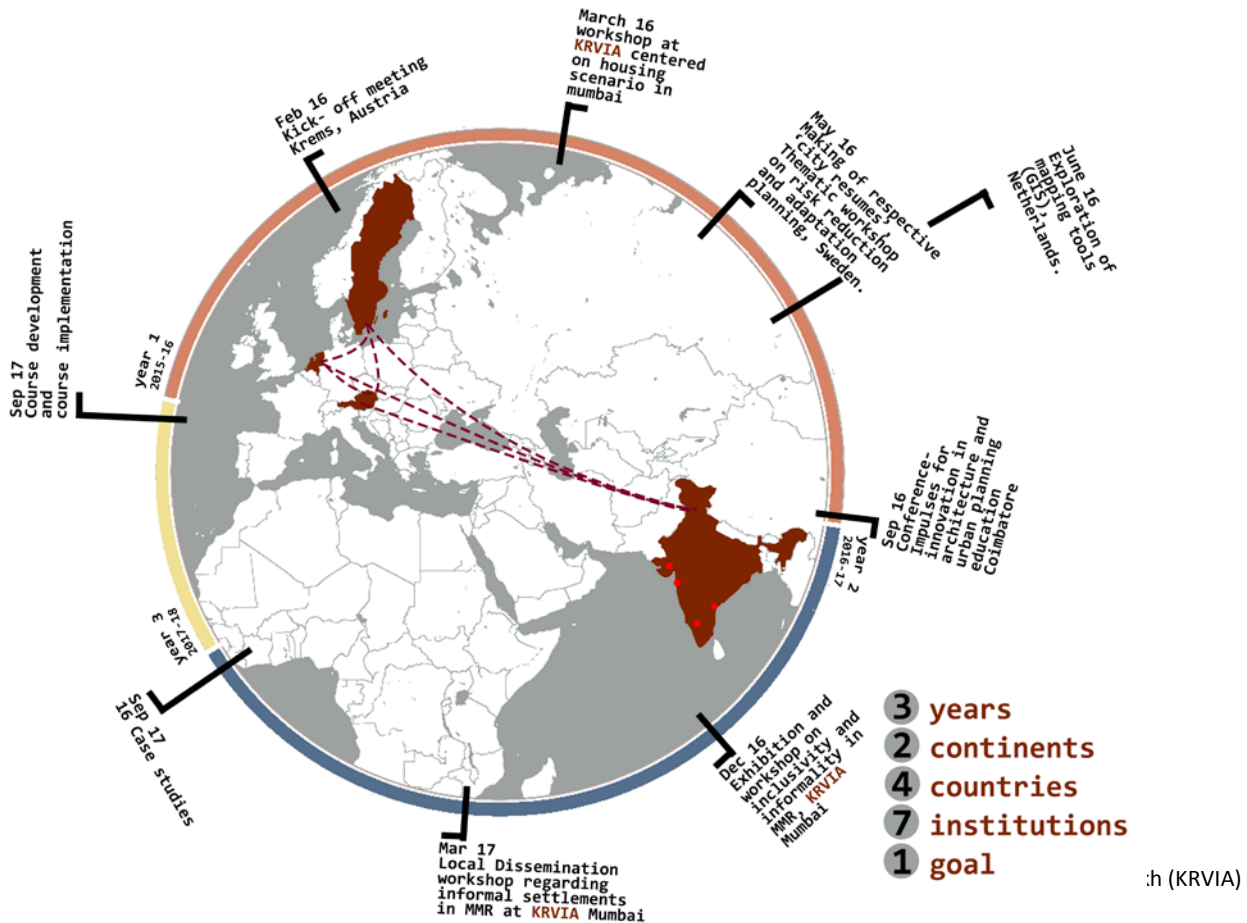


Building INclusive Urban COMmunities

NEW SLETT E R December 2016



Note on BINUCOM:

Introduction:

The total housing shortage in Indian cities is expected to go up from about 18.8 million in 2012 to about 30 million in 2022. However, a substantial part of India's quickly growing urban population lives in informal settlements under appalling conditions and suffering from lack of tenure, threat of eviction and poor infrastructure.

