# A child led survey on safe and unsafe places in Dimapur and Chumoukedima, Nagaland

## 2022

AIDA, CHILD FRIENDLY DIMAPUR



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is considered a basic framework for formulating child rights laws. One of the guiding principles of the convention is '*best interest of the child*'. In a simpler sense, it means that the decisions taken on behalf of a child should consider the best possible option that would ensure the optimum growth and development of a child. To take the best decision for a child would require a child to participate in the decision-making process so that his/her concerns can be addressed. Simultaneously, a friendly and non-judgmental atmosphere is a prerequisite to allowing a child to participate in the decision – making process.

In this context, Child Friendly Dimapur is an initiative based on Child Friendly City Initiatives (CFCI) of the United Nations, founded in 1996. The main objective of Child-Friendly Dimapur is to contribute to the promotion and enforcement of children's rights in two districts (Dimapur and Chumoukedima) and 4 census towns (Kuda, Purana Bazaar, Diphupar, Rangapahar).

## METHODOLOGY

The primary purpose of this "survey" was to create awareness and build the capacities of the children, while at the same time contributing to a database of the status of child rights in the city. The present study followed Participatory Action Research (PAR) as the research design. Both qualitative and quantitative data were obtained. Qualitative data was obtained through the tools of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) while quantitative was collected from the structured interview schedule. Purposive sampling was used to obtain the sample. Effort was made to collect responses from an equal percentage of boys and girls but that ratio could not be maintained. A total of 83 children were interviewed of which 33 were boys and 50 were girls. Data collection tools used for the purpose were transect walk, social mapping, Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and also administered structured interview schedule.

## FINDINGS

*Physical Vulnerabilities faced by the children in the surveyed localities*

- Open drainage and the presence of potholes were common across all ten localities.

- Naked electrical wires could be seen near the habitation areas in all the localities. Some houses and shops in the locality use hooks to get electricity illegally.

- The colonies, such as Public Ground, Seluophe, Signal Angami, Senjum, Kacharigaon, K. Sachu, and Jolil, do not have street lights. In Neisatuo, although street lights are present, they are not functioning. Moreover, in Rilan and Kirha, street lights are only visible at the entrance. In summary, it can be said that street lights are not operational in any of the surveyed colonies, making it difficult for children to move around in the locality at night.

- Overflowing of drains within the localities during the rainy season is a common feature. 84 percent of the children responding to the surveyor reported water logging in their localities.

- Unprotected water bodies within the locality were one of the major concerns in the localities. It was found that 41 percent of the children fell into water bodies of which 79 percent of incidents took place in their neighbourhood.

- Attack by an animal - 46 percent of children reported being chased by the animals of which 87 percent of cases happened in the neighbourhood.

- Electric shock and burns were found to be common among the children i.e. 65 percent and 48 percent respectively. The majority of the cases took place at home.

*Social, emotional and sexual vulnerability*

- **Gamblers and Drunkards Shops** - Shops selling water bottles, pan, or resembling small restaurants, hotels, or tea shops are often associated with alcohol sales and gambling dens in their vicinity.

- **Auto stand** - Children found auto stand as another hotspot for gambling in their locality. Auto stands are mainly located at the entrance of the locality or in a road junction near the locality. Gamblers at the auto stand are mostly unknown to the children. Children witnessed fighting, experience stalking, inappropriate gesture and abusive remarks while passing through the auto stand.

  Seven (7) percent of children reported sexual abuse at the auto stand, children from four colonies witnessed a gambling den in the auto stand, 5 per cent of children saw drunkards in the auto stand, and the same percentage of children saw people fighting in the auto stand, and 9 per cent children reported water logging in the auto stand.

- **School compound** - A school is a safe place for children but the surveyed localities revealed that from evening onwards the school compound becomes a den for gamblers and drunkards. The absence of street lights and inaction on the part of the local authority like Gaon bura/ headman of the locality make it a preferable place for drunkards and gamblers.

- **Playgrounds** - children's access to the playground gets restricted from evening onwards as the drunkards and gamblers occupy the space. Children from four (4) localities reported gambling in the playground, while eight (8) per cent of children saw drunkards in the playground.

- **Home** - 12 percent of the respondents said that their uncles, father and brother often come home in a drunken condition.

- *Fighting*

Children from the K. Sachu colony shared that they feel unsafe when they see drunkards gambling because often they end up fighting. In the Jolil colony children shared that drunkards and gamblers sometimes end up in fights which makes the children feel unsafe. Children also witnessed fights in their own homes between parents and also between elder siblings and parents. Children get frightened whenever any drunken family member fights with other members as the children believe that they can harm them as well.

- *Sexual abuse*

Bad touch, abusive remarks, inappropriate gestures, touching of private parts and stalking are faced by the children in their neighbourhood (38 percent) followed by school (25 percent), marketplace (13 percent), shop (10 percent), home (8percent) and auto stand (7percent).

The study also revealed that 66 percent of the abusers are known to the children that include uncles from the neighbourhood, classmates and seniors in the school and relatives. Hence, the neighbourhood and home, which are expected to be the safest place for children, are not an absolute safe place.

- *Time dimension*

The study revealed that whether a place is safe or unsafe depends upon the time. Activities such as gambling, loitering of drunkards and fights are common in the evening and night.

Places like homes, neighbourhoods, playgrounds and school compounds become unsafe for children in the evening and night. On the other hand, children witnessed gambling, the presence of drunkards, fights, inappropriate gestures, and other abuses in the places like auto stands, shops, deserted areas and busy road junctions even during the day time.

The situation demands a collective effort from all the stakeholders to promote child rights and address the issues that are restricting the optimum growth and development of children. Parents, teachers, locality leaders, and religious leaders along with the civil society bodies need to come forward and collaborate with the district administration to make life better for children residing in the surveyed localities.
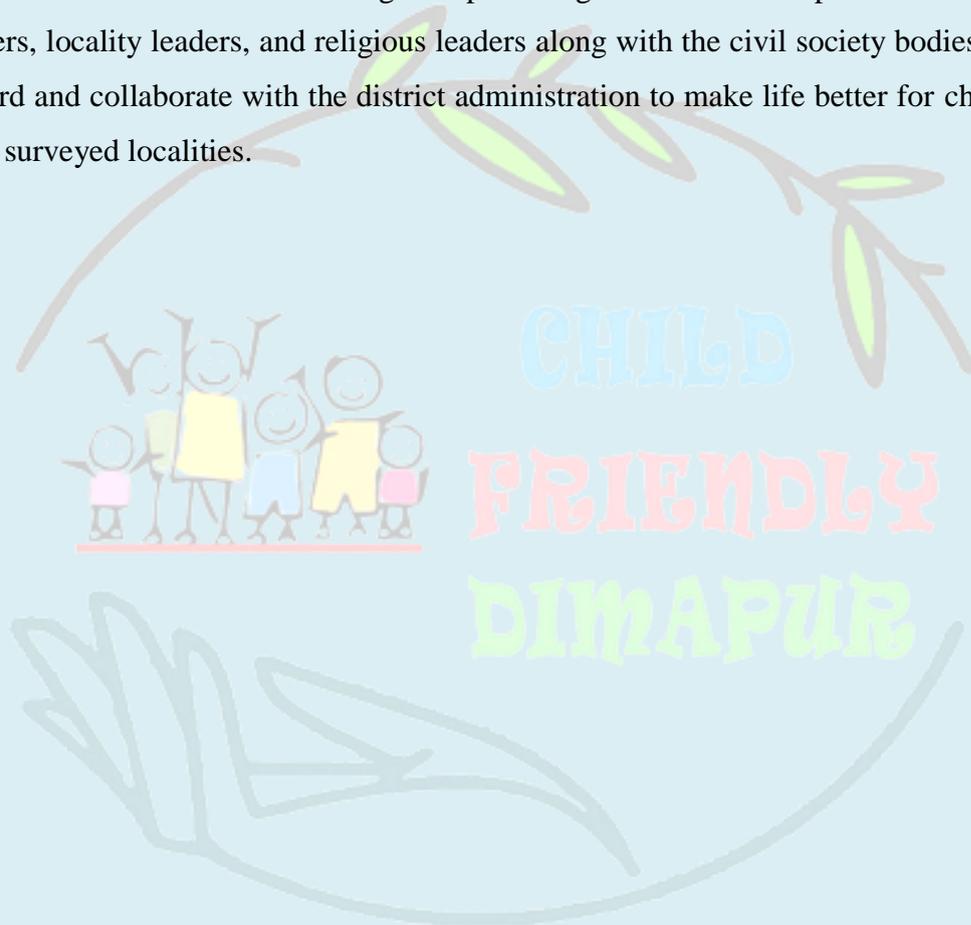
# CHAPTER I
# INTRODUCTION

The conceptualization of child and childhood went through different phases. It was in the 16th and 17th centuries when this concept emerged among the wealthy, educated and elite-class people in Europe. The access to child-related literature appealed to educated elite families in Europe who started considering children as innocent requiring care and support. However, the industrial revolution helped this concept to reach the poor families who migrated to the industrial areas in search of employment. This migration resulted in the emergence of slums and child labour. During the initial years of the industrial revolution, children engaged in income-generating activities to support their families. Children had to work for long hours in the mills and factories in hazardous conditions.

Subsequently, considering the psychological and physical consequences of long hours of industrial work on children, different laws were enacted from time to time to regulate the working conditions and duration of work for children. By mid of 19th century, the enactment of the laws led to a situation where child workers were less preferred by the industry owners and eventually children had free time. It is important to note that laws were enacted only to regulate working conditions with no emphasis on schooling or education. Soon the children in the slums became a matter of concern for the elite class residing nearby, because, unlike their children, these children were not going to schools, always on the road, playing games, creating noise and so forth. This situation created a need for intervention.

Later, World War I and World War II provided the required momentum in generating a collective concern for young individuals. The effort of Ms. Eglantyne Jebb, who founded 'Save the Children' in 1919, in drafting the first Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which the League of Nations adopted in 1924. The formation of the United Nations, after World War II, and the publication of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 followed by the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959, the declaration of 1979 as the international year of the child, adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 are some other important milestones in the journey of conceptualization of child, childhood and child rights.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is considered a basic framework for formulating child rights-related laws. One of the guiding principles of the convention is '*best interest of the child*'. In a simpler sense, it means that the decisions taken on behalf of a

child should consider the best possible option that would ensure the optimum growth and development of a child. To take the best decision for a child would require a child to participate in the decision-making process so that his/her concerns can be addressed. Simultaneously, a friendly and non-judgmental atmosphere is a prerequisite to allowing a child to participate in the decision-making process.

Hence to ensure the best interest of a child, the primary focus should be on creating a friendly environment so that each child can express her/his thoughts, opinion, and likings as well as dislikes. The present study is one of the initial initiatives towards making the city of Dimapur a child friendly place.

Child-Friendly Dimapur is based on Child friendly City Initiatives (CFCI) of the United Nations, founded in 1996, to respond to the challenges of realizing the rights of children in an increasingly urbanized and decentralized world. According to UNICEF and UN-Habitat, "a child-friendly city is a city, town, locality or any system of local governance committed to fulfilling child rights as articulated in the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child; non-discrimination (Article 2), the best interest of the child (Article 31), the inherent right to life, survival and development (Article 6) and respect for the views of the child (Article 12).

The main objective of Child Friendly Dimapur is to contribute to the promotion and enforcement of children's rights in two districts (Dimapur & Chumoukedima) and 4 census towns (Kuda, Purana Bazaar, Diphupar, Rangapahar).

Child Friendly Dimapur envisions creating a city where all children, without discrimination of any kind, have access to their rights to live in secure, enabling environments and develop to their full potential.

The focus of Child Friendly Dimapur is leveraging and enhancing children's capacities of agency to make their voices heard for justice, peace, equality, entitlements and rights. This initiative then intends to use the capacities as well as the support of civil society groups, to engage with city administrations to improve the situation of children and as a result, of the city as a whole.

The goal of Child Friendly Dimapur is in line with Sustainable Development Goals. It is closely aligned with Sustainable Development Goals1,2 (especially 2.1and2.2),3,4,5,6,10 (especially 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4), 11, 13 and 16. SDG 11 directly states: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. However, Goals 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 10 and 16 have a direct bearing on the quality of life, inclusion and participation of citizens, especially the less privileged and the young. The intervention under the current project focuses on these goals and thus contributes to the realization, eventually of goal 11.

Child Friendly Dimapur, in view to assess the status of Child Rights in the city, organized a child-led survey on the theme, "Safe and Unsafe spaces" in 10 different localities of Dimapur and Chumoukedima (K.Sachu, Jolil colony, Public Ground, Seluophe, Neisatuo colony, Signal Angami, Rilan, Senjum, Kacharigaon and Kirha) with the active participation of Child Rights Club using different methodologies in their respective localities.

The primary purpose of this "survey" was to create awareness and build the capacities of the children and the youth themselves, while at the same time contributing to a database of the status of child rights in the city. In the survey, altogether, 183 children were involved of which 60 boys and 123 girls.

# CHAPTER II
# METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the study are:

- *To identify the safe and unsafe places for children*

- *To explore broad challenges encountered by children in different places*

**Research Design**: The present study is one of the initial activities in making Dimapur and Chumoukedima a Child Friendly city, which means that the preparation of an intervention strategy would depend upon the findings of the present study.

Considering the nature and future course of action, Participatory Action Research (PAR) was adopted as the research design. PAR is a flexible research design where the expected future beneficiaries participate in the study, identify their problem and also take action to solve the same.

**Types of Data Required:** For the present study both qualitative and quantitative data were obtained. Qualitative data was obtained using different tools of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) while the structured interview schedule was used to obtain quantitative data.

