



UNDP-
World Bank
**Water and
Sanitation
Program –
South Asia**

FIELD NOTE

Quick Slum Survey

Investment in urban infrastructure is a priority at the national and city levels.

However, performance rating of the services that these infrastructure provide is rare. Ahmedabad has the

unique distinction of having rated the performance of urban services in the poorest wards. The rating was carried out by women from low-income communities.

It is useful to note at the outset that such constructive feedback

from citizens is seen by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in a positive light and is received as an input in further improving urban planning and



Women collecting water from a traditional well

GUY STUBBS

The survey uses a combination of Focus Group Discussions, employing open questions, supplemented by household survey (covering a minimum 10 per cent of households)

management exercises. The AMC wanted to rate its services from the point of view of the service users, especially among the poor and the women.

The Survey

The survey uses a combination of Focus Group Discussions, employing open questions, supplemented by a household survey (covering a minimum 10 per cent of households). The survey was administered in two slums: Sinheshwari Nagar (42 households) and Sharif Pathan ni Challi (105 households). Both these slums are situated on land belonging to the Municipal Corporation. The Quick Slum Survey was carried out prior

to the commencement of works under Parivartan.

The Communities

Ten per cent households were headed by women and the majority had between five to eight members, with one having 13 members. In half the households, two family members were contributing to the income (in the rest, either one or three members contributed). The largest single occupation group was that of vegetable vendors (30 per cent), with many others in daily wage activities in factories. Home-based cottage industry in the form of *agarbatti* manufacture accounts for 15 per cent of the workforce. There are very few technically skilled



Lack of drainage is a major problem

workers (a total of six masons and one carpenter in both the communities).

The Houses

Half the houses are *kachcha* (temporary) structures. Forty per cent are semi-*pucca* (built of mud-plastered brick) and only 10 per cent are *pucca*. Nevertheless, three quarters of the houses contain a TV set and one in 10, an audio cassette player.

Community Groups

Both the communities exhibited a fair degree of communal motivation. Both the communities have a savings group or cooperative. While the group in Sinheshwari Nagar is newly established (with intermediation from the Self Employed Women's Association), in Sharif Pathan ni Challi, the group is three years old, with a combined membership of 74. Seventeen women are members of these two groups. In addition, two special Mandals exist, one in each community, to organize celebrations during festivals. The household survey revealed that 85 per cent of the population were members of some kind of slum-level group, and one-third of the households had members who are involved in or willing to do voluntary work.

Services

There is a high level of awareness of and high expectation from the Corporation's Urban Community



Queuing up for water

SMITA GHATGE

Development scheme, despite the fact that neither community has directly benefited to date. Surprisingly, there are no facilities in either community provided by elected representatives.

Households are well informed about who provided the limited services that are available. Both communities reported that they pay an annual 'tax' of Rs 500 per household for all facilities.

Water

Water is provided at public standposts (three in Sinheshwari Nagar built in 1987, of which one is defunct, and two in Sharif Pathan ni Challi). The AMC is responsible for repairing the taps, but both communities reported that they carry out the repairs themselves to save time, since the Corporation is sometimes slow to respond.

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What will People Pay for Services?

	Installation (Rs)		Maintenance (Rs/month)	
	Private	Public	Private	Public
Sinheshwari Nagar	500	2000	10	10
Sharif Pathan ni Challi	500	500	5	5

Very Public Toilets

Sanitation is minimal. In Sinheshwari Nagar, residents resort to the nearby railway track to meet their needs. This leads to personal discomfort and mortification. Furthermore, this open ground is inaccessible during the monsoon. In Sharif Pathan ni Challi, there is a public latrine block provided by the village panchayat, but this is inadequate for the population, rarely cleaned and consequently, virtually unuseable. Once again, households must resort to using public space and wastelands.

Roads And Drains

Neither area has stormwater drainage and the roads are all *kachcha* (temporary and unpaved). During the rainy season, accidents are common in the muddy lanes.

Children are especially vulnerable and sometimes end up with broken bones.

Better Services

The interest expressed in improved services was very high. In both the communities, householders expressed a preference for 'private' household facilities and were seemingly willing to pay a significant amount towards this (see Table).

Parivartan will eventually carry out this type of survey in all participating communities to provide a 'baseline' of data against which the impact of Parivartan can be measured. The survey may be administered by a selection of the project partners as appropriate.

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