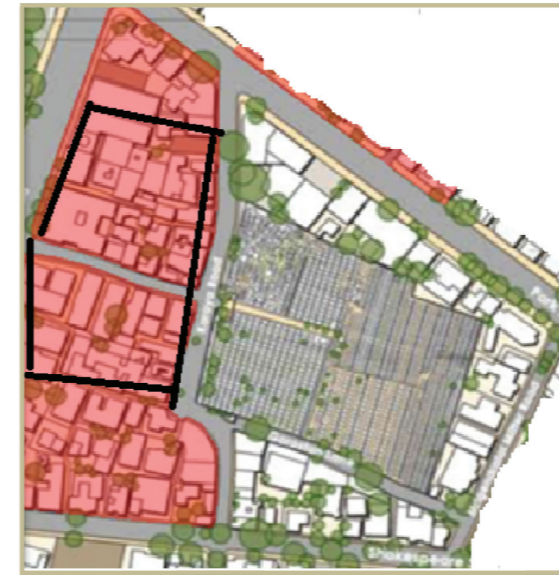


Children and status of their participation in project



Social Worker plays with the Community Children



Project Active Area

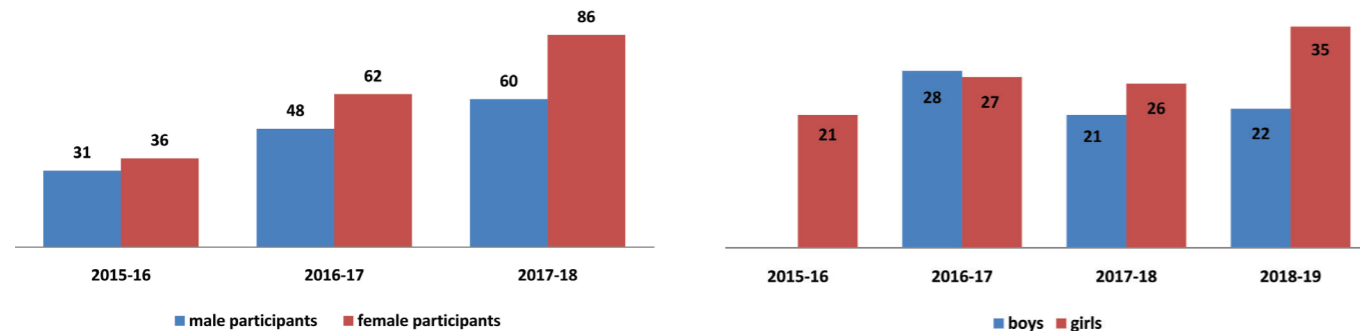


THE KOLKATA SCOTTISH HERITAGE TRUST

Community-led Urban Regeneration Programme, Scottish Cemetery, Kolkata, 2018-2019

possession, regular provision of basic civic amenities (such as a reliable water supply), and cleaning and amenity improvement.

The response of KMC - following continuous advocacy from the project participants - is now very positive. The inclusion of an area adjacent to the cemetery under the beautification program of Park and Square Division of KMC is hugely significant. The encroachment issues (on pavements) and multiple car-repair businesses run from the roadside around the cemetery, are being monitored by the Kolkata Police. In response to our requests, the Benia Pukur Police station has increased the frequency of its patrols by the officers and sergeants. The police are also making routine arrests of drug dealers and addicts apprehended within the cemetery. This is a common problem in Kolkata.



Active Participants in Community Programme

Participation of Community Children in Drawing Class

(All surveys and studies by Banipur Sahayog)

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Project overview and Mid-term Survey Results on Demography, Population Density and Overcrowding in Project Area

The initiative for community led urban regeneration around the Scottish Cemetery, which is led by the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust (KSHT), has been running continuously for five years. There is increasing evidence that the programme is making good progress and is responsible for an overall improvement in the livability of the area. Within the community, the cemetery site is becoming recognized and utilized as the primary civic space, and a source of pride for local people. Whereas the site was once a derelict wasteland, now children pursue a wide range of activities here, to enhance their lives, and women are being empowered to fulfil their ambitions for themselves and their families, particularly by establishing micro-businesses.

There is no doubt that the Scottish Cemetery Project is providing a green lung for a densely packed district of Kolkata, and is directly benefitting the lives of over 3,000 people living around its perimeter. Furthermore the project is enabling community leaders to communicate directly with the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, thereby releasing for the first time, significant investment in public infrastructure.

Strategically the project is working intensively with its four primary stakeholders; children, women, men and youth of the area and the government institutions (KMC and Kolkata Police). Inevitably the requirements and responses are different for each stakeholder group, and these may be broken down into three categories:

- 1) Residents
- 2) People engaged in economic activity
- 3) Service providers (KMC, police, etc.)

