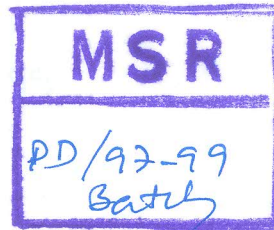


A special project on
Ethnicity & Modernisation —
Hillside village opposite IIT Market gate



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
I. D. C. LIBRARY
Industrial Design Centre
Indian Institute of Technology
P. O. I. I. T. Bombay-400 076

Guide: M Bhandari. Project by: Sudhir K Bania.
97613010, iDC, IIT Bombay

Approval Sheet

The project report entitled "Ethnicity & Modernisation" submitted by Sudhir K Bania
in partial fulfillment is approved for the "Master of Design" in Industrial Design.

Guide: *M. K. Chaudhary*

Date: 28/6/99.

Examiner:

R. H. S.



Acknowledgement:

I would like to sincerely thank my guide Prof. M Bhandari. for his guidance & encouragement during the project.

I also give my thanks to the people of IIT market, for their kind support & help.

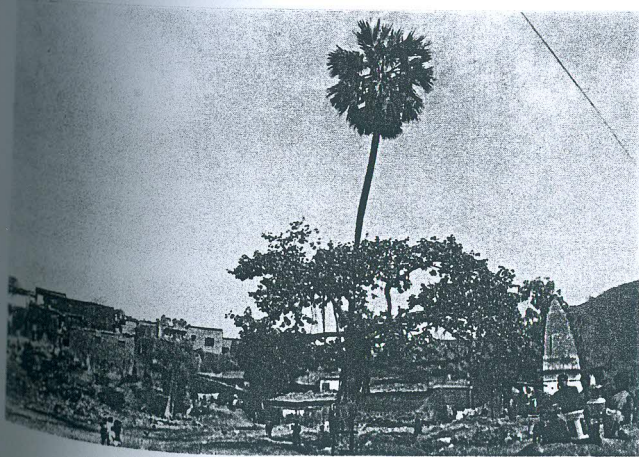
The children were young boys in that area were the most co-operative people during my visits to these places. Thankyou all so much.

Sudhir K Bania

Introduction

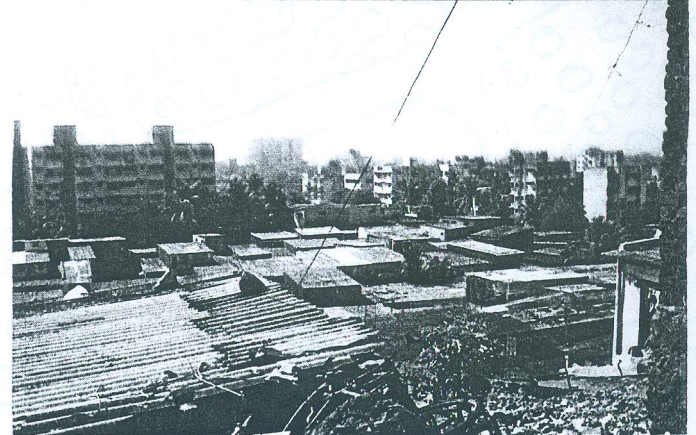
After consolidating itself as one large island of Greater Bombay, from a group of 7 small islands, the city went on to become the financial capital of the country. Due to fast & modern life & growth possibilities available in the city, immigrants from all parts of the country started encroaching into the city. Thus suburbs began to form. Every group of immigrant had to settle in outskirts of the city limits due to lack of space. Soon, these areas developed to a certain level of urbanization & became the part of the city. Thus city expanded. Hence, given a settlement in the suburbs of the city one can roughly judge, what was the period that people might have started settling in that area.

The modernization accelerates with time, immigrant settled in the city find that they have to compromise on their ethnic values over the modern values at that period of time, for purpose of sustenance & survival. This implies that earlier immigrants have been able establish more ethnic values in the city than the current immigrants.



