

Hands Together. Nature-Based Placemaking in an Urban Poor Resettlement Colony

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Abstract

Urbanisation practices in the Global South typically push the urban poor to the margins, making way for built infrastructure. In India, this involves relocating informal settlements to Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) colonies, which often suffer from poor design and unjust resettlement processes (Burte and Kamath, 2023). These ‘formal’ habitat solutions have paradoxically been shown to compromise liveability, and engender worsening physical and mental health, particularly amongst children and young people (Doctors For You, 2018; Parmar et al., 2022; YUVA, 2019). A notable example is the Lallubhai Compound in the M-East ward, Mumbai, an R&R colony where heat islands are experienced due to poor design and ventilation (YUVA, 2023).

In this context, public spaces are important for respite, coping and recovery. The designated public spaces within Lallubhai Compound were concretised; however, this led to waterlogging, with use ranging from informal waste disposal to *addas* (hindi slang for common gathering points) for drugs and alcohol. This paper discusses how a non-profit, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA), collaborated on reclaiming an abandoned public space in Lallubhai Compound through a climate justice lens. The approach adopted cut across existing power imbalances, and included the municipality, youth and children’s collectives, women’s groups, experts and donors, resulting in a nature-based solution that firmly intersects with community placemaking.

Children and young people worked with adults to spread awareness, co-design the public space and adopted scientific greening to successfully create a safe, green haven, enabling social cohesion amongst residents. The community-led initiative demonstrates a nature-based micro transformation toward climate-just adaptations in urban poor communities that can be upscaled. Amid growing scholarship on sustainable adaptations in informal settlements and with the urban poor, this paper frames possibilities for overcoming social and climate vulnerabilities (Garschagen et al., 2024) while offering pathways for systemic change toward climate-just cities.

Keywords: rehabilitation and resettlement colony, nature-based solutions, urban poor climate adaptation, community-led action, climate justice

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I. Introduction

Infrastructure projects in urban South Asia are accompanied by violence and displacement of urban poor populations to the margins of cities (Burte and Kamath, 2023). Project-affected people are often rehoused in Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) colonies, located far away from their original residences with an altered housing typology (ibid.). The housing typologies are designed to maximise housing units and accommodate high densities, leading to significant gaps in basic standards of liveability (Ghosh, Hazra and Samling, 2015). In the context of Indian cities like Mumbai, there are a separate set of building by-laws for R&R housing, which compromises in every aspect of liveability compared to those for general 'residential buildings'¹. This discrepancy, particularly evident in the separate design guidelines for Mumbai's R&R colonies, leads to tall buildings with insufficient buffers, limited public open spaces, and smaller housing units for larger families (Doctors For You, 2018). The study by 'Doctors For You' further highlights the absence of an upper limit for building density and height, as well as a 50 percent reduction in setbacks from plot edges (ibid.).

Multiple R&R colonies have been built over the years under different projects by authorities in the city of Mumbai, India. The majority of these are concentrated in the 'M-East' ward. Situated along the eastern edge, among Greater Mumbai's 24 administrative wards, M-East ward consistently ranks lowest across various socio-economic, infrastructure, and physical access parameters, making it socially vulnerable (Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, 2010; Climate & Air Pollution Risks and Vulnerability Assessment, 2022). M-East ward is inhabited by some of the most marginalised populations in the city, with least access to basic amenities, water supply, education, sanitation and transportation amongst others (Climate & Air Pollution Risks and Vulnerability Assessment, 2022).

An injustice of the climate crisis is that the socioeconomically marginalised contribute minimally to emissions, yet are forced to bear the brunt of climate change impacts (Islam and Winkel, 2017). In addition to being the most socially vulnerable ward, M-East ward stands out as the most climate-vulnerable ward, with 40,08 percent of its population affected by urban heat risks (MCAP, 2022). For instance, through YUVA's Climate Hazard Mapping initiative, high Land Surface Temperatures of 38.3°C in March 2022 were documented in the neighbourhoods of R&R settlements using GIS (YUVA, 2023). The Air Quality Index was observed to be in the range of 'unhealthy', i.e. 151 to 200 during November 2021 (ibid.).

