



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ON LAND AND POVERTY**

**WOMEN'S RESOURCE ZONES (WRZ): A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE  
Innovative approaches to land governance and management: Evidence on implementation and  
impact**

March 20, 2012

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Paper prepared for presentation at the

“ANNUAL WORLD BANK CONFERENCE ON LAND AND POVERTY”

The World Bank - Washington DC, April 23-26, 2012

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## Abbreviations

CWLR	Consult for Women and Land Rights
DRAGGID	Differential Resource Access: Gender Gaps In Delhi
DUs/ha	Decimal unit per hectre
FDG	Focus Group Discussion
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru New Urban Renewal Mission
GRCs	Gender Resource Centres (Delhi government-Mission Convergence)
GOI	Government Of India
GSP	Gender sub Plan
HAF	Harvard Analysis Framework
ILO	International labor Organisation
ISST	Indian Social Studies Trust
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NCT	National Capital Territory
NFHS	National Family Heath Survey
NSSO	National Statistical Survey Organization
RAY	Rajjiv Awas Yojna
RBV	Resource-Based View
SAFP	Sathi All For Partnerships
SHG	Self Help Group
ULB	Urban Local Bodies
UNH	United Nations Habitat (earlier UNHCS)
WDR	World Development Report ( of the World Bank)
WEF	World Economic Forum

## **Women's Resource Zones: a sustainable approach to governance**

### **SUMMARY :**

This paper presents policy, planning and programs options with regard to inclusive urban land governance to impact the lives of women and men in India. Bhardwaj and Ghosh as members of Consult for Women and Land Rights (CWLR ) have collaborated on projects including an intensive field study in slums in Delhi<sup>1</sup>, the capital of India. The authors articulate a participatory civil society response in a unique cross country partnership that has endured the times, limits of distance and political boundaries.

A gender inclusive planning empowering strategy that opens opportunities through building infrastructure for care and productive services and natural resource regeneration work that women manage in neighborhood groups is the cornerstone for a proposal SAFP advocates for, with local leaders and national planners. Since it is known that development plans related to land use fructify only after negotiation both legal and illegal, it is necessary to engage with men and women at different levels with the future of their children as a flagship cause. Each area can be regenerated with women's capacity to nurture and care. SAFP organized the Okhla district gender plan to demonstrate how built and natural infrastructure can be rejuvenated for human, financial and natural resource in an area while planning the areas green economy. In harnessing women's agency and voice, this approach calls for equitable and strategic governance option that is relevant and practical.

SAFP has used the research in its advocacy to increase resource base of women. This paper is also presenting the preliminary analysis from the ongoing doctoral research of Bhardwaj called DRAGGID (Differential Resource Access: Gender Gaps In Delhi, University of Delhi).

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<sup>1</sup> Presented at International Making Cities Livable Conference, Portland, Oregon 2009, World Urban Forum, Rio de Janeiro Brazil, 2010 and to UN Solution exchange in 2011.

## **BACKGROUND :**

The Delhi Master Plan document proposed transformation of a society from a “Walled city” to “World city.” With international events such as the Commonwealth Games held in 2010, vulnerable communities were evicted from slums and from 2011 the government begins work on area development plans. In this planning women’s participation in all decision-making levels related to regeneration of natural resources, housing, transport, production spaces and wellness remains inconspicuous. Finding an alternative, sustainable and enduring scheme is imminent for equitable development. The Delhi government began work on area development plans in 2011 and first set of local area plans are with the authorities for consideration. In this planning women’s participation in all decision-making levels related to regeneration of natural resources, housing, transport, production spaces and wellness remains inconspicuous. Finding an alternative, sustainable and enduring scheme is imminent for equitable development. SAFF has worked a simple solution that it calls “women resource zone” or WRZ. This solution requires the acceptance of local and national leaders such that green areas can be planned in an inclusive way. This paper shares the framework to make sustainable governance possible linking local reality to global concerns.

## **WRZ – THE CONCEPT**

Planning sustainable development zones within which a Women’s Resource Zone (WRZ) exists has been the outcome of several rounds of discussions with members of Consult For Women and Land Rights, government functionaries, ground level workers and professionals. While inclusion in planning has become the buzzword in official documents, concrete examples were developed and presented by SAFF in collaborative efforts with architecture schools, non profits, professionals and government departments to make gender equality options visible within inclusion for all. As a result town and policy planners include gender concerns as they develop guidelines for joint ownership for private housing, developing vending zones, developing safety network and access of women to land and infrastructure meant for their use and control. SAFF has provided National Women Empowerment mission, state government, national as well as local institutions project ideas on how to develop a woman resource zone. The Okhla district gender plan was one such effort to visualize gender inclusive planning. It has generated interest among local leaders who now will enroll others in the process. An action research and capacity building of ULB will be one of the first steps to realize a pilot under the guidance of city and regional planning authorities towards this initiative.

