

# Impact of Ethnic Segregation on Quality of Life in Ghettos & Enclaves (A Case Study of Okhla, Delhi)

Masoom Ahmed

Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, India

**Abstract:** India is one of the largest Muslim populated countries in the world. Sachar committee report 2006 sparked a debate on the issue of Socio-Economic marginalization of Muslims & explicitly voiced their concern that 'fearing for their security, Muslims are increasingly resorting to living in ghettos across the country' (Sachar et al., 2006, 14). Unlike other forms of residential clustering, segregation of Muslims in urban areas is thus an increasingly important concern as it impacts the overall human development in cities. There is a sharp disparity in the values of human development index due to ethnic segregation. Inequalities in human development pose a challenge to democratic cities. Thus there is an urgent need to understand & address the factors that gives rise to ethnic segregation in cities and how the correlation between the indicators of quality of life impacts the human development due to segregation.

**Keywords:** Ethnic Segregation; Quality of Life; Human Development; Ghettos & Enclaves; Marginalization

## 1. Introduction

Diversity characterizes Indian cities, with people from various ethnic backgrounds calling the city as their home. Many Indians see the inclusion of all ethnic groups into one society as an ideal which the nation should strive towards. Independence marked the history of Delhi with the influx of refugee migrants from Pakistan. Many affluent Muslims from Delhi region (more than 330,000 as per the article in "The Wire" by Sohail Hashmi) has also migrated towards Pakistan speculating the fact that secularism may not prevail on this side of the fence. Fortunately India as a nation started its journey along the lines of Sovereignty, Socialistic, Secular, Democratic and Republican ideologies. Freedom of choice to live in cities, close knitted within the boundaries of mohallah devoid of social and economic status prevailed. The choice of place to settle has been dictated by the close proximity to work place and easy access to resources of day to day needs. But, the episodes of urban communal riots throughout the country changed the determining factor to settle in a place for the Muslim community (Gayer & Jafferlot, 2012). Intra city migration and a pattern of residential segregation in search for a secured place became the determining factor especially for the Muslims in the capital. The determining factor to settle in a place shifted from 'need' to 'security'. The drive to beautify Delhi and remove industries to the fringes during Emergency era completely changed the urban demographic picture of Delhi. Many of the resources catering to Muslim localities within the city were demeaned and the outcome of the drive was Muslim population was indirectly forced to push towards fringes (Lakshmi Nagar, Okhla, Seelampur, Wazirabad, Sahadra) as the livelihood of majority of the population was based on industries. The 2002 massacre at Ahmedabad and few constitutional reforms like TADA developed fear and mistrust of the others among Muslim community which led to high concentration in Muslim dominant areas and erection of walls and fences in some places. And now when the city has expanded, these places have evolved as blot in an urban fabric due to poor infrastructure & lack of spaces to expand. As a result of which the quality of life in such segregated islands is compromised. Residential segregation along the religious lines has been a concern in Delhi. This disparity in quality of life in such localities is directly

impacting the human development of residents, therefore dividing the city in to fragments which depict exclusion, deprivation and discrimination.

## 2. Literature Survey

In the past, the works of people like Paul Brass, Ashutosh Varshney, and Thomas Blom Hansen, has done much to increase our understanding of the dynamics of communal violence in India. But the selected works of writers like Veronique D.N. Dupont, Ghazala Jamil, Mohammed Qadeer & Sandeep Kumar and Laurent Gayer & Christophe Jafferlot takes us a step ahead to provide insight to the impact of such phenomenon on the spatial attributes of a city. The segregation has been looked at from societal, capitalistic and political aspect. But very little has been researched on the aspects of the impact of such segregation on the physical infrastructure and quality of life in these segregated islands. Well it is a great achievement to identify the cause of such segregations but, at the same time it is necessary to access the degree of impact on the lives of people due to segregation. Therefore the combined impact of both the studies would undoubtedly help to reason substantially the situation of Muslims living in segregations.

