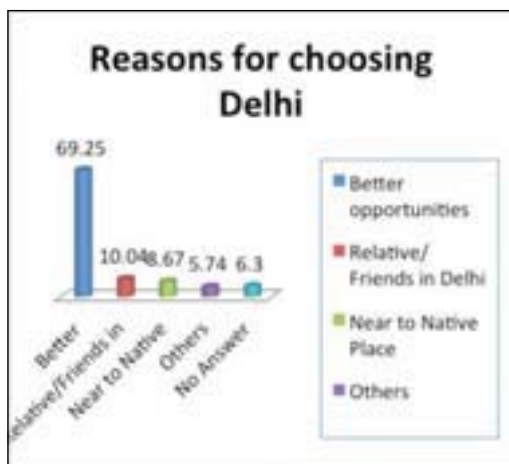
From the standpoint of religious background, 42.88 percent of homeless are Hindus. However, Muslims also constitute a significant majority with a presence of 37.41 percent. The maximum numbers of respondents in Walled city are Muslims whereas the Hindus are equally distributed across all the seven zones. Very few Sikhs were found and that too in South Delhi. Others and can't say constitute those people whose religion was not known, mostly the children and women.

Place of Origin:

The overall demographic profile of the homeless is indicative of the fact that they hail from the most underprivileged sections of the society.

They have primarily migrated from the rural areas of economically backward states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. Driven by their economic needs and the desire for better livelihood options, these are people who have come to the city per force and discovered it to be anything but welcoming. Many respondents refused to divulge their places of origin, fearing that they'd be sent back.





Respondents who refused to answer the question on place of origin were largely children and drug dependents. In the representation under Other States, this study has clubbed together respondents from states like Maharashtra and Southern India. *It is interesting to note that it is work affinity that appears to bind the homeless together more than the linguistic community or caste or religion.*

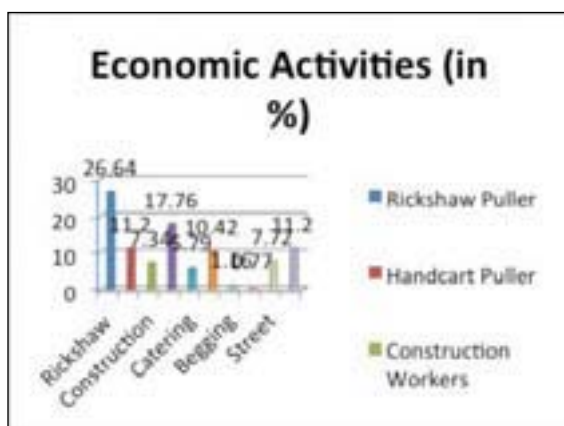
Sometimes, the decision to migrate is also facilitated by the relatives and friends in Delhi.

Proximity to the home place is another reason. But it is mostly the push factor because of which people have come to Delhi.



The data reveal that significant portions of the homeless are migrants driven by poverty (15.24 percent) and unemployment (61.04 percent). However, other reasons are: running away from home as in the case of children, deserted by the families especially in case of homeless women and also children. Natural calamities like drought and flood also contribute to migration especially when they wreck livelihood options.

Nature of Work and Income:



The homeless are mostly unskilled, casual and temporary workers. It is also found that each area has a particular type of work/ job reflecting economic activities of that area. In areas such as Old Delhi, Sadar and the Walled City, which are trading hubs of Delhi, homeless people are seen working as handcart pullers and pushers as well as loader and unloaders (casual workers). Street vending (7.72%) is another occupation. Homeless men and women work either on commission basis as in Old Delhi and Walled City or on their own. Rickshaw pulling (26.64%) is the most opted for work in the homeless

segment. It relies solely on the male work force and is a pursued option across all seven zones. Such homeless people sleep on their rickshaws. This can prove to be quite a challenge besides being outright uncomfortable.

Rag picking engages children and women; 10.42 percent of the total respondents were rag pickers. Homeless labourers usually do more than one kind of work. They have a primary occupation and a secondary one; the latter is seasonal. One of the reasons for this is that the seasonal work is more





paying and many of the people opt for it to make extra money. The preference of secondary occupation is less among the handcart pullers, loader and unloaders who prefer not to switch jobs. The same holds true for skilled labourers like masons, plumbers and even chapatti makers.

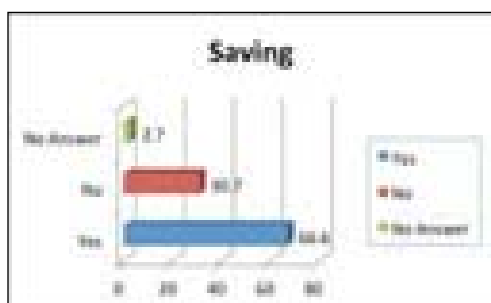
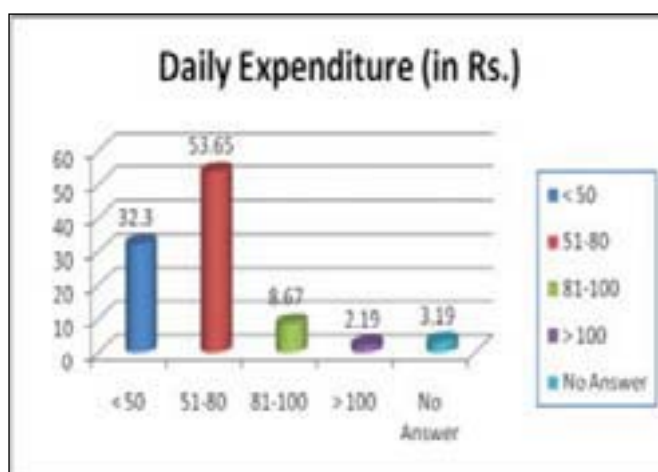
The homeless appears to form a very heterogeneous section of urban labour force in terms of income, saving and expenditure. More than 50 percent of homeless earn between from Rs. 51 to 100. Construction workers earn slightly modest money in comparison to other section(s) of people. The skilled construction workers though earn in the higher brackets (>Rs.140), end up facing problems such as the regularity of work, which is always in question.

Most of the casual workers get only 15-20 days of work and rest of the time they are engaged in other work. Many of the homeless shared that during the wedding season, they earn comparatively more than what they normally earn from day-to-day catering work. Children are also involved in this work apart from rag picking, begging and vending.

Only 20.16 percent of homeless earn less than Rs. 50. This group basically comprises of street children and the old and infirm.

Rickshaw pullers and other casual workers like loaders and unloaders earn an average of Rs. 101-140 a day, after deducting the rent of the rickshaw and thela.

Their earning finds reflection in their expenditure pattern. The majority of the population lives on 51-80 rupees a day. At the micro level, it is seen that apart from food and toilet, money is also spent on drugs and other things. Children living on the streets are most vulnerable to addiction. During Focused Group Discussions [FGD], children admitted that they usually take drugs. Solution (Erazex) is the most frequent drug taken by children and quite easily available to them.



Saving Patterns: The saving patterns of the homeless are varied and dependent not only on income but also on the way they live in Delhi.

For the homeless family, it is also related to the needs of their families. Out of 1096 respondents, 66.6 percent (731) save money, where as 30.7 do not.

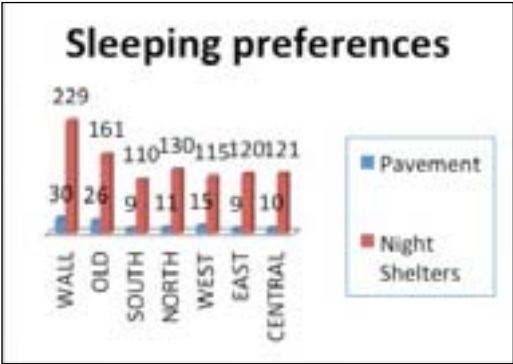
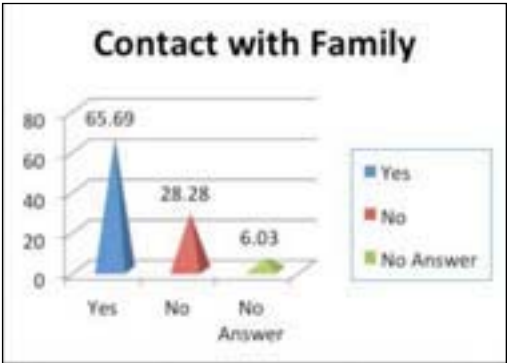
During Focused Group Discussions [FGD] in the Walled City, respondents shared that though they earn money, the irregularity of work makes saving impossible. In fact it always leads to debts. Though most of the people refused to reveal the place where they keep their savings, there were a few who did. Personal contacts, place at which they eat, etc. are some of the places where they keep money.



One of the strongest motivations to save money is remittance. 64.42 percent of the respondents said that they send money to their families back home whereas 30.47 percent shared that they do not send money to their family. Homeless people who hail from Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh usually leave their family in the native village. They send their savings back home. However, saving does not mean that all those who save always remit money to their family back home. Though the figure of people sending

money home may be bigger as many of them do not want to reveal the fact.

It is clear from the data that there is direct relation with homeless people who remit money (64.42 percent) to their family at home and their persistent contact with family at their native place (65.69 percent). Usually they visit home once or twice in a year usually during festivals or during the harvest and sowing season.



Sleeping Preferences and Patterns:

Living on the streets makes the homeless vulnerable and prone to abuse and violence. Majority (about 90 percent) of respondents are presently living on the streets, under open sky but would have liked to live in shelters.

During the Focused Group Discussions [FGDs] held at Meena Bazar, Kamla Market and Azadpur Sabji Mandi, respondents shared that they wanted to live in night shelters, but feared that the watchman would misbehave. They even complained that their money and other belongings are not safe in shelters.

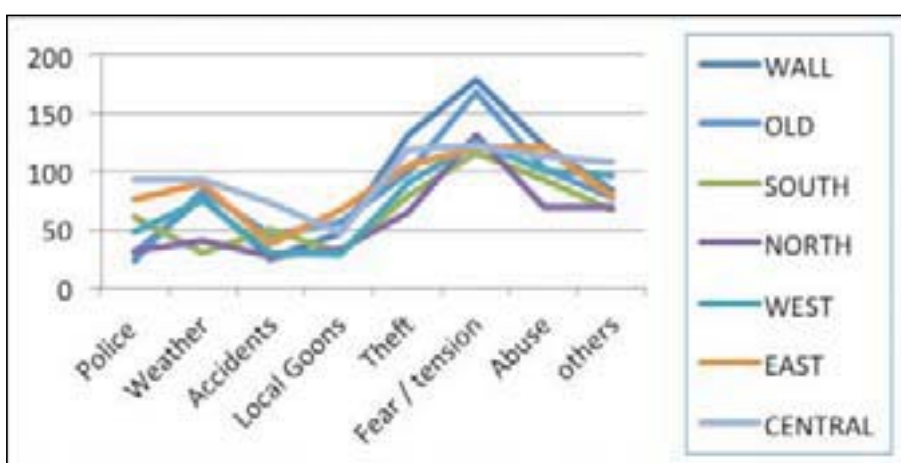
One of the children said that he feels much safer on the streets than in night shelters. *“Bhaiya, Yahan to kewal police se dar lagta hai lekin wahan to na hamara paisa surakshit hai na hi saman. Unka to dimag kab kharab hoga koi nahi janta. Sharab aur nashakhori ka adda hai aur kuch nahi”*. Women prefer night shelters as they face violence and abuse living in the open.

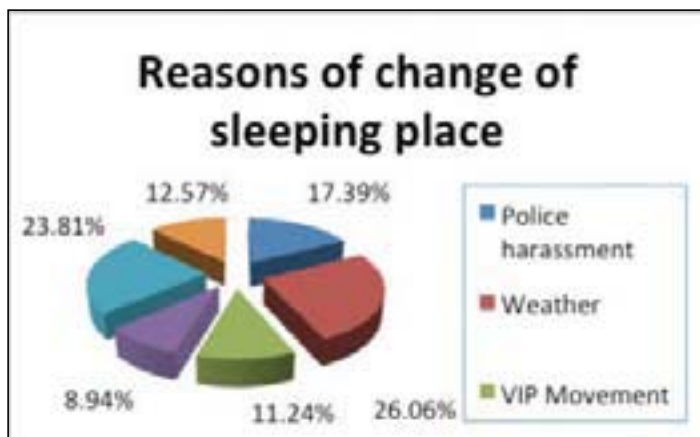
Sleeping preferences are also dictated by the weather. Winters and rains generally discourage these people from sleeping under the open sky. During winters MCD puts tents and night shelters and does not charge a fee; most homeless people prefer to live in tents and shelters during this time .During

the summer they prefer to sleep in the open. In the Walled City and the Old City, there is a tradition of renting quilts and cots from the local owners as shown in the table. A sizeable section prefers to rent quilts and cots for sleeping. This costs Rs. 20 to 40 per day. The sleeping preferences of the homeless are also determined by economic consideration. Quilts and cots are last on the priority list and opted for only when one earns enough. One of the reasons to rent these is the added benefit of protection. The Police take a protection fee (bribe) from the thiyawallas (quilt and cot owners) and in return do not harass their customers.

Place	WALLED			OLD			SOUTH			NORTH			WEST			EAST			CENTRAL			TOTAL		
Sea- sons	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R
Night Shelter	60	0	73	23	0	30	5	0	8	23	0	44	18	0	38	32	0	10	21	0	10	18	0	21
																						2		3
Pave- ments	70	17	78	44	13	37	11	11	11	11	14	97	11	13	92	97	12	11	11	13	12	66	96	65
		9			7		4	9	7	8	1		2	0			9	9	0	1	1	5	6	5
Quilt owner	129	80	10	12	50	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	13	22
			8	0		0																9	0	8
	259			187			119			141			130			129			131			1096		
W = Winters							S= Summer									R=Rains								

The homeless are easy targets for police and other law enforcing agencies. They are vulnerable to frequent abuse and rampant violations. Police high handedness is very common in East and Central Delhi. Accidents, theft, abuse, police and local goons are other fears shared by the respondents. Local goons and mafias (under whose protection is anyone's guess) not only abuse women but they also collect hafta from the pavement dwellers. The homeless people are never free of worry. Not even while sleeping. Fear always looms large; the fear of abuse, of mishaps, the fear of the unknown, there is a lot that robs this tired population of restful sleep.

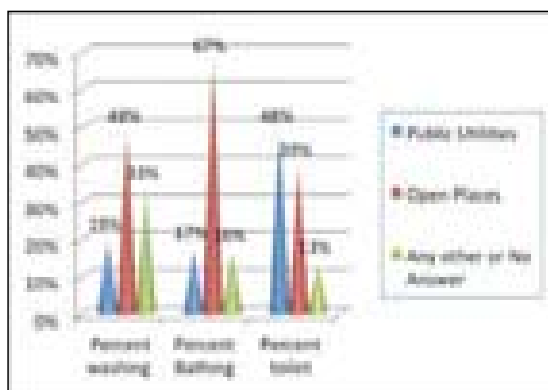
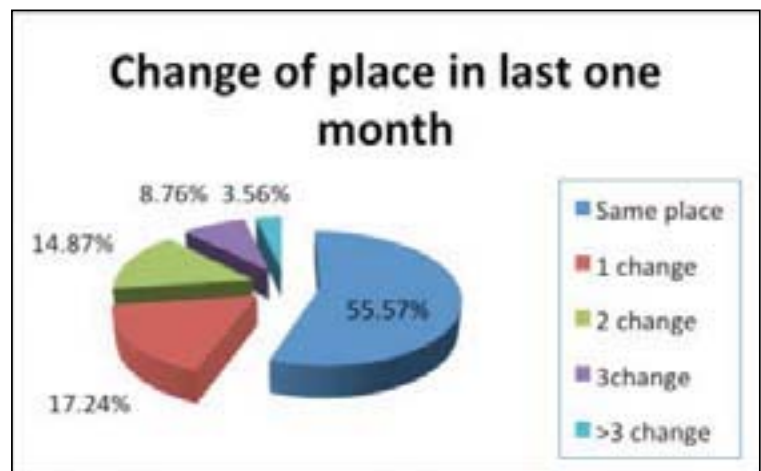




Change of Sleeping Places: It is fear that forces the homeless to change their sleeping place from time to time. 17.39 percent responded that they change their sleeping place due to harassment of police, while a major section blames nature and bad weather instead. Other reasons include the change according to work place, influence of friends, curfew, security of their belongings and easy availability of other needs. While talking to them, it was found that lack of a secure place to keep money and other

belongings is a major problem and they always fear theft. Harassment and abuse by local goons (8.9 percent) and VIP movements (11.24 percent) are the reasons of change of place of sleeping.

However, most people do not want to change their sleeping place if they can help it. In the pie diagram, one can see that most of the homeless prefer to remain at the same place. More than 50 percent said they had not changed their place of living in last one month. Severe adversity and the reasons above discussed are the primary reasons of change of place. Even after being chased by the police or subdued by the weather, the homeless come back to sleep at the original place, after making sure that the dust has settled.

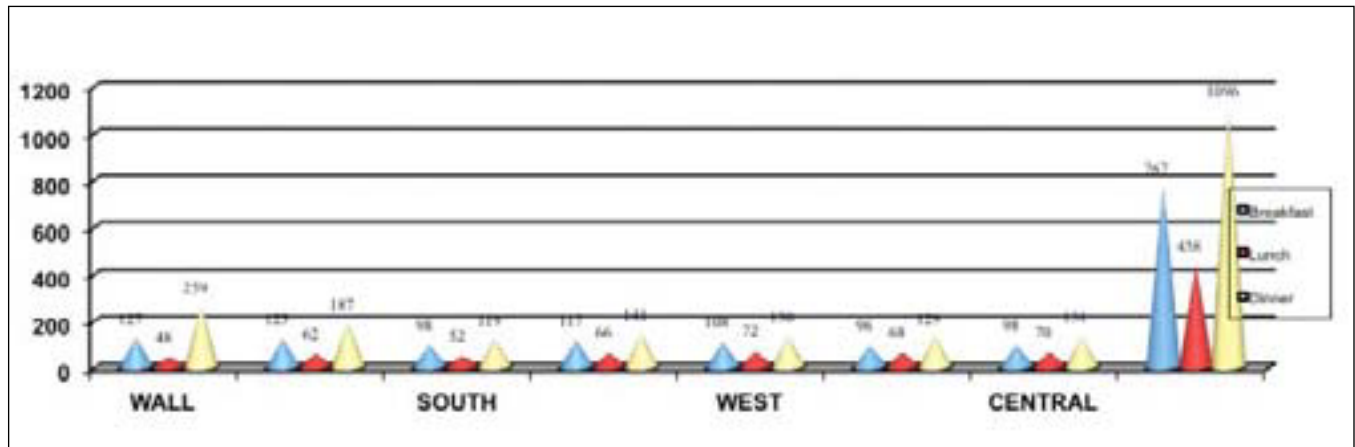


The graph here shows that a large number of people are using the open spaces in comparison to public utilities for washing and bathing. However, in the case of the Walled City and Old Delhi, homeless people mostly use the public utilities like government toilets, Sulabh Shauchalay, toilets at night shelters and also toilets in the markets. Women mostly prefer the public toilets but scarcity of toilets for women force them to opt for the open spaces. This also makes them vulnerable.

