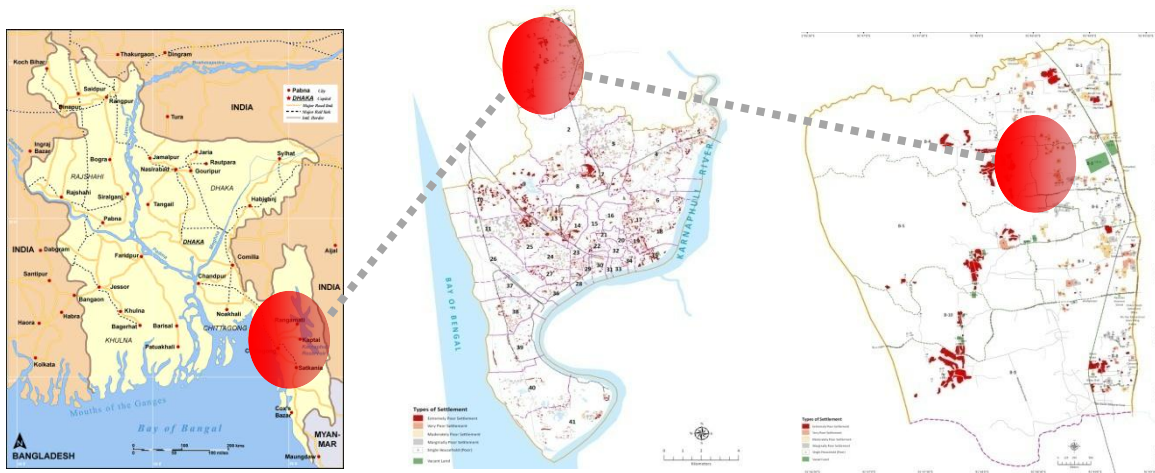


SETTLEMENT IMPROVEMENT OF SHONDIP COLONY COMMUNITY IN CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

01. **Background:** Shondip Colony is a hilly land containing around 83 acres. It was mainly a Hindu property owned by a Hindu land owner before 1971. The previous name of Shondip colony was "Chorar Kul". During the liberation war at 1971 the Hindu land owner left the land and went to India. So total land become vacant. During 1973, 10 families started to living at the vacant land named "Chorar Kul" as they lost their previous house at Shondip for River erosion. Day by day more families came from Shondip and started to live permanently by constructing Temporary house. For time being this area becomes known as Shondip Colony. Basically population was increased and hill area was decreased as they cut the hill. So land slide become the major natural disaster during rainy season at Shondip Colony. The land is Khas, but when people started to live permanently The Government permit them to stay there lifetime during 1999. From 2001 different organization like Unicef, UPPR (Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction Program) started to work at Shondip Colony to develop their life standard by giving road, toilet education loan, Income generation loan etc. Now a day's more than 900 families live at Shondip Colony and total area is under Chittagong City Corporation. So local Govt. is also concerned about this community.
02. **Location of the project:** Shondip Colony settlement is an area of informal housing which is situated approximately 15 km far from center of Chittagong town. Shondip Colony is mainly a hilly area and contains sandy soil.



- a) **Locality and Topography:** The community of Shondip Colony at Chittagong is Muslim by its religion. Primary occupation of male is day labor and agriculture. Now a day's some of family income foreign currency as family member stay at abroad. Maximum family income range is 350-250 \$ per month who lives under a poverty range. Illiteracy is a common issue among the community people.
 The topography of this settlement is interesting because it change annually. People have to live with land slide during rainy season as the land is very sandy, even have to lose their house also. Even its become more vulnerable for the families who lives upside of the hill as they face more risk for land slide and don't get any facility like roads, water supply and others. So their life standard falls for lack of infrastructures.