### Ethnic Segregation & Quality of Life

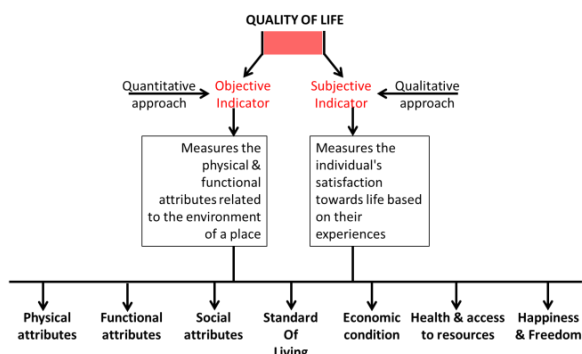
Ethnic Segregation is an urban phenomenon which can apparently be seen as self-separation of an ethnic community but, in reality has social and psychological dimensions attached to it. It is difficult to justify through empirical evidences yet can be felt in Indian society on a day to day basis when we see socio-economic and political issues are ethnically painted to propagate fear mongering and thus the question of social security and freedom justifies the mentality to live life in concentrated islands. In the theory of Ekistics, Doxiadis talks about "maximization of man's potential contacts" which means man always tries to develop potential contacts and never prefers to live in segregation.

Life in Segregated Islands is a failure to Urban Quality of Life as societies distance themselves from each other creating chances to develop misunderstanding along with

opportunities to look down upon each other and take advantage of the situation.

Quality of Life (QOL) is “the satisfaction in a person’s life that comes from having good health, comfort, good relationship etc., rather than from money”. It is “the personal satisfaction (or dissatisfaction) attached to the cultural or intellectual conditions under which a person lives”

[<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/quality+of+life>].The meaning of the phrase ‘Quality of Life’ changes as it is used in different disciplines but in general, it is intended to refer to either the physical conditions of the environment in which people live (air and water, housing), or to some attributes of people themselves (health, educational, recreation achievement) (Pacione, 1982; Hills, 1995; Benzeval et al., 1995). The increasing interest in the research on Quality of Life has resonated around people and their immediate physical surroundings. The study of QOL may be identified as a subjective approach as it addresses the gap between the expectations of a person and their present experience. Human beings by nature have the quality to adapt to situations and compromise their expectations within a range which he perceives as achievable or vice versa. This enables people who have difficult life circumstances to maintain a reasonable QOL (Janssen, 2007). The desire to improve the quality of life in a particular place or for a particular group is an area of concern for Planners & Ekisticians and improving the quality of life in cities is no longer a simple matter as it has multiple dimensions attached to it.



Indicators & Determinants of Quality of Life

Quality of life has a direct relation to segregation as it is the only determining factor which can empirically justify ethnic segregation as boon or bane to human development within cities. Quality of life questions the basic parameters around which the social, physiological and psychological human development takes place.

### 3. Survey Methods/ Approach

The study is conducted through collection of data from primary and secondary sources. Primary data is collected through questionnaire and interaction with the residents. The selection of location to be surveyed was based on the rationale that a neighborhood with high concentration of Muslim would be ideal to conduct the survey. With these considerations, 3 census wards 100S, 101S and 102S of

Constituent Assembly 54, South East Delhi Election District have been identified as the area for conducting the survey. Before 1980, Okhla was either cultivated or uncultivated grassland inundated by Yamuna waters during the monsoon season. Apart from Modi mill, there were a few concrete houses mostly of professors from Jamia, rest all were mud houses belonging to people of both Muslim & non-Muslim community. The population of the localities in the vicinity of the University increased rapidly following anti-Muslim riots along with the development of minority community’s perceived insecurity, especially during the destruction of the Babri Masjid in Uttar Pradesh and the wide scale violence that followed subsequently in northern India. The process which today looks like a gradual phenomenon of migration ignited by the choice of Muslim community is actually the result of intimidation by the majority against the minority creating an environment of fear.

The method for selection of sample was based on two levels- locality and the household level. The sampling too had to be done separately for both these levels. Multistage random sampling was, therefore adopted for the purpose of survey of 1000 households which were sampled from 10 different localities of the 3 census wards confirming to Assembly Constituency 54.

