

ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: A CASE STUDY OF MUMBAI SUBURBAN DISTRICT

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INTRODUCTION

Greater Mumbai is popularly known for many forms of tourism. Among them Beach tourism, Holiday tourism, Medical tourism, Historical tourism are some of the important forms. If night life would be granted by govt. of Maharashtra, then this city would reverberate like Hong Kong in many ways. General public does not know that old Mumbai i.e. the island city in the south and the suburban city in the north are two separate revenue districts of the state of Maharashtra. There are many existing tourist spots in the old city i.e. the island city of Mumbai which the world knows, but there are certain new tourist spots which have come up in the recent two decades with the fast development of population in the Suburbs of Mumbai. This paper is throwing light on the tourist spots in the suburban district.

AIM

To list the already existing natural tourist spots and add the new tourist spots in the suburban district of Mumbai.

OBJECTIVE

To classify the ward wise Recreational tourists centers in the suburban District of Mumbai.

HYPOTHESIS

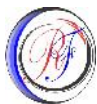
The suburbs are facing the problem of imbalance of preserving and protecting the natural environment against the ever increasing problem of construction work for development of infrastructure.

METHODOLOGY ADOPTED

Secondary data is used through census department records, published articles, books on Mumbai, websites of MMRDA, research papers etc. and accordingly tables and charts and maps are prepared to arrive at a conclusion.

LOCATION

Mumbai Suburban District is located at the west coast of Maharashtra on the Salsette Island to the north of Mumbai Island city. This district came into existence as a separate revenue district of Maharashtra on 4TH October 1990 vide notification



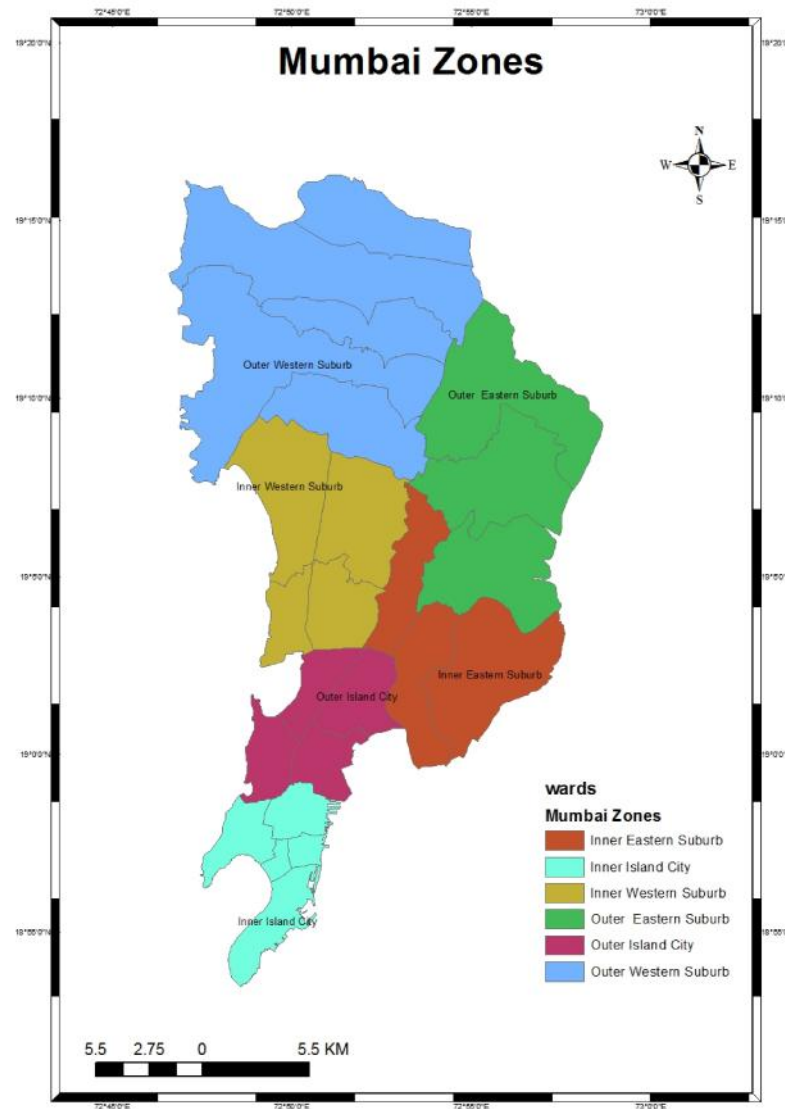
Greater Bombay can be divided in three parts. **I. City, II. Western Suburbs, III. Eastern Suburbs.** City comprised of nine wards i.e. A, B,C,D,E, F/South, F/North, G/South and G/ North. Eastern suburbs comprised of six wards i.e. L,M/East,M/West, N, S, and T and Western suburbs comprised of 8 wards i.e. H/East,H/West,K/East,K/West, P/South, P/North, R/South and R/ North. In the suburbs, the alignment of the railway routes and major link roads has played an important role in determining the cityscape. The western suburbs initially evolved as dormitory suburbs and in some of them such as Bandra, Khar, Juhu, one finds a northward extension of the upper class Residence area. On the other hand, the Eastern suburbs attracted industries such as heavy engineering & petrochemicals, the latter are concentrated in the Chembur-Trombay area. However due to upmarket residence in the eastern suburb such as Chembur and Ghatkopar, the distance between Eastern and western suburb is getting blurred. Similarly de-industrialization is resulting in large tracts of land formerly occupied by individual units entering the housing market causing a new wave of urban renewal. Eg. Mulund-Bhandup etc.

