

# **The Infantry for a City's Development**

## **- A Report on Resettlement**

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## Introduction

There is an attempt to see the city as world class, with an emphasis on international tourism, conventions, and sports. Part of making this plan realised is by making the city free from the sight of the working class poor. Thus the *bastis* (slums and *jhuggi jhopri* clusters as per the planner) are demolished and the poor are sent to live in resettlement colonies located in the outskirts of the city.

It is projected that the population of Delhi is going to increase from 138 lakhs in 2001 (DMP-2001) to 230 lakhs (DMP-2021). Of this increase, roughly half is by natural growth, whereas the rest is due to migration. The DMP-2001 provided for 16.2 lakh additional domestic units (DUs), however estimates reveal that only about 5.6 lakh DUs were built by public agencies. This explains why there were 7 lakh families living in unauthorised colonies, and 6 lakh living in *jhuggi jhopri* colonies in 2001. The DMP-2021 also sets an equally unreal target of making 24 lakh DUs (even though it assumes that 24.5 lakh families of the current 25.5 lakh families have houses, of which only 3 lakh are *kaccha*). 50% of these additional houses are to be for the economically weaker sections (EWS). Thus 25 sq m multi-storeyed flats are to be built.

This is despite the dismal performance till now. 75% of Delhi's population lives in inadequate and temporary shelter. The density of population in the slums has increased 6 times in the last 25 years, because there has been no provision of legal land and housing.

Resettlement of 'illegal squatters' and 'encroachers' is carried out by the authorities, sending these people to live in planned resettlement colonies. Thus people are evicted from the place where they have been residing for decades, and sent to live in colonies spread across the city. The community itself, and the lives and livelihoods of people are interrupted. Slums and slum dwellers are illegal, but the reason for their emergence is not looked at. If affordable housing for them had been built, would there have been a need for them to build their own houses? If the services provided by the people living in these slums were not needed by the city, would they have managed to survive in the city?

Some of the resettlement colonies are- Bawana resettlement colony, Bhalaswa, Holambikalan, Savda Ghewra, Molarband, Poothkalan and so on. These were all colonies made in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Earlier resettlement colonies were Jahangirpuri, Khanpur, Nayi Seemapuri, Sundar Nagari and so, which were all made around the time of the Emergency, when another phase of evictions and resettlement was carried out.

Resettlement colonies are planned by the government, even then they are classified with slum and JJ clusters and unauthorised colonies. These are colonies planned by the government, and people are sent to live here. Thus basic services and social infrastructure in these colonies should be provided before people are resettled here. As per the DMP-2021, it is stated that basic services have been made accessible in these colonies, however, individual services are yet to be made available in them. Thus individual water connections, toilet facilities and electricity are being still made available.

Bhalaswa resettlement colony is a resettlement colony located in North- west Delhi. It is home to about 20,000 people, who were resettled here in 2000. It is located next to the Bhalaswa lake and Bhalaswa landfill. These people came from different parts of Delhi, from Preet Vihar, Seelampur, Rohini, Gopalpur, Teenmurti, Ashok Vihar, Jahangirpuri, Gautampuri (Yamunapushta), Garhi, Daskhinpuri and Nizamuddin. They were given plots of 18 sq m and 12.5 sq m to live in with a ten year license.

The Bhalaswa Lake is an oxbow lake of the Yamuna. The Bhalaswa landfill is one of the three landfills of Delhi that is still operational, though it was to have been closed in November 2009, and has reached 22m in height. At present it receives about 2,200 tonnes per day of waste out of which about 700 tonnes per day goes to the compost plant. The landfill is publicly owned and is managed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

A study was conducted with the aim of trying to understand the role of the poor in developing the land where they live, the efforts that they make in making land habitable, making and developing the houses where they live, making services such as water, electricity and sewerage reach these places, and thus increase the value of the land that they live in. The investment that they make in developing the land is not estimated, and they are termed as illegal. The question of why they started living in the slums is not addressed. Additionally, a comparison of the lives of people before and after resettlement was also carried out.

This is because, Bhalaswa being a resettlement colony, basic services and facilities should be available here. Being a planned colony, water, electricity, sewerage, as well as facilities like access to schools, hospitals, and marketplaces should be there for the people. However, even after 13 years after being resettled, people are still fighting for basic necessities such as water and electricity, schools and public toilets, subsidised basic provisions under the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) and bus services. They are still struggling for facilities such as water and sewage disposal, transport and health.

## Objectives

The objectives of this study were:-

- Estimating the investment by people in developing the land.
- To analyze the facilities and services provided for the availability of water, health, education and civic amenities like public toilets and bathroom in the resettlement colony after 13 years of resettlement.
- Comparing the present living condition with the living condition in the settlements where they lived before being resettled in Bhalaswa.

## Methodology

Bhalaswa resettlement colony has 3521 families living here (as per RTI response, DUSIB). People from 11 settlements across Delhi were resettled here, and they started living here from between November 2000 to January 2002.

A study was conducted with the aim of estimating the investment carried out by people living in the resettlement colony, and their role in developing the land that they lived in, both in the areas from where they had been displaced from, as well as after being sent to live in Bhalaswa.

A survey was conducted with 914 households. These respondents were selected as they have been living here from the beginning of resettlement, since the past 12 years. They were asked about-

- The land and houses that they lived in
- Livelihood and employment
- Access to basic services
- Social infrastructure

Responses were taken regarding both, the condition of these issues in the earlier settlements where they lived in, as well as in Bhalaswa.

The respondents came to Delhi around 1970-90 (Table 1), were resettled in Bhalaswa in 2000, and the survey was carried out in 2012-2013. Real income and expenditure refer to income and expenditure after adjusting for inflation. The adjustment is based on percent changes in prices between 2012 and earlier years and is computed by dividing the annual average Consumer Price Index Series for 2012 by the annual average for previous years.

**Table 1: Year of migration to Delhi**

	Frequency	% of respondents
Before 1960	<b>42</b>	<b>4.6</b>
1960-1970	<b>113</b>	<b>12.4</b>
1970-1980	<b>351</b>	<b>38.4</b>
1980-1990	<b>334</b>	<b>36.5</b>
1990-2000	<b>74</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Total	<b>914</b>	<b>100</b>

Observing the year of migration of the respondents to Delhi, it was calculated that on average they came to Delhi in the year 1978. Thus, as per the CPI, the value of rupee was calculated for four years, 1978, 1999, 2000 as well as 2012 (the year of migration, the year of displacement, and the year of the survey). To make the value of money uniform, and cancel out the effect of inflation, all the monetary values were taken as per 2012. The value of rupee in 1978 was used for estimation of the money invested in obtaining the plot of land, and construction of housing. The value of money in 1999 was used for data like the income of the respondents in the *basti* prior to resettlement, as well as spending for access to and on services and facilities, and also the cost in making their houses in Bhalaswa colony. Investment in Bhalaswa after coming here, such as the beneficiary contribution was taken as per value of money in 2000, and construction of the houses, was taken as per the value of money in 2002. The value of the rupee in 2012 was used to look at figures like the present income, and the present costs incurred while living in Bhalaswa.

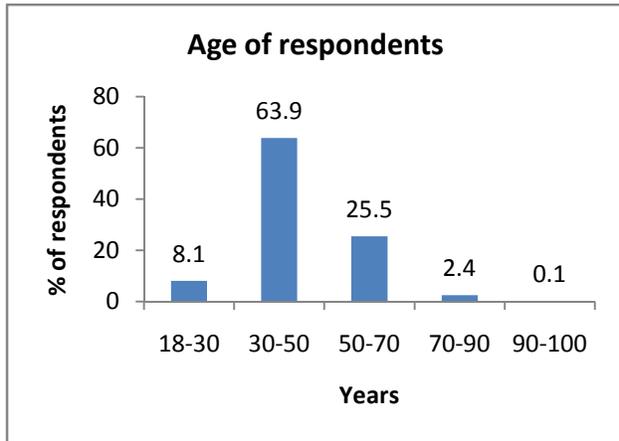
The value of money after adjusting for inflation is given in the annexure.

### **Population profile**

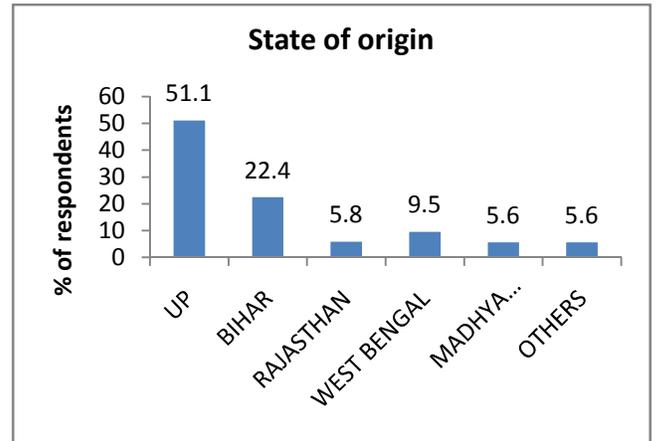
The respondents were mostly in the age group of 30-50 years (63.9% of respondents) (Fig. 1), followed by the age group 50-70 years (25.5%).

Fig. 2 describes the states of origin from where the respondents came to Delhi. Majority of the respondents came from the neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan. Most of them came to Delhi in the 70s and the 80s. Delhi has been growing phenomenally over the years, especially in the sectors of industries (mainly in non-conforming industrial zones), wholesale markets, as well as construction, transport, communications, and administrative sectors. Apart from this, events like the Asiad Games led to an increase in the workforce, who came for construction and maintenance. It is estimated that 10 lakh labourers came into the city around the Asiad Games.

