





# STORY STRINGS

## Observations on caregiver use of public spaces from India (Pune)

STORY STRINGS is a series of caregiver user stories highlighting the influence of the built environment on early childhood development. Ten caregivers from Pune (India) share their challenges, daily routes around their homes, and aspirations for neighbourhood improvements. The challenges of growing up in rapidly urbanizing cities are many, and these stories give us a glimpse into the daily lives of caregivers and the children under their care.

STORY STRINGS is part of the research project SUPPORTING URBAN CHILDHOODS: Observations on caregiver use of public spaces from Pune (IN) and Istanbul (TR).

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REKHA UMESH DESHMUKH



ROMALI PRASHANT BHAGAT



GIRISHA M. GAIKWAD



REKHA BAPU JADHAV



BAGBAN JIYA JABBAR



AKANKSHA RAMESH



ALOK ANOKHI



SONI GUDI



SONIKA SHEKAR



GUDDI SHANKAR



## PROFILE

### STORY STRING #1

Name

**REKHA UMESH DESHMUKH**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Ramnagar, Warje Malwadi for 5 years

Children under her care

Mother to 1 (boy) and currently pregnant

The use of public space around their house (including streets)

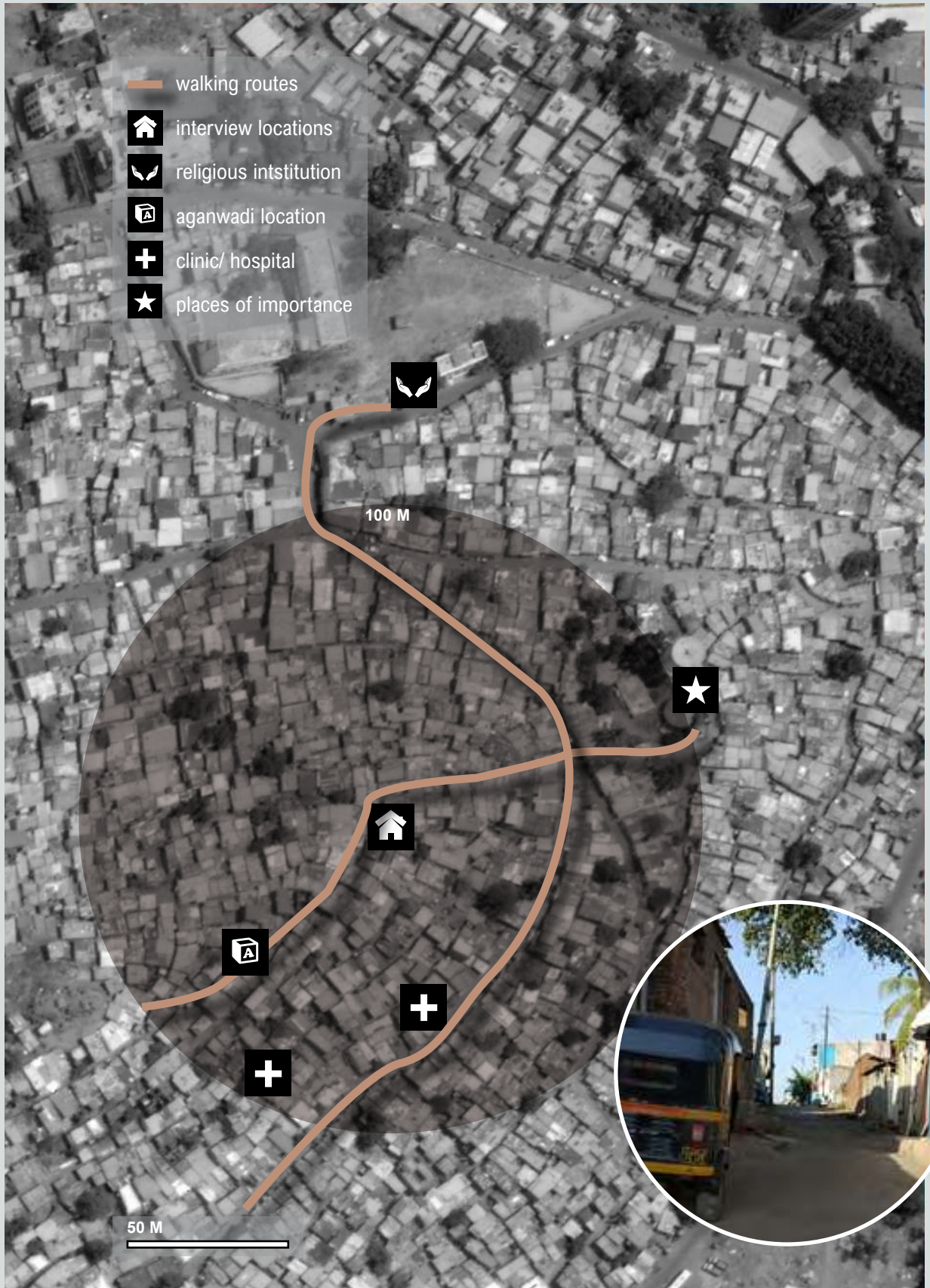
Rekha lives in a high-density street that has a mix of single and double story houses. The homes are no larger than 20-25 sqm, and the street in front of their house is used as a common space for all the residents of the street. She says that the older children play on the street, it is a place where people aggregate during festivals, a place where water collection happens, and sometimes washing of clothes/ kitchen vessels also take place. The younger children she says plays inside the house or just in front of it.

