

Learnings from the Micro-politics of Sanitation Provision, Access and Negotiation in Mumbai's Informal Neighbourhoods

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the research

“Everyday Sanitation in Mumbai’s Informal Settlements” :
research project at Durham University, UK (2009-11)

Ethnography in two informal neighbourhoods:

- Participant observation
- Extensive & repeated interviews with cross-section of residents
- Interviews with municipal staff, NGOs, and community groups working on sanitation and water.

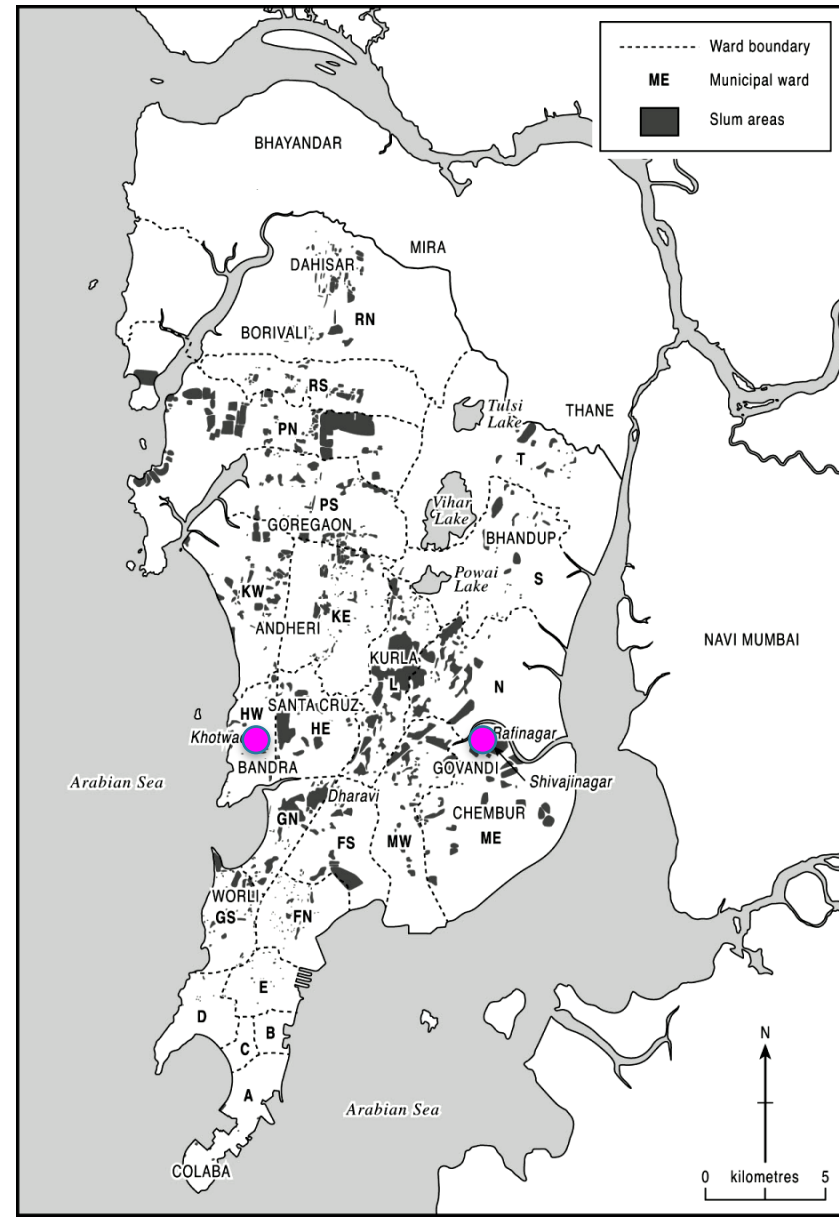
Khotwadi, a “recognized slum” in western Mumbai

- Consolidated informal settlement, sustained political patronage
- Approx. 2000 HHs, 24 toilet blocks with 180 seats
- Most residents have a degree of secure water access through unmetered municipal standposts, metered group connections and wells.