**Figure 1: Age of respondents**



**Figure 2: State of origin of respondents**



The respondents had settled in 11 settlements around Delhi. These were- Preet Vihar, Seelampur, Rohini, Gopalpur, Teenmurti, Ashok Vihar, Jahangirpuri, Gautampuri (Yamunapushta), Garhi, Daskhinpuri and Nizamuddin. They were evicted from these colonies, and they came and started living in Bhalaswa between November 2000 and January 2002.

### **Land and housing**

The sub-group on shelter in the Draft Master Plan 2021 notes that until the year 1991, institutional agencies had contributed only 53% of the housing stock. Thus public agencies built around 5.6 lakh DUs between 1981 and 2001, though the DMP-2001 provided for 16.2 lakh additional DUs. This explains why there were 7 lakh families in unauthorised colonies and 6 lakh families in *jhuggi jhopris*. The DMP-2021 sets an equally unreal estimate of making 24 lakh DUs. Thus a significant component of housing was created through non-institutional sources- unauthorized colonies and squatter settlements. And this trend continues. The low income groups' efforts to access housing in the city, through individual enterprise, community effort or through the services of private developers need to be supported and facilitated. Thus the non-institutional agencies' activities in developing housing for the poor need to be enabled and brought into the legal sphere through appropriate regulations and standards, and thus the unblock the bottlenecks in the supply of affordable housing.

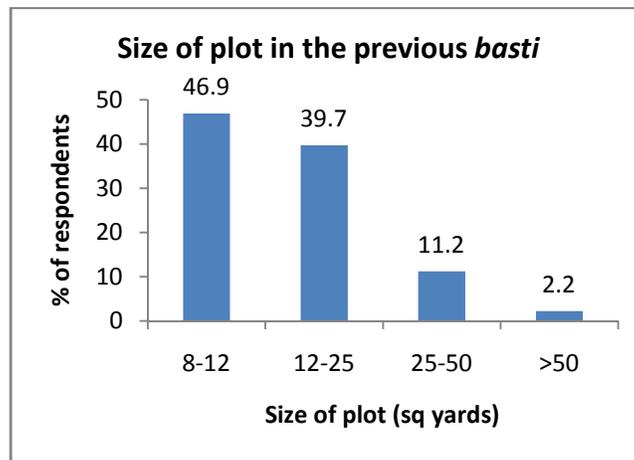
### **Land and housing of respondents before being resettled**

The respondents lived in *jhuggies* and houses built on land by themselves. 40.8% of the respondents earlier lived in houses on rent, but due to not being able to continue being able to pay the rent, they

were forced to settle in houses in *jhuggi jhopri bastis*. On average, the families paid rent of Rs 160.5, i.e. equivalent to Rs 2332 (base year 1978).

The size of the houses in the earlier settlements ranged between mostly between 8 and 25 sq yards (Fig. 3).

**Figure 3: Plot size in the previous *basti***



**Table 2: Amount of money spent for acquiring the plot where they earlier lived**

Rs.	Frequency	Percent
0	558	61.1
100-500	71	7.8
500-1000	45	4.9
1000-5000	118	12.9
5000-10000	75	8.2
10000-15000	21	2.3
>15000	26	2.8

**Table 3: Investment to build the house**

Rs.	Frequency	Percent
100-1000	14	1.5
1000-5000	218	23.9
5000-10000	231	25.3
10000-20000	205	22.4
20000-50000	196	21.4
>50000	50	5.5
Total	914	100

39.1% of the respondents paid money to acquire the plot of land where they constructed their homes (Table 2). Thus on average, each of the respondents paid about Rs 1919.09. This is equivalent to Rs 27,884.4 as per value of money in 2012 (base year 1978). The respondents paid money to buy the house/ *jhuggi*, and as bribe for the police.

Table 3 describes the investment by people to build their houses. On average, the respondents paid Rs 17,592.1 to build their homes. This is equivalent to Rs 2,55,613.5 (base year 1978). People initially

started by building a *kaccha* house, built of materials such as dry grass, tarpaulin sheets, and plastic sheets. With progress of time, as their lives stabilized, they improved their houses, and built *pakka* structures built of bricks and cement. Thus, there were families who had invested upto Rs 1,00,000 for building their homes. Additionally, money had to be invested to maintain the houses. The amount of money needed to maintain a *kaccha* house and an *ardh-pakka* (with a temporary roof, made of tarpaulin or plastic sheets) house is greater than that for a *pakka* house. This is because the materials had to be renovated frequently, and also the houses were frequently damaged due to fires and police demolitions. On average, each family invested money, on average Rs 691.4 equivalent to about Rs 2,371.5 (base year 1993) for maintenance of their houses. Thus over a span of 20 years, each family invested about Rs 47,430.821 for maintenance of their homes (real expenditure).

### **After resettlement to Bhalaswa**

The plot area allotted to people during resettlement has steadily decreased over the years. Thus, earlier people were given plots of 80 sq m, then 40 sq m where they could build their houses. During the spate of evictions and resettlements post the Emergency, plots of 25 sq m were given, and in the case of Bhalaswa, 18 and 12.5 sq m plots were given. Additionally, whereas earlier people were given plots on lease, now they are given on license. In the case of Bhalaswa, the license was for 10 years, which has now expired. During the license period, the plots cannot be transferred, sold or rented out. This policy came about since the authorities felt that people who are resettled frequently sell their plots and then go back.

When people were resettled to Bhalaswa resettlement colony, each of them paid Rs 7,000 as beneficiary contribution for the plot on which they built their houses. The plots given were 18 sq m and 12.5 sq m. families that could prove that they had migrated to Delhi before 31<sup>st</sup> January 1990 were allotted plots of 18 sq m, whereas families that could prove that they had come to Delhi after 31<sup>st</sup> January 1990, but before 31<sup>st</sup> December 1998, were allotted plots of 12.5 sq m. Rs 5,000 was paid as beneficiary contribution, and Rs 2,000 was paid as advance as 10 year license fee to stay in Bhalaswa (Rs 200 for each year). This is equivalent to Rs 15,540 in terms of the value of money in 2012.

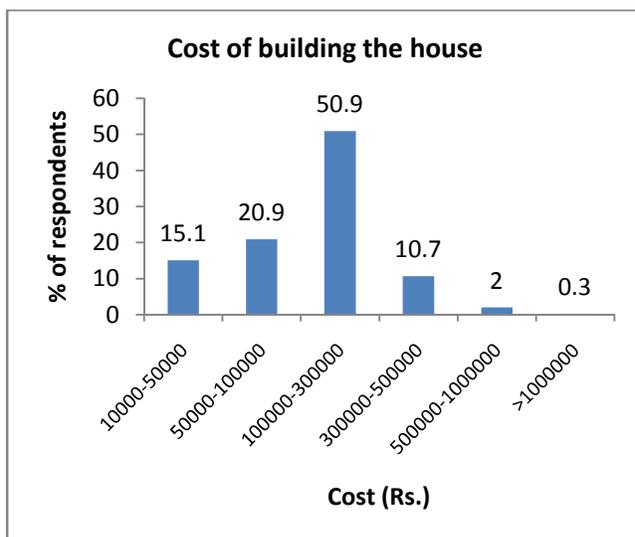
Bhalaswa is located near the Bhalaswa landfill and next to the Bhalaswa lake. When people were resettled here, no development had been carried out before by the authorities to make it habitable for the people who were being sent here to live. Thus, it was a marshy, swampy land, where initially people spent the nights in the open. When they came, the plot of land licensed to each family was demarcated

by stakes in the ground, and gradually people started rebuilding their homes. Initially, they took loans, even to give the beneficiary amount.

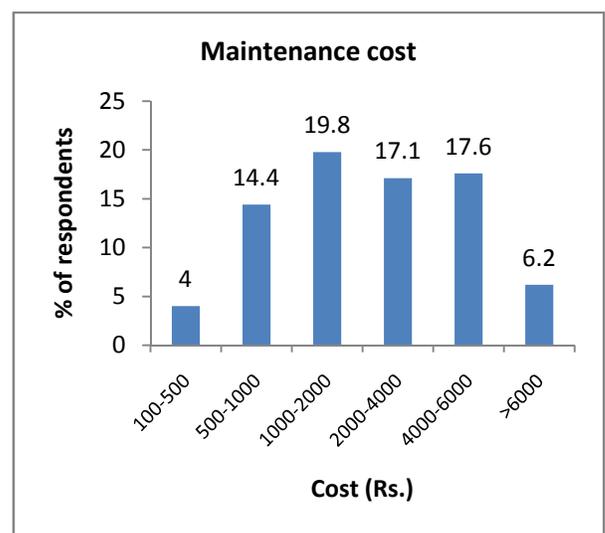
People lived in the open or in rented accommodation initially when they came to Bhalaswa. Then they took loans and built houses. A larger proportion of the respondents took loans and constructed houses in Bhalaswa as they did not have any alternatives. Thus in the previous *bastis*, 58% of the respondents saved up money and managed to build their houses, whereas in Bhalaswa only 23.5% could use their own savings for building their homes. 74.8% of the respondents took loans to partially or fully cover the cost of construction of homes. Support was given to build homes by organizations such as World Vision, Chetanalaya and so on. 14.8% of the families lived on rent while they built their homes, or made financial arrangements while this was carried out. They again started by building *kaccha* houses, that they improved year by year, until they could build *pakka* homes, and with time, after their lives stabilized, and when it was needed, they built 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> storeys to their homes.

Presently, even now 4.2% of the respondents live in *kaccha* houses, whereas 17.9% live in *ardh-pakka* houses. Some families had been able to make *pakka* houses in their previous settlements, but after being evicted and resettled, they are yet to be able to make *pakka* housing structures. During the survey, the respondents told the surveyors that due to resettlement, their lives are pushed back by 20 years. 64% of the respondents are still in debt after resettlement.