The Indian government has addressed this problem by defining "Housing for All" by 2022 as its goal and is currently developing a new, national scheme for urban housing. This scheme aims at supporting four types of urban poor:

1. Slum dwellers
2. Urban poor not living in slums
3. Prospective Migrants
4. Homeless Destitute

Indian Higher Educational Institutes are not well equipped to meet these demands, since curricula in architecture and urban planning predominantly focus on technical and design skills.



Funded by the
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The BlnUCom proposal was prepared with support of Austrian national preparatory funding. This project proposal capitalizes on Danube University Krems's, Austria previous experiences on informal settlements in Ethiopia. This allowed the coordinator to visit Higher Educational Institutes in Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Mumbai and New Delhi, and meet representatives from all partner institutions (CEPT, KARPAGAM, KRVI and SPAV) in person. This was a prerequisite for collecting information on local needs and for intense cooperation in developing the proposal.

The BlnUCom project aims to:-

- Improve the capacity of Higher Educational Institute to jointly develop and publish Open Educational Resources (namely case studies and course descriptions in the Open Course Ware format)
- Increase the relevance of architecture and urban planning studies for sustainable housing and inclusive urban community development
- Improve the capacity of Indian Higher Educational Institutes to interact with public authorities, enterprises, social communities and NGOs

Rationale for the setting-up of the consortium

The main rationale for the setting-up of the consortium for the BlnUCom project is the goal to combine indigenous knowledge about the social, economic, architectural and geographic situation in India with European expertise in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary methodologies, tools and pedagogies. The project will thereby support the regional networking across different states in India, and the international networking between Indian and European partners.

The European partners bring in their expertise in disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary methodologies, tools and pedagogies. At Danube University Krems, two departments are involved, the Department for Migration and Globalization (DUK-MIG) and the Department for Building and Environment (DUK-DBE). DUK-MIG contributes expertise on rural-to-urban migration, on social inclusion, but also on setting up Open Educational Resource

Projects. DUK-DBE brings in expertise on climate sensitive, sustainable housing, energy efficiency and life circle assessment, facility management and real estate development.

University in TWENTE, Netherlands specializes in geoinformation management for multi-level governance in urban regions.

University in LUND, Sweden contributes broad experience in environmental risk assessment, disaster risk reduction, adaptation and resilience.

Project activities and Methodology

Each of the Higher Educational Institutes in India will produce four case studies and four course descriptions. This total of 16 case studies and 16 course descriptions creates the critical mass of materials for a joint repository/website, allowing for comparisons, for selective use and mashups, and for attracting further contributions even after the end of the project.

Thematic Workshops will be held on the following topics highlight issues in the European and Indian Context

- Social Inclusion (DUK-MIG)(including migration studies)
- Sustainable Housing (DUK-DBE)(including sustainable building and energy efficiency)
- Participatory mapping (UTWENTE-ITC)(including social indicators, community quality of life monitoring; GIS; slum mapping, upgrading and governance)
- Environmental Risk Assessment (ULUND) (including climate change and risk adaptation)

This program has a three year time schedule ending in October 2018. During this period there will be several workshops in the partner institutions. There will be two National conferences to deliberate the issues with regard to informal settlements. These two conferences will be platforms to disseminate the findings obtained during the research work to all stakeholders. The invitees during the conferences will be government officials, deans and faculty of schools architecture and planning, agencies working in informal settlements and students. To complement the vertical policy making in India with a horizontal exchange of good practices, the BlnUCom project aims at fostering the collaboration between Indian HEIs in India.

This project will:

- Increase the relevance of architecture and planning studies by introducing multidisciplinary topics like social inclusion, sustainable housing, participatory mapping and environmental risk assessment.
- Strengthen the relations between HEIs in India and their wider socio-economic environment by arranging information, consultation and feedback mechanisms with different social actors during case studies, by providing external trainings to stakeholders, by organizing local dissemination workshops and national conferences, and by sharing Open Educational Resources and complementary materials via the website.
- These results will sharpen the profile of HEIs and their responsiveness to societal needs, improve the employability of graduates and the

networking between local stakeholders and intensify contacts between India and Europe.