**Sample:** Purposive sampling was used to obtain the sample. Effort was made to collect responses from an equal percentage of boys and girls but that ratio could not be maintained. A total of 83 children were interviewed of which 33 were boys and 50 were girls. The selection criteria for respondents were:

· (S)he should be from a selected localities.

· (S)he should be in the age group of 12 to 18 years.

**Tools for Data Collection**

A set of qualitative tools were used to obtain data from children in the age group of 12- 18 years. It was assumed that the children in that age group enjoyed the group activities and would participate proactively in the data collection process. Descriptions of the proposed tools are given below:

*Transect Walk:* In each location, the facilitators conducted a transect walk with the children. The major purpose was to build rapport with the children and to observe the locality so that crucial aspects could be brought into discussion during Focused Group Discussion (FGD). During the transect walk, the facilitator focused on the following:

1. Street lights – available or not. If available are they functioning or not?

2. Is there any deserted area along the roadside but the children have to walk through this even in the evening?

3. Is there any illegal liquor shop or not?

4. Is there any gambling den in the community?

5. Are there active electrical wires hanging from the electric post or any other place?

6. The kind of resources available in the locality - school, health centre, locality toilet, etc

7. The road condition within the locality

8. Drainage condition – whether covered or not? Is it enough to drain water during the rainy season?

*Social Mapping:* During the social mapping, effort was made to spot the safe and unsafe places.

*Focus Group Discussion (FGD):* During the FGD, the facilitator focused on the following theme/subjects:

- Whether they observed the following and where

- Drunkard people
- Individual injecting drugs
- Gambling den
- Fighting among people
- Individuals using foul language on one another

Do they face the following in the places they frequently visit?

- Physical assault

- Verbal abuse/humiliation

- Criticism of physical attributes (height, weight, body shape, appearance, etc)

- Bad touch/touch that makes them uncomfortable.

- Intentional touching of private body parts.

- Asked to touch others' private body parts.

- Forceful exposure to adult magazines.

- Forceful exposure to videos with adult content.

***Structured interview schedule:*** Structured interview schedule was used to obtain responses from 6 to 8 children from each location.

**Operation Definitions**

- *Physical assault*: The term physical assault would include any activity like slapping, punching, kicking, pushing, throwing things, tangling, etc. done to hurt the person.

- *Verbal abuse*: A range of words or behaviour used to intimidate and maintain power and control over someone; this would also include scolding that hurts the dignity of the person.

- *Neighbourhood:* The term neighbourhood is used to refer to the places that are close to the houses, within a radius of 100 meters or less, where children are staying with their parents.

## BRIEF PROFILE OF THE SURVEYED LOCALITIES

### K.Sachu colony

K.Sachu colony is located in Dimapur, Nagaland. It was established in the year 1994. The locality has 1800 population which is inclusive of both local and non-local residents. The total number of local households is estimated to be 200 and 400 non-local households.

### Jolil colony

In Jolil colony more than 95% of the total population is non-locals. The area is owned by locals, yet some residents are paying taxes and some are on rent. Altogether, the colony has 32 households with130 populations having 87 adults (Male: 48, Female: 39) and 43children.

### Public Ground colony

The Public Ground colony is located near Golaghat Road. The local residential households are 120 and non-locals are 200. The male population of the locality is 544 and the female population is 452 respectively. The majority of the families are not economically stable and they stay in rented houses.

### Seluophe

The model village of Seluophe was established in the year 1994 and was recognized on November 2014. The majority of the population are locals. A total of 503 households are there in the locality with an overall population of 1896 of which 899 males and 997 females.

### Neisatuo colony

The Neisatuo colony is located in the Dimapur district near the Khermahal road. According to the information acquired from the locality leaders, altogether there are 600 households in the locality and the total population is 4500 approximately, out of which 4,200 are non-locals, mostly migrated from the state of Assam and only 300 are local residents. The male population of the locality is 2400 and the female population is 2100 respectively. The majority of the families are not economically stable and they stay in rented houses.

### *Signal Angami*

Signal Angami is a very large area with mini colonies scattered throughout the village. In total, there are more than 650 households with more than 3700 inhabitants with 2000 males and 1700 females.

### *Rilan colony*

Rilan colony is a locality in Dimapur city in Nagaland state, India. Aokong, Ao Kashiram, Grace Colony, Firing Range, Ao Yimsen are the nearby localities to Rilan Colony. The locality was established in the year 1995. Estimated population of Rilan is 447 with 107 households. This locality is inhabited by Lotha Nagas.

### *Senjum*

Senjum is a locality located under the circle of Dimapur Sardar. It is situated 5km away from the sub-district head quarters Dimapur Sardar and 5km from the district headquarters in Dimapur. According to the 2011 census, altogether there are 170 households in the locality and the total population is 771 approximately where 399 belong to local residentials. The male population of the locality is 372 and the female population is 399 respectively. This locality is inhabited by locals mainly Lotha Nagas.

### *Kacharigaon*

Kacharigaon was established in 1939. It is divided into three khels viz A, B, and C. The total number of households in the locality is 503(approximately) with a total population of 1250 (approximately) consisting of 700 males and 550 females. Around 25-30% of the population are non-locals.

### *Kirha*

Kirha is a locality in Dimapur, Nagaland which comprises Angami (Viswema village) majority and 25% of the total population are non-locals who are either a tenant or a tax payer to the land owner. According to the locality census, there is a total of 350 households with a total population of 1128 where 846 are locals and 282 are non-locals. The locality was officially established on 14th November 2014.

# CHAPTER III
# DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In this chapter, efforts would be made to identify the safe and unsafe places for children. Both the qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed to understand the concept of safe and unsafe places from the view point of children. This chapter starts with the characteristics of unsafe places, identification of unsafe places, experiences of children in such places and finally provides an account of safe places.

## UNSAFE PLACES

The unsafe places in the ten (10) surveyed localities vary widely. Children considered the presence of drunkard clubbing with gambling makes a place most unsafe. During Focus Group Discussions, children shared that often the drunkards fight among themselves and at times with the passers-by or people around them. The usage of foul/ abusive language is very common. In addition, naked electrical wires, potholes, open drainage, open water bodies, dumping grounds, road junctions, places without street lights, and deserted areas are also labelled as unsafe spaces. Children believed that in such areas they are vulnerable to any kind of violence or abuse, especially when they are alone.
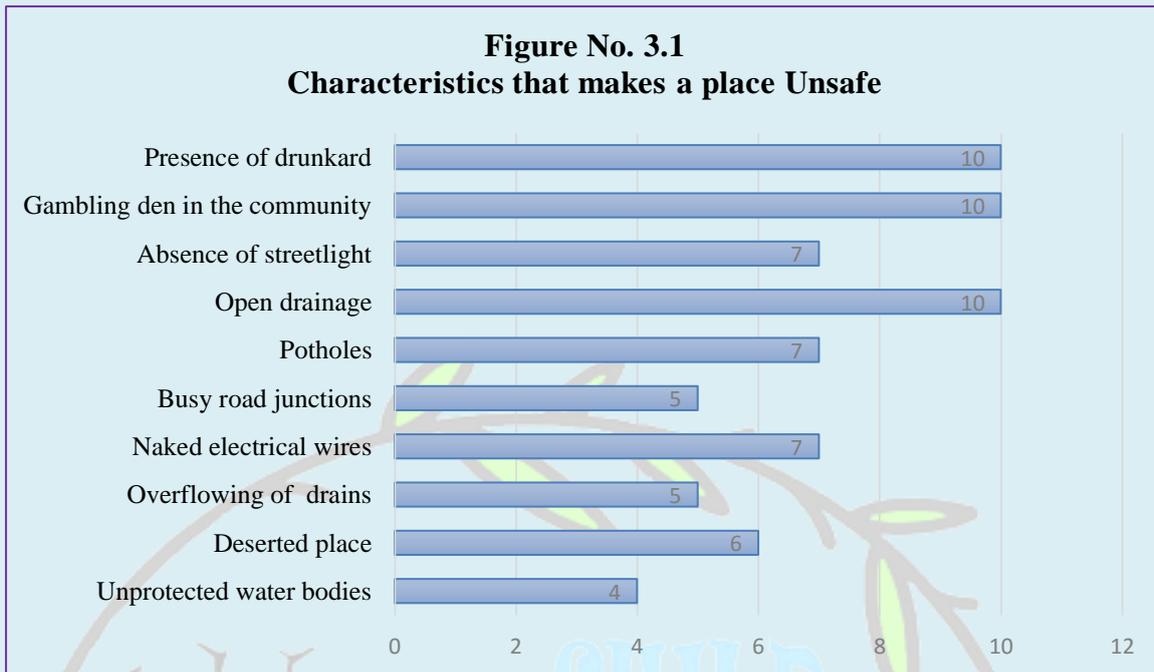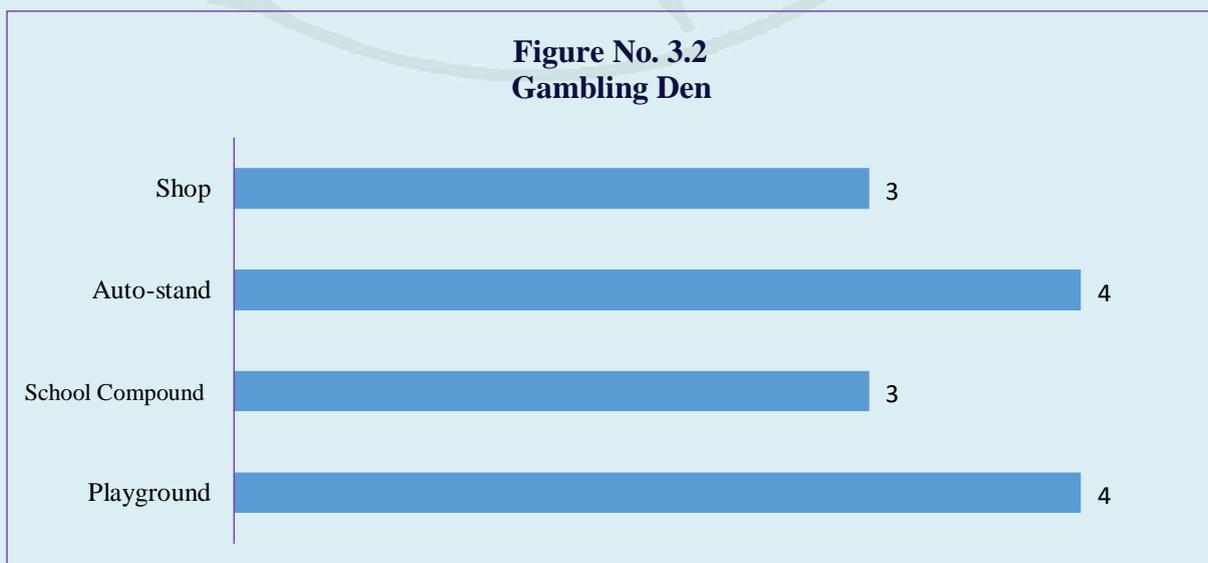


Jolil Colony
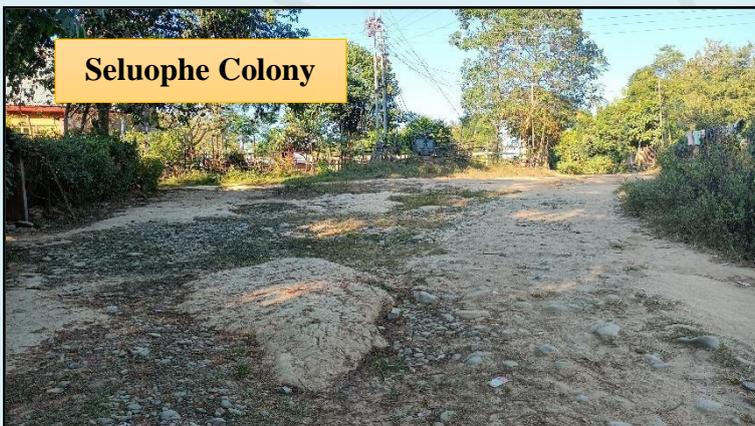


Seluophe Colony

In other words, it is not the place but the characteristics of a place decide whether it is to be labelled as safe or unsafe. Hence, it becomes pertinent to understand the features/ characteristics of an unsafe place, from the perspective of a child.

**Figure No. 3.1**
**Characteristics that makes a place Unsafe**

| Characteristic | Value |
|---|---|
| Presence of drunkard | 10 |
| Gambling den in the community | 10 |
| Absence of streetlight | 7 |
| Open drainage | 10 |
| Potholes | 7 |
| Busy road junctions | 5 |
| Naked electrical wires | 7 |
| Overflowing of drains | 5 |
| Deserted place | 6 |
| Unprotected water bodies | 4 |

The survey shows that children in all ten localities confirmed the presence of gambling dens, drunkards, and open drainage within their respective areas. Additionally, seven colonies reported the presence of potholes, exposed electrical wires, and a lack of street lights. In six colonies, deserted areas were observed, while in five colonies, overflowing drains and busy road junctions were noted (Figure No. 3.1).

The *gambling den* in the locality is concentrated in four locations (as depicted in figure no.3.2) such as the playground, auto-stand, school compound and shops/ market areas in and around the locality. It is important to note here that children have seen drunkard people in all four locations.