A brief History

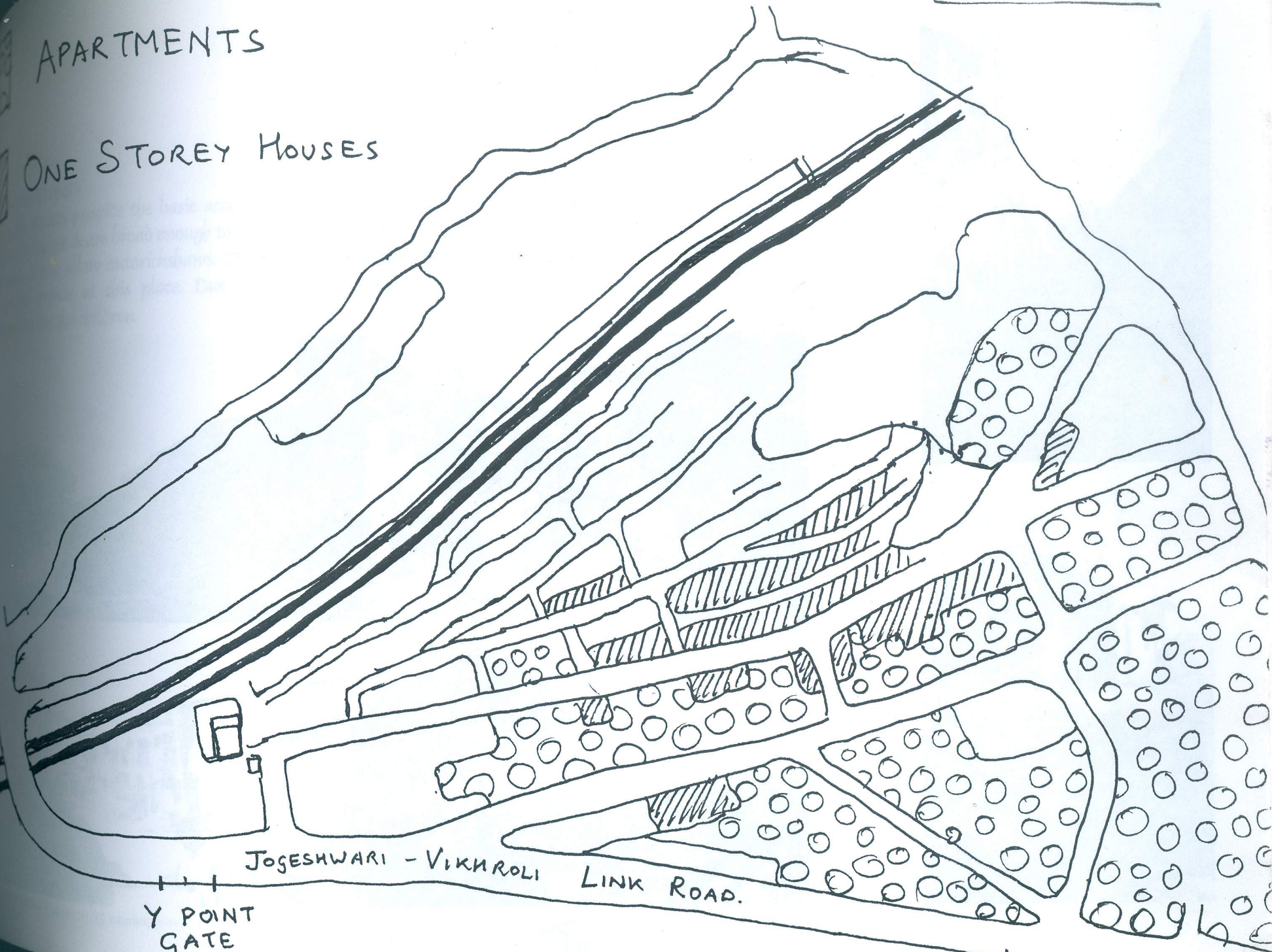
The settlement in the area of Powai started in early fifties. The forest area near Powai lake was ideal for cattle. Due to urbanization of areas near Ghatkopar, people having cattle started to shift in these areas. Later, in 1956 IIT came into picture. The Jogeshwari - Vikhroli Link Road in front of the IIT gate, is the only connection between western suburbs & eastern suburbs. The IIT population needed a market for their shopping. Due to these reasons more & more people settled in this area. The settlement started along the roadside then gradually developed on the flat land opposite IIT; lately it began on the hills, which was away from the road. These people established hotels, tea stalls, grocery shops, cloth shops, clinics providing a basis shopping area, for IITians. Gradually population of such people increased, infrastructure was established for them. Shops turned into shopping centres, clinics became hospitals & nursing homes. Thus, area that originally developed for IITians established & developed for its own purpose. Furthermore, people settled in this area found jobs in IIT as office workers, peons, etc. Thus, a give & take relationship established between IIT & this area, & it came to be known as IIT Market.