Reviewing social housing in Vienna

Vienna site visits

Renu Desai (CEPT)

A highlight of our visit to Danube University, Krems for the Kick-Off Workshop was the two day-long site visits on February 11th and 12th that took us to Vienna.

On the first day of site visits, we saw three social housing projects in Vienna. "Social housing" refers to housing, generally rental, owned and managed by the state, non-profit organizations or a combination of both, with the aim of providing affordable housing. In some countries like Austria, social housing is open to all city residents, regardless of their income level, while in other countries, it is meant to be only for people with low incomes.

The first visit took us to Vienna's Heiligenstadt District to Karl Marx Hof, a municipal housing estate constructed in 1926-33 to accommodate about 5000 people. A walk around the estate showed us the ample open spaces and infrastructural facilities provided as part of the housing, creating "a city within the city." Our walk ended at the "Red Vienna" museum where we received a wonderful guided tour of the exhibitions. "Red Vienna" refers to the capital of Austria during the First Austrian Republic (1918-1934) when the city was democratically governed for the first time and the Social Democratic Party which was in the majority during this time undertook a unique socio-political experiment that embraced and sought to reform all spheres of life from social and health policy to education and housing.

The exhibition helped us situate the Karl Marx Hof in a broader context as this housing estate was one of 382 municipal housing estates (known as *Gemeindebau*)

built in Vienna under this socio-political experiment, seeking to provide the city's working population with decent, affordable housing. Through the guided tour, we learnt that the monumental architectural design of many of the housing estates was a reflection of Vienna's new balance of power. The exhibition showed the vast range of social infrastructural facilities built during this period for the working population, from children's baths to youth welfare offices to employment centres to club facilities. We also learnt of some specific policies through which the city raised the financial resources necessary to realize its commitment to the working population, such as a socially progressive taxation system, a tax earmarked for housing construction and luxury taxes.

Many discussions ensued amongst us around how the estates continue to operate in the present – the rent levels, the process through which one can apply for an apartment in an estate, the socio-economic mix of residents in the estates and so forth – as well as the Vienna city government's changing role vis-à-vis social housing in the context of larger economic and political shifts. These animated discussions continued throughout the day. Our second visit was to the housing estate of Alt-Erlaa constructed over 1973-85 as a satellite town of sorts. It houses about 9000 people in high-rise blocks of 23-27 stories and comprises of ancillary infrastructure like kindergartens and schools, medical centres, playgrounds and green spaces, terrace swimming pools, and a shopping centre. Here, some of us got particularly interested in knowing about the institutional structures through which the estate is maintained.

Our third visit was to Am Schöpfwerk, a housing estate constructed over 1955-57 and 1976-1980 for about 5800 people. Today, a large proportion of its residents are from immigrant backgrounds. Our day ended at the estate's community centre where we met with staff of Wohnpartner, a service institution for residents of apartment buildings owned by Vienna's city government. The staff talked to us in particular about their work around conflict resolution at Am Schöpfwerk. While we got only one side of the story as we were unable to interact with residents, what we came away with was a deep appreciation of the attempts made to put in place institutional structures and processes to address the concerns of residents living in social housing. We were also impressed that Vienna's city gov-

ernment and Wohnpartner are openly cognizant of the challenges of having socially diverse populations in the city and its social housing, leading them to consciously promote harmonious co-existence through programs aiming at conflict resolution. Certainly, the fraught caste and religious tensions and conflicts in many Indian cities and their housing spaces, and the government's blinkered attitude and approach that looks at housing as involving solely physical construction of buildings, were at the back of our mind during these discussions.

The second day of site visits took us to Vienna's Seestadt Aspern, one of Europe's largest ongoing urban development projects. Given the project's emphasis on creating a sustainable city and a smart city, we discussed and debated various aspects of sustainability and smartness during our walk through the project. The day ended with a visit to the Brunnenviertel neighbourhood in the Ottakring district of Vienna to understand the urban renewal process spanning ten years (2001-2011) and the resultant transformations. We were also introduced to the role that institutions such as the local urban renewal offices ("GB" for short) played in the neighbourhood.