Rafinagar, an “unrecognized slum” in eastern Mumbai

- Older, more-established Part 1 and newer, still expanding and still insecure Part 2
- Approx. 4000 HHs, 6 toilet blocks with 76 seats
- Also temporary hanging latrines built by residents
- Most residents face profound difficulties with respect to water access (time and effort in collecting water, high expenditures for water...)

Source: redrawn using base map from Mumbai CDP 2005-2025



How are entitlements to sanitation and water produced in the currents of everyday life in informal neighbourhoods?

sites of entitlement

Conceptualizing Entitlements

- Rights versus Entitlement (drawing upon Amartya Sen's concept of entitlement)
- a person's entitlements are the totality of things – resources, commodities, infrastructures, services, etc – that she can command based on all the rights applicable to her (Sen 1981)
- Basis of entitlements (i.e. the source of the legitimacy of these claims) :
State-centric / Legalistic - - versus - - extending to Socially shared rules / moral economy (Gore 1993) and even to a multitude of moral economies, social relations and practices (Gore; Kabeer, 1994, 1997)

Drawing upon these discussions, we conceptualize entitlement as:

a claim that relates a person/persons to services/infrastructure (water, toilets, drainage) in a way that seeks to fulfil their access to what they need and value, and which is produced through diverse practices, social relations and moral economies

. . . produced through the currents of everyday life

. . . shaped by residents' sense of entitlement and moral economies (which can vary across space and time).

. . . involving state actors - mediating organizations - family, kin, community & locality

sites of entitlement: moral economies, legality and the state

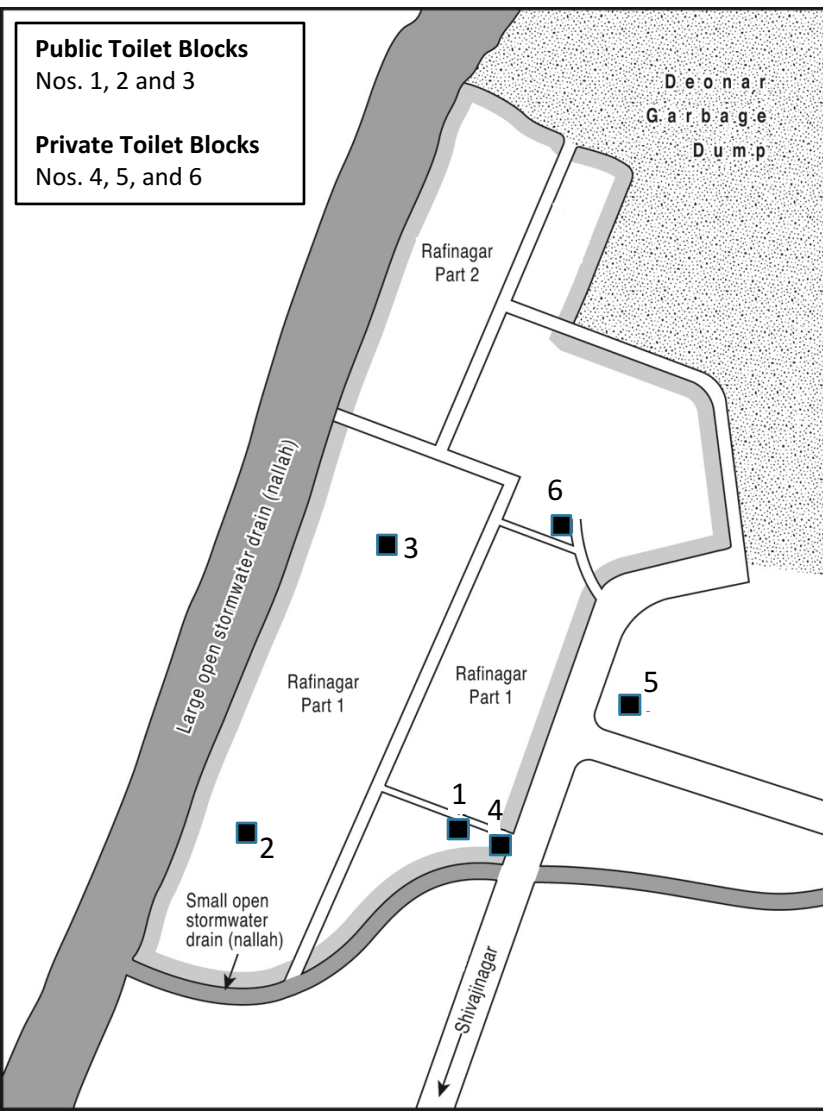


Khotwadi

Unmetered
municipal
standposts
(*sarkari nal*)



