

Local Dissemination Workshop for BInUCom case-study on migrant workers housing

September 22, 2017



Event documentation

The workshop was co-organized by Centre for urban Equity, CEPT University, with Prayas Centre for Labour Research and Action, a NGO that works with migrant construction workers in Ahmedabad.

The workshop was organized as a one-day national consultation workshop on “Housing Issues of Seasonal Migrant Workers in the City” and brought different stakeholders – researchers (from Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Delhi), NGOs working with migrant groups (from Ahmedabad and Mumbai), and government officials (from Ahmedabad and Surat cities) – to share and discuss research findings and experiences around migrant workers housing. The BInuCom study was thus shared with researchers, NGOs and government officials concerned specifically with the issue of migrant workers’ housing in both Ahmedabad and other Indian cities (Surat, Mumbai, Delhi), and get feedback from them.

The workshop also included presentations by other researchers as well as NGOs and two government officials. More than 50 persons attended the workshop. Some members of the migrant community in Ahmedabad also came to share the issues they face around housing.

(the workshop programme and registration list of the workshop participants is uploaded in moodle as a PDF document).



Beyond “Slums”: Housing Issues of Seasonal Migrant Workers in the City

NATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

Public discourses on housing for low income groups as well as housing schemes for these groups are centered around issues related to settlements identified as “slums,” their upgradation, redevelopment or relocation, with a focus on house-owners. However, this leaves out a number of groups of the urban poor. One such group which plays a significant role in the functioning of the city is the seasonal migrant workforce. These workers spend a significant portion of their productive lives in the city, especially during the lean agricultural seasons. Although they return to their village homes once their bodies can no longer take any more hard labour in the city, it is important that they have decent shelter and access to basic services in the city. However, government authorities and urban planners have not adequately addressed this significant and increasing community in the urban landscape, forcing them to live in dismal conditions in the city: on construction sites, in the open on pavements and under bridges, in squatter settlements which are not enumerated by the local authorities as “slums,” in informal rental rooms in “slums” etc. There is however a beginning of recognition in some policy and government circles of the scale and nature of internal labour migration and the need to address it in the urban destinations. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation set up a working group in 2016 “to study the impact of migration on housing, infrastructure and livelihood in urban areas so that appropriate product mix of housing supply market catering to migrant population of various income segments can be devised along with infrastructure and livelihood support programmes.” There are some legislations and programmes also, but most remain only on paper.

This workshop, jointly organized by Centre for Urban Equity, CEPT University under its Building Urban Inclusive Communities (BinUCom) project, and Prayas Centre for Labour Research and Action, is a forum for bringing together the different stakeholders to discuss the issues related to housing needs of seasonal migrant workers in cities. The specific objectives of the consultation workshop are:

- Share and discuss experiences, research findings, and program implementation outcomes
- Further the debate on the issue of eligibility of this migrant group as legitimate citizens of the city, and how this can be recognized in present and future policy frameworks.
- Develop recommendations on enumerating such migrants and for fulfilling their housing needs including needs related to sanitation, water and electricity.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017
9 am – 5:45 pm

Ahmedabad Management Association
ATIRA Campus, IIM Road



Funded by:



Workshop poster



Session 1

Preeti Oza of the NGO Prayas Centre for Labour Research and Action presents the housing conditions of tribal migrant construction labour in Ahmedabad and the issues they face



Session 1

Vijay Parmar of
the NGO

Janvikas makes a
presentation of
the housing
issues faced by
the migrant
Valmiki
community in
Ahmedabad, and
Janvikas's work
on the issues



Session 1
Professor Amita
Bhide from
School of Habitat
Studies, Tata
Institute of
Social Sciences
(Mumbai)
discusses the
presentations of
Session 1



Migrant women workers share the issues around eviction and insecure housing that they are facing in the city



Session 2

Dr. Yogesh Maitrak,
Director, Urban
Community
Development
Department,
Ahmedabad
Municipal
Corporation (AMC),
presenting the
approach of AMC
to the “Shelter for
the Urban
Homeless Scheme”



Session 2

Renu Desai
presenting the
policy study
done on housing
for migrant
construction
workers





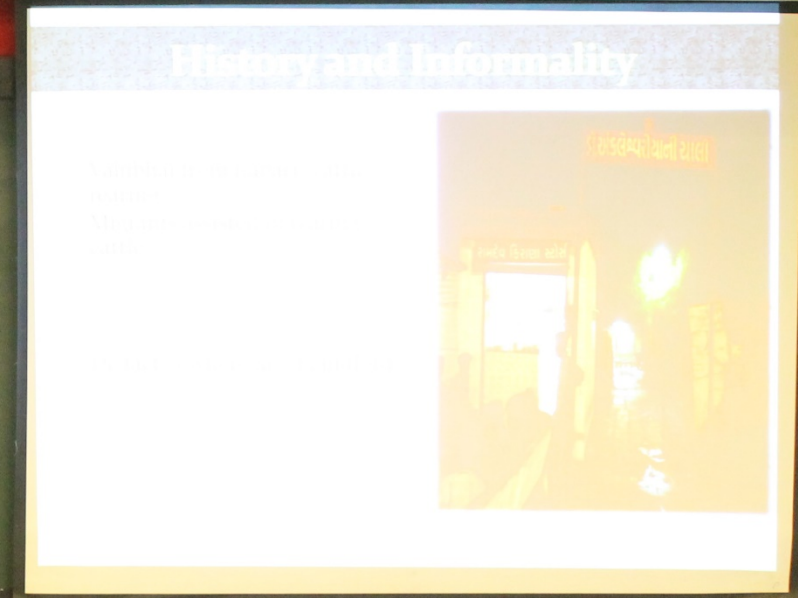
Migrant construction workers and their children present a 10-minute play on issues they face in the city



Members from different migrant communities in Ahmedabad share the issues around insecure housing that they are facing in the city



Gayatri Jariwala,
Assistant
Commissioner,
Urban Community
Development
department, Surat
Municipal
Corporation (SMC),
presenting the
approach of SMC to
the “Shelter for the
Urban Homeless
Scheme”



Session 3

Nivedita Jayaram from the NGO Aajeevika Bureau presenting on the settlements of the unsedentary, particularly focusing on migrant construction workers living in informal rental housing and migrant factory workers living inside factory premises.



Session 3

Prof. Darshini Mahadevia, CEPT University, as discussant for Session 3



Session 4

Raju Vanzare from
the NGO YUVA
(Mumbai)
presenting on
housing needs of
migrant workers in
greenfield cities

Housing of Migrant Construction Workers: Seasonal Migration, Translocality and Urban Governance in Ahmedabad

Renu Desai & Shachi Sanghvi

CEPT
UNIVERSITY
CENTRE
FOR URBAN EQUITY

B-IN-U-COM

Financed by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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Ahmedabad

Prayas-CUE workshop
Beyond "Slums": Housing Issues of Seasonal Migrant Workers in the City

Session 4

Renu Desai
presenting the
BInUCom case-
study on migrant
workers housing