Their neighbourhoods: likes and dislikes

What Rekha likes about the area are her neighbours, stressing that they are very nice and co-operative. The neighbourhood schools and facilities (market, hospital) are good, though is concerned about the cleanliness of the area. They live in this area because its cheap and close to where her husband works.

What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

Rekha would like to live in another neighbourhood, in a bigger house where they have running water, electricity all the time, clean, and safe for the children to play. In her neighbourhood she would like to improve toilet facilities and garbage disposal.





PROFILE

STORY STRING #2

Name

ROMALI PRASHANT BHAGAT

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Ramnagar, Warje Malwadi for 20 years

Children under her care

Mother of 3 children, 2 boys (5,1), 1 girl (3)

The use of public space around their house (including streets)

The space in front of their house is used as an extension of their own house. This is the space that the children play in, she does her washing here and during festivals it is used as a shared space with her other neighbours. She considers the area safe as she and her family have lived there for a long time and knows her neighbours.

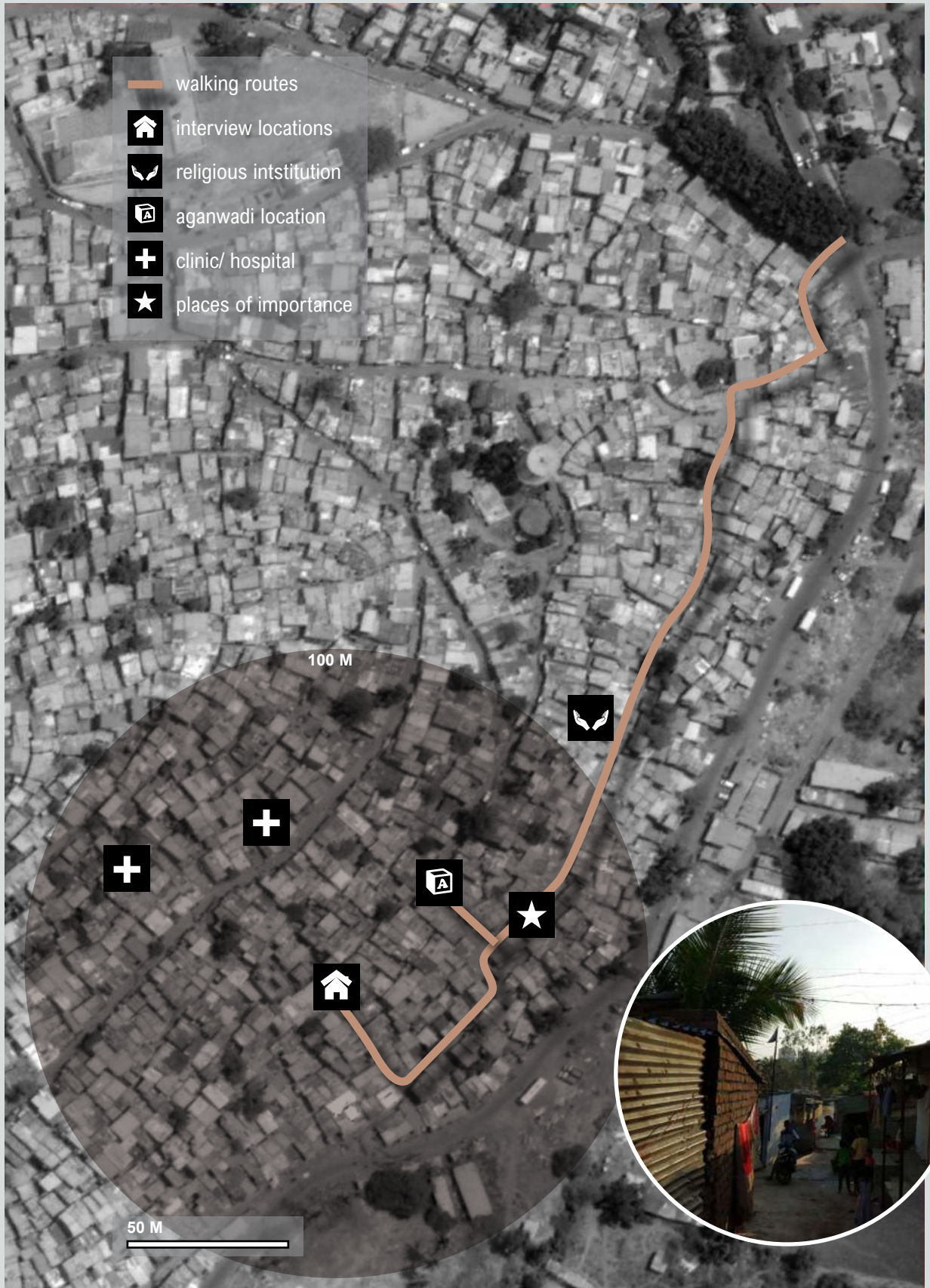
Their neighbourhoods: likes and dislikes