## **WHAT IS WRZ (Woman Resource Zone) AND HOW COULD IT BE REALIZED :**

Woman Resource Zone can only be situated under a green regional plan initiative of the government and urban planning bodies. This is so as it will create equal access for women and men to both natural resources and built infrastructure. A private builder will invest only for profit but the government as an entity to look after wellness and sustainability needs to cater to more than profit orientation. At present no government agency is ready to depute technical experts to undertake tasks on inclusive planning as mandates provided by the constitution. For this public action and a demand is what will take leadership in the area on board. A short action research is therefore a first step to take stock of preparedness of the elected leaders and women to undertake gender inclusive planning. Based on the research finding an action such as a training program for stakeholders could be planned to pilot sustainable local area plan that is equitable to women. The training will introduce concepts around green economy and inclusion and ask elected leaders to plan projects in their area that will make the area sustainable. SAFF has known of experiences of young Architects in Barcelona, Florence and Delhi who have planned such areas.

## BUILDING BLOCKS OF A WRZ

SPACE	OBJECTIVE	FUNCTIONALITY	ADDED BENEFITS OF THIS SPACE	SPACE REQUIREMENTS
<b>Green Work Space</b>	Production training education space using renewable energy and green building bylaws.	To provide a workspace in order to earn revenue through enterprise. Can be used for capacity building of workers.	Would provide and income. And encourage women to run businesses and train and employ other women.	3 storey structure With work, storage and utility such as kitchen, toilets and resting space
<b>Green Hostel Child care and health centre</b>	Care Rest Education in environment regeneration framework	To provide a safe place to rest/sleep if needed and education for children of migrating women.	Safety	Sleeping facilities. Kitchen area. Sanitation. Class rooms.
<b>Green market and vending area</b>	Designed to sell organic and sustainable products	The Haji colony centre has a multipurpose building and ground space that is to managed by women's groups	Inclusion for people in all age groups and economic categories	Parking for rickshaws, migration centre wi, vending and exhibition area, horticulture yard and a gender resource centre
<b>Safe WRZ transport</b>	Designed to develop safety and security	Network of green transport network that is made safe for women and elderly by providing several projects that make them visit the spaces and manage public infrastructure.	The access to spaces develops an affinity to areas and citizens then take on responsibility to create secure environment	A road that connects the district to outside, streets connecting community and production spaces to homes and work/care centres.

This planning is situated with an inclusive framework of green economy that provides for women resources to increase care and services in a given geographical location. The outcome of this effort was that town planners are now including gender concerns as they develop guidelines for joint ownership for private housing, developing vending zones, developing safety network and access of women to land and infrastructure meant for their use and control. Women we believe will create an economy based on sustainability to leave resources for the sake of our future and children. The change required is provisioning for women in groups equal access to resources they could use to create systems that will foster care and nurturing required for regeneration. Women who care for families well can care for neighborhoods better, they just need the legal and planning sanction and training to upscale their inherent skill to make visible the notion of green economy.

There is no agreed definition of green economy. Yet this economy is to be gender inclusive for sustainable development is an agreement governments have promised as a part of their obligations. The definition provided in the National Mission of sustainable development is relevant for the WRZ pilot in this paper. This definition needs to be internalized by the academics to co create an understanding for the

ones who put this theory into practice i.e the community and their leaders. Leaders need to be part of plan to develop sustainable and green projects. The pilot that SAFP proposes sets out a way on how women can participate equally in ongoing plans of the area and offer their care and regeneration activity to make the plan a more inclusive area plan.

### **THE NEED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING ON SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE AREA PLAN.**

SAFP is working on the premise that the Urban Local Body (ULB) is willing to develop area development plan in an inclusive way as proposed in the urban renewal mission and in the 12<sup>th</sup> plan approach paper of India. A stock taking on gender and inclusion could reaffirm and validate this assumption by enthusing the local counsellors and ULB staff to reorganise their own expectation of the roles they want to perform in developing the area where the leaders constituency lives and works. The ULBs have the power to plan public services and see that services meant for public reach them equally. Yet they get engaged in fire fighting for adequate community area plans and for social welfare action. This can change by taking time to shift roles towards planning sustainable areas that will increase the productivity and wellness of their areas. Public resources and services include a wide range of sectors including access to education, health services and basic services like water, sanitation, electricity, wellness centres and parks, water bodies, green areas and built areas. These resources and services if planned well can be used in a way human, natural and financial capital in each local area can be nurtured to last for next generations use and conservation. Thus planning for green economy is role of the ULB and local people. Yet most people are aware of the need of their role expansion to include, concerns like gender equality, environmental generation and inclusion. SAFP pilot on Women resource Zone in Okhla details the sustainable approach to governance.

### **OVER VIEW OF SAFP WORK DONE FOR WRZ**

Delhi government has set up mission convergence that helps women and men access government schemes under a single window application system housed in a gender resource centre that caters to a population of 100000 persons in a geographical area. Mission Convergence is now being replicated in states through National Women Empowerment Mission. The Gender resource centres are functioning well but do not have support systems in terms of infrastructure or care services that will facilitate increase of wellness and productivity in each

“Sustainable development concerns in the sense of enhancement of human well-being broadly conceived are a recurring theme in India’s development philosophy. The present day consensus reflect three foundational aspirations.

First that human beings should be able to enjoy a decent quality of life; second, that humanity should become capable of respecting the finiteness of the biosphere; and third, that neither the aspiration for the good life, nor the recognition of biophysical limits should preclude the search for greater justice in the world. Sustainable habitat would mean achieving a balance between the economic and social development of human habitats together with the protection of the environment, equity in employment, shelter, basic services, social infrastructure and transportation. In the context of rapid urbanisation, there is wide awareness about the need to minimize the environmental costs of urbanisation.

