

CHAPTER - 6

CONCLUSION

One of the apt descriptions of Delhi done in my research thesis is a quote “The city is stretched beyond its means.” So it is. Urbanization is perhaps eating into the socio-ecological balance of the capital city. It has come to pass that Delhi is the world’s second most populous city in 2014 because of urbanization. It has already doubled its population since 1990 and the city is tipped to have 36 million residents by 2030, which can easily spell disaster. Like many other large cities of developing nations, the co-existence of plush localities and sprawling slums is not uncommon. These slums are the home for migrants from rural areas working as domestic helps or daily laborers. Not everyone moving to Delhi finds a place to stay that leads to informal settlements. The annual influx of migrants is continuously depleting the city’s resources. Delhi gets into a crisis mode for something as basic as drinking water. The Ever-increasing population is to be blamed for the surging demand and dwindling supply of drinking water. Even today, the city faces a daily deficit of around 1000 million litres of water. Population and pollution go hand in hand. Rapid urbanization of Delhi and the National Capital Region has forced the working population to commute from the suburbs to the city. The trend of buying more personal vehicles that started almost two decades back, naturally contributed to vehicular emissions. Only a few years back, Delhi came to the limelight for being the fourth most polluted city in the world. The air quality in Delhi has degraded alarmingly fast. Inherent inadequacy of public transport is touted as one of the prime reasons for people to switch to personal vehicles. Even when positive strides were taken to increase the availability of public amenities, they have consistently been under pressure to

accommodate the swelling population. Delhi Metro could be a case study. Moreover, the traffic troubles are on the rise as the city is running short of space to accommodate its traffic, despite having built India's most extensive road network. The large chunk of increased roadway capacity was consumed by additional traffic in five years. The unbridled growth of residents has also led to the unprecedented rise in both domestic and industrial wastewater pollution. The city has registered a sharp increase in the volume of domestic wastewater generated each day. Delhi's sewage treatment capacity is not optimized to its full potential due to faulty trunk sewer system. And who is responsible for this waste generation? The buck again stops at population. It has led to the emergence of more unauthorized colonies and clusters, which are not provided with sewerage systems. Delhi is completely stressed out. It's already gasping for more space and its consumption is continuously exceeding the supply. The capital city's demand for power is increasing by 10% each year. All these above problems are somehow related to industries running in Delhi, it means industrial pollution having a major role or industrialization having a major role in Delhi environment. Apart from this the politics of Delhi is also affected by the Delhi environment as I have stated in the previous chapter.

Possible Solutions/ Suggestions:

1. The approach towards arriving at a solution has to be multi-pronged since the problems are manifold, albeit inter-related. Development should be decentralized by which we can minimize the migration problems and reduce the burden of metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai etc.
2. To prepare such Master Plan and make such provisions in it by which we can prepare or ensure the overall development of the unauthorized /slum colonies.

3. All the political parties should come together on particular issues without doing any kind of vote bank politics and show the strong political will for the proper development of Delhi by which we can reduce the negative impact of this problem.
4. To establish single window system for DDA, MCD, JALBOARD by which Delhites can get the solution of related problems cutting short the red tap.
5. To providing such facilities of the existing industrial policy by which the industrial policy is implemented properly to minimize the negative impact of industrial pollution in Delhi.
6. Identify such NGO, SHG and strengthen them by which we can empower those people who suffer from these problems as well as reduce it in a proper manner.
7. For getting solution of problems the centre and the state governments should cooperate with each other, then we can reduce the negative impact of problems.
8. Sociologists are of the opinion that the government should take up the challenge of making life in countryside as easy as in Delhi. In order to stop this mad scramble for settling down in Delhi, the infrastructure in the outer regions should be developed. In this regard, the Modi government's idea of building 100 'smart cities' looks a prudent one as it intends to draw people away from mega cities to "satellite" towns having all the facilities. It's also important that government prohibits informal settlements from coming into existence. These illegal colonies have encouraged people to move into Delhi. As a strong message of discouragement, authorities need to prevent these structures from being built or expanded.

When it comes to waste management, overflowing dumping grounds and lack of major market for composting should be replaced with waste-to-energy plants and a foolproof recycling strategy. It was obviously commendable the way Delhi had implemented numerous policies to curb pollution in the city. Some of the well thought out policies such as phasing out of commercial vehicles older than 15 years, replacing them with new ones, and compelling the buses to opt for CNG, proved effective to an extent, however the city hasn't been able to make much breakthrough in terms of targeting the moot cause – unrestrained population growth. Instead of relying mainly on fertility control policies, the government needs to consider the factors such as lack of basic education. Education hasn't been able to fulfill its responsibility of sensitizing citizens about the population problem.