**Figure No. 3.2**
**Gambling Den**

| Location | Value |
|---|---|
| Shop | 3 |
| Auto-stand | 4 |
| School Compound | 3 |
| Playground | 4 |

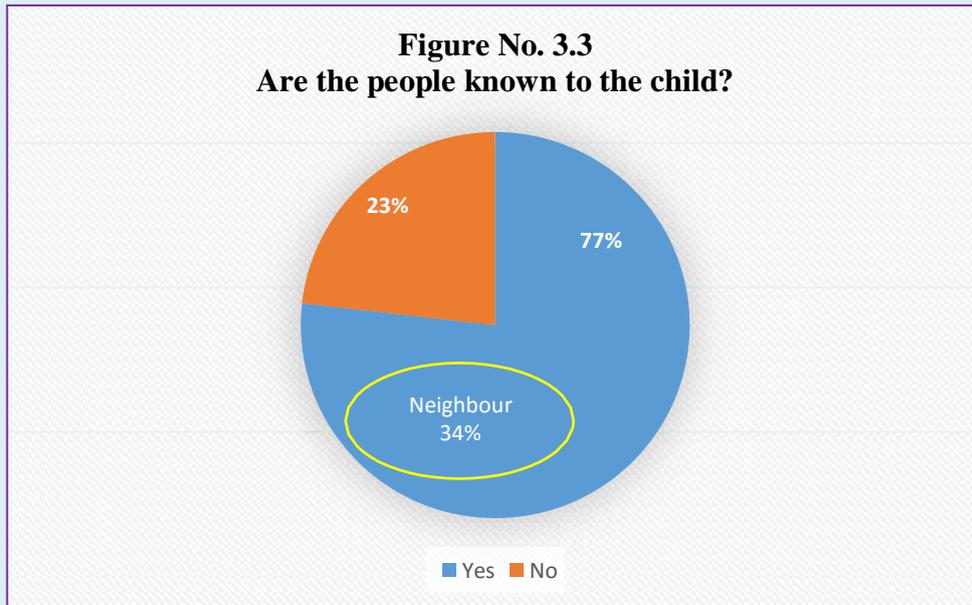**Figure No. 3.3**
**Are the people known to the child?**
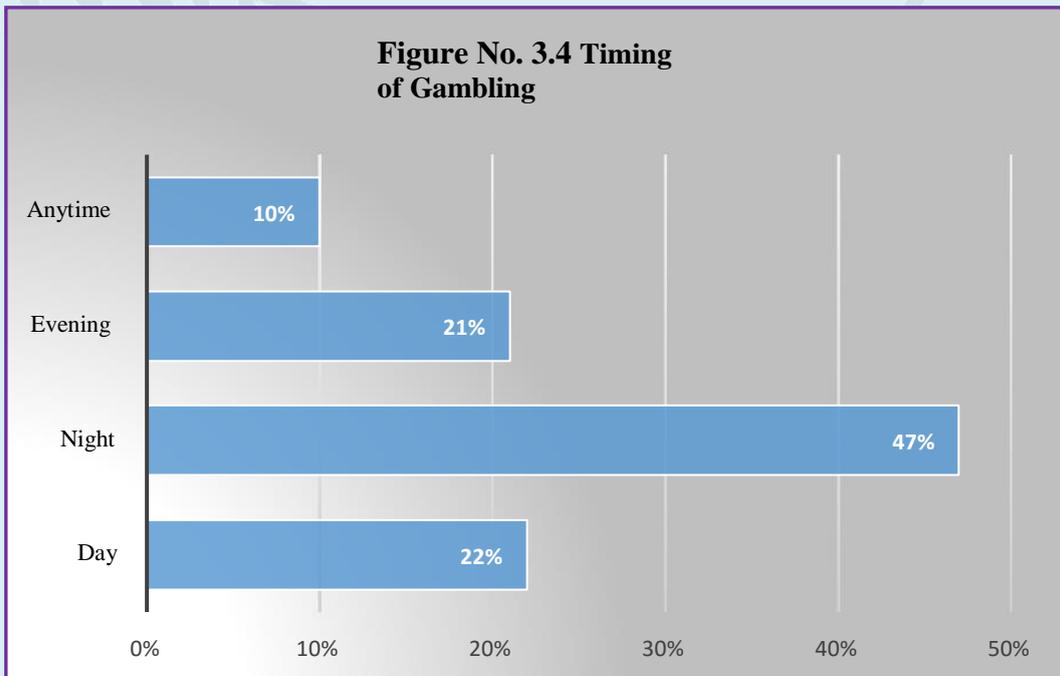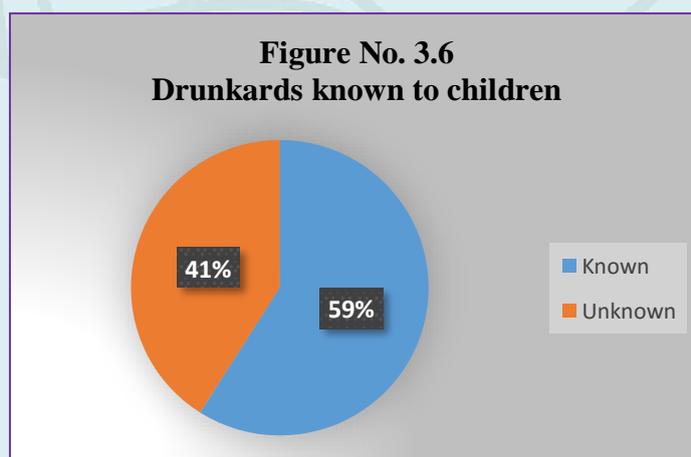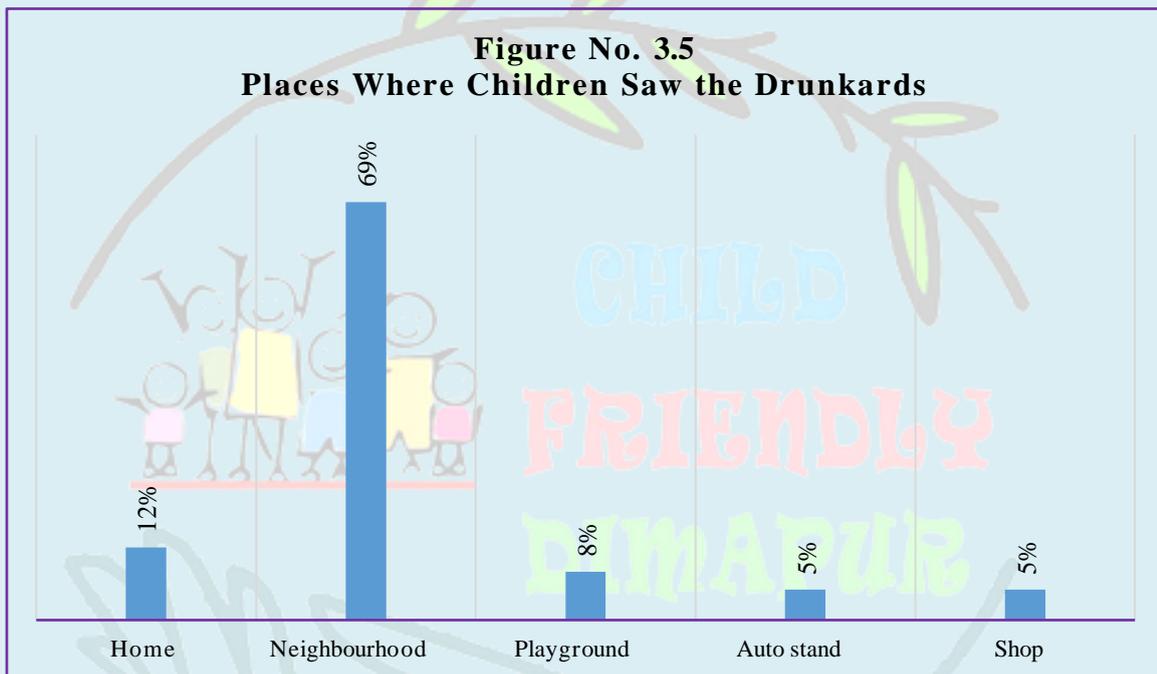
Neighbour
34%

23%

77%

■ Yes ■ No

Figure No. 3.3 reveals that in 77 percent of the cases, the gamblers are known to the children of which 34 percent are their neighbours.

Evening (21 percent) and night time (47 percent) are the most active hours for gamblers in all ten localities. Around 22 percent of the children reported that they have seen people gambling during the day time while 10 percent of the children from Jolil and Neisatuo localities shared that gambling can be seen throughout the day in their neighbourhood (Figure No. 3.4).
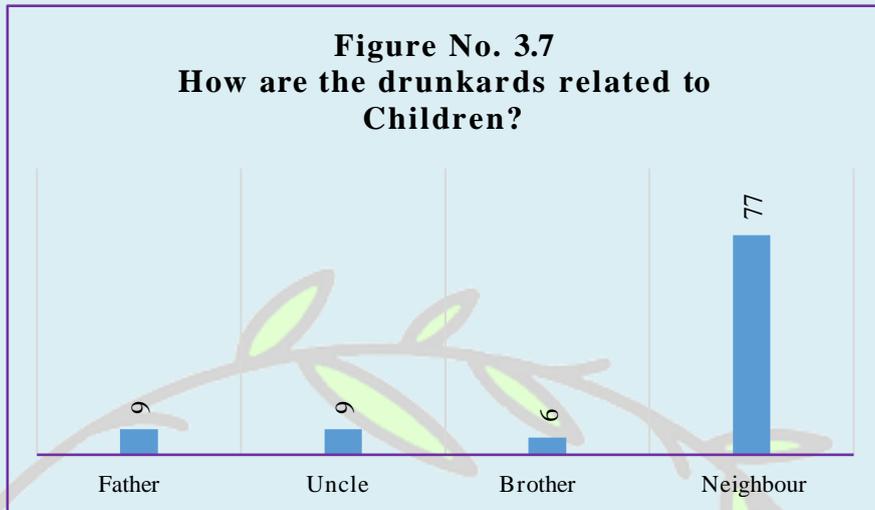
**Figure No. 3.4 Timing of Gambling**

Anytime — 10%
Evening — 21%
Night — 47%
Day — 22%

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%

**Presence of Drunkard**

Children from all ten localities shared the experience of observing drunkard people in their locality. The highest of 69 percent of children saw drunkards in their neighbourhood-which includes neighbourhood houses and places close to their place of residence while 12 percent of children have seen drunkards in their own homes. Eight (8), five (5) and five (5) percent of children have seen drunkards in playground auto stands and shops respectively (Figure No. 3.5).

**Figure No. 3.5**
**Places Where Children Saw the Drunkards**



**Figure No. 3.6**
**Drunkards known to children**



In majority of the cases, the drunkards are known to the children (59 percent), as reflected in Figure No. 3.6. The study revealed that 77 percent of the drunkards are the neighbours

while 9,9 and 6 percent are the father, uncle and brother of the responding children respectively (Figure No. 3.7).

**Figure No. 3.7
How are the drunkards related to Children?**

| Father | Uncle | Brother | Neighbour |
|--------|-------|---------|-----------|
| 9 | 9 | 6 | 77 |

Evening (9 percent) and night (53 percent) are the time when drunkards are active in most of the localities while 16 percent of children from Kirha and Rilan localities reported the presence of drunkards during the daytime as well. 21 percent of children from localities like Jolil, Public ground, Senjum and Neisatuo informed that drunkards could be seen in their locality at any time (Figure No. 3.8). Irrespective of the relationship between the drunkards and the responding children, 59 percent of children feel scared in the presence of drunkards around them.

**Figure No. 3.8
Time of drunkards**

| Night | Day | Evening | Anytime |
|-------|-----|---------|---------|
| 53% | 16% | 9% | 21% |
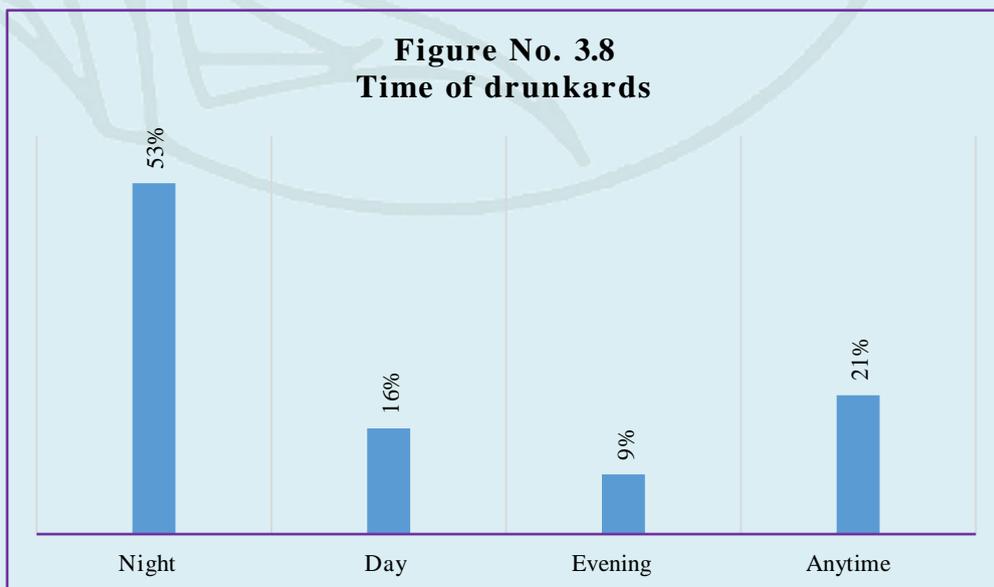
During the Focus Group Discussions children shared that drunkards and gamblers often fight, use abusive language and pass derogatory comments to passersby.

It is important to note here that drunkards and gamblers are present in the playgrounds and the school compounds from the late evening onwards while their presence can be noticed throughout the day in the places like auto-stands and shops that sell alcohol illegally. All these four places are regularly visited by children in their day-to-day life.

Auto-stands are mostly located either at the entrance of the locality or at an important junction, which children have to pass through either to go to school or the nearby playground.

The school compounds and playgrounds that are located within the locality are accessed by the children in the evening for recreational purposes. But, as shared by the children, their movement gets restricted as the drunkards (youth and adults from the locality) occupy the compound in the evening.