Environmental damage and depletion of non-renewable resources need to be addressed to meet present and future challenges such as climate change and associated vulnerabilities. Climate change causes vulnerability.” **Opening paragraph of National Mission On Sustainable Development Government Of India**

district. The mission convergence came about only a few weeks after SAFP had proposed establishment of sustainable development zones in Delhi. It has proposed a holistic model that not only has a one window system but also a hub to provide women an increased resource base through spaces for livelihood activities and training to regenerate human, natural and financial resource in the area. The Government of Delhi has completed the first important work of setting up the one window system now it could look at the options of work to develop green economy in the area basing itself on women group enterprise and care project framework. The next stage of work in the era of climate change could plan work within a local area plan context.

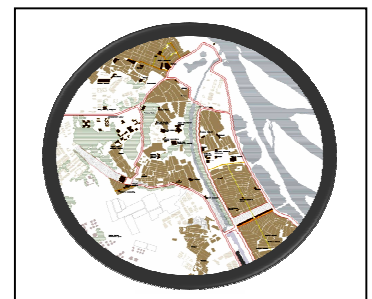
SAFP has worked extensively in developing the concept of sustainable development and has recently trained sector experts in water and sanitation and ULBs in other states on how to mainstream inclusion in their work. SAFP manual on training ULBs to prepare their gen inclusion plan offers a methodology that can be replicated by any ULB. Through the process of training each areas leadership can consider solutions the citizenry of the area proposes to make the area more oriented to regenerative and equitable living. The aspects of inclusion can be interwoven by calling upon women in the area to lead this process of change. SAFP experience in Okhla is shared below to understand what kind of projects can be planned at local level to see a visible impact on sustainability.

SAFP youth leadership of young women called Saree Equal with experts from planning schools of developed a sustainable development area plan that has :

- a. Green and inclusive buildings, b. Energy efficient construction material and technologies
- c. Roads that are environmentally sustainable and inclusive.d. Community spaces managed by women



*This building is energy efficient as it is made by recycled blocks, bamboo etc that women can pick and repair themselves. It integrates daylight and meets ventilation standards for health and well-being and use of renewable energy, rain water , solar and bio gas to allow diversity. It is a pilot proposed*



**Okhla green plan**

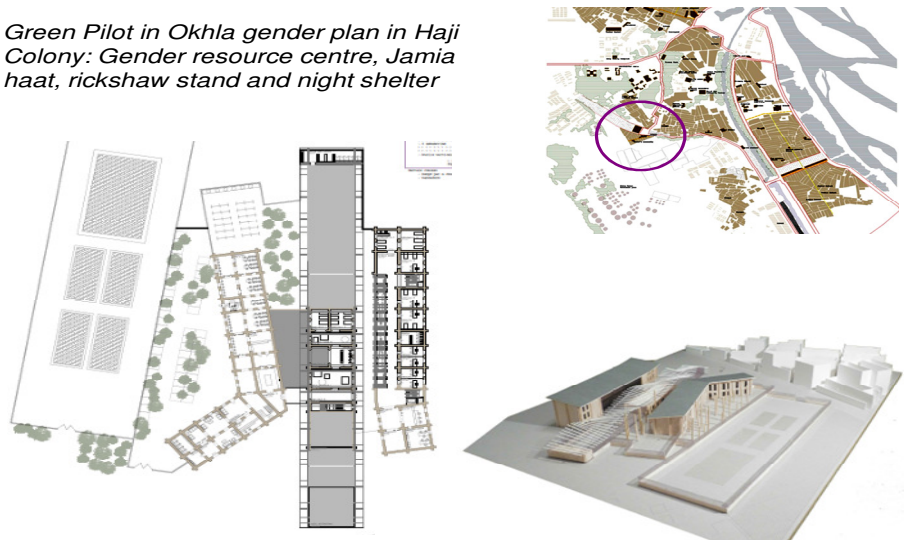
For example the above woman production and care centre is a green building designed as a unit for green economy in Okhla. The pilot plan is situated in a safe mobility plan of the whole district that links spatial planning with transportation planning to improve access to goods and services while minimizing the need to travel.

Experts and youth have proposed this plan for the gender district plan for Okhla which now needs to be shared with the ULBs and the city planners. The proposal thus situates SAFP ongoing work in context of what is required to be done locally as well as globally. The work however relevant needs to be show cased and presented. SAFP campaign on Youth for women and habitat has therefore organised an annual event where women, youth and workers ask government and civil society to be with them to “Claim the



city by night”. This walk has progressed from the simple assertion of city being safe to city being a space for all for caring and for being a place of green livelihoods. Decentralised neighbourhood systems that manage labor, natural resources and training and care of non productive population will also acknowledge the unique character of each area and its resource and skill base that is to be utilised to balance needs and greed for sustainable planning.