Throughout the site visits, we pondered on the historical specificity of Vienna's urbanism and its institutions of urban governance; reflected on the very different historical, social, economic, political and institutional context of Indian cities; and discussed the ways in which our teaching can engage with these diverse urbanisms and the questions they throw up for imagining, designing and building more inclusive communities.

Workshop at KR VIA

Javier Martinez (ITC,Twente)

From 20 until 25 March 2016 the Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies (KR VIA) hosted the first workshop in India of the BinUCom project. The objective of the event was twofold, to explore the potential case studies in India including site visits in Mumbai, and to present the learning materials prepared by DUK in the form of Thematic workshops.

The event was attended by staff of CEPT (Ahmedabad), KARPAGAM (Coimbatore), KR VIA (Mumbai) and SPAV (Vijayawada), as well as the European partners from

ITC/University of Twente (the Netherlands) and Danube University Krems (Austria) as coordinating partner. The event started with an introduction on Mumbai historical and urban evolution presented by Rohan Shivkumar and Manoj Parmar.

On the same day, participants visited two sites: Dharavi and Gautam Nagar. Dharavi, spreads over 525 acres and is an informal township within Mumbai presenting a vibrant mosaic of tens of thousands of small businesses and hundreds of thousands of residents. Gautam Nagar in North Govandi is a rehabilitation and resettlement colony where residents are tasked with managing their surroundings including internal roads, drains and common lighting facilities. On the second day, participants visited two more sites: Gorai and Nalasopara. Gorai is a Site and Services scheme, is part of the 1985 land infrastructure-servicing program by the World Bank under the Bombay Urban Development Project (BUDP), which addressed the issue of people living in informal settlements and provided them with access to housing at an affordable cost. In Nalasopara participants visited Shri Ram Nagar, an affordable housing colony having housing units of 3m x 6m with a rolling shutter front and inhabited mostly by migrant workers from Bangladesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand ,West Bengal and some parts of Maharashtra. Most of them work in the construction industry feeding the large demands for laborers in the new high rises being built. Some of them have learnt skills such as tailoring, cloth printing and supply their clothes to local shops all over Mumbai. The migrants usually start by renting out these matchbox units and over time make enough money to buy one. 'Kaccha' roads, improper drainage, improper garbage collection are some of the major issues faced by the inhabitants. Since the household units are rather tiny with scant ventilation, most of the day-to-day activities spread onto the 'kaccha' roads.

The remaining days of the visit consisted of thematic workshops organized by Danube University Krems. Tania Berger, from the department for Migration and Globalization presented on issues of social inclusion and social housing, Tina Ipser, Peter Morgenstein, and Gregor Radinger from the department for Building and Environment (DUK) presented on issues such as the Life Cycle Cost (LCC) and Affordability, and Climate Sensitive Architecture. The sessions concluded with an interactive activity in the format of World Café on the topic of Sustainability. On the last day, each Indian partner discussed and presented their ideas for their case studies. Each Indian partner is currently developing four case studies on selected topics and in cooperation with the European partners depending on

their expertise. On 24 March, the participants could experience the tradition of the Holi or festival of colors.



The Inaugural lamp being lit by the guests, signifying an auspicious start to the proceedings.

Informal Settlements and Social Inclusion

Directions for Innovation in Architecture and Urban Planning Education – Ramakrishna Moorthy (KAHE)

The National Conference and Workshop of BINUCOM (Building Inclusive Urban Communities) was initiated to develop Architectural higher education of India by the European and Indian partner institute with a funding of Educational, Audio visual and Cultural Executive Agency(EACEA) in which partners would develop course related programmes which would help sensitize the curricula with respect to informality. As a part of BINUCOM project, the team partners are asked to conduct national conference/workshop, to which various academicians and stakeholders from across India were invited to share their ideas on how to go about in teaching informality in architecture curricula.

Informal settlements has never been in the main stream of architectural curricula, except for a few institutes who have given it a thought to indulge students to have a first-hand experience of the situation via various means of seminar, workshops and lecture series. Whereas, the remaining set always keep their steering towards grandeur the course promises. The National Conference was formulated keeping in mind that all the strategies discussed could be shared on a single platform.