The total population count (for an area lying within the cross section of Park Street, AJC Bose Road, Theatre Road and Mrigendra Lal Ray road) is approximately 3,000 people. Of this population cohort, 2,287 are residents living in 278 families. In the project active area, a total of 144 properties with street frontage were identified: of these 27 are inhabited as dwellings, occupied by 217 families.

Although earlier surveys commissioned by KSHT have established that the surrounding residential areas are very overcrowded with high levels of deprivation, the most recent survey has found that 53% of all families exist below the official poverty line (BPL). Indeed many of these migrant families are living in a single room within a slum-like residential arrangement. Of the 115 families included in this category, 18 frequently move from one place to another in Kolkata (or return to their State of origin). These are the principal target beneficiaries for Phase I of the Urban Regeneration Project.

Presently 75 children from these 115 families within the 6-14 years age range are participating in the project. A further 41 children may be included in the project in the future. It is unfortunate that owing to the irregularity of attendance experienced by several children in this group, the project could not include them in regular

educational activities such as drawing or remedial classes.

Methodology of Survey

Undertaken in December 2018 to map the trend of development and perception of stake-holders.

- Below Poverty Line (BPL) families surveyed in the area
- Close ended survey schedule (questionnaire) administered to collect data.
- Family considered as unit of survey where each questionnaire is administered.
- A total of 115 families were the target for the survey. But 18 were either locked or refused to participate in the survey. Each closed house was visited three times.
- Data were collected from 97 families (528 persons), who willingly participated in the survey.

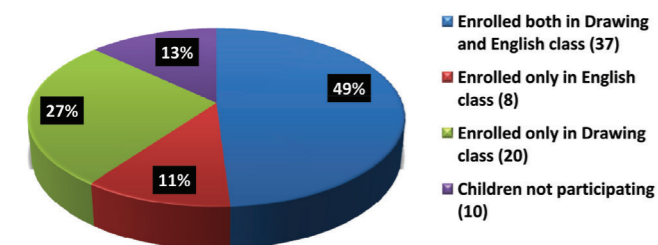
Survey findings

About the community

- Second or third generation in-country (mostly from Bihar state) migrant family having regular contact with district of origin
- Members residing in a family: Maximum number 12, Minimum: 1, Mean: 5.3, Mode: 7
- Family includes married couple and younger children. In most of the cases, older children are either staying in or continuously moving to district of origin.
- Districts of origin are mainly in Bihar such as Baishali, Bihar sarif, Darbhanga, Dhanbad, Nalanda, Nawada, Siwan, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur
- 89% residents are Muslim. The remainder are Christians and Hindu

Economic status:

- 10% families are in debt. There are different causes of indebtedness such as continuing medical treatment or starting a small business
- None of the families have access to any protective schemes organized by Government of India such as MGNREGA, RSBY/Swasthasathi, IAY, Antarday/AnapurnaYojana
- None of the families are involved in any government-led skill development training
- All are eligible to enroll in the Government Protective Scheme or government-led skill development initiatives
- Concentration of working-age group is high as compared with children, very similar to any migrant community



Children participation within age range of 6 to 14 years



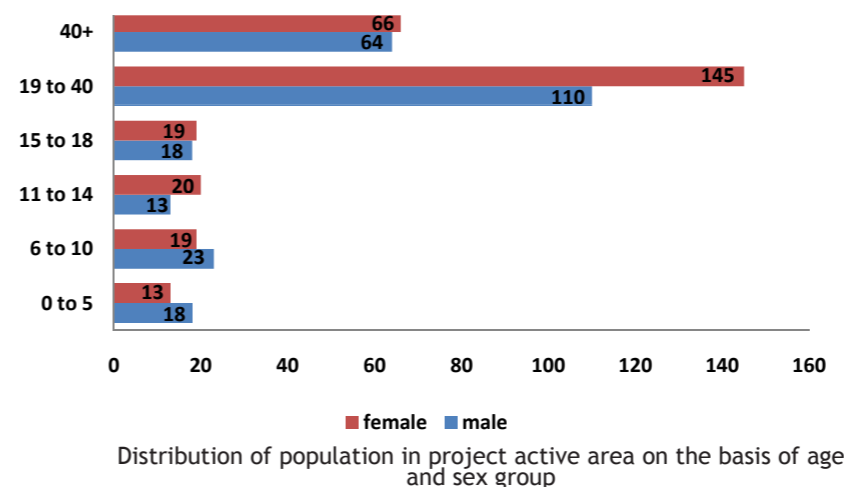
Skill training for women

who leave their children or other older family members in districts of their origin