Children (49 percent) in all ten localities shared that they get scared whenever they witness any fight.



**Figure No. 3.9**
**Places where children witnessed fighting**

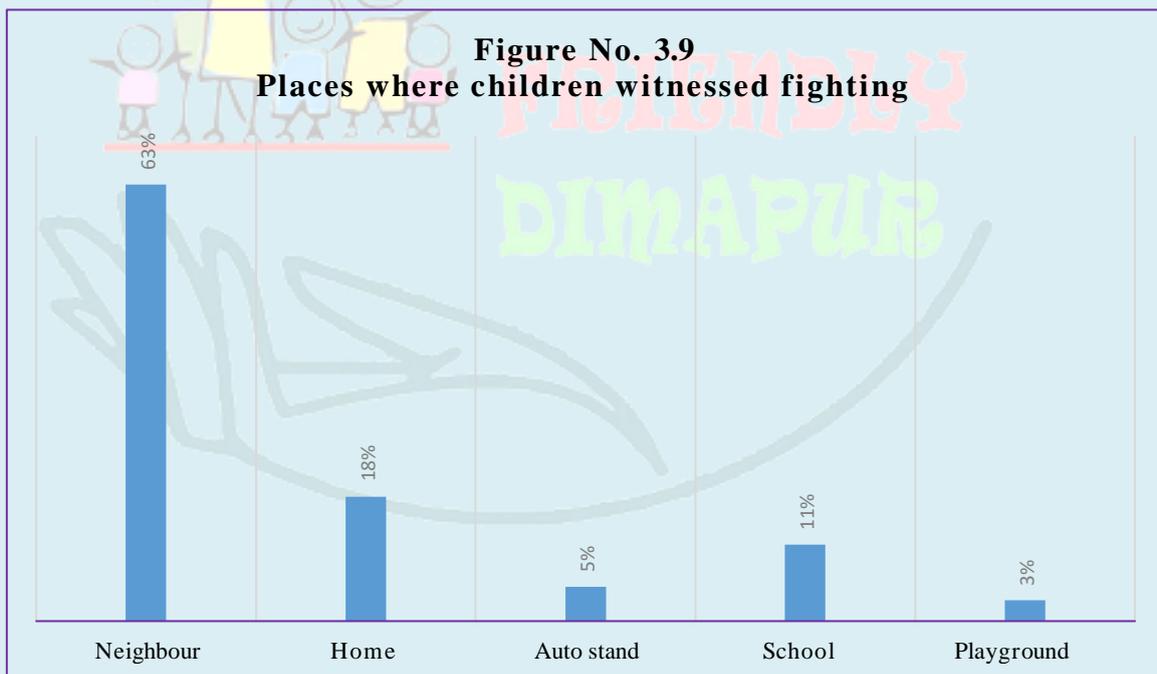| Neighbour | Home | Auto stand | School | Playground |
|-----------|------|------------|--------|------------|
| 63% | 18% | 5% | 11% | 3% |

Figure No. - 3.9 depicts that 63 percent of the children have witnessed fights in their neighbourhood while 18 percent of the children witnessed it at their homes between parents and at times between parents and elder siblings. Children (11 percent) reported that they witnessed fights in their schools but they never felt threatened because of the presence of friends and teachers. Auto-stands (5percent) and play grounds (3percent) are the other places

where children saw people fighting. The majority of the fights in the neighbourhood and at home take place at night.

**Figure No. 3.10**
**Are people involved in fighting known to the Children?**
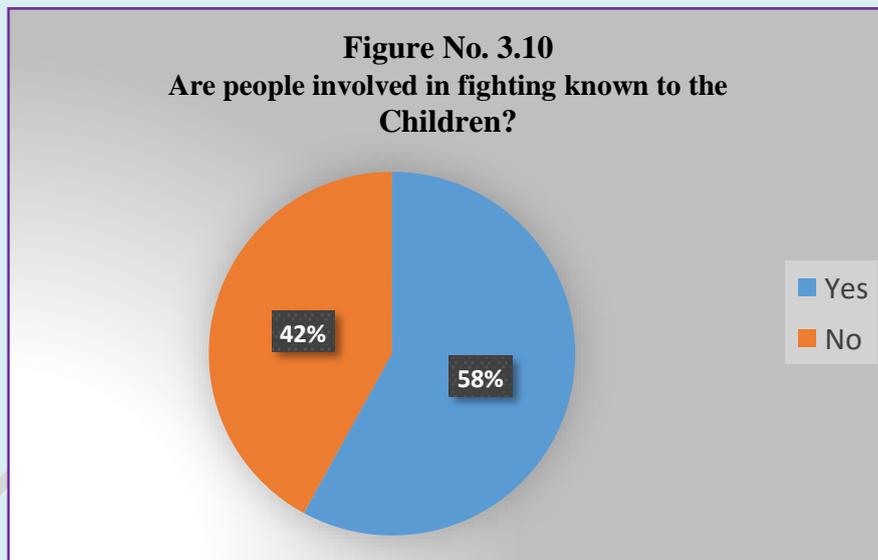


In 58 percent of the cases, children know the people involved in fighting and are mostly uncles and aunty from their neighbourhood and sometimes their parents are also involved (Figure No. 3.10).

**Open Drainage and Over flowing of Drains**

Open drain within the locality is a common feature of all the colonies. The open drains carry the waste water mostly from the toilets, bathroom and kitchen to the main drain. In addition, many a time these small open drains are choked with solid wastes like plastic bottles, packets, sachets etc. that cause overflowing of the drains during rainy seasons.

Children from five localities namely Jolil, Public Ground, Seluophe, Senjum and Kirha shared that during the rainy season the drains in their locality over flow and in case of heavy rain their



Jolil Colony

Households are also flooded by the dirty water.

**Naked Electrical Wires and Potholes**

Children from localities like Jolil, Public Ground, Seluophe, Signal Angami, Rilan, Kacharigaon and Kirha mentioned the presence of potholes in the lanes within the community. During the rainy season, children face difficulty to go to school as there is a risk of falling into the potholes and getting hurt. Therefore, it restricts the movement of the children within the community.


Signal Angami

Naked electrical wires also pose a threat to the children in the localities like Jolil, Public ground, Seluophe, Neisatuo, Signal Angami and Rilan. Children are afraid to go to places where transformers or big electric posts with hanging wires can be seen. Children often see sparks in the transformers, in the wires during heavy winds and also in the hooks that are used to get illegal electricity. The transformers are located near the main roads and occasionally within the community.
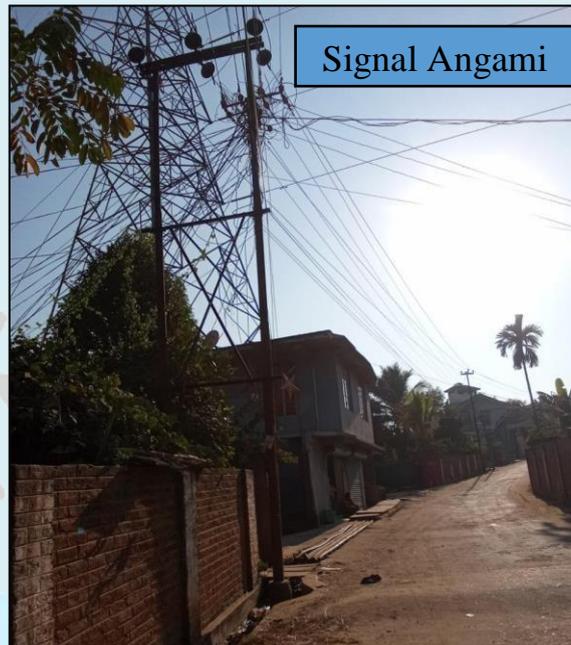
**Deserted Places**

Children in the six localities among the ten surveyed localities consider deserted places as unsafe. These deserted areas include playgrounds in Jolil, Rilan and Senjum and haunted house in Signal Angami and a graveyard in Seluophe and Kirha. Children expressed that they feel unsafe walking alone in the late evening to these areas as there are no street lights in the locality. It is also important to note that the majority of the deserted places mentioned by the children are gambling dens and are also used by people for consuming
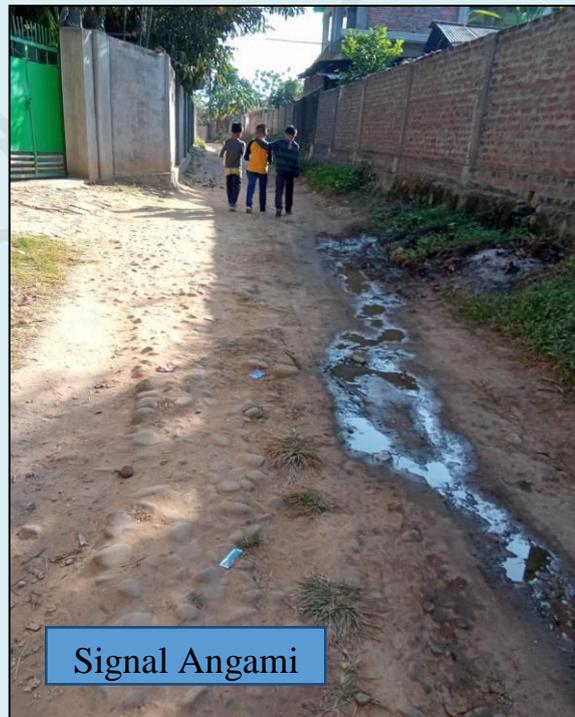

Signal Angami

alcohol. (*Image from Signal Angami Colony*)

**Absence of Street Lights**

The absence of street lights within the locality restricts the movement of the children at night. The absence of streetlights at night makes the children vulnerable to physical assault, sexual assault and verbal abuse. The presence of drunkards, loitering within the locality, and clubbed in gambling dens makes the situation worst. The colonies, inclusding +Public Ground, Seluophe, Signal Angami, Senjum, Kacharigaon, K. Sachu and Jolil lack street lights. In Neisatuo, street lights are present but not functioning. Furthermore, in Rilan and Kirha, street lights are only visible at the entrance of the community. In summary, it can be said that none of the surveyed colonies have operational street lights, which pose difficulties for children moving around the locality at night.

**Busy Road Junctions**

The busy road junctions, precisely during the day time, pose a threat to the children. These junctions are often crowded with autos, cars, motorcycles etc. which makes it difficult for children to cross the road. But children shared that they have to go through these junctions daily to go to schools, shops, private tutors and friends' places.

In addition, the spaces are also infamous because of the presence of drunkards and gamblers, who sometimes pass inappropriate comments and make inappropriate gestures to the children, precisely to girls.

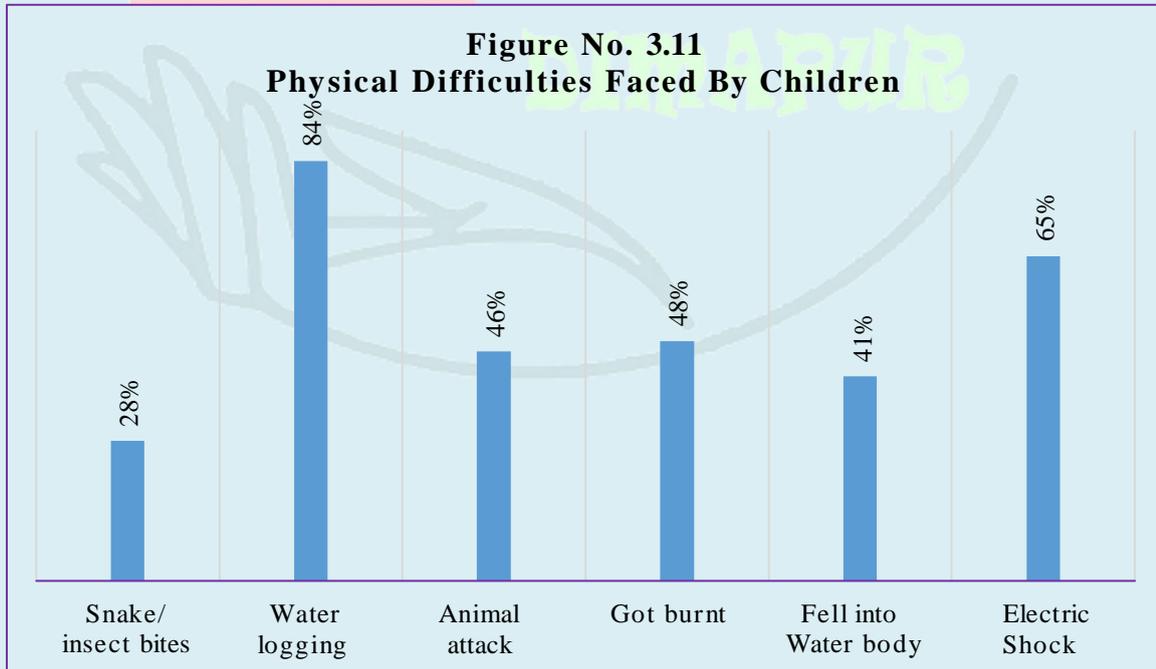The busy road junctions are mainly located at

**Unprotected Water Bodies**

Finally, children from Jolil, Seluophe, Neisatuo and Senjum consider the presence of unprotected water bodies within the colony as a threat. During the interview, it was found that 35 percent of the children have experienced falling into water


Jolil colony

body that includes a pond, wetland, or well, while 5 percent experienced a similar incident at their home (Figure No. 3.12).

