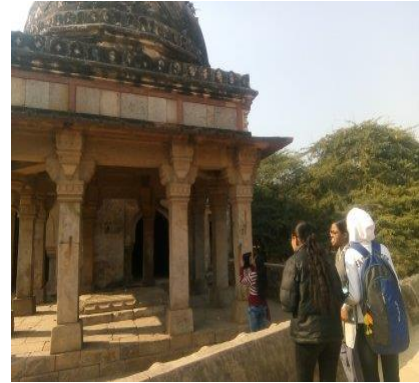
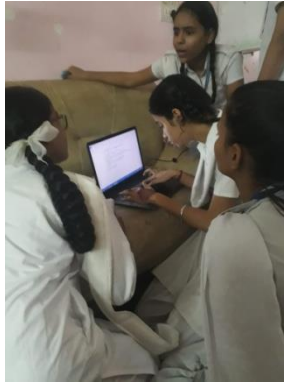


CONDITION OF MONUMENTS IN MEHRAULI



School- SarvodayaKanyaVidyalaya No.2, Mehrauli

Team-

Varsha Grade 9

Guddi Grade 9

Nishu Grade 9

Yachna Grade 8

Faqiha Grade 8

Teachers-

Sneha Saini

Amisha Singh

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. ABSTRACT
2. INTRODUCTION
3. METHODS
4. FINDINGS
5. DISCUSSIONS
6. REFLECTIONS

ABSTRACT

Our research question is “**What percentage of monuments in Mehrauli area being conserved and to what extent?**”

The methods that we used were survey of students between the age of 10 and 20 and residents between the age of 20 to 50+ to find out what think of the condition of Mehrauli’s monuments, how many they had heard of, visited and why they thought some monuments were in ruins. We went for observation to see for ourselves what the experience of a first time tourist might be like and collect evidence of the current state of these monuments. We also interviewed different people like residents, tourists, ASI officials, monument caretakers, guards, etc. These monuments are all in our neighborhood, we walk past them everyday, hear about them very frequently and even visit them some times during festivals like *PhoolWalonkiSair*

Our hypothesis is that “More than 70% of monuments present in Mehrauli are not maintained and 40% are encroached by people because there is no structure that monitors their maintenance and conservation.” After our 4 day observation of these monuments we found out that it is in fact true but the process of its conservation and protection is much more complicated. We found out that out of all the 10 monuments that we observed, only 4 of them were conserved and well maintained. The names of these did not come as a surprise to us. The monuments that were in the best condition were QutubMinar, Yogmaya Temple and St. John’s Church all of which we had put in Category 2 and 3. JamaliKamali Tomb and Mosque however was not well conserved as well. All the monuments in Category 1, Jahaz Mahal, BhoolBhulaiya, Hauz-i-Shamshi, Zafar Mahal, GandhakkiBaoli, Chaumachi Khan’s Tomb, were also in a poor state and not protected or conserved. The parameters of our research were cleanliness, maintenance of building structure(scribbled walls, damage to the paint job, damage by animals), facilities(ticket counter, illumination, parking, washrooms, drinking points, kiosks, beautification, electricity, information board), security(indecent/illegal practices, watchmen, CCTV cameras) and encroachment.

Our interviews with an ASI employee and a senior ASI In charge of Qutub Minar, monument conservation activist Vikramjit Singh Rooprai, residents and tourists helped us expand our perception and knowledge towards our research. We found out that there is not one entity to blame for the damage or the ill maintenance of these monuments. Both residents and government agencies share equal responsibility for the protection of these monuments. The Qutub Minar In-charge told us about the agency’s disregard for the monuments in the residential area of Mehrauli and many other residential areas. He shared the multiple times when their attempts at protecting and conserving these monuments were put to waste because of the residents who refused to leave the premise, keep the premise clean or engage in illegal activities there. He spoke about how the existence of multiple agencies like MCD, RWA, Police Department for security and the government made ASIs work much difficult.

We feel that if all these agencies along with the people of Mehrauli come together in protecting and conserving these monuments, the face of Mehrauli might change. Being one of the first ancient cities of Delhi, every street of Mehrauli has great history and story to tell. Advertising these monuments just might better the condition of Mehrauli as a whole that is full of poverty and unemployment.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What percentage of monuments in Mehrauli area being conserved and to what extent?

HYPOTHESIS

More than 70% of monuments present in Mehrauli are not maintained and 40% are encroached by people because there is no structure that monitors their maintenance and conservation.

RATIONALE

City

Delhi is a city of rich heritage and culture. People from all over the world visit our city to see its beautiful buildings from the past, parks, markets and eateries. But there has been a trend that only popularizes the same places everywhere. Delhi is so much more than that. Delhi's Imperial Capital Cities' comprising of the two imperial capital cities of Shahjahanabad and New Delhi were proposed for nomination to UNESCO's List of World Heritage Cities in June 2015, the only nomination submitted to UNESCO by India that year. But our city is not just about the big popular monuments with wide roads leading to them but also the forgotten monuments in the narrow lanes. This is what makes Delhi special, different from others. There are numerous plans in action that are working towards conservation of monuments in Delhi but not much is being done for the less renowned monuments. We are afraid that if we don't pay attention to them, Delhi might become just another city that has lost its roots and its culture.

<https://cpwd.gov.in/Publication/ConservationHertBuildings.pdf>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/conservation-shield-for-19-monuments/articleshow/69656317.cms>

<http://www.intachdelhichapter.org/projects.php>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/personal-finance-news/conservation-of-built-heritage-included-in-delhi-master-plan/articleshow/37012425.cms?from=mdr>

PERSONAL REASON

1.Last time when I had visited QutubMinar, I enjoyed it a lot. There was an organized line, metal detectors, security, etc. There were well trimmed lawns and trash cans in every corner. On my way back, less than 500metres away, I saw BhoolBhulaiya and saw the exact opposite. I started thinking about all the other monuments which are so close to QutubMinar but are not given the same importance.

2.Many monuments inside the lanes of Mehrauli are used for criminal activities like gambling. Many residents are afraid to visit these monuments because of the usage of drugs and alcohol around that area. Since there is no security, these activities are not stopped.

3.There are also various myths and tales of ghosts and Jinns about these monuments which keeps the people away from them. We feel that if there is security or management in these monuments, people will feel safer and confident to visit them.

REFERENCES

1. https://medium.com/@nitishkumar_49385/the-unexplored-monuments-of-mehrauli-6e032f77b6d
2. <https://www.thequint.com/photos/mehrauli-one-of-the-original-cities-that-later-became-delhi-mughal-12th-century-archaeological-park>
3. <http://oneindiaonepeople.com/the-unsung-monuments-of-mehrauli/>

CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the Survey, Secondary data, Interviews with locals, tourists and experts and Observation we came to the following conclusion:

1. 70% of the monuments that we observed (7 out of 10) were not conserved.
2. The main entity responsible for the damage to these monuments were the local residents who do not cooperate with the authorities in conserving and protecting the monuments.
3. Existence of multiple agencies like MCD, ASI, Police, RWA and the government makes the process of conservation of monuments very difficult.
4. Monuments in Category 2 (Religious Monuments) were in a far better condition than any other monuments. The reason behind this that the residents and visitors have taken ownership of its protection and conservation.
5. We also found a correlation between ASI's disregard for conservation of monuments in category 1 and their claim about the public being only attracted to the monuments in the lime light.

METHODS

SURVEY

Since Mehrauli is the oldest community of Delhi where many big and small monuments can be seen at every nook and corner. It houses many historical monuments which have been since

Selection of monuments for the research:

We decided to pick the major monuments which are either in the residential area of Mehrauli or the ones which are extremely popular among the locals and tourists. Therefore we decided to divide the monuments in 3 categories.

Category 1- These monuments were least popular among our team and/or situated deep inside the residential area. (Jahaz Mahal, BhoolBhulaiya, Hauz-i-Shamshi, Zafar Mahal, GandhakkiBaoli, Chaumachi Khan's Tomb)

Category 2- These monuments are in the religious category but with a significant history which are used as places of worship. We have all visited these monuments at least once in our lives and we see a stark difference in maintenance. Therefore, we wanted to see for ourselves if people's sentiments played an important part in the state of the monuments (Yogmaya Temple, St. John's Church)

Category 3- These monuments are the ones with the most popularity. These monuments are located outside the residential area and are advertised by various agencies. (QutubMinar, Jamali-Kamali Tomb and Mosque).

