

MUMBAI, LET'S PLAY!

Children As Creators of Informal Play-Spaces

FORMAL OPEN SPACES IN MUMBAI

INTRODUCTION

Anukruti identified the lack of spaces that host kids of all classes to play in Mumbai's parks and playgrounds and the city's slums had many kids in hardship. After finding the different games played on Mumbai's streets, Anukruti put them on together in areas where slum kids gathered often. Spots within a few chosen neighborhoods were located and the playgrounds were built with the help and consent of the local people and artisans. These playgrounds have certainly brought joy among the kids who hail from difficult livelihoods.

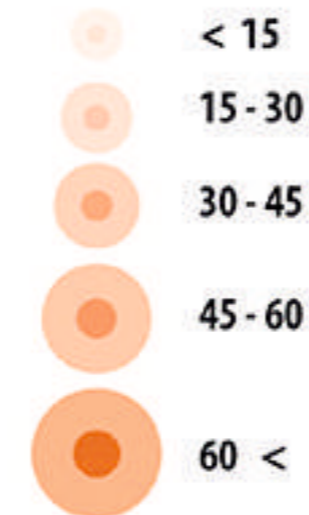
There are only 2069 formal open spaces including games, playgrounds, recreational grounds, beaches and promenades within Mumbai. Out of this, 501 are encroached. These open spaces make up 3.3% of Mumbai total area. There is only 0.99 square meter open space available for each city dweller. The international standard is 11 square metre per person.