An extensive manufacturing belt developed in the 1940s & extended from Vikhroli & Bhandup in the east to Andheri & Goregaon in the west. It had a wide range of engineering industries with automobiles being significant. The residents of many nearby slum colonies of the area work in these industries. A business district was developed through planned intervention at the B.K.C. The B.K.C. has the advantage of proximity to the airports & is at present attracting a good no. of financial institutions from the suburbs. The diamond bourse is one of the new activities coming up at B.K.C. and works as a tourist center. The central part of **Salsette** is occupied by **S.G.N.P. ie. Sanjay Gandhi National Park**. This has given Mumbai a very special attention, in the world, of having a National park within the premises of a great Metro. On its outskirts, the Aarey Milk Colony and Film city have developed in eastern Goregaon. Powai, the site of the IIT Campus did not initially attract population due to its relative inaccessibility from the suburban railway lines. Due to the more attractive natural environment and the surge in the car ownership, a no. of upmarket residential developments have taken place in recent years. It appears that the commercial land is concentrated near the railway stations & along the major roads and highways. The residential colonies are found everywhere. Some are big & planned like the Anushaktinagar, Bharat Petroleum, O.N.G.C., R.C.F.- fertilizer company and the Air India Colony. The open spaces are occupied by the slums and the squatter settlements.

Table 2: Zonal classification of wards in Suburban Mumbai.

Zones	Name	Specific wards
III	Inner Western Sub.	H(E), H(W), K(E), K(W)
IV	Outer western Sub.	P(W), S, R(S), R(C), R(N)
V	Inner Eastern Suburb	L, M(E), M(W)
VI	Outer Eastern suburb	N,S,T

(Source:Dr. S. Chavan & Kuberkar, 2013)



The Eastern Suburbs (or Central Suburbs)

The Eastern Suburbs are also known as the Central Suburbs because the area is served by the Central Line. The Eastern Suburb consist of Bhandup, Ghatkopar, Kanjurmarg, Kurla, Mulund, Nahur, Powai, Vidyavihar and Vikhroli. To the south-east lie the suburbs of Chembur, Govandi, Mankhurd and Trombay. These suburbs are sometimes not considered as part of the Eastern Suburbs and are often referred to as the **Harbour Suburbs**. Now known as the '**Gas Chember,**' 'previously Chembur was known as "**Garden City**" where the famous film stars like Raj Kapoor, Ashok-kumar, Shobhana Samartha, Lalita pawar used to have their bungalows. Along with the R.K. studio still now they are the centre of attraction of common people. Similarly the B.P.C.L. colony has also become a center of attraction as shooting of majority of the films and advertisements is done here. The stations of Monorail are also the new tourist spots.