**Figure 4: Cost of building the house in Bhalaswa**



**Figure 5: Maintenance cost of house in Bhalaswa**



On average, the respondents each invested Rs 1,83,094 in building their homes (Fig. 4). This is an estimate, especially as the houses were built and developed gradually, over the years by the families. Thus, we can estimate that money equivalent to Rs 3,71,681.2 (base year 2002) was invested to make their house. For maintenance of the houses, on average the respondents spent Rs 2,757.7 every year. Over a span of 12 years, people have invested Rs 33,092.8 for maintenance of their homes (Fig. 5).

### Interest for loans

The respondents also took loans, mostly for construction of their houses. Gradual repayment of this loan has been carried out, though about 64% of the respondents are still in debt after resettlement.

In the *bastis* where the respondents earlier lived, each family on average took a loan of Rs. 7,414.6, that is equivalent to Rs. 1,07,735. On average, the interest rate of the respondents was 2.62% , thus annually interest of about Rs. 194, equivalent to Rs. 2,818.3 (value of money of 1978) was paid. Over a period of 10 years (it has been assumed that on average the respondents took 10 years for full repayment of their loan), they paid Rs. 28,183.4.

After resettlement, in average the respondents took a loan of Rs 67,140 (2002), that is equivalent to Rs. 1,36,294.3. The interest rate on average was 3.07%. Thus we can see that the interest rate of loans increased over the years. On average, each family paid Rs. 2,061.2 every year as interest (2002), that is, about Rs. 4,184.2. As majority of the respondents are still in debt, so on average assuming each family paid interest for 11.5 yrs, Rs. 48,118.67 was paid by the respondents as interest.

### **Employment and livelihoods**

When people came to the city, mostly they came in the search for work. Not finding suitable low cost housing, they settled near the place of their work, making temporary housing structures, later on making them more permanent. Skilled and unskilled workers were brought from the neighbouring states. They lived in these houses, and being within the city, they had jobs or were self-employed, with short commutes.

#### **Before resettlement**

In the *bastis* where the respondents lived previously, they were employed principally as labourers, in factories, as domestic help, hawkers-vendors and as service deliverers such as drivers, electricians, plumbers and so on. 32.2% had permanent employment, whereas 67.8% were employed as contractual workers or daily wagers.

In the families, earlier, 73.5% families had only one member who was earning, whereas after resettlement, this decreased to 55.9%. The breadwinners could travel easily to their site of employment. 88% went to their jobs walking or using cycles.

Table 4 describes the income distribution of the families. The average income of the family is Rs 3,661.3, which is equivalent to Rs 8,390 (base year 1999).

**Table 4: Income of respondents in the *bastis* where they lived previously**

Income (Rs.)	Frequency	Percent
<100	1	0.1
100-500	7	0.8
500-1000	39	4.3
1000-2000	196	21.4
2000-5000	526	57.5
5000-10000	127	13.9
10000-15000	17	1.9
>15000	1	0.1
Total	914	100

### **Bhalaswa resettlement colony**

Displacement has caused a lot of impact in the employment status of the people. The men had to suffer a lot as some of them lost their jobs and others had to travel distances as large as 20 kms in order to reach their place of work. The number of those unemployed increased six-fold as compared to when they were residing in their original localities, closer to their workplaces or to places that provided greater opportunity for work. The number of people who are engaged in services has come down drastically. All families reported a fall in the income as compared to the time before the displacement. Having to travel long distances for work puts women out of the workforce. Those who worked had to take a lot of strain, managing the household work, and working. Respondents said that due to work, they felt that they had neglected their children. Children were forced to work, as domestic servants, rag-pickers or looking after small shops with their parents or in other shops as helpers. The rickshaw pullers livelihood was highly impacted as the daily earnings got depleted due to non availability of customers. Bhalaswa did not have people who could access their services.

**Figure 6: Employment status after resettlement**

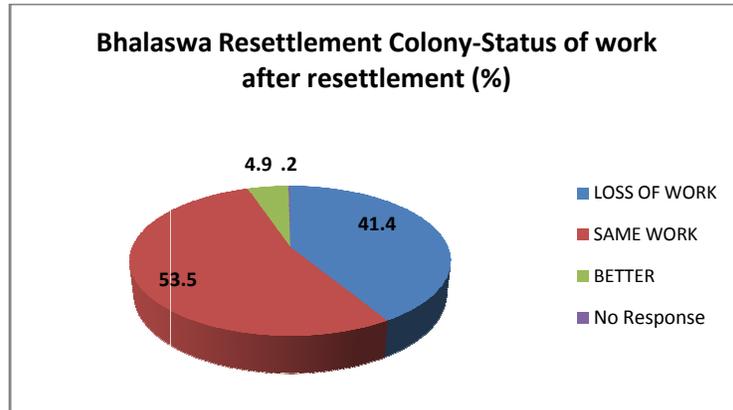


Fig. 6 shows that 41.4% of the respondents lost their jobs as a result of displacement. The 53.5% of the respondents that are continuing with the same professions as before also includes families where the men lost their jobs, and now, the next generation has managed to start earning, and they have continued in the same employments that their parents were involved in.

The average income of families before being resettled was calculated to be Rs 3,661.3 (equivalent to Rs 8,390 in today's terms, base year 1999). After resettlement, as can be seen from Table 5, this decreased, and the present average income, even 13 years after resettlement is Rs 7,825. This is despite the fact that a greater number of families have more than one earning member in the family after resettlement (Table 6). In Bhalaswa, 44.1% families have more than one family member earning, whereas in the *bastis* where these families lived earlier, 26.5% had more than one family member earning. A large proportion of the families are involved in the informal sector such as household enterprises like making brooms, *papad*, small utensils, *bindis*, decorative work on garments and festive decorative items too.

**Table 5: Family income of respondents in Bhalaswa**

	Frequency	Percent
1000-5000	184	20.2
5000-10000	570	62.4
10000-15000	108	11.8
15000-20000	41	4.5
20000-30000	10	1.1
No response	1	0.1
Total	914	100

**Table 6: No. of family members employed**

Before Resettlement-Family members Employed			Bhalaswa Resettlement Colony-Family members Employed		
Family Members	Frequency	Percent	Family Members	Frequency	Percent
1	672	73.5	1	511	55.9
1-3	230	25.2	1-3	383	41.9
3-5	11	1.2	3-5	18	2.0
5-10	1	0.1	Total	912	99.8

**Table 7: Transportation expenses**

Before Resettlement-Transportation Expenses			Bhalaswa Resettlement Colony-Transportation Expenses		
Expenses	Frequency	Percent	Expenses	Frequency	Percent
1-100	53	5.8	100-500	62	6.8
100-300	42	4.6	500-1000	168	18.4
300-500	8	0.9	1000-2000	140	15.3
500-1000	12	1.3	>2000	30	3.3
Total	115	12.6	Total	400	43.8
No Response	799	87.4	No Response	514	56.2
Total	914	100.0	Total	914	100.0

As the real income has decreased, the costs on various things such as transport have increased. People continued to work in those areas where they had been earlier employed, and thus had to travel 20 km every day. Now, 40.8% of the respondents are forced to use different modes of public transport, instead of being able to be able to walk or cycle to their place of work. Table 7 describes the costs of travel incurred by the families before and after resettlement. The average cost incurred by the respondents for going to work has thus increased. Earlier, on average, each family would expend about Rs 25.4 per month (equivalent to Rs 58, base year 1999), whereas now each family expends about Rs 423.5 per month on transport. Thus we can see that after resettlement, expenditure on cost increased 7.5 times. However actual income of the families has decreased.

Thus from the above data, one can see that eviction and displacement pushes back each family by 20 years, and then the recovery of the families is then hampered by lack of access to jobs.

## Basic services

The respondents were asked about the access to basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity. They were asked about the conditions of these facilities in the *bastis* from where they had been evicted, as well as in Bhalaswa, initially when they came here, and now after 13 years of being settled here.

### Water

99.8% of the respondents said that they could easily access water where they were earlier residing. They also felt that the water that they received was of good quality (Fig. 7). They did not have to expend money for obtaining water.

In Bhalaswa, initially when people were sent to live here, there was no access to water. They dug handpumps and borewells to access groundwater. This is despite Bhalaswa being a resettlement colony, where people were settled by the governmental authorities. Before sending people to live here, access to basic facilities should have been ensured.

In the case of Bhalaswa, being located next to the Bhalaswa landfill, which has been proven to be contaminating the groundwater, ensuring access to water by the authorities becomes even more necessary. Continued dependence on the groundwater has led to the people being affected by various health effects, such as gastrointestinal problems and skin problems (due to using contaminated water).

