Chapter 8

CASE STUDY-REAL HAPPENINGS IN THE SLUMS OF MALAD EAST

Shivaji Nagar

Malad east is one area which had highest illiteracy in Mumbai. It is still an area of crime and superstitions and Tantra Vidya though the place has started developing still the mind-set of the people has not changed it is still a backward area in many sense. Few years back a lady killed her own nephew in order to learn black magic. The child was just five years old. And after killing she pierced his palm and stabbed him on his forehead and then threw his body in the garbage. This is reported at the police station. Some people are just pushed from the mountains for petty things. There are many suicides cases even today. Sometime back a boy murdered a graduate girl by cutting her throat because she sais no to his proposal. Even a gold merchant was murdered in public while he was carrying a brief case of notes. And the people are also very revenges. Inspite of illiteracy rate reducing in Malad east slums the people around have not changed much. They are very abusive. People want the area to develop but they don’t want to change themselves they want to live in a better home and enjoy luxuries of life. But what about their mind set. They are very superstitious which is a big obstacle in the progress of the society. Theft is a biggest crime walking talking they just flick things from somebodies house. If the society is developing that is redevlopment but there is no development happening that is human development then there is no use of the development, quality wise. So according to me area development is not as important as human development which includes the overall development of human personality. It is not a safe place for women or girls to move out of their houses after 10pm. I do hope Malad East becomes a very good place where people become broader in their outlook and they are les criminal and superstitious.

Dhanjiwadi

I was born in Dhanjiwadi, Malad (east) when I thought about change in place. There are certain changes that take place in my area till now whether it is environmental or social. Some of them are good for the residential while some are not those much helpful for the peoples? Let’s say about the development that take place in the area, roads are now widen for solve the problem of traffic near times of India building specially at peak hours but for doing that
change in the area they have relocate some of the resident, who have their house touch to roads. Earlier there is a problem of water drainage system

Most of them are housewives but some of them are doing extra work but now a days they are not they are not able to afford to stay in the redeveloped area so some of them have left the place and some of them have sold their houses and are staying on rent .Their lives have become miserable. Earlier it was more of a forest area but now we are missing the nature because nature has vanished and has been occupied with houses .now it has become very congested.

Earlier people were not educated but now more and more people are trying to send their children to school .They are even sending their girl child to school .Earlier there were more cases of polio in this area but now due to the polio immunization camps conducted by NSS students of the college and the BMC it has been eradicated.

Earlier people were throwing the garbage on the road and shitting on the road. Due to the strictness of BMC and due to awareness due to education now they are throwing the garbage in the dust bin Education has brought this change.

Earlier they were more cases of criminal activities like bribe to start any activities for example to start a shop or to construct a floor but now things have changed People are educated they do not want to take law in their hands.

Now the area has developed , no slums in that area still now redevelopment projects are going on.

In many cases the slum people are cheated for example is the builder has a silly reason like lack of any single document is enough for the builder to cheat them

Some people have paid extra money for an extra room the builder has taken the money in many cases but have not kept ones promise. The place near the high way is nor safe at all there alcoholic and other stray Romeos who are dangerous to the people.

Earlier only Gujarati dominated that place but now there are few Gujarati as they are educated they get better jobs and they have shifted to better place and some other poor have come and occupied the place.
Earlier there were many cases of road accidents but due to the sky walk the number of accidents has reduced.

**In Malad East next to Gokuldam**

IN many areas there are very narrow rooms, some are so narrow that only one or two people can walk. Even though the lanes are narrow, people have bath outside (men), ladies keep washing clothes utensils and make the lanes very dirty. There are fruit sellers staying in some chawls, who throw the rotten fruits outside, which stinks.

There are only, two public toilets in our area. Builders are fighting among themselves, trying to snatch the homes of the poor slum dwellers and they have succeeded in doing so. There is a person by the name of Dudhnath Yadav who lives on rent now because a builder by the name Ketan Bhagat took his two houses and promised to give him a flat in the building but did not keep his promise. When he constantly approached the builder, the builder called him to his office and at the same time called some street gundas and got him beaten up and they threw acid on his face and this news has come on the media, thus the other people are frightened to approach him and out quite and have left their destiny in Gods hand.

Secondly in Malad East there is lots of violence. People are quite hot tempered, they do not have tolerance over small issues. On one side there are Muslims living and on the other side Hindus. The situation is worst during festivals. Police protection is a must even then the polices are not able to maintain peace and harmony in that area.