THE MAP

APARTMENTS

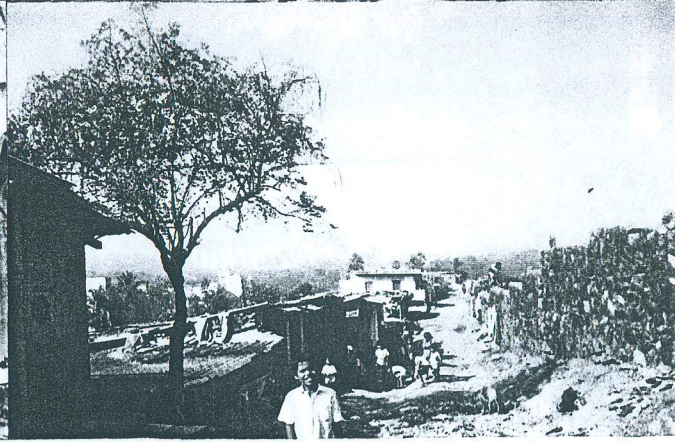
ONE STOREY HOUSES



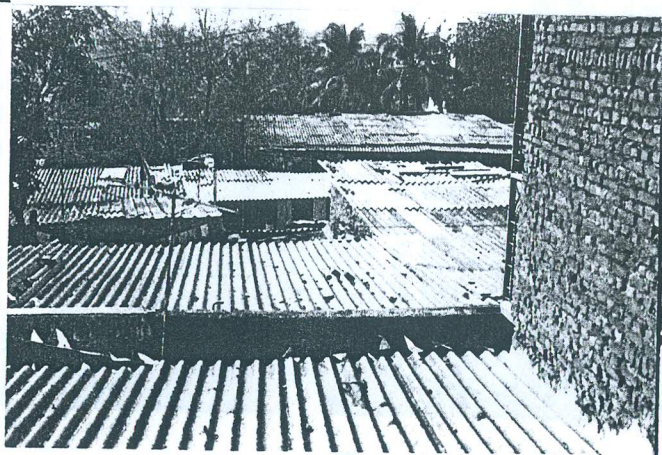
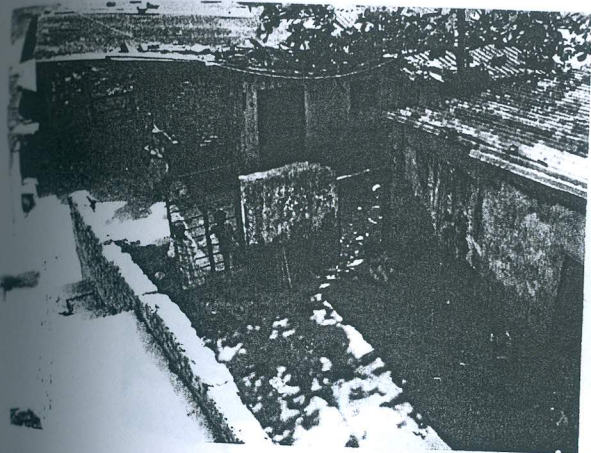
The streets

The main Streets

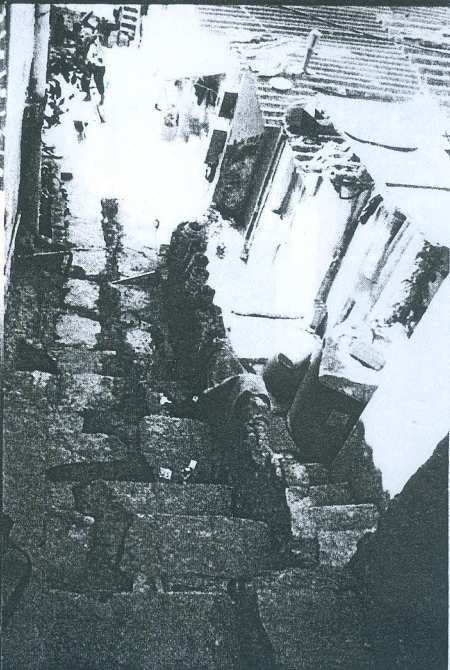
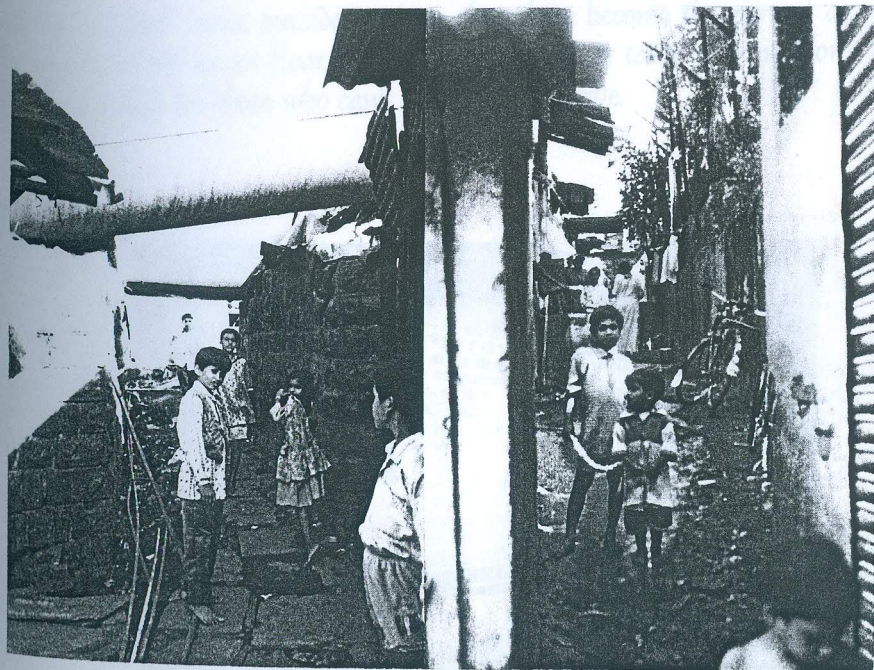
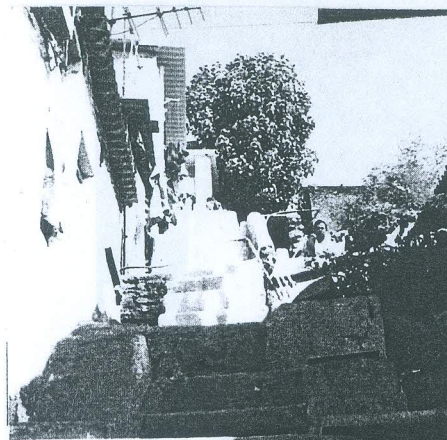
The main streets provide the basic access into the area. The main streets provided with street lamps & are broad enough to allow trucks into these places. Later they get narrower & can allow autorickshaws. The people staying along these lanes were the earliest to arrive at this place. Due to less traffic these streets also serve as playground for the children.