At level 1, multistage random sampling through lots was adopted to sample out 10 localities from the total localities identified through the voter list. The next stage was to categorize localities based on the percentage of respective concentration of minority:

Category-I Minority concentration (0 to 25%)	Category-II Minority concentration (25 to 75%)	Category-III Minority concentration (75% and above)
TAIMOOR NAGAR BHARATNAGAR	GAFOOR NAGAR OKHLA VILLAGE NOOR NAGAR	BATLA HOUSE GAFFAR MANZIL COLONY HAJI COLONY SHAHEEN BAGH ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE

In the second stage, determination of the number of households to be surveyed from each category was based on the proportion of its minority population to the total population of the locality. Therefore, the ratio of number of households to be surveyed out of the total households under the Categories I, II and III came out as 1:3:6 respectively.

The sampling of households was done through ‘cluster quota sampling’ by looking at the house numbers in the voter lists and locating clusters of minority populations and non – minority populations with a stress on ghetto and enclave.

#### Survey Questionnaire

The survey Questionnaire is designed to expedite the nature of quality of life in Muslim dominated neighborhoods which is caught under the dichotomy of ghettoization and formation of enclave, besides having a common constraint for them to reside in close contact to each other, due to social factors, within localities that depict contrast towards livability & human development.

The questionnaire specifically addresses the aspects related to physical, social, economic attributes along with health and education to understand the life satisfaction of people living in these segregated islands. The framework for the questionnaire has been developed after having a preliminary reconnaissance survey based on interaction in these neighborhoods. The questionnaire is divided into six sections.

The first section establishes the connection of the Respondent with the place of survey and their personal information on Age Sex and Religion qualifies them as a sample apt for the survey on Ethnic studies.

The second section intervenes with questions related to the characteristics of built environment that reflects light on livability condition. 'Area of dwelling unit' and 'Dependency on Light Sources' during day time, Toilet condition was asked to understand the internal physical condition, relationship with density & hygiene. While questions on neighborhood infrastructure & security were asked to understand the degree of threat these localities are exposed to within & outside the neighborhood & their trust on sources which act as savior. Questions on literacy and dependency on sources for education was posed to expedite the importance of education for people in these localities & how they look at it as a platform to support their struggle. The fourth section addresses questions on dependency for medical facilities, frequency of medical visit and the kind of diseases, the people in these localities face. A question on 'fitness' was posed along with a question on the 'amount of time spent with the family' to understand the mental state. The economy of a place is associated to the overall development and hence a series of question related livelihood was asked to see the dependency of the neighborhood, nature of economic activities, lifestyle, mobility & economic capacity of peoples. These questions were framed to explore whether the neighborhood is subjected to economic marginalization or not. Finally another set of questions related to social mobility, interaction, recreation & trust factor was asked to explore the component of isolation & loneliness, psychological state.

## 4. Results & Discussion

### Physical Attributes

The land area is limited, scope for expansion is less and because of the ethnic character of the place, more people try to cling to the area accommodating themselves in compact housing situation (less than 50 sq.mt area) sacrificing themselves to poor livability & hygiene condition in ghettos. While due to the high real estate value & less affordability, the demand of residential units in enclaves is less but is more livable and hygienic.

In ghettos, due to the lack of privacy in compact units people spend more time outside. So there is more interaction among people outside the house & less within the family. The privileged people are rather seen less outside their home as they find solace within their home. But the quality time they spend with their family gets a mixed response as their lifestyle is more oriented towards trans-spatial contacts

managed through technological mediums. Due to the compact nature of built units, there is tremendous interference of noise from the surroundings in case of ghetto as many of the units are subjected to economic activities, hustle bustle of streets, disturbance from nearby units. The disturbance from surrounding environment impacts the daily cycle of people living there by making them sleep late and wake up early to accord with religious performance (namaz). So the total sleep hours for them are very limited and short of sleep on a long run impacts the life expectancy of people due to development of weak immune system. At the cost of this, there comes an advantage of having items of daily necessities at the door step. While on the other hand, people residing in enclaves need to go long distances to find items of daily necessities as per their choice. There is a positivity to it that marketing freshens the mood of people but the hassle to reach to the market due to poor infrastructure destroys the charm of the whole experience & rests the onus on e-shopping. In certain cases, like dependency on core ethnic items both the sections rely on a common source which is generally provided by the economic platforms in ghetto. Therefore, this can be rendered as the dependency of enclaves upon ghetto.