During festivals people feast on alcohol and create a nuisance in the area. The females are highly in secured and cannot come out of their house late evenings. Builder cheat the people who do not have legal documents. Whenever the government does any work those poor who are promised a substitute home are not given one. Thus the poor in the slums suffer because of faulty government officials, who do get the money and place to give as an alternate but do not do so.

**Pathan wadi:Lubna**

She said that they are living in that area since 1979. At that time few people were living there. They faced a lot of problems, for example, no water facility, no market, no electricity.
Thing have not changed much. There are few changes. Even today the roads are extremely bad, no street lights, narrow lanes which are the cause of traffic jams in fact only one vehicle can pass in the lane. This area comes under forest department and forest department is not giving the permission to prepare the roads, which is dangerous to walk on especially in the rains.

During the rains the roads become very muddy and if a vehicle passes at times the tyres get stuck in the hole and it is very difficult to remove the vehicle out of it.

The people in that area look upon the government with a plea that it will have mercy on them and do something to improve their area, especially streetlights and roads.

At Sangam society in Pathanwadi on 21\textsuperscript{st} April in one of the houses of a Muslim family, a boy nocks the door late night of their house and when a girl of that house opened the door, he slapped her on her face. Since it was dark she could not see the face of that person.

This repeated on May 22\textsuperscript{nd} again. Now the family lives in fear. The person is not identified.

**Karya Panchal living in Tanaji Nagar, Khetwadi:**

This area is totally a slum area and there are no buildings constructed in this area. Earlier there was a lot of Gunda gardi in the area by the contractors and the area leaders, but today life is better but not completely free from the domination of the political leaders. In my area there is a place which is like an adda house for the young boys where they all meet, smoke, drink alcohol. Some of the boys harass women. There is a lot of robbery taking place in our area, Chain snatching is very common. This area is not developed at all.

Recently in this area, a boy aged nearly 21 years committed suicide on 26\textsuperscript{th} June 2015, by hanging himself. His mother works as a servant in many houses. Few days before he died he had beaten up his mother the reason is unknown. After his death they came to know that he had many charges against him. In other words he was a criminal. This boy was not interested in studies at all. His mother used to work very hard as she had three daughters and one son and was a single parent. She wanted to educate her son but he got into bad company of friends and started robbing. And ultimately got fed up of his life and committed suicide.
Veer Savarkar Garden

Saillesh Sharma, a boy from Appa pada studying in college staying at Maradin Yadav chawl in Appapada has another confession. He says that Appapada is one of the most sensitive areas in Malad East. While the entire world is glued to the television watching the World Cup, the residents of Appapada are in a very pathetic condition. This area is next to the forest of National Park. Since the last few months, this area is suffering without electricity. Besides electricity, they are deprived of many other facilities. All the basic amenities provided to the other areas in Malad East are withdrawn, mainly with the intention of throwing them out of the area. This area is perceived to be a high price area for the builders who are eyeing the place. Besides, they have been accused of occupying the land illegally which comes in the forest area of National park.

The names of many residents have been struck out of the voters list. One postman from that area, who labours passionately to ensure that people across the city get their letters without any delay, his mail does not reach home. Parallel is the case of his neighbours. They all live in the fear of removal. Mostly every alternate day, an official, from the forest department comes and threatens them with dire penalties if they do not shift. There is no public school in that area and children are forced to go to private schools reluctantly, thus some send their children some distance away. Therefore, the cost per month increases either on travelling to a school far away or for the fees of a private school.

A lot of Pukka and Kachucha houses were demolished in a furious drive a few years ago. There are more than thousands of houses in Appapadda which is a very large area. It is like a village. In his area, there are no rooms but fortunately they do get water and electricity. But the roads, highway, and infrastructure is not proper and there are lots of disputes on very small issues which most of the times become big issues. And the area is very congested the houses are almost sticking to one another.

Islam pura in Kurar village:

I stay in Islam famous pura which comes in Kurar village. There are many rooms in this area one on top of the other. The room rents are very high but unfortunately we have to pay it. Water, toilet and light facilities are good. But they use electronic motor due to which the electricity bill is very high. There is load shedding in this area. Does the bulb and lights blow off.
&5% of the people are Muslims and @%% Hindus. The boys are very bad of that area. They eat Goa, Supari and all bad things and though they are so small they drink Alcohol and Bear. They talk with abusive languages they talk all filth. There are lots of fights .they tell lies that the opposite person has abused him that why he beat him but they love fighting. It’s a part of their life. The Hindus in that area are united .so if there is a problem then they do come to help.