Other streets
 the place between the rows of houses are the other streets, these are parallel to the
 main streets. Due to the organic development of the houses the streets are
 intermittent & discontinuous, some are just two houses long while others are so long
 as to pierce the whole area. All these streets are on different levels & are restricted to
 their levels.



By lanes
The streets are connected to each other through by-lanes. These by-lanes are always sloped or staircased, one cannot go to the topmost point of the place unless they use these by-lanes. The staircase are sometimes steep, sometimes flat. They are either man made or made by arranging the stony terrain.



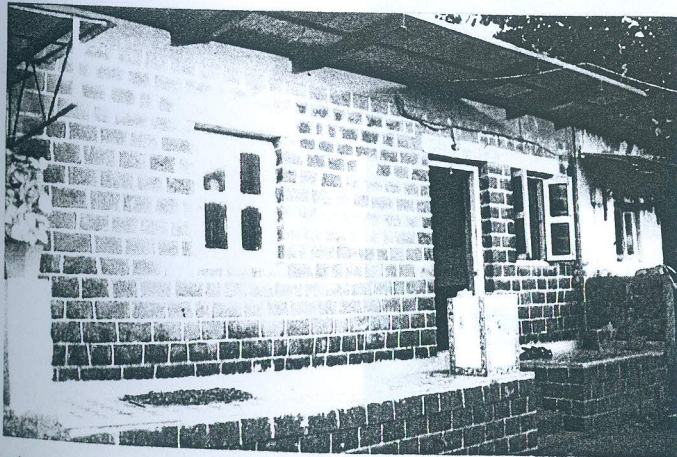
Houses

The houses are of all types from a single room to, one storey houses, to flats, to bungalows. The people firstly get a house, then build a floor above or a floor inside. A few successful & senior people of the area have bungalows & also have invested in flats in the apartments. The houses in the lower regions have all the modern equipment, like TV, refrigerators, irrespective of the size of their houses.

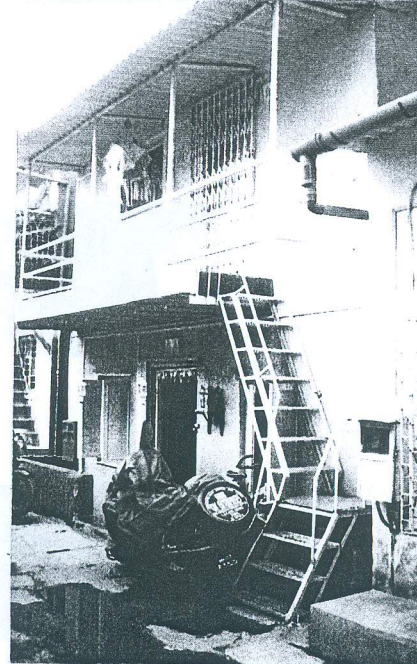
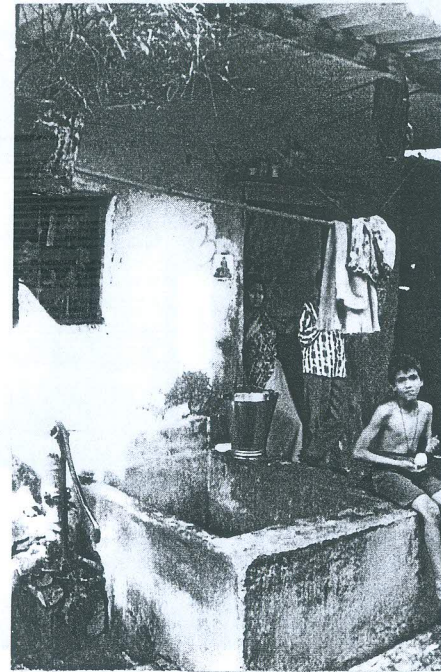
Outside

The exterior facade have aspects of ethnicity which are reflected through tulsi plant, a tile of Lord Ganesha in case of Maharashtrians, Lord Shiva & Goddess Amba in case of Bhaiyas, a green color on Muslim houses or a plate of Jesus's holy words on the doors of Christians.