Source: P K Das and Associates, Open Mumbai

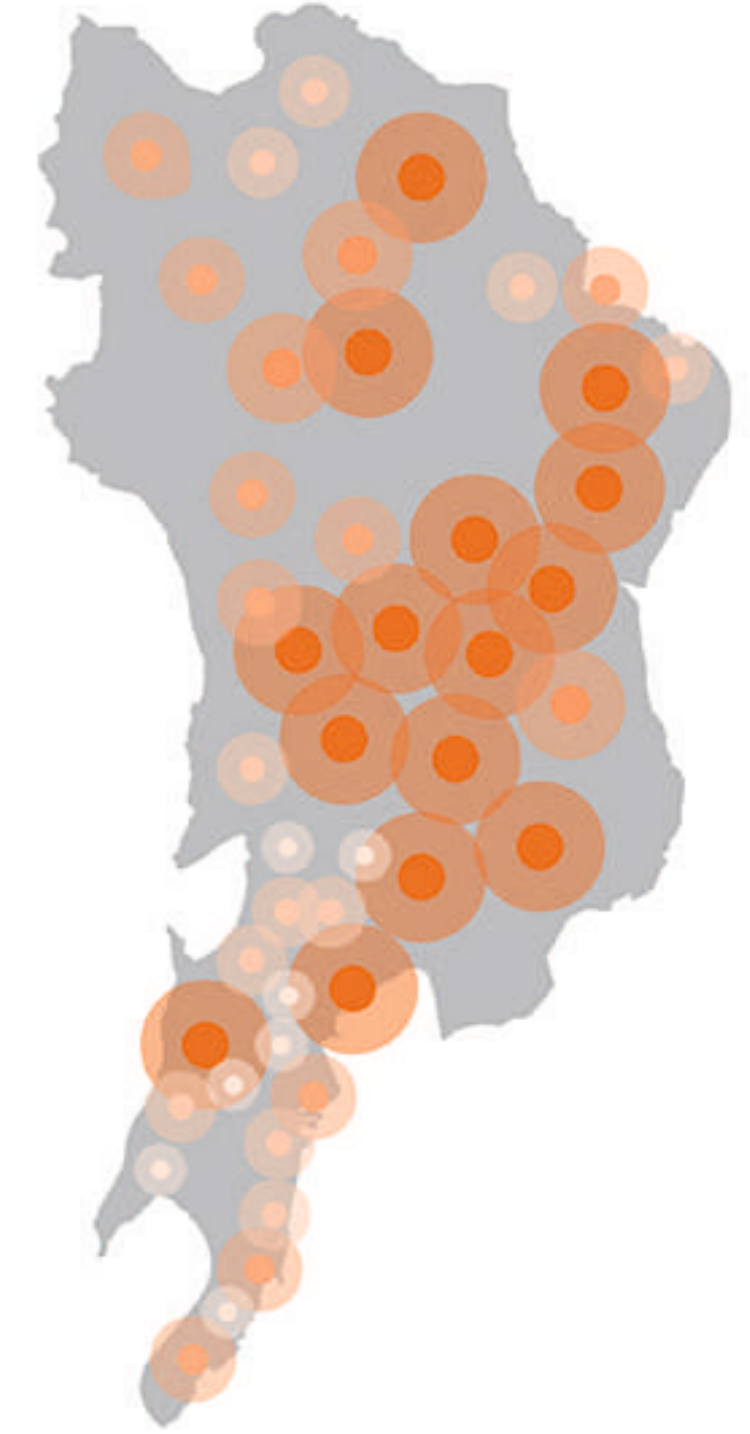


SLUM DENSITIES IN MUMBAI

Percentage of slum population to total population within sections of Mumbai



Source: Mumbai Municipal Corporation.



GAMES PLAYED ON MUMBAI STREETS

LANGDI : [Hopscotch]

Langdi is a traditional Indian field sport and very useful for other sports like Gymnastics, Volleyball and Kho Kho. Different variations of langdi are played according to number of players.



SAKLI: [Chain Snake]

Sakli is a game which can be played with a large number of people where the denner is supposed to run to chase the runners. As soon as they get out, they form a human hand chain to run together and chase the remaining runners.



PAKDA PAKDI : [Run and Chase]

It is the most common game played among children in India. Minimum number of players should be three and the denner has to catch hold of any of the runners to win the game and pass the chase.



GOTI : [Marble toy]

The objective of the game is to throw the goti into the shallow hole dug in the ground. It increases concentration levels and aiming skills.



Cricket : [Cri-ket]

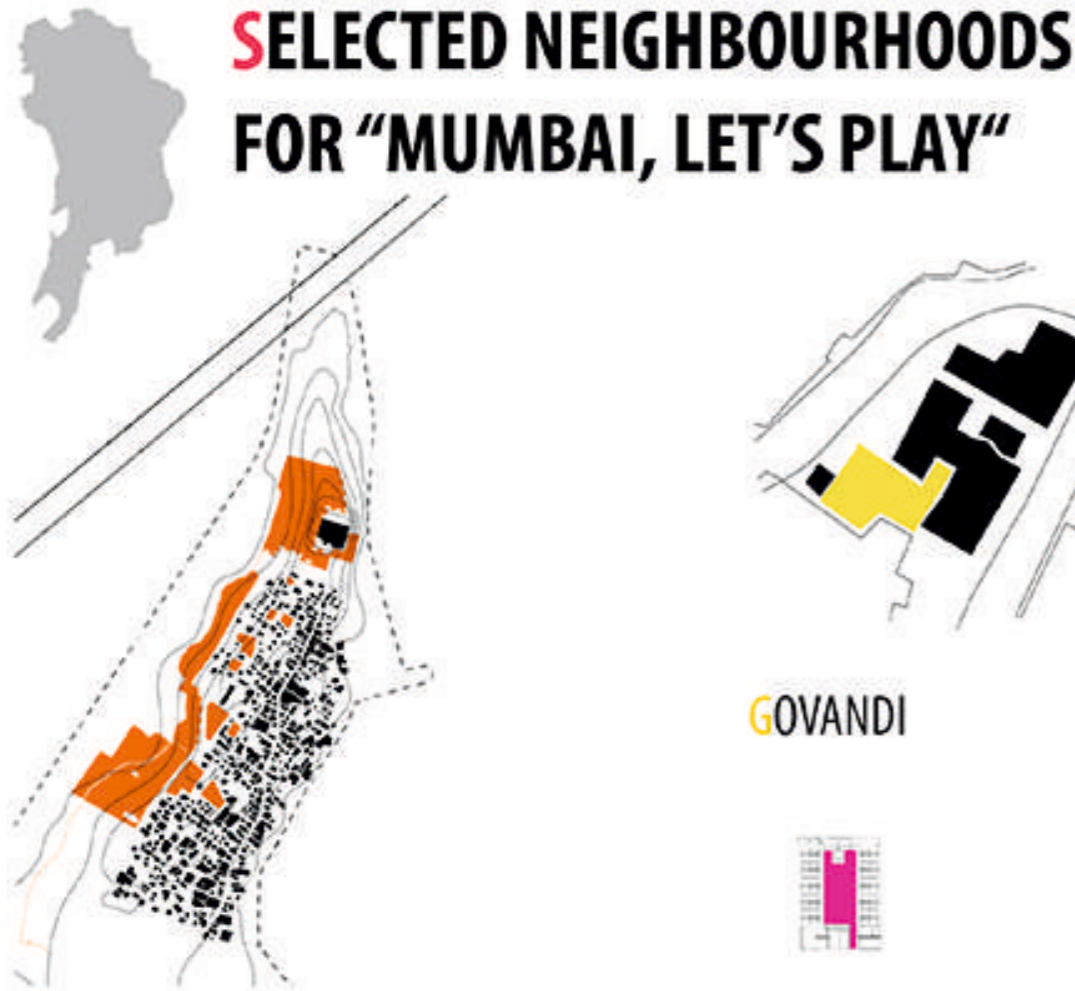
Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams. One team bats attempting to score runs while the other bowls and fields the ball attempting to restrict the scoring and dismiss the batsmen.