Romali has lived in the area for almost 20 years as a child and as an adult. She has experienced the area change from a small village like community to now as an extension of Pune. She runs a small tailoring business out of her house to support her family and enjoys living here. Romali tells us about her neighbours and how there is a community in this location who look out for each other. What she dislikes about the location is the poor maintenance of the public toilets, cleanliness, garbage collection, and absence of facilities for children (they have to walk 20-30 mins to a park).

What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

Having seen the area grow over two decades, Romali would like to work towards increasing safety in the neighbourhood. According to her, the increasing population has contributed to feeling unsafe in some areas.







## PROFILE

### STORY STRING #3

Name

**GIRISHA M. GAIKWAD**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Ganj Peth for 18 years

Children under her care

Grandmother of 2 children, 2 boys (12,4)

The use of public space around their house (including streets)

Having lived in the area and house for almost two decades Grisha considers the space in front of her home, hers. The space is used as private space for their family activities, some cooking, cleaning, and children playing. They have also rented out a part of their house to a private nursery to supplement their monthly income.

Their neighbourhoods: likes and dislikes

The two decades of occupying the same locations means that they/she knows a number of the residents and her neighbours. She also has a number of family members staying close by. She considers them (the neighbours) trustworthy and close-knit. What she dislikes is the very low maintenance for the neighbourhood and how little support they get to improve their surroundings.

What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

Girisha would like for the neighbourhood to be part some slum rehabilitation program. What she would like is to see people's attitude with regards to maintenance and cleanliness.





PROFILE

STORY STRING #4

Name

**REKHA BAPU JADHAV**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Near Samaj Mandir, Ganj Peth for 30 years (in various houses)

Children under her care

Mother of 2 children, 1 boy (7), 1 girl (2.5) and currently pregnant

The use of public space around their house (including streets)

Rekha grew up in this area, got married and continues to live in the same location. The space around her house are used for various purposes, as private space and as a communal space (including marriages).

Their neighbourhoods: likes and dislikes

Her house is on a road with heavy traffic and she does not allow her children to play outside the house. And this is one of her major concerns. Safety in the neighbourhood (only in terms of traffic). What Rekha really enjoys about the neighbourhood is the community and the number of people who she knows (family and friends) who create a strong support framework for her and her children.

What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

She wants to improve the cleanliness and safety of her area for the children. She says “we might only have two rooms, but they should be neat and clean. Same thing for the area”.





## PROFILE

### STORY STRING #5

Name

**BAGBAN JIYA JABBAR**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Mahatma Phule Peth for 30 years (in various houses)

Children under her care

Aunt of 1 child, boy (4)

The use of public space around their house (including streets)