.Student survey questionnaire that we prepared :

<u>SURVEY- Conservation of Monuments- Lets know your views!</u>			
Age - 10-20 ☐ 20 – 60 ☐			
Residence – _____			
1. Have you heard of / visited these monuments that are present in Mehrauli?			
MONUMENTS	HEARD	NO OF TIMES VISITED	
Jahaz Mahal			
Shamsi Talab (Hauz-i-Shamshi)			
Zafar Mahal			
Chaumachi Khan Tomb			
Gandhak Ki Baoli			
Aadam Khan's Tomb (BhoolBhulaiya)			
Yogmaya Temple			
St John's Church			
QutubMinar			
JamaliKamali			
2. What are some of the reasons of not visiting the monuments mentioned above ?			
Unheard	Haunted	Unsafe (drinking, smoking)	Others _____

Meaning of Conservation- <i>Conservation means the process through which material, design and integrity of the monument is safeguarded in terms of its archeological and architectural value, its historical significance and its cultural or intangible associations (Archeological Survey of India, 2014)</i> Conservation means protection, maintaining monuments initial condition and its historical importance. 3. Do you think monuments present in Mehrauli are being conserved?				
Yes		No		
4. Why do you feel they being conserved or not conserved _____				
5. Who is responsible for taking care of monuments				
Government		People		Both
6. Have you ever by chance (or unintentionally) thrown garbage/ spit/ written on the walls of any monumnets?				
Yes		No		
7. Do you think damaging of monuments are destroying our history, economy and culture ?				
Strongly agree	. Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
8. What are the problems or threats which are responsible for damaging the monuments?				
Pollution	Maintenance	Illegal occupation/ encroachment	Irresponsible behavior of visitors	Other (please specify)

We surveyed around 50 students of Sarvodaya KanyaVidyalaya No.2, Mehrauli .We also took survey of 50 people living in Mehrauli from age 20 to above 50. We thought of taking two different age groups (10-20, 20- 50 above) to understand better their different view point on monument conservation. We utilized our free periods for surveying the students. We also explained the meaning of “conservation” and the surveying questions to them . We also made our own definition of “conservation” of monument with the help of archeological survey of India (ASI) .

OBSERVATON

We chose observation as the first hand data collection method to make our research more authentic. This tool helped us in calculating the data points that we needed about the cleanliness, accessibility, facilities provided in each of the monuments.

After analyzing secondary data initially , we picked out some relevant points which we decided were necessary with respect to our research i.e. cleanliness, maintenance, accessibility, security, current condition of the structures, basic tourist facilities, etc. Keeping these points in mind, we prepared the following observation sheet.

OBSERVATION SHEET							
MONUMENT NAME _____							
TIME OF OBSERVATION _____							
1. Cleanliness							
spitting stains	garbage litter	clean washroom for males and females					
2. Safety/security							
Indecent practices (Smoking, drinking, gambling, eve teasing, etc.)		guard/watchman	. cctv camera ☐				
3. Facilities							
Ticket counter	beautification (paintings, garden, illumination, etc)	parking	electricity	water supply	information board	washroom	kios ks
4. Encroachment							
Just living on premises				structurally changed the monument			
5. Damage to the architecture							
scribble on the walls		damage to the paint job			Damage by animals (bird/animal feces, mud daubers, etc.)		
6. Accessibility							
complicated route without directions ☐				Simple route with sign boards			

We went on community walks for four days after school in order to first search and then observe the monuments based on our criteria's.

INTERVIEW

The third method that we used was interview. During our observation visits, we decided to take interviews of people who were at/around the monuments like shopkeepers, residents, tourists, employees in the monuments like caretakers, watchmen, etc. This provided us with true data on the condition of monuments from the actual stakeholders who have been living in Mehrauli past 5-10 or even 50 years. We took full informed consent of the people who participated in our observation and research paper in the form of interviews.

This is our interview sheet:

Interview DATA Collection

PROFESSION	AGE	TIME PERIOD OF WORKING	Condition of monument before and after joining	Challenges you faced doing your job	
Residence	44	45 years	There is new development 3 (Times change) - Small space - Differences - water shortage - development - Starks (Transport) - Washroom Two time when intended extend into length 400 people visit No funds are raised 2000 at the construction site marched, construction off, all the vendors	guidance 1907 at the 1/11/2020 at the washroom was not there now at the No fund by government monthly charge 400-500 families great at about net at the	

DETAILED FINDINGS

1. SURVEY

SURVEY- Conservation of Monuments- Lets know your views!

Age - 10-20 ☒ 20-35 ☐ 35-50 ☐ Above 50 ☐
Residence - Mehrauli

1. Have you heard of / visited these monuments that are present in Mehrauli?

MONUMENTS	HEARD	NUMBER OF TIMES VISITED
Jahaz Mahal	☒	0
Shamsi Talab	☒	0
Zafar Mahal	☒	0
Chauhan's Khan Tomb	☒	0
Gandhak Ki Baoli	☒	0
Adam Khan's Tomb (Bhool Bhulaiya)	☒	4-5
Vignaya Temple	☒	2-3
St John's Church	☒	0
Qutub Minar	☒	0
Janali Kumbh	☒	0

2. What are some of the reasons for not visiting the monuments mentioned above?

Unheard ☐ Haunted ☐ Unsafe (drinking, smoking) ☒ Others (please specify) _____

Meaning of Conservation- Conservation means the process through which material, design and integrity of the monument is safeguarded in terms of its archeological and architectural value, its historical significance and its cultural or intangible associations (Archeological Survey of India, 2014)

Conservation means protection, maintaining monument's initial condition and its historical importance.

3. Do you think monuments present in Mehrauli are being conserved?
Yes ☐ No ☒

4. Why do you feel they being conserved or not conserved? People stole things and make it dirty

5. Who is responsible for taking care of monuments?
a. Government ☐ b. People ☐ c. Both ☒

6. Have you ever by chance (or unintentionally) thrown garbage/ spit/ written on the walls of any monument?
Yes ☐ No ☒

7. Do you think damaging of monuments are destroying our history, economy and culture?
a. Strongly agree ☒ b. Agree ☐ c. Neutral ☐ d. Disagree ☐ e. Strongly disagree ☐

8. What are the problems or threats which are responsible for damaging the monuments?
a. Pollution ☒
b. maintenance ☐
c. Illegal occupation encroachment ☐
d. Irresponsible behavior of visitors ☐
e. Other (please specify) _____

THANK YOU ☐

Monument

	1-5	6-10	11-15	15-20	20-25	More
Heard						3
JM	(10) IIII	III				11 (2)
ST	(10) IIII	III				11 (2)
ZM	(10) IIII	III				
CHT	(10) IIII	III				
GKB	(10) IIII	III				
Shal	(10) IIII	III				
AT	(10) IIII	III				
ST	(10) IIII	III				
QM	(10) IIII	III				
JK	(10) IIII	III				

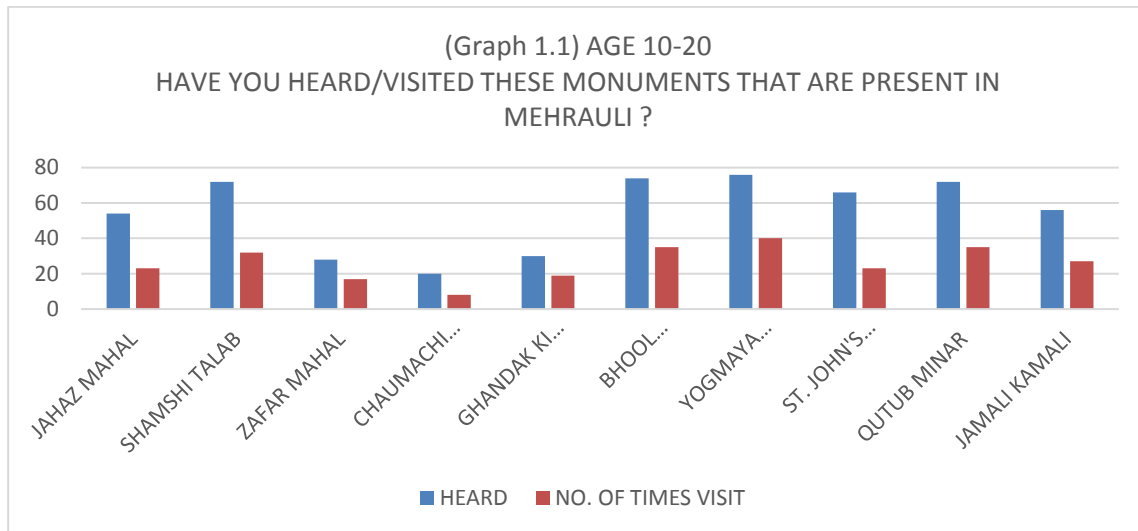
2) m heard JM (11)
Haunted II (2)
Unsafe HT (5)
Other II (2)

3) Yes JM (5)
No HT HT (11)

4) a) People (85)
b) People (14)
c) other (both) JM HT (15)