In this paper, the Lallubhai Compound case study illustrates the social and climate vulnerabilities of R&R colonies, focusing on the role of people's participation in climate adaptations. It details YUVA's participatory approach, including highlighting key priorities and decision-making to address community needs. The study combines qualitative methods with quantitative assessments of social and climatic parameters to support Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and placemaking strategies. The paper further explores the broader implications for governance, urban planning, and climate justice while critiquing existing policies and advocating for more inclusive approaches. It proposes scaling up successful micro-level interventions to influence macro-level climate strategies, emphasising the dire need of amplifying marginalised voices for climate just cities.

1. Residential building means a building in which sleeping accommodation is provided for normal residential purposes, with or without cooking or dining facilities, and includes one or more family dwellings, lodging or rooming houses, hostels, dormitories, apartment houses, flats, and private garages of such buildings (DCPR-2034, 2018). Note: This does not include R&R housing in the definition.

2. Social and climate vulnerabilities in Lallubhai Compound R&R colony

'Lallubhai Compound' located in M-East ward of Mumbai, is an R&R colony comprising 65 buildings, colloquially referred to as 'vertical slums', accommodating over 100,000 residents (Jadhav, 2015). These residents were relocated from various parts of the city, such as P. D' Mello Road, Sion, Koliwada, Matunga, Parel, among others, due to development projects, notably the Mumbai Urban Transport Project 2002 (YUVA, 2019). Since its establishment, poor design has engendered social vulnerabilities. For instance, the lack of operational lifts in five to seven-storey buildings presents difficulties for the elderly, disabled individuals, the sick, and children. Densely-packed structures with a mere three metre distance between buildings not only ignore fire and safety regulations, but poor ventilation and lack of natural light add to health concerns. Dimly-lit corridors further pose safety risks especially for children. Water scarcity and insufficient formal waste management exacerbate hygiene and sanitation issues. Author Shantha, in a critical analysis, noted an exceptionally high incidence of tuberculosis in the area and described the buildings as "designed for death" (Pardeshi et al., 2020; Parekh, 2023; Shantha, 2018).



Figure 1. Lallubhai Compound R&R colony, Image credits:Yuva

Houses in Lallubhai Compound measure 225 sq. ft. and comprise essential rooms but offer little space for the families, which range in size from 5 to 15 members. Consequently, children and young people have no area for play, study, or privacy. They are vulnerable to abuse and often unable to express themselves fully. Cramped living conditions contribute to early exposure of children to drugs and alcohol at home. Scarcity of space both at home and within the community creates emotional and psychological challenges for children, exacerbating existing socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Existing public open areas within the colony are almost entirely concretised and devoid of greenery, exacerbating climate vulnerabilities stemming from high temperatures and poor

cooling. The heat in outdoor open spaces discourages residents from using these spaces. On the other hand, they become *addas*² for drug and alcohol users, further compromising the safety of children and young people. In a young resident's words, "All the drug users congregate around here and don't let us play. It's especially unsafe for girls. If this ground becomes cleaner, it'll be really good for us." Furthermore, the lack of adequate waste collection systems and disposal infrastructure results in residents dumping waste in open spaces. Accumulating garbage in open spaces poses significant health and safety hazards to children, young people, and the larger community. Residents are clear on the need for local government intervention to address the critical issue of waste management, stressing that children bear the brunt of this unsafe environment (YUVA, 2018b).

24 percent of children in Lallubhai Compound reported that they do not play, due to lack of play spaces and because they are not allowed to play for various reasons (YUVA, 2019). Those who play do so at home or in the corridors of buildings (YUVA, 2019; Parekh, 2023). When children articulated their ideal spaces for recreation in the colony, 26.1 per cent mentioned that they aspire for a garden (park) in the current R&R colony, followed by a 25.2 per cent who aspire for a ground for games (ibid.). To address these pressing issues, the next section will explore the initiative facilitated by YUVA and a broad range of stakeholders.