*Green Pilot in Okhla gender plan in Haji Colony: Gender resource centre, Jamia haat, rickshaw stand and night shelter*



### **Local and global requirements :**

The Haji colony plan explained in the plan above combines many spaces within one plan. It has a migration and labor training centre, a stand for rikshaws during the night. Horticulture projects and production projects, wet kitchen, vending space, gender resource centre, recreation space, cafeteria, motel as well as care centre for children, women and elderly. These projects will be manages by women in the neighborhood some of who also have the facility to stay within the campus and run a women’s shelter home. None of these facilities and services are present in the area except the gender resource centres at present even as policy and programmes of the government provide for them. The need here is to converge all what the government can give and co create the need to make things happen in a manner that the elected, faith and market leaders are on board as well.

This kind of a project will need to be linked to the green and safe transport network that plans drainage, water and energy management in the area along with inflow of human and financial capital in the area. Transport in the city has got planned for needs of market led economy. For it to be relevant to green and inclusive economy a political will and sensitivity is all that is needed to make convergence work for an area that needs migrants and can take care of them while they serve the area. Thus this plan links local needs to global concerns of human rights of all by provision of care spaces, labor rights by providing migration and placement centres, and projects in leadership of local women groups that nurture all resources in partnership with all in the area.

### **THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS :**



The concept of resource is relational to different gender, age, culture and geographical areas. The differential resource access across gender and age groups can be located in health services, household labor time, earning, asset gap, wealth gap, expenditure gap, wage gap and in use of technology.

**LOCATION GENDER ISSUES IN PLANNING** The theoretical foundation of this discourse will strengthen by first defining what is meant by resources. The *Human Development Reports* (UNDP 1999) states that development is to create an enabling environment for people to live healthy and creative lives but this objectives is often lost in the immediate concern for the accumulation of wealth. Overall, though resources and income have a profound effect on what we can or cannot do, the capability approach recognizes that they are not the only things to be considered when judging well being. The capability approach promoted by Amartya Sen articulated the role and importance of human agency (Sen, 1993). Robeyns (2003) investigates how Sen's capability approach can be applied to conceptualize and assess gender inequality. Feminist, policy makers and planners have linked the issue of body politic to safety planning in areas. This discourse needs to take into account the issues around capabilities and resources to plan for them while providing for safe spaces. Resources are not only material but also human and social (Kabeer 1999; 438) including future claims and present allocations. In terms of resource increase as an extension of the reproductive role for women SAFP looks at social relations in context of women and their productive and community role identity. The emergence of a women's agency as a safety net in each neighborhood is an option that Okhla gender plan explored.

### **GENDER GAP DISCOURSE**

The discourse on *gender* in general and *gender gaps* in particular has progressed. There needs to be more empirical research on gender resource gap. SAFP has exemplified a methodology to calculate this gap and advocated that National Statistical Surveys compute this as a matter of routine to provide planners the percentage of gender resource gap in each area. In Okhla the gender gap in resources at household level was calculated at 16% utilising the Harvard Analysis Framework. This gap could be then be filled by allotting 16% preferential allotment of community spaces to women in groups with related resources in the polling constituency.

**Resources and Assets in Women Control:** SAFP recommends allotment of public resources as despite law providing women equal share in inheritance women prefer negotiating within their communities, with patriarchal customary institutions rather than move to the court (Rao2010). Rao recommends contextualized research to understand reality to make field-level interventions effective. In Okhla this contextual research was conducted to locate gender gaps to find out how planning can alter situations.

**Gender and equality issues are beyond GDP and constrains of economic analysis :** The World Development Report (WDR 2012) of the World Bank on gender downplayed reasons behind higher death rate of girls and low pay and low skill of women persist even when there is economic growth. There has to be reason why women continue to be under represented in political power and why violence against women does not decrease. This is in line with the Bank's policy statement that economic growth leads to gender equality and gender equality leads to growth. Social protection and lack of infrastructure towards making care available near homes is an issue that the bank has not concerned itself with. The WDR does stress the pressing need for women's ownership of and control over assets, particularly land. There is unfortunately no mention of communal forms of land ownership, but it is still significant that the bank has

emphasized women's control over land as a source not only of income, but also of status – and, more importantly, as a right. The report does not take the resource based view to explain the contestation of land, water, seeds and forests and the ability of women to compete in the resource share with an equal opportunity that their constitution and the United Nations provides for in laws. The WDR is silent on the serious issues faced by the world today in terms of climate change and diminishing natural resources.

**Gender and climate adaption needs :** Economies need to plan adaptation response through social economic and political planning process. In this context a report provides fresh insight on increasing participation of women in climate change discourse (Kapoor 2011). Kapoor has examined the governance mechanisms at local and national levels and provides an understanding of women participation in local governance to understand what role women can play in mitigation of climate change. The role has to be seen as empowerment of women and men in the elected local bodies to promote gender justice with climate change adaptation. The study applies Naila Kabeer's framework of empowerment to analyses the National Mission on Climate Change and provides specific recommendations to be included in the 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan

**Inclusive planning framework of Indian National Planners :** The planning of national resources is done by the National Planning Commission in India. A review of the approach paper to the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan mentions attainment of *inclusion* but has the possibility of gender equality, child right and care of age and vulnerable will get overlooked exists unless it is mentioned specifically in indicators and monitoring gaps in resource access by all.