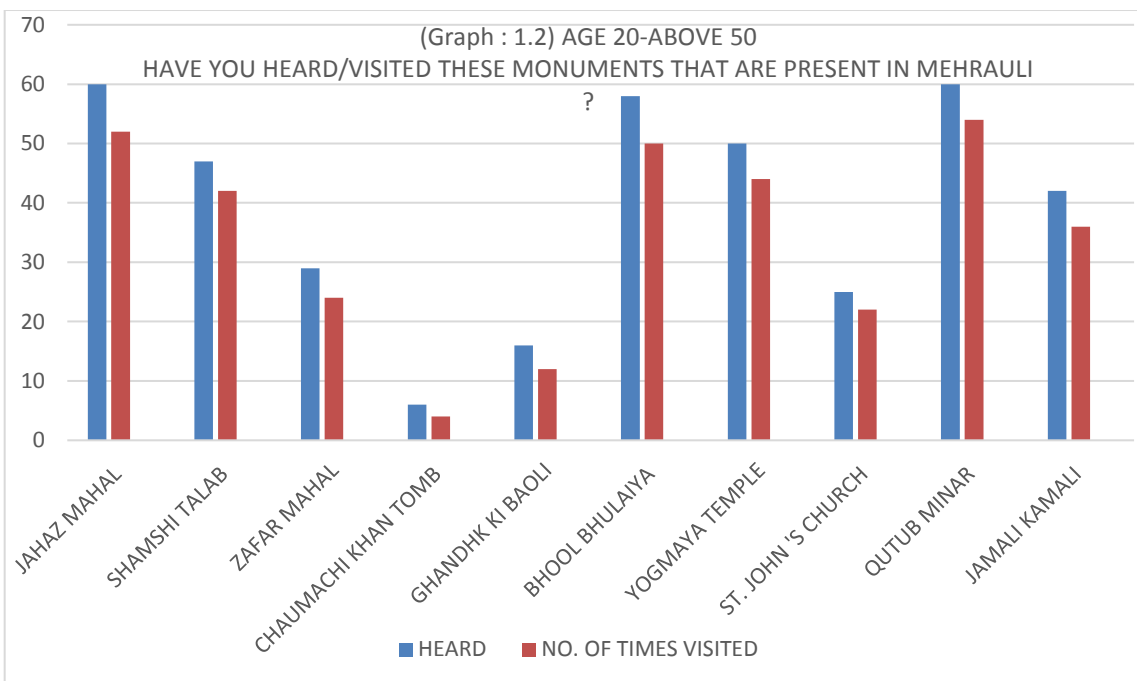
6) Yes JM (85)
No HT HT (14)

7) a) JM HT (4)

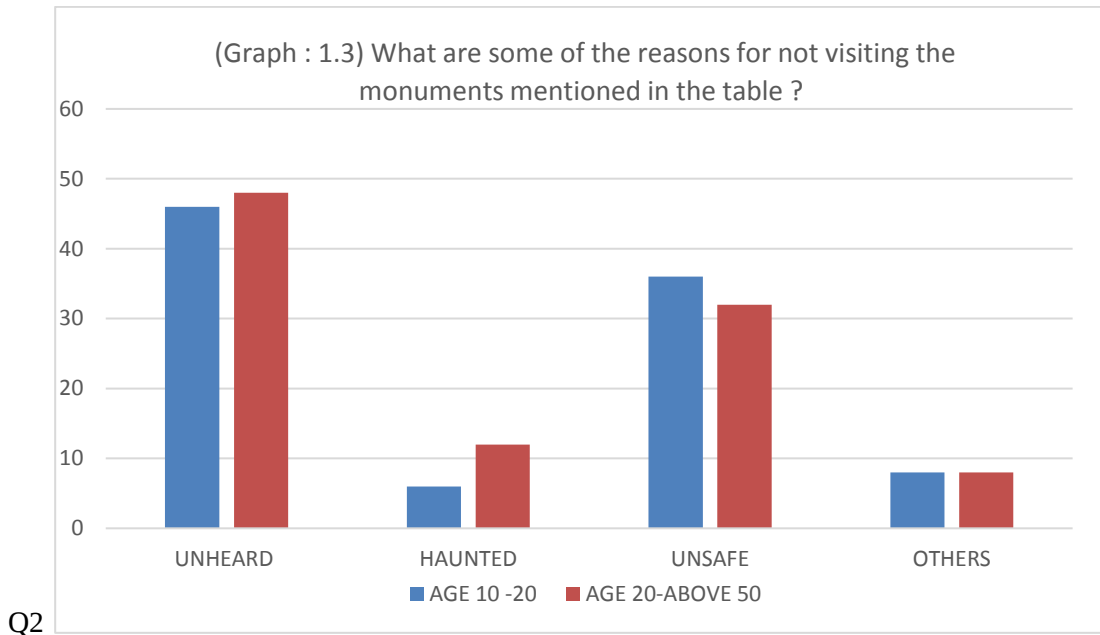


Q1.

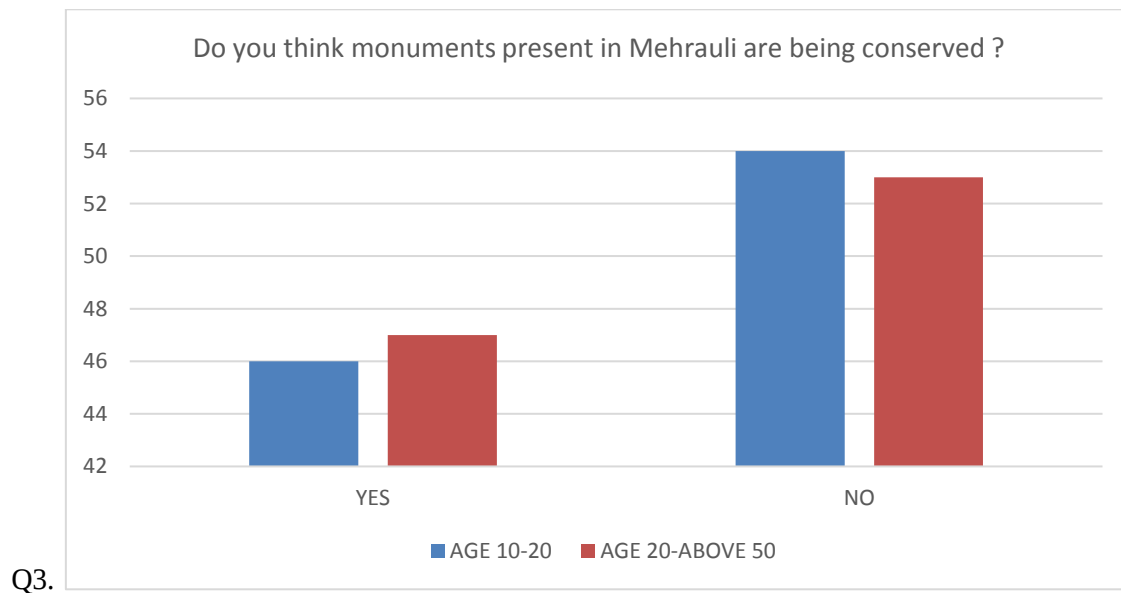
We surveyed 100 people in total in which 50 people were of 10-20 age group and 50 people were from 20 to 50 above age group. After surveying age group 10-20 we noticed that Chaumachi Khan tomb was the least heard of (19%) and least visited as well (8%) among all the monuments (the reason behind this became more clear to us after or observation). Monuments such as Shamsi Talab, BhoolBhulaiya, Yogmaya Temple, St. John's Church, Qutub Minar are mostly heard of and visited .



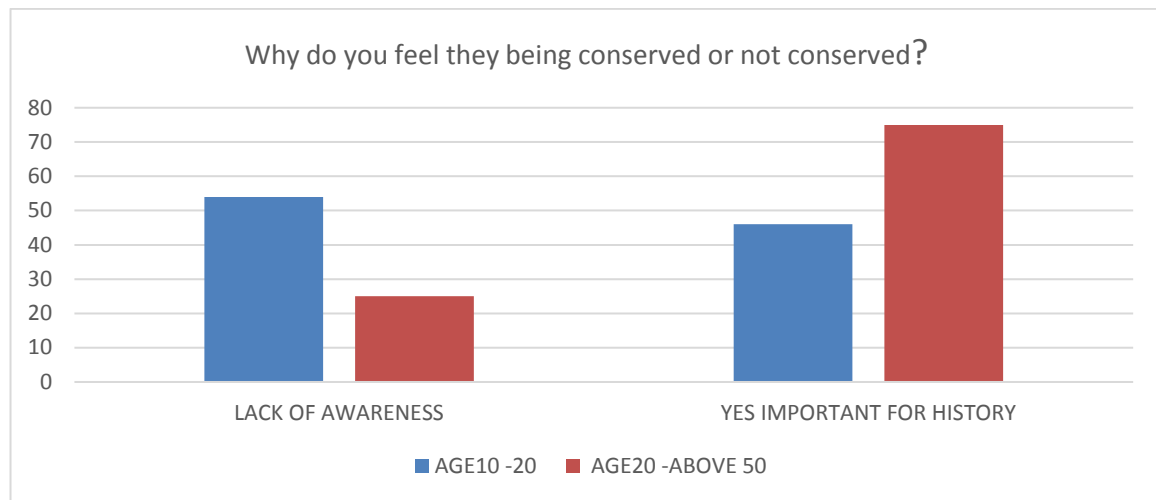
After surveying age group 20 – 50above,we noticed that monuments like Chamauchi Khan's Tomb was least heard of(6%) as well as less visited(2.5%) and monuments such as Jahaz Mahal and QutubMinar are mostly heard of and mostly visited as well. (Refer graph 1.2) .



After surveying people from both the categories, we noticed that the major reason for both the age groups not visiting the monument is the monuments being unheard of {age groups 10-20(46%) and 20- 50 above(48%)}. We also co-related that the monuments which were unheard of were less visited as well. Another reason, we found out were the monuments being unsafe due to indecent practices like drinking, gambling and playing card which are happening in most monuments.

