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Beyond the Beach : Challenges Faced by the Residents of Gorai.

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Abstract -

Nestled in a peaceful nook of Mumbai is Dharavi Bet, where various villages like Uttan, Manori, Tarodi, Dongri, and more are located. Situated on the northwestern periphery of Mumbai, Gorai is a fishing village with a rich history reflecting its varied terrain. As a result of Portuguese influence in the 16th century and subsequent conversions, Gorai is currently inhabited by a flourishing East Indian community. The Holy Magi Church, which is 180 years old, showcases its Catholic roots through its stunning Indo-Portuguese architectural design.

Gorai's historical significance dates back to the Shilahara dynasty, evidenced by the discovery of two stone relics known as Gadhegals, one of which includes the unique Gadhegal with Dhenugal. Gorai is home to a robust fishing industry and is well-known for its skilled boat and net manufacturing. The fish caught in this area are sold throughout Mumbai's western railway line. While men primarily engage in fishing, women play an essential role in cleaning the catch. In addition to fishing, villagers participate in various occupations, including catering, retail sales, and operating auto-rickshaws. The Koliwada has successfully adapted to the modernized world, as evidenced by a shift away from traditional fishing practices in favor of more stable forms of livelihood.

Renowned for its scenic beauty, Gorai has evolved into a popular tourist destination that offers both adventure and tranquility. Yet, the rise in tourism has highlighted shortcomings in the provision of public services, especially in terms of accessible public restrooms and safety measures. The area's isolation leaves it vulnerable to potential dangers from predators.

The area continues to face a major problem with a lack of drinking water, as the BMC has not been able to effectively tackle this urgent issue, putting the health and safety of residents at risk. While dispensaries and schools have been set up by the government, the community feels neglected and is calling for more support from the government, especially in the fishing industry. Subsidies and grants for fisherfolk are being requested, with the church's NGO, Sarvodaya Samaj Kendra, articulating these concerns. This study highlights the difficulties experienced by the inhabitants of Gorai and how it affects the villagers' lives. Gorai offers insight into a different aspect of Mumbai that is frequently ignored, contributing a substantial role in the city's diverse identity.

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Introduction -

Mumbai, a core center of Modern India, tucked away amidst its towering skyscrapers and sprawling suburbs lie hidden pockets of history traditionally known as Gaothans and Koliwadadas.

These areas, although being a part of Mumbai, overcome several challenges on a daily basis to protect themselves and their livelihoods. Dharavi Bet, often overshadowed by its namesake, the densely populated slum of Dharavi in Mumbai, presents a unique ecological and cultural landscape. Dharavi Bet is an island with villages like Tarodi, Dongri, Uttan, Gorai, and others, boasts a long and fascinating history that might come as a surprise considering its peaceful and beautiful atmosphere. Located on the outskirts of Mumbai to the northwest, this island stretches 10 miles from north to south.

Gorai, a small village on this island falls under the administrative jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). This village is primarily inhabited by the fishing community known as Koli, the farming community known as Kunbis, and the toddy tapping community known as Bhandaris. With its ancient roots uncovered through archaeological findings like Ass-Curse Stone or Gadhegals, Gorai has witnessed the passage of time, eventually coming under Portuguese influence during the 16th century. Gorai during Portuguese rule was known as Coca de Gorai due to its exceptional quality of coconuts. The most spoken language of this region is Marathi. The East Indian community predominantly inhabits this village. East Indians are native Christians of Mumbai and are considered the original and first Christian residents of Mumbai. In the 16th century, when the Portuguese took over Mumbai from the Bahadur Shah of Gujarat, missionaries converted the locals to Roman Catholicism. Gorai is accessed by a ferry crossing the Manori Creek and Gorai creek or otherwise by the overland route through Bhayandar. Tourism has developed here as a thriving economic activity since the last 20 years, when Essel World amusement park was set up although it was not welcomed wholeheartedly due to destruction of mangroves.

Gorai faces the systematic issue of inadequate political representation within the electoral ward of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. This has rendered them politically voiceless and their issues are often sidelined. The residents regularly face drinking water supply issues. There is a lack of public infrastructure and health-care facilities. This exploration focuses on highlighting the problems faced by the residents of Gorai covering the topic of water scarcity, inadequate healthcare facilities and general lack of important public infrastructure.