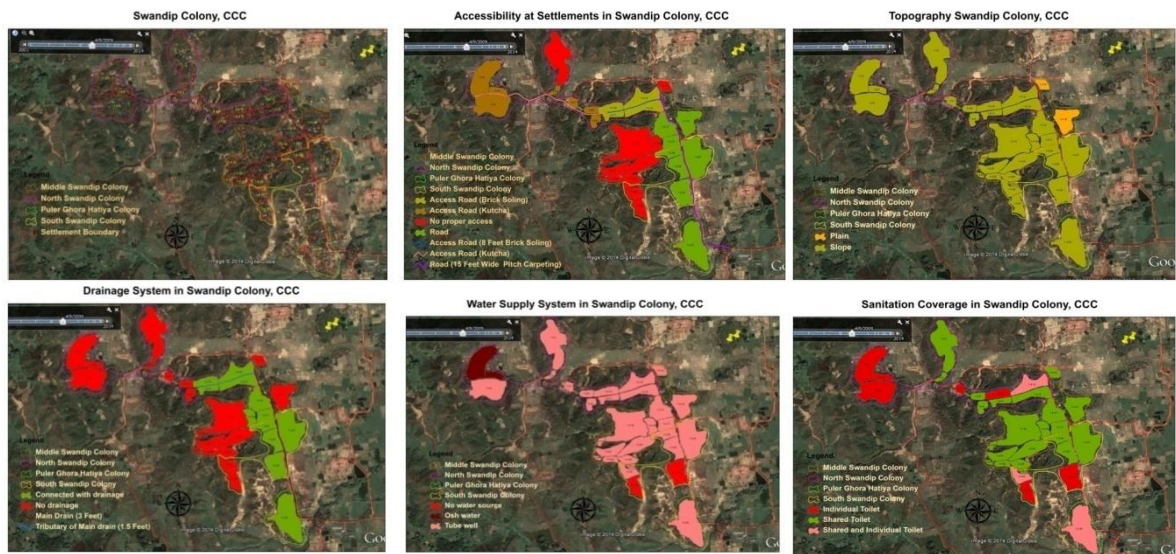


- b) **Target Group and Goal:** So my main target group was this extreme poor climatic vulnerable community who has knowledge about local techniques to sustain but not proper knowledge to overcome the vulnerability. My main goal was to play a vital role for resolving/minimizing this vulnerability by a proper guidance.



03. **Process & Work Story:**

- a) **Site Analysis:** Strength and weakness of site: Main weakness of this community is poor land use, lack of drinking water, poor infrastructure, illiteracy along with climatic vulnerability such as land slide and land erosion by rain water within the individual household and up to total settlement. Main strength of this community is their knowledge about local technique to reduce the climatic hazard, natural resources like sand, hill, vegetation and land also.



- b) **Existing Settlement Analysis:** The existing condition of settlement is very poor. Lack of access road and drainage to reduce overflow of rain water and daily household use water, lack of necessary guide wall to protect land at hill side, scarcity of drinking water and daily use water source, vulnerable calamities, lack of proper sanitation and solid waste disposal service. UPPR provided some access road, drainage facility and guide wall but that was not enough for whole community.