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SELECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR "MUMBAI, LET'S PLAY"



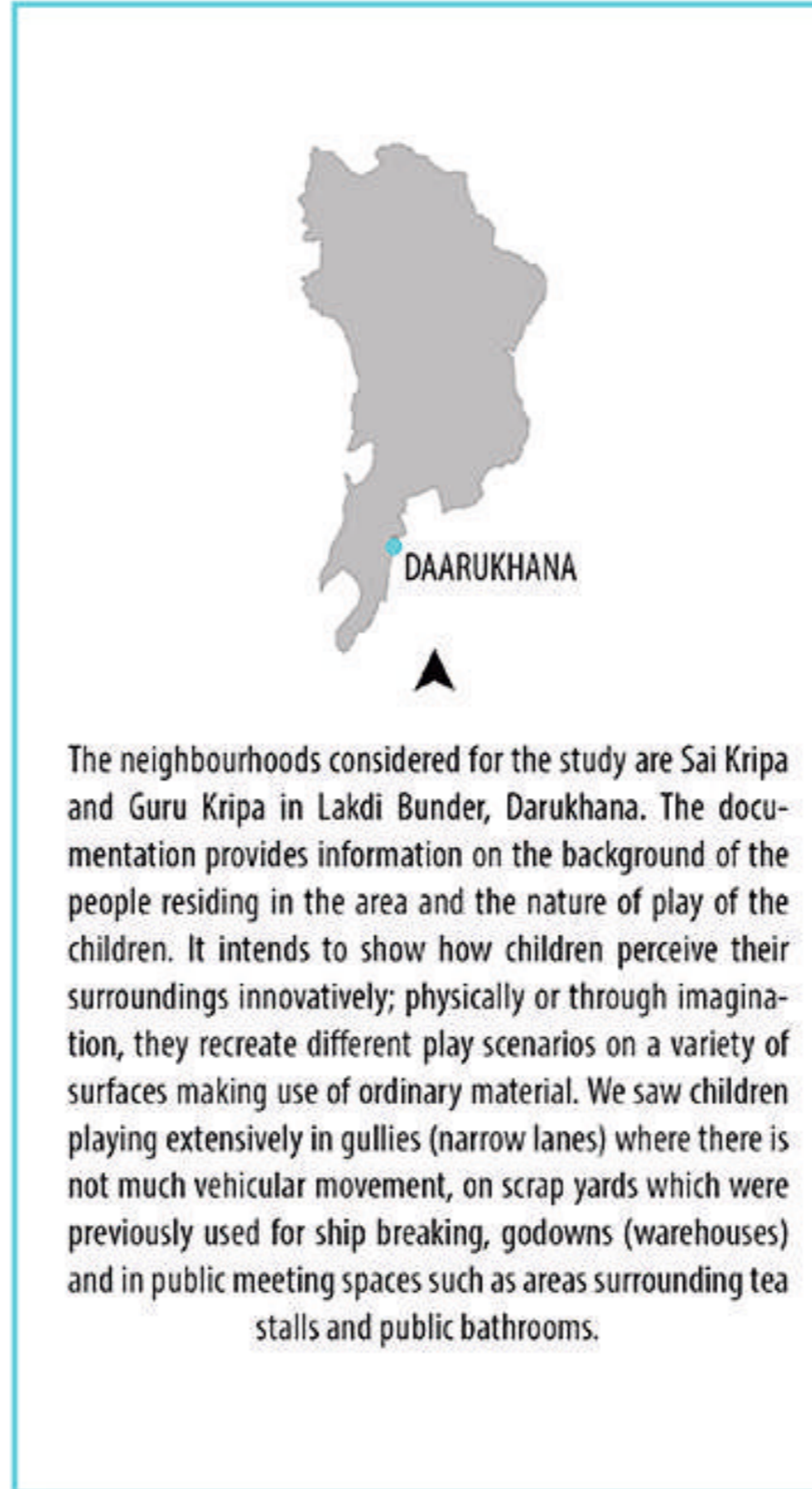
WORLI KOLIWADA

LOWER PAREL CHAWL



DARUKHANA

0 100 500m



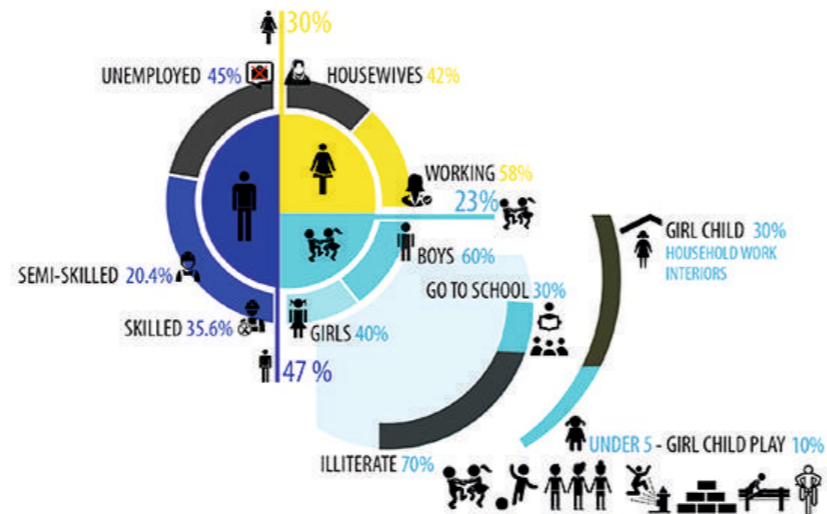
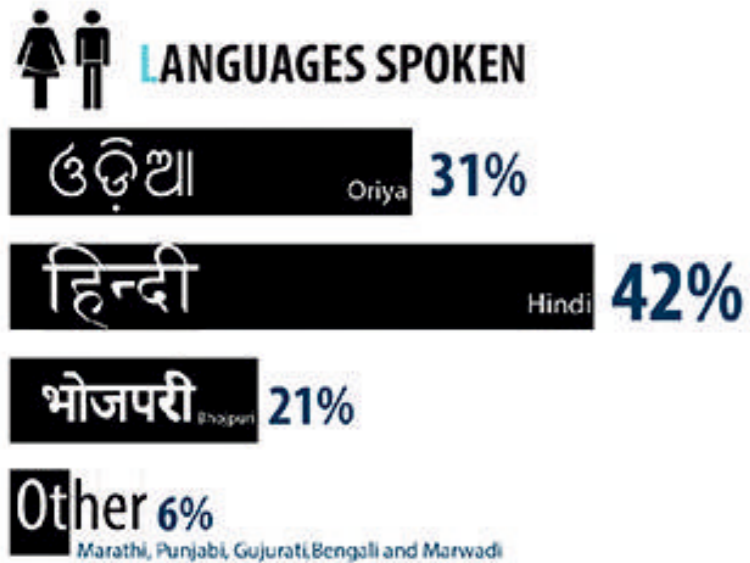
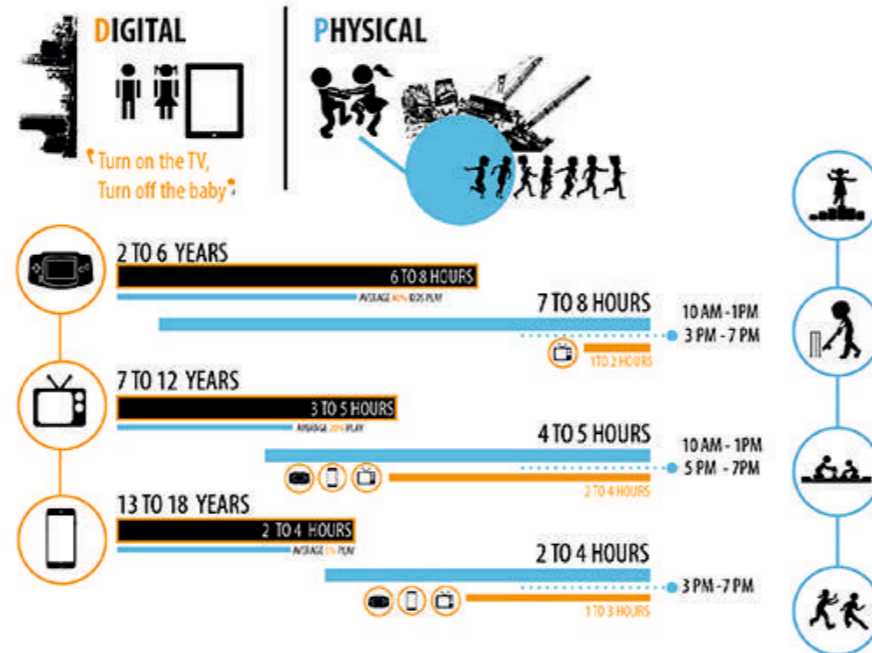
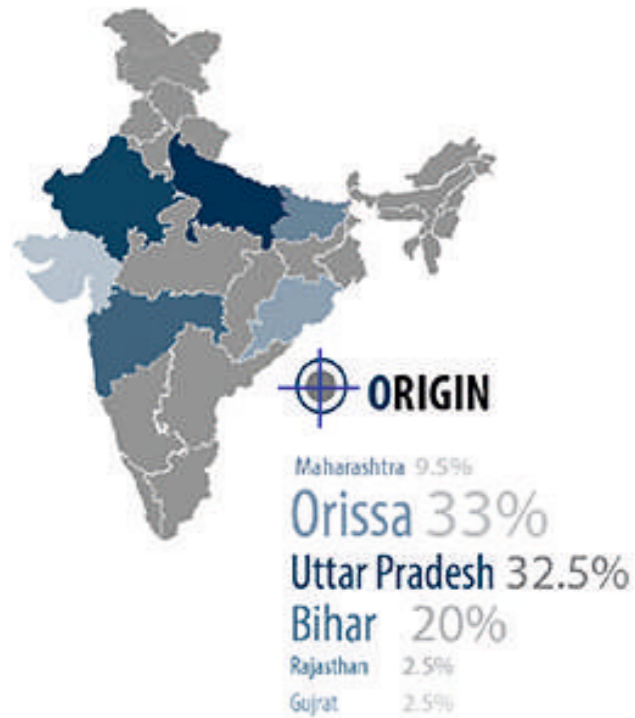
The neighbourhoods considered for the study are Sai Kripa and Guru Kripa in Lakdi Bunder, Darukhana. The documentation provides information on the background of the people residing in the area and the nature of play of the children. It intends to show how children perceive their surroundings innovatively; physically or through imagination, they recreate different play scenarios on a variety of surfaces making use of ordinary material. We saw children playing extensively in gullies (narrow lanes) where there is not much vehicular movement, on scrap yards which were previously used for ship breaking, godowns (warehouses) and in public meeting spaces such as areas surrounding tea stalls and public bathrooms.