Literature review -

- Gonsalves, Milton. 2021. “ An Island Forgotten Dharavi Bet.” Mobai Gaothan Panchayat.

This book by Father Milton provides the readers with in depth information on Dharavi Bet and Gorai. Fr Milton Gonsalves is a city chronicler by heart. Having served at multiple parishes across Mumbai he has developed a deep understanding of the history and culture of the local Christians living there. The 79-year-old is the author of five books, four of which cover the East Indian communities of Chuim, Sahar, Kurla and the erstwhile farming village of Bhayandar. The author has highlighted the Portuguese past of the island and its ties to its roots. This book has served as a base for the background research on Gorai and its inhabitants.

- Sharma, Debisha. 2017. “Health Care Access and the Elderly: Lessons Learnt from Gorai, Maharashtra” Indian Journal of Gerontology 2017, Vol. 31, No. 3, pp.z, 306–326

This paper by Sharma highlights the inadequate healthcare facilities and perceived challenges experienced by the elderly to access health care facilities in Gorai, a coastal semi-urban locality in the jurisdiction of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

This paper provides researchers with important statistical information on the Healthcare system of Gorai.

- Dr. Pradnya A. Lokhande "The Effect of Ganesh Idol Immersion on the Water Quality of Gorai Jetty, Mumbai - the Environmental Health Perspective" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456- 6470, Volume-3 | Issue-3, April 2019, pp.398-402, URL: <http://www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd228>

This paper by Lokhande highlights the issues of water pollution and its effect on the fishing industry . The study concentrates on the ill-effects of the consumption of the chemical led fishes on the people.

- Mutha, Snehal. “15000 Gorai People Say: No Water No Vote.” Lokmat Times, April 19, 2024.
<https://www.lokmatimes.com/maharashtra/15000-gorai-people-say-no-water-no-vote-a505/>.

Mutha's article effectively captures the complexities of the water crisis in Gorai, revealing how intertwined the issues of resource scarcity, political responsibility, and community resilience are in the struggle for basic needs.

- Warang, Ketki., Iyer, Shreya., and Sathe, Vaidehi. “Weaving the Past with the Present: The Koli Community and the Evolution of Gorai.” The Heritage Project. Ram Prasad Goenka Foundation, 2024. (Unpublished)
This paper offers an in-depth overview of Gorai, including its residents, historical background, and contemporary circumstances. Drawing on surveys and interviews conducted by the research team, it serves as a foundational resource for exploring the challenges encountered by the local population.
- Kumar. Ashok. 2012. Kolis and Mumbai - Spirit of Kolis , Me aahe koli. Ketaki Prakshan (2020).
Kumar's book provides a comprehensive look into the lifestyle and culture of the Koli community in Mumbai. The author has presented readers with an in-depth understanding of Koli community practices, including clothing style, history, and religious practices. This book has been tremendously helpful to acquire knowledge about the Koli community.
- Kumar, Raksha. “The Original East Indians.” The Hindu, August 2, 2013.
<https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/the-original-east-indians/article4959668.ec>.
Gorai is a home to the native East Indian population of Mumbai and offers a unique window into the lives of Christian Kolis and their practices. This article by Kumar provides an overview about the history and cultural practices of the East Indian Community.
- Boom Live. “INSIDE MUMBAI’S KOLIWADAS AND GAOTHANS.”
Newslaundry, April 28, 2015.
<https://www.newslaundry.com/2015/04/28/inside-mumbais-koliwadas-and-gaothans>.
The article includes firsthand experiences from local locals who are concerned about displacement and the deterioration of their culture. It highlights the tension between preserving historical villages and the inexorable march of modernity, emphasizing the importance of sensitivity in urban planning. Overall, the story highlights the difficulty encountered by these communities in maintaining their identity in a fast changing metropolis.