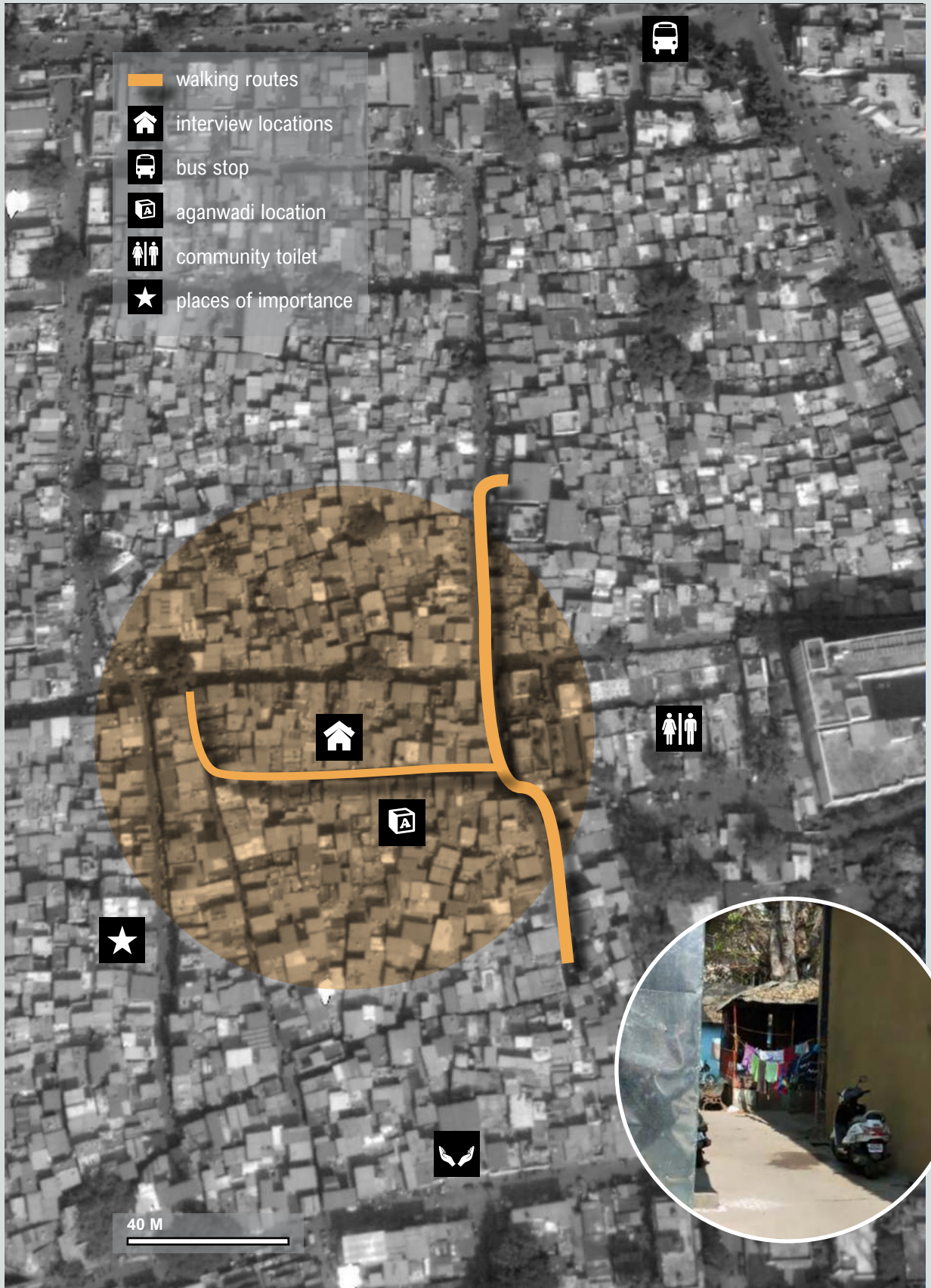
Bagban is 18 years old and her family has lived in the area for 30 years. The space in front of her house has been used as a communal space by all the residents on the streets, especially during religious festivals.

Their neighbourhoods: likes and dislikes

What Bagban likes about the area is that “The place is as it is from my childhood, I grew up in this area only, nothing has changed.” So, she feels safe, but her nephew only plays in the house as the streets are narrow and she is scared he will fall down (hurt himself and she will be held responsible). As the house is close to a busy market area, there is some traffic and quite crowded. However, the community that lives there is close knit and keeps an eye out for each other and the children who play there.

What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

Bagban would like to change a number of things in her area. “Mainly, the roads, the roads should be broad, there should be some distance between our houses and the roads, we all require a dustbin or garbage disposal point near our community, there should be a garden, where our children can go and play safely.”



40 M



PROFILE

STORY STRING #6

Name

**AKANKSHA RAMESH**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Ramnagar, Warje Malwadi for 10 years

Children under her care

Two girls, 9 & 3

What does she do?

Home maker and runs a small tailoring business from home

What does s/he like about the neighbourhood?

What she likes about her neighbourhood is the temples and parks close by. She goes on to tell us about her neighbours who are helpful and the community she has here.

How do they and the children under their care use public spaces like parks, streets etc?

Akanksha tells us how her children mostly play on the street during the week and go to the parks over the weekend. The street she tell us, is where most of the children play almost every day. Going to the park (which is 20-30 mins away), needs more planning!

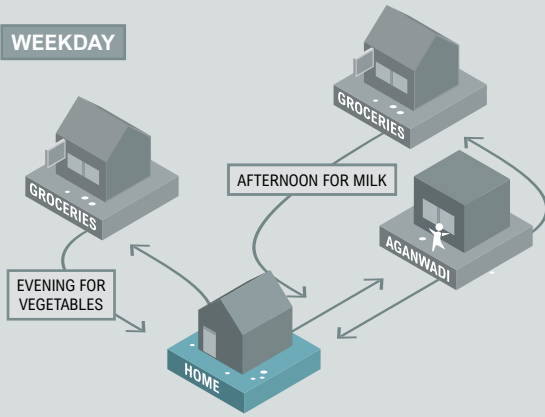
What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

When it comes to the quality of her neighbourhood and things she would like to change, there are quite a few things on her mind. Access to more parks/ green areas, increased safety on the streets by reducing the speed of vehicles and managing the number of street dogs in the neighbourhood. In detail she explains the difficulties related to the boys and men who trouble/ cat-call the girls/ women in the area. This she says, reduces the use of common services (toilets particularly) in the night and dissuades against going out late in the evening alone.