**SOME OTHER FEATURES OF UNSAFE PLACES**

**Other Physical Vulnerabilities**



**Figure No. 3.11**
**Physical Difficulties Faced By Children**

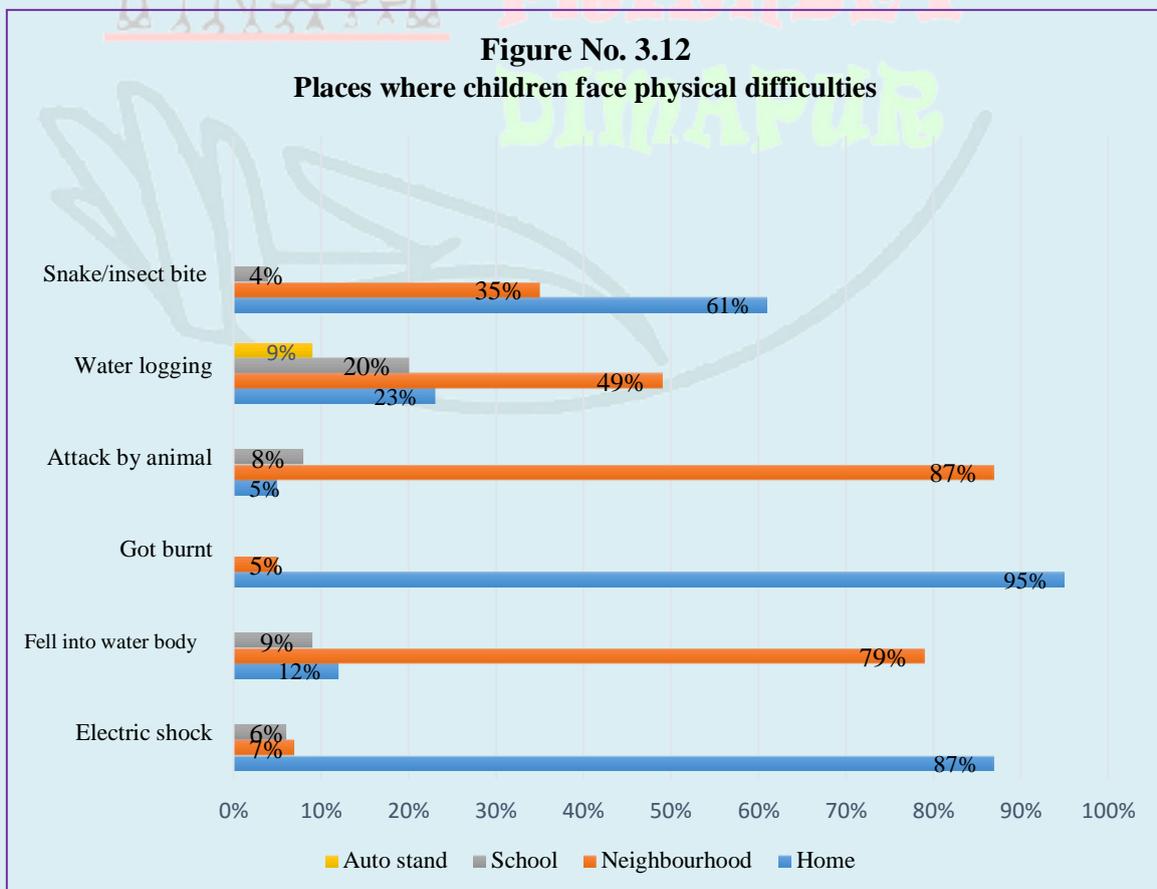| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Snake/ insect bites | 28% | |
| Water logging | 84% | |
| Animal attack | 46% | |
| Got burnt | 48% | |
| Fell into Water body | 41% | |
| Electric Shock | 65% | |

Children in all the ten surveyed localities face different physical difficulties in their daily life. Some of these are seasonal like water logging (84 percent) and snake/ insect bites (28 percent) etc. and some difficulties that remain throughout the year such as electric shock (65

percent),  burns (48 percent) and animal attacks (46 percent), as can be seen in Figure No.-3.11.

Figure 3.12 indicates that majority of the children reporting water logging face it in their neighbourhood (49 percent) followed by home (23 percent), school (20 percent) and auto stand (9 percent).

Similarly, 87 percent of the children experienced an electric shock in their homes while operating electric appliances or gadgets. Many children help their parents in the kitchen and sometimes cook noodles and tea for themselves and in that process 95 percent of children got burnt. Inside the localities, the presence of animals like cows, dogs, and the occasional attacks of monkeys are common.

Unprotected water bodies like well, ponds, fisheries, and wetlands are present around the localities. 41 percent of the children reported their falling into such water bodies of which 79 percent of the children fell into the water bodies in their neighbourhood while 12 percent fell into well in their own homes.

**Figure No. 3.12**
**Places where children face physical difficulties**



| Category | Auto stand | School | Neighbourhood | Home |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Snake/insect bite | | 4% | 35% | 61% |
| Water logging | 9% | 20% | 49% | 23% |
| Attack by animal | | 8% | 87% | 5% |
| Got burnt | | | 5% | 95% |
| Fell into water body | | 9% | 79% | 12% |
| Electric shock | | 6% | 7% | 87% |

Finally, the majority of the children (61 percent) experienced snake/ insect bites at their homes while 35 percent were in their neighbourhood.

**ABUSES FACED BY CHILDREN**

Abuses such as verbal, physical and sexual abuse are often faced by children in the majority of the localities. Figure No. 3.13. shows that 78 percent of the children experienced bad touch, which is one of the most prevalent types of abuse faced by children in almost all localities followed by abusive remarks (30 percent), inappropriate gestures (30 percent), touching of private parts (25 percent) and stalking (12 percent).



Figure No. 3.13
Verbal, physical and sexual abuse faced by children
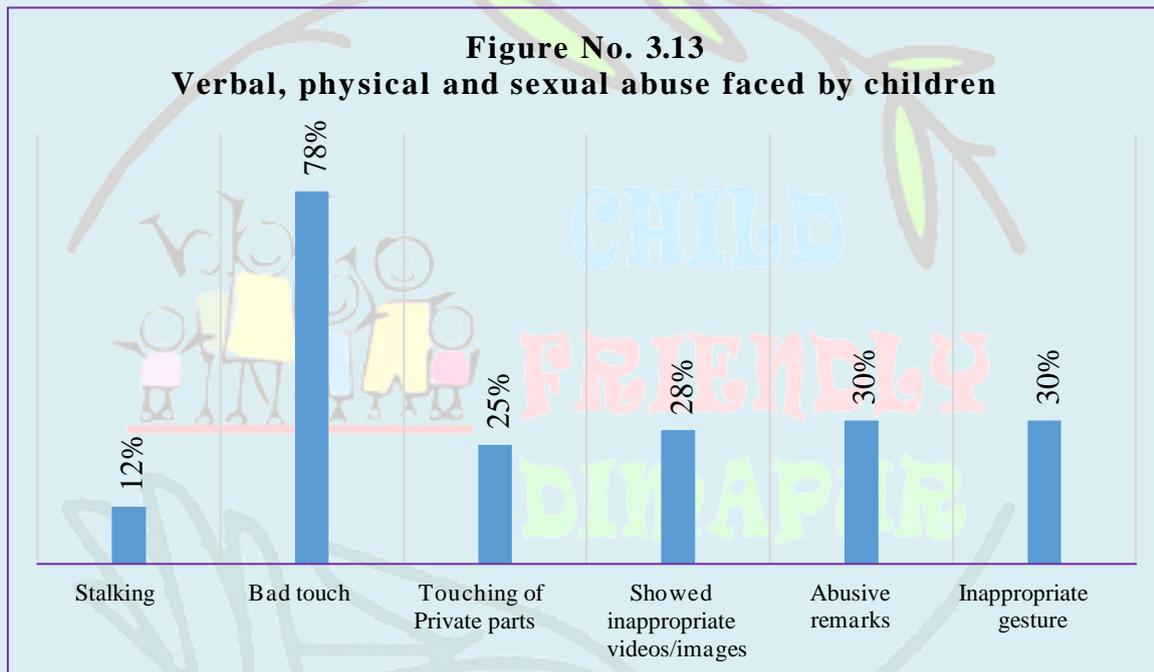
The figure No. 3.14 depicts that 66 percent of the abusers are known to the children. The abusers are classmates, seniors at school, or uncle from the neighbourhood.

**Figure No. 3.14**
**Whether abuser is known to children?**
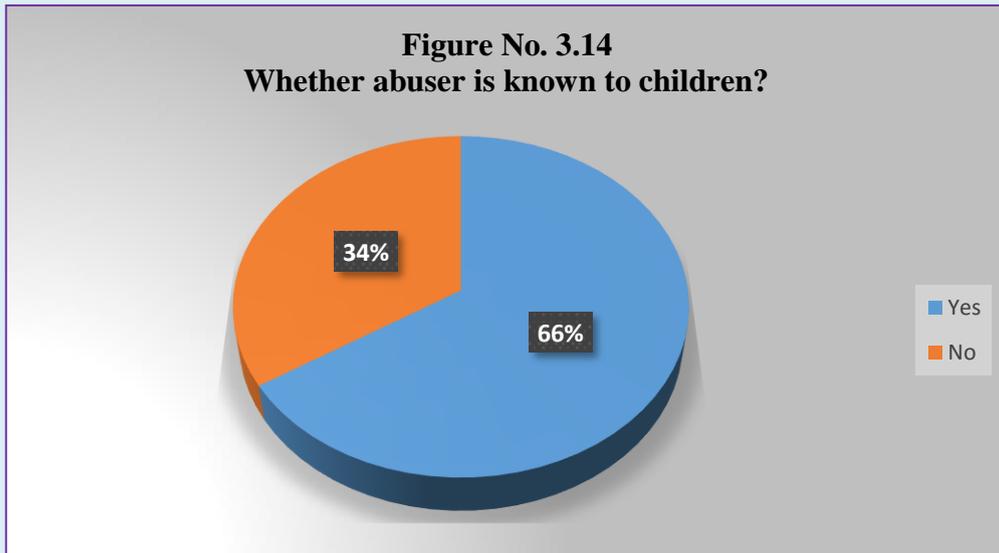


Majority of the abuses takes place in the neighbourhood (38 percent) followed by school (25percent), market place (13 percent), shop (10 percent), home (8 percent) and auto stand (7percent).

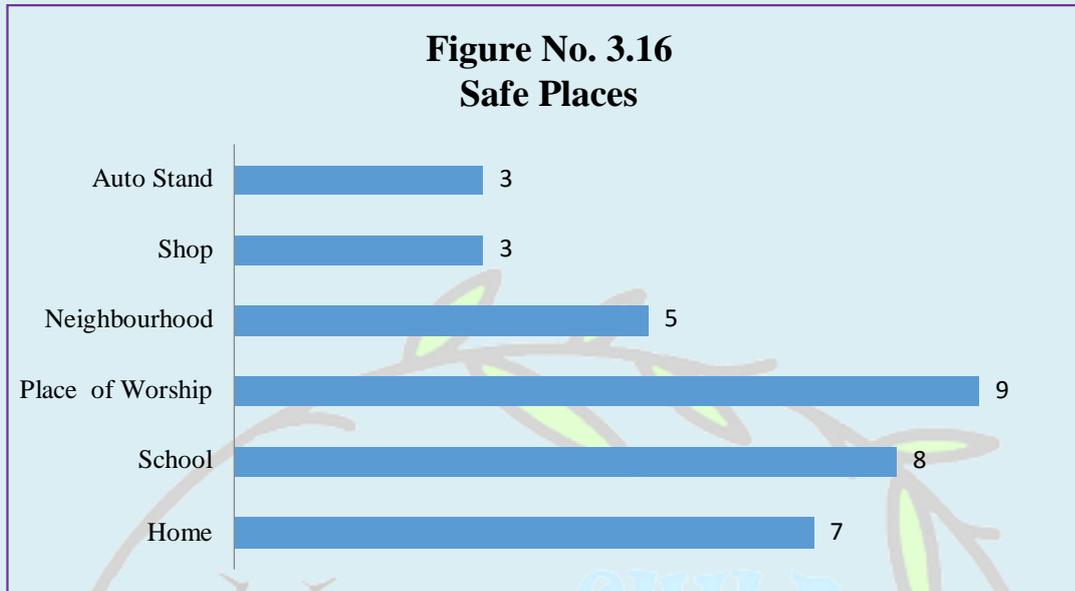**Figure No. 3.15**
**Places where abuse took place**
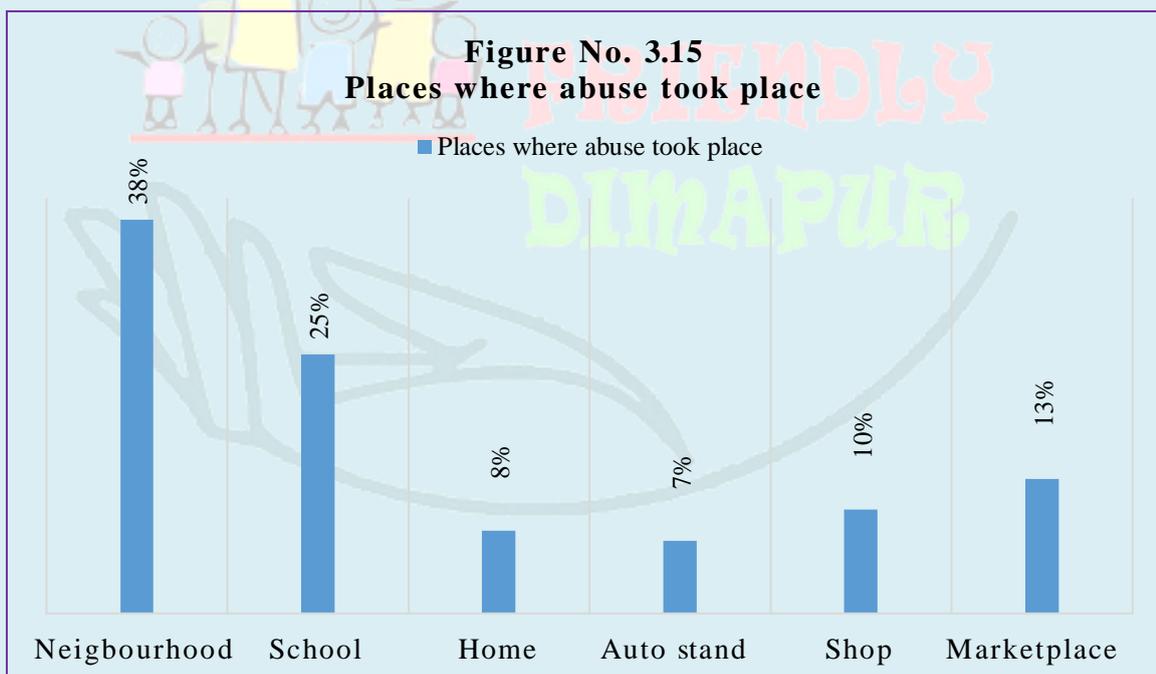


## SAFE PLACES

The Focus Group Discussions in all the ten colonies revealed that the place of worship is the safest as children of nine out of ten colonies voted it safe. School and home are the second and third choices of children in the category of safe places. In five localities children considered                                                                    the

Neighbourhood as a safe place. Finally, in three locations children considered auto stands and shops to be safe places to go. (Figure No. 3.16).