Eating Patterns:

The eating pattern of the homeless is dependent on their earning. They prefer saving to spending. When they earn more money they opt for a hearty meal. Generally, they have two meals a day since they work during the daytime and therefore have no time to eat. When they do not make money on

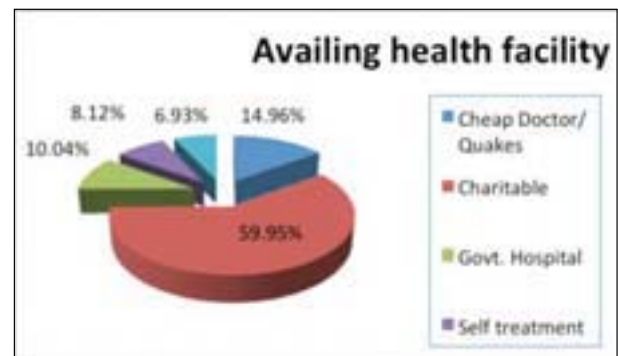
a given day, they skip breakfast the following day and have lunch from the day's earning. Everyone has dinner because end of day is when wages are got. If they fall sick or are not able to earn then they prefer to go to a religious place and get free food.



Health Issues:

People living on streets suffer from various health-related problems including skin diseases like scabies, dermatitis, fungal infections, gastro-intestinal diseases, respiratory diseases, viral infections, and ENT(ears, nose, and throat) problems, etc. (HIGH, 2003). Women and children are more vulnerable. They suffer from gynaecological problems and sexually transmitted infections or STIs.

Children, especially girls become sexually active at a very young age.



They have multiple partners and this makes them vulnerable to STIs and AIDS. Lack of hygiene and poor diet also take a toll.

Most of the homeless people do not seek medical help when faced with a minor disease. The cost of treatment and the lack of cheap and easily available medical facility are the main reasons for this.



Even visits to the government hospitals, involve direct costs (cost of clinical investigations, implants, medicines etc.) as well as indirect costs (loss of a day's wage etc.).

Data show that about 60 percent of homeless people depend upon the medical facilities run by charitable institutions, religious organisations and NGOs.

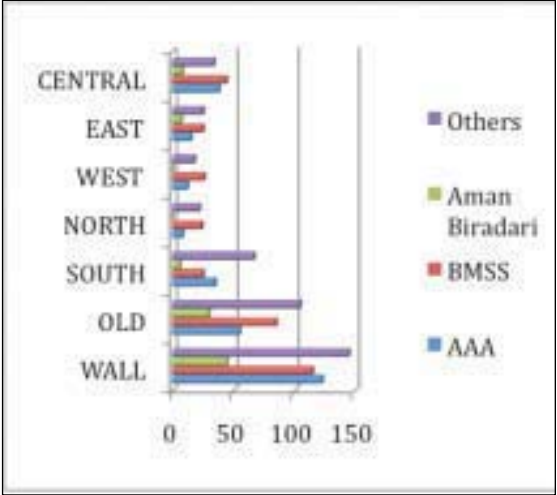
15 percent avail cheap doctors/quacks in the same locality, whereas about 10 percent visit government hospitals.

Mental illness and disabilities of one or multiple types is also prevalent amongst the homeless. Adverse life situations and unhygienic and depressing living conditions make the situation more precarious. Both men and women suffer equally from such health problems.

Drug dependence and substance abuse are also cause for concern. Substance abuse is quite rampant irrespective of gender and age. Even children are vulnerable to substance abuse of one or the other kind. Desi sharab/ pouch (alcohol), ajim (marijuana), and charas (heroin) are the drugs commonly consumed by these people.

Children opt for solution, which is cheap and easily available. Homeless people take drugs in the company of friends and also to escape the hardships of living on the streets. While drugs are consumed orally, intravenous injections are common in Yamuna Bazaar, Lahori Gate, Meena Bazaar and Kamla Market. In these places people are seen taking drugs in groups.

In Khari Baoli , drug dependence was next to nil in the previous survey. Now it is almost rampant. This causes problems for other homeless people in the area.



Awareness of Redressal: The homeless are not only socially marginalised but politically discriminated against. Respondents show less interest in political discussions and even blame political parties for their situation. The population also believes that the NGOs have little idea of the daily trials and tribulations of the homeless. 52.55 percent of the respondents said that they were aware that NGOs were working for them. They knew of Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan and also Beghar Mazdoor Sangharsh Samiti.

Aman Biradari is another name they are familiar with as it helps to get them their ration cards.



The homeless were critical of the working of the NGOs. This study found that NGOs do not have wide geographical spread in terms of their reach to the poor and homeless. Presence of AAA is felt only where they are running night shelters. Similarly Aman Biradari is only known for their initiatives taken for procuring ration cards, while Beghar Mazdoor is only known for their rallies and campaigns. Aman Biradari is not known widely in North and West zones, whereas Beghar Mazdoor is equally present in all the zones.

People in Old Delhi, Central Delhi and Walled City are more aware of the NGO initiatives than the other four zones. They shared their angst at being marginalised even despite contributing to the prosperity of city and business of the state. They wanted a dignified life (21%). The homeless feel that, the NGOs can help create a platform for empowerment and help those living on the fringes with issues such as an identity, regular jobs, shelters, health facilities and protection from police and local goons.

A large section of population (40.05%) is unaware of government initiatives for them. The NGOs can play an important role in generating awareness. Even the IHD study has pointed out that a large section of the homeless are not even aware about the night shelters. Ironically not all NGOs are aware about the schemes, which the government has for the homeless.

Homeless Children:

Though the majority of the homeless population is male, there are a considerable number of homeless women and children living on the streets; they remain invisible because it is the safest way to be. Homelessness of street children is of prime concern as they are the most vulnerable of all the sections.

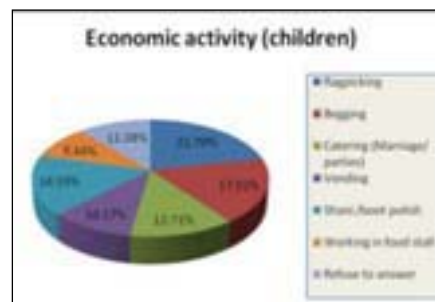
Living on the streets adversely affects the physical and mental growth of a child. An erratic lifestyle, lack of medical care and inadequate living conditions increase young people's susceptibility to chronic illnesses such as respiratory or ear infections, gastrointestinal disorders, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

This study interviewed a total of 219 children. These children were mostly found at New Delhi Railway Station, Meena Bazar, Sadar, Hanuman Mandir, Connaught Place, Nizamuddin, Okhla and Shahdara area. Children from Bihar (17.35%), Jharkhand (10.96%) and Uttar Pradesh (9.59%) form the major section. 39.53 percent did not respond to the question because they did not even know their native place.



- ill treatment by parents (20%)
- step fathers/ mothers, uncaring atmosphere at home (8%)
- adventure and exploration of new places (13%)
- jobs.

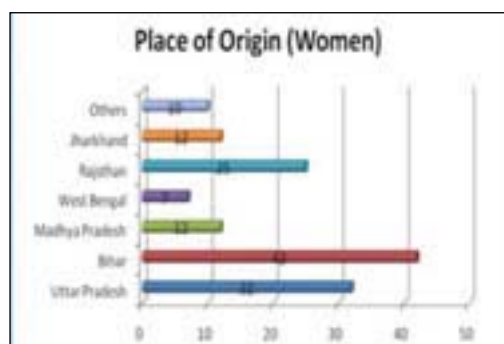
In fact earning is a factor, which motivates many a child to make the journey to Delhi, unaccompanied. A child, aged 15 years old, near Yamuna Bazaar shared that



he left his home to earn something for the family. His parents are living in Purnia (Bihar) which is a flood prone area.

Children on the streets have to fend for themselves. To eat they must work. The nature of economic activities include rag picking (21.79%), begging (17.92%), catering (12.71%) and vending of goods on commission basis (10.71%). 9.44 percent of the respondents said that they work in dhabas and hotels. However, 11.32 percent refused to answer. One thing that is very common with all the homeless is that they all do multiple jobs. This reflects the casual and temporary nature of their work.

It was found during the survey that drug use by children on the streets is very common. So is sexual abuse. Many homeless children are enticed by adults and older youth into selling drugs, stealing, and prostitution.

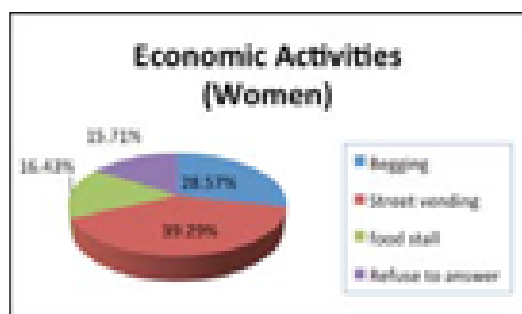
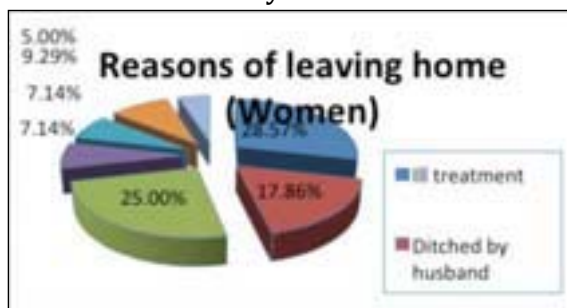


Homeless Women:

Data reveal that women from Bihar (30%), Uttar Pradesh (22.86%) and Rajasthan (17.86%) make up the major segment. In Meena Bazar, Shahadara, Okhla, Seelampur and Rohini women are found with family and sometimes also single.

The most common reasons for homelessness amongst women are:

- abandonment by their husbands
- eviction from their homes after the death of the husband or because of mental illness.



Very few homeless women said that their children are living with their male partners.

The study reveals that 28.57 percent of the women left home due to ill treatment meted out to them at home; 18 percent were deserted by their husbands; 25 percent were forcibly thrown out by their relatives. It is also found that some of the women had mental health issues, which could also be the reason for homelessness.

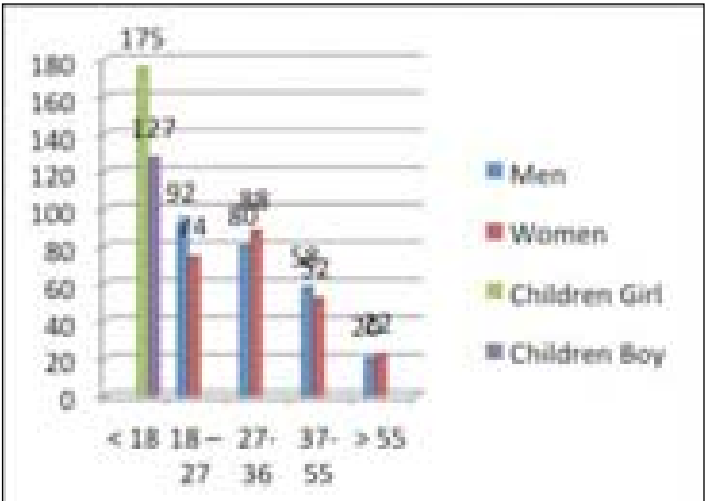
These women are engaged in begging (28.57%), vending vegetables, fruits and toys (39.29%). However, 15.17 percent refused to answer. In contrast to homeless men, the women face more difficulty in getting jobs.

Homeless Families

The presence of homeless families is a new phenomenon in Delhi. In surveys conducted before this one, the presence of homeless families is not mentioned. Neither the survey of AAA in 2000, nor the Census of India shows the presence of homeless families. This clearly indicates that the phenomenon of homeless families is less than 5 years old. During the survey, the homeless families were interviewed but the data here is presented as a whole of Delhi, because in certain zones families could not be interviewed.

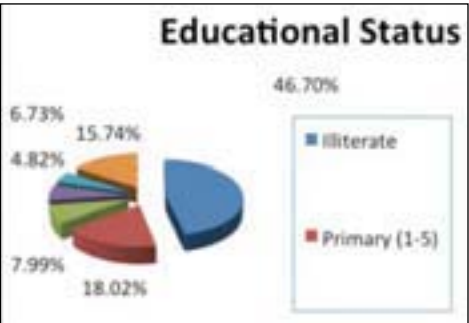


The 150 families interviewed were primarily from the Walled City, West Delhi, East Delhi, though families were seen in all the zones. Among the surveyed families, the majority had between 5-6 members. Small families were a rarity. Also among the surveyed families most were nuclear families and only families having more than 6 members were joint families.

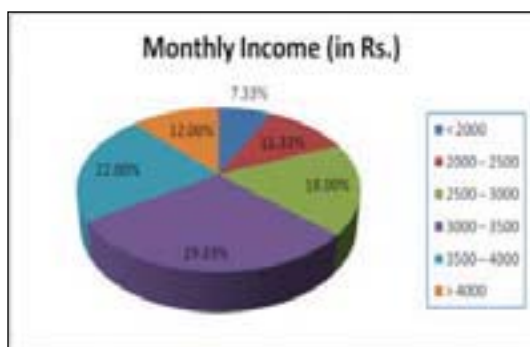


The total number of people from the homeless families totalled 788, out of which 38% were children below the age of 18. Among these children, girls constituted more than 50%. This category is the most vulnerable and parents of these young girls are worried about their safety. The age group of 18-27 is another vulnerable group; it constitutes more than 20% of the total surveyed families. Those in this age group find it difficult get a job and develop bad habits leaving their parents worried. Homeless parents who have daughters are extremely worried about their marriage; staying in a jhuggi gets them matches, staying by the roadside only gets them the tag of being poorest of the poor with nothing to give their daughter as a wedding gift.

Education: In the present scenario the biggest casualty has been the education. Most of the children were going to the school prior to forced eviction/ demolition but now they had to leave the school either because the parents cannot afford it or they are not certain about the place where they will go to stay. There is fear among the parents that they might be chased away any time, thus they don't send their children to school.

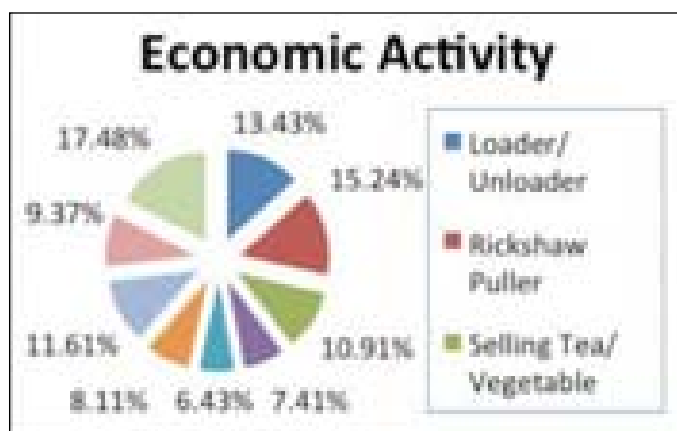


The variation among the literacy level is very high. The study found that, while more than 40%



are illiterate, about 5% have studied beyond class 12 also. About 15% are not eligible for school, as they have not yet attained the school going age. At present however all the children have dropped out of school and the future of the underage children appears bleak. Many of the children as well as their parents are interested in sending their children to school. The education level of evicted families is a bit higher in contrast to other homeless.

If we see the monthly income, we find that more than 50% are earning between Rs. 3000 -4000. These are families where everybody is working. The male members find it difficult to get jobs and have therefore been forced to become daily wagers. Before this most of them had regular jobs either in the shops or in the informal factories. The families where just one member works and that too when work is available, fall in the lower income bracket.



Some men of the families ply cycle rickshaws and carry loads (28%); the larger number go to labour markets and take up whatever comes their way. Their earnings have also dwindled because of this. Women work mostly as housemaids, but their percentage has come down to just 11%. The transition from jhuggis to the streets however has cost many their jobs. Now they sell utensils or set up tea or vegetable stalls on the roadsides. Even the children have started supporting the parents. Small children go for begging or for rag picking whereas the older ones go for thela pushing and helping father in their work.

Summary of the Findings

1. Most of the homeless prefer to sleep in night shelters as living on pavements multiplies their vulnerability many folds.
2. They don't use night shelters as the conditions in night shelters are not good and there is a fear of beating and theft.
3. Eviction from one place to another and police harassment are major threats. Nature also creates problems during rainy and winter season.
4. Though men form the major section of homeless population, women and children are also seen living/ sleeping under the sky on the streets.
5. Unemployment and poverty are the major push factors as people migrate to Delhi.
6. More than 50 percent of the population is below 50 years and hence falls in the working category. Most however are unskilled and can do only manual work. Children made up 20 percent of the respondents.

7. Hindus and Muslims comprised major sections (about 80%).
8. The homeless are mostly illiterate; at the same time 7 percent are graduates.
9. The homeless generally do not want to change their sleeping place and do so only under duress (police harassment, bad weather). They come back as soon as the adverse circumstances are removed. When something happens or police force them to evict, they temporarily move to another place but after a few hours, even days they return to the same place.
10. More than 70 percent of the homeless are Dalits, among them OBC and SC constitute about 30 percent each.
11. Rickshaw pullers and casual workers like loaders/unloaders make up the largest numbers.
12. Children are mostly engaged in rag picking, begging and also vending. It was found that most of the homeless do multiple jobs and that depends on the seasonality of work.
13. Catering is another work, which is most in demand during marriage and other such times. They earn comparatively more working there.
14. Health is a grim area as the majority of the homeless population does not consult with doctors unless as a last resort. They usually prefer charitable organisations and religious centres for treatment.
15. Use of drugs and other psychoactive substance is rampant among all the age groups and sexes. Children too are using drugs very frequently.
16. Though aware about very few organisations (only 3) working for the homeless, they also have critical remarks on their working style.
17. They are not aware about the government initiatives and feel that political parties use them.
18. Most of them wanted to have an identity and life of dignity. They shared their agony of being marginalised and discriminated.
19. One of the most striking and concerning aspects of homelessness is that of the homeless families and these are also the result of state policy of slum demolition and eviction.

