CLIMATE JUSTICE PRACTICE

FINAL REPORT

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YEAR: V

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PROBLEM:

The pollution and degradation of Mumbai's creeks pose a significant environmental challenge with far-reaching consequences for Indigenous communities, flora and fauna, and the overall health of water ecosystems. The contamination of the creeks, resulting from various sources including domestic and industrial waste, has led to the disruption of delicate ecological balances, impacting the survival of diverse plant and animal species. Additionally, Indigenous communities that rely on the creeks for their livelihoods, cultural practices, and sustenance face disproportionate hardships due to the adverse effects of creek pollution. The pollution not only threatens their traditional fishing practices but also compromises their access to clean water, posing significant risks to their health and well-being. The deteriorating water ecosystems have cascading effects on the overall biodiversity, water quality, and ecological integrity of the region. Addressing the Mumbai creek problem necessitates comprehensive measures that prioritize the preservation of Indigenous communities' rights, the restoration of flora and fauna habitats, and the protection of water ecosystems. By recognizing the interconnectedness of these issues and developing sustainable strategies, we can work towards mitigating the adverse effects of creek pollution, promoting environmental justice, and ensuring the long-term health and resilience of Mumbai's creeks and its inhabitants.

MOTIVATION:

My motivation to address this issue originates from a profound connection to the land, water, and cultural heritage entwined with these ecosystems, as well as my affiliation with the koli community. The deterioration of the tributaries and their disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities have inspired a strong desire to advocate for change and develop sustainable solutions.

In addition, my motivation derives from the recognition of the intrinsic value and wisdom inherent in Indigenous knowledge systems. Indigenous communities have longstanding relationships with waterways and possess traditional knowledge regarding sustainable resource management and coexistence with nature. By actively engaging in efforts to restore and protect these ecosystems, we can amplify the perspectives and rights of Indigenous communities by amplifying their voices and contributions.

We can create a collective impact by combining our expertise, resources, and grass-roots initiatives to address the creek pollution challenges. By nurturing meaningful partnerships and

promoting inclusive decision-making processes, we can work towards a more just and equitable future for all, in which the health of creeks, the well-being of Indigenous communities, and the preservation of biodiversity are valued and protected.

My ultimate motivation for addressing the Mumbai creek issue is the conviction that even the smallest contribution can make a difference. By raising awareness, advocating for policy changes, supporting community-led initiatives, and implementing sustainable practises in our daily lives, we can collectively contribute to the restoration and preservation of the creeks, thereby ensuring a thriving and sustainable environment for future generations.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

To effectively address the urgent problem of watercourse pollution in Mumbai, we propose a multifaceted approach that includes education, advocacy, and direct assistance. Our solution consists of three initiatives, each of which is intended to contribute to the resolution of the issue:

BLOGPOST: A detailed and informative blog post is written to provide a comprehensive overview of the Mumbai creek problem. This article is discussing the environmental degradation caused by pollution, the disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities, the implications for flora and fauna, and the effects on aquatic ecosystems. The significance of the issue is better understood by a broader audience if this blog post is extensively disseminated across multiple platforms.

POSTERS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA: Posters highlighting the central messages and challenges associated with Mumbai's creek problem will be meticulously designed and distributed via prominent Instagram channels. Utilising the vast reach and influence of social media, these posters will employ pertinent hashtags to increase visibility and engagement. By leveraging the power of social media platforms, we hope to engage a diverse group of individuals, including young people, environmental enthusiasts, and concerned citizens, in meaningful discussions and to encourage their active participation in the search for sustainable solutions.

NFT COLLECTION[1]: I have made an NFT (Non-Fungible Token) collection to provide tangible financial support to organisations actively engaged in creek restoration efforts and Indigenous community support. This collection will include 6 arts which would have one-of-a-kind digital artworks that represent the inherent beauty and significance of Mumbai's creeks, and some post-apocalyptic art work. The proceeds from the sale of these non-fungible tokens will be channelled directly to partner organisations actively engaged in creek restoration, community empowerment, and sustainable development initiatives. By participating in this NFT collection, individuals will be able to make a tangible contribution to the cause while also acquiring a unique digital artwork. I had done this before, wherein the proceeds went towards WWF[2], hopefully it can be a success again.

Through the incorporation of an exhaustive blog post, visually engaging social media posters, and the establishment of an NFT collection, our proposed solution seeks to engage diverse stakeholders in effectively addressing the Mumbai creek pollution issue. These initiatives will raise awareness, spark dialogue, and provide essential financial support to organisations actively working to restore the health of Mumbai's creeks and support Indigenous communities.