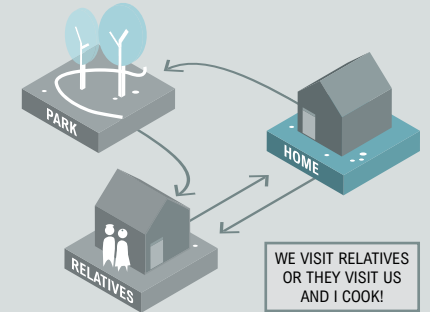


# Typical mobility around your neighbourhood

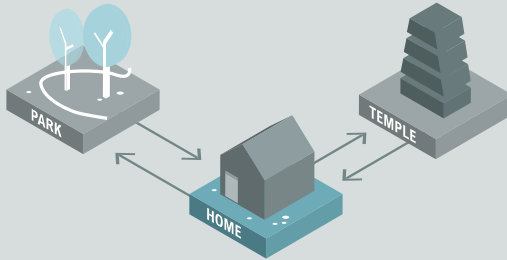
## WEEKDAY



## SPECIAL DAY



## WEEKEND



# What would you like to see in your neighbourhood?

R-3  
need to save water

R1 - swimming pool

R2 - Drainage line  
\* not good  
\* no garbage disposal points  
8-8 days not having

R2 - R4 → bus stop / etc. - school boy & children, those after 2 pm women & girls are scared to go out the way  
the bus lane - 8 mile - from where bus are involved in illegal & accident like in road  
शुद्ध / आवाज लीमिटेड / मिनि  
शुद्ध / आवाज लीमिटेड / 14/15 मिनट शुद्ध / आवाज लीमिटेड

R5 - cleanliness (want)

R6 - R2 → after cleaning ~~दवा~~ <sup>दवा</sup> ~~दवा~~ <sup>दवा</sup> सुनिश्चित

R-4 → No electricity poles are available

R5 → water facility / water meter if possible  
So nobody can make waste



PROFILE

STORY STRING #7

Name

**ALOK ANOKHI**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Ramnagar, Warje Malwadi for 8 years

Children under her care

Two girls, 4 & 2

What does she do?

Home maker

What does s/he like about the neighbourhood?

Alok really likes living in this neighbourhood as there are a number of temples close by for her to visit with her children

How do they and the children under their care use public spaces like parks, streets etc?

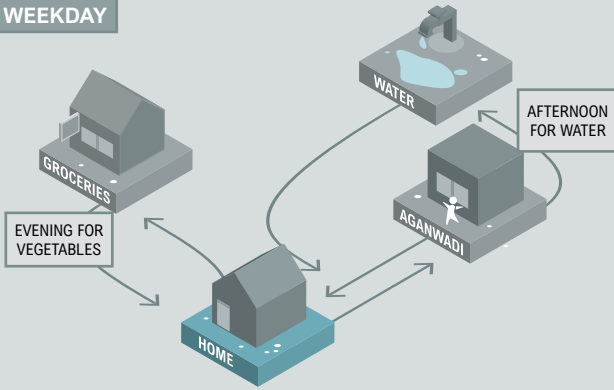
Her children play outside every day, but also visit the playground close to their house. They also have empty land next to their house where the children (theirs and their neighbours) play. She also stresses that the space in front of their house is also a space that the children play in. This is a space that she says she can look out when the children are there. The neighbours she says are very nice and look out for each other's children.

What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

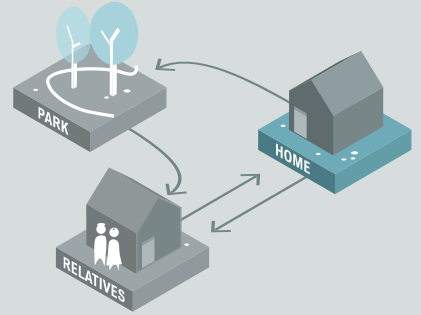
The one point she keeps coming back to is the cleanliness of the area she lives in. Some of the neighbours leave garbage on the streets and wants to create a group that looks out for community cleanliness. She gives us examples of making space for garbage cans, water facilities closer to homes and better road maintenance.

Typical mobility around your neighbourhood

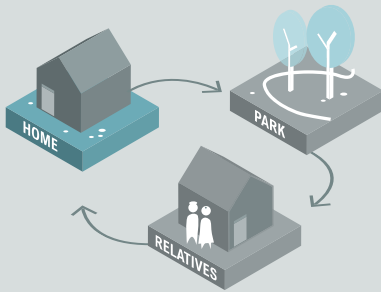
WEEKDAY



SPECIAL DAY

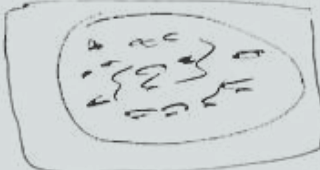


WEEKEND

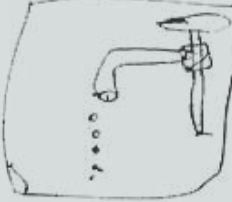


What would you like to see in your neighbourhood?