Being part of the prestigious SDMC, the roads were poorly maintained with garbage all around, open drains; sewer overflowing on roads is a sheer example of administrative negligence. The issues with locality infrastructure impinging on the identity of the locality are something that bothers the enclave dwellers the most.

### Health & Education

People in ghettos pay visits for medical assistance more than people in enclaves. This is not because they frequently become ill. People in Muslim ghettos put equal amount of reliance on both Govt. hospitals and Quacks. This is because of the socio-economic background and the lack of response from Govt. hospitals. They don't visit Private hospitals/clinics unless the situation is very critical and no other way forward as an alternative. They put a lot of trust on traditional practices like Hakimi medicine as it is their general belief that the medication through Hakimi medicine kills the disease from its roots rather than allopathic ones. The Hakims & the Quacks don't pull out money from the pockets of their client in one go, rather they ask for many visits and it is in accordance with their treatment also. They also know that these people are not capable of providing large consultation fee in one go, but are capable to pay through installments. While people living in enclaves have more inclination towards private medication due its fast results and less processing time. Few peoples rely on hakim's also because of pressure from family members of older generation. The diseases mostly encountered by the residents in ghetto are water borne and asthma. This is because of poor water supply condition and residential accommodation in cramped spaces which has little scope for access to light & ventilation. Poor lifestyle and consciousness towards health leads to heart related diseases and diabetes. While diseases related to heart and diabetes finds more space among residents of enclave. The reason for this was figured out when it was related to loneliness & reflected a stark difference between the two. Loneliness and social isolation are linked to coronary heart diseases &

stroke and researchers in University Medical Centre, Netherlands claimed that social isolation can lead to Type-II diabetes.

Muslims in Ghettos have turned towards education but their dependency on education as a bread winner is still in doubt because the data on education level depicts that their reliance on independent business is still on and the minimum education required to run a business in this techie times is what they opt for. While the Muslims in enclaves have opted for higher education in specialized fields understanding the fact that education will not only act as bread winner but also give strength to their voices. To them, the prejudices of society outside the Muslim neighborhood can be defeated only by standing shoulder to shoulder by achieving higher education. And in this journey, Jamia Millia Islamia University has played an important role as facilitator to higher education. The impact of university education on the Muslims of Okhla has made them feel that education is not restricted to books. Rather it is a form of cultural and mental development achieved through participation in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities still finds less space among the parents living in Ghettos, yet they look Islamic education as extracurricular activities as it as a savior for their children from indulging in to criminal activities.

The impact of segregation on health and education among the Muslim enclave dwellers puts them in a situation to constantly strive towards upgrading their image between powerful and potentially dangerous tensions & nurturing of distinct cultural identities within a larger heterogeneous society as an orderly process of integration. While on the other hand, Muslim ghetto dwellers are still attempting to find a place between their ethnic culture and the societal rejection.

#### **Economic & Social Mobility-**

People staying in Muslim ghettos believe in life within the boundaries of their neighborhood. They find less strength & confidence outside their boundaries fearing the prejudices of other community. Therefore, there is very little chance of expansion of business opportunities outside their domain. Besides that, they engage in business activities more rather than jobs because of their lack in higher education. Apart from small scale industries, major part of the business related people are from retail and trade sector. This also includes dhabas dealing with ethnic cuisines. Since Muslims have an affinity towards non-veg foods, the area is a hub to food enthusiasts specially the localities of Okhla head and Batla house. Many of the families even depend on outside food for their meals. Another economic activity that finds space among the community are the well-defined tea points which attracts people from all sphere of living and acts as a place for interaction. But due to lack of funding opportunities, their business remains restricted to small scale only.

Data on income per month reflects that majority of the population in Ghetto falls under the income range of Rs.15000 to Rs.50000. This is because of the fact that they have limited scope for economic expansion and is more in to retail, assembling & trading oriented economic activities.