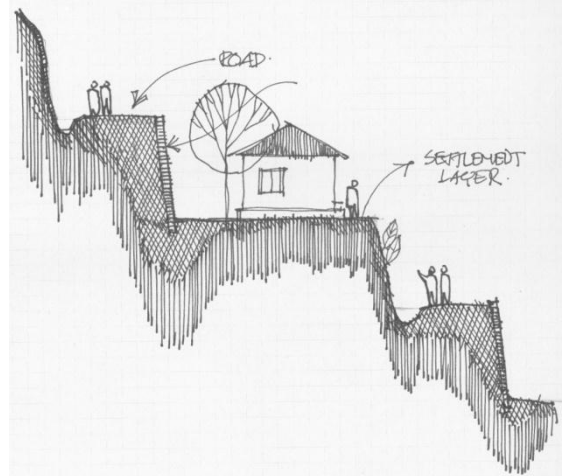
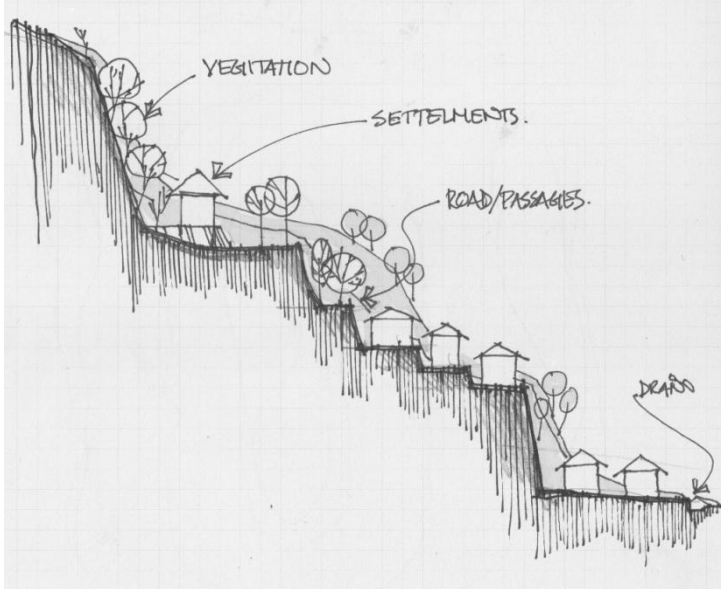
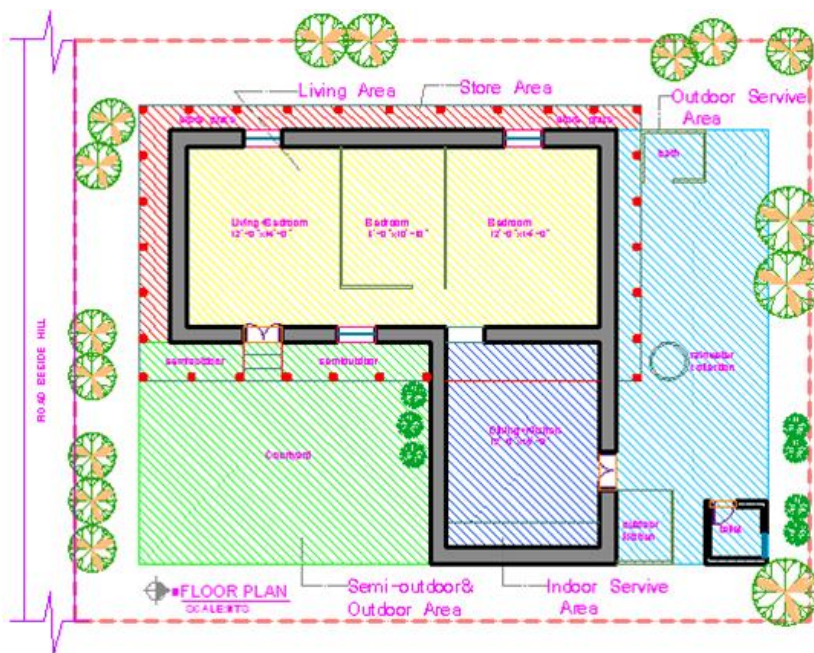


Fig: Proposed infrastructure (Road with guide wall)

- c) **Household System Analysis:** The existing house hold is smaller to accommodate minimum space for sleeping, cooking, storage & livelihoods. Temporary Kacha houses made with mud, Bamboo and thatched roof which maintenance process is very tough and not time effective and also not cost effective due to income range perspective.



04. **Impact:** The impact of community work is vast in range. With the involvement of UPPR team fellow started to work by community lead process. At first some workshop was arranged with local community people from 4 CDC, local builders, local NGO who are interested to work there, CHDF (Community Housing Development Fund), CDC (Community Development Committee) and UN-HABITAT technical team(Community Architect, Settlement Improvement Assistant, Urban Planner and Land Tenure Advisor) to identify community problems, risk, hazard and capacity. Female participation was noticeable during work which made them confident about life.

a) **Survey Work:** Extensive survey and community consultation was done by Perween Rahman fellow 2014 with other technical Person to understand the settlement pattern. It was very difficult work as the area is huge and very tough to reach everywhere for lack of road at hill side. Community people helped us in every step. Though the work is very new to the people but their participation was spontaneous.



b) **Key Issues:** From survey database we started to find out the key issues and scope to work there. Main issues were to ensure the land security due to land slide and land erosion, settlement improvement and develop individual household to ensure a better life standard.

c) **Community workshop:** Community workshop was a vital thing which helped us to find out their resources, risk, hazard, capacity and needs at a glance. Main participatory was Community people, Local builders, Community leaders, CHDF, some local NGO and our technical team.