3. Hands Together: A collaborative approach

This section will outline the strategies and insights derived from an initiative led by YUVA, in partnership with various stakeholders, focusing on nature-based placemaking in Lallubhai Compound.

3.1 About YUVA and the children's collective BASS

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit based in India that works with the marginalised to empower them and enable their access to rights. The organisation's work integrates a climate justice lens. YUVA attempts to understand the impacts, losses, and coping strategies related to climate change from the perspective of the urban poor. By leveraging their experiences, YUVA facilitates the development of local adaptations, enhances people's participation, and calls for inclusive policy and practice. In the early 2000s, YUVA played a crucial role in enabling and supporting the Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sangathan (BASS)³, a collective focused on upholding children's rights in Lallubhai Compound and other areas of Mumbai city (Officialyuva, 2023b). Since then, BASS has evolved into a child-led platform for marginalised young urban leaders to gain knowledge, express themselves and seek change. Participation in this collective helps children develop a stronger voice and agency in fighting for their rights and transforming their lives (Nuggehalli et al., 2024). Currently the BASS collective is active within several urban poor communities across Mumbai, focusing on children's development and protection through initiatives led by children as protagonists and agents of change (YUVA, 2018a).

For instance, in Lallubhai Compound, BASS has conducted numerous campaigns on child protection, development and the reclaiming of public spaces (Officialyuva, 2019). Through street plays, BASS groups have raised awareness and built networks with cooperative

2. Hindi slang for common gathering points

3. The Hindi words 'Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sangathan' loosely translate into 'a collective on the struggle for children's rights'

society members, advocating for mobile resource centres for children unable to attend existing schooling facilities, as well as the establishment of libraries and recreational spaces within buildings (Officialyuva, 2022). They have also engaged with the police and civic authorities to advance dialogue on housing and demand improvements in living conditions. Their advocacy for clean and safe child-friendly communities has been crucial; similarly their involvement has been vital in advocating for ward-level Child Protection Committees (CPCs) (Yuvaonline, 2021). The next section outlines the methodology, which leveraged YUVA's and BASS collectives' previous experience and engagement in Lallubhai Compound to bring the community together.

3.2 Methodology

As an action initiative, the nature-based placemaking case detailed in this paper proceeded through a combination of methods—research, stakeholder dialogue and decision making, collaboration with multiple agencies, and direct action. YUVA interfaced directly with resident communities as well as with several agencies including the World Resources Institute (WRI)⁴the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)⁵, and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)⁶. Hence, the process grew as a close partnership between community residents and a broader network of committed stakeholders.

First, YUVA adopted qualitative methods involving participatory co-design workshops with stakeholders including BASS, youth, women groups, and residents groups to identify community needs and priorities. Through teamwork, songs, and play, active participation was encouraged, and critical local issues were identified through deliberative dialogues. Workshops with women enabled a safe space to discuss neighbourhood biodiversity and climate, and their design ideas emphasised the need for effective placemaking. Sessions on housing society bylaws and the City Land-Use Plans facilitated discussions on needs and gaps in spaces for participatory decision making about their houses and neighbourhoods. These processes were driven by the principle of mainstreaming power and justice into conversations about the climate, the environment and into decision making on solutions and plans. A positive output was participation from most impacted groups beyond traditional power brokers and leaders in the community. These processes took nearly 12 months, and hence lent relevance to the entire initiative, seeding ownership among participants that lasted well beyond the workshops and discussions.