Family Situation

1. Homelessness
2. Children have dropped out of school
3. Police beats them and takes bribe
4. Local goons create trouble and tease the women
5. They tear the plastic sheets under which the homeless live and take away the goods
6. Many have lost their regular jobs and are doing odd jobs
7. They live in constant fear
8. They have lost many household items
9. They have lost the dignity of a roof over their head
10. There is no safety or security for their families
11. No health care facilities for the homeless people

Women's Situation

1. Desertion, eviction from their homes following widowhood and being abandoned due to mental 'illness' are the major causes of their homelessness.
2. Begging and vending are their prime source of earning.
3. Sexually assaulted and abused.
4. Mental health is often a concern.
5. No specific shelters for homeless women.
6. Toilet and bathing facilities are very few and inadequate.
7. When with family, safety of young girls is a major concern.
8. Women use drugs and other psychoactive substances.

Condition of Children

1. Living on the streets has a very detrimental effect on the child.
2. Children are abused both physically and sexually.
3. Rag picking and begging are the most common source of earning.
4. Literacy among the children is very low.
5. Drug abuse is rampant among the children
6. Most have run away from home either due to ill treatment or atrocities by family members or lured by the charm of new places.
7. Equally motivated by job and employment and earning money for family at home.
8. No adequate safety for them. Most vulnerable in terms of sexual abuse.
9. Many refused to answer about their native place

VII. Initiatives

The issue of homelessness is neither new nor novel for either the government or the voluntary sector. Bharat Sevak Samaj took up this cause, way back in the 60s, with the government and involved the Prime Minister through initiatives like the Prabhat Pheris. They demanded the construction of night shelters on the lines of those made for the Bombay Dock Yard workers.

Consequently, a provision was made in the third five-year plan and the first Night Shelter was constructed in Delhi in the year 1964. In next 33 years, however, only 18 other shelters were constructed in Delhi. Till the eighties, the Government of Delhi used to put up tents during the winters as temporary shelter but that was discontinued in the 90s. No other initiative like health facility, food, ration card, identity card, etc. was provided to homeless citizens by any agency.

With time, Bharat Sevak Samaj too put the issue on the backburner and it soon became a redundant one with no research or new work being done. Homeless people went back to being the faceless entity they had been before. On 19.11.1999 following a meeting with the Planning Commission on this issue, ActionAid started a project called Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan (AAA), a shelter rights campaign for the homeless.

AAA started functioning from March 2000, and as the first step, a head count of the homeless was done, even though the Census of India does it every time on the last night of Census enumeration. The head count was done with the support of volunteers from different organisations. In the same year it started an Open Health Clinic at Jama Masjid with the support of four other organisations; open counseling of drug dependents was also started. While working on this program, the AAA team realised that most of the difficulties faced by the homeless were during nights. Thus, AAA started a program called NightOuts (10 pm – 5 am: every Tuesdays & Fridays) in which team members of AAA used to patrol the areas in which the homeless were concentrated during the night from December 2000.

During the first three years, AAA became a platform that allowed interested NGOs to converge and take up the issue of homelessness. AAA forged partnership with more than 70 organisations working on different issues. AAA also built active linkages with religious groups and government. It touched all the religions and got support from each one of them. Christian groups opened two schools to function as night shelters for the homeless. Sikh Gurdwaras provided food and opened their schools as night shelters. Similarly, Hindu and Muslim religious heads offered food, shelter and other facilities for the homeless.

During the 2002-2003 winters, the issue of shelter rights for the homeless became a movement where even the civil society groups and institutions like Market Welfare Associations, Resident Welfare Associations, Colleges joined in providing medicines, blankets, food, etc. to the homeless and their attitude towards them also changed. Media played its part in raising this issue in both the electronic as well as print space, by doing stories and interviews.

The Government too responded positively and in 2002 a Joint Apex Committee (JAC) for the Homeless and Street Children was constituted in the Slum Wing, MCD, headed by the Additional Commissioner and with members from the MCD slum wing, Delhi Police and AAA.

Later more NGOs were incorporated as its member; the Delhi Government too recognized AAA and a representative from the government also became its member. Through a communiqué from Chief Minister's Office, this Committee was given the responsibility as well as the authority to work for the betterment of the homeless people and street children. In the first year of its existence the JAC was able to get 5 community centres converted into Night Shelters and 25 tents pitched as temporary Night Shelters.

All Night Shelters were being managed by the NGOs. The Civil Society and the government donated the blankets. Mobile Health Service of the Delhi Government was also pressed into action and soon they were touching all the concentration points of homeless. The government also provided medicines to the NGOs who were running the health service for the homeless. This initiative continues to run well.

After 2003, AAA started managing 12 permanent shelters. In the next one year, the number of shelters increased, as did the number of buildings opened up and tents provided. The number of regular night shelters also increased and one shelter for women and a few for children exclusively were also started. In 2003-2004, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation formulated a scheme for the construction of night shelters. In 2007, the government started Aap ki Rasoi, an initiative for providing one meal a day to homeless people.

However, the journey was not always smooth and fraught with many setbacks. Initially AAA tried to stop the closure of the shelter at Jama Masjid and also the conversion of the Fatehpuri Shelter into a jail, but it did not succeed at Jama Masjid even after doing a protest march and dharna at the Slum Wing office. But the Fatehpuri Shelter was opened for the homeless once again. It even filed a PIL to which the government responded positively. But, despite all this, the Shelter started for women in R.K. Ashram Marg in 2004 was taken back by the NDMC despite a protest, meetings with all the top functionaries of Government and petitions sent to the P.M., Home Minister, Chairperson of UPA and the CM.

Then, the other shelter started for women at Yamuna Bazaar, which closed in mid 2007 was also taken back because the land belonged to a different department and they needed it for some purpose. While some amount of sensitisation has occurred, homelessness is still a crime; the Police or Department of Social Welfare can arrest these people on their whim, under a range of Acts. They are still considered Kangala and thieves.

AAA has brought the homeless together by making Self Help Groups; the formation of Beghar Mazdoor Sangarsh Samiti, in 2006, was a result of this. This group has been active in empowering the homeless and providing them with a voice. Aman Biradari, another organisation has started

working with the homeless people recently. They work actively to provide ration cards to the homeless. Apart from these organisations, there are many organisations that have taken up the issue of homelessness either as a whole or of one segment e.g., children, women, rickshaw pullers, etc. Amongst organisations that are working for homeless children, Sahara and Sharan have started working for drug dependents; IHBAS and St. Stephen's hospital are working on health issues. Delhi House's Sewa Ashram takes care of the destitute homeless citizens from its premises in Narela. However many of these organisations have become inactive of late. There are charity organisations that are involved in provision of food and blankets to the homeless.

Through its efforts, AAA has created a space for the homeless among the NGOs and also in the Shelter Rights Movement. It has managed to put this issue in the right perspective and present it as it really is: the rotting face of development, which needs to be addressed urgently. Many other organisations have started working with the homeless people especially in the area of food and medicines. But as it happens with great movements, at present the movement started by AAA on homelessness is also going through a quiet period, but NGOs are getting restless and ready to take up the issue and bring it to the fore.

VIII. Analysis

This chapter tries to find out the relation and status of homeless people in Delhi. It highlights the situation of the homeless in relation to society and government by assimilating the findings.

Social Inclusion versus Exclusion

The homeless population is primarily characterised by individuals. If homeless families exist it is primarily because they have been evicted from their slums and not rehabilitated. Generally, the homeless people have low literacy rates; the IHD study has said it has ¼ of Delhi's literacy rate, which shows that most of them are illiterate. Scheduled castes and OBCs are the dominant caste among the homeless population. That the state does not recognise them is evident from the fact that these individuals have no identity proof. Consequently, they do not feature on the voter's list and cannot avail any of the government schemes meant for urban poor. This makes them illegal in the eyes of

Naushad, 27 year old, hails from Bihar. Five years ago his left cheek was scarred by a blade, in the course of a fight. The scar changed his life forever, firmly placing him in the category of a miscreant. Whenever even a trivial incident occurs in the Jama Masjid area, the police round him up as a suspect. Nobody gives him a job.

He wanted to remove that mark (*Saheb, mujhe kuch nahi lena hai.... bus is daag ko hata do. Main kuch nahi kar sakta hun. Koi nukri nahi deta hai .aur police aye din pakar leti hai...isse kaise bhi nikalwa do sahib...*) as this scar mark only made his life miserable and vulnerable.

the police and other authorities and makes them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. They are the most common targets for Department of Social Welfare's raids for beggars. They go to government hospitals but cannot access most of the facilities because they have no address proof. Treatment for diseases like T.B requires residence proof.

The homeless provide invaluable services to the people of Delhi, yet they are considered as outsiders. There is no concept of social well being for the homeless. They have no friends and local people of the area where they work and sleep, consider them as outcasts.

They are referred to in derogatory terms such as Kangala, Nashebaaz, Chor, Pocketmar, etc. Local people despise them and resent their sleeping on the pavements at night, yet during daytime they are more than happy to use their services. Whenever there is a red alert or any VIP travels through the area, they are removed by the police and local chowkidars. There have been cases where the police have picked up homeless people just because they were not able to produce any documents. The homeless have an existence devoid of dignity. Despite working hard they are excluded from the social fabric of the city. In the survey it became clear that all that the homeless want is a life of dignity, and a restful uninterrupted night's sleep. Their aspirations are not high and yet it appears that they are doomed to a life where even expecting a roof, the most basic of human rights, is a dream too distant.

In some ways the street is also a great equaliser: a street dweller irrespective of caste, creed, religion or education is considered to be the scum of society. This forges bonds at the most basic level: that of humanity. Street people celebrate all festivals, with equal joy; they do not fight on the basis of religion, they co-exist in the same space irrespective of caste and creed.

Yet there are places where social inclusion and its happy consequences are apparent. The homeless

people are treated inclusively in places like the Bhagirath Place, Cotton Market, Guru Nanak Market and Kashmere Gate. Here where they live without fear and with dignity. They are well protected from outside miscreants and this fact results in the harmonious relation among the homeless people and the market associations. They work freely and have a sanguine approach to life. The incidence of alcohol and substance abuse is not seen and they cook food. They have a social life beyond their working life.

The efforts of the NGOs and government have been piecemeal; only after AAA came into being did some serious thought go into the inclusion of the homeless in the main social strata of the society. But that inclusion as clear from the survey was more out of sympathy rather than a belief in empowerment. All the initiatives were directed towards providing them relief from the painful existence. However, what the homeless want is not sympathy but a real chance at life. It appears that Beghar Mazdoor Sangarsh Samiti despite doing no charitable work has got greater acceptance amongst the homeless than those involved in philanthropy. During the survey almost in all the zones, members of Beghar Mazdoor Sangarsh Samiti were found even in areas where other organisations had little reach and were seen relating with one problem or issue.

Economic Marginality versus Integration

The homeless people are migrants who come to Delhi leaving behind ancestral homes and families due to economic constraints. The land holdings of their families usually shrink over the years and soon become incapable of providing sustained livelihood.

Most individuals who migrate do so with their family's consent. Only a small number, comprising largely of drug-dependents and children, are runaways. What is common across categories is the reason for migrating: they are pushed out of their villages by circumstances. It is this push, which leads to migration and not really the pull of a big city.

Most of the homeless are illiterate thus they all are working as unskilled labour. More than 65% are saving and remitting it back to their families; this indicates that migrants come here to earn enough to support their families back home. During group discussions with the homeless across the city, it emerged that these people have a range of work-related problems back home. Those who have land, have to put up with natural calamities and uncertain yield, those who do not own land do not have a regular source of income, many cannot access equal opportunities because of their caste; Delhi for all its negatives at least offers a chance to earn.

Majority of them ply rickshaws; construction work and pulling handcarts are the other common avenues of earning. Then there are casual workers who have no preference; they simply go out every morning and do whatever comes their way. The nature of work is common: it is defined by physical strength and not by education or mental acumen.

Homeless are found in large numbers in the vicinity of the wholesale markets. They are involved in loading and transporting goods. These people actually subsidise the transportation cost for buyers.

After buyers buy their goods, it is these people working as coolies or porters who carry the goods to the waiting vehicles. In absence of these workers, the work in these markets comes to standstill. This became evident during a strike ten years ago; the loaders, unloaders and the coolies in the Khari Baoli and wholesale market stiffened their backs and as a result the entire market was closed and no business took place for the entire period of the strike. Whether it is Azadpur in the North or Okhla Mandi in South, homeless workers are indispensable to trade and commerce in the city.

The construction and catering workers are equally in demand. During the appropriate season, the non-availability of these workers can hamper business. The catering houses, howsoever big they are, depend on homeless people for menial jobs. The demand for such workers increases so much that the caterers have to pay double or triple the wage to get the workers. But all these activities are seasonal.

For the rest of the year most of the homeless people are exploited. During the harvest and sowing season many of the homeless people who have land go back to their native places while some migrate to Western U.P. and Punjab as there is a demand for farm hands there.

As we have seen in the earning section and also in relation with other studies, the average earning of the maximum number of homeless is in the range of Rs. 51-Rs. 100 per day. This is much lower than the minimum wages fixed by the Delhi Government for unskilled workers. Even the skilled workers like carpenters, Raj mistries, etc. don't earn the equivalent of daily minimum wages.

Low wages are not the only form of exploitation; these people are mentally and emotionally exploited as well. Despite working for long periods at a shop or a warehouse, they are not allowed to sleep within the premises. In the event of a theft, they are the usual suspects and just about everyone is abusive and disrespectful.

Another issue that these people face is safekeeping of their money and their meagre worldly possessions. They earn in cash and need to keep it safely till there is enough to take back home during the festivals. Most bank their savings with the shopkeepers they know; others prefer to keep it with people who they know or those who employ them regularly. Many a times their trust is unfounded and their money usurped. In such cases, they have no recourse, as the Police do not entertain them. They have no other place where they can lodge a complaint against such people.

Thanks to extreme hard labour coupled with poor nutrition and lack of rest, the homeless workers age really fast. By 40-45 most people find it difficult to work anymore. At this point a homeless person has two choices: to return home with savings, if any, and start life anew or, take to begging and ragpicking.

On the streets it is pretty much each man for himself and best for his family.

There is no union of homeless people; they are not linked to any political party or to any organisation. Political parties are not interested in them because none of the homeless have residence proof so

they do not belong to any constituency. Being vote-less, they are powerless. Their issues are never taken up and they do not have access to government schemes; tehbazari rights, insurance coverage for the poor, and other benefits under the Workman's Act does not accrue to them.

The homeless people are ignorant of their rights and this ignorance works to the advantage of the business class. For example, the workers themselves pay for all the medical expenses for any mishap that occurs during work. In fact it serves both the government and the business community in the city to use the homeless and not recognise them. These are people whose labour move goods, build skyscrapers, and raise houses. Yet, they do not have even a roof over their head. They are shamelessly used to build the economy but never mainstreamed into it because that would involve a cost and costs always bring down profits.

The number of homeless people in the city in the last ten years has increased to almost double yet all the people are working. This clearly shows that Delhi has a great need for physical labour and therefore these people. Otherwise given the rise in in-migration, there should have been a rise in unemployment consequently leading to an increase in the numbers of beggars and rag pickers. This has not happened so far. The number of rag pickers and beggars is approximately 11.5% of total respondents; they are predominantly women and children. Even the claim of the police that most of the homeless adults are involved in criminal activities is up for question, as neither the police nor any agency has data that show many homeless people have committed the crime. In fact there are gangs in Turkman Gate, Nizamuddin, Matia Mahal who rob the homeless people when they sleep in the areas.

Another interesting fact came up during the survey. The team found a number of people sitting on the mats of Homeless people and drinking. Thinking they were respondents, the team went to interview them only to realise that these were locals who were just using the space to drink. Thus homeless people are very often the victims of perception.

What is worst is that no one bothers to ferret out the truth; no one is interested.

Status of Women

The survey found that women formed 4.7% and children 8.7% of the total number of homeless counted. The number may be more because many sleep with their faces covered making it difficult for the enumerators to categorise them correctly.

The youngest child interviewed was of 5 years old; his father was in jail and his mother had left him. He was staying with a group of other children on Bhim Shah Marg. His case is a common one. Children land up on the street due to circumstances beyond their control. It is the same with the women.

Sairya, 42 years old, lives in Meena Bazar area with her family. Her husband is a rickshaw puller while she and all her daughters are rag pickers in the Jama Masjid area.

The girls are 17, 13 and 10 years old and this is another worry of Saira apart from being homeless. She told that they never sleep at night. Local goons from the nearby Matia Mahal area always come to that place.

They molest the women and girls who are sleeping there. Generally they use blade/razors and threaten the girls and family and further abuse them. Many a times they even raped the girls. She is insecure about her daughters.

Ill-treatment by family members, and consequent fear, desertion, husbands or fathers remarrying: all contribute to the voluntary or forced migration of women and children.

Among homeless women there are two categories of women: one that stays with family and the other that is completely homeless without family. The homeless women amongst them are more vulnerable. Most of the women are migrants, the maximum being from Bihar followed by U.P.

Most of them have come in the hope of earning a livelihood. The difference here is that most homeless women are not in touch with their families and have also tried having a family on the street but have been cheated.

They don't get proper jobs, and many people sexually exploit them with promises of jobs. They are termed as commercial sex workers and abhorred by the locals. Even the homeless men exploit these women. There have been innumerable cases but hardly any gets reported. The Police harass them repeatedly and the Department of Social Welfare arrests them as beggars.

The homeless women are supposed to be dealt by women constables, but more often than not men constables handle them.

These women have no access to any government schemes. There are no women-specific shelters for the homeless women provided in Delhi either by the government or by the NGOs. AAA had started the shelter for women but it was closed and now there are no shelters for women.

Most of the women are involved in roadside vending selling eggs, flowers or any small items. The local bodies and the police harass them snatching their goods and displacing them at will. Many women then have no option, expect to take to, begging. Most of them beg at the religious places and sleep there, as they feel more secure.