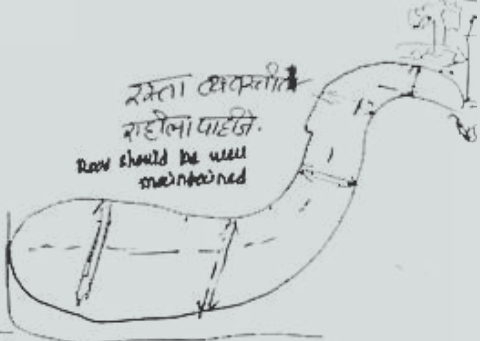
Facility for dumping garbage (Garbage disposal facility).  
 कचरा टाकण्याची सुविधा साठी पाहिजे




पान्याची सुविधा साठी पाहिजे.  
 Water facility



रस्ता दुरुवण्याची सुविधा पाहिजे.  
 Road should be well maintained



आनी सब्ज सुविधा पाहिजे. (And food facility should be maintained.)





## PROFILE

# STORY STRING #8

Name

**SONI GUDI**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Ramnagar, Warje Malwadi for 11 years

Children under her care

Two girls, 3 & 2

What does she do?

Works as domestic help

What does s/he like about the neighbourhood?

In the part of the neighbourhood where Soni lives the streets are well maintained. She also likes that the area has good public toilet facilities and streetlights. This makes the location good for her children, as they can play outside and the people around her house are friendly.

How do they and the children under their care use public spaces like parks, streets etc?

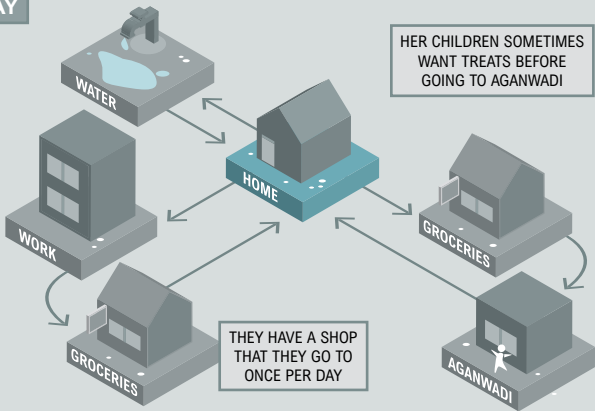
Even though the area is safe, her children don't play outside very often (as they are very young). She takes them to the temple in the area, where they play in the temple grounds with other children. What she would like is that the location is safer for the children and they have easier access to parks.

What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

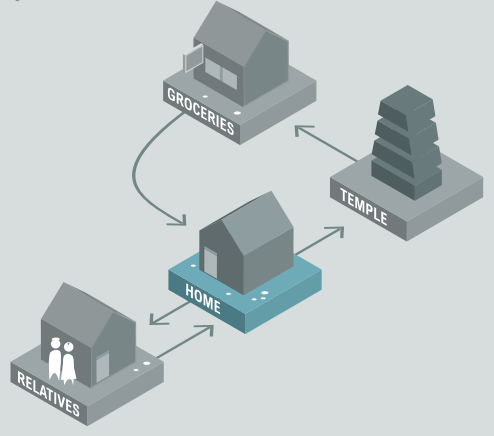
Soni tells us about the many challenges of living there. The first thing she mentions is how expensive the housing is, and the level of services they have access to. The absence of playgrounds close by, and also the distance she travels to drop the children to the anganwadi/ nursery. The safety of children playing on the street is also a concern, and she tells us that no one cares about these things.