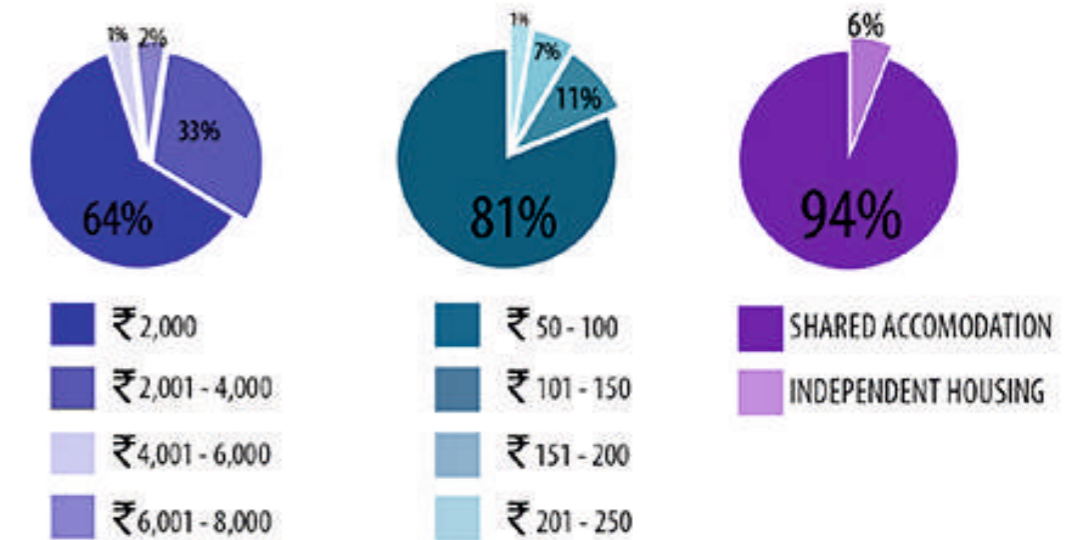
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ORIGIN AND BACKGROUND OF THE INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