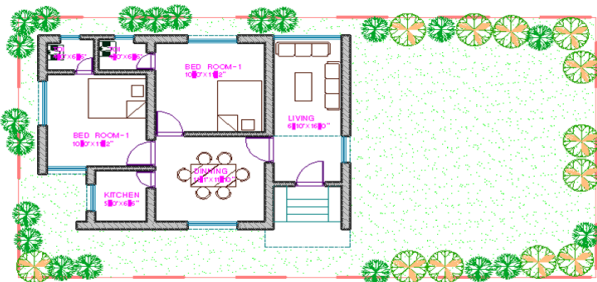
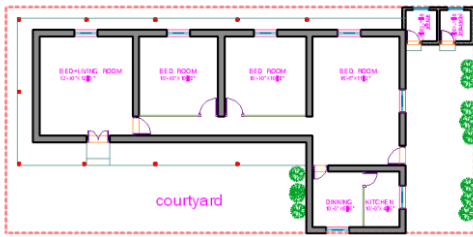
d) **Findings:** The main findings from workshop understood the local community techniques which help them to sustain during climatic hazards. This findings actually help me to prepare a strategic plan and start my design process for assure a better life condition.

e) **Strategies:** After the findings from workshop I contacted with some University teachers of Architecture and Environment departments, a Local NGO named "FHEDS"(Foresight Health & Education Development Society) which work with the disaster prone community at south coastal belt of Bangladesh to improve the housing. According to talk with the NGO team (Community Architect, Planner). It helps me to generate some ideas for working with climatic vulnerable community.

f) **Design Process:** Design process was lead by community people. A workshop was arranged with community people to prepare a community map and conducted land survey to demarcate housing units and existing infrastructures. After several community consultations with community people settlement Improvement proposal plan has done by the fellow and other technical person according community consultation. Each household has individual land area. So it is very tough work to produce design for individual 900 families. So some module based design was proposed for the community which helps them to reduce climatic vulnerability at household system. From survey data and map we got minimum 750 sft land and maximum 5250 sft for individual houses. It was a phase wise up gradation process because the whole are development is not possible in a single day or month. So we proposed some design ideas according community requirements and site requirement at master plan level and individual household level which will help them to upgrade their environment and lifestyle. Land area along family members, financial condition of the family, their affordability and climatic vulnerability were the main concern during design idea generation.

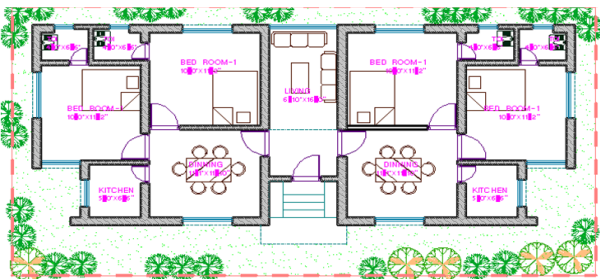
Perween Rahman Fellow's 2014 Work in **Bangladesh**
Fatema Sharmin Sonia (Community Architect, UNHABITAT)

Example of a phase wise design development for 1682sft land area. Total family member is 9 according 3 sons and 2 daughters. Existing house is made by mud wall and thatched roof. Total houses will be developed in 3 phases. ALL phases will complete within maximum 5 years according family income range. Using of brick as wall and corrugated sheet as roof gives them a security for long time.