While majority of population in enclave by virtue of their involvement in private jobs earn with in an income bracket of Rs50000 to Rs1, 50,000. This difference in earning has a direct impact on life style of people living in both sections. Due to the closed nature of commercial activity and most of the contacts related to the business are from the community itself, people in ghettos don't have to travel much for their work. But the enclave dwellers have to travel at an average of 10 to 20 km daily as per the requirement of the job. They don't have a fixed place rather they keep on changing based on their place of work.

During the survey it was revealed that both of the sections rely more on private transport rather than public. The residents of ghetto use bikes as their mode of transport because their mobility is restricted within the neighborhood only and the alleys are too small & congested to roam around with four wheelers. As their frequency of movement is very high and in that case bikes are more convenient to use. Besides that, due to lack of parking spaces, only a quarter of the sample preferred of keeping cars as a mode of transport. While the residents of enclave expressed reliability on both bikes and cars. Bikes are used for short communication and cars are used for longer travel. Car not only is a necessity for them because of their association to neighborhoods outside for work but they also are a status symbol for them. Compared to ghettos, a particular section of them are also seen using public transport (MRTS) considering it as a fast & time saving mode.

Stuck in the ball game between lack of space and fund, within the settlement and fear of prejudices outside the settlement, the economic drivers of these areas are restricted to the neighborhood only while on the other hand enclave dwellers expressed as elite's within the neighborhood have excelled way ahead in some fields like media and IT. But many of them also suffer from biasness based on their place of origin and ethnicity. The significant among all of these people from these localities face a strong force of repulsion against encouraging for a business opportunity outside their neighborhood but economic drivers from outside take advantage of these neighborhoods through place assimilation techniques.

#### **Recreation & Social Networking**

The survey revealed that for People living in Ghettos, visiting neighbors or talking to neighbors from the balcony is the ideal source of recreation as 60% of the respondents favored for it. It is like a daily activity for them and if any one doesn't comes in the viewing horizon; the other person feels concerned about it and enquires for his wellbeing. Paying visits to Mosque is also a kind of social networking as people discuss with others the day to day happening in their life.

People in these localities generally don't go to gyms/ or any fitness club rather they prefer walking in parks if available near them. In the parks, they form groups of regular visitors and communicate with each other. Younger generations find their own way of recreation which is expressed in multiple variants of fooding, fun activities and roaming around in gullies. People in these localities also find it very recreational to sit in tea stalls and discuss the world around

with local friends. This reminds of Socrates era when people used to gather at City Centre and interact with each other. The respondents of Enclave have a very different approach to recreation because of the daily routine they follow. They generally get little time in their daily schedule but find a way out for recreation in the weekends by paying visits for shopping, leisure activities and movies. Older generation form groups among them & do visit parks in the morning and after dinner. Some of the housewives expressed their source of recreation by visiting relatives in a month time. Both the sections expressed their security with in the neighborhood as not an issue because people in ghetto put trust on social surveillance whereas enclaves are solely trusting on cctv, gates and guards. But outside the neighborhood, the security quotient rests on the shoulders of pseudo secularism. They believe that their concentration at one place is a threat and at the same time strength in case of social unrest.