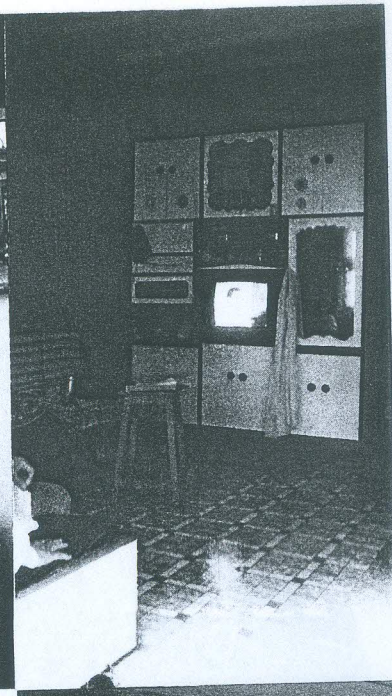
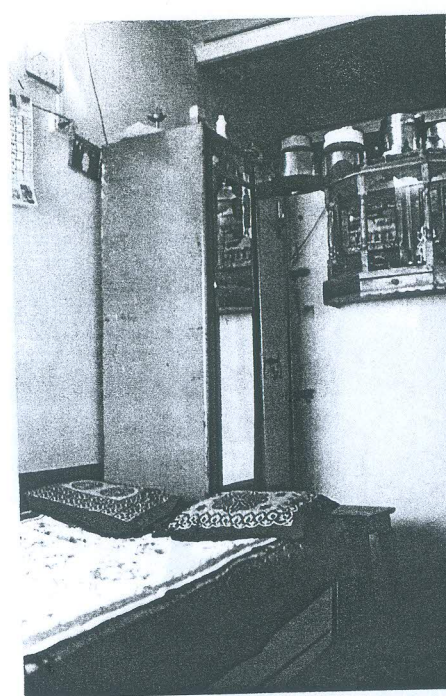
Other things include a small space outside to sit & chat these become the part of a house. The ladder going to the upper floor of the house. The water tank or drums for water storage, even a Segadi for those who can't possess LPG stove.



Ethnicity & Modernization — IIT Market, Pondicherry

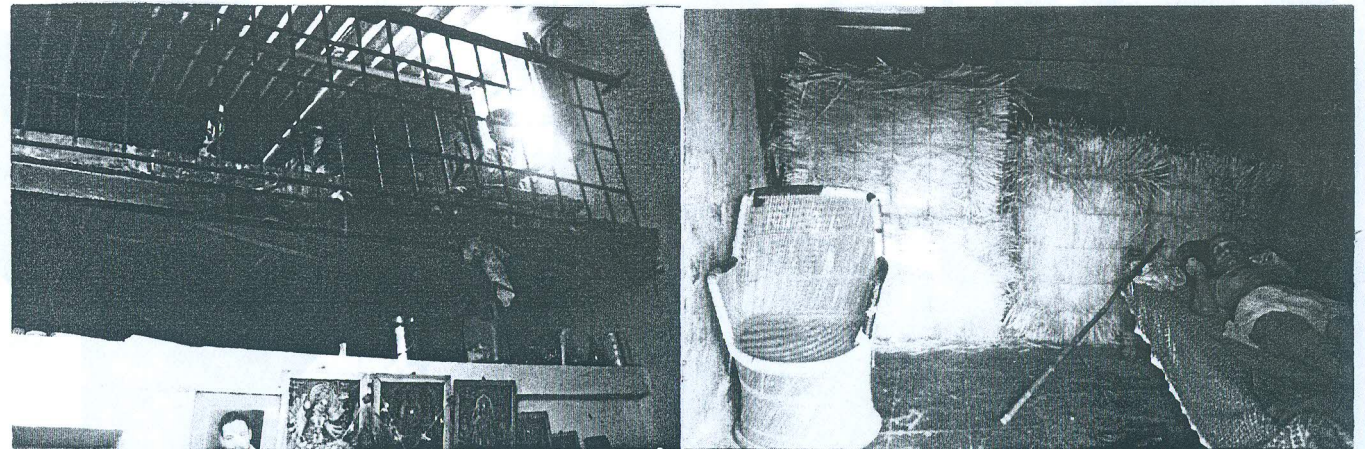
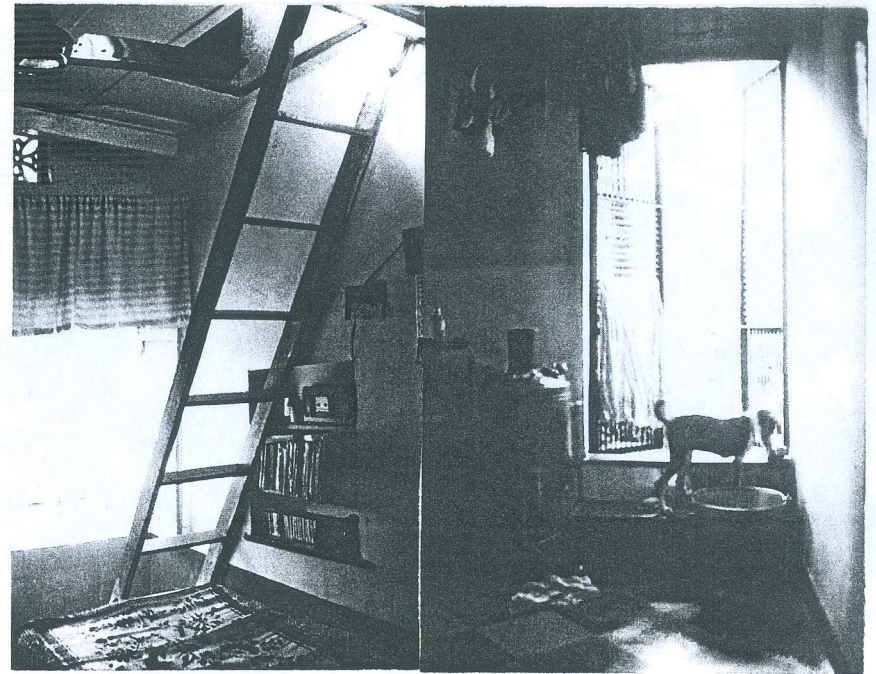


