



HOUSING: HOMELESSNESS



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The homeless in Delhi, not only suffer from lack of shelter, but as the poorest of the urban poor, they also suffer public and government apathy. They are denied their rights to entitlements, healthcare, education, basic sanitation services, citizenship rights and democratic participation.

We all need to change our views towards the most marginalised section. They are the city makers and deserve the rights and recognition to access the most basic need of the housing in Delhi.

Main Bhi Dilli is a people's campaign aiming to envision and enable a more inclusive city. It is a collective of civil society organisations, activists, researchers and others who work on diverse issues of housing, livelihood, gender and other rights

HOMELESS IN THE CITY

The official figures as per Census say that Delhi has 46,724 homeless people in Delhi. However, an independent survey conducted by IGSSS in 2008 puts the number close to 1,60,000 in the city. It is also evident that marginalized, deprived, and vulnerable sections of society are more likely to be rendered homeless. However, the contribution of the homeless in development of the city is undeniable; more than 60% of men and women are engaged in regular employment despite everyday violence faced by them on the streets, shelters and workplace.



59% of Shelters don't have the provisions of Bathrooms



7% of Shelters are providing a space for kitchen within the shelters



18% of shelters in Delhi are friendly for People with Disabilities (PWD),

Contributions to the city

82% of Homeless population work throughout the year, 8% find work occasionally

39% of Homeless belong to Schedule caste, 36% are OBC and 6% are ST

85% of the homeless migrate to Delhi in search of employment and livelihood.

According to a data collected by Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) in 2017, govt. authorities demolished over 53,700 homes hence evicting minimum 2.6 lakh people

A majority of the Homeless earn 200-300 per day.
Females find jobs more regularly than men but they are paid less in comparison with men

KEY ISSUES

Majority of homeless are not satisfied with the shelters in Delhi

- The problem of overcrowding
- The problem of lack of categories of shelters like there are a very few shelters for families.
- Shelters are the only option available to Homeless.
- No focus on the location of shelters.

Evictions are a daily disaster for Homeless in Delhi

- From the place of stay and the place of work both.
- majority of the evictions are a result of police action and here too, women suffer disproportionately.

Food is the biggest expenditure for Homeless in Delhi

- Major daily expenditure followed by water and sanitation services.
- Because of this, majority reported saving 500 per month which is a meagre amount.

Problems faced by Homeless in Delhi

Fear of various kinds of harassment

- Cases are lower than the fear of sexual harassment amongst homeless.
- The cases get unnoticed and unreported.
- Cases of harassment by Civilians are very high.

Harsh living conditions

- Lack of availability of basic services like clean water, food, education and health etc.
- Unavailability of toilets, safe drinking water and kitchen space.

Homeless do have Identity proofs but not made in Delhi

- The proofs are from the native places and not from delhi.
- This inhibits their access to basic services and entitlements in Delhi.

The category of homeless further marginalises

- Having 'homeless' on Identity proofs alienates them from accessing services.
- The category of homeless should have alternatives such as *AshrayGrih*.

WHAT CAN MPD '41 DO FOR HOMELESS?

1 MORE SHELTERS ARE NEEDED IN THE CITY

- An assessment is needed so that we can know what we require and in what quantity and quality.
- To remove the space issue, 50 sq. meter space as per the NULM SUH guidelines should be provided.
- If we look at the Homeless population, we need 1000 shelters each on an average being of 5000 sq. ft. which will accommodate 100 people as per the NULM norm and thereby catering to 1,00,000 CityMakers

2 A PROPER STUDY HAS TO BE DONE FOR THE HOMELESS HOTSPOT

- Spatial hotspots according to the population of the homeless can be mapped
- The important places like hospitals, religious institutions, and homeless concentration areas should be mapped
- The major emphasis should be given to the migration rate in the city and the areas where industrial and trading work is increasing rapidly.

3 TERMS AND CONTENT FOR HOMELESS IN MPD 2021

- The term like 'Night shelter' and *Rain basera* should be replaced with the term 'Shelters' and *AshrayGrih*.
- should come as a subsection separately under the section of 'Housing'
- Specific consideration to the detailing and specification should be given.

6 PROVISION FOR BASIC FACILITIES

- Food, adequate toilets, bathroom/ washing spaces, safe drinking water, crèche, recreational spaces and storage should be there in the Shelters.
- For this, existing models of other places can be studied and bought in place. For example, Soup Kitchens can be set up in hotspot locations where the homeless populations can avail of food

5 SHELTERS SHOULD NOT BE THE ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE

- We just DUSIB shelters available for homeless currently in Delhi
- We should also consider people who can pay a nominal rent for the accommodation
- In Kerala, Bhawana Foundation in its project 'Apna Ghar' has designed and constructed rental housing for its migrants residents.

6 MORE DIVERSITY TO THE CATEGORIES OF SHELTERS

- For the Intersectional society, different categories of shelter are needed
- Transgender, Women, elderly, children and People with disabilities & mental illness should receive full consideration
- Temporary/ Porta cabin shelters should be converted into permanent.

References:

- Indo- Global Social Service Audit Report
IGSSS Understanding Homeless in Delhi
Indu Prakash singh. 2016 & 2017. "CityMakers: Tribulations & Triumphs - A Saga of Heroic Struggle of the Homeless Residents of India". New Delhi: Mukul Prakashan, p. 601.