The Western Suburbs: are the western precinct of the city of Mumbai. The Suburb consistof Andheri,Bandra, Borivali, Dahisar, Goregaon, Jogeshwari, Juhu,Kandivali, Khar, Malad, Santacruz and Vile Parle. Geographically, the Western Suburbs lie at the western part of

Salsette Island. Mumbai's, Mithi river flows through this area and also serves as a sewage line. In the 80s, a well-intentioned attempt to set up a new downtown away from Nariman Point resulted in the establishment of the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). Most of the larger financial banks and companies moved to this place. This area has some nice beaches, at Malad. Jogeshwari has hot springs having medicinal properties. Borivali is the entry point for the **Sanjay Gandhi National Park**, which is why the wildlife reserve is more popularly known as **Borivali National Park**. Many software and BPO companies have their offices in and around SEEPZ in Andheri. The western suburbs also boast the Juhu Beach. These suburbs can get extremely crowded in the evenings, with very severe traffic jams. The MCGM has divided the two district into total Six Zones divided into 24 wards and 88 sections. The island city comprises of total Two Zones divided into 9 wards including 38 sections while the suburban vast area is divided into total Four Zones divided into 15wards and 50 sections . The wards from A to G are included in island city while wards starting from H to T are in suburban District. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai looks after the administration of both the Revenue Districts. Both the districts have separate collectors.

Table 3: Mumbai Suburban District:List of wards & Areas Covered

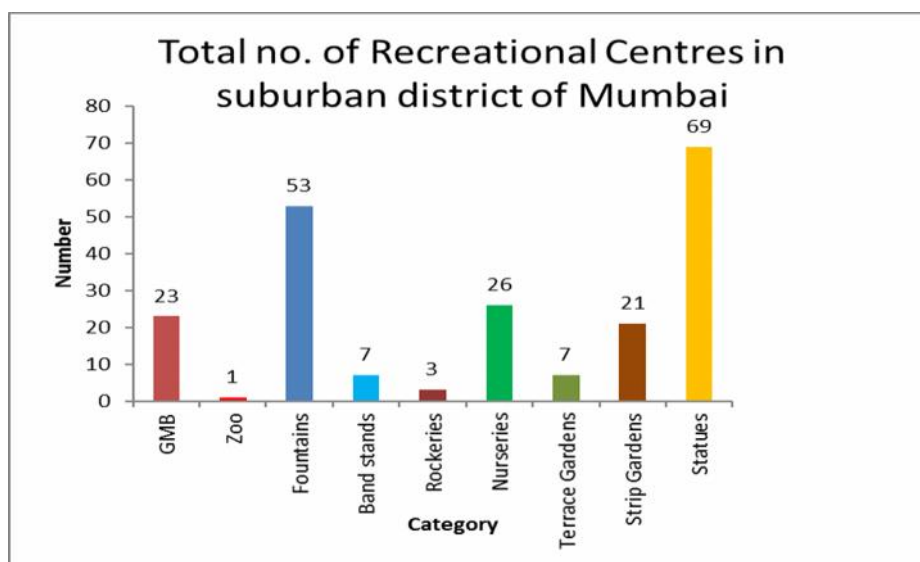
Ward.	Name	Areas covered under each ward
10	H/E	Khar scheme, Hill Road, Turner Rd, Santacruz /E
11	H/w	Slaughter House,Colwada, Bandra Hill, Palli Hill,Danda, Khar Scheme,Hill Rd,Turner Rd,Santacruz(w),Santacruz(Central),& Juhu
12	K/E	Vile-Parle(E),Andheri(E),Jogeshwari(E), Goregaon,and village Maroshi
13	K/W	Vile-Parle (w),Juhu, Andheri,(w),Versova, Madha and Jogeshwari(w)
14	L	New Mills(Kurla)(Station Takia), Kurla,Swadeshi Mills, Chunabhatti, Khajuribhatti,& Bazar,Church Hall, Kasaiwada, Naupada & Seven Villages
15	M/E	Mahul,Trombay,Govandi,Vadavali,Borla,and Mankhurd
16	M/W	Mahul,Trombay,Govandi,Vadavali,Borla & Mankhurd
17	N	Ghatkopar, Kirol,Ghatkopar, Panjarapol, Vikhroli
18	P/N	Erangal & Daroli, Malad(w), Malad(E),Kurar, Dindoshi, Chincholi, Wadhwan, Valnai, Malvani, Akse,& Marve, Manori Island.
19	P/S	Goregaon & Village Maroshi, Aarey,Eksar Pahadi and Malad(E)
20	R/C	Borivli & Shimpoli,Eksar & Mandapeshwar,Gorai,&Kulvem,Kanheri & Magathane,
21	R/N	Eksar,& Mandapeshwar,Magathane, Dahisar
22	R/S	Kandivli & Charcop,Poisar, Akurli
23	S	Vikhroli & Bhandup
24	T	Mulund(E),Mulund(w) Nahur, Tulsi,Gundagaon,Sai, Vihar,Kerobadi

Source: Census of India, 2001.