Inside the interiors are simple & straight with poor houses having only a cooking place, some utensils & a cupboard, & sometimes a bed. Houses having one storey have a ladder outside or inside the house. Many houses have a front door & a back door. The front door is on the ground floor while, the back door is on the upper floor, as the level of street at the back of the house is higher than the street at the front door. For those who can't afford an upper floor, they build a "mala" inside their house. The mala has low height, where an adult can just sit do some reading or relaxing.



In most houses the major furniture in the living room is the cabinet which provides space for TV, phone, music system. children's books & a drawer for frequently used clothes. The knobs & handles of these drawers are used as a hook for hanging clothes, napkins, belts. The place above the cabinet or cupboard are used to keep trunks & suitcases.

Some other houses don't have a cabinet or a cupboard in the front room, they just have a sofa, table & some posters on the wall thus, in this case this room is strictly guestroom. The religious kind portray Gods in their main room. The rooms are divided by partition walls, which are shorter. The place above the partition wall is used to keep less frequently used utensils. The docket in the wall serve as book shelves or even as a Devvara place to keep the Gods.

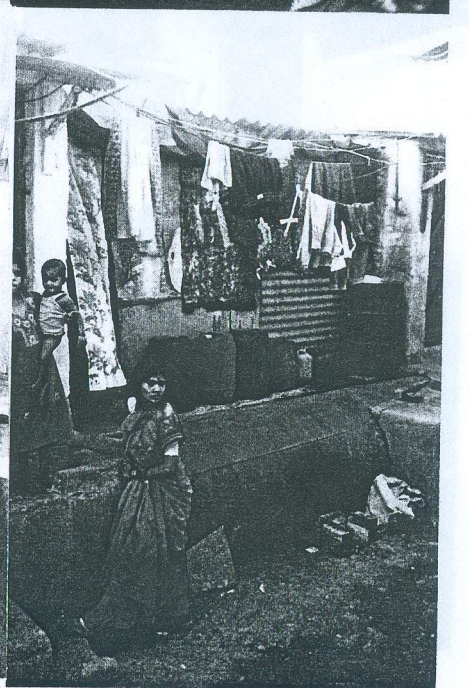
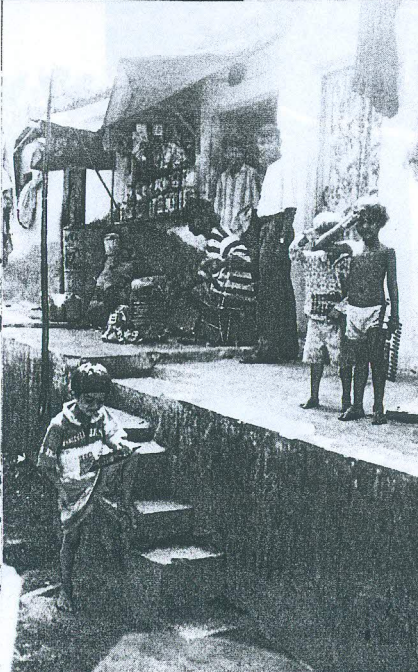
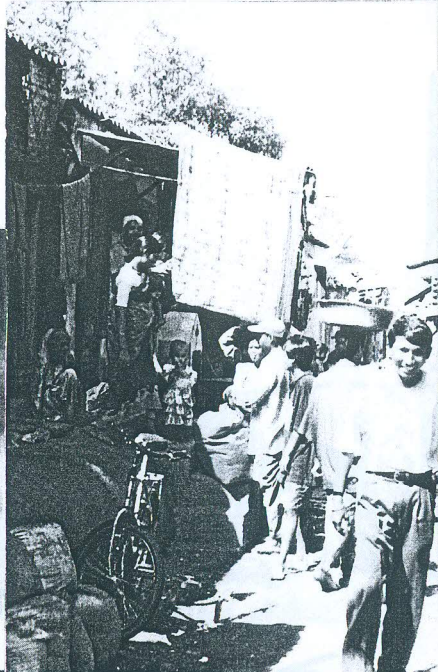
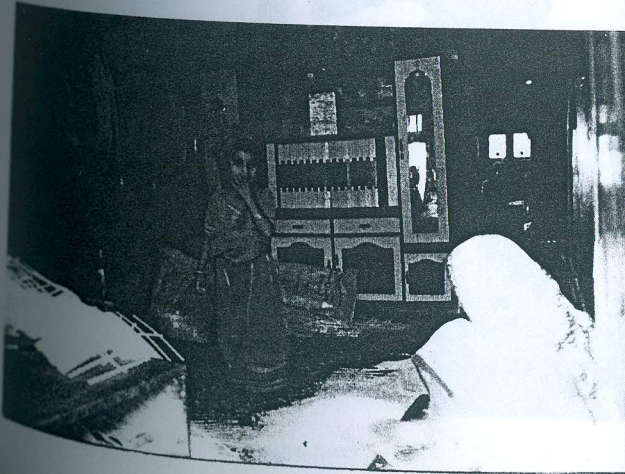
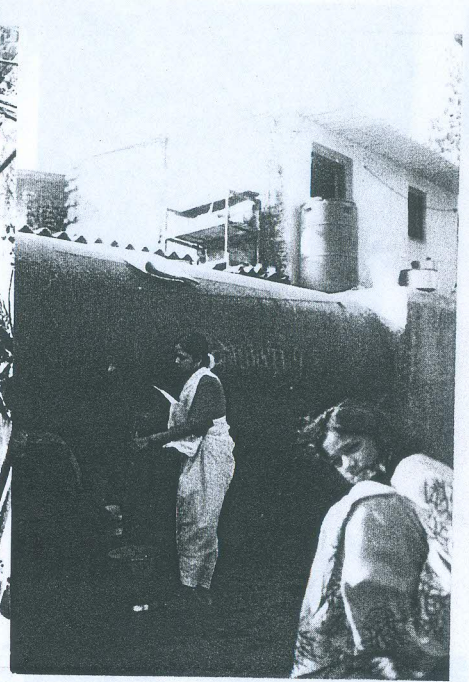
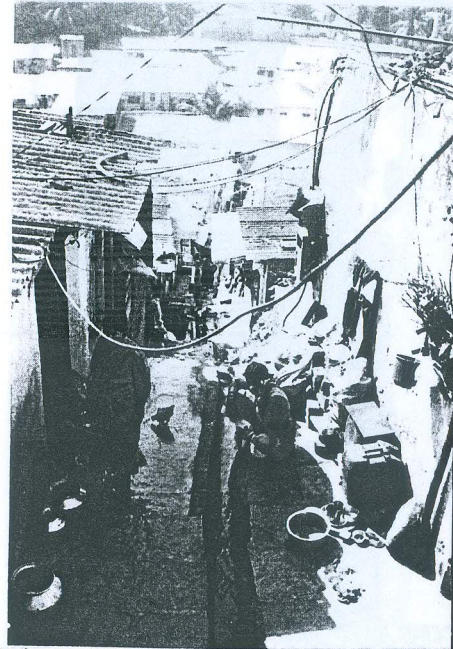


Activities

Places outside the houses become an ideal place for chatting & gossiping place. Unlike, the villages where people gather at a particular square, here people just sit outside their houses, they are enough nearer to each other to be able to have a gossip session. Children freak out & play in the streets & by-lanes, while adults enjoy looking at their children.