This does not mean that all the Muslims are bad .But because of these few bad People the name of the entire community is spoilt. Hindus are united when it comes to Hindu Muslim issues but they fight among themselves too.

Kokani Pada: Anjali Tripathi studying in Sybcom

This place is in Kurar village at Malad East. It is called Kokani pada as there are mostly people from Kokan region. My place is the most peaceful area people are very helpful, During the Day we are mostly women, they do all the house hold chores and also do some small work at home and earn money for the family. Each one cooperates with each other .They bring work like saree fall bidding , doing the hemming work stitching the button s for the saree blouses, making papad. Life is hard but since there is unity .In most of the houses there is some work going on that is cottage industries

Banjaripada

Divya Prajapati studying in SYBCom, lives in this area, in Malad East.Mostof the people are from Banjari region thats why it is called Banaras Pada .It is in Kurar village. In the last month a boy by the name of Affjal was murdered Janu Compound.

Janu compound, Rehab buiding at Shantaram by Aarti H.Singh living in this building. Although we are staying in a flat the area is not good at all .In this are the boys very bad mentality towards girl .their attitude towards girls are cheap and negative. Theft takes place like anything .It is risky leaving the house unlocked for a minute too. We face water problem. Water comes for only few minutes and the force of water is bad. People do not keep the corridor and the building clean

Pimpri Pada  Pandey Priti
This place is very famous for crimes. There are many suicide cases happening in this area, some are due to poverty some are due to break ups in love affair and some reason are unknown. There are many fights taking place in this area. Three to four months back in this year a murder took place in this area and this is captured in the Camera. This young boy was beaten mercilessly and kicked by a man who also tried to run him over by his bike. This 22 year old boy Afzal ultimately died on that same day in the evening. The son of a police man was one among the six people who are arrested on suspicion. The motive behind the murder is still unknown. All the six were between the age group 21 to 24 years. They have fled to Nasik said the Times of India.

This incident took place outside Swapnalok tower in Pimpri pada, in Malad East, at around 2.25 am on Monday. People say that Afzal and his friends were riding a bike when the attackers stopped them and entered into an argument with them. They too were on bikes. The son of the police man, 22 years of age, allegedly dragged him gown and started beating him. He fiend luckily managed to run away and unfortunately Afzal was destined to die. The police man’s son went on beating him till Afzal couldn’t move and then ran away. Afzal lay bleeding for a long time until a local person informed the police and he then gave up in the hospital on Tuesday.

**Popat Compound, Kurar village:**

Four Youth were murdered in the forest with a knife it was a very bad murder. The kurar police have recovered the knife used by the prime accused, Uday Pathak to commit the crime. This was the crime which has shaken the people of Malad East, Kurar.

The one who was actually responsible for the murder, Mr.Pathak had given the details to the person where the weapons are buried. According to the additional commissioner f police North region, Mr.Ramrao Pawar cop recovered the knife from the same spot, a kilometer away from the Dhanaji Nalavade) hill top from where the bodies were found.

It was Mr.Uday Pathak who planned the murder and he planned it in such a way that he wanted to cheat the polices. So He asked a girl to put a molestation case on him few minutes before the murder. so that nobody will doubt him. He paid fine of Rs.1200 and got out of it. (Senior police Mr.Dhanaji Nalavade)

**Another case at Kurar:**
Five people were held for the murder of A Senas man, in Malad East. He was stabbed to death at his home in Malad East. The entire area was tensed. One out of the five arrested is a minor

The victims, Ramesh Jadhav, who was 28 years old was murder after he intervened in a fight between his younger brother and two other men near his home. The assailants fled after attacking him with swords and other sharp weapons. Due to this murder the shiv Sena leader asked the shopkeepers to close down the shops. Ramesh was the main bread earner of the family. He had the responsibility of his mother and brother. He had small imitation jewellery business near his home. He has a one year old son.

Student Priti Gaud

Shivaji Nagar Kurar.

Previously it was more of Jungle and it was a very sensitive place, lots of murder theft and other types of crime use to happen in that area. But due to education there has been a change in the type of crime and the level of living. In other words, Earlier there were only bushes, no proper roads and not even constructed houses. Most of the people were illiterate. They did not know the importance of cleanliness, importance of saving, how to save resources like water, gas electricity. In many areas there were no electricity, toilets, water etc. but things have changed today many people are educated and most of them are sending their children to school. Child labour is on but at home to add to the income of the family.