Alongside community engagement, quantitative methods were underway. These included pre- and post-plantation assessments to monitor environmental parameters like soil health, tree health, waste management, water management and biodiversity survey. Specifically, ecological specialists conducted site assessments and scientifically documented local flora and fauna, providing guidance on selecting and planting native species through direct sessions with the community members. Additionally, a Biodiversity Survey, conducted with the assistance of experts⁷, collected data to support the implementation of greening solutions. Waste management and water management surveys were facilitated

4. This initiative is a part of the 'Regreening vulnerable neighbourhoods' project in collaboration with Yuva, WRI, BMC and MMRDA. It undertakes the transformation of neglected community spaces in Mumbai's ward to augment green cover and enhance accessibility for women and children.

5. MMRDA is a parastatal agency of the government of Maharashtra designated as the special planning authority for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) 2002. The MUTP Project included the R&R of affected communities, including the establishment of Lallubhai compound as one such R&R colony.

6. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is the governing civic body of Mumbai.

7. The experts from Ladybird environmental consulting LLP conducted the survey

by YUVA and engaged residents to assess existing gaps in these areas. A detailed water survey involved 1,776 people from eight buildings, gathering extensive information on water usage, availability, and timing. Findings from the surveys reinforced the decision to prioritise Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) by providing crucial data that highlighted the community's needs and climatic conditions. Additionally, the diverse interactions were novel for the residents, and the multi-stakeholder dialogues effectively secured ongoing community investment and collaboration throughout the action phase.

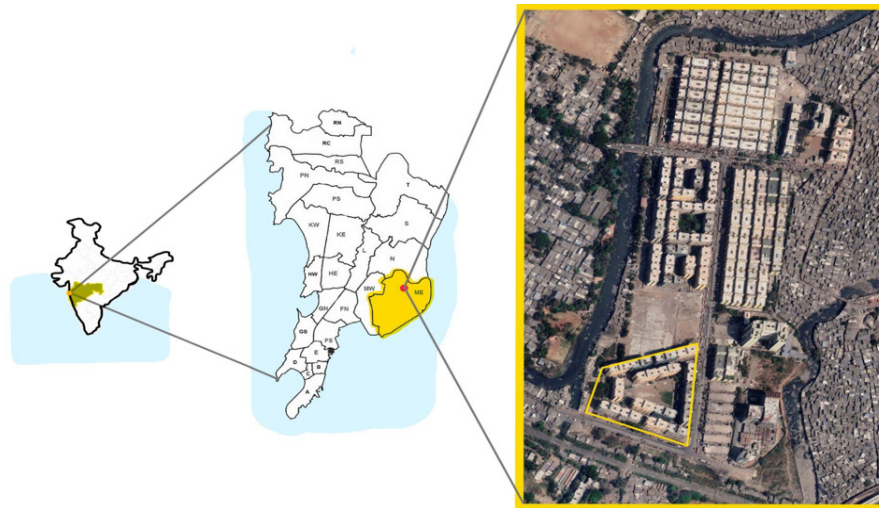


Figure 2. Location map of intervention sites, Image credits: Yuva

A key shared outcome of the ecological assessments and co-design processes was the decision to enhance the existing public open space located at the buffer zone of the Hiranandani Building R&R colony in Lallubhai Compound. Once site selection was done in collaboration and with agreement and excitement of all stakeholders, a detailed action plan was developed together. The two interlinked strategies that were taken up as next steps in the action intervention were (i) Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for ecologically sound greening and (ii) Placemaking for encouraging social cohesion and sustaining stewardship. The complementarity and interplay between both strategies and impacts of investing in the process is outlined in the following section.

4. Unfolding Nature-Based placemaking

IPCC's report on 'Cities, Settlement and Key Infrastructure' argues for Nature-Based Solutions as important ecological infrastructure toward climate change adaptation in cities (Dodman et al, 2022). NBS encompass strategies aimed at safeguarding, sustainably managing, and restoring natural or altered ecosystems, effectively addressing societal challenges while providing benefits for human well-being and biodiversity simultaneously (ibid.).

