

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Quality of Life in Urban Villages of Delhi: Impact of Urbanization and City Growth

- **Format:**

Written paper

- **Author(s) Name:**

Deepika Jauhari

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

Researcher, Architect, Landscape Architect at DARS (Research & Design)

- **Abstract (300 words):**

Cities in the developing nations like India are growing rapidly. As these cities grow, they engulf the rural villages surrounding it, giving birth to a new typology of settlements known as the urban villages. The characteristics of these urban villages are unlike the ones in most of the developed nations, where they are a model of planned medium density settlements in an urban setting. Rather, urban villages in the developing nations refer to an enforced and unplanned conversion of rural villages into urban villages to accommodate the city growth. In the process, its inhabitants lose their agricultural land; are forced to shift from primary to tertiary occupations and become dependent on the urban areas for their livelihood.

The urban villages in Delhi (India) are examples of such a typology of villages, which have become an integral part of the city and its urban fabric as they provide cheap accommodation to the migrants. However, the living conditions within these urban villages are pitiful. They are under immense stress of urbanisation, commercialisation, growth and migration. They are designated as the *Lal Dora* area and are exempted

from any building regulations hence they have an unprecedented haphazard growth lacking basic infrastructure leading to degraded living conditions.

This paper highlights the impact of urbanisation on the villages by taking up the case study of the village of Masjid Moth which is one of the oldest urban villages in Delhi. It delves into the issues that its inhabitants face because of its conversion to an urban village; understanding the living conditions and the quality of life they have. Finally, the paper concludes by suggesting recommendations to improve the future of these urban villages.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Deepika Jauhari is a multidisciplinary professional with a background in Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture. She has a keen interest in research and academia. After completing her graduation in Architecture, she went on to pursue her Masters in Ekistics (gold medallist) and Masters in Landscape Architecture from New Delhi, India. She has worked with reputed private and public agencies including the Delhi Development Authority and is currently working as an architect, landscape architect, and planner based in New Delhi and Bangalore while continuing her research on urban development and environmentally sensitive landscapes.