**Figure 7: Comparison of water quality in the previous *basti* and in Bhalaswa**

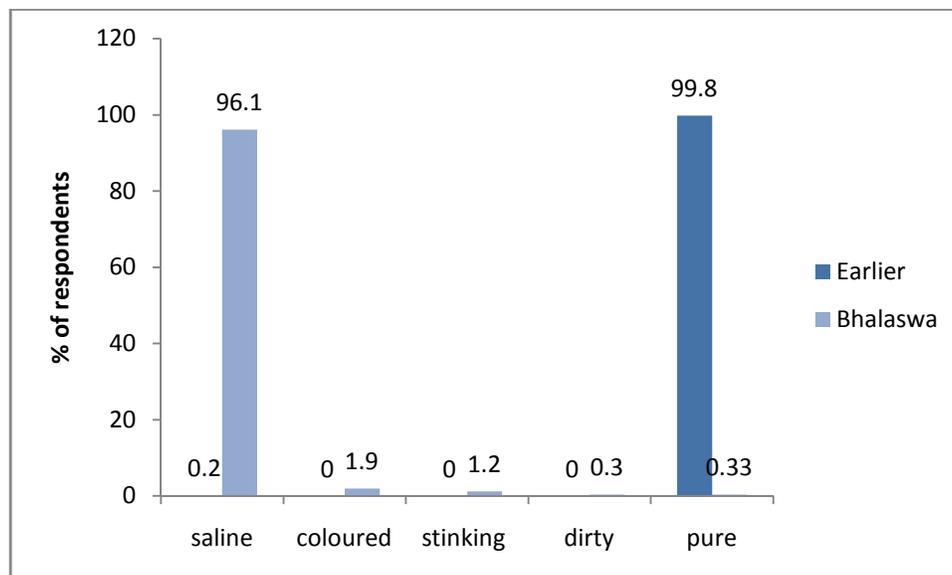
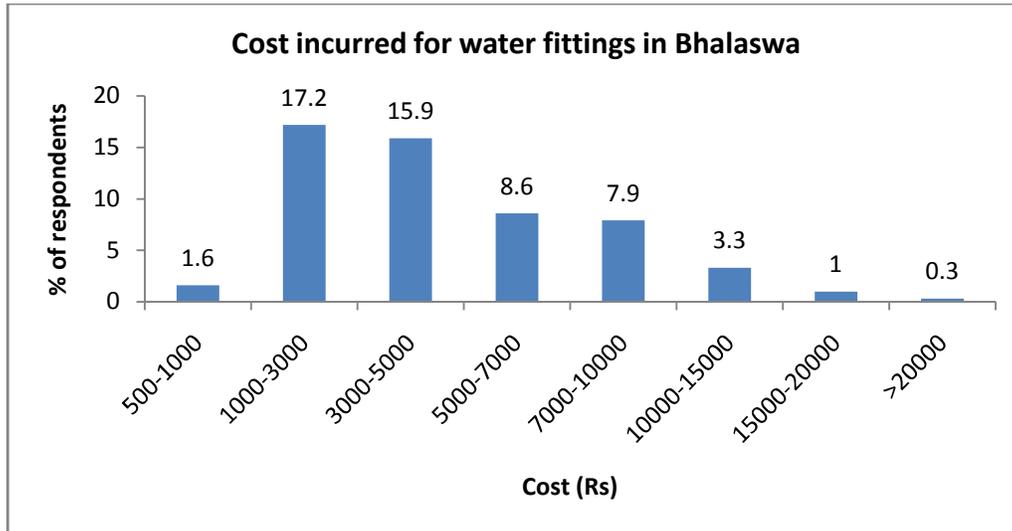


Figure 8: Investment for accessing water



Even now, 64% of the respondents said they do not get proper access to water. Each family (in the case of 94% of the respondents) depends on multiple sources of water. The major source of water that is used remains the tankers (96% of respondents) that are sent by the DJB, followed by the groundwater. One more source of water is the 2 water connections that the DJB has provided to the colony. Additionally, for drinking water, many people buy it, or some people get water for drinking from the site where they work. Thus they bring water from Jahangirpuri, Rohini and so on.

84.4% of the respondents were not satisfied with the quality of water in the resettlement colony (Fig. 7). The respondents felt that tanker water was a better source of good quality water, even though its availability is highly variable. This is in contrast to the *bastis* from where the people have been settled here, as there they were satisfied (99.7% of respondents) with the quality of water available to them.

171 families, i.e., 18.7% of the families purchase water for drinking. These families invest about Rs 345.8 per month to buy water. This is also in contrast to the *bastis* where these families lived earlier, as then no family had to buy water. 510 families have constructed handpumps and borewells, motors and filters, investing on average Rs 5095.6.

### Electricity

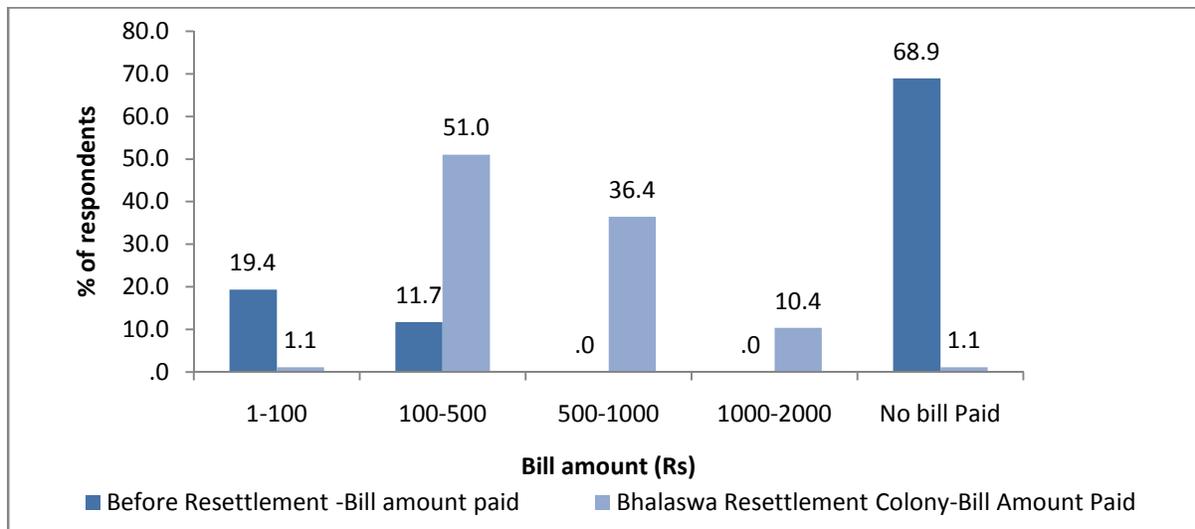
The respondents lived in *bastis* spread across Delhi. Access to basic services in these colonies was through parallel distribution, where electricity is stolen and then sold at high rates by mafias. Bribes were paid by the respondents for access to electricity.

98.2 % responded that they got electricity and 1.8% responded that they did not have electricity in their *Jhuggi*. 77.4% people got electricity through hook connection and got the connection through the help of local leaders, *pradhans* and some paid money to the electricity department. 13.5 % people of *pukka* dwellers had expenses on electric fitting too.

When people were resettled to Bhalaswa, no provisions to prepare the land for the people being sent to live here had been carried out. No provision for electricity supply was thus there. When people protested, electricity was provided on contract basis for some time. For this the authorities charged Rs.1,270 (equivalent to Rs 2,819, base year 2000) for the connection. Later it was made permanent, by charging Rs.1800 for new meters. As initial payment of Rs 1,270 was already done, a payment of Rs 600 was only charged after formal negotiation with the authority.

Later the meter charge was revised to Rs 3,600 by NDPL and around 600 families could not get electricity as this charge was beyond the affordable range. And by the gradual intervention with the authorities, local leaders and MLA, the amount was revised to Rs 1,550. People got the connection by paying Rs 900 and the balance Rs 650 to be repaid as easy instalments. Currently, 0.4% families don't have electricity due to non-payment of bill. These families cannot afford an electricity connection. The cost of electricity has also increased due to privatization. After privatization, the cost of electricity has increased 300%.

**Figure 9: Monthly electric bill amount**



**Figure 10: Electric fitting charge in Bhalaswa**

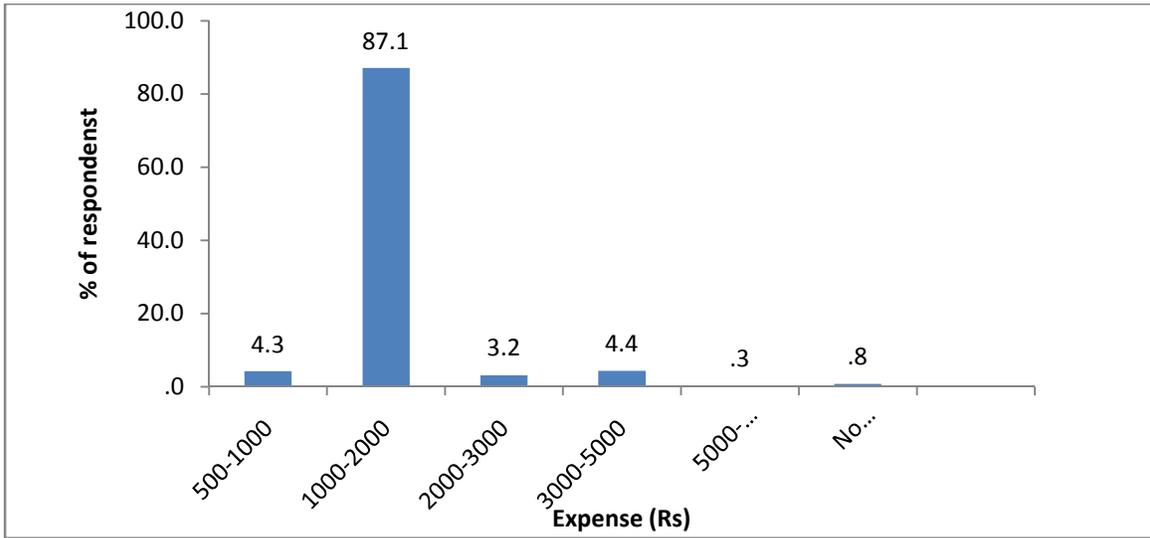
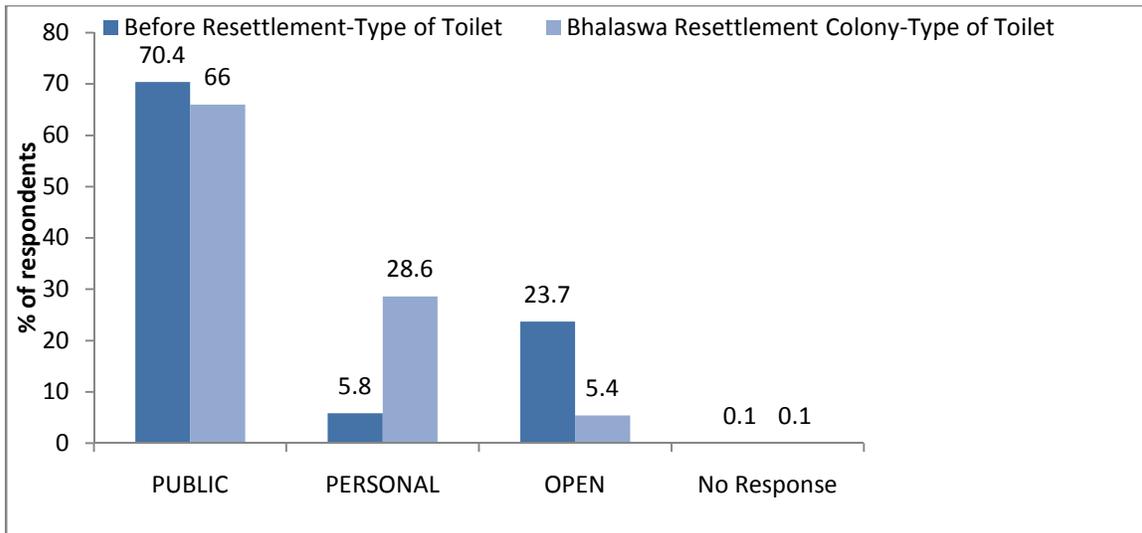