# Typical mobility around your neighbourhood

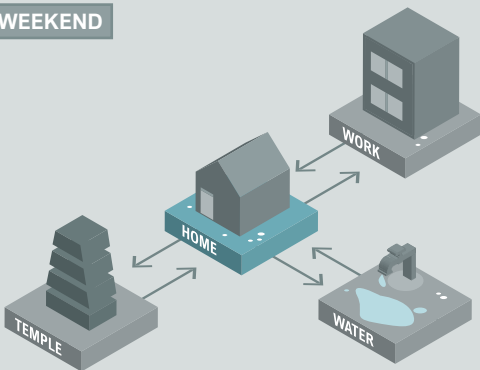
## WEEKDAY



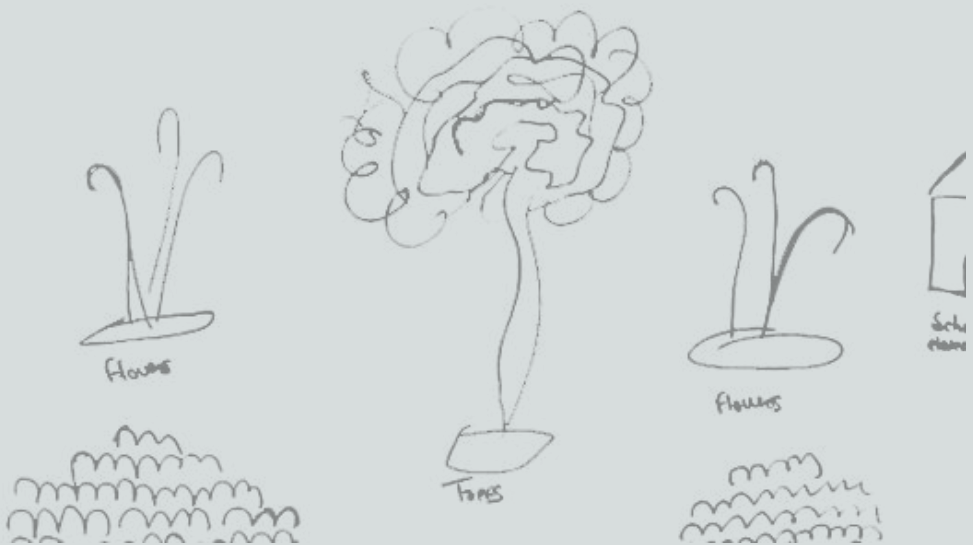
## SPECIAL DAY



## WEEKEND



What would you like to see in your neighbourhood?





## PROFILE

### STORY STRING #9

Name

**SONIKA SHEKAR**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Deccan, Wadarwadi for 12 years

Children under her care

Two children, Girl who is 6 years and a boy of 3 years

What does she do?

Sonika is employed as an office cleaner

What does s/he like about the neighbourhood?

Sonika likes that the place she goes to work is close by, and the area has a nice temple for her to visit with the family. With the market within walking distance and the agnawadi where her children go, it is a neighbourhood she like. She also adds that the people around her are nice.

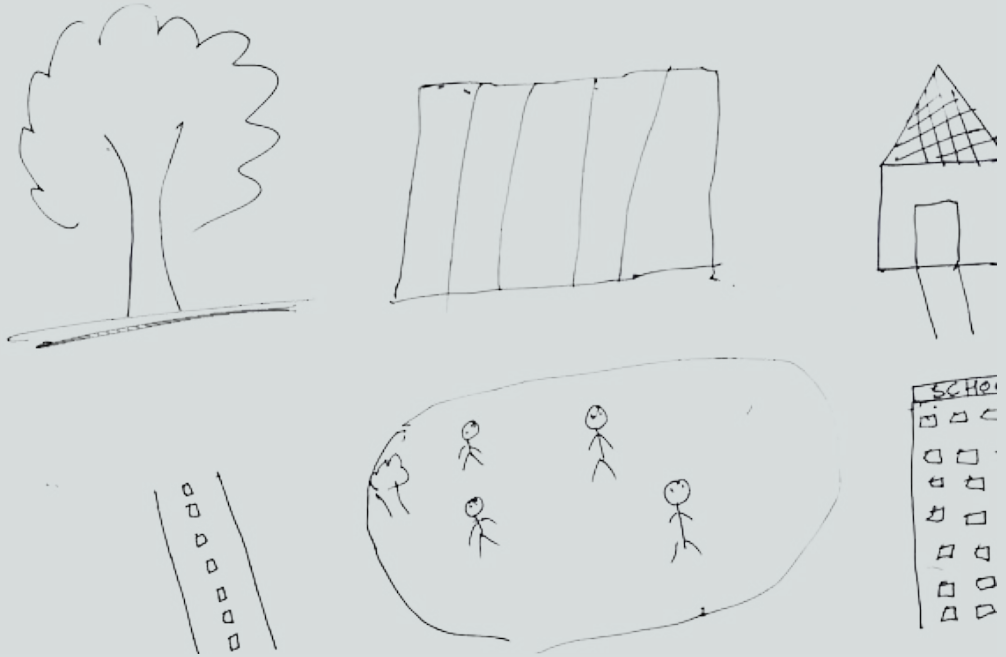
How do they and the children under their care use public spaces like parks, streets etc?

Like a lot of people in the neighbourhood, her children also play on the street though there is a lot of traffic and a history of accidents on the streets. The children she says, she would prefer if they played in front of the house so that people (her family) can keep an eye on them. Most of the days the children also play in an open area next to her house, as she goes about doing her various activities.