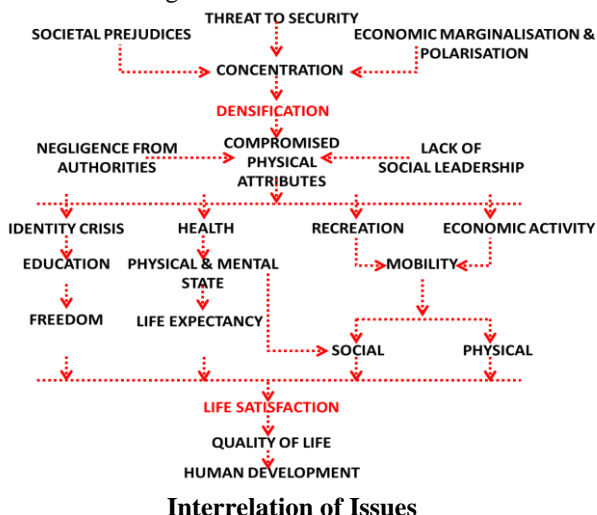
**Analysis**

Concentration of people in these neighborhoods is the main issue that leads to sacrifice in the quality of life. But concentration happens because of three primary factors namely threat to security, social prejudices & economic marginalization. When a community is subjected to threat to life in case of a riot, it is obvious that they would concentrate at one place to exert strength in numbers. Apart from that, there are a lot of social prejudices like not renting houses to people of Muslim community as their identity is associated to terrorism or sometimes for the reason that they are non-vegetarian or they keep environment dirty. There are many such prejudices but one has to understand that all Muslims are not involved in untoward incidents like terrorism; freedom of choice to eat is something that the constitution has given rights and keeping the environment dirty is a subjective issue and the responsibility of keeping environment clean rests on the shoulders of both authority & community. Economic marginalization is another factor that restricts economic activities to expand beyond community boundary. There have been instances where people were not allowed to flourish in business outside the community and when people tried to sell those units they were forced to sell them at half the market rate. So it is to be understood that one never wishes to lead life in concentration. It is the situation created around a person that makes him helpless to shelter for in such ghettos.

All these above mentioned factors push people towards concentration & concentration leads towards densification as the area within community boundary is limited & there has been constant pressure from outside the community to restrict them within their boundaries. When an area is subjected to high density, its impact is directly felt over built units because of high demand and low supply. Neighborhood Physical infrastructure becomes choked because of the burden of density and its impacts can easily be seen on roads and from the complaints raised by people in their day to day life. But in this situation, there is also lack of participation from the authorities to manage the issues as to them; these people matter little over the posh localities. Lack of community leadership is also an issue that leads towards compromised physical attributes. It is not that there are no leaders, but, they only motivate people when there is a communal issue or something related to politics. Lack of leaders, to make development as the prime focus to self-rinse & manage the community issues has also contributed towards poor physical infrastructure in these neighborhoods.

The impact of compromised physical attributes is felt directly on the health & recreation of people & indirectly on economic activity & the identity of people. Diseases related to poor environment & isolation in case of enclaves was dominantly seen. The impact of it is felt on both physical & mental health which in due course of time becomes a reason for reduced life expectancy. The physical attributes within the enclaves are way better than the ghettos but, isolation is an outcome of such confinement. These enclaves have come up not only to confront poor physical environment but also to fight the identity crisis, which these localities are subjected to. The identity of the locality is used to self loathe an individual by the people outside the community. Lack of opportunities for recreation leads towards transpatial life style in enclaves while, due to the closed character of economy, the ghettos are subjected to constrained mobility & most of the activities are planned within the settlement in close proximity to the residential. The pollution from these economic activities affects the life style of people. The importance of the economic activity as a bread winner is so much that people rely less trust on education and the few people who shelter for education also has an intrigued motive to gain a new identity (away from Islamophobia) among others. Education is not used as a weapon for self-expression & freedom.

Therefore, with constrained social & physical mobility, reduced life expectancy and freedom of choice, these localities are a paradox to societies & subjected to poor life satisfaction. One can argue over the fact that the enclaves are citadels with all possible luxury of life but the amount of isolation, constrained social mobility, poor infrastructure outside their citadels & constant strive for identity is what segregation has gifted them with. So whether it is ghettos like Batla House or enclaves like Zakir Bagh, both have their problems of different magnitude affecting the quality of life. And these neighborhoods when compared to other neighborhoods of the city, suffer a stark disparity which is not good for the overall human development of democratic societies.



## 5. Findings

- 1) Muslim neighborhoods of Okhla are a victim of segregation overburdened by the continuous influx of people from Muslim ethnicity in search of a secured neighborhood. People have developed fear of security and prejudices so much that the quality of life in these neighborhoods is compromised. The only ray of light that prevails in these settlements is the social integration strengthens the confidence of residents.
- 2) Density in these localities has given rise to many pertinent issues that has been the core reason for poor quality of life in these neighborhoods. The effect of such physical attributes puts pressure on the lifestyle of people in a continuous progression compromising the health of individuals.
- 3) A city level ethnic discriminatory practice has given rise to another level of complexity adhering to socio-economic division. The benefits of such complex situations are exerted by the real-estate agencies through space assimilation techniques.
- 4) Ghetto & enclave, both seems to be at different ends when looked at perpetually but, under the scanner of Quality of life both qualifies to the same situation because if one has problems due to cramped spaces, the other has issue of isolation. If one has controlled social mobility, the other one has restricted economic mobility.
- 5) The meaning of Education is divided between the two divisions- for someone it is a facilitator to bread winning platform and to others it is a sense of recognition that would uplift oneself from the disgraceful identity of the community.
- 6) More or less both sides suffer from compromised life satisfaction due to health conditions impacting life expectancy, constrained business opportunities impacting economy & identity discrimination affecting education & scope for prosperity which is the major cause of disparity in human development when compared to other localities of the city. Survived by experiencing oppressive poverty, alienation, communal prejudice and violence, Muslims in these neighborhoods dream, forge, negotiate and formulate their aspirations amidst conditions that are not conducive for them. The neighborhoods economy is integrated in the city's economy, but only so far as the balance of accumulation of capital is tipped in favor of spaces elsewhere.