Fig. 9 describes the comparative value of bills paid by the respondents in the earlier *basti* as well as in Bhalaswa. 51% of the families pay an electricity bill of between Rs 100-500, and 36.6% families have an electricity bill of Rs 500-1000. Presently each family pays an average bill of Rs 582.7 per month, and they invested Rs 1,617.8 for the connection.

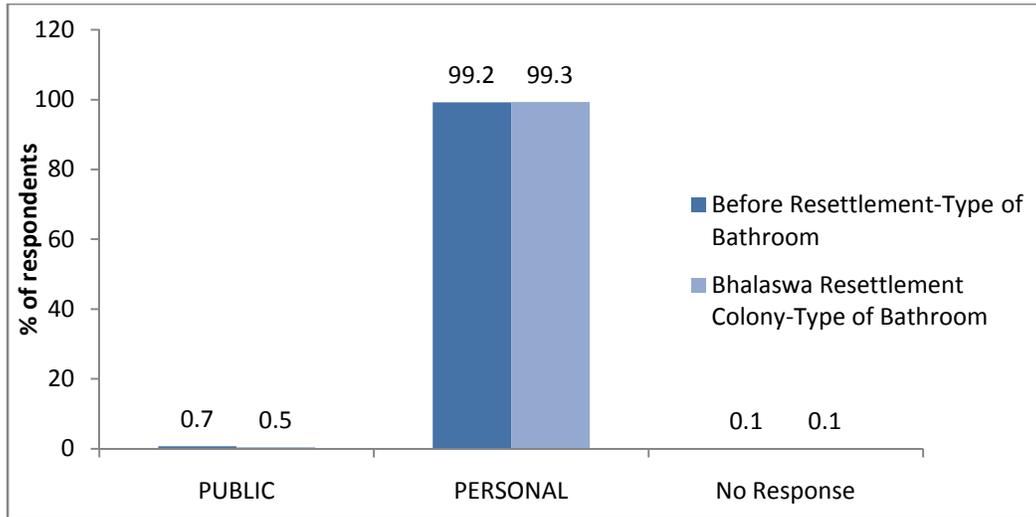
**Sanitation**

In the places where people lived before the resettlement, 70.4% people used public toilets and 0.7% used public bathroom (Fig. 11 & 12). 23.8% carried out open defecation. 79.1% had no expenses for

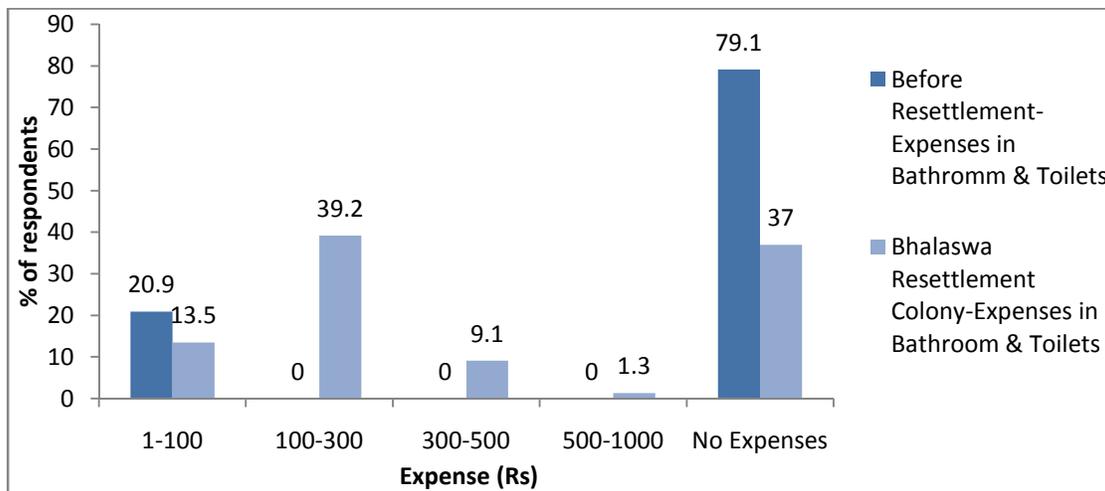
**Figure 11: Type of toilet**



**Figure 12: Type of bathroom**



**Figure 13: Expenses in public toilets & bathroom**



accessing toilets and bathrooms. No money was charged by the public toilets. In some areas, for women there were no charges and for men expenditure was done on weekly basis. On average, they spent only Rs.1 on daily basis. Only 1.2% had personal toilets and bathrooms.

Sanitation is one of the biggest problems in Bhalaswa resettlement colony. There are 10 public toilets complexes of which only 6 work. This is an issue as the population of Bhalaswa is 20,000, and as per MCD norms, there should be about 800 toilet seats here. The toilets are grimy and dirty. The doors of the toilets are broken and even standpipes are non functional. Women have pointed out that they feel unsecure going to use the public toilets. Due to lack of space, and not being allowed to construct toilets in their own homes, most people depend on the 6 functional community toilets. The responsibility of

maintaining these public toilets lies with DUSIB; however there is no clarity on the day to day maintenance. For example, it is written outside that these facilities are free; however people are asked to pay. While men have to pay Rs.2, women have to pay Re.1 to use these toilets. 37% of the people do not pay money, and 52% of the families (comprising of more than 5 members in a family) spent up to Rs.300 per month (Fig. 13). On average, each family in Bhalaswa spends about Rs 131.2 as charges for using the public toilets, whereas earlier they would spend about Rs 7.7 (equivalent to Rs 17.6, as per base year 1999).

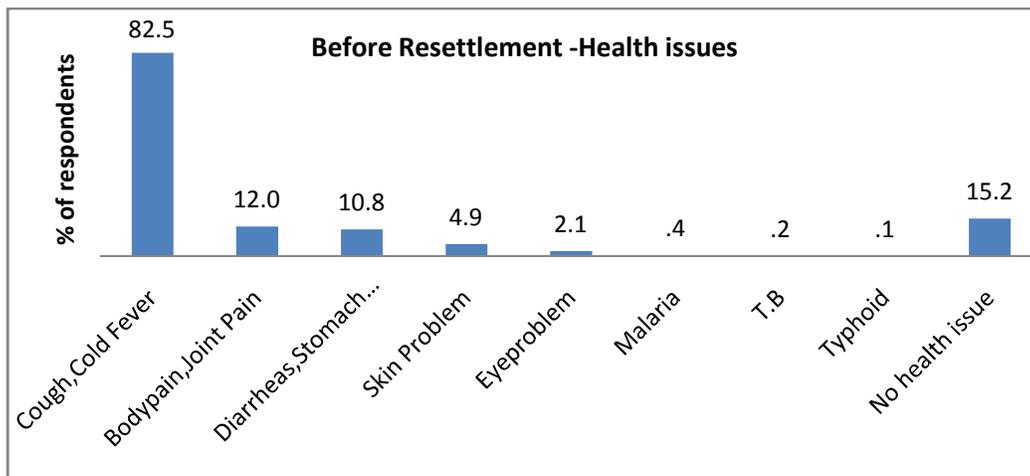
Due to the pathetic condition of the public toilets, people have to arrange some alternative source of building toilets. 17.8% have spent up to Rs 30,000 to build personal toilets and bathroom.

## Social infrastructure

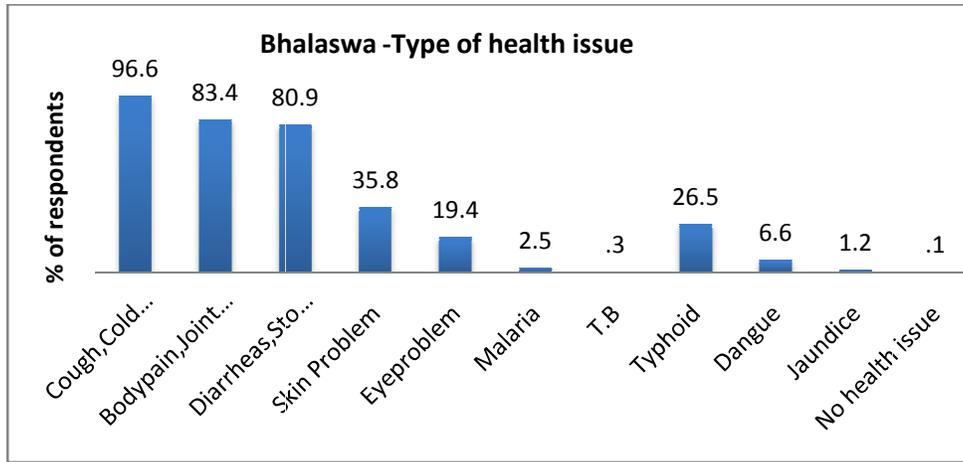
### Health

15.2 % of the respondents had no health issues when they were living in the previous *bastis*. The major health problems were of cough, cold and fever (82.5%). Also, 12% of respondents complained of body pain and joint pain, and 10.8% of diarrhoea and stomach problems. Fig. 14 and 15 describe the various common health problems reported by the residents in the *bastis* where they resided previously and in Bhalaswa.