Cultural Landscape of Suburban Mumbai : Greater Mumbai is the amalgamation of a mixed cosmopolitan culture including both- the culture of the local native people and the culture of the migrants. This is very well reflected not only in the island city but also in the Suburban District. Following is the list of tourist interest places in suburban district which includes the Religious Places, Beautiful Beaches, Amusement Parks and Gardens, Attractive Malls and Shopping complexes, National Park etc. besides the recreational facilities.

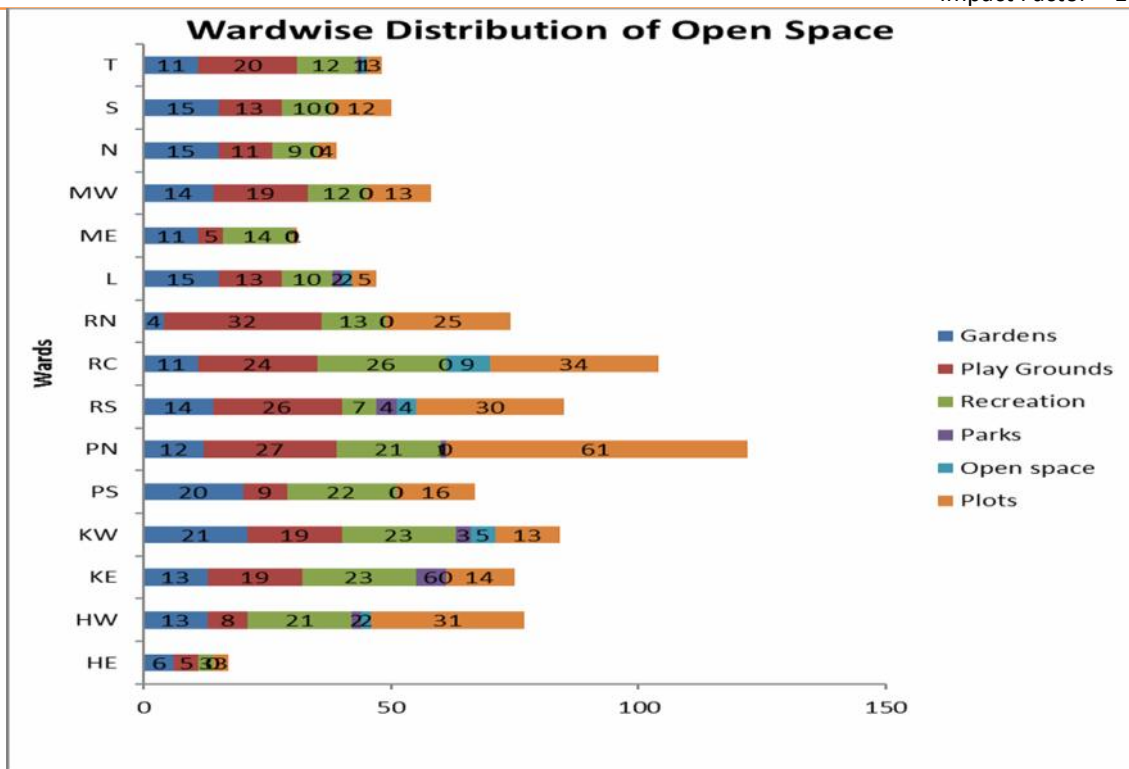
Recreational Facilities in Mumbai Suburban District: Recreational facilities to the citizens is a discretionary duty of the Municipal Corporation under the section 63 of Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act 1888. The corporation provides recreational facilities to the citizens by way of maintaining gardens and creating green areas ,providing playgrounds, cleaning and maintaining beaches, recreational centers, water fountains, statues, maintaining zoos, Traffic islands, and mass scale tree plantations to keep the ecological balance and to ward off the effects of air pollution. There are about 263 gardens and total 9678 trees in the gardens and on the roads..There are 263 traffic islands with green areas surrounded with it. The gardens in the form of terrace gardens, strip gardens, and nurseries in total are also more than 55 in number. The rockeries and band stands in total are ten in number.

People in large numbers come to plant trees and hence the number of planted trees is increasing every year. Table 4 showing Recreational facilities in the suburbs.