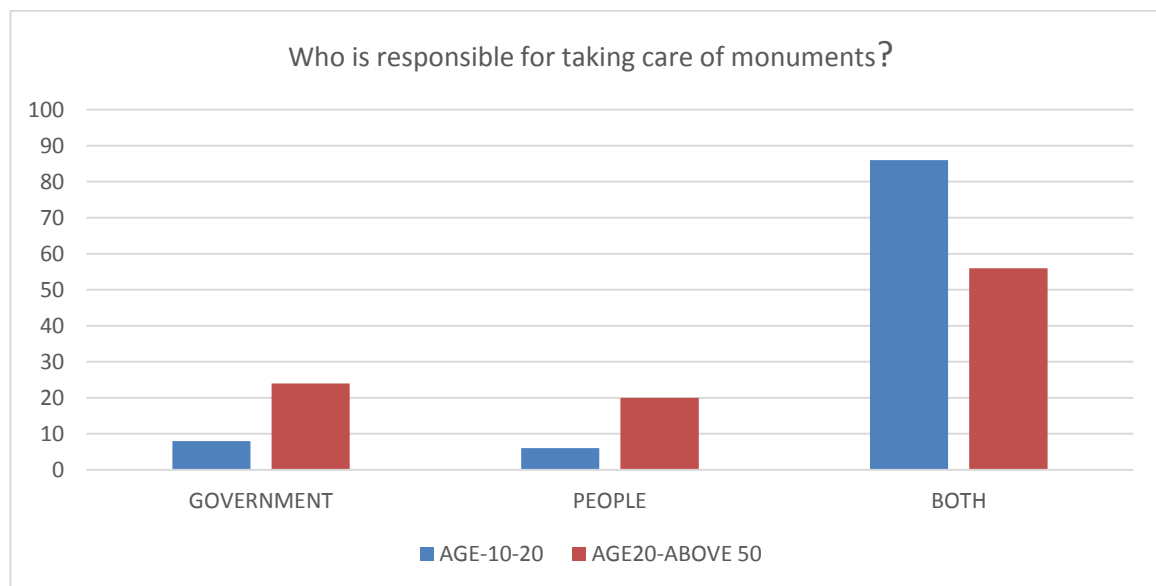


After surveying people we noticed that almost 54% of the people (age group 10-20) and 53% of the (age group 20 – 50 above) think that there is no conservation of monuments. A very small percentage of people (46% and 47%) agree that they are conserved.



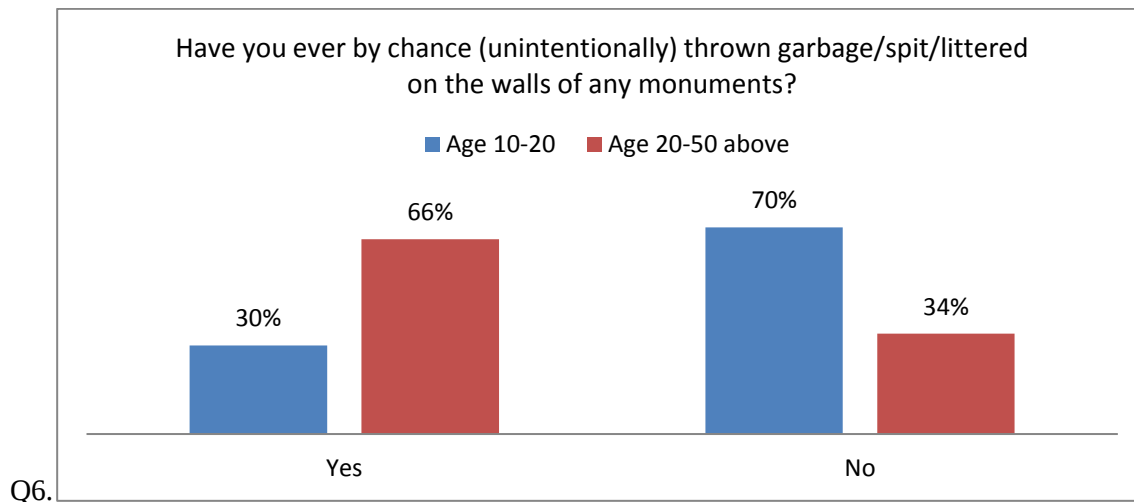
Q4.

Among the 10-20 age group, 54% feel that the reason for no conservation of monuments is lack of awareness and almost 46% feel that because it is important for the history of the country. Among the age group 20-50above, 25% of people feel that there is less conservation because of lack of awareness and 75% of people feel the latter.

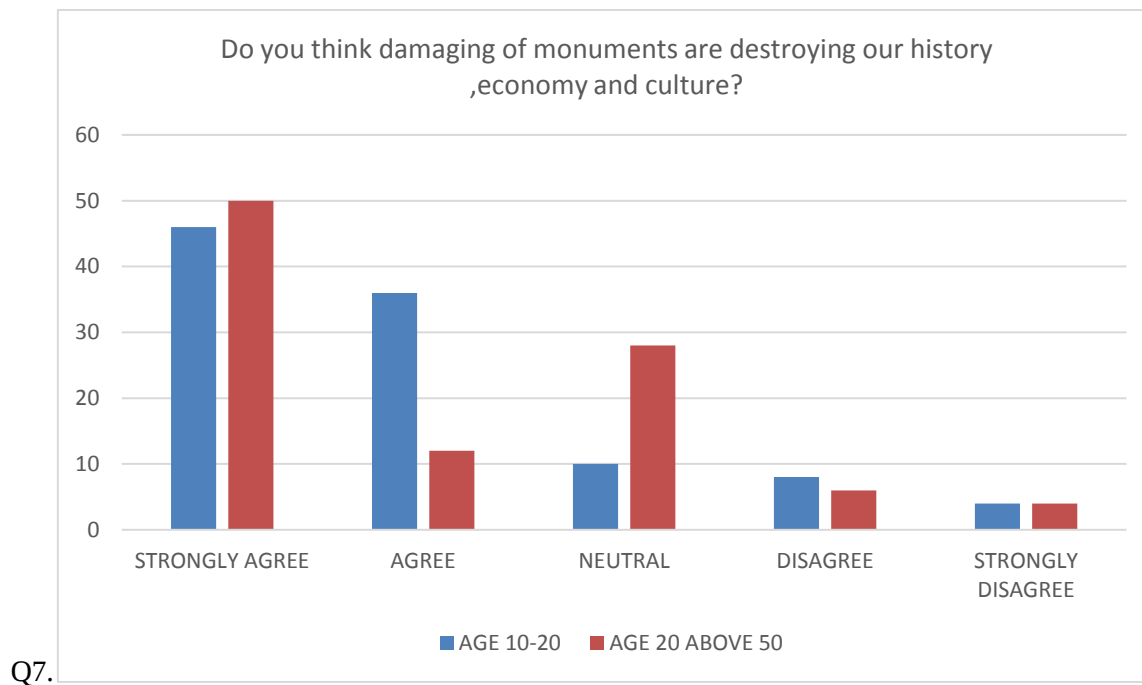


Q5.

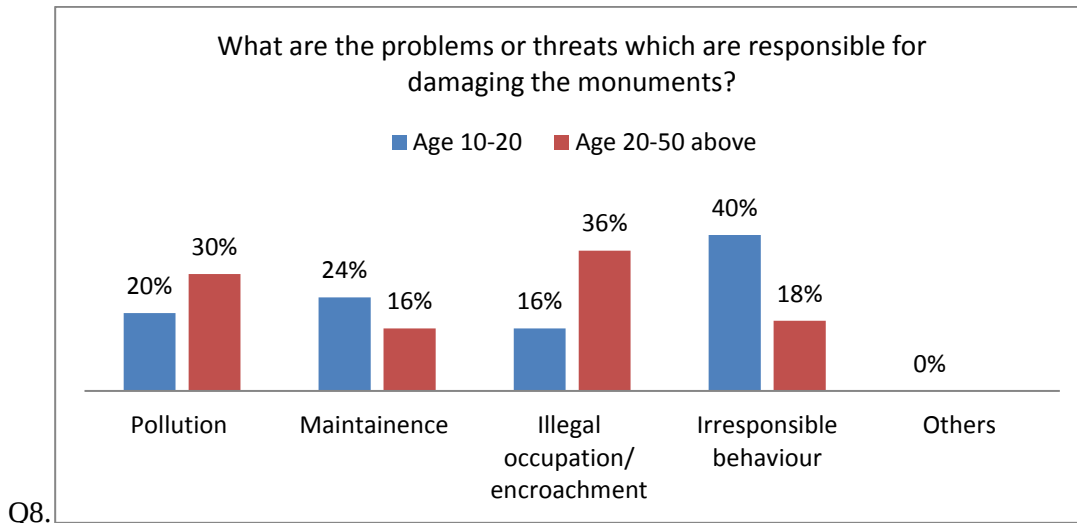
After surveying, we noticed that almost 86% (age group 10-20) and 56% (age group 20-50 above) people feel that both the people and the government are responsible for taking care of the monuments.



After surveying, we found out that, 30% of people (age 10-20)and 66% (age 20- 50 above) agree that they have by chance thrown garbage/spit/ littered on the walls of any monuments while 70%(age 10-20) and 34%(age 20- 50 above) have never indulged in any of the above activities.



After surveying, we noticed that 46% (age group 10-20) and 50% (age group 20-50 above) strongly feel that damaging monuments is destroying our history, economy and culture while 4% of people from both the age groups strongly disagree by this statement.



After surveying, we found that for age group 10-20 the major threat is due to the irresponsible behavior of the visitors while for age group 20-50 above major threat to monuments is due to illegal occupation or encroachment. Apart from this, pollution and maintenance are also some of the other reasons for the threat responsible for the damaging the monuments.