**Figure 14: Major health issues faced by respondents before resettlement**



**Figure 15: Major health issues faced by the respondents in Bhalaswa**



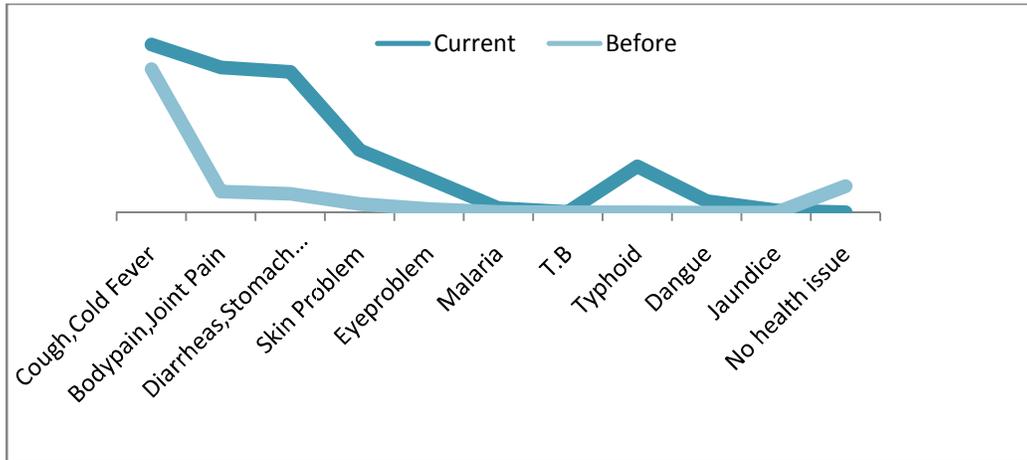
The respondents said that the environment was healthy and there were proper health facilities. 36.3% of the respondents said that there were no expenses on health. 99.1% said that they had access to health facilities and only 0.8% did not have access to health facilities. 60.3% of the respondents said that there was a dispensary nearby, and 55.8% said that there was a hospital nearby.

#### After Resettlement

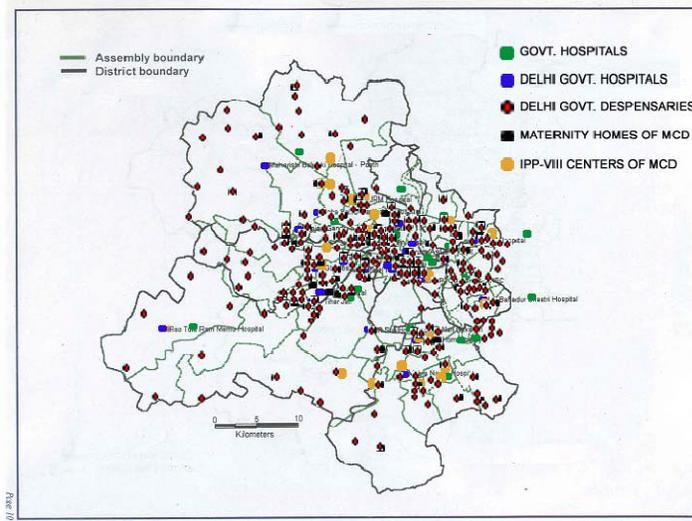
In contrast, 80.9 % of the respondents had recurring diarrhoea and other gastrointestinal problems. 35.8% respondents complained about skin problem. 26.5 % respondent's complained about typhoid and 6.6% of dengue. Thus the major health issues that observed in Bhalaswa are water borne diseases, and these can be related with the lack of proper drinking water facilities, drainage water outflows, *dhalaos*, as well as the accumulation of stagnant water. And by the response received during the survey, majority of people said, the health condition deteriorated after only after relocating to Bhalaswa.

Looking at Fig. 16, we can see that the health of the residents deteriorated after resettlement. Earlier, there were few complaints of gastrointestinal and water borne diseases, whereas these have increased sharply in the resettlement colony.

**Figure 16: A comparison of health issues of respondents before and after resettlement**



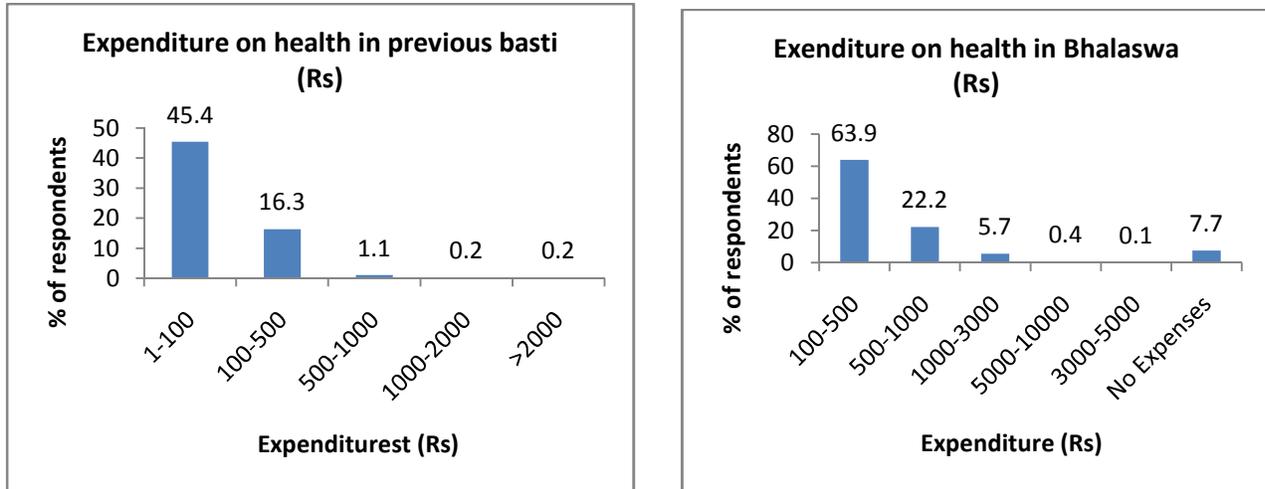
**Figure 17: Locations of health facilities in Delhi**



Access to health facilities has also become a concern after resettlement. In Bhalaswa resettlement colony, 96.2% people responded that there were no health facilities when they were relocated to Bhalaswa just after the demolition. Fig. 17 shows the location of different health facilities in Delhi, and we can see that many more governmental hospitals and dispensaries are located in the centre of the city as compared to the periphery, where resettlement colonies are mostly located. Currently, 99.9% people said there are health facilities. However majority of the respondents were talking about the accessibility to registered medical practitioners and dispensaries. As there is no government hospital, people have to go all the way to Jahangirpuri for medical check-up.

The expenses incurred due to various health issues have impacted the family as a major part of the income earned is now spent on health. In the earlier *basti*, on average each family expended about Rs 88.6, that is equivalent to Rs 202.8 every month on health related issues, whereas in Bhalaswa, this has increased to Rs 509.2 every month (Fig. 18). This corroborates that the health of the respondents deteriorated after being resettled (Fig. 16).

**Figure 18: Monthly expenditure by the respondents on health by the respondents**



### Education

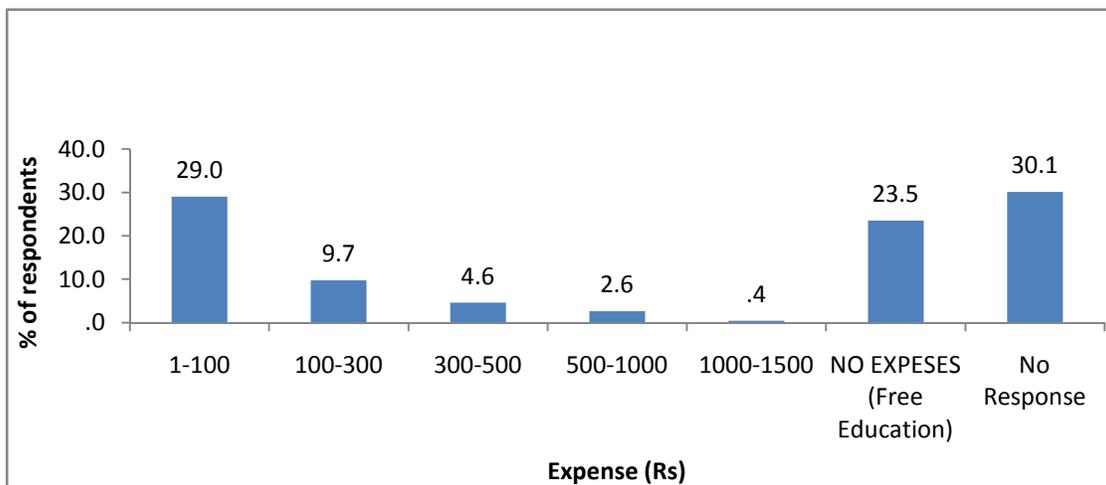
Education and employment represent the two biggest priorities for every family. People wish to ensure a better future for their children, and for this they feel education is essential. 99.8 % of the respondents said there was availability of school in their previous place of dwelling, and 91.2% responded that schools were just nearby. 72% responded that children were going school and 96.8% responded that the school was good. As the proximity to school was nearby, 97.3% travelled by foot and 33% responded that there were no expenses in going to school. Additionally, no expenses were there for tuitions and stationary and transport. On average, each family expended about Rs 110.9 (equivalent to Rs 246.2) for education (Fig. 19).

