



Breathing with Walls Breathing with Trees

Children's Exposure to Toxics

UNCRC Day of General Discussion, Geneva

September 23, 2016

Ritu

Khichripur, My Neighborhood



- Settlement of carpenters, sweepers, cleaner, autorickshaw drivers, mechanics, etc.

Changes in Khichripur:

- Pond turned into a garbage dump on which people have built houses
- Park broken down to construct metro station
- Increasing traffic on the main road of the colony

Around Khichripur, in the City



- Close to national highway
- Vehicles whizzing past on the road
- High-rise buildings
- Shining malls
- Construction of metro station
- Ghazipur landfill



Story - The Construction Goes On



- Classrooms are being built when the school is running
- Trees cut down, no shade to play
- Constant dust
- Children have headaches, find it difficult to breathe



Going to School

- Walking by foot, going by rickshaws, autos etc.
- Dust hits children directly
- Long, tiring journeys for some
- Children feel sick, get ill
- Studies suffer, less play



Our Homes

- Homes built on 20-25 square yards
- Small rooms, no windows
- Breaths hit the walls
- Inhaling smoke from chulhas
- Infections spread fast in families



Our Localities

- Foul smell from open drains, dirty toilets and garbage dumps
- Dispensary in neighborhood full of children
- Children miss school
- Children play in risky spaces



Our Work Spaces



- Children engaged in works such as shoe-making, machine repair, rag-picking, street vending, etc.
- Contact with fibers, solutions, chemicals, smoke, dust during work
- Breathing problems, asthma, tuberculosis
- Studies suffer, dropping out from school
- Extremely risky play

Exploring Air Pollution and its Impact on Children



- Observing pollution in spaces of everyday life
- In-depth conversations with children and their families
- Writing stories, discussion
- “Short of Breath” - a collection of our stories



Short of Breath

Narratives by children on growing up with polluted air

Community Dialogues



- Sharing the outcomes of our explorations with the community
- Exhibitions, meetings
- Conversations with different publics - their experiences of air pollution and their ideas for change



Collective Deliberations

- Meetings with collectives from other neighborhoods of Delhi
- Understanding air pollution - causes, effects, possible actions



Our Right to Our City



**Children's Right
Clean Air
Healthy Environment**

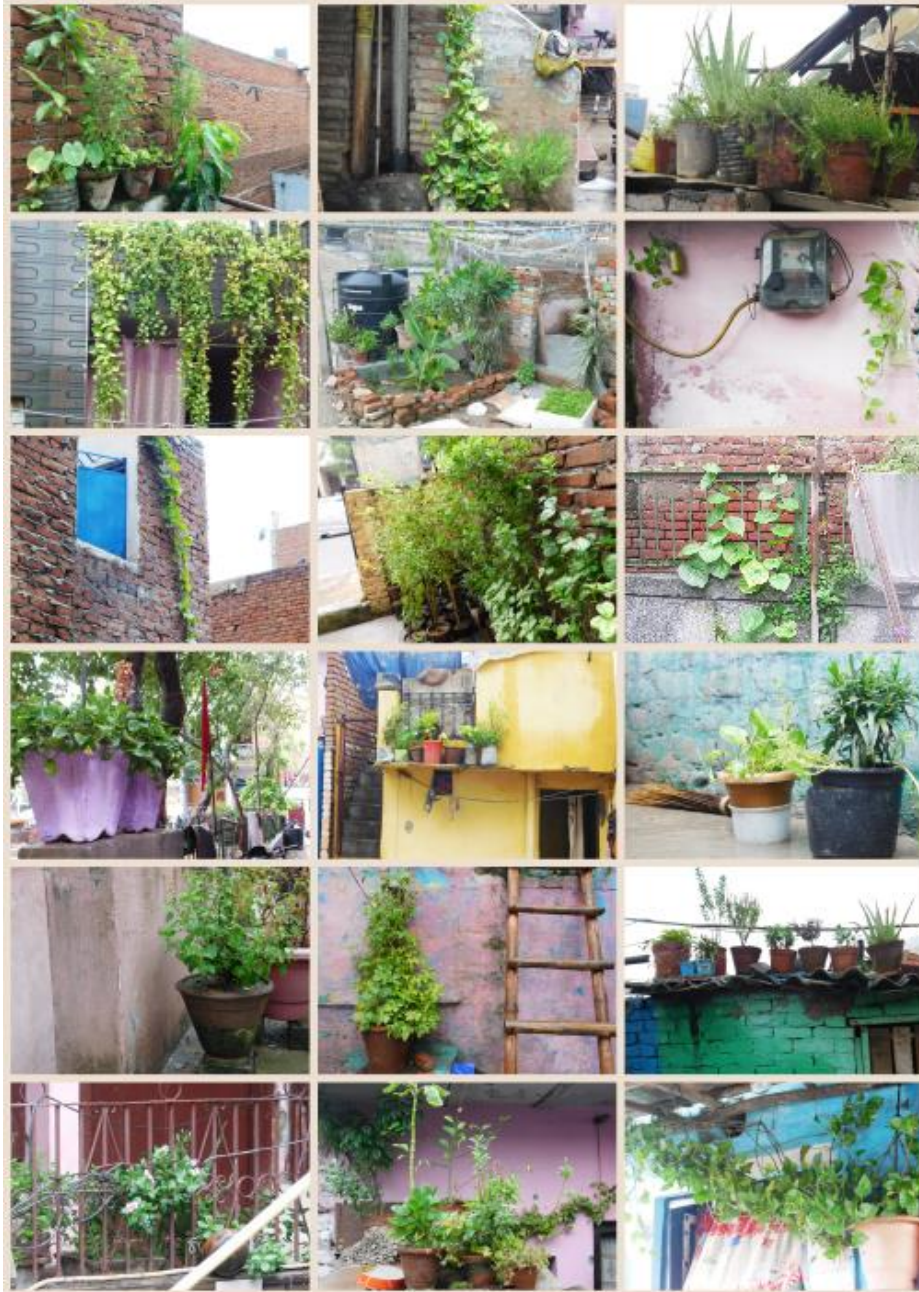
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- Windows on both sides in our homes
- Being allowed to plant trees outside our homes, in streets, next to roads, in parks
- Grass and fruit trees in the parks
- Daily picking up of garbage, cleaning of drains and toilets
- Functional and well-equipped dispensaries
- Equal importance to classrooms and grounds in school, construction while schools are closed
- Trees on the roads of the city - roads are not just for vehicles and hoardings
- From *breathing with walls* to *breathing with trees*



**Environment for today
and a long tomorrow**

آب و ہوا آج کے لئے
آب و ہوا کل کے لئے

**آبوهوا آج کے लिए
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