**Gender and Inclusion in the City master plan :** The Master Plans for the city need to be studied with gender lens. The Delhi Master Plan in context of WRZ would scan projects and their potential employment, with specific emphasis on women's work including workers housing and support within the city through a women workers resource rights framework. The Master Plan projects the redevelopment of Delhi as a "world class city". The "world-class" facilities need to include dignified space for workers within city limits under the ownership of women. The master plan did not have specific provisions for pedestrians, the majority of whom are women. The provisions for trade and commerce, industry, and government offices are in complete variance with the projections for the capacity of these sectors to absorb a growing workforce

### **Quantifying Gender Gaps and Planning sustainable development**

At the household level women get freedom to move outside the household when she has capacity to earn more along with her fulfilling household reproductive roles. Thus opportunities to earn and learn need to be near home. Drawing from our field study, the focus is on linking vulnerable urban communities with those who can invest in neighborhood services for better productivity through provision of care and work

spaces and ware houses women can access for use before dreaming its management and control. SAFP proposes to provide more planned spaces for the informal sector serving the city. These could be rickshaw pullers, fruit and vegetable vendors, gardeners, tailors and embroidery, beauty saloon, domestic and construction workers who need to have ways of being inducted to newer roles demanded by urbanization. Workers need planned systems with associated infrastructure within socio economic networks that links them to social security and welfare schemes provided by the state. A neighborhood training and placement centre can provide them social security and link them with perspective employers. The market demands trained workforce but the inflow of human resource comes from informal systems. Most urban areas have got built with workforce trafficked through channels that has not only violated dignity but also the security of all concerned. The solution lies in organizing the human resource needs of an area through care and training systems managed within area development plan.

Women in their care giver roles have been teaching socialization. The value addition required to increase productivity and regeneration capacity of an area will come from training the human resource in the area differently than before. Adaptation plans are required to regenerate natural, financial, human and infrastructure frameworks so that a strengthened resource base can continue to care for all while the market and mother earth gets enough trained people to regenerate themselves. What is required are caring communities that can sustain their responsibilities to maintain the trainability of a workforce that has its care and basic needs meet. This requires planned space and local teams to manage specific projects for regeneration to manage natural resource, production and service sectors to increase resource base in each local area. Each area will need to agree on their own plan to be divide their resource base equally between women and men based on a development plan.

## **POLICY PLANNING AND PROGRAM OPTION FOR URBAN LAND GOVERNANCE**

This section will offer a specific case of a local area inclusive plan that incorporates Women's Resource Zone. This case is presented to demonstrate that every district can learn from this example that has been planned in District Okhla in Delhi. In particular this plan fits well in the evolution required for the urban renewal program of GOI called JNNURM and by the Mission Convergence of Delhi government to increase the access of women to built and natural resources, thereby increasing productivity and wellness in the district.

The Mission Convergence of the Delhi government has established gender resource centres (GRC) that are federated into District Resource Centres. These centres provide access to community to apply for existing government schemes. These facilities run from rented accommodations. They train women for skill development for livelihood. After learning skills spaces are needed near homes to undertake activity to generate income. Community common spaces are needed to carry out activities that will increase wellness and productivity in an area. The community common spaces can be planned within the area development plans. Each District Resource Centre needs to be aware of area development plans, for it to successfully enroll vulnerable people either in protective or productive enterprises through existing government programmes on livelihoods, habitation and infrastructure like SJRY, RAY and JNNURM. This will complement the training and cash disbursements done through GRCs in Delhi. The leadership in the area as a key actor could sign off local area gender equality in all development plans that involve sanction of multiple projects.

SAFP has recently conducted surveys and developed case studies in the Okhla area to suggest a framework for a "GRC-plus phase" for mission convergence Delhi and suggested specific recommendation for the Urban renewal mission programme called JNNURM. The leadership in the area is to now develop specific proposals to be considered under the existing program framework for the

development of infrastructure. SAFP needs support in identification of resource agencies that will provide infrastructure, market and credit support for the GRC-plus phase in the Okhla area.

Sathi all for partnerships (SAFP) is working to implement a woman friendly, inclusive development area plan, a Woman Resource Zone (WRZ), to create equal access for women and men to both natural resources and built infrastructure. Amongst other areas in India, we have focused on the Okhla district in Delhi, organizing stakeholders and designing a neighbourhood plan which is safer and promotes the productivity of women, ensuring their continued access to and management of livelihood resources, including drinking water and appropriate sanitation as viable income generation options. This work was a collaborative effort of SAFP with faculty and students of School of Architecture, Jamia Millia Islamia, School of Planning and Architecture Delhi and Barcelona. Eight local NGOs and departments participated in the process.

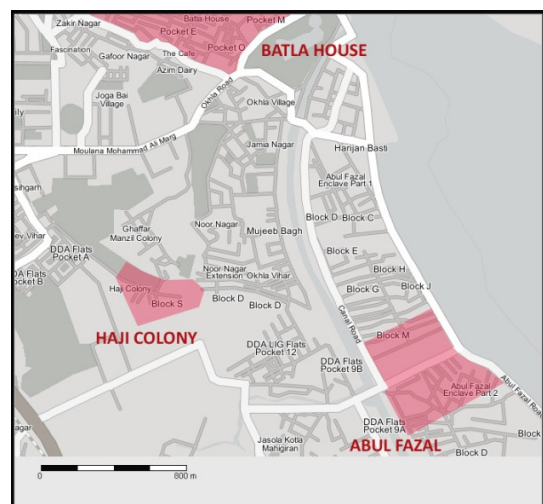
**Goal:** To shift urban development to nurture human and natural resource in the area under local women and mens group care and economic enterprises as a part of local area planning process.