In the public space site in Lallubhai Compound a scientific plantation plan was devised for NBS, accompanied by community engagement, especially with children and young people. A naturalist expert worked with the young people to identify suitable species for plantation, considering factors such as distance, clustering, and tree behaviour. In

collaboration with the community members, soil health parameters such as pH levels, temperature and humidity were monitored. YUVA anchored cross learning between the community and relevant experts on the environment, biodiversity, and waste management. The residents appreciated sessions on tree plantation, post-plantation care, post-monsoon care, and workshops on understanding trees and their ecosystems. Local knowledge revealed the presence of large numbers of rats and rat burrows in the area, and hence discussions were held on how to reduce damage from their digging to the young roots. This collaborative ecosystem-based approach aimed to understand greening beyond trees alone and focused on understanding interdependent fauna, such as birds and insects.



Figure 3. Plantation of native tree saplings by youth and children at Lallubhai Compound, Image credits: Yuva

Plantation activities were carried out by children, young people, and adults from the R&R colony. Young people planned for and took leadership in overseeing plant care, watering, weeding and cleaning. Upon completion of the plantation, placemaking strategies were devised to enable stewardship of the newly greened space. Children and young people decided to paint the walls surrounding the space with themes on environmental conservation and education. One wall was entirely reserved for paintings from the youngest residents—‘Pokemons’ and ‘Doraemons’ dominate this wall—lending the entire space a special kind of belonging. Since initial discussions revealed a lack of space for children to study in their homes, young people decided to use the space for children to gather and study together. YUVA helped to facilitate this as an open-air mobile Child Resource Centre, and ensured it developed as an inclusive and generative space (Latagajanan, 2019). The ownership and stewardship displayed by young people and local residents was instrumental in ensuring the placemaking strategies found root and sustained.

After several months elapsed, semi-structured surveys and interviews were conducted to assess waste management, tree health along with behavioural changes and community

perceptions towards the newly developed green space. These provided insights into the social, environmental, and health impacts of the nature-based placemaking intervention. Detailed documentation conducted post-intervention indicated improvements in plant health. The space has become a micro habitat for various bird and insect species too, attracting several local species. A significant shift in the use of the area was noted, with a higher presence of children during the mornings and evenings, and adults and elderly individuals resting in the open space during evenings and late afternoons. The improved social cohesion has over time, resulted in a decrease in the utilisation of the space for drug abuse, vandalism and informal waste disposal.

The Lallubhai Compound model of localised, collaborative nature-based placemaking gained wider public attention, indicating scalable strategies for urban resilience through a climate justice lens in other similar contexts (Arora-Desai, 2023; Talpade and Maliwar, 2023).



Figure 4. Study session on the site conducted via Mobile Child Resource Centre Initiative. Image credits: Yuva

5. Implications for further city-level planning and placemaking

This section briefly highlights two key insights that the Lallubhai Compound case offers for other climate-justice informed resilience work in cities of India and beyond. The first is that urban planning is weak in adequately addressing needs of the urban poor—whether through traditional instruments like land-use plans or the newer city climate plans. Unpacking these gaps and finding entry points for ensuring a climate justice lens is an important area of future research, policy and action. A second insight is the effective strategy of impacting both social and climate vulnerabilities that play out in a public space, towards ensuring change that is nature-positive and stewarded by local communities.

6. Urban planning instruments and the missing urban poor narrative

For many cities in the Global South, a carefully planned relocation of settlements can serve as both a method of disaster risk reduction and a means of climate change adaptation (Ghosh, Hazra and Samling, 2015). Planners have long recognised the connection between a city's layout and public health. However, the presence of separate design policies for public versus private housing highlight the gaps in provision for the cities' most marginalised (YUVA, 2019; Doctors For You, 2018). The case of Lallubhai



Figure 5. The before and after of site conditions in Lallubhai Compound, Image credits: Yuva

Compound and other R&R colonies from Mumbai showcase how vulnerabilities of residents are further exacerbated through resettlement due to weak planning norms and poor design of the resettlement colony. If, as envisioned, vulnerabilities are to be reduced through resettlement of at-risk housing settlements, uniform regulations are needed for public housing along the lines of those for private housing (YUVA, 2019). Extending this argument, the crucial entry point for ensuring adaptation to climate change in R&R colonies is to improve the current planning norms and provide housing and colony design that does not further exacerbate, but rather alleviates the vulnerabilities of marginalised, urban poor communities (Joseph, 2024).