### Issues Identified:

- 1) Due to segregation measures, these localities are easy to target in case of communal violence.
- 2) Lack of Right to fair housing devoid of prejudices and social biasness is leading to a phenomenon which is susceptible to social development & health hazards.
- 3) Constant fight to establish identity and self-esteem among other communities is a mental disturbance that affects human psychology.
- 4) Since policies don't counteract the segregation trends, a spatial manifestation of widening socio-economic gap has developed over time.
- 5) Due to formation of such concentrated islands, there is negligence from authorities towards basic amenities.

- 6) The domino effect of constrained environment may culminate over the city in terms of increase in crime rate.
- 7) Issue of people losing faith in democracy due to mistrust of other communities.
- 8) Lack of fluidity of religious beliefs & practices.
- 9) Division on religious lines creating the concept of good Muslim & bad Muslim by the people outside the community.

## 6. Recommendations

### Policy Reforms:

- It has become pertinent for policy makers & planners to look at urban residential segregation as one of the major factors that precipitates communal violence and results in ghettoization.
- While planning housing within cities, Planners should not only look at economic stratification to ensure neighborhood diversity. Rather, the stratification should be based on the percentage hold of a community on the overall population of the city to ensure a heterogeneous mix of communities within neighborhoods. For example if the percentage total population of a particular community is x, then the community should have x percentage of hold in a housing scheme. Economic stratification can be worked out within that x percentage. This would lead to equal representation of Muslim community in housing schemes planned at different strategic locations rather than leading a compromised life in segregated islands.

### Enforcement

- Regularization of Colonies. Unless these colonies are regularized, there would be no set norms/ byelaws that would be followed. Lack of enforcement of building norms is leading to unauthorized construction to accommodate more people. With the limitation of space if more people are accommodated within these localities, there would be excess burden on social & physical infrastructure in the coming days and would lead to further poor quality of life.
- Alternate neighborhoods should be looked at to migrate people from these localities by offering them transfer development rights so that the density of population in these localities can be controlled.
- Public health agencies and Municipal corporations should work out plans to solve pertinent issues of the locality by engaging the local people through community participation rather than ignoring them.

### Community Reforms

- A multi-disciplinary platform like Community reformative centers should be planned across different nodes within these localities with a focus on education, healthcare & skill development.
- Various studies have shown that people living in heterogeneous neighborhoods are less discriminatory towards people belonging to other ethnic groups. Therefore, this should be used as a tool to reinstate the reputation of the Muslim community which is presently suffering from identity crisis in these segregated islands.

This can be expedited by organizing events of national importance and making people of diverse ethnicity involved in it. This would help to know each other well and carry a different perspective altogether.

#### Economic Integration:

- Economic integration is very important as it can facilitate access to a larger consumer base, a greater pool of technologies & additional sources of financing. Therefore, Govt. should ensure the integration of economic activities taking place within these neighborhoods under various minority schemes and streamline the local manufacturers, to form a trade union that gets a platform, to get involved directly in the larger economy.

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#### Author Profile



**Masoom Ahmed** is a graduate from SPA, Delhi. With an experience of working in various multidisciplinary reputed Architecture & Planning firms for almost a decade, presently is founder of MABW Architects, Delhi and pursuing M.Arch (Ekistics) from Jamia Millia Islamia University Delhi.