### Objectives:

1. To empower women and men, by enhancing opportunities through the building of infrastructure for care and productive services through existing programs linked with gender resource centres other NGOs in Okhla.
2. To develop support structures for the same purpose in the neighborhood, for the community as a whole, to sustain resources in the area, in accordance with the existing schemes of the corporate, government and local and leadership.
3. Develop guidelines as a policy advocacy document for Delhi and National Government ministries based on the GRC-plus, to improve the mission convergence to protect and promote the interests of Delhi's vulnerable population.

**Area Information:** One of the main challenges in Okhla is that built infrastructure and housing was added as the need arose, leading to chaotic and unsafe neighbourhoods, especially for women. Besides basic amenities such as clean water, electricity and sanitation, there also needs to be better planning for roads keeping in mind the movement of both women and men in the community. A better transport system within the area has already been planned by the government, with wider roads, vending and parking enclaves to increase safety along with de-congestion, etc. but these plans get stalled often. The area being predominantly inhabited by Muslims, their special concern for security and income needs to be addressed keeping in mind equal citizenry rights.

SAFP has approached youth in the area to discuss women and habitat issues. Students of architecture from JMI and the Barcelona School of Architecture then teamed up to suggest a network of safe travel corridors connecting inner community areas with community service spaces that could be accessed and managed by women's organizations and self-help groups. While the safe road widening process could be addressed with the Ministry of Urban



Development, this proposal is about developing linked community projects for which credit and spaces for women SHGs could be requested from the responsible authorities.

## **I. Project components require allocation of built and natural infrastructure for women in the area**

### **1.1. In the Batla House area**

In Batla House, there are many infrastructure problems, starting with water supply and drainage. During the monsoon season, the streets and homes are flooded, disease rates increase and the area becomes even more unsafe and unproductive. Furthermore, lack of meeting and training spaces, low access to income generation and water and sanitation issues call for planning interventions that are good for all but also increase resource access for the women in the neighbourhood.

The Collective of NGOs for WRZ will organize local women into self-help groups who could manage IGP projects. Even though the current spaces for training are run by NGOs in the Batla House area, women need empowering through management of public spaces (that can cater to the care of the elderly and children, for example) as well as production spaces. This will also help restore the sense of closeness and community. The upgrading of basic amenities should be a starting point in up scaling the slum area, in accordance with the first component of the Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojna (RAY).

In Batla House, buildings are hired for development projects on rent or made available through charity institutions on a per project basis. To get continuous space for crèches and women's production units is difficult. The women in the area reported that the community hall usage procedure was hard to obtain.

#### *1.1.1 The community center*

The Batla house community center, which is currently used only for wedding ceremonies at night, is vacant during the day. Cooking for such events takes place outside in unhygienic conditions, while the roof remains an empty space, much land belonging to the MCD around it remains unused, and it is conveniently located near a mosque and a hospital. Opening up of this community centre for different women's groups is just one example of the projects we are suggesting as part of a bigger WRZ in the area.

For instance, the center has room to accommodate a permanent catering service, which could be used for weddings, but also external catering/deliveries, while the roof could be a space the women group collective could use on allocation for specific projects. They would of course also need the economic backing to maintain their activities. Possible contracts for cleaning or developing horticulture around the centre could also be an option and a women-owned organised vending space for weekly local market produce could be organised better, as the current arrangement makes traffic in the area even worse. Both these new services could be run by women's groups and NGOs, much like the successful Delhi Mission Convergence canteen and catering which was sanctioned by the CM Ms. Sheila Dixit<sup>2</sup>.



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<sup>2</sup> To achieve this, Ms. Rashmi Singh, Director Mission Convergence, had to make some procedural arrangements within the contract tendering system to facilitate women groups to compete in open market competition.



*The Batla House Community Center, its empty roof area*

The Batla house community centre, if piloted to be managed in linkage with horticulture initiatives in the area, cleaning and catering contracts by women groups, would be useful for the entire community, with specific time slots allocated to local women for their activities, which would start precedence for such centers across Delhi. In some area like Kalyanpuri an NGO called ISST has already got community centres allotted to run gender resource centre. Jamia architecture students have developed design for such a community centre that is managed and run by local women.

**Such community centers are needed in the Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazl, and Haji Colony areas of Okhla. Local counselors have already made proposals to elected area MLA for the provision of community centers in these areas.** The leaders have agreed to collaborate with SAFF on specific projects which would allow local women to provide care services in such community halls. Before land can be allocated, additional budget for women's groups for entrepreneurial activity and care service training should be allocated in each area. This would allow beginning the process of organisation of businesses and infrastructure management training for women, with support from local men and leaders. Each group needs to be consulted on their space requirements and to cost the design and request the funds. In the interim, some buildings have been identified that could be available<sup>3</sup>.