Women sleep more in obscure places, which are hidden from the public view. There is hardly any change in their sleeping places. They don't change their sleeping place, as they feel safer in the known surroundings rather than going to an unknown place. They are very cautious, as they have been duped time and again so they don't trust people easily. They are totally excluded from the society, which also leads to mental trauma. They don't get jobs as housemaids, or in shops. It was also observed that because of the hardships, the aging of the homeless women starts early and by the age of 35 they start looking very old. Their lifestyle affects their mental status also and they become abusive and quarrelsome. Another reason for such behaviour is also to fend off the unwanted elements and acts as a safety mechanism for them. But this leads to problems with the law enforcing agencies and even NGOs are not able to integrate them with the society.

Status of Children

The condition of the children is better than that of the women and adults. Various organisations work for them and there are homes for them that are being run by both NGOs and the government. Street

activities are organised for children, there are contact points where these children can drop in for nutrition and education both formal as well as informal; yet despite these efforts, the survey counted 7683 children all across Delhi who sleep in the open.

Most of the children are engaged in more than one kind of work. They pick rag during morning and beg at night. Even for the children, it has become difficult to get work since the Child Labour Act has been enforced. Some children said that because of this, the shopkeepers who used to give them jobs have stopped doing it; when children beg for work, a few people do employ them but at exploitative wages. So, many children have shifted to picking rags and begging. Hanuman Mandir at Connaught Place is a popular place especially on

Interaction with Deepak, a child at Hanuman Mandir

During the survey this team met Deepak whom the members had also met during the survey carried out in 2000 by AAA. He recognized us and asked us what we were engaged in. When we told him he asked "will you all be coming again?" We asked him "do you want us to come" he said "yes".

We were a little surprised then we asked "why? we never gave you anything." He said "Bhaiyya Ji what you give us is what we don't get. In the temple we get enough food and money, even the shopkeepers give us all that but what you all gave us was unmatched." We were surprised because we never gave anything material. On again being asked he said "Bhaiyya ji you all treated us with love, you treated us as a human being. People give us money, food etc but they also abuse us, give dirty glare, want to maintain a distance if any one of us touches them. We are beaten but you all never differentiate and give us love and respect".

complex for the homeless). The Police beat them up, adults sexually and economically exploit them; in some cases children are used for illegal activities. They are constantly abused and beaten. There is very little in their childhood that is fit for a child.

This kind of stressful existence drives many toward taking drugs. It became apparent during the survey that most of the children interviewed had inhaled either Erazex fluid or petrol. In Central district and South Delhi, Erazex is more common where as in the Walled City and East Delhi sniffing of Petrol is more rampant. Some of the children above the age of 15-16 were also seen involved with drugs in Yamuna Bazaar.

The condition of homeless children is worse than the children who are staying with the families. The children with families are more literate and till the time their family did not come on the street most of them were studying; some children still go to school. The incidence of drugs is very less among the children in the family, and they have adult supervision but among the homeless children there is

I want to be Hitler

This is case study of a child in Jama Masjid who wants to become a Hitler. On being questioned why he said, "so that I can shoot all the Policemen". On further prodding, he told his story:

One day I was sitting in the Park. Some policeman came and started beating all the people. Everybody started running but I was caught by them. I found out that they were looking for some pickpocket who had stolen the purse of some important person. They took me to the police station and wanted me to accept that I am a pickpocket but when I refused the policeman started beating me with belts and boots. They beat me blue and black and when I became unconscious they threw me in the park. Now I want to grow up and become Hitler, so that I can shoot the entire police force.

As told to Sh. Indu Prakash Singh, then Thematic Leader, Urban Poverty/ Homelessness/ Informal labour, ActionAid India.

Saturdays when devotees come to placate Shani by making offerings. They are usually more generous with their alms on this day and the children pocket a good amount.

During the interviews it also emerged that many children were involved in stealing or snatching money from younger children; some children said that they had to give protection money to older children.

The homeless children are the most vulnerable. Ironically, despite efforts by the government, it is still the government agencies that these children fear the most. They are afraid of the Department of Social Welfare Van, which picks up the children and puts them in the Seva Kutir (the jail

no one to guide them and they have to face all the hardships themselves, which leads them to a life of seclusion.

Families on the Street

“Families on the streets” in Delhi is a new phenomenon. One of the main distinctive characteristics of the homeless in Delhi was that they were individuals as was also mentioned in the earlier AAA report. But, during this survey approximately 2000 families were found in the Delhi. Some of them claimed to be on the streets for more than 4-5 years. Initially, the families were nomads or workers engaged with some project. They would finish the work and go off with their earnings. But during this survey, families residing permanently on the streets were found. These families, in Delhi for 10-15 years, are now on the streets because their Jhuggis have been demolished by the government.

Their situation is pathetic; many have lost both their livelihood and belongings. They stay by putting plastic sheets over their tents to prevent it from getting wet. Many a times, the goons or the police take away these sheets. In areas like Nehru Place, Pusa Road, Modi Flour Mill Flyover Okhla, Shahdara, families are staying in a cluster but the families found in the Walled city, Old Delhi, Karol Bagh has split and stay as one unit only.

The economic status of the families has been badly affected. When they were staying in the Jhuggi their earnings were fixed but now it has become uncertain and most of them have become daily wage earners. Males of the family are plying rickshaws, working as loader/ unloaders, thela pullers and thela pushers whereas women have resorted to selling vegetables, tea and putting roadside shops. Very few women still work as housemaids, a profession most were engaged in before demolition.

Ramesh has been staying under the Okhla flyover for more than 4 years. He has come from Rajasthan. His jhuggi was demolished and he along with others has settled here in the open. The police trouble them everyday.

Ramesh says, “Our house was demolished but nothing was given in return, and now when we try to stay here that is also not allowed and we are beaten and chased”. He further adds “we work as daily wagers but even then the police arrest us and sent us to beggars jail. The women are sent to Nari Niketan, our children cannot study, I have adult daughters who will marry them”. Whenever they give their forms for identity card that is also not given and names have been stuck off from the voters list. Before he was working in a factory but now he has lost the job because he was sent to a beggar’s jail Since then the owner does not want to keep him. Now, he is forced to do daily wage work, which is not guaranteed.

35 year old Kalicharan is a Hindu Jatav.

He hails from Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. He came to Delhi 25 years ago when he was only 10 years old. For a few days he slept on the platform of New Delhi Railway station. Later he moved to Seelampur with a person from his own village and secured a *Jhuggi* on rent. 10 Years back the Delhi Government demolished the slums of Seelampur and he was forced to leave the Jhuggi and once again he found himself on streets.

People evicted from the Seelampur *Jhuggi* moved to Sahadara Railway station. He too came there with his three kids and wife. Since then the family is managing to live under open sky adjacent to the railway track.

When asked, Kalicharan shared that he polishes shoes on the railway station. But on Tuesday and Saturday he usually begs at the nearby Hanuman Mandir. His children also are engaged in begging.

He shared his agony that it is the police who always harass him. They frequently visit in the name of eviction from Railway land and beat them. Local goons also threaten them. Many a times they molested the women.

Paani ke liye local marten hai..aurton ki kya kahen.. baccho ko bhi nahi chhodte hai. Hamari bahen betia aye din yahaan looti jati hai. Man to karta hai ki patri keniche mar jaayen. Hum patri ke log jab local se itni dartenhain to police ki mat poochho.

Now to supplement the income even children have started supporting their parents and many of them go for begging or rag picking. Their incomes have dwindled; their household items have been lost or stolen. They had come here to earn money but now they are left to begging.

Their social life has been shattered. They are not able to go back to their villages as there are no options left for them in their native place. Some of the people said that even their social status has come down, previously the people with whom they use to meet and sit have started

avoiding them. Some people are worried about the marriage of their children; children of homeless families find few takers in the wedding market. These people had come to Delhi in search of a better life and now find that they have cut themselves a terrible deal. They claim that politicians used to visit them when they stayed in jhuggis but with the huts gone, so have these politicians. No voting power, it appears, translates into no voice. They cannot speak up anywhere. Wherever they have raised their voice it has been shut down with power.

Women face the brunt of this situation. They have no privacy, are accorded no respect, live in the most unsanitary of conditions and have to put up with brazen behaviour from every person. There have been innumerable number of incidents where their girls have been sexually exploited or lifted by the powerful people of the area and when they went to lodge complaints the homeless people were told to keep out, otherwise they would be put behind bars for doing wrong activities.

Homeless boys develop vices at a young age. They start taking drugs and alcohol and often stray beyond the control of their parents. Families have to sleep in close proximity to each other. Sometimes it is difficult to figure out which member belongs to which family.

Attitude towards Shelters

The government agencies claim that homeless people earn enough to take up a shelter but they don't want it. . The issues involved however are too complex and any one stand runs the risk of being too simplistic.

There are certain truths one must acknowledge before sitting on judgement: no one, but no one would willingly want the life of a homeless in Delhi. No one migrates to Delhi thinking of the pavements as their home and dogs as their sleeping companions; they come seeking to redress their life full of deprivation and poverty. If they are on the streets it is not out of choice. Everyone wants to be in a sky rise not under the open sky. The government also needs to acknowledge that it has played a hand in making quite a few people homeless, how then can these people be expected to put their faith and money in government shelters?

Homelessness is a state that begins when a migrant first sets foot on the soil of a strange and unfriendly city. They come without knowing too many people and spend the first few nights on the railway platform or in a bus station. While in search of work they go to labour markets and then follow the other workers who sleep on pavements or in night shelters. Rentals are very high for these impoverished migrants; when they join work it is some time before the owner allows them to sleep on the premises. Also if they lose their job or the place shuts down, they have no option but to return to the street.

The survey does reveal that the migrants do not want to spend money on accommodation in Delhi as they want to go back and settle in their native place. So, most of them try to save as much as possible to carry back home. There is also a section that has run away from home or been thrown out; these people have no access to any kind of housing thus they stay on the pavements for the lack of an alternative.

While conducting the survey at Bhim Shah Marg we met Raju, a boy aged five. He said that his father was in jail for murder and one day he had woken up to find that his mother had gone away. He had walked out of his house, as there was no one to look after him and after some time had come across children sleeping on the pavement. As he was tired he also went off to sleep there. Next day, the boys took him to the nearby Gurdwara where they worked at managing the footwear that the devotees left behind before entering the premises and also cleaning the Gurdwara. He also started doing it, now he stays on the pavement and works and eats in Gurdwara. On being asked why he does not sleep at the Gurdwara, he said that they are not allowed so all the children sleep with an old man on the divider. There are 7 children in a group and the eldest is 10 years.

Proximity to work place or Labour Chowk is another factor, which contributes to homelessness. Their work usually requires them to either start early or work late, sometimes both. Finding a dwelling place near to their place of work therefore becomes crucial. Rentals near place of work being very high, they have little option but to adopt the pavement as home.

Their choice of shelter depends upon the nature of work. Thus in some areas the homeless were found to have gone to sleep by 8 p.m. and in some areas people were found

working till 3 a.m. in the morning. The areas where the homeless are engaged as casual workers are the places where one would find them asleep by 8 pm. Near wholesale markets, where they are employed as loaders and unloaders, one can find them toiling late into the night and even early in the morning.

After the demolitions of the jhuggis there are people from Delhi who have been given land in far off places (40-50 kms away from their place of work) like Bawana, Bhalswa, etc. where the transport facilities are not good. These people too sleep on pavements and go home once a week when the market is closed. This is because most continue to work where they were working before the demolition.

Most of the homeless would prefer accommodation within 10-15 minutes of distance from their work place or area.

Another factor, which prevents migrants from accessing proper residential facilities, is the fact that they have no identity papers. So even if they want to take a house on rent along with some co-workers they cannot get it. Thus they face all the hardships of staying on the pavements. Many of the people plying cycle rickshaws or handcart need to sleep on the rickshaw or handcart to prevent it from being stolen. Also after a hard day's toil few have the energy or the wherewithal to make long journeys back to their sleeping place, hence they just settle for the spot nearest to their workplace.

The homeless thus have a number of reasons why they sleep on the pavement. And it isn't easy to get a good night's sleep there. Besides erratic weather and speeding cars, police, anti socials, red alerts and even a VIP visit can wreak havoc on them.

During the survey while the interviews were being conducted at Peti Market near Hanuman Mandir (Yamuna Bazar) at 11.30 p.m., a red alert was issued due to bomb blasts in Rajasthan. When the team went to do a head count of all the people who were sleeping, it found that the police had chased them away. A homeless never sleeps in peace.

More than 50% of the homeless have been sleeping in the same place and 70% out of them have been sleeping at the same place for more than 2 years. The survey also came across people who

had been sleeping in the same areas for more than 15 years. Since the survey was not done in the night shelters, most of the respondents were people who were sleeping in the open. They did profess a desire to use night shelters but were hesitant because they were apprehensive about safety and hygiene. Sleeping in close proximity with strangers was seen as a possible source of disease transmission. In winters however, most agreed that a shelter was perhaps the best option. But there are people who, their earnings for the day permitting would prefer to sleep at the quilt renters. For Rs. 25 they can get a quilt and a cot, for Rs. 15, they can sleep on the ground with a quilt. Here they feel more secure and police and anti social elements also don't trouble them. There is no fear of theft also. But for most of the people the places where they are sleeping has become a fixed place and to them it is home. When police chases them, they go away for sometime but return to sleep there.

While the Government is providing alternative accommodation to slum dwellers there is no policy for providing low rented accommodation to the homeless. The number of night shelters present in the city does not even cover 5% of the homeless. Only the night shelters being run by AAA are open 24 hours, the rest are only for 12 hours, starting from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and thus excludes those people who work till late at night. Thus, overall the government policies and the residential structure of the city are geared at exclusion rather than inclusion.

Sanitation is a major concern. The number of public toilets is far less compared to the required number and during night times the supervisor of those toilet facilities charge extra. As most of the pay and use toilets are being managed by private organisations, the government does not bother to check the malpractices taking place. If a homeless person has to use these facilities for ablutions then he ends up paying around Rs.10 per day. Given their meagre earnings, this sum becomes impossible for them to pay on daily basis. Thus, about 60% use the toilets where as the remaining use the open grounds; for bathing however, everyone uses open spaces as it is cheaper. There is no safe drinking water available for them. They drink from the nearest public taps irrespective of the conditions of the surroundings. And at most places the public taps are a thing of the past. Removed and forgotten.

IX. Recommendations

This study illustrates the uncertainties, vulnerabilities and hopelessness with which the homeless population has to live, on a daily basis. Interactions with the homeless have provided critical insights and points for reflection, and in identifying solutions.

The research team was able to recommend the following course of action for different stakeholders.

What the Government and Local Bodies can do:

- ⇒ Activate the Joint Apex Committee and co-opt more members from NGOs as well as from the Government. Giving it more powers will help provide better facilities and services for the homeless and street children.
- ⇒ Increase the number of 24-hour shelters. There are many government buildings that have been lying vacant for years; the same can be converted into shelters. Where such buildings are not available, government should construct new shelters.
- ⇒ Create 24*7*365 shelters for families, women and children on priority basis. These can be on the similar lines of the NDMC on R. K. Ashram Marg, which was converted as shelter for the migrants from Kashmir.
- ⇒ Explore the Private-Public Partnership model while building shelters; local businesses benefit from the presence of homeless people so they have a stake in the welfare of their workforce.
- ⇒ Construct more pay-and-use toilets especially in zones, which have high concentrations of the homeless.
- ⇒ Effectively manage existing night shelters.
- ⇒ Convert the night shelters from 12 hours to 24 hours; AAA is already doing this. IGSSS shelters are also open 24 hours, throughout the year.
- ⇒ Provide more avenues for relaxation at these shelters; indoor games, newspaper, counselling, medical support and vocational training can be provided in-house.
- ⇒ Issue Voter Identity cards and ration cards as soon as possible.
- ⇒ Implement relevant government schemes: Stri Shakti camps, pension for the aged, etc.
- ⇒ Start a mobile health service for the homeless in the evenings and ensure that it reaches the high concentration zones.
- ⇒ Scrap anti-poor laws such as the Bombay Prevention of Beggary Act, 1959.
- ⇒ Give the homeless tehbazaari rights and space in DDA market complexes for setting up shops.
- ⇒ Holistically address the economic/livelihood issues of the homeless.

- ⇒ Formulate effective policies for the homeless and thereafter implement it in a time bound fashion.
- ⇒ Effectively and sincerely implement the schemes for the homeless, which have been made available by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
- ⇒ Involve NGOs and important locals in the management of shelters.
- ⇒ Conduct more studies on different aspects of homelessness and do a headcount every five years to know the exact status of the homeless people. This data should constantly feed support mechanisms created for them.
- ⇒ Adhere to the criteria of 1 shelter per 1 lakh population (100,000) as laid out in the Master Plan for Delhi 2021. These shelters should be open 24 hours, 365 days, throughout the year.
- ⇒ Accept homelessness as the serious issue that it is and take corrective and humanistic steps to address the same.

What the NGOs can do:

- ⇒ More NGOs need to take up this issue.
- ⇒ NGOs working on health, drugs and women's issues need to work on the issues of the homeless because of their interlinks.
- ⇒ NGOs can partner with the government in providing services to the homeless.
- ⇒ They can develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy, aimed at all levels of the government, to address this issue.
- ⇒ Sensitisation workshops need to be conducted for government departments (police included) and civil society to change their attitude towards homeless people.
- ⇒ A common platform can be developed where different NGOs interested in working on homelessness can come together and make a time bound program.
- ⇒ Piecemeal efforts will have no impacts. It needs to be targeted for the whole city. The program should be participatory where the homeless people are equal partners and take up the responsibility of ensuring that the efforts coming in remain consistent and that resources are shared equally.
- ⇒ NGOs should pressurise the government for provision of basic services and stopping the harassment of the homeless people as well as scrapping of the anti poor laws.
- ⇒ More training programs and awareness drives about the rights of the homeless, preventive health care and vocational training can be done in the existing shelters for homeless citizens.
- ⇒ Efforts to be made for organizing the homeless and helping them form unions and Self Help Groups.

- ⇒ NGOs can take financial support from Central Government Schemes meant for homeless people.
- ⇒ To develop Corporate-Government and NGO partnership as without the presence of homeless even the business houses will suffer.
- ⇒ Involving more and more stakeholders in this issue like academics, students, lawyers, doctors, etc. who can take up the issue at various forums.
- ⇒ More micro level studies need to be done to highlight each and every issue pertaining to the homeless community.
- ⇒ NGOs can come forward and take up the management of shelters and provide other services like, medical, training, awareness, vocational training, etc. in the shelters to the homeless.

