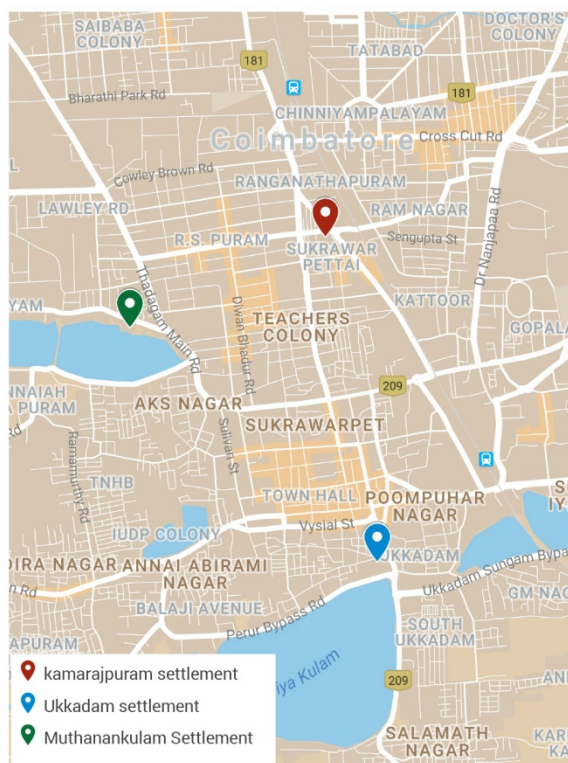




Local Dissemination Workshop, KAHE



Key map showing location of informal settlements

Introduction

The Local dissemination Workshop was conducted by Karpagam Academy of Higher Education (KAHE) at :

- 1) Kamarajapuram settlement.
- 2) Ukkadam Settlement.
- 3) Muthanakulam Settlement.

The intention of the workshop was to spread awareness amongst the stakeholders about Binucom’s objectives and serve as a trust building exercise for initiating dialogue between the colony dwellers and the KAHE research team.

The workshop was conducted in two stages - firstly a free health camp was conducted by Karpagam Medical College (KMC), wherein, the primary intention was to build a rapport with the slum dwellers and create a

platform to ease the process of conducting survey. Secondly, this was followed by Focused Group Discussions(FGD). FGD was conducted as a participatory exercise to delineate the concerns of the settlements. The health camp consisted of a team of two doctors and assisting nurses who conducted systematic processes starting with patients registration, followed by doctors consultation and, providing corresponding medication. The questionnaire prepared by KAHE team, specifically for the health camp was affixed along with the registration forms to procure information suitable for research.

Dissemination Workshop 1: Kamarajapuram Settlement



Image showing Kamarajapuram settlement

The health camp at Kamarajapuram attracted a positive response with close to 80 registrations. Simultaneously, a team of surveyors analysed the settlement to collect individual household data on issues related to mobility and health. The typology in houses were also identified and brief details were prepared based on the survey. Nearly 35 surveys were completed on the first day, followed up by approximately 60 surveys on the next day.



Image showing MR Uday Kumar during FDG

Following the household survey, a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was executed under the guidance and expertise of Mr. Uday Kumar (designation) in Kamarajpuram and Mr. Michael Arokya of Bharathiar University. Identification of issues (specific to health and mobility) predominant in the settlement were mapped in three stages:



Prioritization mapping chart

1. Body Mapping: Body Mapping is a way of identifying common pattern of health problems amongst dwellers/workers living in particular settlement. Dwellers will pool their information about health problems that are unexplained or just might be related to the job, patterns can quickly emerge.

2. Mobility Mapping: Mobility Mapping is a visual presentation of people's movements within and outside their community. This tool helps to identify issues and problems related to socially differential mobility and access to resources.



Image showing members of KAHE team



Locals interacting with mapping chart

3. Prioritisation Mapping: The first two stages helped focus on primary concerns expressed by the residents. further to which, a chart was prepared to understand the degree of fluctuation within different primary concerns. Further to this, a prioritisation chart was tabulated to assess the primary causes for the existing issues.