First day inaugural session provided a platform for various stakeholders from Coimbatore who were called upon to have an interactive session with speakers and

team members who shared their views on the topic. The session was concluded by screening a segment themed, 'imagining houses over the years' curated by Mr. Rohan Shivkumar. The Inaugural and screening session set the tone right for the upcoming conference and its discussions.

Before addressing the actual issue, Mr. Nagaraju Kaja a fellow team member from School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada presented survey results which were done on the various architectural curricula in use at the present day across India. This session was followed by a brief presentation on Open Course Ware system and how it would be helpful for higher education on curricular level and course level by Mr. Thomad Pfeffer, partner member from Danube University Krems. Followed by a team from CEPT, Ahmedabad led by Darshini Mahadevia presented their institute's approach towards informality in UG and PG courses.

Gautam Chaterjee, IAS officer in charge of Dharavi redevelopment project discussed on the feasibility of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for all (PMAY) and on the side notes, the development programmes related to Dharavi were also discussed. Bhavan Vimawala from SCET, Surat analysed and discussed past lessons learnt and how accumulating those in our future trajectories of curricula would help the system. Dr.P.P.Anil Kumar explored the vernacular dimensions of inclusivity in architectural education, and he also stressed on the issue of innovation in architecture and planning education. During the discussion which was moderated by Darshini Mahadevia many questions were raised and discussed on the solid brief for that session.

Now that the basic issues were raised in the first session, it was time for other speakers to showcase case studies related to informality. Zoyab Kadi from Chennai raised questions on Central Government's ambitious program- Smart City Development by putting forth his personal views on the subject whereas Mr. Vijay Sohoni, ex-president of Council of Architecture(COA), India presented a story of the redevelopment project of Erandwadi slum in Nashik city. Dhiraj Salhotra, TSAP, Mumbai described his experience in conducting a survey of bilghtred area on Guawahatis urban core and its outcome. The session was chaired by Mr. Abdul Razak team member from SPA, Vijaywada.

Case Studies related to the subject continued into the next segment as well where Binumol Tom highlighted the issue of Gender sensitive Urban Spaces that were created by architects and town planners with respect to Kerala.

Partha Mukhopadhyaya deliberated the issues of Boundaries of Urban areas and how communities in general are marginalized in our cities. World Bank Consultant, Anandiya Kumar Sarkar shared his experience whilst working on a rehabilitation project in Orissa. Simple construction details were also indulged by him. Jacob Easow, a senior town planner from Kerala pointed out his view on inclusive urban communities through settlement planning. Thus, encompassing the whole day, the final session -'Neo Liberal Visions', a documentary session was curated by Rohan Shivkumar.

Participatory process framed the first session on day 3, where Prasanna Desai and Sitaram Shelar discussed the importance of the process and necessity to upgrade the quality of life and how important is to teach it in planning curricula. Developing pedagogy towards people-centric process in curricula was stressed by Jigna Desai, CEPT, Ahmedabad. The Session was led by Dr. Ananthakrishna

The last speaker for the session for which it was cued by its previous session,-Pedagogy.

Dr. Ananthakrishna professed the need of orienting the architecture curriculum towards definite sets of have and have nots. Dr. Shovan Saha, Dr. Srinivasan and Dr. Balvinder Singh shared their experiences stretching over decades of teaching informality in architectural institutes.

Final session was accommodated to have an open discussion which was led by the project coordinator Tania Berger, Danube University, Krems, alongside were the project representatives from various institutions. She summarized the whole conference for the audience and then, an open discussion let the audience put forth their views. Intriguing ideas, suggestions came out of this session which gave made the whole agenda the entire conference clear.

Final Greetings were preceded by a documentary session themed, 'Neo Liberal lives. 'A daring movie, 'Shit' was showcased. The maker Amudhan was present as well. The movie showcased the daily struggles of manual scavenger in a temple city of Tamil Nadu. Discussions were put forth in the session with the audience

and an interesting session took place. 'Vikas Chalu Che', another film showing the issue regarding the development of lake front in Ahmedabad and how it has marginalized certain communities in its locality.

