



Title: Gated Neighbourhoods: Security, Lifestyle and Segregation of Urban Habitats in Kolkata.

Index No.: 43/21/Geo./27

Abstract: Gated communities are residential areas with restricted access, where public spaces are typically converted into private ones. These originated in the 1990s within major metropolitan areas of India, including New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, and Chennai. Research on gated communities in India remains limited. India lacks established classifications for gated communities. This research aims to categorize the gated communities in Kolkata. This study aims to examine the main motivational factors that motivates residents to choose these communities over traditional houses or high-rise apartments. This research examines the social and economic features of gated communities, including security, residents' lifestyles, and social and economic segregation, while also exploring how social interactions among residents affect residential satisfaction in Kolkata's gated communities. To identify gated neighbourhoods, both primary and secondary information sources were employed. The investigation employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative research techniques. The primary methods employed for data collection included a questionnaire survey, interviews, and perception analysis. This study employed snowball sampling to enhance data collection quality and mitigate the effects of time constraints. A study was performed involving a representative sample of 528 households from 25 gated communities and 150 households from various high-rise apartments outside these communities. The investigation classified gated communities based on their evolution, total residential units, community area, and type of enclosure. Most residents choose to reside in gated communities due to the enhanced security provided both within the individual residences and in the surrounding neighbourhoods. More than fifty percent of residents in gated communities reportedly experience a moderate level of satisfaction in their daily lives, as reflected in the life satisfaction index. About one-third of the residents express high levels of satisfaction with their current circumstances. The happiness index is correlated with the life satisfaction index, indicating that around one fourth of respondents report a high level of happiness, whereas approximately two third experience a moderate level of happiness. Other findings, based on interviews with residents of gated communities and other high-rise apartments, reveal that individuals residing in high-rise apartments experience a higher rate of criminal activity compared to those living in gated communities. The income disparity among households in gated communities is less pronounced than that among residents of other high-rise apartment complexes. Also, the people of local community have asserted that gated communities promote inequality and contribute to the economic disparities present in society.


Signature of the Supervisor 05.03.25
Prof. Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan
Date: 05/03/2025

Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan
Professor & Head
Faculty of Science
Department of Geography
Jadavpur University
Kolkata - 700032


Signature of the Candidate 05.03.2025
Sujay Sarkar
Date: 05/03/2025