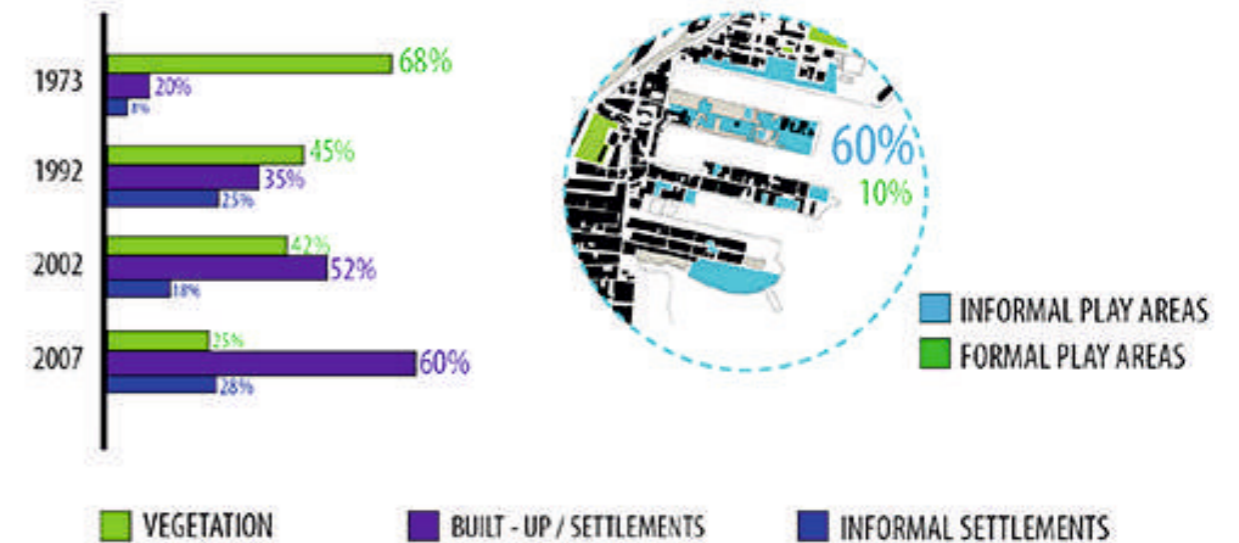


MONTHLY INCOME ₹ FREQUENCY OF WAGES ACCOMODATION



The average wage of most of the ship dismantling workers is around 85 rupees a day. only 59% of the workers get paid their salaries on time. 23% of the workers live with their families and most of their children study in government schools.