Informal workers' in these areas are vulnerable<sup>4</sup> as their need for spaces is currently fulfilled by using their own homes, which isn't conducive to added productivity. Space for storage is also needed for raw materials and finished products. Most unused land identified in Shaheen Bagh and Abul Fazal belongs to the UP irrigation department. Some of this land could be requested from leaders<sup>5</sup>.

Besides allocating private land for community use, developing community spaces managed by women's SHG can be done on DDA land at the north east of Haji colony<sup>6</sup>. There has been discussion for its sanction as the DDA has no known development plan for this land at present. The local counselors have also suggested two DDA lands slotted as community area. A detailed architectural plan is developed for a women training and production centre that also has in its compound a rickshaw parking and migration centre that also could provide shelter and food to workers in the area.

## **1.2. Shaheen Bagh**

### *1.2.1. Yamuna bank project*

Local women have suggested taking advantage of a big empty land between Abul Fazal and Shaheen Bagh (4000m<sup>2</sup>), and establishing connections in 2 directions to create infrastructure for horticulture, public care and meeting spaces. This land currently has a high voltage electrical cable running through the middle, but after leaving a clearance of 65 meters, the establishment of a park with a temporary shed for

<sup>3</sup> e.g. the MCD or Sarvodaya School to local women beyond normal hours for a work meeting space for care projects and IGP

<sup>4</sup> Aman Trust. Urban Poverty and Informality: A Case Study of an Assembly Constituency in Delhi, p. 7.

<sup>5</sup> For example, the current councillor of the area wants to develop an old age home in the name of his elders.

<sup>6</sup> Opposite Okhla compost plant, DDA flats and cremation ground connecting to Sukhdev Vihar

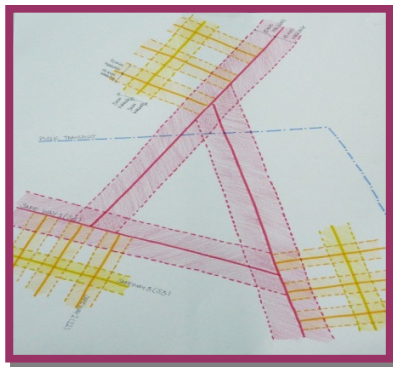


meetings to be administrated by women in groups could be planned. A detailed architectural plan is made for this area

These built spaces should connect to other women managed projects with natural and built infrastructure at different points of the road network in the area. Greening of the Yamuna banks is another project along the river bed. A green walk way and a cycle track may well be a wellness zone that raises the bank to control seasonal flooding of the area.

## **GENDER URBAN PLAN**

A presentation developed by the students details the area development plan and our consortium was presented to the community living in the area, the ministry and its departments, Institutions in the area and leaders. Two local leaders have committed themselves to make life more productive and secure for all by adapting the WRZ concept.



*Diagram of a 'safe edge net' to enable women's safe movement in the area and the development of a sustainable gender-equal zone.*

Most of the WRZ components are meant to fill current gaps in the economy and community needs that are being serviced by women through their care roles within family and extended community, and as low paid workers of the unorganized sector, with all the precariousness in terms of wages and treatment this entails.

A WRZ within an inclusive development plan of the area will contribute to the better organization of women into self-help groups and collectivities for the management of neighborhood enterprises that require reorganizing the area to provide common resources for productive and care roles women can be comfortable taking on. Corporate houses and foundations will support such an effort. This in turn will help removing them from the informal economy, and thereby increase the tax revenue available for public expenditures, all the while successfully implementing existing government schemes.

## **ACTIONS NEEDED**

SAFP research has detailed options for women SHGs in the area to access resources under SGRY, PMRG, RAY and other government schemes. These were presented leaders of the area. In accordance with article 243 of the Constitution which calls for decentralized planning, SAFP provided basic training for marginalized sections of society, such as Muslim women, slum residents/workers, etc, and consulted with town planners and local governance system on how to address their community's specific needs. The priorities emerged as :

1. Approaching leaders in the area for appropriate transport system changes and promoting the safe city campaign of Delhi government, to incorporate safety suggestions for the area for the attention of the Delhi government.
2. Much of the micro-level projects we are proposing involve pre-existing infrastructure and are likely to create additional income generating opportunities in the district in addition to the basic upgrading of infrastructures required by the law. Possible projects for which business plans will need to be developed under a governments training program for women called SGRY:



- Water purification unit
- Horticulture project
- Training of canteen workers
- Garment Making
- Computer centre as an enterprise
- Migration and placement centre
- Food Supply Unit
- Placement and training cell for domestic workers
- Wellness and fitness centre
- Beauty training
- Shelter and training centre for unorganized workers and for multipurpose activities
- Beverage and snack bar
- Old age home
- Child care day centre
- Housing project for women headed or single women household

3. Entrepreneur trainers and business mentors need to be sourced for the self help groups to develop market and raw material links for the above mentioned projects.