- Rao, Yogita. “School Education on Fringes of Suburbs Hit by Poor Public Transport: IIT-Bombay Study.” The Times of India, February 3, 2022.
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/school-edu-on-fringes-of-suburbs-hit-by-poor-public-tranpsort-iit-b-study/articleshow/89309011.cms>.

The study by IIT-B researchers reveals that the population in certain areas of Mumbai, such as Bhandup, Mankhurd, Malwani, Gorai, Charkop, and parts of south Mumbai, have poor accessibility to school education due to gaps in the transportation system. The researchers found that the public transport system in the peripheral regions needs to be strengthened to improve accessibility to schools.

- Ratanchandra G Vishwakarma. “Evaluation of Site and Services Project at Gorai, Borivali, Under World Bank Project.” academia.edu, October 1, 2016.
https://www.academia.edu/28840407/Evaluation_of_Site_and_Services_Project_at_Gorai_Borivali_Under_World_Bank_Project.

The document evaluates the Site and Services Project at Gorai, Borivali, which was implemented under the World Bank initiative. The study emphasizes the importance of sustainable urban development through a thorough assessment of infrastructural and socioeconomic factors, aiming to improve the living quality of residents. The study identifies gaps in social and physical infrastructure, indicating that planned infrastructure development is critical to addressing the rapid urbanization issues faced in Gorai.

Objectives -

The study aims to identify and address the challenges encountered by the community.

- To study the region's socioeconomic developments and evolving preferences over the traditional livelihoods.
- To highlight the region's lack of public facilities and security measures despite being a popular tourist attraction.
- To investigate the people' requests for development help and fishing aid.
- To investigate the region's drinking water issue.
- To highlight the scarcity of properly equipped hospitals and public health care systems.
- To investigate the educational infrastructure of the region.

Hypothesis -

- **Null hypothesis:** There is no significant difference in the level of infrastructure development between Gorai and other nearby areas.
- **Alternative hypothesis:** Residents of Gorai face a significantly lower level of infrastructure development compared to other nearby areas.

Methodology -

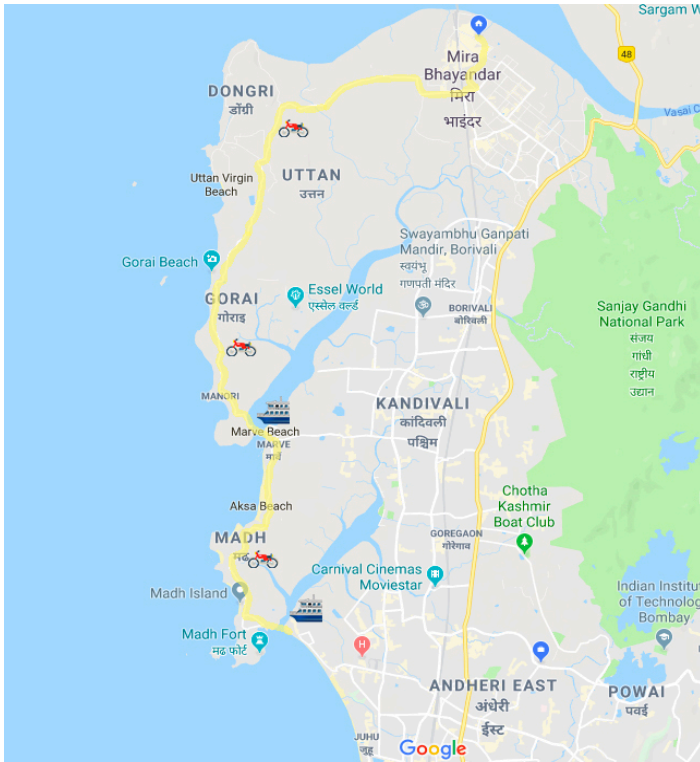
This research investigates the complex interconnection between declining fishing, inadequate public health and education infrastructure, and drinking-water shortages within Gorai. The primary objective is to get a nuanced understanding of the community's experiences and viewpoints on these pressing issues. A qualitative research approach was employed, incorporating semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and site visits to collect primary data. Secondary data was gathered through a review of existing research papers, news articles, and archival materials.