We also interviewed two people who work in the field of archeology.

2. Mr. VikramjitRooprai, monument conservation activist.



Our conversation with Mr. Rooprai was very insightful. He helped us understand what to look for when observing the monuments like checking for structural damage, encroachment and evidences of recent preservation or conservation of the structures. He also told us about the history of the monuments we had picked out.

3. An Archeological Survey of India (ASI) Officer on duty at Jamali Kamali Mosque and Tomb who wished to be kept anonymous.
4. ASI Senior In-charge at Qutub Minar

The interviews did not follow any definite script and the questions depended upon the conversation itself but these were some of the questions which remained the same.

1. What are your views about the current state of monuments in Mehrauli?
2. In the years that you have been seeing these monuments, have seen any major changes?
3. Whose role do you think is the most important in monument conservation?
4. Why are some monuments more conserved than others?

OBSERVATIONS/ INTERVIEWS



TOMB OF ADAM KHAN (BHOOL BHULAIYA)

The Tomb of Adam Khan is normally known as BhoolBhulaiya and is located not more than 900 metres from the well known structure, QutubMinar. The Tomb faces the bus stand in Mehrauli, which is the busiest area in the community.

BhoolBhulaiya basically means labyrinth or even a maze. It is regarded as an amazing monument and is thought to be among the few structures which has survived all odds since the era of Akbar.

The tomb was constructed in the year 1561 AD and is on the northern side of QutubMinar. The structure is thought to be a monument of great historic significance and is thus, presently guarded from the Archaeological Survey of India(ASI).

These are our findings from the observation -

After observing the monument, we saw that the major problems are cleanliness, safety, damage and harm done to the structure.

There was no security guard on duty on the day of our visit. There were spit stains all around and the walls had been vandalized and scribbled on. The structure showed many cracks and also showed evidence of damage done by animals.

All the facilities that we were looking for are either missing or not being used. Dustbins are provided by the government but still local people/ tourists had littered the premises. There is no ticket counter parking, CCTV cameras, washrooms for male and female and information boards. Nothing has been done to beautify the monument like paintings, illuminations etc. BhoolBhulaiya is surrounded by darkness after sunset and the only lights available come from the vehicles and street lamps near-by. We also observed that there were recent attempts at preservation. Some cracks were plastered and painted.



OBSERVATION SHEET

MONUMENT NAME: Bhool Bhulaiya
 TIME OF OBSERVATION: 8:45 pm
0-11-19 Saturday

- Cleanliness**
 - a. spitting stains ☒
 - b. garbage litter ☒
 - c. clean washroom for males and females ☒
- Safety/security**
 - a. Indecent practices (Smoking, drinking, gambling, eve teasing, etc.) ☒
 - b. guard/watchman ☒
 - c. CCTV camera ☒
- Facilities**
 - a. Ticket counter ☒
 - b. beautification (paintings, garden, illumination, etc.) ☒
 - c. parking ☒
 - d. electricity ☒
 - e. water supply ☒
 - f. washroom ☒
 - g. information board ☒
 - h. kiosks ☒
- Encroachment**
 - a. Just living on premises ☐
 - b. structurally changed the monument ☒
- Damage to the architecture**
 - a. scribble on the walls ☐
 - b. damage to the paint job ☒
 - c. damage by animals ☒
 - (bird/animal feces, mud daubers, etc.) ☒
- Accessibility**
 - a. complicated route without directions ☐
 - b. Simple route with sign boards ☒

* Bushes are there but still littering
 * Inside the tomb where the grave was every corner of wall is spilt stain.



On the day of our visit, BhoolBhulaiya was lacking. There were many people present at the monument but they were all local Mehrauli residents who had simply come to pass time. As mentioned by many people in the Survey, BhoolBhulaiya was full of illegal activity. At the back of the Tomb, there were many groups engaging in gambling. We also found cigarette buds littered everywhere and broken alcohol bottles which suggested that maybe people come to this unguarded monument at night to practice indecent activities.

Since BhoolBhulaiya is situated right in front of the bus stand which is one of the 2 main entries into Mehrauli, it is easily accessible via auto, bus, 4-wheelers, 2-wheelers etc. However, since there is no parking, tourists taking private vehicles face a lot of difficulty.

2.



ZAFAR MAHAL

One of the last Mughal palaces in Delhi, Zafar Mahal was built by Mughal emperor Akbar Shah II in the early 19th century near the dargah of the Sufi saint Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki also in Mehrauli. Soon after, it was rebuilt by the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar, after whose name it is now known.

These are our findings from the observation

After visiting the Zafar Mahal, we observed that except the information board, most of the things that had we had listed for observation were not there.

Reaching Zafar Mahal is a little difficult as it is located deep inside the by-lanes of Mehrauli. One can reach there either on foot or on a 2-wheeler. It is approximately 550 metres from Mehrauli Bus Terminal.

Zafar Mahal is gated and the main gate is shut after 6pm. Right outside the gate, we saw groups of people gambling which gave the monument a very unwelcoming aura. Once inside, in terms of cleanliness, the monument was not in a good state. There are spit stains and garbage littered everywhere. The monument also showed many signs of structural damage. The Mahal is in ruins and each wall has been scribbled upon and dirtied by birds and animals.



OBSERVATION SHEET

MONUMENT NAME Zafar Mahal
 TIME OF OBSERVATION 4:30pm

1. Cleanliness
 a. spitting stains ☒ b. garbage litter ☒ c. clean washroom for males and females ☒

2. Safety/security
 a. Indecent practices (Smoking, drinking, gambling, eve teasing, etc.) ☒ b. guard/watchman ☒
 c. cctv camera ☒

3. Facilities
 a. Ticket counter ☒ b. beautification (paintings, garden, illumination, etc) ☒
 c. parking ☒ d. electricity ☒ e. water supply ☒
 f. washroom ☒ g. information board ☒ h. kiosks ☒

4. Encroachment
 a. Just living on premises ☒ b. structurally changed the monument ☒

5. Damage to the architecture
 a. scribble on the walls (bird/animal feces, mud daubers, etc.) ☒ b. damage to the paint job ☒ c. damage by animals ☒

6. Accessibility
 a. complicated route without directions ☒ b. Simple route with sign boards ☒

• People have stolen ^{structure} iron from Zafar Mahal.

Just like the entrance, inside there were many people smoking and gambling. We were the only tourists there. There were no facilities available like ticket counters, parking, security guards, dustbins, etc. Nothing has been done to beautify the monument either like illumination, paintings, etc.

The monument is also partially encroached and structurally damaged directly by residents. We interviewed Vikramjit Singh Rooprai, monument conservation activist who also took us on a tour to the monument. He shared that Zafar Mahal is one of the most damaged monuments in Delhi and helped us note evidences of the same. According to his 10 year-long research on Mehrauli, he found out that the once huge and vast monument has been torn down partially and been converted into residential area. Some people are even using the original structure and have built their houses on top of it.

Another thing to note is that, since there is no security, people have also reportedly stolen iron structures like nails, rods, etc. from the monument. There was no recent preservation attempts. According to Mr. Rooprai, the monument's condition had worsened greatly since his last visit a couple months ago. Beams are bending, cracks have widened and walls have eroded away.

3.



HAUZ-I-SHAMSHI (*SHAMSHITALAB*)

Hauz-i-Shamsi (literally "sunny watertank") is a water storage reservoir or tank built by Iltumish of the Slave Dynasty in 1230 CE, at a location said to have been revealed to him in a dream by the Islamic prophet Muhammed. The palace of Jahaz Mahal was built on the eastern edge of the same reservoir during the Lodi Dynasty period in the 16th century as a retreat or Inn for use by pilgrims.

A Jharna or water fall emanating from the Hauz-i-Shamsi is located close to the Jahaz Mahal. It is identified as a significant water structure that had been developed by Nawab Ghaziuddin around 1700 AD as a pleasure garden during the Mughal Rule. The water fall now is seen more in the form of a drain and the entire area is said to have now been encroached. We confirmed this is our observation later.

These are our findings from the observation

Reaching Zafar Mahal is a little difficult as well as it is located deep inside the by-lanes of Mehrauli. One can reach there either on foot or on a 2-wheeler. It is approximately 1 kilometer from Mehrauli Bus Terminal.

After visiting to the monument we observed that there was absolutely no cleanliness. There were spit stains, garbage litter everywhere. There are no facilities like washrooms for males and females, information boards, illumination, etc. There are no security guard and CCTV cameras. Therefore, there were multiple indecent practices going on. The place was not encroached. The architecture is incredibly damaged and one of the areas has fallen by heavy rainfall and no one has taken the initiative of repairing it. Some repair work was going on for over two years but it is still not finished. The repair work started and then left for a long time which it is still unrepaired.