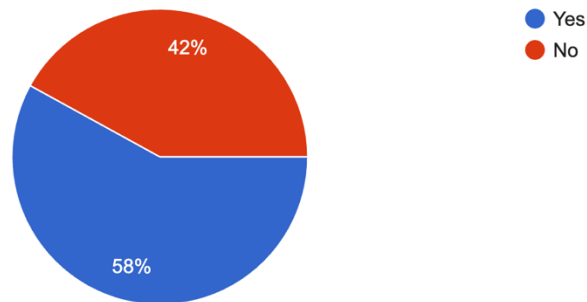**Empirical Data through google form:**

I circulated a Google form among the people belonging to Maharashtra on campus, because the issue dealing directly with the creeks in Mumbai and how it affects it affects the flora, fauna, indigenous communities and the general people living in Mumbai. This was a post-blog survey, wherein the participants had to provide their opinions after reading the blog.

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[1] https://opensea.io/collection/creekharmony
[2] https://twitter.com/Spirit_Swap/status/1509972056884006918

Did you know about the creek issue before reading this piece?
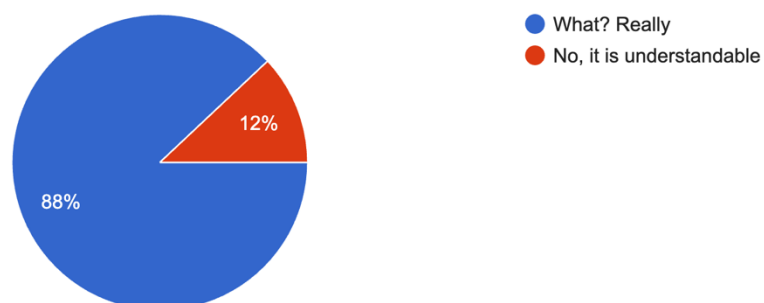50 responses

- Yes
- No

42%

58%

The first question on whether the readers were aware of the creek issue in Mumbai before reading my blog, provided a relatively mixed response with a significant portion (42%) of the responders not being aware of the creek issue. This is fairly understandable, given that creeks as a specific concept has not received considerable focus as a separate environmental issue, and in any case, environmental issues receive lesser publicity than other political issues I the news, media, etc.

Based on this, the second question sought to test the readers' knowledge on whether they were aware of Mumbai generating above 7000 tonnes per day worth of waste, as this is an important contributor to the creeks being polluted.

Were you surprised by the fact that Mumbai generates waste to a tune of 7225 tonnes per day?
50 responses

- What? Really
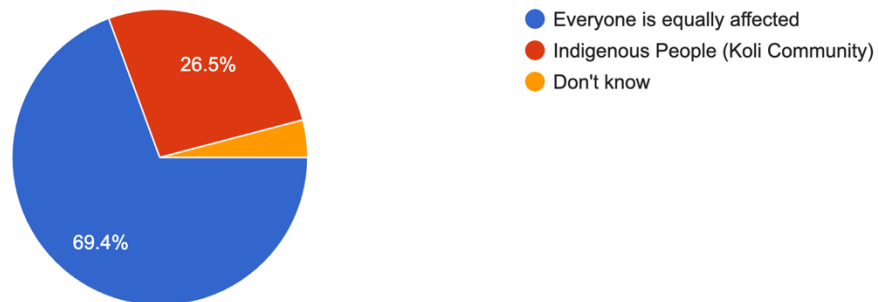- No, it is understandable

12%

88%

A major portion of the respondents (88%) showed surprise on this statistic, indicating a relative lack of concrete awareness about the minutiae of the issue. This question and its mention in the blog was done with the intention that individual contributions to this waste may not be seen as substantial, but finding out aggregated facts about the same serves as a reality check as to the

existing situation. Thus, by providing city-wide statistics, the survey and the blogpost sought to create greater city-wide awareness that transcended individualistic understandings.
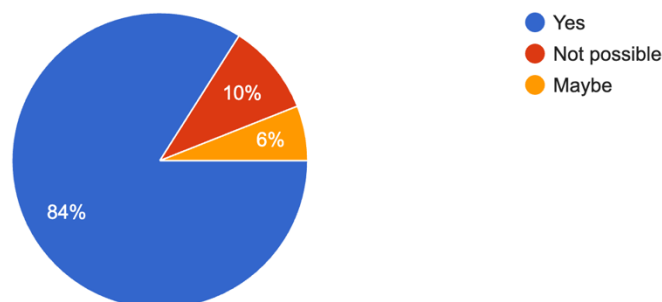
Who are the most affected people?
49 responses

- Everyone is equally affected
- Indigenous People (Koli Community)
- Don't know

26.5%

69.4%

The next question delved on the question of stakeholders – that is, who the respondents felt were the most affected people. Here, surprisingly, the respondents showed a lack of contextual and regional awareness regarding the issue, and an overwhelming majority (69.4%) said that they felt that everyone was equally affected by the issue. However, as my analysis on the 'New Catch in Town' initiative and the community led movements I talked about indicate, the indigenous people, like the Kolis in this case, are important stakeholders in this matter, and are also, due to their financial and social circumstances, most affected by the matter as well. And mobilising their knowledge, awareness and willingness to help for the cause is an important tool to combat the crisis.

