



Local Dissemination Workshop at KR VIA, Mumbai

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The local dissemination workshop for Building Inclusive Urban Communities organized at the KR VIA was held under the aegis of Erasmus plus program funded by the European Union. The program was held from the 14th -16th of September 2017 at Kamla Raheja Vidyaniidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies (KR VIA), Mumbai.

The primary intent of the workshop was to disseminate information generated by the research work to the various stakeholders as was an imperative part of the BInUCom program. We at KR VIA extended this program so as to have a far larger outreach to other faculty of other institutions.

Eight groups of stakeholders were identified and invited to participate in the Local Dissemination Workshop.

They were broadly classified into the following:-

1. **Researchers** — A team of five faculty from KR VIA involved in undertaking case studies and conducting corresponding courses based on the research, presented a preliminary draft of the work done till date. The researchers were Hussain Indorewala, Shweta Wagh, Mamta Patwardhan, Kimaya Keluskar and Abhijit Ekbote.
2. **Knowledge experts**- This group comprised experts with several years of experience with a diverse gamut of issues based on their own research. Each individual researcher was recommended and invited by these experts. The experts were Ecologist -Dhrubajyoti Ghosh; Prof Uday Athvankar (Affordable Housing); Prof T.I. Eldho (Water Resources & Environmental Engineering), Prof Brinda Ayer all Professors at IIT Mumbai.
3. **Subject experts**- This group consisted of experts who were conducting research closely related to the subject matter at hand. In this case too, individual researchers recommended and invited these experts. The intention to invite these experts was to not only guide the researcher but also raise a red flag to issues that the experts have encountered through their own research. The invitees were Simpreet Singh (IIT, Mumbai); Prof. Ashok Lall (Architect, Delhi, Design & Technology chair KR VIA), Mahua Mukherjee (IIT, Roorkee), Javier Martinez and Jeroen Verplanke (ITC, Netherlands); Manju Menon (Center for Policy Research, Delhi); Prof. Prasanna Desai (Principal of PVP College, Pune); Dr.Usha Ramanathan (Expert on law and poverty, Delhi) and Prof. Neera Adarkar (Faculty of School for Environmental Architecture, Mumbai).
4. **Local communities**- This community was indirectly involved —owing to the workshop conducted by Abhijit Ekbote (KR VIA), Javier Martinez and Jeroen Verplanke from ITC Netherlands the partner institution in the BInUCom project.
5. **Non-Government Organisation**- NGO's with their vast grassroots knowledge could expose the researcher to varying conditions in other contexts. Sheila Patel (SPARC); Sitaram Shelar (Paani Hakka Samiti) and Neeta Chalke (Mashal, Pune) where the invitees of the respective NGO's that gave feedback not only to the research undertaken but also to the content of the courses.
6. **Academicians**-Several senior academicians were invited to assist in the course content of the various courses prepared by the researchers. Their wide knowledge in the field of

architecture and urban design programs, gave valuable inputs about pedagogy and course content on the courses presented by the researchers. Prof. Akhtar Chauhan (Former Principal, Rizvi College), Prasad Shetty (Faculty of School for Environmental Architecture, Mumbai); Prof N. Sridharan (Urban Economist, SPA Bhopal) and Dr. Binti Singh (Urban Sociologist, Lucknow) participated.

7. Partner Institute in the program.- ITC Enshede, Netherlands was represented by two of its faculty Javier Martinez and Jeroen Verplanke who conducted a workshop in the informal community along with the students who has signed up for the course conducted by Abhijit Ekbote.
8. Students- Students from the final year Undergraduate Program in Architecture and the Masters in Urban Design and Urban Conservation were the target group as they were part of the courses conducted by the researchers in the current semester.

Though several politicians and bureaucrats were invited and had confirmed none of them were able to attend the workshop.

With this wide range of experts and professional the three days had very specific agendas and participation from respective groups.

The first day was devoted to a workshop on Geographic Information System Workshop that trained faculty and students to use mapping tools purchased under the aegis of the BInUCom program in an informal settlement in Mumbai. This workshop began with a session in the institute followed by on-site work for the rest of the day. This mapping was closely related to the Case study carried out by Abhijit Ekbote.

The second day began with the introduction of the BInUCom program by Prof Aneerudha Paul. This was followed by a presentation made by Nishant Pai the researcher who is studying the 'Production of Informality in the Mumbai Metropolitan region'. This was followed by a presentation by Hussain Indorewala who elaborated on issues of informality in the City of Mumbai. His presentation highlighted the development in the Island city and hence the resultant labour issues that led to informal settlements. After this introduction the rest of the day focused on the research undertaken by the researchers from KRVA. The format for the following sessions were smaller round table presentations by the researchers from KRVA to the various invited experts. This was followed by presentations made by the subject experts. Feedback was then given to the research culminating in a group discussion. The students who were part of the respective courses participated in all these sessions.

The Third day of the workshop began with various presentations made by the academicians about courses on informality conducted in their institutes. Prof. Manoj Parmar made a presentation on the Local Area Planning studio conducted in the Master's program under the aegis of BInUCom. Prof. Ainsley Lewis made a presentation about the Housing Studio and its co-relation to the course conducted by Hussain Indorewala for the final year students of the undergraduate program in Architecture. All the three courses conducted had specific learnings not only for the students but also for the faculty conducting the sources. At the undergraduate level where the intent was to integrate courses it became evident the individual sources can have their own respective course pedagogy with a common subject matter. It is then upto the learner to critique and thus raise questions independently in the individual course. This pedagogic approach lead to a much more participatory engagement between fellow students and faculty. The research and design projects produced in both the two studios along with the study of informal settlements in the Mumbai Metropolitan region was showcased as an

| exhibition in the school premises. Prof. Rohan Shivkumar moderated the question-answer session after all the presentations made by Academicians.

| The final two sessions had presentations by researchers on the courses that they were conducting. This was followed by comments from the panel of stakeholders of the workshop. The workshop was meaningful as it had a lot of food for thought for all the participants. The researchers obtained feed back on the case study work that they were involved in. The discussion and critique of the courses being conducted offered learnings for the faculty to better their courses. The invited academicians were pleased that this initiative to debate pedagogy and formulate courses that was undertaken in the field of architecture. The students gained insight to behind the scene discussion about pedagogy and course material. This workshop will result in much more relevant course material for courses that focus on contemporary issues of policy, resilience and climate change, mapping techniques, understanding imperial data for buildings and social inclusion.