SR. NO.	Category	Number
1.	Garden	263
2	Play ground	289
3	Recreational grounds	321
4	Traffic Islands	268
5	Tree planted on roads	4915
6	Tree planted elsewhere	4760
7	Total Trees	9675
8	Band stands	07
9	Rockeries	03
10	Nurseries	26
11	Terrace Gardens	07
12	Strip Gardens	21
13	Statues	69
14	Garden with Municipality	23
15	Zoo	01
16	Fountains	53

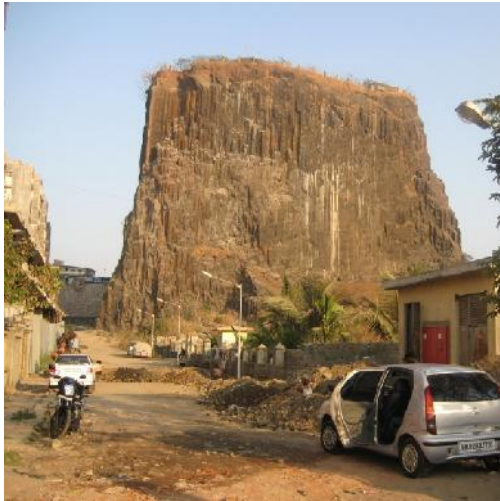
Source: Superintendent of Gardens, Mumbai Municipal Corporation.



Following table no 5 shows the ward wise list of tourist centers.

Ward	Name of Area	Tourist Places
H /W	Bandra	Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar’s Bat, his & superstar Rajesh Khanna’s Bungalow, 'Ashirwad', Joggers Park, Linking Road, Shopper’s Stop, Equal Street on Sundays for 4 Hours on S.V. Road & Linking Road , sky walks, Fly overs
K	Andheri and Jogeshwari, Juhu	Mahakali& Jogeshwari caves, Gillbert Hill, Prithvi Theatre, Juhu Beach, Iskcon Temple, Andheri Sports Complex ,Hot springs, Amitabh Bacchan’s 4 Bungalows, Metro Station, All 5 star Beach facing Hotels like Mariad, Sun & Sand, etc., Air Port
P/ N	Malad	Kurad village, High density of population, Infinity Mall
P / S	Malad	Aarey Colony, Mahanand Dairy, Film City
R / C	Borivli	S.G.N. P.; Kanheri Caves
R /N		Ganapat Patil Nagar- Biggest Slum Area in Suburbs, 193 open spaces, All tanks & lakes have Guppy Fish for eradication of Malaria
R/S		Extention of Slum -65% people live in slum
S	Bhandup & Vikhroli	Shivaji Talao, Powai lake, IIT Campus, Asia’s Biggest water filtration Plant, Hiranandani Estate
T	Borivli	Vihar & Tulsi Lake, some part of S.G.N.P.
M	Chembur, Trombay	R.K.Studio, Bungalows of film star Raj Kapoor, B.A.R.C.
H /E	Santacruz, Khar	University of Mumbai, B.K.C., Diamond Bourse, MMRDA complex ,Cricket Ground, Business Hub on par witg Hongkong & Singapore
N	Ghatkopar	Metro Station
L	Kurla	Industrial Workshops

Source: Compiled through information of NGO Praja, newspaper articles, MMRDA Website



Because of the rapid development all over the city and suburban region, the green cover is being hampered. The native green cover of mangroves found in Vikhroli, Dahisar, Borivmly and Bhandup is under threat. Mumbai has lost 40% of the mangrove cover in the past two decades owing to systematic illegal dumping, encroachment, housing, slums, sewage treatment, toxic pollutants and illegal land filling in acquiring more and more space for expanding the suburb. There were three laws passed in 2005, 2009 and 2014 by the High Court. According to order of law in 2005, debris dumping within 50 meters of the mangroves is prohibited and all mangroves must be designated as a protected Forest.

In 2009, the High Court stated that no non forest activities should be allowed on Mangrove land. In 2014, the High Court banned reclamation and construction on wetlands across the state. But the builder lobby is not taking cognizance of it. Every day the newspaper headlines read the encroachments on the mangroves by builders.

CONCLUSION

The development is good but it should not hamper the natural environment. Similarly only by making laws on paper and not implementing it, is also not correct. So, for the overall healthy environment concern for the environment should be deep rooted in our hearts and for that creation of awareness regarding the environment at all levels in the society is the need of the day.

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