What the Civil Society can do:

- ⇒ Civil society needs to be more sensitive toward homeless people.
- ⇒ It needs to empathise with the homeless; the tendency to accord them disrespect, consider them anti-social and keep complaining to the police about them needs to go.
- ⇒ Market associations can give identity cards to the homeless people working on a regular basis in their markets and perhaps help set up shelters for them.
- ⇒ The homeless are an exploited lot and have little leeway of redress. Supporting the homeless people when they are being cheated and speaking up against police harassment can help.
- ⇒ Religious institutions and schools can open their premises for the homeless people to sleep there.
- ⇒ The civil society needs to be involved in the management of the shelters.

X. Conclusion

The number of homeless people has increased by more than 75% since the last survey of AAA in 2000. If it is compared with the Census data (of 2001) then it has almost tripled. However, this figure is likely to be higher as the team was not able to cover all the homeless people due to reasons mentioned in the preceding chapters.

Initially, the homeless in Delhi were largely individuals. Now families are seen as well. Many of these are former jhuggi-owners who have been evicted but not rehabilitated. Then there are those who have, but their new homes are far from their place of work. These people visit their homes once a week, the remaining six days are spent sleeping on streets.

The homeless people in Delhi appear to have come not because the city lured them, but because their poverty pushed them out of their villages. Most migrants come without knowing their basic rights and entitlements, desperate for work and the Capital is more than happy to accommodate their labour but not them.

Without their labour the market economy of the city will crumble and the wholesalers will find it difficult to sell their products. In many ways the homeless subsidise the cost of living of Delhi's citizens by bringing down transportation costs. Without the homeless there would be no construction workers to lay roads and build bridges, no people to pull thelas loaded with goods; no rickshawpullers and certainly no one to load and unload at the wholesale markets.

Yet , the Capital does nothing to mainstream them socially or economically. This status quo works well both for the business houses and the administration. One doesn't have to pay and the other does not have to act. The circle of life carries, tightening the noose around the necks of the homeless with every turn.

To say that the homeless in Delhi are ill treated would be an understatement. They do not have access to the most basic of facilities like water and shelter, they are not issued identity cards despite working for years at the same place, because of the convenient lack of an identity card they are not given access to any government scheme either. Additionally, they are abused and exploited because it is universally known that they have no legal recourse and definitely no sympathetic ear.

These are the people who have fallen by the road in the great race of development. It appears that no one wants to stop and help them to their feet. This can only be termed as recklessness on the part of those who are organising the run. For, it's a well-known fact that where pace is concerned, one fallen runner or one overturned car can cause a pile up and cripple an entire race.

Chances are that unless we recognise the homeless as the warning sign for an impending pile up, and put our house in order, we will never really breast the tape.

An aspiring superpower should put her people in penthouses not on the pavements.

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Annexure 1

Head Count

AREA: WALLED CITY

AREA	MALE	WOMEN	CHILD	TOTAL
Meena Bazar Park	660	79	81	820
Jama Masjid Gate 2	222	68	84	374
Meena Bazar Terrace	105	00	05	110
Meena Bazar Market	120	35	15	170
Cotton Market	175	25	10	210
Bazar Galiyan – Dariba	32	1	1	34
Bhagirath Place	821	4	11	836
Lajpat Rai Market	308	2	2	312
Chandni Chowk Pavement	723	15	31	769
Subhas Marg	592	25	35	652
Kabootar Market	209	4	3	216
Kasturba Hospital	228	8	16	252
Urdu Bazar	82	15	13	110
Jama Masjid (Back Side)	392	15	25	432
Parade Ground And Around	501	1	2	504
Gauri Shankar Mandir	155	5	6	166
Cycle Market	316	2	3	321
Ajmeri Gate	304	0	12	316
Raghu Shri Building	120	0	10	130
Mirza Ghalib Haveli	25	0	0	25
Lal Kuan	250	0	0	250
Hauz Qazi	120	0	20	140
Sita Ram Bazar	328	19	53	400
Chawri Bazar	290	0	20	310
Nai Sadak	134	3	3	140
Balli Maran	104	0	5	109
Shraddha Nand Marg	718	1	15	734
Khari Baoli	660	1	1	662
Farash Khana	35	0	0	35
Naya Bans	63	0	0	63
Lahori Gate	110	0	0	110
Kucha Sanjogi Ram- Katra Bariyan- Gali Mordhan	197	2	0	199
Kauria Pul	111	3	2	116
S.P. Mukerjee Road	1969	59	114	2142
Railway Station Parking	407	15	20	442

Tin Market	346	0	2	348
Cloth Market	277	0	21	298
Tyre Market	79	0	3	82
Naya Bazar	168	0	0	168
Tilak Bazar	82	0	0	82
Shani Mandir	47	0	1	48
Kaccha Bagh	98	0	1	99
Company Bagh Roundabout	91	0	0	91
Barkhandi Mandir	221	0	9	230
Behind Town Hall	315	1	1	317
Katra Neel	44	1	1	46
Bagh Diwar	110	7	3	120
Church Mission Road	307	7	3	317
Church Mission Road Parking	242	0	0	242
Paneer Market	76	0	0	76
Mcd Market Bagh Diwar	80	0	4	84
Sanjay Market	178	0	6	184
Bagh Diwar	137	3	2	142
Babu Market	133	0	0	133
Gandhi Maidan	57	1	7	65
Gali Jayanti Lal	46	1	1	48
Darya Ganj	733	2	18	753
Asaf Ali Road	1576	43	113	1732
Behind Asaf Ali Rd.	320	0	7	327
Matia Mahal, Chandni Mahal	255	45	75	375
TOTAL	17604	518	896	19018

AREA: OLD DELHI

AREA	MALE	WOMEN	CHILD	TOTAL
Yamuna Bazar	2523	150	70	2743
Idgah Road	292	1	2	295
Jhandewalan Road	217	0	0	217
Motia Khan	178	15	20	213
Rani Jhansi Road	215	2	4	221
Multani Dhanda	127	0	0	127
Desh Bandhu Gupta Road	185	1	4	190
Arakasha Road	125	1	4	130
Qutub Road	748	24	33	805
Nabi Karim	178	0	0	178
Church Road	14	0	0	14
Quresh Nagar	139	0	0	139

Sadar Bazar	84	0	0	84
Teli Bara	228	0	0	228
Rui Mandi	96	0	0	96
Baradari Chowk	42	0	0	42
Pahari Dhiraj	134	0	0	134
Azad Market Chowk	17	0	0	17
Bahadur Garh Road	76	0	0	76
Tokri Walan	134	0	0	134
Azad Market	114	0	5	119
Foota Road	249	0	0	249
Kishan Ganj	12	0	0	12
Macchliwala Chowk	62	0	0	62
Sadar Bazar Station Rail Line	265	13	23	301
Rani Jhansi Road (Azad Mkt To Fire Stn.)	226	1	0	227
Charmelion Road	185	8	14	207
Khari Kuan Gaon (Idgah Rd)	208	0	0	208
Maharaja Agrasen Marg	165	0	0	165
Tonga Stand Sadar Bazar	124	0	0	124
Singara Chowk	70	0	0	70
Sadar Bazar To Totiwala	237	6	5	248
Malgodown Chowk	231	2	0	233
ISBT	381	25	57	463
Nicolson Rd.	189	0	0	189
ISBT Park	66	0	0	66
Mori Gate Terminal	562	2	0	564
Boulverd Rd.	36	0	0	36
Mori Gate Round About	127	0	0	127
Queen Mary School	16	0	0	16
Mori Gate Red Light	66	0	0	66
St. Stephens Hospital	177	0	0	177
Madarsa Rd.	72	0	0	72
Minerva Cinema	129	0	0	129
Hamilton Rd.	610	9	19	638
Mori Gate Over Bridge	60	0	0	60
Rajender Mkt.	746	0	8	754
Kashmere Gate PS	207	2	0	209
Chavi Ganj	212	0	0	212
Bara Bazar	425	0	6	431
Guru Nanak Mkt.	225	0	11	236
Kali Mandir Sarai Rur	69	0	0	69
Khanna Mkt.	65	0	0	65
TOTAL	12340	262	285	12887

AREA: CENTRAL DELHI

AREA	MALE	WOMEN	CHILD	TOTAL
Gol Market	134	6	7	147
Peshwa road	17	3	4	24
R.K.Ashram Mkt.	15	13	4	32
Panchkuina Round About	16	0	0	16
Pahar Ganj Thana	88	1	10	99
Aram Bagh	607	3	28	638
Ambedkar Bhavan	106	9	14	129
RML Hospital	11	0	0	11
Bangla Sahib	72	39	30	141
YMCA	327	0	0	327
Hanuman Mandir	313	24	101	438
Panchkuian Rd	350	35	40	425
Basant Lane	274	33	53	360
Kali Mandir Lane	36	13	8	57
Bhagat Singh Mkt.	6	0	0	6
Shivaji Stadium	46	2	0	48
Raja Bazar	22	0	0	22
Baba Khadak Singh Marg	61	0	0	61
Mahadev Rd.	9	1	0	10
Ashok Rd.	16	0	0	16
Parliament St. PS	32	0	0	32
Indira Chowk	48	3	2	53
NDRS Rd.	94	1	8	103
NDRS Parking	343	14	14	371
NDRS Platforms	134	6	25	165
Zakir Hussain College Rd	219	0	18	237
Ranjit Singh Marg	291	12	10	313
Timber Market	394	0	29	423
Jahangir Marg	176	6	4	186
Minto Rd	60	0	0	60
Shivaji Park	274	0	0	274
Station Rd.	89	0	1	90
Kamla Mkt.	806	1	0	807
Ram Lila Ground	17	0	0	17
Ajmeri Gate Chowk	55	0	0	55
Mandir Wala Park India Gate	150	0	0	150
Ashok Road	85	0	0	85
Central Secretariate	154	11	0	165
Bhairon Mandir	90	0	21	111

Minto Road Ration Office	863	90	170	1123
Takia Kale Khan	666	30	57	753
Shankar Market	88	45	63	196
Bengali Market	58	2	3	63
Tilak Bridge	55	7	11	73
Bal Bhavan to Gurudwara	314	17	42	373
ITO	20	0	0	20
Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg	275	25	43	343
Mandi House Firozshah rd, Barakhamba rd, Tilak rd, etc	327	53	73	453
Scindia House and Jawahar Bhawan, etc	151	43	63	257
Total	8854	548	956	10358

AREA: NORTH DELHI

AREA	MALE	WOMEN	CHILD	TOTAL
Azadpur Mandi - Fruit	1510	50	150	1710
Azadpur Mandi -Veg	2732	35	220	2987
Sarai Pipal Thala	595	45	75	715
Gulabi Bagh	62	0	0	62
Bharat Nagar	17	1	2	20
Ashok Vihar	82	3	7	92
Wazirpur Indl. Area	41	0	0	41
Sri Ram Chowk	95	0	0	95
Udham Singh Park	82	12	18	112
Prem Badi	54	11	15	80
Police Chowki	24	18	2	44
Jagdamba Mandir	82	0	0	82
Haidarpur	47	0	0	47
Shalimar Bagh	90	2	6	98
Pitampura	47	0	0	47
Daulatpur Village	80	9	9	98
Sector 18 Rohini	4	0	0	4
Rithala Rd.	61	0	0	61
Shakurpur Station	30	4	1	35
New Kanjhawala Rd.	31	0	0	31
Kanjhawla	130	15	5	150
Mongolpuri	102	0	0	102
Mongolpuri Indl. Area	19	0	0	19
Rani Bagh	93	2	0	95
Big Road	50	0	0	50
Shakarpur	79	0	0	79
Shakarpur	169	5	8	182

Budh Vihar Mkt.	9	0	0	9
Budh Vihar	60	6	13	79
Avantika	36	0	0	36
Avantika Chowk	6	0	0	6
Ayodhya Chowk	19	2	0	21
Sai Baba Mandir	34	12	10	56
Sector 7 Market	27	0	0	27
Naharpur	73	0	0	73
Razapur	59	0	0	59
Dividing Road Sec.16-17	73	12	23	108
Shopping Centre Sec 5	23	0	0	23
Rohini Sec 4	68	73	126	267
Rohini Depot sec 15	40	27	56	123
Prashant Vihar Mkt.	15	0	0	15
Sector 8	32	0	0	32
Kali Mandir Sec3	32	23	43	98
West Enclave, Pitampura	17	0	0	17
Sainik Vihar	27	0	13	40
Deva Apartments	33	0	6	39
Badli	9	2	3	14
Kingsway Camp	23	0	0	23
Hakikat Ngr to Indira Vihar	49	0	0	49
Mukerjee Ngr. Mkt.	36	3	1	40
Batra Cinema	34	0	0	34
RBTB Rd.	162	0	0	162
Akash Cinema	66	0	0	66
Karnal Rd.	255	0	0	255
Bhim Shah Marg	145	15	20	180
Alpana Cinema	32	0	0	32
Model Town	42	0	0	42
Gurudwara	52	0	7	59
Azadpur Terminal	135	5	6	146
Transport Ngr.	118	2	6	126
Jahangirpuri	350	2	5	357
Sarai Rohilla	76	0	0	76
KishanGanj	185	2	0	187
Padam Ngr.	83	0	2	85
Pratap Ngr. Metro Stn.	62	0	0	62
Shastri Ngr.	21	2	7	30
Shahzada Bagh	87	0	0	87
Inderlok	459	0	5	464

Tri Nagar	169	0	0	169
Kanhaiyya Nagar	74	0	0	74
Rampura	28	0	0	28
Delhi University	33	0	2	35
Timarpur	54	0	0	54
Nehru Vihar	77	0	0	77
Wazirabad	28	0	0	28
Majnu Ka Tilla	142	4	4	150
Khyber Pass	139	0	0	139
Rajpur Road	41	0	0	41
Malka Ganj	119	0	2	121
Sabzi Mandi	148	0	0	148
Roshanara Road	96	0	0	96
Singh Sabha Road	72	0	0	72
Ghanta ghar Gol Market	178	0	2	180
Kamla Nagar	162	0	0	162
Nangia Park	42	0	0	42
Shakti Nagar	57	0	0	57
Rana Pratap Bagh	132	0	2	134
Police Line	63	0	0	63
Bungalow Road	36	0	0	36
TOTAL	6563	274	437	7274

AREA: WEST DELHI

AREA	MALE	WOMEN	CHILD	TOTAL
Jhandewalan Extn.	263	0	3	266
Jhandewalan Mata Mkt.	146	40	40	226
S.P. Mukerjee Mkt.	324	0	50	374
Idgah Roundabout	145	0	0	145
Gaushala Rd.	156	4	40	200
East Park Rd.	53	0	0	53
Siddhipura	126	3	3	132
Ajmal Khan Park Rd.	407	0	20	427
Faiz Rd.	155	0	0	155
Rohtak Rd. Tyre Mkt.	73	0	0	73
New Mkt. Near Liberty	84	0	0	84
Rohtak Rd.	159	0	0	159
Milan Complex Karampura	420	0	0	420
Karampura Indl. Area	47	0	0	47
S.P. Depot	26	0	0	26
Patel Nagar	6	0	0	6

Rajender Place	15	0	0	15
Shamshan Ghat Rd.	72	0	0	72
Krishna Ngr. Karol Bagh	169	0	0	169
Deshbandhu Gupta Rd.	209	0	0	209
Naiwala	544	0	6	550
Ajmal Khan Rd.	96	0	0	96
Pusa Road Round about	150	25	30	205
Shankar Rd.	107	0	0	107
IARI to Inderpuri	82	0	0	82
S.P. Depot to Loha Mandi	17	0	0	17
Loha Mandi	54	0	0	54
Naraina	62	0	0	62
Kirti Ngr.	279	0	0	279
Lawrence Rd and Ring Rd.	253	0	0	253
Beadon Pura	95	39	13	147
Gaffar Market	173	73	38	284
Arya Samaj Road	558	35	58	651
Dev Nagar Karol Bagh	258	5	4	267
Tank Road	150	15	10	175
Regur Pura	272	6	0	278
Guru Nanak Market	202	3	9	214
Ajmal Khan road	53	0	1	54
Abdul Aziz Road	31	3	0	34
Padam Singh Road	179	2	5	186
Anand Parbat	90	0	0	90
Lal Park Dev Nagar	2025	123	343	2491
Vishnu Garden	6	3	2	11
Paschim Vihar	26	2	0	28
Bhera Enclave	8	0	0	8
Peeragarhi Chowk	27	0	13	40
Jwala Heri Market	62	17	33	112
Madipur	193	17	53	263
Madipur Colony	17	3	5	25
Punjabi Bagh	48	5	23	76
Punjabi Bagh Crematorium	48	0	0	48
ESI Hospital	22	8	0	30
Mother Pride Punjabi Bagh	35	3	7	45
Raja Garden	54	0	0	54
Junk Market	35	10	12	57
Gulab House	10	2	0	12
Mayapuri Thana	1	0	0	1

Mayapuri Chowk	15	5	0	20
Raja Garden Market	42	16	22	80
Marble Mkt. Raja Garden	102	0	15	117
Rajori Garden Metro St.	76	0	9	85
Rajori to Tagore Garden	97	0	15	112
Tilak Nagar	84	10	20	114
Jail Road	73	15	25	113
Janakpuri	98	15	27	140
Pankha Road	68	24	44	136
Uttam Nagar	41	0	10	51
Vikas Puri	45	5	15	65
Vikaspuri to Tilak Nagar	48	12	35	95
Tilak Nagar Market	36	7	12	55
Vikas Puri Hastals Road	74	17	38	129
Kangra Niketan	19	0	0	19
Kesopur	25	5	19	49
Khyala	38	5	3	46
Chetram and Subzi Market	77	0	35	112
Raghubir Nagar	298	24	36	358
Sultanpuri JJ Colony	49	0	17	66
Subzi Mandi Nangloi	45	0	12	57
Uttam Nagar to Dwarka	67	0	21	88
Suraj Vihar	24	0	0	24
Palam Airport	12	6	0	18
PHC Palam Vilage	15	0	0	15
Manglapuri	57	26	38	121
Dabri Road	18	0	0	18
Dabri Mor Fruit Market	83	27	47	157
Janak Cinema	43	0	23	66
Nasirpur	65	24	37	126
Sagarpur	74	34	41	149
Janak Setu	18	0	0	18
Delhi Cantt Station	53	17	23	93
Nangal Raya Mkt and Subzi Mandi	67	13	23	103
Nangal Raya	6	0	0	6
Lajwanti Garden	45	4	12	61
Hari Nagar	28	0	0	28
Hari Nagar Depot	11	0	0	11
Hari Nagar Ghanta Ghar	62	4	6	72
DDU Hospital	15	0	0	15
DESU	36	17	23	76
TOTAL	9068	731	1368	11167