Filling Water

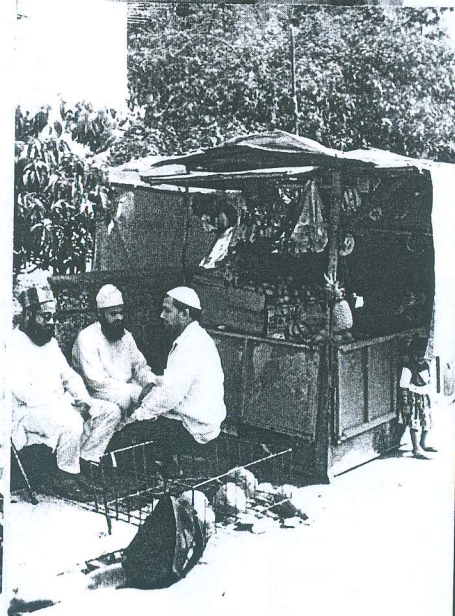
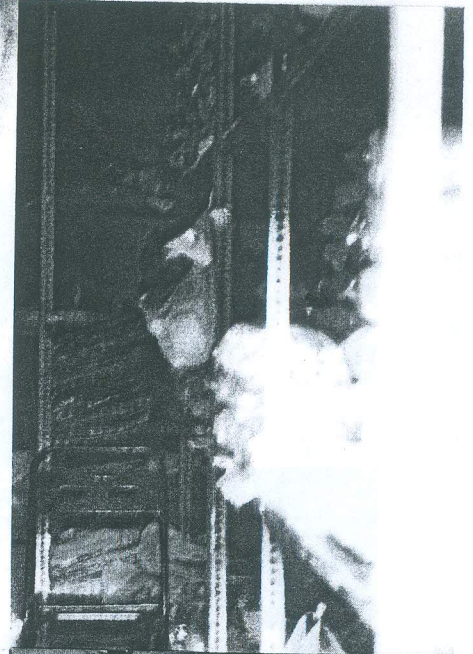
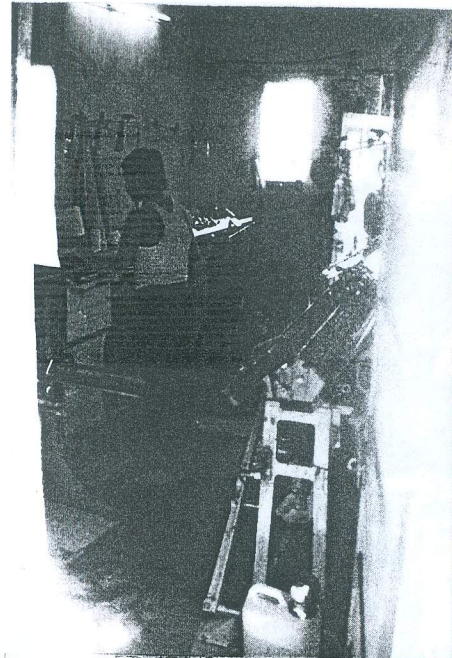
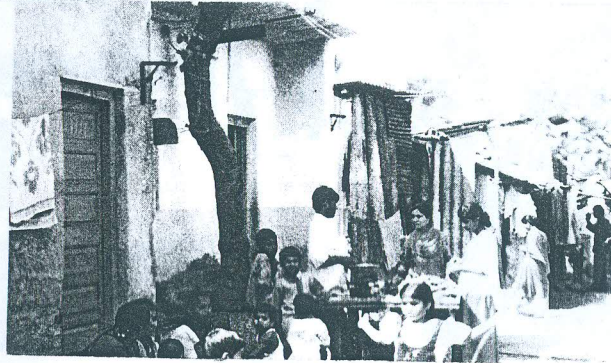
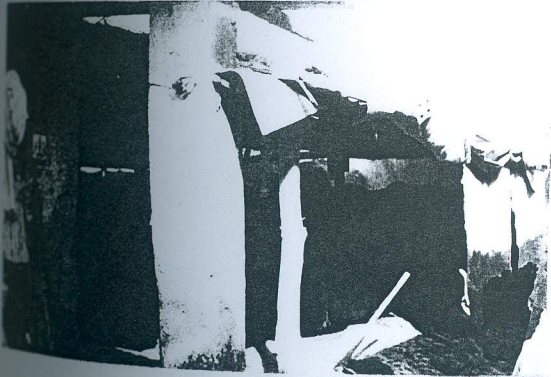
The major activity of the area is storing water. The BMC water supply timings are from 12 noon to 3pm, there is a major hustle bustle in the area, one can find women, young girls, even boys & very few men engaged in this activity. The water pipes running along the streets & by-lanes do not supply water to each & every house, alternatively some outlets are available for a group of houses. They carry handi, buckets, plastic oil cans, drums. Some smart people put pumps in the water outlets, which directs water to their houses.



Work & Business

The privileged people have shops, hotels, saloons, teastalls, at IIT market, which cater to both IITians as well as localites. Apart, from these others work in IIT, some others work at factories & industrial areas in Bhandup & Mulund.

Other self-dependent people established their own businesses. Some have set up a small store for children, a fruit stall at the corner of the street. A mobile vegetable seller, a children's cloth seller pass through the locality. A wholesaler of packed Earsan, a small workshop making Tshirt collars all flourish in these area. Separating plastic parts from an injection-moulded part, is a leisure activity as well as a small earning for their families. A 22 year old "Mahendra Tea stall" stands proud at the entrance of one of the street.



Children

The children are scattered all through the area, in each & every street & by-lanes. There are 2 kindergarten schools "Balwadi" in the area. The elder boys indulge in loafing & roaming around, while younger ones play cricket, still younger boys & girls create a movement & enthusiasm in the place. The adults & the old enjoy the children activity. Although the attire of old & grown up are plain & traditional, the dresses of children are colourful & modern, adding to the colour of the place.