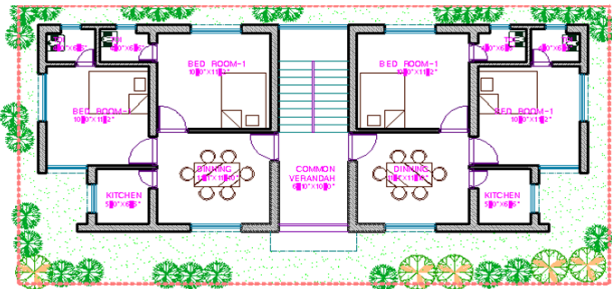
GROUND FLOOR PLAN PHASE-01

PHASE: 01



GROUND FLOOR PLAN PHASE-02

PHASE: 02



1st FLOOR PLAN PHASE-03

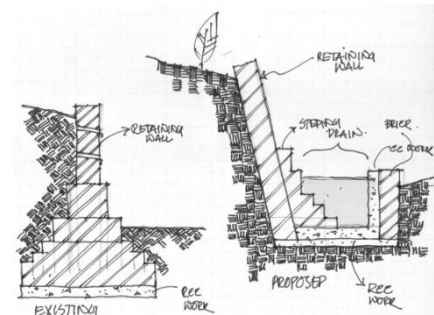
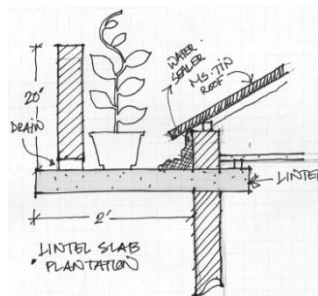
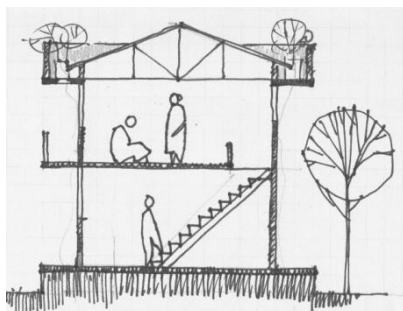


Fig: Some design Idea for individual Household and settlement level which will help to reduce climatic vulnerability by draining rain water and vegetation. This will reduce land erosion and land slide during heavy rain.

- g) **Challenges:** Main challenges were to convince community people at first as it was a new work for them. So at first some of them refused to participate. But when they understand the process they were very happy to work. As the area was so big to work at a time we worked in some groups. When one group convinced then they talked with other people as like group study. Another problem was to convince the political leader of Shondip Colony area. At first we had to meet with the councilor for several time to make him understand our work.
- h) **Lesson learning:** Community development is a continuous process. We had to contact with the community people always to make them understand we work for their betterment. As we had to work with collaboration with other organization so continuous communication was mandatory factor. Communication with key person related with this work was very important for sharing information and updates.

05. Next steps and planning: Eviction is a common trend in different urban settlements in Bangladesh which affect mentally to community people. Settlement improvement project in Shondip Colony create a faith and hope for ensuring better living condition with land tenure security and upgrade living condition among the neighbored community also. Moreover the community-led development process made the people more confident and unites to share their problems and find the solution, also to coordinate with city corporation government bodies and other development organization too. So not to let the hope down of the community we are continuing some activities like house hold survey, house hold registry, community profiling to identify the socio economic conditions and forming saving groups to manage the fund. Regular activity with the communities to bring some positive changes within the community is our major concern. Main achievement of the work is make concern community people to show some guideline which shows the path of improvement and quality life of the community people

06. Working With: The community lead process is not a single man work. It's a team work involved with Community people, CDC (Community Development Committee), CHDF (Community Housing Development Fund), UPPR (Urban Partnership For Poverty Reduction) office team, CO (Community Organizer), UNHABITAT technical team (Perween Rahman Fellow 2014 as Community Architect, Urban Planner, Land tenure Advisor), some local NGO we all worked together to develop a better settlement for the Shondip Colony Community people. Moreover based on some discussion with some teachers and experts of Khulna University Architecture Department and Community Architect from local NGO named "FHEDS" design idea was generated. Paper work has done by collaboration with Arch. Anirban Joarder (Community Architect, FHEDS). Special thanks to Mr. K. A. Jayaratne (Land Tenure Advisor, UNHABITAT) and Prof. Dr. Anirban Mostofa (Khulna University, Architecture Discipline) for cooperating with fellow at different situation and issues.