AREA: EAST DELHI

AREA	MALE	WOMEN	CHILD	TOTAL
Yamuna Bridge	581	0	10	591
Shahdara st.- Fly Over	267	178	363	808
Shahdara Fly Over	239	3	18	260
Seelampur Fly Over	55	27	20	102
Shahdara to Seelampur Rd	69	0	7	76
Shastri Park	416	34	57	507
Wazirabad Bus Stand	8	1	0	9
Mangal Pandey Marg (Bhajanpura Chowk)	5	0	0	5
Bhajanpura	25	1	1	27
Bhajanpura Thana	29	7	0	36
Khajuri Khas	12	0	0	12
Karawal Nagar	44	1	0	45
Minakshi Hall	52	5	6	63
Loni Fly over	69	0	0	69
Jyoti Nagar	41	0	0	41
Durgapuri, Nathupura	83	0	0	83
Jyoti Colony to Kavi Nagar	251	0	0	251
Krishna Nagar	29	0	0	29
Gokul Puri Fly Over	25	0	0	25
Gokulpur Gaon	7	0	0	7
Yamuna Vihar	68	0	0	68
Mandoli	30	5	10	45
Maujpur	8	0	0	8
Ghonda	7	0	0	7
Timber Mkt, Balbir Ngr	23	2	0	25
GTB Hospital Nand Nagri	62	0	0	62
Gagan Cinema	34	2	0	36
GTB and IHBAS hospital	49	0	0	49
Dilshad Garden	26	0	0	26
Tahirpur, Anandgram	89	7	8	104
Seemapuri (old and new)	100	0	0	100
Navin Shahdara	183	0	0	183
Shahdara Railway Station	321	24	40	385
Seelampur (old & new)	97	18	11	126
Bhola Nath Nagar	212	3	0	215
Vishwas Nagar	58	0	0	58
Malhotra Gali	118	0	0	118
Brahmpuri	164	0	0	164
Kalandar Cly. Shahdara Bdr.	42	0	0	42

Gandhi Nagar	281	0	0	281
Geeta Colony	189	0	0	189
Jheel	356	0	15	371
Krishna Nagar	32	0	0	32
Krishna Nagar (E)	33	0	2	35
Jheel Kurenja	113	0	0	113
Subzi Mandi Chowk	34	10	15	59
Patparganj road	890	60	153	1103
Chandrawal Nagar	31	0	0	31
Shiv puri Labour Chowk	159	0	7	166
Khureji Khas	62	3	8	73
Chitra Vihar	2	0	0	2
Preet Vihar and market	41	0	0	41
Baldev Park	4	0	1	5
Parwana Road	51	7	21	79
Karkari Mor to Welcome Merto Station crossing	386	45	97	528
Jagatpuri	13	0	0	13
Vikash Marg (till Laxmi Nagar Mode	23	0	0	23
Ganesh Nagar	14	0	0	14
Patparganj	16	0	2	18
Shashi Garden Mode	6	0	0	6
Kotla Gaon	5	0	0	5
Kalyanpuri (Chand Cinema)	22	0	0	22
LBS Hospital	57	20	25	102
Vinod Nagar (Mayur Vihar)	7	0	0	7
(Mayur Vihar-I Main Road	16	0	3	19
Dharamsheela Hospital	1	0	0	1
Vasundhra Encl.	7	0	0	7
Kondli	26	3	5	34
Gazipur	3	0	0	3
Anand Vihar Bus Stand	79	1	5	85
Ram Prastha Colony	5	0	0	5
Hasanpur Depot	11	0	1	12
Madhu Vihar	11	0	0	11
IP Ext. Parpat Ganj	1	0	0	1
Pandav Nagar	15	0	1	16
Ganesh Nagar Mandawali	4	1	0	5
Madhuban Rd (Ganesh Nagar	44	0	7	51
Khureji Chowk (near Fun Cinema)	13	0	0	13
Preet Vihar	14	0	0	14
Kakardooma	64	0	7	71

Yojna Vihar	4	0	0	4
Manak Vihar	9	2	0	11
Savita Vihar	3	1	0	4
Kakardooma (near DJB)	63	12	12	87
Radhepuri-Jagatpuri	40	0	2	42
Shalimar Park, Krishna Nagar	58	0	0	58
Kirshna Nagar A Block to Keshav Chowk (E)	97	2	15	114
Pusta Road (Akshardham Temple to Khajuri)	151	6	20	177
TOTAL	6477	310	584	7371

AREA: SOUTH DELHI

AREA	MALE	WOMEN	CHILD	TOTAL
Nehru Place Park	162	91	253	506
Kalkaji Mandir	176	67	102	345
Below Modi Mill Fly over	163	205	315	683
LSC Krishna Market	129	1	1	131
C.R Park Kalibari	27	1	1	29
M- Block Mkt. G.K.II	27	0	0	27
Greater Kailash II	29	0	0	29
Malviya Nagar	56	0	15	71
Chirag Dilli	14	2	2	18
Chirag Dilli Fly Over	3	0	11	14
Zamrudpur	58	0	0	58
Amar Colony	37	0	5	42
East Of Kailash	263	3	9	275
Jamia and Holy Family	56	0	0	56
Ashram Chowk	42	0	0	42
Nizam ud din Rly st. and Sarai Kale Khan	289	50	75	414
Nizam ud din out side	304	79	134	517
Nizam ud din inside	216	38	58	312
Bhogal	253	0	10	263
Lajpat Nagar	105	0	10	115
Kotla	314	0	34	348
Kotla Fly Over	46	0	0	46
Lodi Rd Inst. Area	113	42	31	186
Meher Chand Market	351	60	24	435
Khanna Market	67	0	0	67
Prem Nagar Kotla	173	7	9	189
INA	161	0	26	187
Central Mkt Kidwai Nagar	154	0	18	172
Under B- Avenue fly Over	46	36	38	120

S.N. Market	457	0	122	579
Malcha Marg Mkt	70	0	0	70
Green Park Market	53	10	23	86
Yusuf Sarai	67	15	31	113
Aurobindo Place	25	0	0	25
Hauz Khas Market	43	7	24	74
Gautam Nagar	63	17	24	104
Yashwant Place	27	0	12	39
Pilanj Village	63	0	23	86
Nauroji Nagar Market	43	17	20	80
Bhikaji Cama Place	52	15	17	84
Mohammadpur to Sec 2	135	46	43	224
Mohan Singh Market sec 6	83	27	35	145
Mahipal pur Rangapuri	123	56	64	243
Malai Mandir	18	22	14	54
Kamal Complex	36	12	24	72
S.N. Depot	42	31	52	125
FRRO	32	0	23	55
Munirka DDA Complex	25	10	23	58
Hauz Khas Complex	36	12	14	62
JNU	14	5	3	22
Ber Sarai	10	0	0	10
Katwaria Sarai			12	8
Adhchini			35	
Hauz Khas Terminal	53	12	15	80
Lado Sarai	13	4	2	19
Tughalakabad	43	4	14	61
Arya Nagar	5	0	0	5
Ghitorni	5	2	0	7
Sultanpur	2	0	0	2
Chatarpur Mandir	47	11	17	75
Dada bari	2	1	0	3
Qutub Minar	16	0	0	16
Saket	93	10	42	145
Khanpur	8	1	0	9
Badarpur	102	32	53	187
Prahaladpur	26	0	0	26
ESI Hospital	26	13	14	53
Tara Apartment	22	0	0	22
Govindpuri	89	15	38	142
Kalakji	129	31	47	207

Okhla Place	41	0	0	41
Okhla Railway Station	38	0	0	38
Okhla Subzi Mandi	690	13	90	793
R.K. Puram sec7	8	0	0	8
R.K. Puram Sec 3	15	0	7	22
IIT	12	0	0	12
JNU Back Side	23	0	6	29
Vasant Kunj	28	0	0	28
Safdar Jung	61	0	0	61
AIIMS	15	6	8	29
South Extension	9	0	0	9
Nanakpura	42	13	20	75
Sangam Cinema	10	0	0	10
Hyatt Back side	42	0	0	42
TOTAL	7113	1163	2165	10441

Annexure 2

Night Shelters

The concept of Night Shelter in Delhi was originally taken from Mumbai where they are built for the dockyard workers so that they could have a place to sleep at night. This was done on the initiative of Bharat Sevak Samaj in 1964 under the Third Five Year Plan. The main objectives of the scheme are:

- ⇒ To provide accommodation to the homeless who cannot afford accommodation
- ⇒ To protect homeless from cold by providing them with blankets, jute mats, and other items.
- ⇒ To develop a concept of security and feeling of oneness among them by making them utilize the existing facilities collectively within the same complex (DDA 1985).

The night shelters initially were free of cost but in the 80s a charge was levied which was increased in the 90s. It was Rs. 3 earlier; now it has gone up to Rs. 6 per night. This is a steep rise considering that wages haven't increased proportionately in the last decade. The shelters which are managed by MCD are running for 12 hour shift from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. but the shelters managed by AAA are for 24 hours, i.e. round the clock.

Since 1964 to 1997, 19 Night Shelters were built all across the city. One more night Shelter was built in 2002 and later on in 2003, five community centres were converted into night shelters. At present there are 17 Night Shelters operational in Delhi catering to not more than 5 % of the total homeless people in Delhi. But during this period 8 shelters were demolished for various reasons.

Following shelters are still functional

North Zone	Old City Zone	Walled City Zone	East Zone	West Zone	South Zone
Katra Maulabux Azadpur Mangolpuri	S.P. Mukherjee Market Nabi Karim* Gali Tel Mil* Jhandewalan I* Jhandewalan II*	Fatehpuri* Fountain Chowk* Lahori Gate Delhi Gate	Kabul Nagar Nand Nagri*	Shahzada Bagh Raja Garden	Nizamuddin

Following shelters were closed

S.No.	Name of Shelter	Reason for Closure
1.	Ajmal khan Park Karol Bagh	Musical fountain constructed in its place
2.	Nehru Place	The public toilet was demolished during the demolition of Jhuggis
3.	Gole Market	No apparent reason given

4.	Turkman Gate	Commercial complex made in its Place
5	Meena Bazaar I	For Security reason
6.	Meena Bazaar II	For security reason
7.	Boulevard Road	For the construction of Metro rail
8.	Andha Mughal	For the construction of Metro rail.

While the number of shelters seems to have increased there are no shelters exclusively for women and children. Children can stay only at the Fatehpuri and Nabi Karim Centres, but not elsewhere. There have been efforts to get the authorities to acknowledge the need to build/ provide night shelters for women, at present there is simply none. In 2004, AAA through their efforts have got the NDMC to start a shelter for women at R.K. Ashram Marg, but later on it was also taken back and the shelter for women started at Yamuna bazaar was also closed by the MCD because the building belonged to a different agency.

The ORSTOM study, the AAA study and also the present study found that the shelters are not properly managed. Homeless people do not like to go there because there is a fear of theft, fights, and also they find the shelters not very clean. Many homeless are averse to use the blankets, which have been used by others. Government has started many initiatives like Library, vocational training at the night shelters especially in Nizamuddin and Fatehpuri but they were closed. The main reason given was the non-continuity of the homeless people. Though the conditions of shelters have improved over the period but still a lot needs to be done.

Annexure 3

Tables

Table1: Total Respondents

Zone	Total	Men	Women	Children	% of Respondent
Walled City	259	224	10	25	23.63
Old City	187	160	7	20	17.08
South	119	49	30	40	10.86
North	141	101	10	30	12.86
West	130	60	37	33	11.86
Central	131	68	21	42	11.95
East	129	75	25	29	11.78
Total	1096	737	140	219	100

Table 2: Age Profile of Respondent

Age	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	% of Total Respondent
< 18yrs	25	20	40	30	33	29	42	219	19.98
19-26	71	71	27	48	37	40	34	328	29.92
27-36	89	53	28	30	25	25	26	276	25.18
37-46	37	24	13	18	17	19	16	144	13.15
47-56	22	11	6	11	12	10	9	81	7.39
> 56	15	8	5	4	6	6	4	48	4.38
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 3: Educational Profile

Level of Literacy	Walled City	Old City	South Delhi	North Delhi	West Delhi	East Delhi	Central Delhi	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	126	99	60	72	59	63	56	535	48.86
Primary (1-5)	70	46	33	42	36	41	37	305	27.85
Middle (6-8)	23	21	11	11	15	11	8	100	9.13
High/Intermediate(9-12)	15	9	2	5	10	2	8	51	4.66
Graduation and Above	15	7	13	12	7	11	14	79	7.22
RA	10	5	0	0	3	0	7	25	2.28
Total	259	187	119	142	130	128	131	1096	100

Table 4: Religion of the Respondent

Religion	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	% of Total Respondent
Hindu	80	71	57	85	61	47	69	470	42.88
Muslim	106	78	38	47	48	51	42	410	37.42
Sikh	11	3	0	1	0	0	8	23	2.10
Christian	20	7	11	1	4	8	8	59	5.38
Others	13	11	4	3	5	5	0	41	3.74
Can't Say	29	17	9	4	12	18	4	93	8.48
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100.00

Table 5: Caste of the Respondent

Caste	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	% of Total Respondent
General	42	37	33	30	28	24	25	219	19.99
OBC	87	59	37	53	33	24	36	329	30.02
S C	64	50	27	38	52	69	53	353	32.20
S T	45	16	12	14	7	5	10	109	9.94
Can't Say	21	25	10	6	10	7	7	86	7.85
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100.00

Table 6: Place of Origin/Native Place

Native Place	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percent
Uttar Pradesh	108	87	46	43	51	48	61	444	40.51
Bihar	89	80	51	65	43	43	42	413	37.68
Madhya Pradesh	6	11	2	5	5	11	2	42	3.83
West Bengal	21	6	9	7	9	17	15	84	7.66
Rajasthan	7	0	3	10	7	4	3	34	3.10
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	8	0.73
Others	16	1	3	2	9	2	3	36	3.28
No Answer	12	2	5	9	4	3	0	35	3.19
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 6.1: Reason of Leaving The Native Place

Reasons	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percent
No Job/ Unemployment	161	113	71	89	79	76	80	669	61.04
Poverty	39	24	19	19	23	17	26	167	15.24
Natural Calamity	8	5	4	7	0	5	0	29	2.65
Family Problems	31	24	17	14	17	19	7	129	11.77
Motivated by friends	11	12	3	7	5	9	5	52	4.74
Others	6	3	2	5	1	0	7	24	2.19
No Answers	3	6	3	0	5	3	6	26	2.37
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 6.2: Reason of Choosing Delhi

Reasons	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Better opportunities	176	138	82	95	91	83	94	759	69.25
Relative/ Friends in Delhi	23	19	9	21	14	13	11	110	10.04
Near to Native Place	21	17	9	11	11	17	9	95	8.67
Others	19	4	8	7	11	9	5	63	5.74
No Answer	20	9	11	7	3	7	12	69	6.3
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 7: Type of Work

Type of Work	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Rickshaw Puller	69	47	32	45	38	41	37	309	26.64
Handcart Puller	29	20	3	10	3	13	5	83	11.2
Construction Workers	19	11	18	16	13	19	13	109	7.34
Casual Workers	46	27	14	24	27	11	14	163	17.76
Catering Work	15	7	0	4	7	11	13	57	5.79
Rag Picker	27	21	25	10	16	17	16	132	10.42
Begging	3	0	1	4	0	3	3	14	1.16
Stealing/theft	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	9	0.77
Street Vending	20	13	10	16	17	7	17	100	7.72
No Answer	29	36	16	12	9	5	13	120	11.2
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Nature of work	Primary occupation	Secondary Occupation	Total
Rickshaw Puller	256	53	309
Handcart Puller	61	22	83
Construction Workers	97	12	109
Casual Workers	102	61	163
Catering Work	21	36	57
Rag Picker	124	8	132
Begging	13	1	14
Stealing/theft	7	2	9
Street Vending	89	11	100
No Answer	120	0	120

Table 7.1 Daily Income

Income (Rs)	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
< 50	57	35	22	35	31	29	12	221	20.16
51-100	152	97	64	75	73	61	76	598	53.56
101-140	19	28	23	22	16	28	29	165	15.05
> 140	29	16	10	6	8	8	11	88	8.03
No Answer	2	11	0	3	2	3	3	24	2.19
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 7.2: Daily Expenditure

Expenditure (Rs.)	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
< 50	89	61	38	58	38	46	24	354	32.30
51-80	106	113	71	62	78	74	84	588	53.65
81-100	39	7	7	12	12	8	10	95	8.67
> 100	7	2	2	6	0	0	7	24	2.19
No Answer	18	4	1	3	2	1	6	35	3.19
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 7.3: Savings

Response	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Yes	161	138	82	97	83	83	87	731	66.6
No	89	43	33	42	47	45	37	336	30.7
No Answer	9	6	4	2	0	1	7	29	2.7
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 7.4: Contact with Family

Response	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Yes	161	132	73	101	83	90	80	720	65.69
No	87	39	37	29	42	25	51	310	28.29
No Answer	11	16	9	11	5	14	0	66	6.02
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 7.5: Money Sent to Home Place

Response	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Yes	153	132	81	93	79	90	78	706	64.42
No	97	44	35	42	40	36	40	334	30.47
No Answer	9	11	3	6	11	3	13	56	5.11
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 8: Proof of Residence in Delhi

Documentary Proof	Walled City	Old City	South Delhi	North Delhi	West Delhi	East Delhi	Central Delhi	Total	Percentage
Ration Card	0	0	28	0	32	46	0	106	9.67
Voter I Card	0	0	28	0	32	36	0	96	8.7
Bank Passbook	0	0	16	0	18	12		46	4.19
I Card issued by organisation	68	49	0	61	0	0	32	210	19.16
Any other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No proof	191	138	91	80	98	83	99	780	71.16

