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ABSTRACT

Delhi witnessed unprecedented urbanisation in the last few decades. The population of Delhi grew from 17 Lacs in 1950's to almost 170 Lacs in 2011. The increase of ten folds in the population resulted in the rapid urbanisation and emergence of informal settlements in tandem with the planned colonies. There are multiple factors leading to the emergence of the informal settlements, most prominent being the deficit of formal or planned housing.

Unauthorised colonies are example of self-made housing bye-passing the formal system of planned development. These colonies are not categorised as slums, as in most of the cases the land ownership is bona fide and that the buildings are five storied pakka constructions.

The magnitude of this informal housing phenomenon can be gauged by the fact that there are more than 2000 such unauthorised colonies in Delhi providing shelter to a large size of population (with varying estimates of 30-60%).

The unauthorised colonies present a potential of generating self made informal housing stock. This thesis studies the architecture, settlement pattern, socio-economic aspects of the unauthorised colonies and intend to evolve a strategy to generate a community based informal housings stock.