LAND USE PATTERN

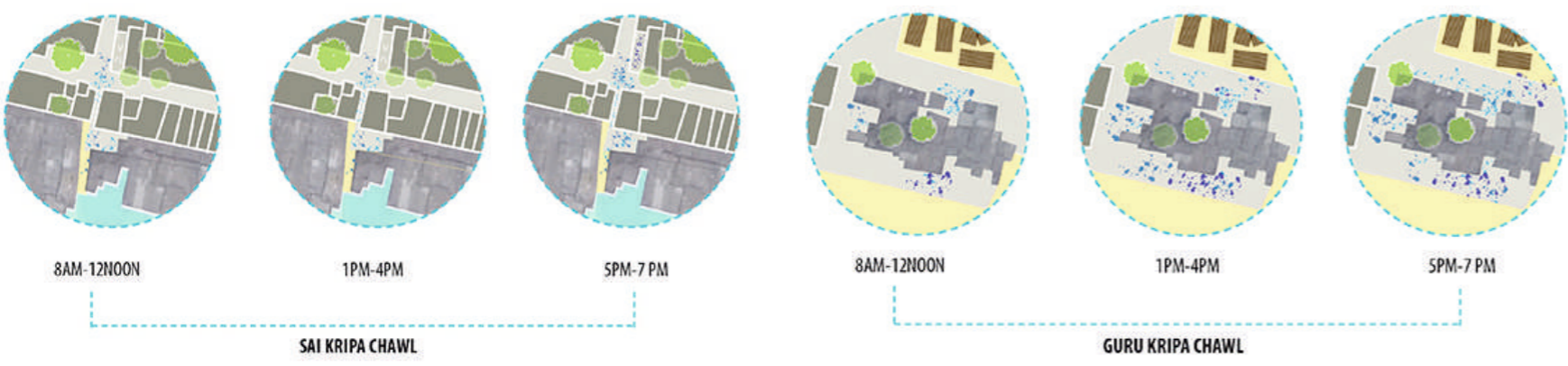
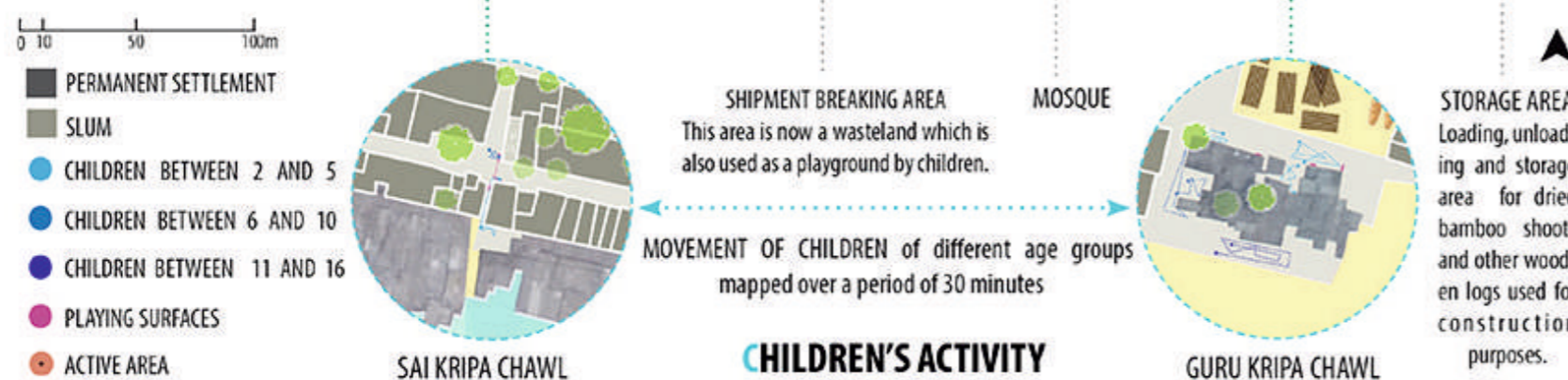


The developed area has more than doubled from about 25% in 1971 to 52% in 2001. The land was formerly coastal wetland and agricultural land. The conversion of wetlands and agricultural land to developed areas occurred mostly (15% of total land) from 1971 to 1991. From the period of 1991 to 2001 substantial areas (12% of the total land) of plantation had been done away with to make space for commercial and residential buildings.

The ship dismantling workers at Darukhana are predominantly male migrant workers. There only a few female workers involved in the industry. The workers and residents of the area come from different parts of India. They speak Hindi, which is the most common language in North India. Bhojpuri is the vernacular language of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and Oriya is spoken in the state of Orissa.