It was more of a tribal area but because of education people have started changing. This was the situation in 1970. The environment was very bad not good for even living. Thus the human resource were not good in quality. Education has improved the quality of the human resources of Malad East, that is through schools television and other mass medias

When one family migrated to this place the other members of the family also migrated and made their home nearby, just to be on the safer side. So one of the male family members use to sleep outside to keep a watch on their other members, just for safety. The environment as not fit for human development. Due to the jungle around there was constant fear of wild animals attacking. More than the wild animals human were like wild animals t waiting to attack. Infact this area was the most sensitive and highest crime committed area. Most of the people who migrated were very poor and the environment forced them to commit suicide after every two or three days.
some dead body was found.

Educated people are increasing in this area but crime has still not become Zero. Yes it has decreased. People in this area compete in petty things they do not have faith in each other. They are waiting to attack each other on petty issues. Of course, with education the income of the people have increased and the shape of the slum has changed. Most of the houses have become pakka houses. They are constructed properly and some houses are demolished and in its place good buildings are constructed. But the mentality of the people have not changed to a great extend. Hopes remain on the coming generation that education will bring a classy change in them and in their standard of living.

Many of them are business men but the business is like selling Vadapav, Pani puri, idli dosa, Frankie etc. The society is still a male dominated society although the women are not idle and their children are working too to contribute to the family income. Women are still exploited and some cases they are ill-treated and even beaten. Dowry still goes on. And the demand for a boy child is also there. There is no understanding between the couples. In many cases the husband brings work home and makes his wife do it like a boss, dictating terms to his wife and still tell her that he is working hard.

If she was educated she would deal with him in a different way. In fact the women does multiple work she does house work, works outside the home as a servant and has to take the burden of the worker husband brings home and she is not acknowledge. Their children are also involved in doing some work or the other they also add to the financial income of the family. But inspite of that they don’t get what they need to get from their parents.

Inspire of the area being developed crime, bribe or exploitation still continues. The area is dominated by the governing body and the area needs to improve. Education will help them improve and build in confidence to fight against odds. It will also teach them civic sense and their rights. It will make them understand things better. It will change their way of thinking. when they are educated and they work in a good organisation in a good culture they will bring that culture home and slowly and steadily their life style will change and by looking at them the others will also try to imitate them.

Case study of Adrash Nagar

Kurar village Adrash Nagar one enquiring I got to know from the people that the area had
drinking water problem but due to the efforts of the few educated people in that area who provoked the members to get together and wrote an application which was submitted to Mr. Ajit Ranne, but he did not respond and ultimately after many visits, they all got together and had a meeting and collected the information about water problems in the nearby areas and took signature from all of them and once again went to the same politician. Inspite of this he did not take a positive step in solving the problem. This instigated the people in that area and they decide to take the matter to the media. This matter was escalated by the media. The media took photographs of the slum women and how they have to stand in a long queue to fill water. On getting the information the political leader was moved and finally after some days the problem was solved by him. Water comes at 11-3

Adarsh Nagar is a backward area like other areas in Kurar. There are very few graduates. There are many drop outs. Most of the house wife’s are illiterate 90%. People are very orthodox and narrow minded. Most of the house wife’s are busy making Bangles, Bindis, earning, Key chain. The area ids quite peaceful. Most of the people is from UP 98%. Ramsevak chawl, Seva Nand chawl. There are no building around. No redevelopment in this area. Children are very abusive as the parents are also abusive. There are many joined families in this area.

Shantaram Talao

On 7/7/15 at 4pm as I was travelling home from my college the road in Malad East next to the police station was jammed up and the car would not move ahead for some time. So I checked on that and was shocked to see that there was a precession of Ladies and men moving towards the temple at that place. One of the ladies was possessed and she was swaying her head left and right and one man was literally beating her. On enquiring they said that the goddess Laxmi had entered her and they were also taking a goat for sacrifice as the goddess has asked for it. I felt so sad for the lady. I could see educated and illiterate people in that group. The police station is very close to that place, but there was no police protection and not a single police stopping it.

Conclusion:

People still believe in false practices even though they are educated or their children being educated. The fault lies in our education system in India which has to change. Education is becoming more commercial and poor in quality. Teachers are not by choice but by chance. They
are not student welfare oriented. They are also commercial. Money is the root cause of this evil which is working in our education system.