**Figure No. 3.16**
**Safe Places**

| Place | Value |
|-------|-------|
| Auto Stand | 3 |
| Shop | 3 |
| Neighbourhood | 5 |
| Place of Worship | 9 |
| School | 8 |
| Home | 7 |

**Place of worship**

Children consider the place of worship as a safe place to go as they are accompanied by their family members and the visiting people are also known to them. People associated with the place of worship are caring and concerned about the well-being of people.

**School**

The school compound is a safe place, as shared by children in eight localities. Children believe that teachers can never do anything wrong to them. As evident from the previous segment, children encountered sexual and verbal abuse from their seniors and classmates within the school compound but they feel safe because of the presence of teachers and their friends.

**Home**

The previous segment on unsafe places revealed that children face different vulnerabilities at their homes ranging from water logging to verbal and sexual abuse but still, they consider it as a safe place. The primary reason that the children highlighted are;

- They believe their family members would never harm them.

- The disciplinary action taken by their parents is for their good.

- Many children shared that they saw their parents fighting with each other, their father coming home drunk, uncle from the neighbourhood coming to their home in a drunken condition, which make them feel scared but at the same time mother and other siblings remain around them to protect.

- Children expressed that they are hesitant to share instances of abuse with their parents as in return they might get scolding or physical punishment. In the case of girls, victim - blaming is very common and often results in restriction on movement. But at the same time, children believe that in case of any difficulty, their family members would help them.

**Neighbourhood**

Though children have experienced many difficulties but they still consider their neighbourhood to be a safe place. The primary reason to consider the neighbourhood as a safe place is that they get help and support from their family members as and when required. Children also believe that people in their neighbourhood would never harm them knowingly or at least when they are not under the influence of any kind of toxic substance.

**Shops**

Children replied that they are not afraid of going to the shops that do not sell alcohol or near which there is no gambling den. Some shopkeepers take good care of them whenever they visit the shops.

**Auto stand**

Children consider auto stands as a safe place during the daytime although they face many difficulties as shared in the previous segments. Children believe that no one will harm them in broad daylight because of the presence of people as they can seek help from them in case of any difficulty.

# CHAPTER IV
# FINDINGS, DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS

**Broad Findings of the Study**

A place whether to be labelled as safe or unsafe depends upon the two factors mainly-presence of concrete and perceived threat. A concrete threat means where a child is well aware of the incidents that have taken place or has experienced some kind of vulnerabilities himself/ herself in that particular place, on the other hand a perceived threat is when a child has a fear of experiencing negative incidents that his/ her mind has created based upon the experiences of others, or reading of story books, watching movies etc.

The findings indicates that the surveyed localities have both physical and social vulnerabilities for the children. It is evident that the localities cannot be termed as safe place for children because majority of the events that scare them are existing in their neighbourhood. However, it becomes crucial to identify the safe and unsafe places in the surveyed localities for the well-being of the children.

**Factors that make the places physically vulnerable**

- Open drainage and presence of potholes were common across all the ten localities.
- Naked electrical wires could be seen near the habitation are as in all the localities. Some houses and shops in the locality use hook to get electricity illegally.
- The colonies such as Public Ground, Seluophe, Signal Angami, Senjum, Kacharigaon, K. Sachu, and Jolil do not have street lights. In Neisatuo, although street lights are present, they are not functioning. Moreover, in Rilan and Kirha, street lights are only visible at the entrance. In summary, it can be said that street lights are not operational in any of the surveyed colonies.
- Overflowing of drains within the localities during the rainy season is a common feature. 84 percent of the responding children reported of water logging in their localities.
- Unprotected water bodies within the locality is one of the major concerns in the localities. It was found that 41 percent of the children fell into water bodies of which 79 percent incidents took place in their neighbourhood.
- Attack by animal - 46 percent children reported to be chased by the animals of which 87 percent cases happened in the neighbourhood.

- Electric shock (65 percent) and burns (48 percent) were found to be common among the children. Majority of the cases took place at home.

**Social, emotional and sexual vulnerability**

- *Gamblers and Drunkards*
  - Shops - Gambling dens are mainly around the small hotels, restaurants or the shops that sell water bottles, pan, or tea.
  - Auto stand - Children found auto stand as another hotspot for gambling in their locality. Auto stands are mainly located at the entrance of the locality or in road junction near the community. Children witnessed fighting, experienced stalking, inappropriate gesture and abusive remarks while passing through the auto stand.
  - School compound- School is a safe place for children but the surveyed localities revealed that evening onwards the school compound becomes den for gamblers and drunkards. Absence of street lights and lack of proactiveness on the part of the local authority like Gaon bura/ headman of the locality make it preferable place for drunkards and gamblers.
  - Playgrounds-children's access to the playground gets restricted from evening onwards as the drunkards and gamblers occupy the space.
  - Home - 12 percent of the respondents said that their uncles, father and brother often come home in a drunken condition.
- *Fighting*

  Children from the K. Sachu colony shared that they feel unsafe when they see drunkards gambling because often they end up fighting. In the Jolil colony children shared that drunkards and gamblers sometimes end up in fights which makes the children feel unsafe. Children also witnessed fights in their own homes between parents and also between elder siblings and parents. Children get frightened whenever any drunken family member fights with other members as the children believe that they can be harmed by them as well.

- *Sexual abuse*
  - Bad touch, abusive remarks, inappropriate gesture, touching of private parts, and stalking are faced by the children in their neighbourhood (38 percent) followed by school (25 percent), market place (13 percent), shop (10 percent), home (8 percent)and auto stand (7 percent).
  - The study also revealed that 66 percent of the abusers are known to the

children that includes uncle from neighbourhood, classmates and seniors in the school and relatives. Hence, the neighbourhood and home, which are expected to be the safest place for children, are not completely safe.

- *Time dimension*
  - The study revealed that whether a place is safe or unsafe depends upon the time. Activities such as gambling, loitering of drunkards, and fights are common in the evening and night.
  - Places like home, neighbourhoods, playgrounds and school compounds become unsafe for children in the evening and at night. On the other hand, children witnessed gambling, loitering drunkards, fights, inappropriate gestures, and other abuses in the places like auto stands, shops, deserted areas, and busy road junctions even during the daytime as well.

**Discussion**

**Slum**

Developing a holistic understanding of the locality is a key prerequisite for successful intervention. Majority of the localities under the study exhibit the features of a slum. According to UN-Habitat, slum households are those where inhabitants suffer from one or more of the following-

- Lack of access to improved water source
- Lack of access to improved sanitation facilities
- Lack of sufficient living area
- Lack of housing durability
- Lack of security of tenure

The first three features like lack of access to improved water source, lack of access to improved sanitation facilities, and lack of sufficient living area are the common features of all the surveyed localities like any other locality across the country. But housing durability and security of tenure are the unique attributes of the surveyed localities.

The concept of *housing durability* and *security of tenure* are different concepts but interrelated in the case of slums. *Housing durability* refers to a permanent structure that provides protection from extreme climatic condition while the term 'security of tenure'

means legal status of the inhabitants against arbitrary unlawful eviction, harassment as well as any other threats.

Housing durability indicates nature of ownership or the type of slum rather than the economic class. In India, slums are mostly on government lands where inhabitants are encroachers. Being illegal occupants, there is always a threat of forceful eviction for which the inhabitants prefer living under a temporary structure, which is not durable. Broadly slums can be divided into two categories such as notified slums and non-notified slums. Notified slums are those which are recognized by the respective municipalities, corporations, local bodies or development authorities and such bodies take the responsibilities of providing basic amenities to the inhabitants. On the other hand, non-notified slums are those illegal habitations that are not recognized by the appropriate authority.

In notified slums, occupants live in a relatively permanent structure as there is no threat of forceful eviction while in non-notified slums houses are of temporary nature as they could be evicted at any point of time. Thus the housing durability in slums indicates the nature of the slums or the legal status of the occupants i.e. security of tenure.

The surveyed localities are completely different in this regard as all the localities are on private land and people are paying tax/ rent for the same. To illustrate, for example, the whole area of Neisatuo colony belongs to one owner, who gave some portion of his land to the people and from whom the owner collects the land tax (preferred term in the locality)/rent on a monthly basis. The occupants, who are paying land tax, has the right to build their houses as per their choice and can also build extra accommodation that can be rented to others where the actual owner of the land will not have any share. People can continue to stay in that locality as long as both the parties agree to follow the terms and conditions. Again there are two types of colonies namely government recognized and not recognized.

**Population, Dynamics and Parental attitude**

The profile of the surveyed localities revealed that four colonies namely K. Sachu, Jolil, Public ground and Neisatuo colony are majorly inhabited by the non-locals while the other five colonies such as Kirha, Kacharigaon, Senjum, Rilan, Signal Angami and Seluophe are inhabited by locals.

According to 2011 census, Muslims constitute 11.21 percent of the total population and the population of Hindus in Dimapur is 41.11 percent. However, it is difficult to identify who

have migrated to Dimapur even before the state of Nagaland came into existence. The non-locals residing in the mentioned colonies seem to be recent migrants mostly from the state of Assam, Bihar, and West Bengal.

In this context, it is important to understand the concept of local and non-local. The term non-local is used for non-Naga localities, irrespective of the number of years or number of generations staying in the state. This indicates assimilation and amalgamation is yet to take place at least for those families who are residing in Dimapur for generations. In addition, Bengali speaking Muslims are often referred to as Illegal Bangladeshi Immigrants (IBI) by the locals, irrespective of their legal status. Although, there are individuals from the Muslim locality who are holding good positions in different district level committees.

This kind of division between local and non-locals often restricts the non-Naga localities to file a police complaint whenever they become a victim of any type of atrocity where the perpetrator. There is also an assumption among people that majority of the police personnel's are locals and hence they may not take adequate step against the perpetrators, if he/ she is a local.

This kind of situation makes it difficult for a child specifically for a girl child to inform her parents about the sexual abuse she has faced as it could restrict her movement. Sandhna (name changed) 12 years old girl from one of the surveyed colony shared that she experienced bad touch, her private parts were touched and forcefully she was exposed to printed content which was not appropriate for her. The perpetrator was an uncle from her neighbourhood. On sharing the incident with her mother, she was scolded instead for unnecessarily roaming around and her movements were restricted. Now she says that it is better not to inform the parents because they will always blame her for the wrong doings of another person.

**Alcohol and Gambling**

The Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition Act, 1989, prohibits possession, sale, consumption and manufacture of liquor and import-export thereof in the State of Nagaland. However, liquor is one of the most easily available items in the city of Dimapur, the economic hub of Nagaland.

The shops such as small roadside hotel, tea shops, shops selling packed drinking water and sometimes the pan shops are illegally but openly selling liquors. Children often visit such

shops to buy items ranging from cigarette, chewing tobacco for their parents to candy and pencil for themselves.

However, Nagaland is not alone where there is total prohibition on alcohol but it is available everywhere. The state of Gujarat, Bihar and Mizoram also put a ban on alcohol but it is easily available. This situation indicates two important aspects-

- Banning liquor might look an easy way to reduce or stop the consumption of alcohol within the territory of a state but would never provide desired result unless and until people are educated on this.
- There is a nexus among the police, local administration and the smugglers. Otherwise it is not possible for a small shop owner, mostly non-local, to sell alcohol without any fear. The foreign liquors that are coming to the state of Nagaland are mainly manufactured in the state of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Coming to gambling, it is viewed as a short-cut to make money. People who are engaged into gambling in the surveyed localities are mostly from lower income groups and can be seen in areas like auto-stand, playground, school compound and near the shops where alcohol is available. It is important to note here that some locality members are also involved in gambling,

**Suggestions for Intervention**

1. **Individual level: Target group-children**
   a) The existing members of Child Rights Clubs should be given more responsibility with some designations like secretary for education, culture, information and so on. Children can be elected or selected, which may be decided by the implementing agency, for a specific term of one or two years. This model may prove beneficial in installing democratic values among the children and may enhance their capabilities and skill to present their needs and concerns competently.

   In addition, result oriented capacity building of the members of Child Rights Club on themes like duties of a citizen, rights of children, role and functions of different governmental departments, panchayat or village council, and municipality. As it is to be result oriented, the clear outcome of such capacity building need to be identified along with indicators and means of verification.

b) Children can be engaged in publishing monthly or quarterly (whichever seems feasible) community newspapers, which would disseminate information about the achievements of children, their view points about the situation of child rights in their respective localities and the challenges faced by them. The published newspapers should be circulated in the locality while some copies of which should reach the local leaders, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU),members of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and local police station. This newspaper is expected to work as a bridge between the children and major stakeholders.

c) Exposure visit of children to DCPU, CWC, JJB and local police station can also be organized with a frequency of once in a year.