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CHILDREN AS CREATORS

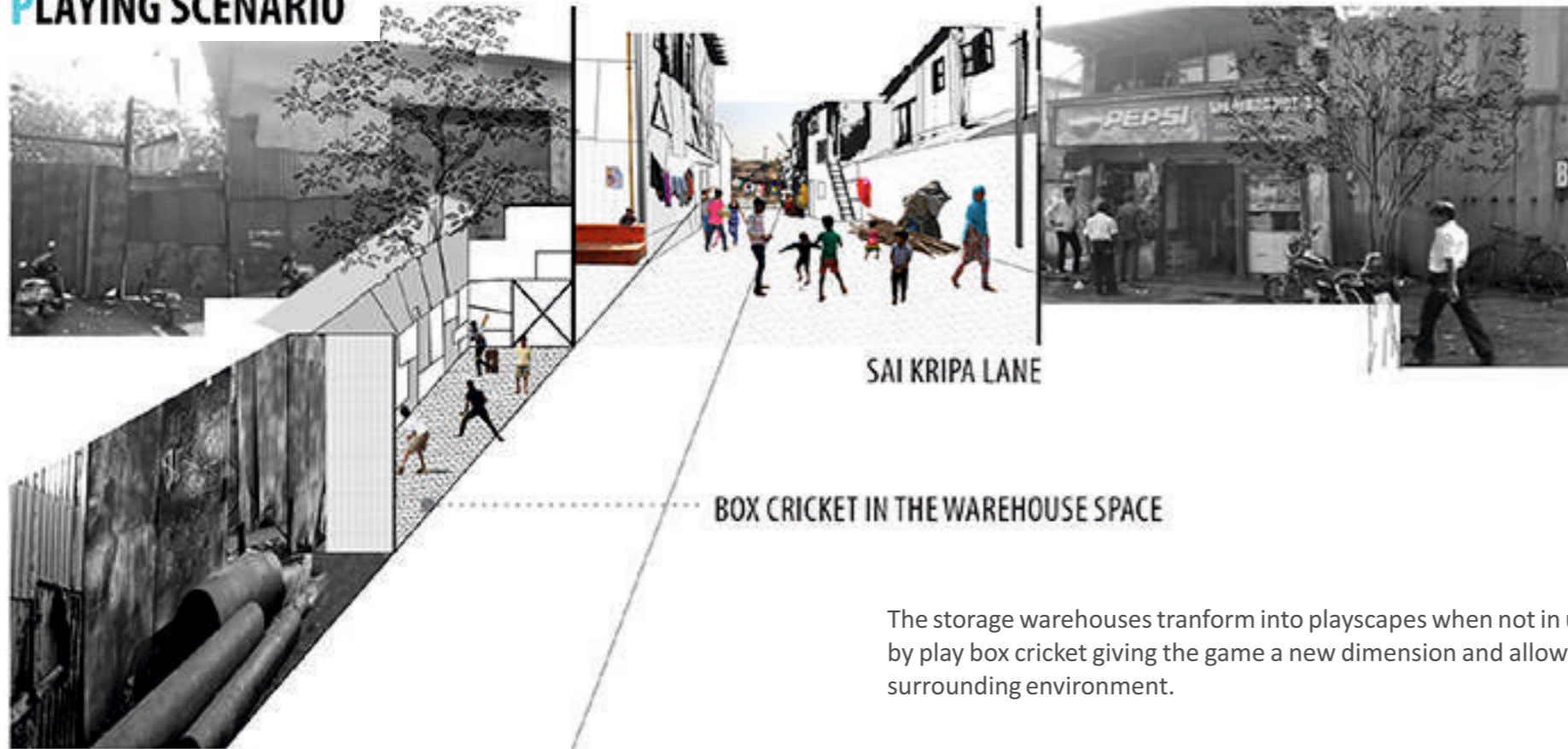


The lack of playground amenities and abundance of open space around the slum provide opportunity for children to innovate interesting methods of play. The Orange bench put up as street furniture for the community has become an essential multi-purpose play equipment for younger children, especially girls. It circulates within the chowk depending on the user's need and the position of the sun. The undulated terrains have been transformed as blackboards to draw and demarcate playing areas and games such as hopscotch, kho kho and kabaddi. Children run around barefoot and play games with their chappals (footwear). Vehicles and materials on site become surfaces and equipment to play with. Adult bicycles, handcarts, boat, bricks, stacked bamboo shoots, loose tyres and buckets serve as play-ground equipment for younger children. Older children make judicious use of open yards and godowns (warehouses) to play box cricket and football.

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PLAYING SCENARIO



SAI KRIPA LANE

BOX CRICKET IN THE WAREHOUSE SPACE

The storage warehouses transform into playscapes when not in use. The particular Bharti warehouse space is used by play box cricket giving the game a new dimension and allowing children to create rules in accordance with the surrounding environment.

CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE



SAI KRIPA CHAWL



GURU KRIPA CHAWL