Dissemination Workshop 2: Ukkadam Settlement

The Health camp at Ukkadam was conducted at a local temple (Sri Maduraiveeran Kovil) during the morning hours of 10am to noon 1.30pm. A total of 70 dwellers registered for the camp. A brief interview with the doctor on board was recorded to paint a holistic scenario of the settlement. On parallel grounds, a team of surveyors was sent for individual household surveys under the leadership of Mr. Veerasamy and Ms. Sumathi.



Ukkadam Settlement

A total of 37 surveys were completed on the first day, followed by an additional 70 surveys by 26th April. Additionally, the research team also carried out a mapping exercise to document the total no. of households in the settlement to justify the sample size and frame the basis of factual comparisons.

FGD in Ukkadam was planned and carried out at the site (Sri Maduraiveeran Kovil). A total of 15 members participated in this. General mobility mapping was done with the assistance of Mr. Michael Arokya and the survey team, to help dwellers identify the main nodes around the site, the mode of transport frequently used, node interchanges if any and the issues faced with respect to mobility (example: the expenses incurred for transport). A prioritization chart was prepared by the dwellers to point out the grave issues that affect their livelihood. Identification of problems and their list were prepared by the Karpagam team to assist the dwellers in this exercise.

Outlook: The health camp received an encouraging response from the dwellers and helped the team in achieving a rapport required for further surveys. Household surveys were conducted with ease. The

Focus Group Discussion was planned at 12 in the noon to attract the working population (knowing they return from work by 11AM).

However, With the health camp receiving good numbers, its location, the temple, proved to be slightly disadvantageous in attracting all other castes and religions. Also, the doctors were available only till noon – this proved to be disadvantageous in attracting the working class. The same reason of the temple as the meeting point could be related to the response for PR techniques conducted on the third day. The group discussions saw response mostly from the women population irrespective of the specific time chosen for the activities.



At the settlement

Issues	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	Total
Drainage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	13x ●
Drinking water facility	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	13x ●
Job opportunity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	8x ● 2x ●, 3x ●
Toilet facility	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	9x ● 4x ●
Rodents	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12x ●, 1x ●
Housing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	11x ●, 2x ●
Health	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	5x ●, 2x ●, 6x ●
Education	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	2x ●, 11x ●
Savings	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	6x ●, 5x ●, 2x ●
Mobility	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	3x ●, 10x ●

R = Respondent; ● = major concern; ● = medium concern; ● = minor concern

Prioritization chart

Local Dissemination Workshop At Muthanankulam

The Local dissemination Workshop was conducted by Karpagam Academy of Higher Education (KAHE) on 29th April 2017 at the Muthanankulam slum in Coimbatore. The intention of the workshop was to spread awareness amongst the stakeholders about Binucom project and serve as a trust building exercise for initiating dialogue between the colony dwellers and the Binucom team.

The workshop was conducted as an event based on the theme of 1. Health & Sanitation 2. Road safety, as it was considered to be need of the hour in this particular slum. It was designed to be an interactive programme that would involve the dwellers in an informal manner. The programme was executed jointly by the students of the Faculty of Architecture and Alumnus of the Master of Social Services, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, and was conducted in Temple premises of the slum with the chief participants being the residents of the slum.

The first part of the event was a short skit that emphasised the importance of Road safety and The need of wearing helmet while driving. It operated as both, a tool of awareness and a form of entertainment that drew the attention of the people. The informal approach was exemplified by assigning simple tasks to the audience to promote interaction and use of colloquial language.

The second part of the workshop was a skit on sanitation and health. The play was enacted as a moral story which was inspired from the day today lives of the residents. The skit established an emotional connection with the residents because the slum itself located on banks of a polluted lake called Muthanankulam (Kulam means lake in Tamil).

The third part involved a short briefing session wherein the objective of Binucom and the purpose of the study was put forth to the people. This was followed by a dialogue between the research team and the residents regarding their grievances. Major complaints from the residents were:

- (i). Lack of employment
- (ii). Fear of eviction
- (iii). Impact of polluted lake on their daily lives.
- (iv). Poor infrastructural maintenance (water supply, street lighting and Garbage disposal)
- (v). Poor responsiveness of the government in addressing these basic complaints.

