



WHITE PAPER 2023

**FIELD RESEARCH
PROJECT ON CITY
PLANNING AND
INEQUALITIES IN
CHANDIGARH**

***AN INTERDISCIPLINARY
OUTLOOK TOWARDS
URBAN SEGREGATION***



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- > Our project seems to conduct field research in Chandigarh about the inter-section of urban planning and social inequalities, with a specific focus on peripheral areas.
- > We have a research focus on the specific sub-themes of healthcare and housing.
- > Our research is primary - based on interviews, focus groups and surveys; followed by empirical analysis of the same.
- > We are looking forward to collaborating with local public and private actors to better understand the ground realities of Chandigarh; and with researchers and academicians who are willing to mentor us, strengthen our methodology and provide guidance about conducting field research.

OUR PROJECT



CONCEPTION: Our project was initially conceived by four residents of Tricity who share a common interest in the city's planning and a curiosity about the acute social disparities, gentrification, and socio-economic spatial divisions that exist within it. With our diverse specialisations in law, social sciences, data analytics, and management studies, we seek to explore the link between urban planning and social inequities in Chandigarh.

FOCUS: Our focus is on neighbourhoods on the peripheries of the city's border, where socio-economic and spatial inequalities are most pronounced.

APPROACH: Our approach involves field research, including interviews and surveys, to collect data and analyse the nature, causes, and consequences of these inequalities.

GOALS: Our goals are to generate more literature about this subject in Chandigarh and potentially influence policy interventions in this field. Through our study, we aim to contribute to a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the urban landscape and its impact on social equalities.



OUR SPECIFIC RESEARCH

1. *Access to Healthcare*: Via a field research based on interviews and surveys, we seek to observe how access to healthcare is influenced by the fact that Chandigarh ranks 30th out all states/UTs in terms of number of hospitals per km² despite being 2nd in terms of number of hospital beds per km². This indicates the presence of limited and congested mega-healthcare facilities. We wish to focus on whether spatial positioning within peri-urban areas creates acute disadvantages for residents.
 2. *Social Inclusion and Housing*: Based on existing research that among slums in Chandigarh, there is a massive variation in terms of housing structures among slums with low and high vulnerability. Hence, we seek to conduct field research to examine the comparative experiences of slumisation in Chandigarh, and transitions into non-slum localities.

RELEVANCE OF OUR RESEARCH

We sincerely believe that despite architectural interest from across the world, there is a lack of literature about the sociological status of Chandigarh. There has been a lack of focus in defining the challenges faced by the city, especially in the peripheries and slums.

The following data supports our statement:



Literacy: On a national level literacy rate in slums is 77.72% while in Chandigarh it is 66.38% which is the LOWEST in the country, while sitting on 9th for literacy level of the whole city with literacy rate of 86.25%



Health Access: Not a single government health centre - out of 25 civil dispensaries in the city - is located in the vicinity of a slum



Housing: The shortage of housing in Chandigarh in 2001 was 65,211 units, which increased to 96,371 units in 2011 shows exclusion of urban poor from housing in Chandigarh.

Our research aims to shed further light on these issues with an evidence based approach.

OUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

Our research project is guided by 3 main approaches:

- 1** **Inter-Disciplinarity**: By bringing together experts from diverse fields such as law, social sciences, management studies and data analysis, our team aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of inequalities.
- 2** **Field Observations**: Our research employs a field-based approach, utilising qualitative & quantitative data to accurately capture on-the-ground realities.
- 3** **Knowledge-Building**: Our efforts with local stakeholders and academicians seek to fill the literature gap on social inequities as a result of urban planning in Chandigarh by generating context-specific knowledge.





OUR OUTREACH MISSION

Our outreach mission is crucial to the success of our project, and has three main objectives:

- 1) Firstly, we aspire to engage with **STATE ORGANISATIONS** to better understand the specific problems of the underdeveloped neighbourhoods we are studying. This will help us to identify key areas for intervention and potential policy recommendations.
- 2) Secondly, we aim to collaborate with **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS** who have experience working in neglected parts of the city. By sharing their experiences and building trust with the local community, we can conduct interviews and focus group sessions that will provide invaluable insights into the social inequalities in these areas.
- 3) Thirdly, we seek to engage with **ACADEMICIANS AND RESEARCHERS** who can guide us in identifying relevant research scopes and framing our qualitative and quantitative methodology. Their experience in conducting field work in comparable settings will be invaluable in informing our approach and ensuring that our research is rigorous and well-informed.

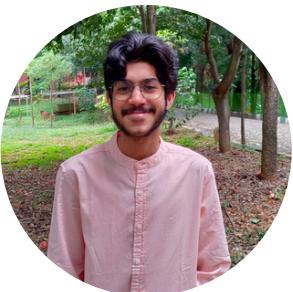
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