OBSERVATION SHEET	
MONUMENT NAME <u>Shamshi Talab</u>	
TIME OF OBSERVATION <u>2/2/20</u>	
1. Cleanliness	
a. spitting stains ☒	b. garbage litter ☒ c. clean washroom for males and females ☒
2. Safety/security	
a. Indecent practices (Smoking, drinking, gambling, eve teasing, etc.) ☒	b. guard/watchman ☐
c. cctv camera ☐	
3. Facilities	
a. Ticket counter ☐	b. beautification (paintings, garden, illumination, etc.) ☐
c. parking ☐	d. electricity ☐ e. water supply ☐
f. washroom ☐	g. information board ☐ h. kiosks ☐
4. Encroachment	
a. Just living on premises ☐	b. structurally changed the monument ☐
5. Damage to the architecture	
a. scribble on the walls ☐ (bird/animal feces, mud daubers, etc.) ☒	b. damage to the paint job ☐ c. damage by animals ☐
6. Accessibility	
a. complicated route without directions ☒	b. Simple route with sign boards ☐
• Work is going on • This time talabis not cleaned • govt has made little construction • wall has broken and wire attached	

The *talabis* full of algae and has a thick layer of plants over the dirty water. After talking to the residents we came to know that every year RWA workers clean it but this time they did not. construction was going on but only to one side of it not the whole

4.



JAHAZ MAHAL

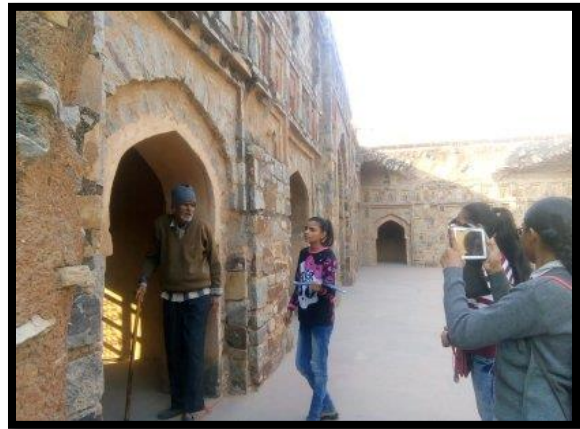
‘Jahaj’ means "Ship" and ‘Mahal’ means "Palace", the "Ship Palace") is located next to [Hauz-i-Shamsi](#) in [Mehrauli, Delhi](#) on its northeastern corner. It was so named, since its reflection (illusion) in the surrounding reservoir looked like a ship floating on a lake. It is inferred to have been built during the [Lodi dynasty](#) period

These are our findings from the observation

The Jahaz Mahal premises were well maintained. There were security guards, information boards just outside the monument. Most of the criteria that we chose were met like cleanliness, different facilities like washrooms, drinking area, illumination. We interviewed one old person who has been a frequent visitor since his childhood. He shared that it is now a prominent place in Mehrauli since all the main functions of the Phoolwalo ki Seer such as dance performances, dramas happen inside the main courtyard of the Mahal. He shared that the government has recently invested funds for the restoration of the building and the floor. However, the enclosing park which is just besides the main building houses home for indecent practices like smoking, gambling. The park is also littered with garbage. The local residents pay less heed to the maintenance of the place.

Link

<http://www.thedelhiwalla.com/2015/07/15/city-monument-jahaz-mahal-mehrauli-2/>



MONUMENT NAME Jahaz Mahal OBSERVATION SHEET
TIME OF OBSERVATION _____

1. Cleanliness
a. spitting stains ☒ b. garbage litter ☒ c. clean washroom for males and females ☒

2. Safety/security
a. Indecent practices (Smoking, drinking, gambling, eve teasing, etc.) ☒ b. guard/watchman ☒
c. CCTV camera ☒

3. Facilities
a. Ticket counter ☒ b. beautification (paintings, garden, illumination, etc.) ☒
c. parking ☒ d. electricity ☒ e. water supply ☒
f. washroom ☒ g. information board ☒ h. kiosks ☒ *needless*

4. Encroachment ☒ No
a. Just living on premises ☒ b. structurally changed the monument ☒

5. Damage to the architecture
a. scribble on the walls (bird/animal feces, mud daubers, etc.) ☒ b. damage to the paint job ☒ c. damage by animals ☒

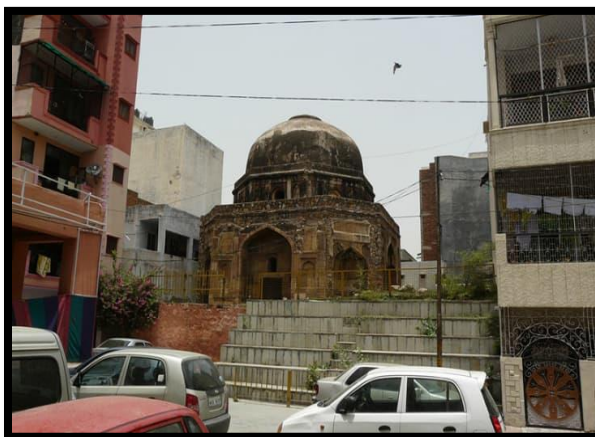
6. Accessibility ☒ Yes
a. complicated route without directions ☒ b. Simple route with sign boards ☒

little structure changed
Chum - masonry
No Wash-room

No light
There are 2 security guard
OK about cleanliness
There is no awareness about people
Old circle and masonry sitting over time
Water storing place



5.



CHAUMACHI KHAN'S TOMB



GANDHAK KI BAOLI

Chaumachi Khan's tomb is situated in Nai Basti, Mehrauli, but after reading secondary data we learnt that locating it is an onerous task. The residents don't even know that the 16-century state-protected structure exists in their midst and we witnessed that first hand. Alternately known as Kala Gumbad for its black black tomb, locating it was a huge mystery. We walked all over Mehrauli in search of it, asked residents,

shopkeepers, etc. but we couldn't find it. We had read that only the middle portion of the monument remained and the rest had been broken and turned into houses and that nearby houses hide the structure very well but we didn't know that the situation would be so bad that people wouldn't even know about it.

After a discussion, we were left thinking that maybe the monument is so badly encroached that now nothing remains of it. Ghankdak ki Baoli is situated in Mehrauli Village Complex in South Delhi and just approximately 100 meters from the tomb of Adam Khan. It is easily accessible by local transport and supposed to be the largest step- well ever built in Delhi. The baoli was closed when we visited it for observation. But coincidentally we visited this place a month back for a community walk, the place was not well maintained. There was no protective barrier, no security guards, no illumination, closed and barricaded. The water was also stagnant and had algal bloom.

<https://architexturez.net/pst/az-cf-173371-1449042399>

<https://so.city/delhi/article/lying-close-to-mehrauli-bus-terminal-have-you-noticed-chaumachi-khan-s-tomb>

6.



YOGMAYA TEMPLE

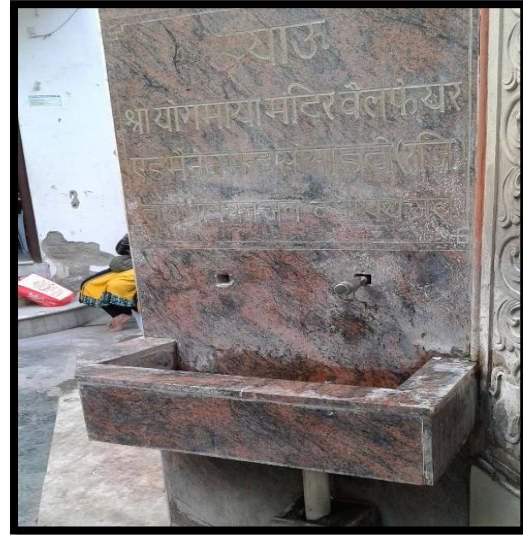
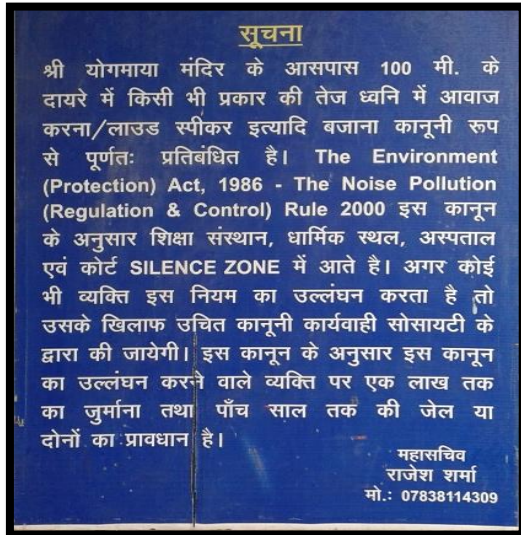
Yogmaya Temple also known as **Jogmaya temple**, is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Yogmaya, the sister of Krishna 850 metres from QutubMinar.

It is widely believed to be one of the five surviving temples from the Mahabharata period in Delhi.

The present temple was built in the early 19th century but after interviewing a resident devotee we found out that the temple has undergone major structural changes over the years. The temple has expanded in size with time.

These are our findings from the observation

After observing the monument, we saw that all the things that we listed out in our sheet has been met except washrooms for males, females and area for parking for vehicles. The temple is daily cleaned and facilities like illumination, water points, information boards are available.