07. Special Moments to share During work:



Fig: Community Consultation is Ongoing



Fig: Meeting with Local Politician and Community People



Fig: During Community Workshop

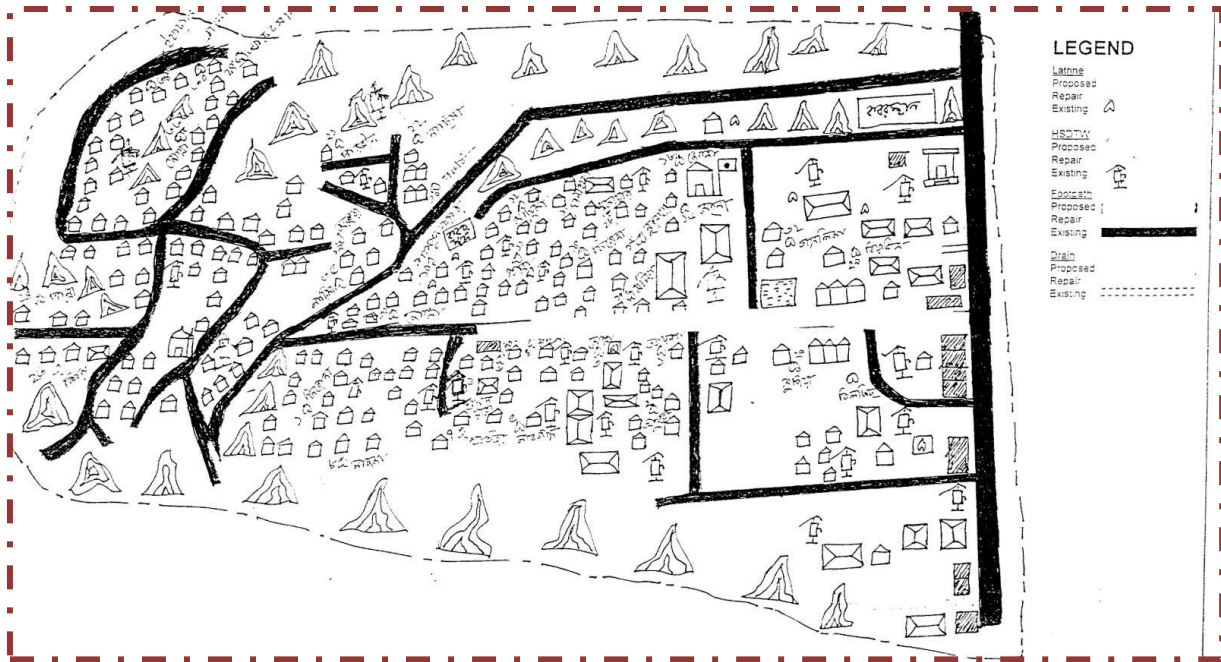


Fig: North Shondip Colony Community Map has done by Community People

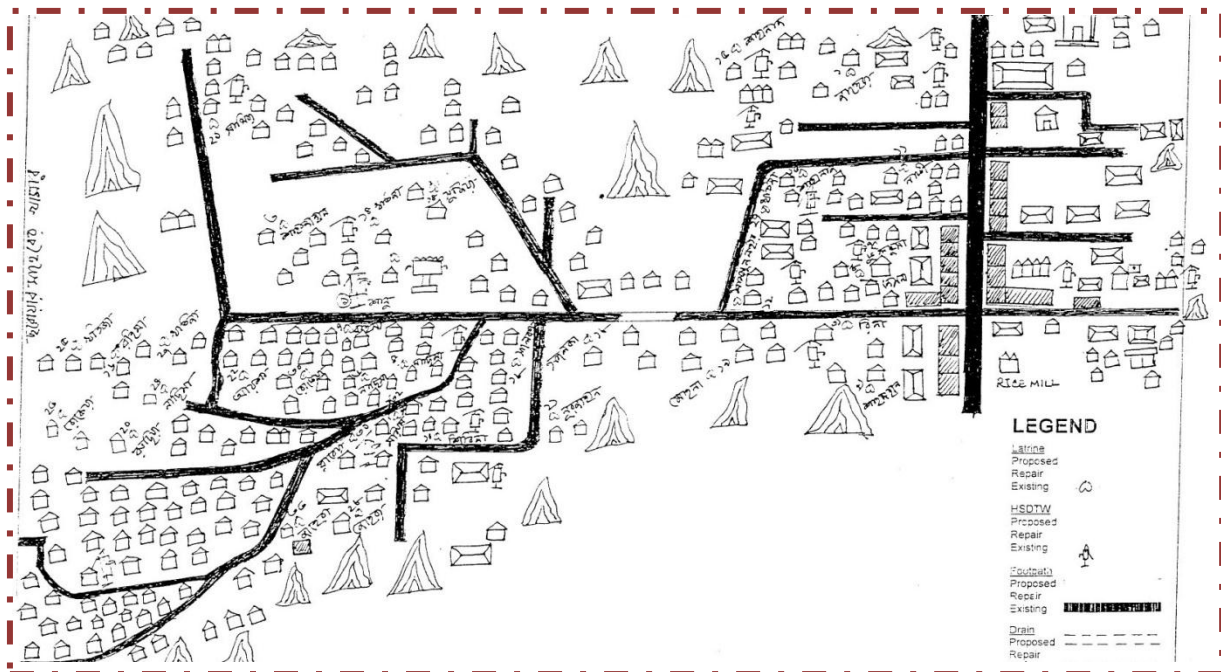


Fig: Middle Shondi Colony Community Map has done by Community People