Findings from Case Study:

One cannot know with certainty what the situation would be like in Saboli today had FODRA not been present, but in my opinion it is pretty safe to assume that FODRA has made a difference in this area. Because of this NGO, the majority of the inhabitants now have access to a private toilet, as well as an opportunity to be a part of the solid waste management program. These are measures that have ensured a healthier and better living environment for everyone in the area, and even though some of my informants pointed out that as long as their neighbors continued to throw their garbage into the street it would not have an effect, the majority of them thought the situation had improved since before FODRA had started their work in Saboli. Keeping in mind the methodology problem I mentioned earlier, it is safe to assume that the physical changes that FODRA can actually document are real. However, in addition to these physical changes, there has also been a change in the way people

think and act, and according to my informants, this is mostly due to the appropriation of new knowledge provided by FODRA. Most of this knowledge is provided through the SHGs and other activities arranged by FODRA. I was myself present at two workshops at the local office, and even though I did not understand everything that was being said, it was clear to see that a lot of the women were very eager and engaged in the discussions. The members of the SHGs have also been given the chance to empower themselves financially through micro finance, which have helped them in many ways. I am left with the impression that my informants do get a lot of benefits from being members of the local SHGs; even though they may only tell me the advantages and leave out the disadvantages due to the presence of the FODRA staff. When I visited the SHGs, I got the impression that most of the women were good friends who shared stories and giggled together just like any good friends would do, which I feel is a very important aspect of life. The SHG meetings provide an opportunity to go out, meet other women, and get engaged in the local community - all activities that might have been harder to do had it not been for the SHGs. Through the SHGs, the women not only get a chance to learn how to manage money, but this experience will most likely build women's capacities and confidence as well, thus putting them in a better position to improve their own situation. Through this fieldwork I wanted to investigate further how women in Saboli make use of the local NGO as well as the SHGs organized by them, especially in relation to consequences from environmental problems. There is no doubt that the urban poor in Delhi are vulnerable, and looking at the current situation, it is important to take into account the changes that might have contributed to this. The terms 'selfresponsibilization' and "aestheticization" are important issues in this regard, and helps to shed some light on the current situation of the urban poor in Delhi. The focus of this paper has been on

the consequences of local environmental problems, and in connection to this, I have also looked at the local leaders and politicians in the area in order to see if they offer any means of help to the inhabitants. After talking to the informants it became clear that the majority of them were not satisfied with the effort made by the local leaders and politicians, and instead saw it necessary to turn to other means for help. What the informants saw as an 'ideal leader' was the opposite from what they were being provided. They wanted a leader who cared about the community, were willing to help them, were well educated, were concerned about development in the area, and had a certain amount of money to be able to help them. Instead, the local leaders usually showed up in the area only around election time to gather votes, made promises they were not able to keep, and were mostly concerned with them selves. This dissatisfaction with the leaders and politicians may be seen as evidence that the State is not able to perform its duties properly, which also shows in the way many politicians behave; absent, corrupt, and lacking initiative. The Indian government discovered early that they could use NGOs to fill this gap, to help them provide the necessary services to the poor. As shown in this study, this is the case with the people living in Saboli; they cannot count on the leaders and politicians for necessary help, and thus have to rely on the local NGO as a middleman in order to get what they need from the State. Even though the majority of the informants were not satisfied with the situation regarding local leaders and politicians, some of them still felt that democracy was 'working' in India. Among the informants who wanted to talk about this issue, the opinions varied. Keeping in mind the methodology problem of the interpreters working for FODRA, it is still quite safe to assume that the women in Saboli has benefited from FODRA's presence. There might have been some negative consequences that have not been presented by the informants, but nevertheless there

have certainly been some positive ones as well. The SHGs in Saboli deal with two main issues: empowerment through microfinance and through knowledge. The microfinance program have had several consequences for the women in Saboli; they can now borrow money at a 2 percent rent instead of at a 10 percent rent, which was the case with the private moneylenders. Thus, they have been able to pay back the moneylenders, and now they are 'free'. They are also able to borrow money for necessary matters like house repairs, constructing hand pumps, paying for medicine and treatment, as well as for helping family. Some of the women have also taken up loans to buy sewing machines or other income generating items, in order to contribute with an additional income to the household. According to my informants, they are now able to do things they could not do earlier, like going to the bank or talking to people of a higher social rank, due to new knowledge provided by FODRA. This in turn, makes it easier for them to stand up to politicians, and fight for their rights, without being intimidated. In addition to being a source of both knowledge based and financial empowerment, these groups function as a place where the women can meet other women, discuss problems, talk about issues that is not fit to talk about in their own house, and gain both friendship and support from one another. My hypothesis for this thesis/research was: Decentralization of development was the only solution to the problem of urbanization on environment and its political impact in the country . Agriculture should get the industry status .,Major and large industrial units should shift in interior as well as rural sector of India by which we could minimize the migration and burden of the metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai etc., The women and men in the unrecognized area Saboli in Delhi use the local NGO and SHGs in order to empower themselves, and thus deal with some of the environmental issues in the area, as well as acquiring the strength to talk to, and stand up to politicians and local

leaders, who seldom provide the help needed. In order to do this, I will contribute with my own material from my fieldwork in the area. Through this material I hope to shed some light on these issues, with first hand opinions from the people who are actually affected, as well as my own observations in relation to these issues. I thought it would be interesting to do a fieldwork in this area because I wanted to see for myself what the situation was like, and not only rely on what I had read or heard on these topics. The situation was not as I had anticipated beforehand, and I feel that my material has provided me with useful information that helps me to see a more nuanced picture of the situation in a Delhi slum. After testified my hypothesis ,I found that the hypothesis is almost true.