Ten participants were randomly selected from the entire population without any prior screening or selection criteria. Interviews were performed during five field visits, with the majority of participants preferring to remain anonymous. Notable interviewees included the head of the Gorai Machimar Sanathan, the Incharge of the Sarvodaya Samaj Kendra (an NGO affiliated with the Holy Magi Church), a Church Counselor, and the Parish Priest of the Church. Ethical considerations, such as participant consent and privacy, were paramount throughout the study. Many participants preferred anonymity over audio and video recordings, therefore extensive running notes were kept.

Collected notes were compared with secondary sources to ensure credibility and identify potential biases, such as the social desirability bias observed in the responses of the NGO Incharge. To enhance the understanding of the community's character and its relationship with religious centers and societal developments, correlational methodologies were employed. Technical elements, such as photo documentation and the recording of geo-coordinates and locations, were used to support further research and provide a visual context for the findings.

Results -

- Location and Geo-coordinates -



[figure - 1 Map]

Situated in the western suburbs of Mumbai, Gorai is a sub-locality in Borivali West. It falls under the Mumbai Metropolitan Region in Maharashtra, India, and has a pin code 400092. It is divided into three divisions. It shares its boundaries with popular localities such as Dahisar West, Kandivali West, Borivali East, Bhayandhar and Dahisar East. It comes under the governance of Mira-Bhayandar Mahanagarपालिका.

Its geo-coordinates are 19.232082268854896, 72.7868995894199.

Being often sidelined due to its geographic location and remoteness, the villagers face several problems in their daily lives. This research aims to highlight their issues and try to bring forth solutions for the same.

- Gorai's socio economic development, demand for developmental and fishing aid and evolving preferences over the traditional livelihoods.

The village of Gorai occupies a prime position on the Dharavi Bet situated on the northwestern region of the Salsatte Island. Primarily the town is inhabited by the Koli (fishermen) and Kunbi (Farmer) community. The residents belong to the East Indian Community. East Indians are native Christians of Mumbai and are considered the original and first Christian residents of Mumbai. Gorai houses a thriving and active Koliwada in its core, fishing being the primary livelihood of many. The village artisans possess a well-deserved reputation for their skill in crafting boats and nets. These boats, constructed with exceptional craftsmanship, command high prices at auction, reaching values between one and one and a half crore rupees. Smaller vessels are obtainable for approximately seventy lakh rupees. Interestingly, a barter system persisted within the village until 1947, facilitating the exchange of goods such as fish for vegetables, clothing for rice, or dried fish for other necessities. The Koliwada is located in the heart of the town. With narrow lanes with beautiful multi storey Bungalows and row houses with beautiful fish symbolism. The scene is aptly described by the song sung by Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar in the movie 'Sabse Bada Rupaiya' of 1976. The lyrics go as -

“Dariya kinare ik

Bangalo go pori ai jo ai”

Outside every house one will find cane baskets and fish drying.

With fishing as a primary occupation the Nakhwas and Khalashi's hold an important position on the boat. The increasing migration of families especially from Uttar Pradesh has resulted in young men working under the nakhwas during the fishing operations. A variety of fishes are caught here including Mackerel, Prawns, Baby Sharks, Ribbon Fish, Squid, Octopus, Clams and so on. Carbs are caught here in larger quantities due to the marshy areas surrounding the village. Fish cleaning and drying activity is conducted here on a larger scale. Fishes like Bombay duck, Baby shrimps also known as Javla, Sardines also known as Modki are cleaned, dried and sold. The catch is sold throughout Mumbai notably in Borivali, Malad, Kandivali and Crophert Market.

Recent years have witnessed a significant decline in the fishing activities of the region.

According to the head of the Gorai Macchimari Sansthan, “Fishing is not as profitable as it was before. Sea is the ATM of the Koli's but we are not getting anything from it.” The input is greater than the output received. Fishing in Gorai is also affected by the offshore drilling, mechanised trawlers, rising fuel prices, etc. According to the locals many of the fish varieties have moved to the deep sea which has made fishing difficult for the artisanal and small scale fishermen. The fisherfolk with bigger boats often venture out in the deep sea which comes with heavy risks and potential loss of life due to unpredictable weather. There have been cases of accidental deaths due to unpredictable weather and the families were denied the sum insured. The sansthan is strongly fighting for the rights of the fishermen.