### After Resettlement

The process of eviction and resettlement affected children’s education most adversely. Since evictions were carried out suddenly, many children were not able to get transfer certificates from their former schools. Even before eviction, children of Yamuna Pushta protested about the non availability of schools

in Bhalaswa. The issue was raised and published in the media and even put on notice to the education department. And due to the pressure, some of the children got admission in neighbouring schools.

**Figure 19: Before resettlement - Expenses in school**



Some children could not get admission; some of them did not attend school, due to the distance, lack of transport and the financial constraint that displacement had put them under. Some families had to start sending their children to private schools.

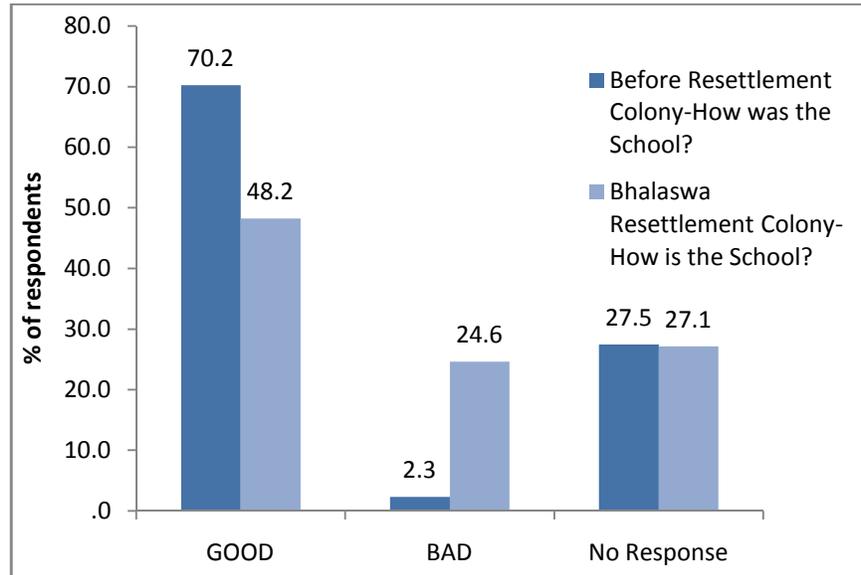
Girls were affected more, as due to all the above reasons, more girls had to discontinue their education. Children also started had to get involved in earning for the family. 99.7% responded that there is availability of school in Bhalaswa now. There are two primary schools and a higher secondary school.

Currently there are about 20,000 people in Bhalaswa, and as per the master plan, there should be 4 primary schools, 4 Secondary Schools, and 2 senior secondary schools for a population of this size. Presently, children of higher secondary level and above have to travel to other places like Prasant vihar, Shalimar bagh, Jahangirpuri, Libaspur etc.

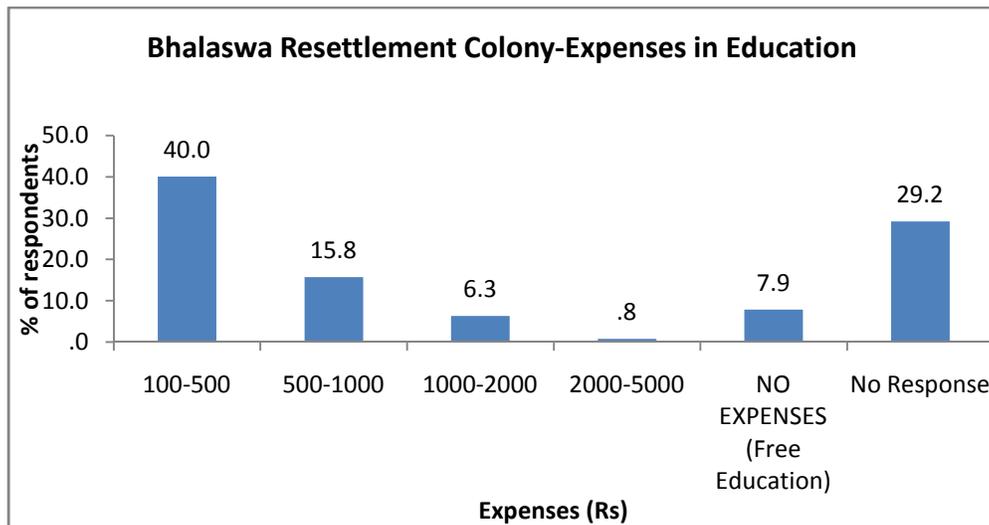
72% responded that children go to school. People felt that the infrastructure of the schools present in Bhalaswa is good, but the quality of teaching is poor. The number of children in each class is large, because the number of schools in the area is not proportional to the population. This is in contrast to the schools in the *bastis* where the respondents lived earlier, as then 70.2% were satisfied with the quality of the education, whereas in Bhalaswa only 48.2% are satisfied with the quality of education. There were complaints about the midday meal provided as well. On average, each family expends about Rs 509 (Fig. 21). The respondents felt that as the quality of education provided in the school is of poor,

they have to send their children for additional tuition. Majority of children basically travel by foot. The expense is due to additional tuition, stationary items, travel expenses and others too. Fig. 20 describes the perception of the respondents of the school in the previous *basti* and the resettlement colony.

**Figure 20: How is the school?**



**Figure 21: Expenses in school-Bhalaswa resettlement colony**



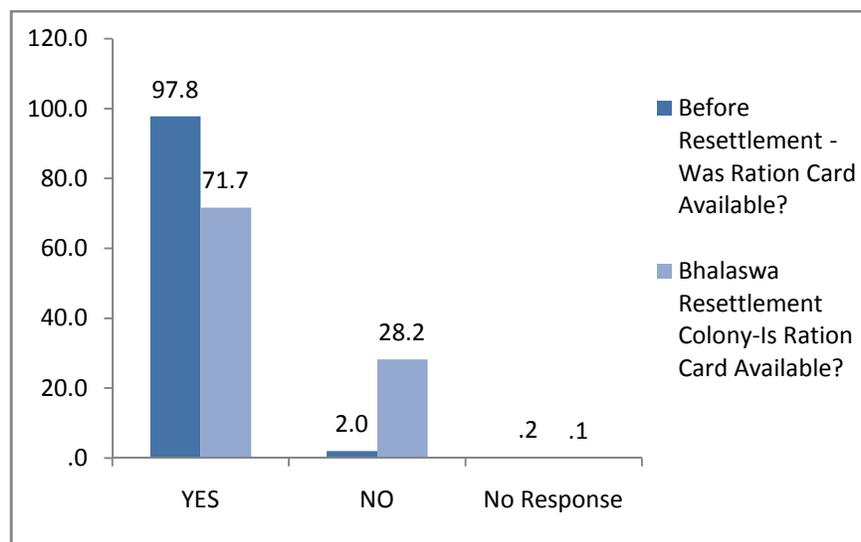
## Ration

In a recent survey, majority of women had said they do not want cash transfers or smart cards system for procuring subsidies food grains under the public distribution system (PDS). They prefer a better functioning PDS that could be run by self-help groups or cooperatives. From 1965 to 1997, everybody had universal ration card. This system functioned well for 35 years. After 2002, ration system was categorized in to APL, BPL and AAY. In 2002, BPL scheme came in to picture. And in 2004 AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojna) scheme was also launched. With the launch of new schemes issues related with obtaining these cards started a whole lot of duplication of card besides non availability of ration card also started. People started renewing their cards from 2007 and 2008. Cards started coming after being made in 2009 beginning, and at this time, 1.70 lakh BPL cards were cancelled without any explanation being given. Some people having an APL were not given ration, saying that their ration cards have not been stamped. In August 2010 also many ration cards were cancelled in the name of providing new biometric cards, but that has not happened. Systematically the slum dwellers and rehabilitated people, who were moved away from the hutments during the Commonwealth games, are being pushed out of the system.

Before 2002, the ration system was universal. Thus 98% of the respondents had a ration card. Fig. 22 describes the number of respondents having a ration card, and Fig. 23 describes the type of ration card of the respondents.