Compounding design challenges, relocation often involves bypassing the provision of basic and essential services by local government authorities to the urban poor communities. This is evident in the context of R&R colonies, where challenges concerning waste management, water supply, sanitation, and building services persist. This also applies to urban planning, particularly regarding the provision of adequate and appropriate recreational public spaces. To evidence this, several locally-led groups with the support of YUVA mapped vulnerable and unsafe spaces in Lallubhai Compound, while young people from other R&R colonies in Mumbai identified that officially recognised open spaces on the City Development Plan lie unused, vandalised and often unsafe for use (YUVA, 2019). Most of these public open spaces have been converted into informal dumping grounds due to the absence of formal waste management in the colonies (Parekh, 2023). This presents significant health hazards to children who frequent such open areas, leading to the prevalence of diseases like malaria, typhoid, and tuberculosis (ibid.).

To advocate for improvement in public spaces, residents' groups, along with YUVA, have participated in consultations with the BMC's Garden Department. Facilitated by YUVA, BASS groups from various areas of the city, along with other children's collectives, had previously submitted suggestions and objections to the Proposed Draft Development Plan for Mumbai 2014–2034 (YUVA, 2018b). Specifically, in M-East ward, the recommendations have focused on the provision of public open spaces to accommodate the growing population and the development of these spaces using Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) strategies. Further, the recommendations argued that allocation of new open spaces should adhere to the norms outlined in the National Building Code, India 2016, which mandates the provision of public services based on population. Overall, at the Mumbai city level, there is widespread recognition and discourse that planning norms should prioritise

the provision of open spaces and ensure inclusive access to these spaces throughout the city.

In March 2021, the Mumbai Climate Action Plan was released by the Municipal Corporation. While one of the first of its kind in India, the plan evidenced a weak understanding of and representation of the urban poor in proposed strategies and actions (Indorewala and Wagh, 2022). This lack of representation has led to gaps in addressing the specific needs, vulnerabilities, and aspirations of these communities and may further entrench inequitable distributions of the benefits and burdens of climate action. The plan is not equipped to address the unique challenges and needs of the urban poor, especially those who live in climate vulnerable locations like the R&R colonies. Authors Indorewala and Wagh highlight the fundamental limitations of the plan, which operates within an advocacy and project consultancy framework rather than being integrated into statutory planning; thus, lacking legal binding and do not hold the involved agencies accountable to the public (ibid.). Ongoing discussions on climate planning underscore the need for mainstreaming climate justice, which integrates the principles of social justice into all aspects of climate action, including city level plans and actions. These principles entail including the most marginalised voices, particularly children, young people, women and socially marginalised groups.

7. Contributing to a framework for sustainable urban adaptations

Globally, examples of climate adaptation in urban settings are limited, with those focused on climate-just adaptation for the urban poor being even rarer (Garschagen et al., 2024). Most adaptation strategies come from the Global North, which has distinct contexts and climate conditions compared to the Global South (Strazzante et al., 2021). Consequently, when these Northern adaptations are applied to cities in the Global South, they often fail to effectively address the region's specific climate challenges and socio-economic-cultural realities (ibid.). The complex, multi-layered issues prevalent in cities of the Global South include challenging and often precarious political, economic, and social conditions, severe poverty, inadequate basic services, and intensified climate impacts (United Nations Environment Programme, 2023).