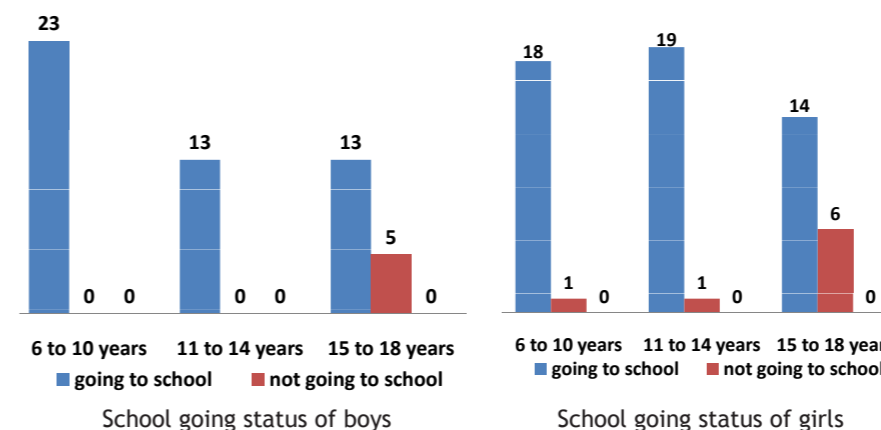
- There are 75 children aged 6 to 14 years, forming our core group. There are a further 37 youths aged 15 to 18. This cohort of adolescents is a target group for skills building and future entrepreneurship. Although they are not included in the program presently, many have expressed an interest in participating.

Activities with Children (Boys and Girls: Within age range of 6 to 14 years)

- Saturdays Value Education: drawing & craft classes, once a week
- Games & library, once a week
- English coaching, once a week
- Mathematics coaching (as requested by students)
- Exposure visit - e.g. participation in West Bengal *Pot-Chitra* workshops - (occasional activity)
- Creative workshop - e.g. story with illustrative drawings, wall magazine/story card, craft product etc - (occasional activity)
- Important Days observation (World Heritage Day, Independence Day, Teacher's day, Ramzan Id and Christmas)
- External agency like Indian Medical Association has organized medical camps for children.

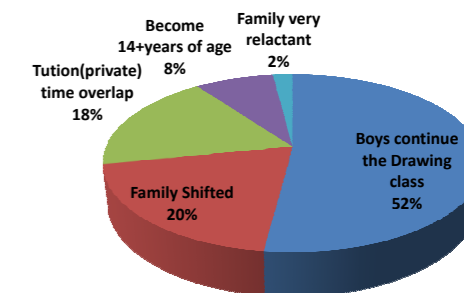


Distribution of population in project active area on the basis of age and sex group

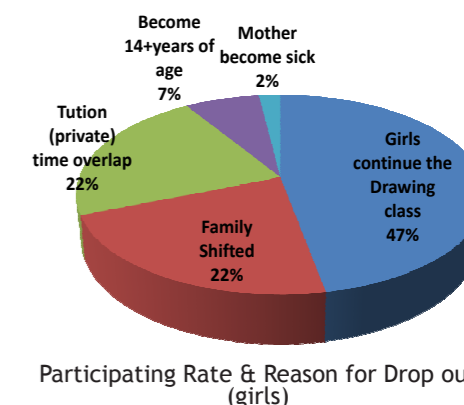


School going status of boys

School going status of girls



Participating Rate & Reason for Drop out(boys)



Participating Rate & Reason for Drop out (girls)

- A renowned dance-therapist is conducting Dance Movement Therapy classes for children and women members of the project

Activities with Women (above age 18)

- Awareness campaign on environment and health issues
- Group meetings
- Participation in events organized at the cemetery or by project
- Skills Training - e.g. *mehendi* decoration
- This year, group meetings were organized with the Women's Group to discuss several issues, such as: children's education, self-protection and abuse, regularity of local services of KMC and Police, waste disposal etc.

Activities with Men (above age 18)

- Male members are the supporting group for the project. They act as a pressure group to encourage the convergence and delivery of services in the vicinity of the cemetery (e.g. irregularity of cleaning services by KMC etc.) and to prevent the misuse of the cemetery by drug abusers or other miscreants
- In 2018-19, the project has identified ten youth members willing to participate in skills training sessions (car driving course). This youth group has submitted all necessary documents required for a driving licence. The training classes are being organized in association with Topsis Toyota.

Survey of adolescents (age 15-18)

- There is growing evidence that the project activities are making a positive impact on the lives of the girls. Typically they feel safer and more resilient. They are keen to be involved in marketing items produced by the Women's Group, online.
- The boys are comparatively reluctant to engage, although they are well informed about the project. They feel the project is benefitting only younger children and women of the area. This group does not have a clear vision of its future. Counselling services may be required for both girls and boys.

Networking with Government agencies

Service convergence is one of the primary objectives of the project. The project has identified Kolkata Municipal Corporation and the Local Police Station as the primary service providers to address the needs of the people living in the vicinity of the cemetery. Such services include the maintenance of law and order, control of illegal