Knowing after the issues at hand, would you, as a citizen, contribute to this cause in whatever manner possible?
50 responses

- Yes
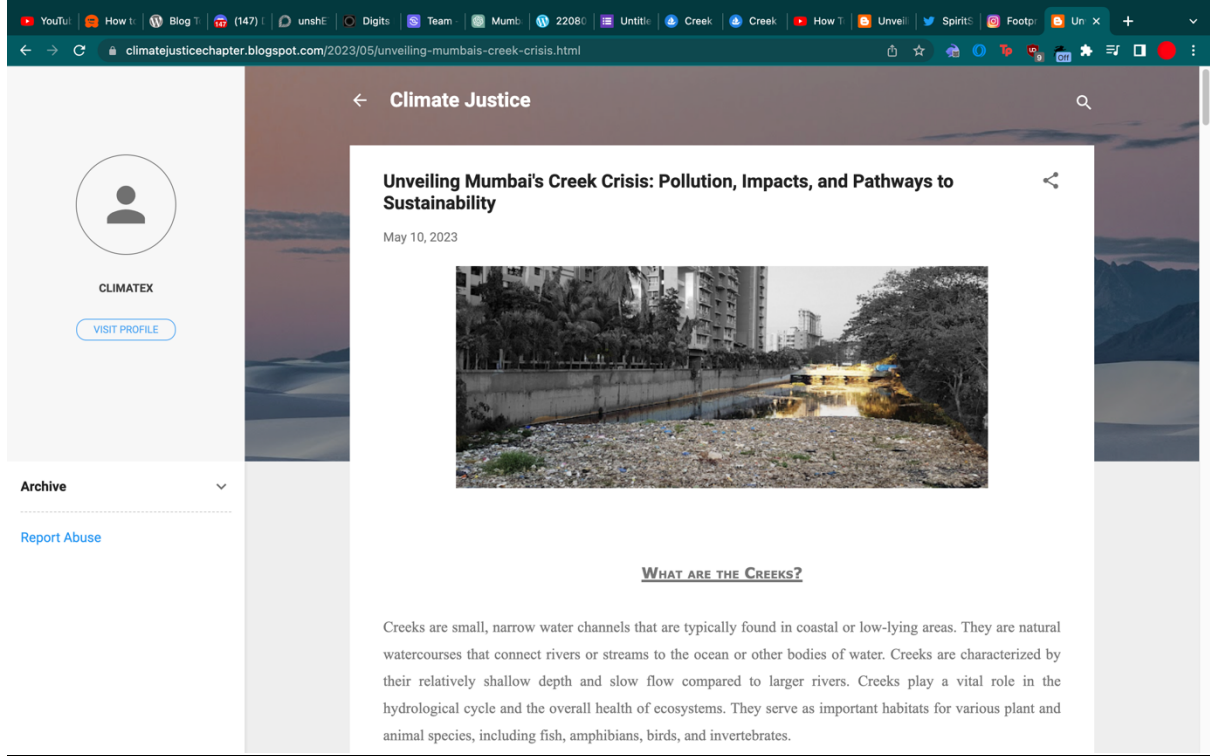- Not possible
- Maybe

10%

6%

84%

A significant majority felt that the article contributed to the understanding of the readers on this issue, and a majority of them (84%) indicated their willingness to support the fight against creek pollution in Mumbai. Hopefully, making the readers aware about the stark realities of the pollution of creeks in Mumbai helped motivate and propel some readers to further the cause of climate change in India, to whatever extent possible.

Annexure:

1. **Blogpost Link:**

https://climatejusticechapter.blogspot.com/2023/05/unveiling-mumbais-creek-crisis.html

2. **NFT Collection:**

Links: https://opensea.io/collection/creekharmony

1:

https://opensea.io/assets/ethereum/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/88746532069541279522389506950563907562558407220819482997687559676627504857089

2:

[https://opensea.io/assets/ethereum/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/887465](https://opensea.io/assets/ethereum/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/88746532069541279522389506950563907562558407220819482997687559677727016484865)
[32069541279522389506950563907562558407220819482997687559677727016484865](https://opensea.io/assets/ethereum/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/88746532069541279522389506950563907562558407220819482997687559677727016484865)

3:

https://opensea.io/assets/ethereum/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/887465
32069541279522389506950563907562558407220819482997687559678826528112641

4:

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5:

https://opensea.io/assets/ethereum/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/887465
32069541279522389506950563907562558407220819482997687559681025551368193

6:

https://opensea.io/assets/ethereum/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/887465
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7:

https://opensea.io/assets/ethereum/0x495f947276749ce646f68ac8c248420045cb7b5e/887465
32069541279522389506950563907562558407220819482997687559683224574623745

3. **Instagram Page:**

https://instagram.com/footprintrrrr?igshid=OGQ5ZDc2ODk2ZA==

Made by me and Dhananjay.