2. **Family level: Target group- Parents**

a) In many families parents are involved in gambling, alcoholism, and fights between spouses which require sensitization of parents towards the holistic wellbeing of their children.

b) Workshops/ training programmes need to be organized on positive parenting for parents so that they can address the need of their children adequately.

3. **Locality level: Target population-Elders in the community**

a) Government Locality Interface (GCI) may be organized with a frequency of once in three months. Here responsible government officials would be invited and the locality people would share their concerns. In this context, Child Friendly Dimapur, (ANMA Integrated Development Association (AIDA) may collaborate with District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

b) The study revealed that there are two types of colonies: government-recognized and unrecognized. In the case of government-recognized colonies, members of the Child Rights Club can meet with the Dimapur Municipal Council (DMC), the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to share their concerns.

However, the major challenges lie with unrecognized colonies, as there is a minimal chance that the municipality or the Public Works Department (PWD) would address the issues, considering these colonies are privately owned. Moreover, if pressure is exerted for the installation of street lights and covering of drains, it may instill insecurity in the minds of the landowners, leading them to lawfully or unlawfully evacuate the families. This, in turn, would cause further hardships in the lives of the

children.

In this context, the organization may seek sponsorship from corporations or establish a locality fund to install street lights and cover the drains. However, it is crucial to obtain the consent of the landowners and the locality headman before undertaking such initiatives.

To address the issue of drunkards and gambling, the Child Rights Club can raise awareness by highlighting the problems associated with alcoholic individuals and the operation of gambling dens in their community newspaper. This initiative will play a vital role in creating awareness among government duty bearers responsible for addressing these issues.

Additionally, the organization can establish a community-based child protection committee consisting of responsible members from the locality, preferably parents of Child Club members. This committee should also include a local school teacher, village headman, a social worker from DCPU, and others deemed suitable for the purpose. The committee should meet at least once every three months to review the state of child rights in the community.

c) In all the localities, events need to be organized to bring the locals and non-locals on the same platform on issues related to child rights so that collective efforts could be made to mitigate the issues of children.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, it can be said that the study could not find a safe place for children other than the place of worship. In almost all the locations starting from home to market children are vulnerable to different types of abuses and mishandling. As reported in this document, many of the parents (mostly father) are engaged in alcoholism, gambling and fighting, which children consider as a threat but at the same time they recognize home as a safe place.

School is another place which children consider as a safe place but their accessibility to the place gets restricted in the evening when the youth from the locality occupy the place for injecting drugs and consuming alcohol. In addition the water logging, open drainage, unprotected water bodies, and naked electrical wires in the key location make children vulnerable.

A collective effort of all the stakeholder becomes pertinent to mitigate the situation. Parents, teachers, locality leaders, religious leaders along with the civil society bodies need to come forward and to collaborate with the district administration to address the situation.

Annexure I : Interview Schedule for Child Surveyor

**Interview Schedule for Child Surveyor**

*Basic Details of the Child*

Name of the child:_____

Age:_____Years

Gender: Male/ Female

Standard:_____

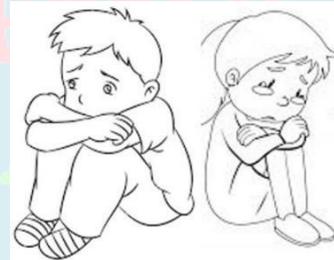Occupation of parents:_____

Residential status: Local/Non-local

Community/Location:_____

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1.A.Which are the places in your locality and around are safe for you to go?

1.B.Which are the places in your locality and around are unsafe for you to go?

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |
| 6. | 6. |
| 7. | 7. |
| 8. | 8. |
| 9. | 9. |
| 10. | 10. |

2.A.In which places people praise, Appreciate and love you and you feel safe?



| Mention the name of such places along with reasons |
| --- |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

2.B.In which places people scold, insult and abuse and you feel unsafe?



| Mention the name of such places along with reasons |
| --- |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

3. A. In which places people praise, Appreciate and love you but you feel unsafe?



| Mention the name of such places along with reasons |
| --- |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

3.B.In which places people scold, insult and abuse but you feel safe?



| Mention the name of such places along with reasons |
| --- |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

4. A. In which places people love and care for you and you feel safe?

4. A. In which places people physically abused you and you feel unsafe?

| Mention the name of such places along with reasons |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

| Mention the name of such places along with reasons |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

6. Did you see any of these around you?

## A. Gambling      B. Drunkard people      C. Fighting
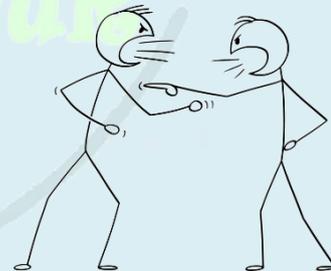
| A. Gambling | B. Drunkard people | C. Fighting |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Place: | Place: | Place: |
| Person known to you: **Yes/No** | Person known to you: **Yes/No** | Person known to you: **Yes/No** |
| If yes, who? | If yes, who? | If yes, who? |
| Time: Day/Night | Time: Day/Night | Time: Day/Night |
| Did that scare you? **Yes/No** | Did that scare you? **Yes/No** | Did that scare you? **Yes/No** |
| Any other details | Any other details | Any other details |

7. Did any of these happened to you?

**A. Electric shock**

**B. Snake bite or harmed any Other animal**

**C. Fell into a water body**
Pond/Well/Drain/water logged area

| Place: | Place: | Place: |
|---|---|---|
| Any other details | Any other details | Any other details |
| Any other details | Any other details | Any other details |

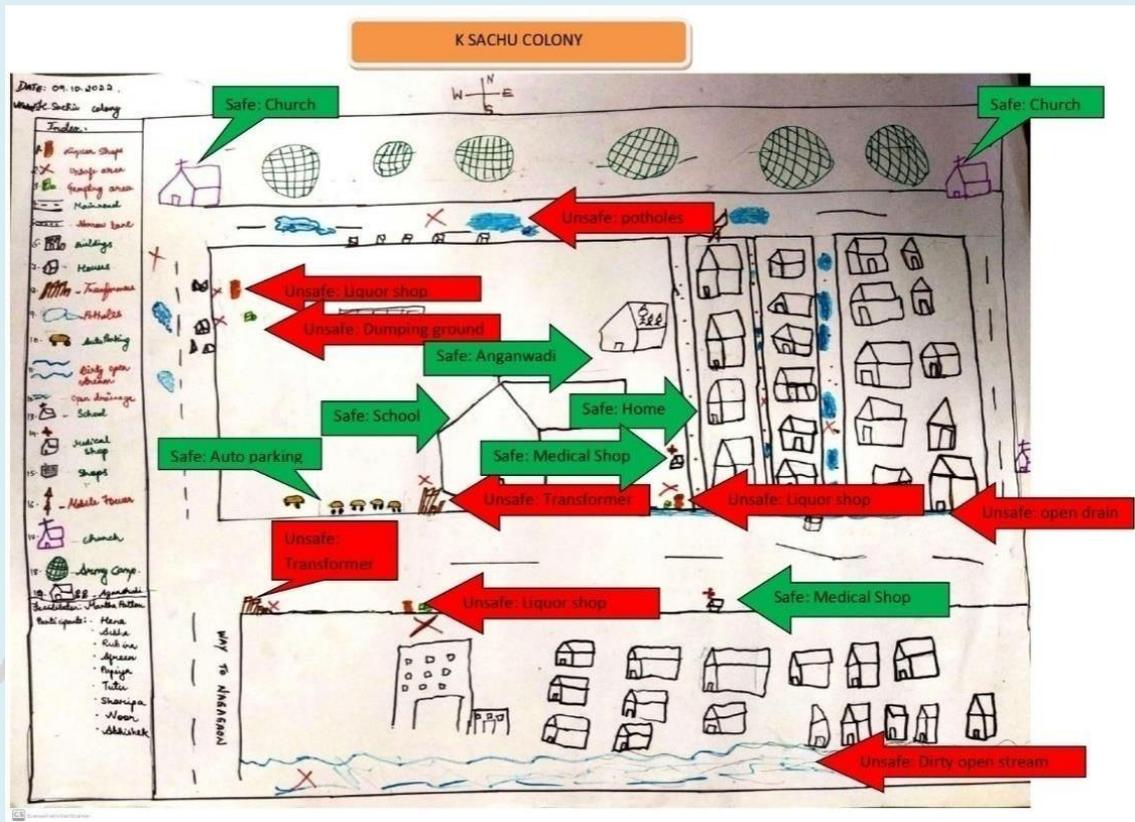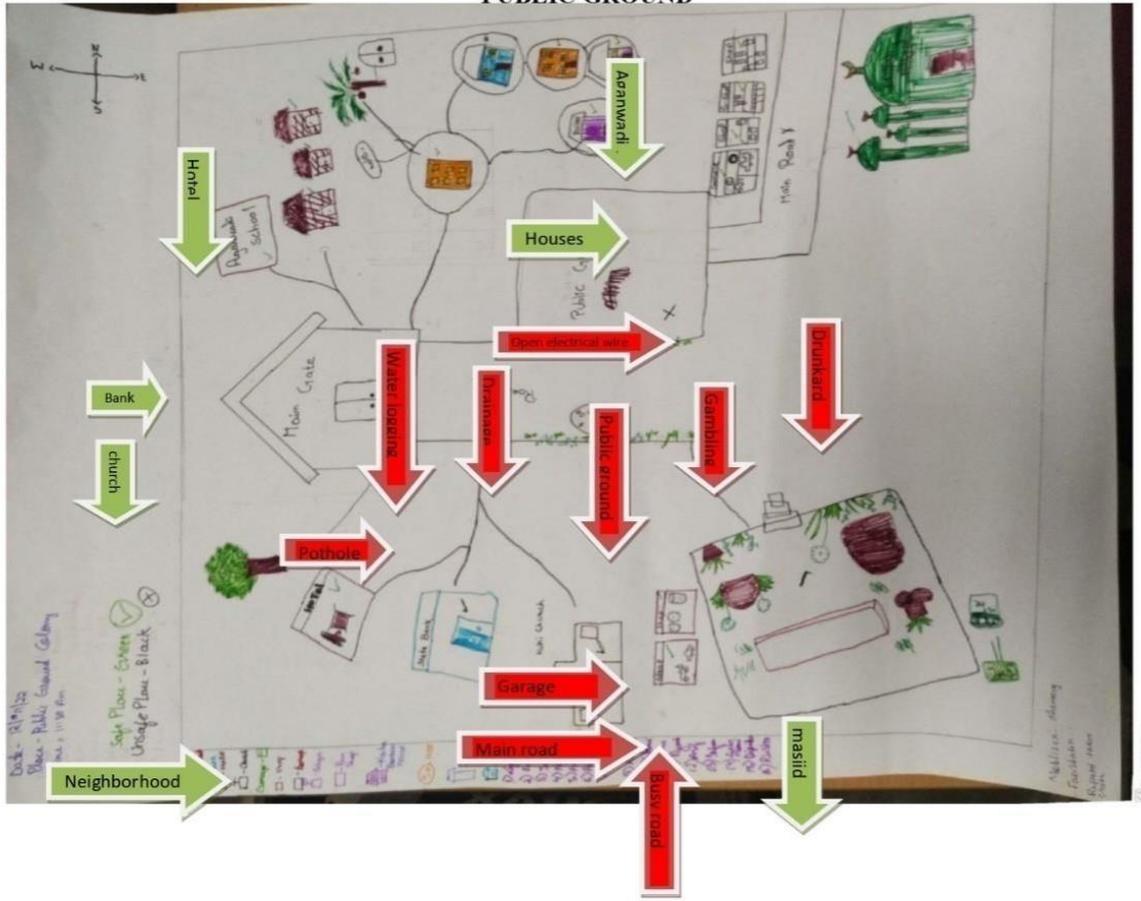**D. Got burnt**

**E. Met road accident**

**F. Chased by animal**

| Place: | Place: | Place: |
|---|---|---|
| Any other details | Any other details | Any other details |
| Any other details | Any other details | Any other details |