The older generation has now seen promoting education and the dropout rates of the students have significantly reduced according to the local school. The majority of these young educated men take up jobs in the field of Merchant Navy as a way to be connected with the sea. The young girls lean towards the field of education , nursing and social work. One of the most interesting things highlighted by the locals was that during the days off of these youngsters they participate in the fishing related activities. The young boys join their family on the boat and the girls help with cleaning, drying and selling the catch. The men of the family have also taken up driving auto-rickshaws in their free time to earn additional money. The women work together under budget groups to cater at parties and restaurants , serving the tourists with their local cuisine.

The biggest argument put forth by the sansthan was the need for governmental aid and monetary assistance for fishing. The head of Gorai Macchimar Sansthan quite aggressively mentioned that many local fishermen were in debt and governmental aid was not available timely. However during the field survey and an interview with local fishermen it was revealed that the said aid is credited into the account of the people monthly. Another observation was the existing and underconstruction multi-storey bungalows and villas in the Koliwada . These are completely owned by the local fishermen and not by any outsiders which contradicts with their claim of being helpless and in debt although arguable.

The shift from fishing as a primary source of income to tourism centric occupation is very much visible in the village. With many venturing out of Gorai to try their luck in different fields the future of the Koliwada is grim.



(Figure 2 - Nakhwas and Khalasi catching mackerel (bangda)



(Figure 3- Ladies cleaning and selling Javla)

- Increasing Tourism and inadequate public facilities and safety.

Over the past four decades, Gorai has experienced significant growth in its tourism industry. The renowned Essel World Theme Park and Water Kingdom Water Park were founded in this location in 1989. Aside from the theme park, Gorai also houses one of the most clean beaches in Mumbai known as the Gorai Beach. Lined with beach resorts, cottages and home-stays it attracts tourists from all over Mumbai and neighbouring regions. The beach is particularly popular among party lovers, adventurers and couples. According to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, the Global Vipassana Pagoda is recognized as one of the seven wonders of Maharashtra and is situated in Gorai, Mumbai. The Pagoda was inaugurated by the then President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patil in 2009. Cyclists from all over Mumbai enjoy their daily morning rides on the serene roads surrounded by greenery. These attractions have established Gorai as a premier tourist destination in Mumbai.

Despite the constant flow of tourists every day, one fundamental requirement that is the availability of public restrooms is absent in the area. There is not a single public toilet to be found throughout the entire town. The sole temporary toilet cubicle, provided by the Lions Club, is located in the Jetty area. Unfortunately, it is in a state that renders it unusable and is extremely dirty. As stated by the councillor of the Holy Magi Church, which serves as a central decision-making body within the community, tourists frequently have to request permission from locals to use their bathrooms.

Regarding the safety of both tourists and residents, there are significant issues of negligence. The security of the area can be described succinctly: as long as you remain in your room during the night, you will be safe. During the daytime, the town is lively and bustling, but it turns eerily quiet and unsettling once night descends. Numerous documented incidents of murder and attempted murder have occurred in the region. Among the most notable is the attempted murder case from October 2013, involving an 18-year-old girl targeted by her 21-year-old stalker, Jitendra Sakhpal. He compelled her to consume acid and then pushed her into the sea. Fortunately, she was rescued by local auto-rickshaw drivers at Gorai Beach.

Another tragic incident occurred in 2010 involving an 8-year-old boy named Soheb Sheikh, who was kidnapped from his home and brutally murdered by 25-year-old Typhon Kavilghar. Typhon had attempted to use the young boy as a pawn to deliver a letter containing explicit content to a girl but was unsuccessful. Fearing that his actions would be exposed, he took Soheb's life and concealed the body in an abandoned boat near Gorai Beach.

In April 2017, the body of a 22-year-old woman was discovered behind the Gorai Bus stop, hidden among some bushes. The victim was identified as Sabrin, a native of Uttar Pradesh, who had recently married her long-term partner and arrived in Mumbai. Following an extensive search and investigation, her husband was located after he returned to Uttar Pradesh; he had strangled her to death due to being compelled into marriage. He was subsequently extradited back to Mumbai.