Within urban areas, systemic challenges exist for marginalised urban poor communities, which are not homogenous. Located in ecologically vulnerable and socially least-served areas, these communities face compounded impacts from climate hazards, inadequate services, and environmental degradation, exacerbating socio-economic inequalities (Dodman et al., 2022). Further, intensifying climate impacts exacerbate these challenges and socio-economic marginalisation further isolates disadvantaged people, restricting their access to essential services (Glavovic et al, 2022). Many climate actions, particularly ostensibly pro-climate infrastructure further entrench these vulnerabilities (Dick et al., 2024).

Growing scholarship indicates that participatory planning initiatives at the micro level can synergise for scaling climate and social vulnerability adaptation at the city level (Mehta et al., 2021). The TAPESTRY project, which examines potential 'transformations' at the local level, also advocates for this collaborative approach amongst communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scientists, and supportive state agencies. Reclaiming and transforming public spaces is increasingly recognised as a crucial strategy for urban climate adaptation, particularly in the context of marginalised communities (Mohan and

Muraleedharan, 2022). The research highlighted by Mohan and Muraleedharan (2022) underscores the potential of community commons to serve as adaptive spaces for urban poor settlements and that “community commons” or shared spaces can provide vital environmental, social, and economic support (ibid).

Further the COVID-19 pandemic reinstated that the transformation of public spaces has emerged as a vital adaptation strategy for urban areas, particularly for marginalised communities (Chattopadhyay and Roy, 2022). The authors highlight that there is a growing emphasis on making them more inclusive, multifunctional, and equitable, addressing historical exclusions and better supporting vulnerable populations (ibid.). Within this context, the case of Lallubhai Compound serves as an important demonstration of how addressing both social and climate issues head on, with a climate-justice lens, enables actions that address climate and social vulnerabilities, while also affording sustained change.

8. Conclusion

Community-led nature-based placemaking initiatives like the case from Lallubhai Compound foreground the powerful impact of micro transformations at the grassroots level⁸. Collaborative efforts involving multiple stakeholders and innovative approaches to integrate NBS and placemaking have revitalised community public spaces, creating safer, cohesive and nature-positive open spaces. Young people from the community draw strength from localised forms of climate intervention that enable their collective action further while also inspiring a few to pursue their interests through careers in the climate space (Officialyuva, 2023a). The youth highlight the need to upscale these initiatives at the city level, through Development Plans and Climate Action Plans, where authorised municipal gardens and formal open spaces can adopt nature-based placemaking strategies to enable climate resilience and community stewardship.

The paper indicates systemic gaps and policy loopholes that exist for urban poor communities to participate in and ensure sustainable climate resilience and adaptation in cities (Glavovic et al., 2022). Expanding climate-justice informed urban adaptations requires increased financing, pro-poor policy reforms, and multi-stakeholder collaborations to prioritise the needs of marginalised communities (ibid.). Promoting processes that prioritise community voices, particularly those of children and young people, in decision making is essential for addressing the fundamental causes of social and climate vulnerabilities.

In Lallubhai Compound, micro-level transformation action is growing through similar NBS placemaking in other sites, as well as in educational institutions across different locations in Mumbai, facilitated by YUVA. These micro transformations are closely linked to macro level advocacy, where different stakeholders involved in the process engage with the state to push the needle on larger climate justice concerns. Children and young people have played a central role in these initiatives, ensuring adequate representation of issues, leading implementation efforts, and ensuring lasting impacts. With young people leading the charge in climate action, micro-to-macro-scale transformation can pave the way for climate just cities (Mehta et al., 2021).

In conclusion, integrating principles of justice into climate actions and amplifying

8. Yuva's initiatives in Lallubhai Compound have been supported by various organisations, including UNICEF, WRI India, and individual donors, among others. We acknowledge their technical and strategic contributions and value these long-term partnerships.

marginalised voices are essential steps toward creating more equitable and climate-resilient cities. The transformed public space in Lallubhai Compound illustrates the potential for scalable models of climate adaptation that enable communities to advocate for systemic change, offering a pathway toward climate just cities.

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