8.Haveyou come across/encountered the following

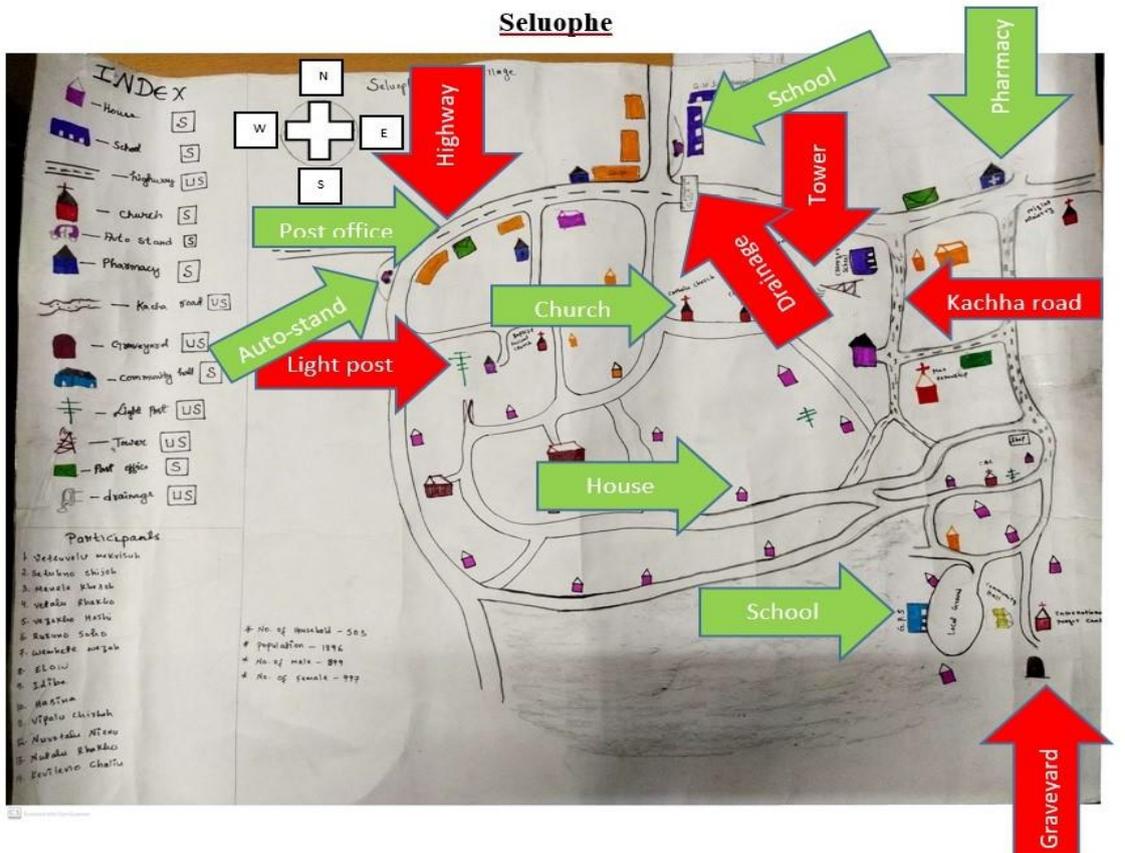| Sl.No | Kind of sexual harassment/abuse | Response | | Person is known to you | | Place |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 1 | Stalking | | | | | |
| 2 | Touching that makes you uncomfortable | | | | | |
| 3 | Touching your private parts | | | | | |
| 4 | Showed in appropriate images/ videos | | | | | |
| 5 | Abusive remarks | | | | | |
| 6 | Inappropriate gestures | | | | | |
| 7 | Any other of similar nature | | | | | |
| 8 | Any other of similar nature | | | | | |
| 9 | Any other of similar nature | | | | | |
| 10 | Any other of similar nature | | | | | |

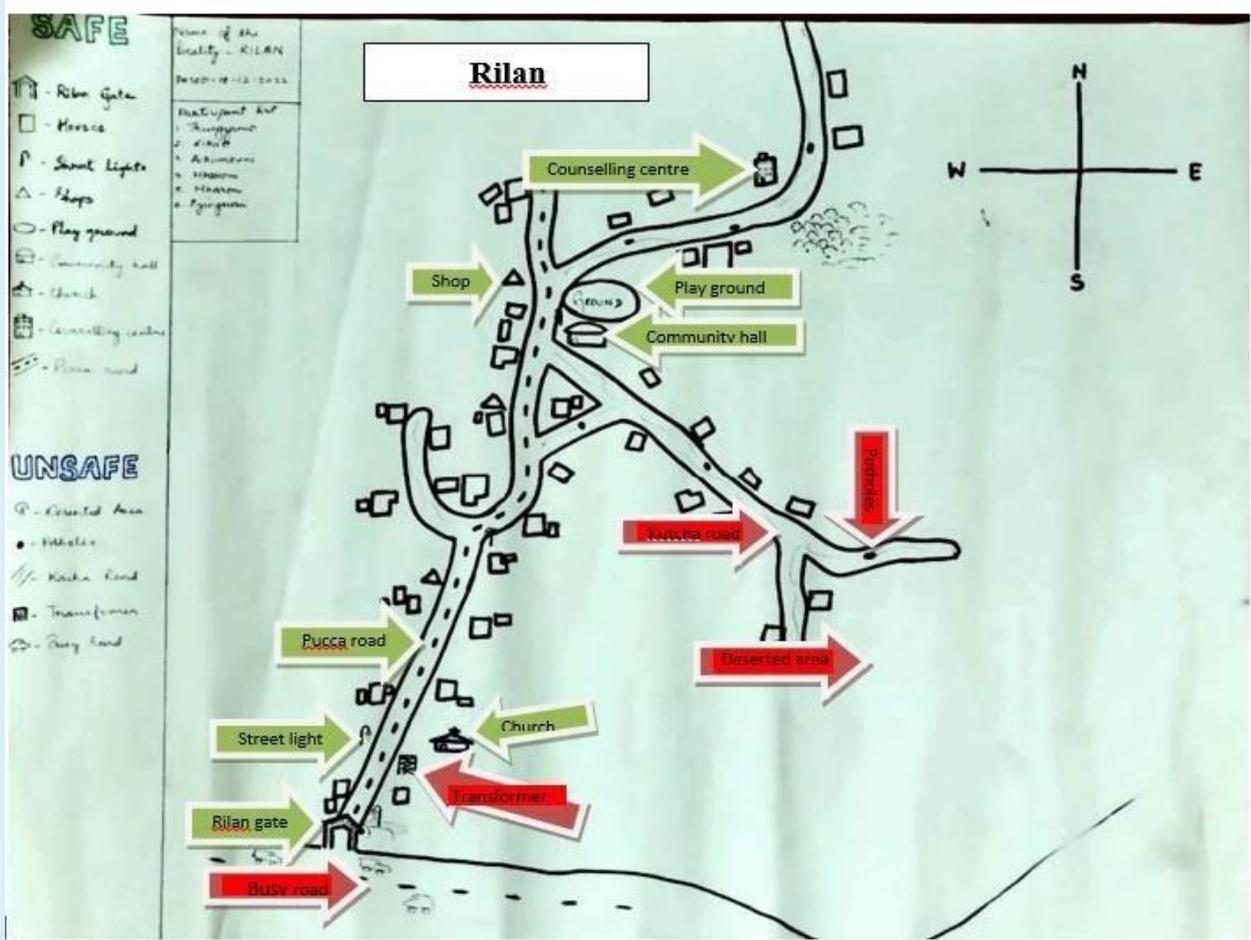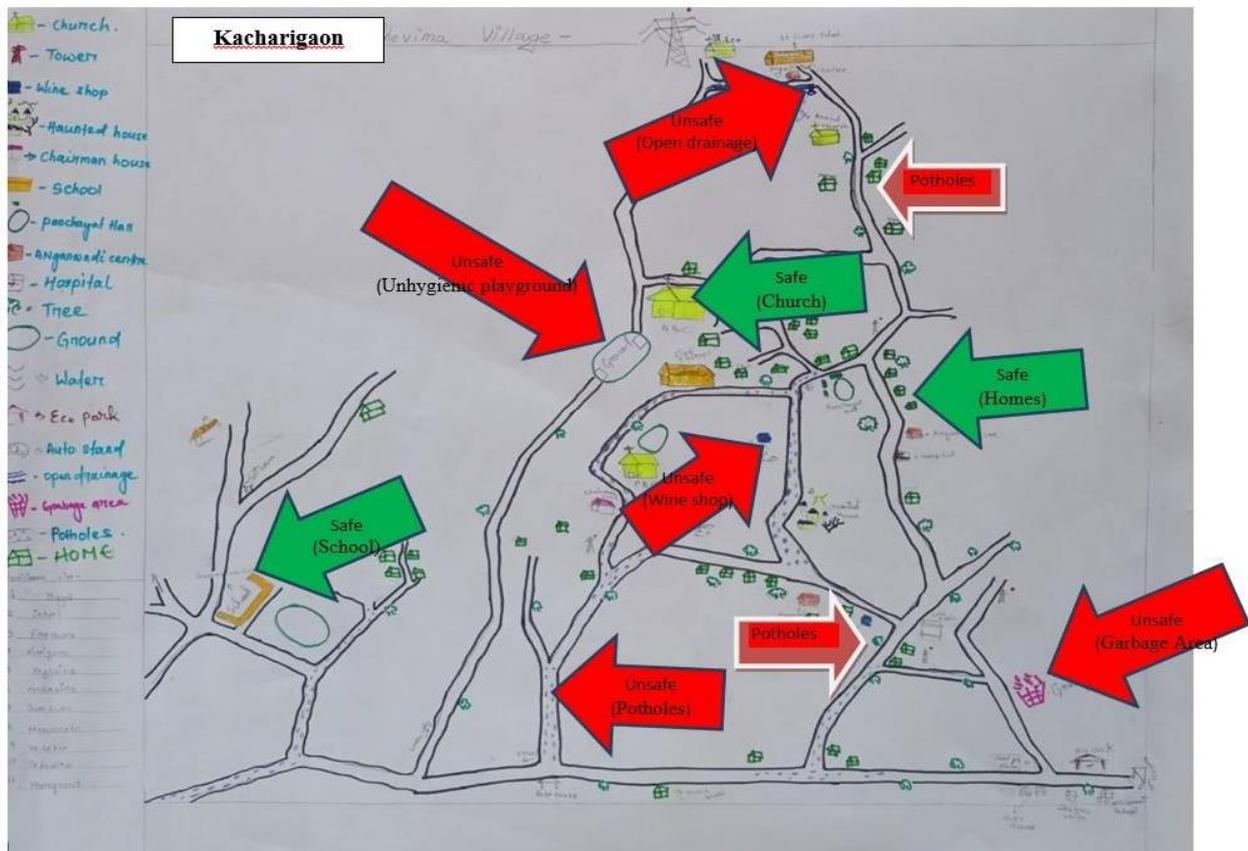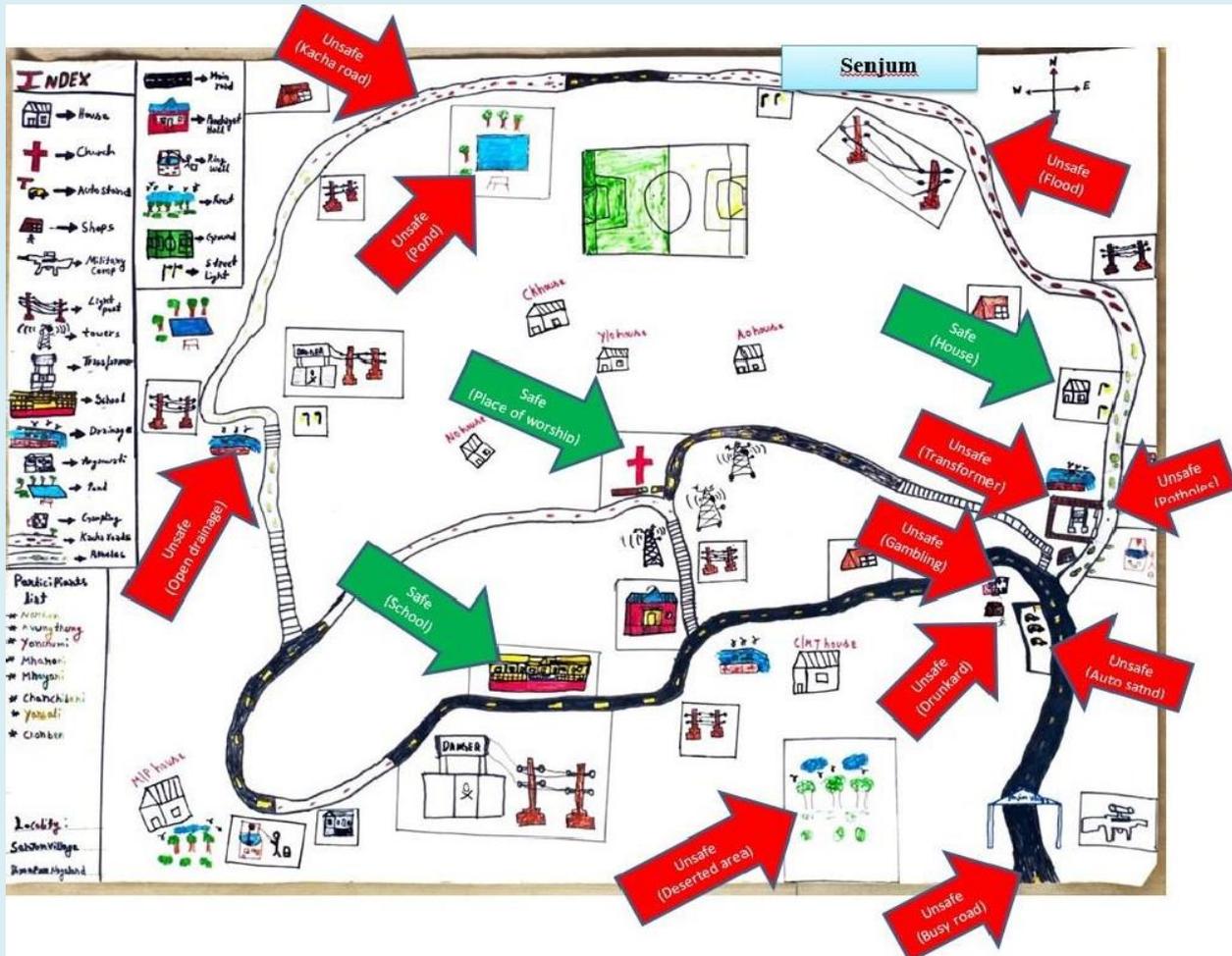Annexure II : Maps of surveyed colonies



K SACHU COLONY



Jolil Colony

## PUBLIC GROUND



## Seluophe

Neisatuo Colony



Signal Angami

**Senjum**



**Kacharigaon**

# AIDA, CHILD FRIENDLY DIMAPUR
## PROJECT AREAS
## DIMAPUR & CHUMOUKEDIMA



**Legend:**
- Purana Bazar Area
- Diphupar Area
- Chuomukedima Area
- Rangapahar Area
- Dimapur Area
- Kuda Area