The most recent case, from February 2024, involved the discovery of a partially decomposed body of an unidentified male in the vicinity. Despite this lack of constant police surveillance, the local residents are very helpful and protective of their community. Nevertheless, the secluded characteristics of the area have turned it into a hotspot for criminal activity. It is crucial to address the security concerns in this region promptly.

- Drinking water problems in the vicinity.

A notable shortage of drinking water in Gorai is a pressing issue that persists throughout the year, not just during the summer months. Residents obtain water from the municipal supply for only about an hour per day and frequently find their taps running dry.

Low pressure in the water pipeline exacerbates the problem, making it practically hard for houses to access water straight from their connections. Gorai has a population of around 5,000 families, including fishermen, Bhandari (small-scale farmers), and Adivasis. Despite having metered connections, some 2,005 families continue to experience water shortages. Several Adivasi settlements completely lack metered connections, leaving many households with no water supply as of the current date.

Due to inadequate municipal supply, residents have resorted to obtaining water from private tankers at outrageous prices, ranging from ₹500 to ₹850 per tanker, with separate transportation charges. Others are compelled to drink filthy water from local wells and lakes, which is labeled "unfit for human consumption". These wells are badly maintained, and the water quality is a major health concern, resulting in a variety of diseases among people owing to contaminated water.

In reaction to the ongoing water crisis, the Gorai Villagers Welfare Association filed a public interest litigation (PIL) with the Bombay High Court. The PIL highlights the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) inadequacies and immobility in solving the water scarcity and proposes several solutions. Residents have often called on the BMC to take decisive measures to ensure a dependable and sufficient water supply. As a temporary relief measure, the Bombay High Court ordered the BMC to give 10 water tankers of potable water to Gorai households each day. Despite this directive, the residents feel disillusioned due to the lack of tangible improvements in their water situation, and there are ongoing complaints about the quality of the water being supplied. In spite of this instruction, the inhabitants are disheartened because of the absence of concrete enhancements in their water situation, and continual grievances persist about the quality of the water being provided.

Residents have begun to organize and raise awareness about their situation, illustrating their challenges with water scarcity through a variety of community actions. Some had even threatened to skip elections to highlight the gravity of their condition, which resulted in governmental negotiations with local leaders to address their concerns. Residents express considerable opposition to the presence of political party gatherings in their neighborhood.

They assert that the water supply only works properly during visits by political leaders; nonetheless, the problem reappears immediately after. This illustrates a growing frustration towards the authorities perceived negligence regarding their basic need.

While there are assurances from the BMC about upcoming improvements and projects aimed at enhancing water supply, residents remain skeptical due to historical inaction and inefficiencies. Until infrastructure is strengthened and systems put in place to ensure regular access to clean drinking water, the community's struggles with this fundamental necessity are likely to continue.

- The shortage of well-equipped hospitals and public health care systems.

Gorai has a diversified population, including fishermen and small-scale farmers, highlighting the community's specific health requirements. However, the healthcare facilities in the area are typically insufficient to fulfill these demands. The shortage of well-equipped hospitals has resulted in a healthcare system that struggles to deliver basic medical services to citizens, especially during crises. The provision of quality healthcare services is a major concern in Gorai. While some hospitals exist, they frequently lack the essential equipment and funding to provide complete medical care. There are no healthcare facilities at night. The ones available at the day time face issues of inadequate amenities in terms of equipment, medicines, etc. When it comes to the elderly, illiteracy and disease add to the layers of vulnerability. Many individuals have expressed discontent with the level of care provided due to poor facilities. This scarcity is exacerbated by the population's continued increase, which puts further burden on already limited healthcare resources.

In a field survey and interview conducted by Miss Debisha Sharma from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, samples were collected from 67 elderly individuals (29 males and 38 females) aged between 60 and 80 years. One of the primary challenges identified in accessing healthcare was the distance and time needed to reach adequately equipped medical facilities. It is essential to note that due to the tourism-centric nature of Gorai, public transportation is unavailable after 10 PM. There is an urgent need for government intervention in the area to guarantee the safe delivery of public health services in the region.