The workshop was the first step towards the development of a working relationship between the users and the research team. It served as a platform through which the inhabitants could voice their perspective about the government announcement on eviction. This, however, could be offset by conducting many more events. Overall the workshop was a veritable event which has ensured the research team an unrestricted access to the Muthanankulam in the future.

More at: moodle.donau-uni.ac.at/binucom/

Survey at Ukkadam and Kamarajapuram:

Hiranmayi Shankavaram

Albert Einstein once said, “The only source of knowledge is experience”. These words found their validation, on a personal front, during the surveys conducted in Ukkadam and Kamarajapuram settlements of Coimbatore.

To begin on a general note, it is a well-known fact that India has been described diverse owing to its population, thereby, framing the notion that no two regions (be it at a scale of a neighbourhood or all the more so, a city) are alike. Along these lines, it is but obvious to state that the case studies conducted carry characteristic features in relation to their focal issues (health, policy check, mobility or economies etc). Standing unacquainted in a city such as Coimbatore brought out the need, firstly, to understand its history combined with a quick understanding of the city’s dramatic physiognomies.

Secondly, the pilot studies conducted by KAHE team prior to my appointment, laid out a fair platform to understand the evident concerns of the settlements. On parallel grounds, a conscious effort was made to decipher the concerns through the dwellers’ lives during the study. This outlook subsequently framed the highlights of the study - the proposition of a free medical camp and a participatory appraisal discussion with the dwellers. These nifty approaches brought us closer to the dwellers, thus breaking the prior notions of an unsafe and uncooperative settlement.

Thirdly, as the study continued, certain interesting aspects unfolded - the predominant one relates to the disparity amongst the dwellers based on their caste deities. Until then, the (theoretical) notion of disparity remained more at a religious level i.e., a well-known tiff between religions. However, this seemed to extend even at the community level. The close-knit feature of an informal settlement seemed to dilute mainly attributing to communal differences.

On the whole, the concept of a participatory survey subdued the preliminary discernments of the settlement with respect to its uncooperating insolences. Secondly and more importantly, the survey justified the inherent features of the settlement and dictated against a generalized opinion of any settlement within Coimbatore. Here, it is important to note that, the experience of on-field surveys steered a much rationalized knowledge base that remained strong and validated, alongside the existing theoretical philosophies (that generalize the characteristics of such settlements). In conclusion, reiterating Einstein’s words, I would probably consider it apt to say that, experience *builds* knowledge.

The experiences during such a participatory study put forth intrinsic details that would probably have gone unnoticed in a stereotypical quantitative survey. A personal outlook for future surveys would direct a participatory approach for pilot studies that can create a robust knowledge base and a clear-cut preparedness for the main survey.

More at: moodle.donau-uni.ac.at/binucom/

BInUCom Experience:

Janani Thiagrajan

“A community that excludes even one of its members is no community at all” – This Quote by Dan Wilkins was the first thing that came to me when the definition of the term “Inclusive Communities” was being debated upon, sometime during the end of October 2015. The realization that our society is still polarized into the “have” and “have-nots”, even in the 21st century, and the fact that there is very little awareness about this issue in our community was quite startling. Binucom has presented us with an opportunity to tread into this uncharted territory in the context of Coimbatore city, where informal settlements are just beginning to take shape. The local dissemination workshops in particular have exposed the research team to the toils and burdens faced by fellow members of our own community. Various experiences garnered by the students during their field visits to these settlements have certainly sensitized them to the subject of informality. The conferences and workshops conducted by partner universities have aided in improving our understanding of this discipline in terms of tools, techniques and prevailing situations of informal settlements in various contexts. Though there is a long way to go for us as researchers, given the current state of affairs, this project has instilled a sense of social responsibility, awareness and public spirit within us.

More at: moodle.donau-uni.ac.at/binucom/



Inprint:

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