The overall aim of the conference was to bring in more light about the existing curricular pattern and about how the whole idea of informality is addressed to all. The conference gave in multiple inputs on how informality is addressed and further research oriented steps are being taken on developing a module on addressing informality and its impact on architectural curriculum.



Presentation by Nagaraju Kaja (KAHE)

Informal Settlements in Indian Cities

The Film Series – Rohan Shivkumar

The Film Series around the conference on 'Informal Settlements in Indian Cities' looked at drawing a parallel narrative that opens out some of the questions concerning housing and informality embedded in the discussions through the years. Over three days the films shall be looking at the way the home and housing were conceptualized over the years, looking at a contemporary example of a hotly debated redevelopment project, and shall be listening to some voices that have been, and continue to be marginalized in our cities.

Day 1

The Iconic Slum

On the first day of the film series took a closer look at the lives, aspirations and imaginations that intersect in the geography of the slum through one iconic example. The film screened was 'Dharavi-Slum for Sale' by Lutz Konnerman, made in 2010. The Mumbai neighborhood of Dharavi has become over the years in mainstream media an easy shorthand for the Third World slum. This may be because it represents in many ways the

complexity of informal conditions in the South Asian context, but also because it is in the eye of the storm concerning the debate around the redevelopment of slums. Lutz Konnerman's film tells many parallel stories in the wake of the much touted plan of the redevelopment of Dharavi in 2004. This highly controversial plan was embraced by the Maharashtra State but has been critiqued by many architects, activists and local inhabitants. In Dharavi- Slum for Sale we meet many of these actors, from the state and from the voices of resistance.

Day 2

Imagining housing over the years

On the second day two films were shown through which we looked at how housing was conceptualized by the Indian state, from the early years of the Nation State, to the later years of the bureaucracy and the neoliberal state. The first film was 'Modest Homes' by KL Khandpur in 1954. Within 7 years of the Nation's Independence, an exhibition was held on the grounds at the base of the Old Fort of Delhi called the 'Modest Homes' exhibition. Here, a village was created of over 80 homes that projected an idealized vision of living for the new India. KL Khandpur made 'Modest Homes' about this exhibition for Films Division India- the propaganda wing of the new Indian Government- that was instrumental in the new nation's attempt to construct a common national identity.

The second film was Vertical City by Avijit Mukul Kishore from 2011. In post-liberalized Mumbai, the state has relinquished its role in providing housing for the poor. Instead, it reconfigures itself into a facilitator for the private sector, creating frameworks to encourage developers to build low income housing. Avijit Mukul Kishore's film is set in one such realized project, displaced from their earlier home. The film presents us with a labyrinth of spaces and voices in conflict with one another, with no easy answers possible.

Day 3

Marginal Voices

On the third day of the film series, we listened to some of the voices that are excluded from mainstream ideas of development. New developments, instead of augmenting and supporting these groups, often end up marginalizing them further.

One of the films was 'Shit' by Amudhan RP made in 2005. The Indian city is often seen to present the possibility of escape from the oppressive systems of the past. However, this is not often easy. In Amudhan RP's 'Shit' we looked at how within the city of Madurai, the

caste system continues to be practiced, as we spend a day in the life of a conservancy worker who cleans the streets of the city of its excrement. Amudhan RP joined us for a conversation about caste and the city in South India.

'Vikas Chalu Che' by Prachee Bajania, 2012, set in Ahmedabad was another film shown. The city of Ahmedabad has become iconic for presenting itself as a model for the model of development. A new public realm is being imagined through the creation of development projects around its water systems like the Sabarmati river. of the films shown took a closer look at a project around the Kankaria Lake in Ahmedabad, and examined questions about class and access with respect to the imagination of the 'public' in our cities.

Paromita Vohra's 'Q2P' from 2006 explored inclusivity in the creation of public infrastructure in our cities through the lens of gender. Access to the public spaces of our cities is notoriously skewed towards men. Even in its aspiration to become a 'global city' as the city of Mumbai is rapidly reconfiguring its public realm it is not able to transcend questions concerning access to the city for women. The film explored some of these questions concerning women in the public realm through looking at the provisions of public toilets on the streets of the city for women.

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