- Educational infrastructure in the region.

According to the field survey conducted during visits, there are two schools located in the Church Pakhadi area of Gorai. One of these institutions is operated by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), while the other is affiliated with the Holy Magi Church. During an interview with the head of the nonprofit organization under the church's jurisdiction, it was emphasized that students travel from remote areas to attend both schools. Saint Aloysius High School, which has been in existence for over 100 years, is the only English medium institution in the region. Although there are other international board schools in the Borivali West area, not all residents can afford to enroll their children in such institutions. The school has also reported a significant decrease in dropout rates over the past decade, attributed to the encouragement and advice from the older generation for younger individuals to pursue higher education.

The trend observed among young people seeking higher education indicates that boys are inclined toward careers in the merchant navy or service-related occupations, while girls often pursue careers in social work, teaching, and nursing. However, not all students are well-versed in the processes of applying for higher education or seeking employment. Residents have reported that local representatives, referred to as nagar sevaks, exploit young students by soliciting payment in exchange for guaranteed admissions into programs such as Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) and Nursing.

The Sarvodaya Samaj Kendra, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the church, focuses on skill development and awareness programs to empower residents. Additionally, they organize

sessions for senior citizens in activities such as candle making and lip balm production to promote self-sufficiency.



a(figure 4 - Holy Magi Church and School)



(figure 5 - Products made by seniors)

The findings of this research support the alternate hypothesis, demonstrating that the residents of Gorai confront a considerably lower standard of infrastructural development when compared to neighboring areas. This discrepancy is evident in the limited accessibility to essential services like healthcare, education, inadequate transportation facilities, and a scarcity of drinking water, highlighting the urgent need for government interventions to address the infrastructure challenges faced by the residents of Gorai.

Significance of the research

The focus of this research was to bring forth the challenges faced by the residents of Gorai. Gorai is a thriving koliwada with rich history, culture and diverse communities. It has adapted to modern changes while preserving its originality. While interacting with the locals, their plea for development and problem resolution is clearly identified.

Furthermore, attending to local grievances, like the lack of public restrooms, can greatly improve their quality of life. Introducing programs to engage young people in mainstream society, especially due to their interest in professions such as the merchant navy, nursing and so on can provide them with enhanced prospects and enhance their participation in wider economic activities.

Policies need to be customized according to area wise developmental needs. Gorai's plea for its problem resolution is often sidelined due to its remote nature and lack of political representation. It is high time for the government to take notice of these issues as Gorai has evolved itself into a thriving tourist destination not only supporting its local economy but also uplifting the image of Mumbai .

Conclusion

The citizens of Gorai are confronted with a multitude of interrelated challenges that significantly affect their quality of life and overall well-being. A major deficiency in hospital services and public healthcare facilities has resulted in inadequate access to essential medical services, thereby compromising the health of residents. This scenario is aggravated by a chronic lack of drinking water, forcing communities to rely on contaminated sources or expensive tanker supplies, posing considerable health hazards and emphasizing the critical need for improved water infrastructure.

Aside from difficulties in accessing healthcare and drinking-water, Gorai's youth face limited prospects due to a lack of educational facilities. The changing preferences for fishing, which was historically the primary source of economic subsistence, suggest a shift in local livelihoods while also emphasizing the importance of sustainable fishing techniques and cultural preservation.

Moreover, the inadequate public infrastructure particularly concerning sanitation due to increasing tourist movement and safety impedes the residents' day-to-day experiences and overall quality of life. The absence of proper toilet facilities and security measures creates an environment of discomfort and potential danger, especially for vulnerable populations.

In conclusion, Inadequate political representation, a steady drop in fishing activity, and a lack of essential public infrastructure have stifled Gorai's growth. Gorai's residents face complicated difficulties that require coordinated actions from government and community organizations. Addressing important concerns such as healthcare, clean drinking water, education, and public infrastructure requires a focused strategy. By emphasizing these areas, Gorai can contribute to a more equitable and prosperous future for all of its citizens.

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