sites of entitlement: moral economies, legality and the state



Rafinagar Part 1:
Public Toilet Block 1 first constructed in the late 1980s
through negotiations in political society



sites of entitlement: moral economies, legality and the state



Rafinagar



sites of entitlement: moral economies, legality and the state

Khotwadi



Rafinagar



sites of entitlement: moral economies, legality and the state



Rafinagar Part 2:
the incremental production of entitlements through political
society ... from water to toilets in 2 years

sites of entitlement: beyond the state

Rafinagar



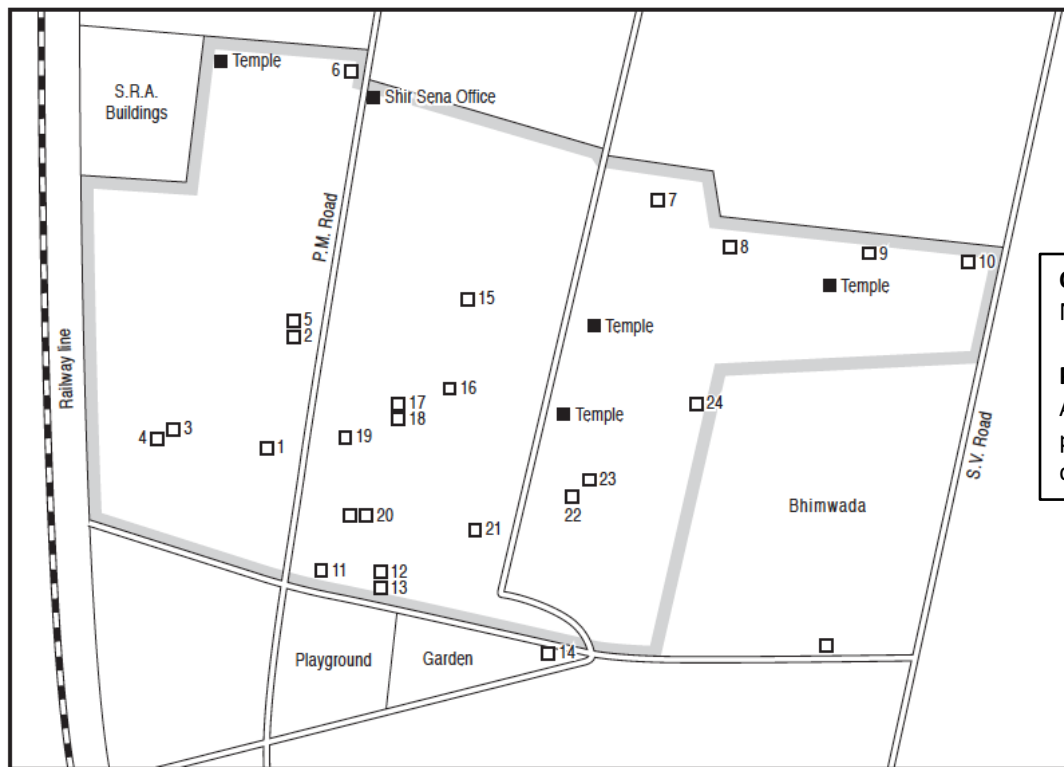
sites of entitlement: beyond the state



Khotwadi



Residents forging exclusionary sites of entitlement



Khotwadi

**CBO-run SSP Toilet Block
No. 14**

Public Toilet Blocks
All the rest (many semi-privatized by residents to different degrees)



conclusions

thank you