Table 9: Sanitation

Place	Walled			Old			South			North			West			East			Total			Central		
	W	B	T	W	B	T	W	B	T	W	B	T	W	B	T	W	B	T	W	B	T	W	B	T
Public utilities	40	30	191	25	32	75	27	22	64	37	32	58	28	24	45	19	24	32	32	24	58	208	188	523
Open space	69	198	38	86	111	75	57	84	44	87	96	78	67	79	65	89	93	88	68	72	42	523	733	430
Others	150	31	30	76	43	37	35	15	11	17	13	5	35	26	20	21	12	9	31	35	31	365	175	143
	259			187			119			141			130			129			131			1096		

W = Washing

B = Bathing

T = Toilets

Table 10: Problems at Sleeping Place

	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Police	28	22	59	29	47	74	92	351	32.02
Weather	76	83	28	38	74	88	91	478	43.61
Accidents	24	44	48	25	28	36	72	277	25.27
Local Goons	45	55	29	31	26	65	45	296	27
Theft	130	98	78	63	89	103	118	679	61.95
Fear / tension	178	167	115	131	125	119	121	956	87.22
Abuse	121	101	92	68	101	119	111	713	65.05
Others	83	76	65	68	96	78	107	573	52.28

11. Sleeping Pattern

Table 11.1: Number of Days in Same Place

Period in Years	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
< 0.5	48	32	24	36	25	21	23	209	19.06
0.5 -1	32	29	27	27	24	23	29	191	17.43
1-2	35	32	28	29	24	26	27	201	18.34
2-3	67	39	15	29	27	31	23	231	21.08
>3	77	55	25	20	30	28	29	264	24.09
Total	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 11.2: Shift in Last One Month

No. of Places	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Same place	179	97	79	93	61	57	43	609	55.57
1 change	53	38	23	35	22	10	8	189	17.24
2 change	27	36	4	13	26	37	20	163	14.87
3change	0	16	0	0	18	23	39	96	8.76
>3 change	0	0	13	0	3	2	21	39	3.56
	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 11.3: Sleeping Places

Place	Walled			Old			South			North			West			East			Total			Central		
Seasons	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R	W	S	R
Night Shelter	60	0	73	23	0	30	5	0	8	23	0	44	18	0	38	32	0	10	21	0	10	182	0	213
Pave-ments	70	179	78	44	137	37	114	119	111	118	141	97	112	130	92	97	129	119	110	131	121	665	966	655
Quilt owner	129	80	108	120	50	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	249	130	228
W = Winters	259			187			119			141			130			129			131			1096		

Table 11.4: Sleeping in Group

	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Yes	74	69	42	58	46	43	37	369	33.67
No	185	118	77	83	84	86	94	727	66.33
	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 11.5: Reasons for Change

Reasons	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Police harass-ment	38	32	39	27	37	64	88	325	29.65
Weather	80	90	40	48	69	72	88	487	44.43
VIP Movement	20	29	40	15	18	26	62	210	19.16
Local Goons	15	35	19	22	16	50	10	167	15.23
Security Con-cerns	80	78	25	33	69	72	88	445	40.60
Others	24	26	35	46	58	16	30	235	21.44

Table 11.6: Sleeping Preferences

	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Pavement	30	26	9	11	15	9	10	110	10.04
Night Shelters	229	161	110	130	115	120	121	986	89.96
	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

12. Personal Situation

Table 12.1: Do You Have Friends?

	Walled City	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Yes	85	80	52	61	58	66	67	469	42.79
No	174	107	67	80	72	63	64	627	57.21
	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 12.2: Number of Friends

No. of Friends	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
1	23	13	14	19	9	18	22	118	10.76
2	25	17	16	12	17	20	19	1286	11.4
3	27	22	13	14	18	16	17	127	11.4
>3	10	28	9	16	14	12	9	98	8.9
	85	80	52	61	58	66	67	469	42.79

Table 13: Food Habits

Meals	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Breakfast	127	123	98	117	108	96	98	767	70
Lunch	48	62	52	66	72	68	70	438	39.96
Dinner	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

14. Health

Table 14.1: Where Do You Go for Health Check-Ups?

	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Cheap Doctor	22	19	28	19	23	27	26	164	14.96
Charitable	142	135	64	118	78	62	58	657	59.95
Govt. Hospital	8	4	10	2	22	27	37	110	10.04
Self-treatment	44	20	10	2	7	3	3	89	8.12
Others	43	9	7	0	0	10	7	76	6.93
	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 14.2: Monthly Expenditure on Health

	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
No money	142	135	64	118	78	62	58	657	59.95
0-10	52	43	30	10	23	23	38	219	19.97
10-20	35	9	0	13	16	14	22	109	9.95
20-30	30	0	15	0	0	20	13	78	7.12
> 30	0	0	10	0	13	10	0	33	3.01
	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

15. Initiative

Table 15.1: Knowledge about NGOs

	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Yes	166	119	74	54	27	35	101	576	47.45
No	93	68	45	87	103	94	30	520	52.55
	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

Table 15.2: Name of the Organisation

	Walled City	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
AAA	123	55	35	8	12	15	38	286	26.09
BMSS	115	85	25	24	26	25	44	344	31.38
Aman Biradari	45	30	6	0	0	7	8	96	8.76
Others	145	105	67	22	18	25	34	416	37.95

Table 15.3: Activities of the Organisation

Name	Activities
Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan (AAA)	1. Management of Night Shelters and Tents 2. Running health Clinic 3. Talking to Drug Addicts
Beghar Mazdoor Sangarsh Samiti (BMSS)	1. Organizing meetings 2. Support in need 3. Constant touch

Aman Biradari	1. Ration Cards
Others	1. Food 2. Health Clinic 3. Education to children 4. Training to children

Table 15.4: What Benefit Do You Want the Organisations to Do for You?

	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Identity	183	168	114	127	121	109	129	951	86.77
Employment	87	92	104	85	104	102	121	695	63.41
Roof	148	128	114	84	121	129	131	855	78.01
Health facility	178	159	110	101	115	96	129	888	81.02
Life of dignity	259	187	442	397	461	436	510	3389	100
Others	96	119	108	132	118	116	97	786	71.71

Table 15.5: What Kind of Work Do You Want?

	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
No wants to work with us	76	67	84	85	96	109	69	586	53.46
To raise our voice	259	187	84	85	96	109	69	586	100
Show us right direction	198	158	114	131	109	109	101	920	83.94
Work which can give us employment	181	149	110	121	115	126	129	931	84.95
Others	96	119	108	132	118	116	97	586	53.46

Table 15.6: Government Initiative

Awareness	Walled	Old	South	North	West	East	Central	Total	Percentage
Aware	189	78	68	89	62	73	98	657	
59.95									
Not aware	70	109	51	52	68	56	33	439	40.05
	259	187	119	141	130	129	131	1096	100

16. Women and Children

Table 16.1: Native Place of the Children

Place of Origin	Total	Percentage
Uttar Pradesh	21	9.59
Bihar	38	17.35
Madhya Pradesh	15	6.85
Delhi	20	9.14
Jharkhand	24	10.97
Others	15	6.85
No Answer	86	39.25
Total	219	100

Table 16.2: Reasons of Leaving Home (Children)

Reasons	Total	Percent
Ill treatment	45	20
Adventure	28	13
Work	43	20
Lost	13	6
No one to look after them	18	8
Fear	57	26
No answer	15	7
Total	219	100

Table 16.3: Economic Activity of Children

Economic Activities	Total	Percentage
Ragpicking	180	21.79
Begging	148	17.92
Catering (Marriage/ parties)	105	12.71
Vending	84	10.17
Shani /boot polish	137	16.59
Working in food stall	78	9.44
Refuse to answer	94	11.38

Table 16.4: Place of Origin/Native Place for Women

Native Place	Total	Percentage
Uttar Pradesh	32	22.86
Bihar	42	30.00
Madhya Pradesh	12	8.57
West Bengal	7	5.00
Rajasthan	25	17.86
Jharkhand	12	8.57
Others	10	7.14
Total	140	100

Table 16.5: Reason of Leaving and Coming on Street (Women)

Native Place	Total	percent
Ill treatment	40	28.57
Ditched by husband	25	17.86
Thrown out of home	35	25.00
Lost	10	7.14
For livelihood	10	7.14
Lost everything	13	9.29
No answer	7	5.00
Total	140	100

Table 16.6: Economic Activity (Women)

Native Place	Total	Percentage
Begging	40	28.57
Street vending	55	39.29
food stall	23	16.43
Refuse to answer	22	15.71
Total	140	100

17. Family Situation

Table 17.1: Family Size

No. of Members	No. of Families	Percent
3	18	12.00
4	27	18.00
5	44	29.33
6	41	27.33
>6	20	13.34
Total	150	100

Table 17.2: Age And Sex

Age	Men	Women	Children	
			Girl	Boy
< 18			175	127
18 – 27	92	74		
27- 36	80	88		
37- 55	58	52		
> 55	20	22		
Total	250	236	302	

Table 17.3: Educational Status

Education	Number of people	Percentage
Illiterate	368	46.70
Primary (1-5)	142	18.02
Middle (6-8)	63	7.99
High (9-12)	53	6.73
Above intermidate(> 12)	38	4.82
Not eligible for school	124	15.74
Total	788	100

Table 17.4: Employment Status

Economic Activity	Number of people	Percentage
Loader/Unloader	96	13.43
Rickshaw Puller	109	15.24

Selling Tea/ Vegetable	78	10.91
Thela Pusher/Puller	53	7.41
Housemaid	46	6.43
Selling Utensils	58	8.11
Rag Picking	83	11.62
Begging	67	9.37
No Fixed Job	125	17.48
Total	715	100

Table 17.5: Monthly Income

Income	Number of families	Percentage
< 2000	11	7.34
2000 – 2500	17	11.33
2500 – 3000	27	18
3000 – 3500	44	29.33
3500 – 4000	33	22
> 4000	18	12
Total	150	100

Annexure 4

Schedule

Questionnaire for Survey

A. Area Identification

1. Identification No. _____ 2. Sex Male/Female, 3. Place of Stay night shelter/pavement/ quilt owners/ park/ verandah, 4. Zone _____ 5. Region _____ 6. Area _____

General Descriptions

Age	Marital status	Language spoken	Read / Write	Educational level	Religion	Castes	Id proof
	1.Married 2. Unmarried 3. Divorced 4. Widowed 5. any other		1.Yes 2. No		1. Hindu 2. Muslim 3. Sikh 4. Christian 5. Any Other		1. Ration Card 2. Voter I Card 3. Driving License 4. Bank Pass book 5. any other

B. Linkages of Origin

Place of Origin	Place where Family is staying Presently 1. Family of Origin 2. Family by Creation	How many Family members are left behind 1. Family of Origin 2. Family by Creation	In touch with Family	Do You Sent Remittances if Yes How	Do you Go Back to Village When and why
State _____ Distt. _____	State _____ Distt. _____ State _____ Distt. _____	1. 2.	1.Yes 2.No	1.Yes 2.No how	

C. Migration

Place Migrated to	Reason of migration from Native place	Year of coming to Delhi Finally	No. of Visits to Delhi Previously	Last place from where you came to Delhi	Why Chose Delhi only?	Came with someone. If yes with whom?	Knew any one before coming to Delhi .if yes who?	Anybody else migrated from family. if yes where?

D. Sleeping Pattern

How long have you been sleeping here	Before this where did you sleep	How many places have you slept in last one month	Where do you sleep in	How much do you spend in sleeping	Do you sleep in a group? If yes with who all	What are the problems faced by you in sleeping place	Why do you shift	How you resolve your problems	Do you prefer to sleep in	Reasons	Will you continue to live in Delhi in these conditions if yes for how long
			1. Winter 2. Summers 3. Rains	1. Winter 2. Summers 3. Rains		1. Weather 2. Police 3. goons 4. NS I/C 5. Quilt Owner 6. Peer Gr. 7. Shop Keeper 8. any other			1. Night Shelter 2. Pavement		

E. Living Conditions at the Sleeping Place

Where do you go for toilet	Where do you go for bath	Where do you wash you clothes	Where do you go for drinking water	Where do you go for	Where do you keep your belongings	What are the fears at this place to sleep
1. Place 2. Distance	1. Place 2. Distance	1. Place 2. Distance	1. Place 2. Distance	1. Breakfast 2. Dinner	1. Clothes 2. Tools 3. Money 4. Any other	1. Police beating 2. Accidents 3. Theft 4. Fights 5. Police arrest 6. Abuse by the locals 7. Any other

F. Economic Activity

S. No.	Nature of work done in last 1 month	Whether 1. Permanent 2. Temporary 3. Seasonal 4. Casual	How many days in a month you work	Daily income with each work	Approx. Daily expense	Where do you go for work? Area/Place	Do you change your sleeping place with work	Are you able to save, If yes how much and where do you keep you savings
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								

G. Political Activity

Are you associated with any organisation	Where do you vote	Do you carry out political activity? If yes for whom.	If yes nature of activity	Have you participated in a rally in Delhi	Did you come to the city with a rally
1. Slum Dwellers 2. Street Hawkers 3. Rickshaw pullers 4. NGOs 5. Market 6. Social Welfare 7. Trade Union	1. Native Place 2. Delhi			1. Yes 2. No If yes for whom	

H. Personal Situation

Do you have friends	If yes who are they	Where do they stay	How do you spend your free time	What do you eat	When sick what do you do? Visit	How much do you spent on your health
				Break fast Lunch Dinner	1. Local doctor 2. Govt. Hospital 3. Cheapest Doctor 4. Self medication 5. Wait till you are immobile 6. Charitable clinic Name _____	

I. Initiatives

Knowledge of any organisation working for your welfare. If yes name	Are you aware of its activity	IF yes what are the activities	For how long has it been working	Aware about any govt. initiatives If yes what	Have they made any change in your life? if yes what	Do you want any organisation to work for your welfare	What kind of work do you expect them to carry out for you

Observations and Comments

With special emphasis on
 ⇒ Health
 ⇒ Physical out look
 ⇒ Any disability
 ⇒ Any other thing told which is not covered in the above questions

INVESTIGATORS NAME	RESPONDENTS NAME	REFUSED TO GIVE NAME	DATE AND TIME	SIGNATURE

Recent Developments

This study has been used by the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court of India to make judgements to protect the shelter rights of the homeless and make governments accountable. The following note and the media clippings produced attempt to capture the events leading to the critical judgements.

On December 22nd 2009, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) demolished a tent shelter for the homeless, installed by Delhi Government at a park in Rachna Gol Chakkar near Pusa road. This was done on the ground of encroachment, traffic hazard and city beautification for the Commonwealth Games. It rendered 200 people shelterless during the severe winter. When Shahri Adhikar Manch-Begharon Ke Liye came to know of it, it informed the media and on December 25th, Times of India published a cover story on the episode.

Shortly thereafter, it was reported that two of the evicted persons had died. Following their deaths, on January 4th, 2010, SAM – BKL organized a press conference at the Press Club of India (PCI) to talk about the Human Rights violations by MCD. The story was covered by all major newspapers and channels the next day, January 5th, 2010.

On January 6th, 2010, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi issued a suo moto notice to the MCD and the Delhi Government, asking them why the tent shelter had been demolished. After the HC took up the matter, Supreme Court Commissioners Harsh Mander and NC Saxena sent a letter to the apex court on the gravity of the situation. The letter talked about the vulnerability of homeless citizens to extreme cold, the increase in starvation-related deaths in winter and the negligence by the Government of Delhi. It proposed the setting up of 100 temporary shelters and 500 community kitchens in the city within a week, and 140 permanent shelters by the end of December 2010.

Finally, on January 20th, 2010, the Supreme Court of India ordered the Delhi government to provide both shelter and food to the city's homeless immediately. A week later, the apex court issued notices to all state governments in the country to provide information on the facilities for the homeless in their respective states. **According to the order, all state governments are required to build at least one well-equipped shelter per one lakh population.** These shelters must be functional throughout the year on a 24-hour basis.

It is noteworthy that the one-shelter-per-one-lakh-population point was first put forward by present-day SAM – BKL members when the 2021 Delhi Master Plan was being drafted in 2004. This criterion was also highlighted first in the IGSSS study on Homeless-‘The Unsung CityMakers’ (2008), as a recommendation for the duty bearers to act.

After the Supreme Court directives, state governments have filed affidavits regarding their plans with regards to shelters and inspection reports of the same have been submitted by authorised individuals and NGOs on the status and progress made. The accountability of State for securing shelter rights has been established through the judiciary. We are hopeful of the day when State takes up the responsibility on its own.

Supreme Court speaks up for the homeless

J. Venkatesan

“Thousands are without a home in this winter.... Give them shelter and basic amenities forthwith....”

NEW DELHI: Expressing grave concern at the plight of homeless footpath dwellers shivering in the biting cold wave now sweeping Delhi, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the State Administration to provide them shelter forthwith along with blankets and basic amenities.

A Bench of Justice Dalveer Bhandari and Justice K. S. Radhakrishnan gave this direction on the basis of a report from Dr. N. C. Saxena, Commissioner, and Harsh Mander, Special Commissioner, appointed by the Supreme Court.

On an application from senior counsel Colin Gonsalves, the Court on Wednesday morning issued notice to Additional Solicitor-General Mohan Parasaran to take instructions from the Delhi Government for taking up the matter later in the day. In the afternoon, Mr. Parasaran submitted that the State Chief Secretary was to hold a meeting in the evening and he assured the Court that “all those who are without shelter would be provided shelter on a priority basis. In the shelter homes they would also ensure that the basic amenities are provided, such as blankets, water and mobile toilets. And by this evening necessary arrangements would be made and, on the electronic media and other modes, the people would be informed about the location of the shelter homes where they could go and take shelter”.

The Bench took on record the submissions and directed the Delhi Government to immediately provide shelters to the homeless. It lauded the Delhi Administration for its prompt response and the assistance rendered by Mr. Parasaran in this regard.

Justice Bhandari told the Additional Solicitor-General, “Thousands of people are without a home in this winter. The report says you have reduced the number of shelters. You must ensure that every one of them is provided shelter. No one should suffer. If there are no shelters, put them in some vacant buildings. It is only for a few days till the conditions improve.”

The Bench in its order referred to the report which said “a number of deaths have taken place because of extreme cold weather in Delhi for the last few weeks” and said, “Malnutrition and hunger are the underlying causes making people susceptible to extreme weather conditions. There is ample scientific evidence that....due to an increase in the basal metabolism rate (BMR) with a fall in temperature, higher calories are required by the body to maintain body temperature.”