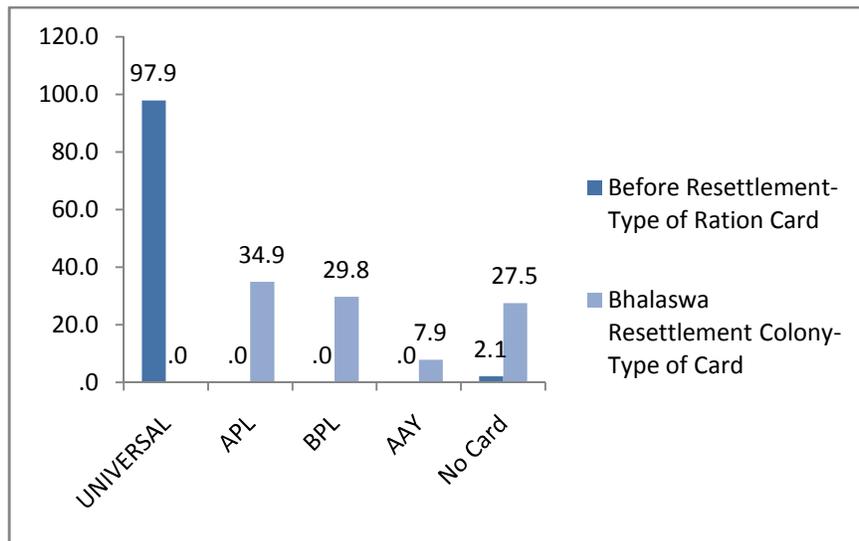
### After Resettlement

**Figure 22: Number of respondents having a ration card?**

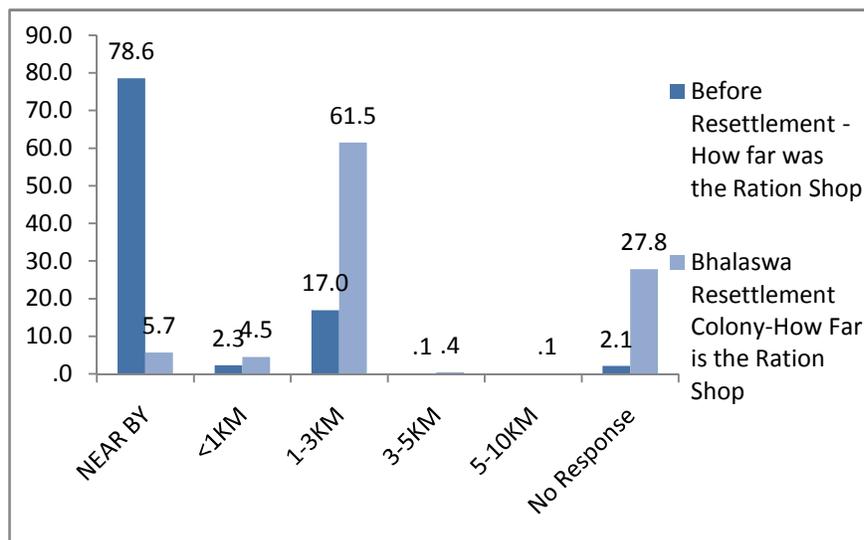


As Bhalaswa is a resettlement colony, everyone is entitled for a ration card. However, applying for a ration card is very difficult, with lots of irregularities and incorrect information being entered. The process to apply is tedious. As per the survey 28.2% people still don't have ration card (Fig. 22). The ration card, apart from used to avail the ration system, is also an important identification document. Ration card is both a residential and identity proof, which is used for availing many other facilities like school admissions, government schemes, and for birth and death certificates.

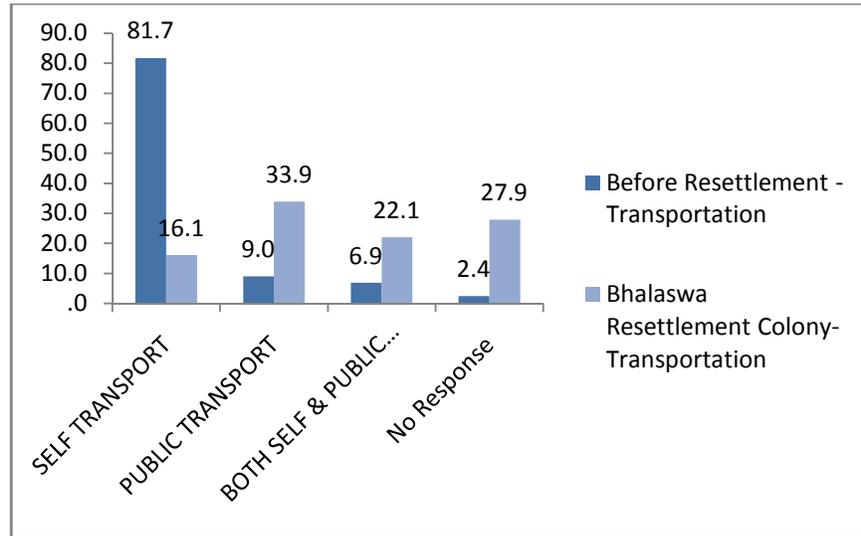
**Figure 23: Type of ration card**



**Figure 24: Distance to reach Ration Shop**



**Figure 25: Mode of Transportation**



People who have a ration card also face challenges in getting ration as the ration shop is too far and people use public transport to get their ration. 33% people spent Rs.20-30 rupees just for travelling to from the ration shop. In the earlier *bastis*, 78.6% of the respondents said that the ration shop was located very near to their residence, whereas in Bhalaswa the ration shops are located 1-3km from their houses (Fig. 24). Fig. 25 describes the mode of transport of the respondents to get their ration.

## Conclusion

The Master Plans of Delhi, both the MPD-2001 and the MPD-2021, estimated the population of Delhi at the end of the plan period. As per this estimated population, planning is carried out as to how to accommodate this population. Thus, at the end of the MPD-2001, it was planned that 16.2 lakh additional domestic units had to be constructed, of which half were to be for the economically weaker sections. However, during this time, only 5.6 lakh DUs were constructed. Similarly, by the end of the MPD-2021, 24 lakh additional DUs have to be constructed. However, how these DUs are to be made has not been planned. This has led to paucity in the availability of affordable housing for the poor, leading to the emergence and subsequent densification of the *jhuggi jhopri* clusters as well as the unauthorised colonies.

These colonies have arisen on land that was otherwise lying vacant, or in some cases, on land that is not suitable for any purpose (ecologically fragile areas, near *nallahs*, or next to railway tracks and roads). These families, over the course of many years and decades, invest on the land where they are living.

Some of this investment is done directly, while making their houses and developing them, making basic services such as water, electricity and roads accessible, whereas some of it is indirectly invested, that is, by spending to avail the services and facilities in the neighbourhood, and thus helping in the upkeep and maintenance of these systems. For e.g. the education system, health system, transport system and so on.

People were evicted from their homes and resettled in areas outside of Delhi. The process of eviction is traumatic, with people helping in breaking their own homes, so as to salvage the bricks and whatever else is possible. During the survey, people said that due to the resettlement, their lives were pushed back by 20 years. Due to the eviction process, people suffered losses of property, and when they were asked to estimate this loss, they said that they suffered damages of Rs. 12,775.7, that is, real loss of Rs. 29,256.4. One of the families also lost a family member due to the eviction process. The employment and livelihoods of the people was the factor of their life that suffered to the maximum extent.

The resettlement colonies are planned colonies, however even the norms that are to be followed are not followed. For e.g. in Bhalaswa, according to the population, there should be 2 primary schools, and 2 senior secondary schools for a population of this size. However, there are 2 primary schools and only 1 secondary school. Water supply in the colony is still mainly through tankers. There is 1 dispensary for the entire colony.

This study was carried to try and estimate the investment that has been carried out by the people who were settled in Bhalaswa. The investments carried out in the bastis where the people resided earlier, as well as in Bhalaswa resettlement colony, have both been estimated. A comparison was also done on the standard of living of the people before and after resettlement.

In terms of access to services and facilities, as well as the general environmental conditions, the respondents all felt that the localities where they lived earlier was better as compared in Bhalaswa resettlement colony. They could access basic necessities such as water, and as they lived in the city, they had a source of employment. The environment was better, and thus they were healthier. There was a much lower occurrence of water borne diseases (10.8%), whereas after resettlement, 80.9% of the respondents suffered frequently from water borne diseases. The incidence of diseases such as typhoid and dengue also show a sharp jump (increasing from 0.1% to 26.5%, and 0% to 6.6%, respectively). All of this indicates the poor quality of the environment in the resettlement colony.

The income of the people was earlier equivalent to Rs 8,390, but even now, 11 years after resettlement has been carried out, the average income of the respondents is still only Rs 7,825, even though, a greater number of family members in each family have started earning. On the other hand, expenses on various things, from getting drinking water (which now is bought by 18.7% of the population, because of the poor quality of water available in the colony), accessing public toilets transportation, health, schooling, have all increased. The monthly expenses of the families have thus increased from about Rs 694.7 (not including expenditure on ration), to about Rs 2,798.7 (not including ration).

**Table: A comparison of the expenses of the respondents before and after resettlement (real expenses)**

<b>Monthly Expenses (Rs)</b>			
<b>Before resettlement</b>		<b>Bhalaswa resettlement colony</b>	
Electricity	76.9	Electricity	582
Sanitation	17.6	Sanitation	131.2
Water	0	Water	65.2
Transport	56.5	Transport	423.5
Health	202.8	Health	509.2
Education	246.2	Education	509
Maintenance	197.6	Maintenance	229.8
Loan interest	37.1	Loan interest	348.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>834.7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2798.7</b>

<b>Onetime expenses (Rs)</b>			
<b>Before resettlement</b>		<b>Bhalaswa resettlement colony</b>	
Buying the plot	27884	Beneficiary contribution	15540
Construction of house	255613	Construction of house	371681.2
Water fitting	0	Water fitting	6312
Electricity fitting	208.4	Electricity fitting	3590
Rent	20288.4	Building toilet	2558
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,03,993.8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,99,681.2</b>

Overall, over the years, on an average, each family in Bhalaswa resettlement colony has expended about Rs 13,07,009. Rs 5,04,321.3 were spent in the colony where the families lived before being resettled, whereas, Rs 8,02,687.4 were spent by them after being resettled in Bhalaswa. However, this investment by the people is not recognized.

Ten years have passed since the resettlement of the people. The license period has ended; even then the trunk infrastructure is yet to reach the residents. People have invested in making the land habitable, gradually building up their lives again after resettlement. There is again uncertainty in the minds of the people as to what will happen to them next.

On the other hand, a large amount of 'development' is occurring in the neighbourhood, with beautification of the Bhalaswa Lake, construction of a golf course and so on. What implications does this 'development' have for the residents of Bhalaswa? Will it bring better services to the people? Or does it signal another move, like for the infantry in a war? Will the licenses of the people of Bhalaswa be renewed? Or will the poor bear the brunt of the 'developmental' process?

**Annexure**

**Table giving the value of money after adjusting for inflation**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Value of rupee</b>	<b>Value of rupee in 2012</b>
<b>1978</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14.53</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.43</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.29</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.22</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.03</b>

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