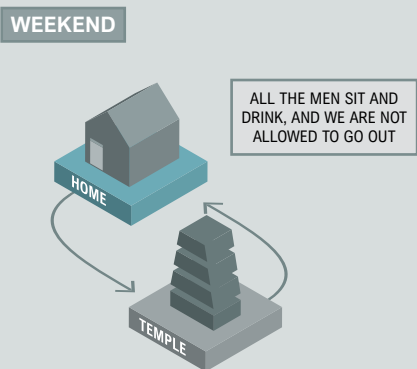
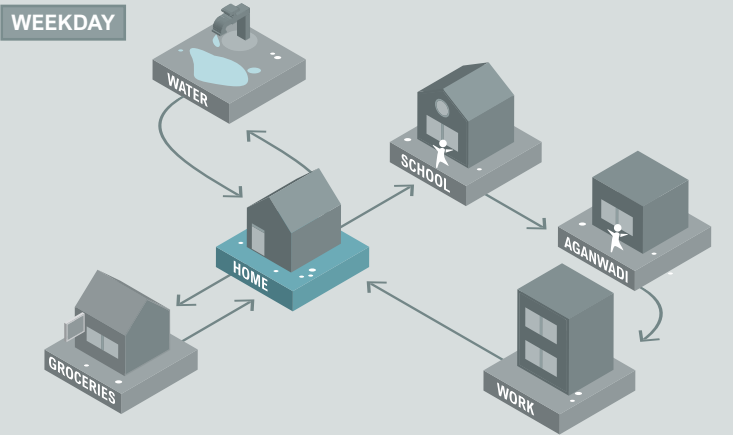
What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

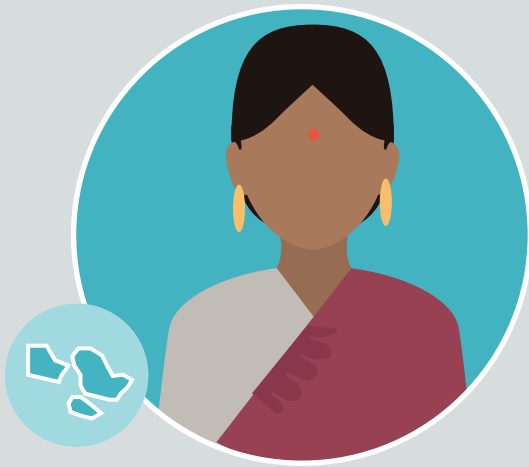
What she would really like is that the area has more parks. As a number of children play on the streets, she wishes for safer streets and spaces in front of their houses to be kept clean.

What would you like to see in your neighbourhood?



Typical mobility around your neighbourhood





PROFILE

STORY STRING #10

Name

**GUDDI SHANKAR**

Lives in

Pune, India

Neighbourhood and for how long living there

Deccan, Maruti Mandir for 8 years

Children under her care

They live in a big joint family, and she looks after her daughters (4 years and 2 years) and her nieces (5 years and 3 years)

What does she do?

Home maker

What does she like about the neighbourhood?

What she likes about her neighbourhood is that a number of her relatives live close by. Guddi says that the level of community trust is high as there are number of families close by. The temples in the neighbourhood are also nice and places of peace.

Their neighbourhoods: likes and dislikes

The children that she looks after don't play on the street too much. They have an empty plot of land close to their house, where the children go and play or in front of their house. Between her, her mother-in-law and sister-in-law they always have someone keeping an eye on the girls.

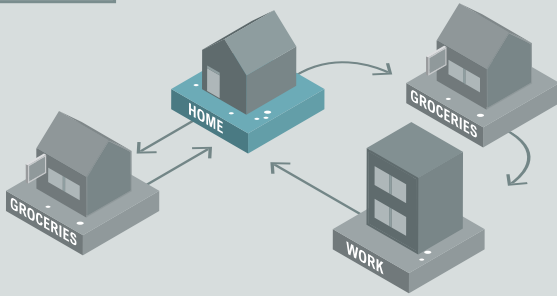
What would you like to change about the neighbourhood?

The children aren't allowed to play on the street due to traffic she says. She wishes there were better traffic measures and safe places for children to play. She also thinks that the cleanliness of the neighbourhood can be improved.

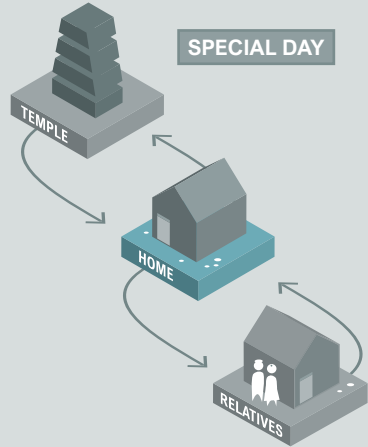


# Typical mobility around your neighbourhood

## WEEKDAY



## SPECIAL DAY



## WEEKEND



WE DON'T GO ANYWHERE. MOST OF THE MEN IN THE COLONY DRINK, AND WE STAY AT HOME.

# What would you like to see in your neighbourhood?



Tree plantation



Dust bin fu



School near home



Active use of public space in Pune (India). Photo by authors





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TECHNOLOGY

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