“It is mentioned in the report that Delhi is witnessing some of the coldest temperatures in the last decade and the Government of Delhi has not taken the required steps to protect the people living on the streets from the extreme weather. While during last year there were 46 shelters during winter, which included 17 permanent shelters and 29 temporary shelters, this year the number has been

reduced to 33 (17 permanent + 16 temporary) shelters. Further, out of these 16 shelters, one was demolished,” the Bench observed.

It listed the matter for further hearing on January 27 when the issue of distribution of ration cards to the homeless would be considered.

(<http://www.hindu.com/2010/01/21/stories/2010012161640100.htm>)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

Right to life of homeless stressed

Survey Report Placed Before SC Wednesday, Scheduling of Hearing Yet



A report by the National Commission for Protection of Civil Rights (NCPCR) on the plight of homeless people in Delhi has been placed before the Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday. The report, which was submitted to the SC on Tuesday, details the findings of a survey conducted by the NCPCR in the city. The survey found that a large number of homeless people in Delhi are living in slums and are facing various problems, including lack of access to basic amenities, health care, and education. The report also highlights the need for the government to take steps to improve the living conditions of homeless people and to provide them with access to basic services. The SC is expected to schedule a hearing on the report at a later date.

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times

MARCH 04, 2012

SUNDAY HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI
MARCH 04, 2012

Cops evict **homeless** from shelter over prayer meet

RAMLILA GROUND Shelter operator says more than 60 affected, files complaint

Monday, February 20, 2006
 Wednesday, February 22, 2006

100

NEW DELHI For those living in hazy conditions near the Ghazipur Ground in Old Delhi, Friday and Saturday turned out to be two sunnier days.

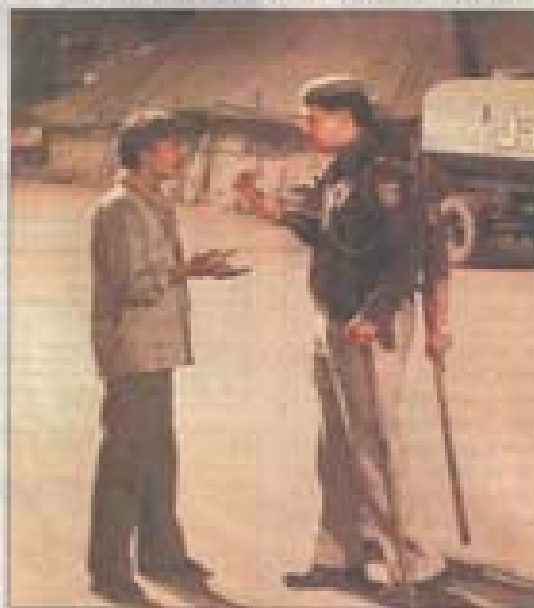
Della pulled 100 people to visit, whereas more than 600 thousands people from the shelter due to a special program mounting held at the Ramada Grand. A lot of VIPs also visited the place. "Security measures" were the police's explanation for this.

India Global Social Service Society (IGSSS), which runs the shelter on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), lodged a complaint at Kirti Market police station.

India Prakash Singh, chairman of FICCI, said, "The police threatened my colleagues and the business people living there and abused them. The police also threatened to beat me on the way home."

High and even on Saturday morning, his homeless person was allowed to enter the school. "This is contempt of High Court order. These shelters are supposed to remain open throughout the day," he said.

^a *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 12228).



■ A homeless man talking to a police officer near Manila Grand on Tuesday night.

from near the entrance point of the river when MF visited the spot on Saturday night. The road from the Civic Center, established in the new Indian

André A. Mary was killed for justice.

Peters said the program would eventually fill about 300 and the hospitals would be in

There was no active failure to resist people living in the night shelter. Also, no complaint has been lodged with us.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

as when the business departs. But I worried initially that the business would get so deep in the debt as to become toxic.

"The police said that the YIP movement [the protesters had] no violence. To treat them like criminals and as a security threat is almost" Nasser said.

A complaint was also filed with the DCMR. NY has the copies of both the police complaint and the complaint to the DCMR.

Has the police department having taken any action. "There was no action taken to assist people living in the right situation. Also, no complaint has been lodged with us," said a senior police officer.

ENRICH, too, denied receiving a complaint. "We have not received any complaint. We will respond to it once we do," said a senior ENRICH official.

1999

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Police officials said they cannot
and do not think if that person had

Recently, the Supreme Court took action, including Delta, to back the ruling to comply with the 2009 order on water rights. States have been asked to file the required response by January 18.

Cold worsening plight of the homeless

By S. S. Srinivasan

THE COLD WINTER weather has made the plight of the homeless in Chennai even more acute. Many of them are now sleeping on the streets, and some are even taking shelter in the open air.

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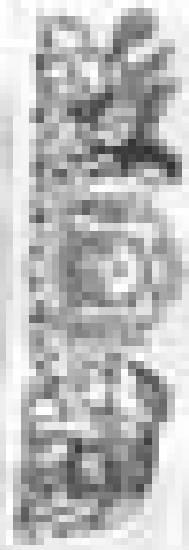
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1998

THE HINDU

Just 40 shelters for 1 lakh homeless

Rs 60L allotted by MCD, but little to show

Anshika Pandit | two

New Delhi: There are more than 20,000 homeless people in the capital and that's a conservative estimate. Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has only 40 night shelters with a capacity of 4,000. Of these 10 are permanent while the rest are from the first floor of community halls. Eight temporary night shelters have been proposed for this winter. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has more.

An amount of Rs 60 lakh has been approved for MCD's night shelter scheme for 2009-10. 75% of the 60 are being met in collaboration with NGO Ashoka Ashrayam.

Delhi government's department of social services has set up 10 temporary shelters so far. SDA Raghav Kumar says they are open to setting up more.

Activists like Indu Prakash Singh, a technical adviser on urban poverty and gender at International Social Service Society, feel that's far too short. He points out that Maharashtra 200 clearly says down there should be one permanent shelter for every 1 lakh population.

In recent of Community Welfare Department of St Stephen's Hospital, which has been made the shelter NGO on the homeless issue by Delhi government under Minister Gaurangram, is shocked at the dominance of the shelter at Pusa Road.

"What's the point in having a shelter (NGO) in homeless if we are not even informed before such a step? I spoke to the district social services and MCD representatives but no concrete action has been taken so far," he says.

Ujjwal Kulkarni of Shakti Ashrayam March Begum Ka Liya, a resident of ANCO, pointed out that according to a survey done by the activists, the number of shelters has actually fallen from 60 to 50000 in 2008-09. There were only 3% of Delhi's homeless population.

Kulkarni described the Pusa Road demolition as a major violation of human rights.



WASTE These evicted are using waste material to light bonfires as mercury dies.

Structure has been built illegally: MCD

Anshika Pandit | two

New Delhi: The demolition of a temporary night shelter at Pusa Road by MCD for the sake of beautification for the Commonwealth Games has shocked the city.

"With complete disregard for the dignity and rights of the people in the Pusa Road shelter, the MCD destroyed the shed and converted all the blankets. People were barely able to salvage their meagre possessions, and since then have been up all night in fear of the police and other authorities," said a statement from the Shakti Ashrayam March, a coalition of 30 NGOs.

"The stated reason for the demolition was to grow grass as part of the beautification drive in the run up to the Commonwealth Games," the statement said.

Most of the displaced homeless had come from Karnataka. They came to Delhi after a famine almost three decades back. The men and women here do odd jobs for a living.

On Wednesday night, they were looking for ways to keep out the cold. Some had set up small bonfires using waste material. Women crisscrossed under blankets with their children close to them so that they could feel warm.

A three-year-old girl shivered in a thin blanket as she looked across to a bonfire. Her foot was bound to a bandage. Her grandmother, Bhabli, said her two other grandchildren were sleeping under a blanket. Still, a rickshaw puller, perched at a bundle of waste plastic sheets. Under these

black sheets lay Tara with her two-month-old baby. Asha and the wife or homeless said their last hope coming to the temporary night shelter for the past few years.

While the previous authorities of the Delhi government refused to comment officially on what transpired between them and MCD, SDA Raghav Kumar in charge of night shelters, said the shelter was set up as part of the 10 temporary shelters being provided by the current administration. The shelter had been set up at the same park for the past three years.

MCD spokesperson Deep Mathur said no government agency or NGO had sought permission from MCD for use of the land. "The illegal occupation on municipal land near Pusa Road establishment was removed because it was an eyesore."

OUT IN THE COLD

Mathur said the demolition was a traffic hazard posing a risk to the pedestrian crossings and the ground public. It had to be removed keeping in view the safety of all concerned.

Mathur said the redevelopment at Pusa Road, along with the adjoining triangular islands, will be developed by the engineering and horticulture departments for the Commonwealth Games. The place from where the construction has been removed, will also be developed for the same purpose.

He, however, added "If a request is received, MCD would consider providing a proper temporary night shelter or space for it at the appropriate place and extend help meeting it."

JUST NOT ENOUGH

- There are 1 to 1.5 lakh homeless people in Delhi
- MCD has 20 night shelters which can take in just 4,000 people. Twelve are permanent, 3 function from community halls. Eight temporary shelters proposed for the coming winter
- Only one night shelter for women in Gurgaon Nagar
- Delhi govt has set up 10 temporary shelters of its own
- Maharashtra 200 says there should be one permanent shelter for every 1 lakh population

Are you warm enough?

For a place to treat its homeless the way it does, Dubai is one curious city

100

On a rainy winter afternoon early this week, I went fishing for the toadfish and found that species, which live in cold, deep, still water and seldom are caught, with a grin and enthusiasm that seemed equally on my face. But I was not fishing for toads. I was fishing for a toadfish story — for Nature in a small pond with two owners. One of the owners was me, and the other was a toadfish named Chubbie. This is the story of how I and Chubbie, who is talking to me from the pond, have changed each other and how we have changed the pond.

Several scientists, led by Peter Dinkley, a Johns Hopkins University professor who has been studying the virus since it was first found in 1969, say the virus is unlikely to spread to other people. "It is a very unusual virus," says Dinkley. "It is not a common virus, and it is not a common disease." He adds that the virus is "not a common virus, and it is not a common disease."

and practice. By using these various methods, the city's leaders have been able to identify the best practices and implement them on a citywide basis. The results have been a significant improvement in the city's overall performance and a more efficient and effective government.

It's a general trend nationwide. A recent survey of 7,000 households are completed — an estimated 10 percent of the population — and the results are in. While writing up working conditions, the survey found that 10 percent of the respondents are in manual workers. "I prefer to see the word 'city employee,'" says Locke. "I don't want to be a manual worker."

He doesn't think an address with the best of the country is a bad idea. "I don't want to be a manual worker," says Locke. "I don't want to be a manual worker."

They are the "young leaders" of the nation's workforce, but not the "young leaders" of the nation's workforce.

[illegible]

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...to be an adequate environmental...
...their health have been [10]. It
...require public to solve the prob-
...Trends, performance measures
...amongst people in high, but have all
...provide a permanent solution
...a wider and government buildings off
...over 400 work buildings in Gdansk, says
...Public Supply. They remain aware

"In Dallas, students are known to be 'scooped,' a name borrowed from the oil industry. Perhaps this happens because the students here do not appreciate that it is actually Texas that has done more to help them. Perhaps they feel that the students do not deserve such help, or perhaps they are just prejudiced with racism."

views. Whittaker says this led the network to turn out to my family and Friends' Mother's Association. (Hill) has been recruited with a background panel discussion slated to take place this fall. In December 2010, the AUSA at Houston, Mendez, reported to a (Lawrence) whether this group spent much time in the middle West, but not in the area of activity and needs today. The AUSA supported this, but over a year ago, the team party before was "national" (Mendez) and was to be held in Dallas.

Even if they are motivated by racism, it is still better that community violence is laid to rest than that community violence is laid to rest by a white perpetrator. I believe the answer is to educate the general public and politicians, and to educate the young and old about the realities of racism. All the young men and women I met had jobs. All the children were loved and had jobs.

There are largely unmet needs of a big city. Not a great city, according to the latest assessment of the Brookings Institution, but a place of substantial growth. In 1990, it was the second-most rapidly growing city in the country, with 2.5 percent annual growth. It was the only city, among the 100 largest, to have a population increase of more than 1 million in the past decade. And it is still growing.

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IN REACT : The chief minister visited night shelters on Monday

Build a caring city, activists tells govt

Amisha Pandey | 10

New Delhi: As the chill tightened its grip over the city, activists gathering for the homeless came together on Monday to give vent to their anger against the agency of the government and an attempt to use the Commonwealth Games to justify reasons.

They demanded that before aspiring to make the capital a world-class city in the run-up to the 2010 Games, the government should make it a caring city.

The growing furor, particularly over the demolition of a temporary shelter at the Pura Road roundabout last month, reported first in TFI, finally saw chief minister Sheila Dikshit hold a review meeting late on Monday evening. She followed it up with a tour of the night shelters, along with minister for social welfare Mangal Ram Singhal and senior officials from Delhi government and MCD. She visited Tuli Gali, Fatehpuri and Chanderi Chowk areas.

"I met the people, heard their reasons and distributed blankets. We are arranging for more blankets. There was a demand for gar chaus which I have asked the officers to organise," she told TFI before

wrapping up her visit. Ironically, the Pura Road roundabout where a 32-year-old man died on New Year's Eve after the shelter was demolished did not figure on the PM's schedule.

Asked about the demolition, the CM said, "A shelter has now been set up not too far away from the site." When it was pointed out how the new site was inconvenient and located at a distance, Dikshit said, "The minister (Mangal Ram Singhal) is looking into the matter."

The new temporary shelter, about 500 metres away from the roundabout, is located along the main road. It came up 11 days after the demolition.

Meanwhile, representatives of various NGOs came together under the banner of 'Shanti Achaar Manch: Begharme Be Live' and condemned the demolition. "We can't use the Games as an opportunity to improve our living conditions and in the process stop caring for the marginalised poor," said Visha Ramachandran, a senior law researcher. Indu Prakash Singh said the demolition was linked to the government's policy to "marginalise and criminalise the city's poor and homeless."

www.bhaskar.com/article

Number of homeless 3 times more than govt figure: NGOs

WORD AGAINST WORD Say 'faulty data' should not be the parameter to frame policies for welfare of city's homeless

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NEW BILLS The government will introduce two bills in early 2006 to help families meet the needs of children at risk.

World Survey conducted in 1990 by the United Nations and published by UNEP. It is a survey of environmental quality in 140 countries, with 1990 as the base year. The survey shows that the human environment is in a state of decline.

The survey, administered by the University of Michigan, was conducted in 2000 — a time when 30% of respondents expressed the opinion that a majority of homosexuals probably have AIDS and 11% said:

¹¹The period in which the survey was conducted coincided with the Company's early years of operation in the United States.

the only ones. After the Census Bureau ruled, however, all of these cases back. They were not counted in the survey," said Thompson. Kwan, from Beijing's Academy of Sciences, said that while it takes a number of years to

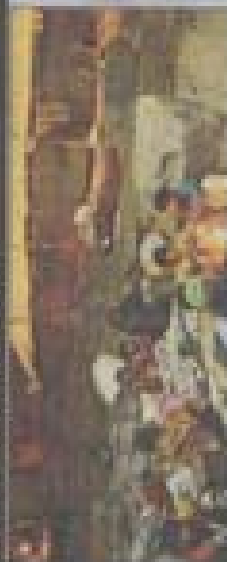
The books say the data should not be used as the only basis for making decisions regarding public health issues.

They did not even consider the threat of being killed, or the possibility of being arrested, for trying the poor man. I think he did not look for the law. My feelings clearly are for the poor and the weak.

The field is covered by the
water level, which is about
10 cm above the ground.

For more information, contact your local branch of the American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, or call (800) 370-6548.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS



A 2009 survey had concluded that 800,000 people were unemployed in the United States.

- [illegible]

are they questioning the book's value? The days will be even longer if the book is not to be used as a teaching device for the new curriculum, which is still in the planning stage. This means all the teachers will have to be trained to use the book. The book has many right ideas, but it is not a good teaching device. It should be modified, and a better, better government should be used.

balancing the government's budget. "We may say that we are followed by the general opinion that the money would be going to waste. Our business population, which has not been for some

100

Mothers (2003) that the timing was not right, as the CRYC would be held in the same year. As a result, the survey would have to be delayed for two months (October and November 2003). Mothers (2003) had, however, assumed that the survey would be conducted in 2003.

French king, married to
Elizabeth, daughter of
Henry VIII, which
ended the divorce and the
English reformation.

The way that I have seen only 10,000 to 15,000 people in total in my life is a very small number of people, and I think that's a very small number of people.

[illegible]

city residents that there are more than 150,000 homeless in the city. If they all use the same data to make policy, the picture of the homeless they are based on is flawed, no matter how small the sample.

Out in the cold on X-mas eve

MCD Demolishes Night Shelter Put Up By Delhi Govt To 'Beautify' Park For 2010 Games

1

New Tenthredinids (dark when old). These always go like butter to some few, but mostly old, dingy. More than from the wild, with the memory plus, the only protection the Indian has are clouds of smoke, which keep off the new bird.

UK broadcaster warns DO
over Gamers' quest P.11

are among 200,000 homeless people who have lost their entire source of income because of the winter - a temporary night shelter at Pinar Road put up by Delhi government last week had accommodated 14,000 on Tuesday afternoon.

MCI's logic: The test has to be "too difficult" for the Commission to pass. Besides, it says, the other

Some early studies suggest that people seem to be happy with the first and third job positions that they get, but not the second. "I suspect," says a third person using an online OJD job posting website, "that the second job affects a poor impression. I've seen it happen." (http://www.ozjob.com.au)

There were at least 11 infants
sitting down at the
end of the table.
The children being
the youngest being

When PG&E closed the spot on Wednesday night, these hapless people were spending the chilly night in the open, huddling along the grille adjacent to the park near the busy Peoria street intersection. Many said they had the shivers from the icy process.

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*Evening will fall soon,
Red sun will get lost
In the ocean soon.
And far off
Some birds
Forming lines
Will fly to the same forests
That have nests on trees.
These birds
Will return there
And sleep there.
Only I am at loss
That in the forest of these houses,
I don't have a resting place.
Evening is going to fall
Where will I go?*

...Javed Akhtar, *Poet, lyricist and scriptwriter*



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