OBSERVATION SHEET	
MONUMENT NAME <u>Yogmaya Temple</u>	
TIME OF OBSERVATION <u> </u>	
1. Cleanliness	
a. spitting stains ☒	b. garbage litter ☒ c. clean washroom for males and females ☐
2. Safety/security	
a. Indecent practices (Smoking, drinking, gambling, eve teasing, etc.) ☒	b. guard/watchman ☐
c. cctv camera ☒	
3. Facilities	
a. Ticket counter ☒	b. beautification (paintings, garden, illumination, etc.) ☒
c. parking ☒	d. electricity ☒
e. water supply ☒	f. washroom ☐
g. information board ☒	h. kiosks ☒
4. Encroachment	
a. Just living on premises ☒	b. structurally changed the monument ☒
5. Damage to the architecture	
a. scribble on the walls ☒	b. damage to the paint job ☒
c. damage by animals (bird/animal feces, mud daubers, etc.) ☒	
6. Accessibility	
a. complicated route without directions ☒	b. Simple route with sign boards ☒

In the night - 09/04/2020

After interviewing the resident devotee, we found out that the temple is self sustaining. She spoke in great detail about them not taking help of the government. All funds for maintenance, beautification, and salary of the employees are contributed by the devotees and the nearby residents.

<https://www.speakingtree.in/blog/yogmaya-temple>

7.



St. JOHN'S CHURCH

St. John's Church was built in 1928. It was designed by Alfred Coore and is unique in its design that combines features of a church, a temple and a mosque.

The area around the church is dotted with ruins from the 12th century. The church is very close to YogmayaMandir and Qutub Minar.

These are our findings from the observation

After visiting the monument, we observed that all the criteria's that we mentioned in the list were met. The Church premises were well maintained with all the facilities. Our experience was very similar to our visit in Yogmaya temple. On speaking to the Assistant Pastor, we found out that St. John's Church had undergone numerous changes over the years as well. And all of it was done with the money contributed by the church goers and the near-by residents. The church staff did not want any help from the government or any other organizations.



MONUMENT NAME Church OBSERVATION SHEET
TIME OF OBSERVATION _____

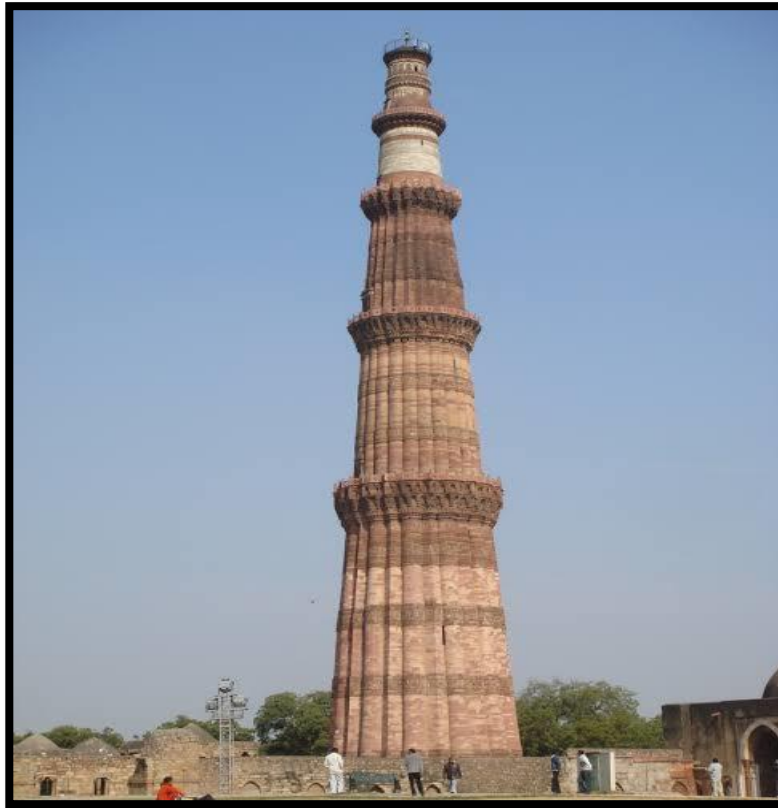
- Cleanliness**
 - a. spitting stains ☒
 - b. garbage litter ☒
 - c. clean washroom for males and females ☒
- Safety/Security**
 - a. Indecent practices (Smoking, drinking, gambling, eve teasing, etc.) ☒
 - b. guard/watchman ☒
 - c. CCTV camera ☒
- Facilities**
 - a. Ticket counter ☒
 - b. beautification (paintings, garden, illumination, etc.) ☒
 - c. parking ☒
 - d. electricity ☒
 - e. water supply ☒
 - f. washroom ☒
 - g. Information board ☒
 - h. kiosks ☒
- Encroachment**
 - a. Just living on premises ☒
 - b. structurally changed the monument ☒
- Damage to the architecture**
 - a. scribble on the walls (bird/animal feces, mud daubers, etc.) ☒
 - b. damage to the paint job ☒
 - c. damage by animals ☒
- Accessibility**
 - a. complicated route without direction ☒
 - b. Simple route with sign boards ☒

*very clean.
place to sit,
many awards.
hiballs were kept
decorated
no facility
understand how this
church and what it is
function maintained.*



<https://www.hindustantimes.com/delhi/centuries-of-keeping-the-faith/story-KGU9OagVBNcjxJKuaGMzTI.html>

8.



QUTUB MINAR

Qutub-ud-Din Aibak of Slave Dynasty laid the foundation of Qutub Minar in A.D. 1199 for the use of mu'azzin (crier) to give calls for prayer and raised the first storey, to which were added three more storeys by his successor and son-in-law, Shams-ud-Din Iltutmish (A.D. 1211-36). The Minar is surrounded by several historically significant monuments of Qutub Complex. The monument is well connected by many big roads and has its own parking.

These are our findings from the observation

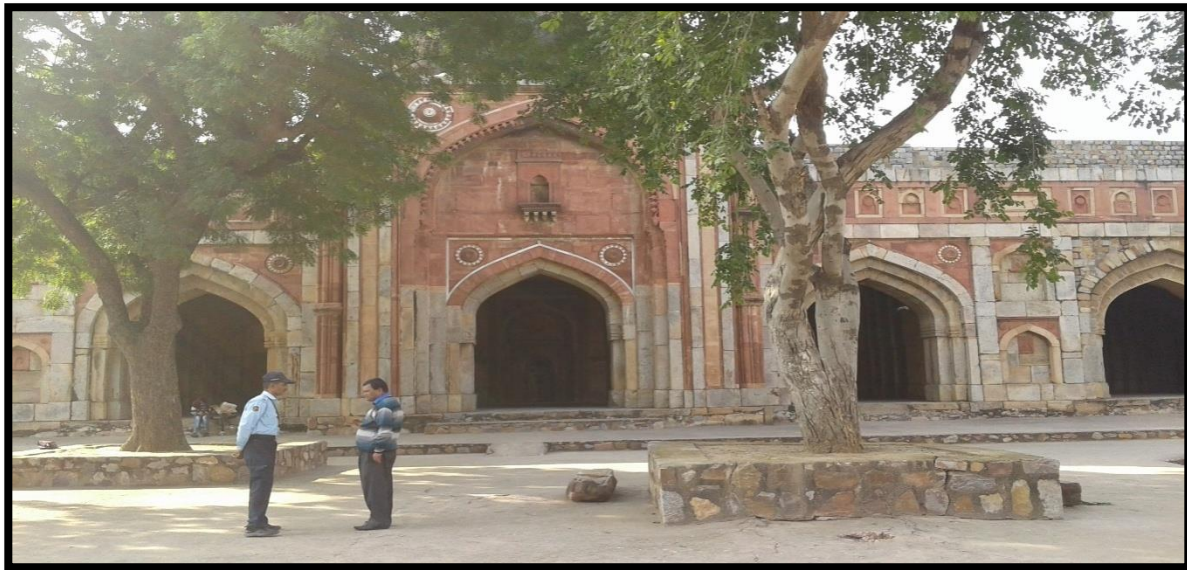
During our visit to Qutub Minar, we interviewed ASI Qutub Minar In-charge. He shared that all the facilities that have been provided in and around the Qutub Minar premises like development of landscape, ramps for the disabled people, drinking water kiosks, proper fencing, information boards for the visitors, baby care room, visitors room, dustbins, online ticket booking scanner, help desk by Ministry of Tourism. Around 7,000 to 8000 visitors visit the monument each day. He also shared that 100m to 200m from any monument is the regulated area and the area under 100m from a monument is the prohibited area. Building private properties in prohibited area is considered illegal and government can take legal action against the people and building private property inside the regulated area will land people an FIR from the ASI. The Officer expressed his own helplessness in this matter saying that he can only save certain monuments by making repairs and advertising them but he can't save them from people who encroach, dirty or damage it. He showed us a recent FIR he filed against some bad elements who smoke, gamble and drink at Zafar Mahal.



OBSERVATION SHEET	
MONUMENT NAME <u>QUTUB MINAR</u>	
TIME OF OBSERVATION <u>3:30 pm</u>	
1. Cleanliness	
a. spitting stains ☒	b. garbage litter ☒ c. clean washroom for males and females ☒
2. Safety/security	
a. Indecent practices (Smoking, drinking, gambling, eve teasing, etc.) ☒	b. guard/w ☒
c. cctv camera ☒	
3. Facilities	
a. Ticket counter ☒	b. beautification (paintings, garden, illumination, etc) ☒
c. parking ☒	d. electricity ☒ e. water supply ☒
f. washroom ☒	g. information board ☒ h. kiosks ☒
4. Encroachment	
a. Just living on premises ☒	b. structurally changed the monument ☒
5. Damage to the architecture	
a. scribble on the walls ☒ (bird/animal feces, mud daubers, etc.) ☒	b. damage to the paint job ☒ c. damage by animal ☒
6. Accessibility	
a. complicated route without directions ☒	b. Simple route with sign boards ☒

One other big difference between Qutub Minar and every other monument that we observed was the number of tourists that were there. We went on a Saturday to visit the monument and it was jam packed with people standing in multiple queues to buy tickets or enter. According to the In-charge, people are attracted to monuments that are in limelight. The real onus lies on the people to conserve their monuments. Also there are multiple stakeholders, organizations involved in this process like police, RWA, MCD, government apart from just ASI and that is also the reason why conservation at some areas becomes difficult. The public approach needs to shift where they start taking the ownership of conserving the monuments.

