

Urban fishing villages in Mumbai

By

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Mumbai has long history of reclaiming land; initially it was done by British to connect seven islands but after independence process got hastened by both legal state and illegal not state actors. Currently in some areas of Mumbai like uptown elite Juhu area rate for land has reached to INR 1 lakh/sq ft. Benefits of this kind of urban development has not gone to its original inhabitants who have survived on the land and waters for their livelihood for generations. Kolis, Kunbis, east Indians are known to city as its earlier settlers. Fishing villages engulfed by the urbanised Mumbai city are their ancestral places of living and sources of livelihood. After the discussion with Rajesh Mangela who is fighting for space and livelihood for fishers of Juhu moragaon village it has become evident impacts of urbanised Mumbai on their land and livelihood are negative and situation is grim for improvement.

He has worked tirelessly to represent urban fishers concerns in 2008 in **CRZ consultations**, in 2012 in correction and model development of fishing village in **development plan** of Mumbai then in recent **Costal road** struggle. One has to look at different studies done on land reclamation in Mumbai which has impacted fisher's livelihood adversely. One has to study impact of land and ocean grabbing projects like coastal road, bandra worli sea link, upcoming water transport thus inhibiting fishers rights to go fishing in nearshore waters, simultaneously impact of pollution of city like waste management projects, plastic and other products used by citizens and accumulation of it inside and on the shore, nearby industries and city's sewage going in to the sea which has drastically impacted nearshore fishing of small fishers of Mumbai. Other than this there are regulations like CRZ 1991 and 2011, development plan process and mapping of fishing villages, housing policy of the state and DCRs and real estate politics in the city like Mumbai.

Some final thoughts are, studies available on development plan, mangelas's struggle against SRA scheme, reclamation, costal road or policies of state have not looked from fisheries point of view referring to tenure guidelines or SSF guidelines. Work by KVRI (architect college) professors happens to be from lenses of city planners and politics of urban space, study on marginalisation done by Rajiv Gandhi institute is looking from economics perspective even work by YUVA is from urban poor perspective. Existing body of literature certainly is not highlighting fisheries aspects and fishers rights over tenure on land and waters. Rjaesh Mangela is duelling with his job at postal office and struggle of saving his fishing village; he has acted only as resource person for all the studies but has not played a role in articulating it on paper. There are other koliwads in Mumbai like worli who have records of tenure rights given by British and others. Then there is case of Sion Koliwada which got demolished due to builder pressure and tenure rights given to fishers by Bombay improvement trust got violated. To make a strong case for tenure rights of fishers in urban fishing villages it is urgent need to document struggle of Juhu moragan and other fishing villages of Mumbai from fisheries perspective.

There are following studies available and movement documentation led by MMKS and Rajesh Mangela

Marginal aspects of fishing villages

1. 2013, Rakhee Bhattacharya, Economic Opportunities for the Marginalized Communities in India: Case Study for *Koli Fisherfolk* Community in Maharashtra, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary studies, Delhi (draft report, unpublished)

Reclamation and impact on fishers

2. 2010, MTSU, Report of the sanctioned development plan for backbay reclamation scheme blocks III to VII
3. 2012, S. Gandhi, D. Mukharjee, Study of Land Reclamation in Mumbai Phase I (1970-2012), department of geography, Mumbai University, Mumbai
4. 2015, Mashal for MTSU, Study of socio-economic outcomes due to land reclamation in development projects implemented between 1970 and 2011 in Mumbai (only PPT available, **full text is not available** or not published yet by MTSU)

Development plan

1. 2013, Unni Arvind, Khare dhanraj, Mumbai development plan and its biases: perspective from the urban poor, YUVA (for **private circulation** only)
2. 2015, Darryl D'Monte, The catch regarding Mumbai's fishing villages, India together
3. 2014, Singh binti, Urban governance in contemporary India, Contemporary India, Vol 4 (also has phd thesis on same covering juhu moragav as one part of movement)
4. There are documents of 1991 DP and 2012 DP, letters written by juhu fishing cooperative and MMKS to concerned authorities, ELU, PLU and DP remark documents with Rajesh Mangela
5. There is also documentation done but professors of KVRI on Malvani plan and articles on Coats Road etc
6. There is good PPT done by KVRI professors and Rajesh Mangela on Juhu moragav development presented at Coastal Road meeting
7. There are several documents on DP draft plan, people's vision plan, Mumbai vision plan done by Bombay first, concept plans of MTSU, DCR, DCR corrections, regulations, SRA scheme, critiques of SRA and several studies on urban governance and planning, political economy of land in Mumbai etc.

CRZ

1. 2008, CEE for MOEF, Report on the Public Consultation on Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification, Ahmadabad
2. Rodriguez, S. 2010. *Claims for Survival: Coastal Land Rights of Fishing Communities*. Dakshin Foundation, Bangalore, p42.