4. Legal and other experts for defining and developing responsibility and liability support will be asked to volunteer.

5. District authorities and other ward committees and resident welfare associations are being contacted for ensuring a demand supply chain for specific enterprises.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The implementation of an inclusive development zone plan in the district with micro projects to be taken on by the resource agencies in the area to increase the generative capacity of an area and its women by :

- 1) Women having a say in how the community develops on basis of planned action agenda at local level.
- 2) Women becoming more visible contributors to the community through projects based on agreement with local and district stake holders on reducing gender resource gap as part of inclusion planning.
- 3) Facilitating women to access built and natural resources under JNNURM and Mission convergence, mission for small scale enterprise, solar mission, National Women empowerment Mission and Climate change mission

## **IMPACTING POLICY**

SAFP advocacy has impacted policy such that today each district in India is required to have a gender sub - plan. The Planning Commission of India has issued guidelines for preparation of District Plans on August 25, 2006. Subsequently, a Task Force was set up for the preparation of a manual for Integrated District Planning. The manual, which was released by the Prime Minister in January 2009, gives the processes for preparing a participative district plan. The manual underlines that women's empowerment requires adequate resource, sustained employment, access to credit and asset ownership allocation in all areas including health, education, water sanitation and nutrition, skills, research and design technology and political participation.

In developing an inclusive development area plan i.e., Woman Resource Zone (WRZ), we seek to create equal access for women and men to community resources. SAFP consults stakeholders to designing area and neighborhood plan which addresses women's needs and concerns, ensuring their continued access to and management of livelihood resources, including drinking water and appropriate sanitation as viable income generation options. Each planned activity is presented from the ground up. As a result there is focus on micro-level planning that takes into account different local contexts. In urban areas, such projects entail networks of travel corridors connecting inner community areas with community service spaces that could be accessed and managed by women's organizations and self-help groups. An example of a community service is a migration center run by women from a community center. In the rural context, this implies joint management of arable land by groups of women. These women could also be organized into cooperatives who could sell their produce and other artifacts in designated market spaces. Other such examples are sustainable tourism initiatives in the form of environmentally friendly resort buildings, water side horticulture projects as 'green' walkways'.

Further, SAFP has joined hands with corporate bodies such as Suzlon which is a wind energy company to develop sustainable development zones. Presently SAFP is working in 8 states in India developing micro level planning that takes into account the local context in promoting gender representation in district and local level planning. This amounts to intense capacity building exercises such that women are able to claim resources and articulate their needs from their communities, markets, and governments. Towards this work on impacting the agenda of national missions working on energy, enterprises, women empowerment, climate change and development are constantly lobbied by SAFP representatives to include WRZ in the 12<sup>th</sup> five year planning process of the country.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS: IMPACTING LOCAL PLANS AND URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAM**

While a wide and comprehensive plan is required in order to engage with gender equality in town planning, the following guidelines may be helpful when formulating area and neighborhood plans:

- Awareness and data generation for community livelihood security and security of tenure through women's cooperatives (for placement and productive enterprises, care services, and housing projects).
- Setting up information service to improve access to resources for community under women's ownership
- Setting systems of employment regulation for safeguarding workers and women's interest through neighborhood women resource committee
- Establishing neighborhood care services women resource increase projects and centers that are linked with district wide space and local administrative units for developing social infrastructure to increase productivity and safety.

Based on this experience SAFP submitted the following as gender concern for formulation of the new JNNURM

**Inclusive local plan in all wards of the city to enhance the productive role of the excluded through equitable access to infrastructure, financial and natural resource managed by women groups.**

Planning to increase visibility of women in the governance of their areas needs to be attempted under JNNURM. design of integrated community local plan, toilets, roads, buses, waterpoints, housing should

be done after collecting data from women about their needs and how they will like to participate in the productivity and safety of their local areas. A systematic district gender planning tailored to the needs of all people can be attempted by:

- Identifying the existing gender gaps in access to resources and services of all areas where local plans are being developed and allocate resources to lessen the gap.
  - Ensuring that slum and city development contracts plan to fill the gender resource gap through specific projects to plan “inclusion” as mentioned in the 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan.
  - Converging JNNURM, RAY, environment and enterprise promotion and social welfare schemes support system for the residents of an area to sustain resources
  - Provide budget for building skills of women groups to manage the infrastructure for care and productive services through the BSUP, HUPA, SJSRY, STEP and other programs.
  - Initiate projects to conserve natural resources of the local area for the primary use and management of the local residents including migrants and guests and other market interests.
- Thus it is more important to know how many women included in planning, using and accessing toilets, water and sanitation, roads and infrastructure, not how much population covered.
- Ensuring annual monitoring of the increase in women employment and enterprise.

In the expression of interest for contractors to propose make it mandatory that the 30% of these resource adaptation projects should be managed by women groups. Work and community spaces near homes, safe transport and training to set up enterprises for livelihood with assured access to infrastructure and credit will enhance the economic performance and overall social wellbeing.

## **Conclusion**

The experience of developing this advocacy has been a non funded effort and a voluntary activity. The strength of working with a purpose and a goal has the potential of making stakeholders move. People at different level gave their time and energy to developing the concept as each was interested in planning their neighborhood in a sustainable and an inclusive way. The process will continue to gather learning and keep informing stake holders on how land use should change as it must. At the core of every ones heart lies the desire to combat many issues each of us feel about. This plan will touch many lives as each human habitation requires a vibrant neighborhood. Planning can help to some extent to solve problems around climate adaptation, security issues as well as meeting labor needs. Women resource zone needs many more volunteers to go on ideating to learn what each neighbor can do for making their work and home areas better with a geninclusive lens.

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