9.



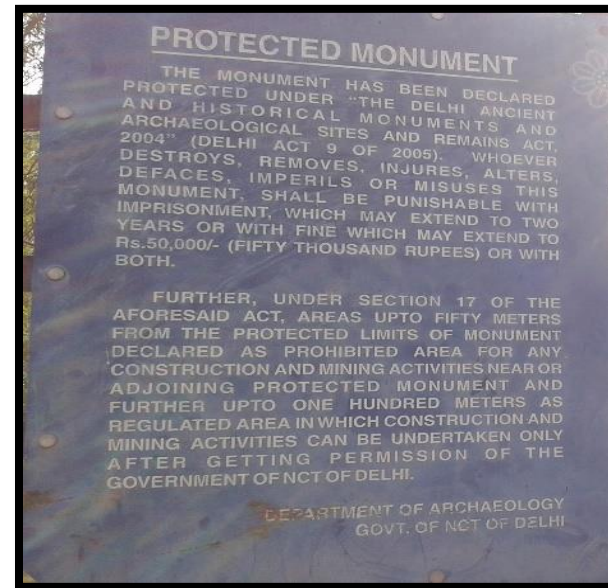
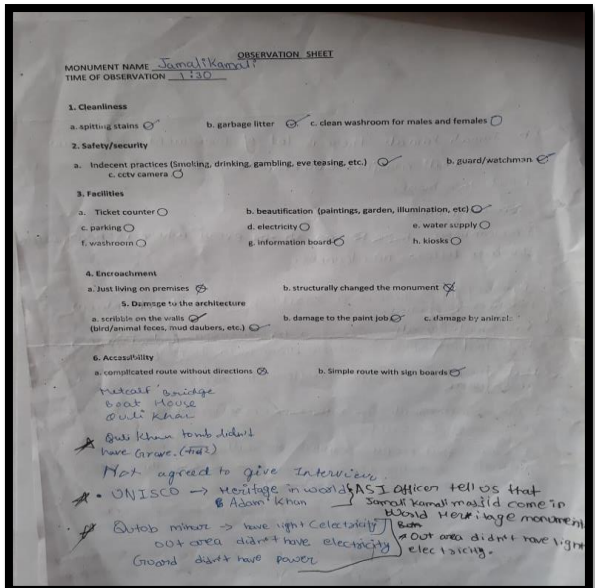
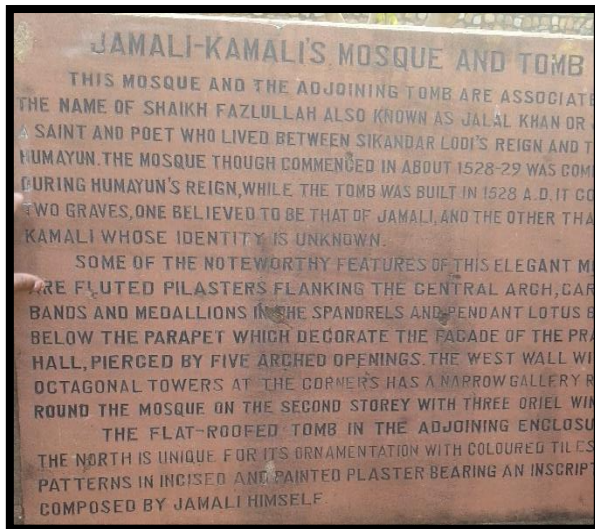
JAMALI KAMALI

Jamali Kamali Mosque and Tomb is located in the Mehrauli Archeological Park, adjacent to Qutub Complex which houses Qutub Minar. It comprises two monuments adjacent to each other; one is the mosque and the other is the tomb of two persons with the name Jamali and Kamali. The Jamali Kamali mosque is positioned in an enclosed garden area and was built during the years 1528-29. The Jamali Kamali mosque deserves as much glory as QutubMinar itself because of its beautiful architecture and intricate work, but the only attention it now gets, especially by Mehrauli residents, is because of the haunting stories related to Jinns that are believed to reside there.

These are our findings from the observation

Mehrauli Archeological Park has many entries from inside Mehrauli and from the main road outside but it is not ticketed. **Mehrauli Archaeological Park** is an archaeological area spread over 200 acre in Mehrauli, adjacent to Qutub Minar World Heritage Site and the Qutub Complex. It consists of over 100 historically significant monuments and Jamali Kamali Mosque and Tomb are one of those. People are free to enter the park at any time of the day.

When we entered from the main gate on the main road near Lado Sarai, we observed that the park was very well maintained. The gardens are well maintained and looked after by the employees. There were numerous tourists, children, joggers, etc. The park had signs and direction boards to guide tourists to each monument inside the park. There were numerous security guards on duty all around the park because of which there did not seem to be any instances of illegal practices.



On visiting Jamali Kamali, we observed that the main mosque and tomb were clean and looked very well maintained. There was a security guard on duty there as well. There were many tourists 2 of whom we were able to interview later. Since the park is very nicely guarded and protected there was no encroachment. There were dustbins there and sign boards telling people to keep the place clean people still had scribbled on the walls and thrown garbage around the monument. There were no facilities for illumination of the monument.

There is an information board there that tells us that this monument comes under the ASI and is a Protected Monument. JamaliKamali Tomb and Mosque are both inside a gated garden which is locked after 6pm therefore no one enters the monument even though the park is still open for visitors.

We tried to take interview of different security guards but all of them refused to talk to us.

Finally we took a survey of an Archaeological survey of India (ASI) employee . But even he did not give us sufficient answer and we were not satisfied from his answer

OTHER MONUMENTS NEAR JAMALI KAMALI

JamaliKamali Mosque and Tomb were the only monuments that we had included in our research because of its popularity. Everyone in Mehrauli knows about it. But on taking a walk around the park we saw so many other monuments as well which were not protected at all. (We did not include these monuments in the final analysis)





As we walked away from the main entrance and towards the back entries that opened inside Mehrauli, the state of the park became very poor. Information boards were broken, the path was littered with garbage and the other monuments had almost no tourists. The monuments we visited were Rajon Ki Baoli, Quli Khan's Tomb, Pavilion tomb and [Thomas Metcalfe's](#) Guest House. The condition of these monuments were very poor. The Baoli was full of dirty water which was of no use and had turned black with dirt, the well inside the Baoli was full of garbage, the walls of each of these monuments had been scribbled upon.

REFLECTION

FAQIHA: The most enjoyable thing in this project for me was going for observation to see the monuments which we did not know of. I have been living here in Mehrauli since my childhood but it is because of this paper that I got the opportunity to know about them. I also enjoyed taking a short interview of foreigners and meet experts like Vikramjeet Bhaiya

GUDDI: This CAL project is very interesting and amazing. We choose "Condition of Monuments in Mehrauli" as our topic of research because it is directly or indirectly connected with our community. Monuments are related to our history and our identity. We took interviews and surveys of people of different professions and the most enjoyable moment in CAL project was when we took interview of a foreigner. I learnt a lot of things such as how to use laptop, how to type, how to interact with people and overcome my fears. My biggest learning was to learn how to make a research paper. By doing this project I came to know about different monuments of Mehrauli such as Zafar Mahal, Jahaz Mahal etc. Last thing I came to learn is the skill of taking interviews.

NISHU: This project was all about fun, enjoyment and learnings. I learnt a lot of things-different methods of representing data, working in team and much more. Working with my teammates was the most exciting thing to do. We visited different places for observation, talked to different people, ASI officials, security guards, caretakers and even the foreigners from Spain. One thing that I noticed was that the monuments which are connected with religion were far better than the monuments which were not related to religion. They even don't ask for any help from any government, they contribute money from devotees and maintain the structures of the buildings, maintenance. By this, I strongly feel that if the same emotion or feeling comes in every one's heart then every monument will be in good condition.

I feel very proud to live here because there is much history to know about in this community. I feel that the monument conservation is very important for the residents of Mehrauli. Some monuments present in Mehrauli are not so widespread and famous because they are not in good condition, some of them are fully encroached like Chamuchi Khan's tomb, Bhool Bhulaiya and somewhere there are indecent practices going on. If it gets maintained properly then more and more people will visit them. It will become a tourist attraction. If more people will visit, then employment will increase and people who could not afford things before will also earn a living.

Yachana: I truly loved working in this project. Now I realise the value of the place that I am living in. I feel that I am lucky to have been a part of this project. I learnt a lot of things like interacting different people, typing, surveying. Also I will make this my aim to make people aware about the importance of monument conservation.

Varsha: The biggest learning was to know about the different hidden monuments present in Mehrauli. Also I got to interact with lots of people. We learnt about how to write a research paper and conduct survey. I really enjoyed.