A GIRL'S DAY OUT
PUNE - INDIA
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Ramnagar (within Warje Karvenagar) is located on a slope close to the Warje fly-over bridge. Historically Warje was a farming community close to the river that has rapidly urbanized in the last thirty years. Farming land has given way to high rise apartments, high-density slums areas (low rise), and other mixed-use developments. Though the ward population is a little more than 200,000 residents, Ramnagar has a population of around 9,000 residents.

Would you like some milk before we leave? Here’s Mrs. Kumar, 3.5 yr old daughter Eesha and neighbor Sonia.

Welcome to Ramnagar, Pune!
Pune is located 150km east of Mumbai. This is where the Kumar family lives. They live in Ramnagar to be precise.

Today Sonia, a 7 year old who lives up the street has come to play. This story is about Mrs. Kumar, Eesha and Sonia walking to the park....

Sonia
Lives up the street and is the friend of Eesha.
7 yrs old.

Eesha
Daughter of Mrs. Kumar.
3.5 yrs old.

Mrs. Kumar
Mother of Eesha.
Resident of Ramnagar in Pune.

Now, let’s go to the park!
Psst... Sonia where are we going?

To the playground, Eesha

Psst... Sonia where are we going?

To the playground, Eesha

**#PLAYGROUNDS**

Based on workshops with the residents in Ramnagar, there are very few places to play in the area. The closest play area is Pruthak Barate Garden, located around 20-30 mins walking from the center of Ramnagar. With no safe routes to get there, parents only visit the park once a week.
We navigate through a system of narrow alleyways.

Alleys are also used for other purposes from play spaces to storing construction material.

#UNSAFE SPACES

The parents in the area have a number of concerns. As the older children mostly play on the streets, they petition for better cleanliness, slower traffic, street lights and garbage removal.

And motorcycles.

Hurry up, amma!
Mom, are we there yet?

Come let’s go

My feet are dirty

Mom, will you carry me maybe?

Yesterday it rained so now the field is full with puddles and mud

It’s ok

Uuugh

#WALKSCAPES
Their route cuts through a private ground that is used by almost all residents as a short-cut to reach the main road, the market, public transport or the playground. Used only during the day, it is unsafe to walk here once it gets dark, as there are no street lights, rampant with street dogs and a haven for drunken men.

#CLEANLINESS AND MAINTENANCE
The challenges related to cleanliness and maintenance are many. Be it street cleaning, drainage or garbage pick-up. Low or no maintenance issues influence neighborhood health, positive affordances of safety can also encourage greater mobility of children.
The absence of safe walking paths is a concern repeatedly highlighted by the parents. Traffic and safety concerns deter parents from allowing children to play outside (even though this is sometimes their only option).

**#WALKSCAPES**

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**In the neighborhood side walks are narrow and few in numbers**

**We continue to the streets, where there are also serious challenges to walk...**

**...Vehicles blocking walking paths**

**...Muddy streets**

**...Absense of side walks**

**No side-walk...**
We reach the Highway 48.

See Esha, we are almost at the park. It's under the flyover.

But first we need to cross this busy street...

MEEP MEEP

Now we need to cross the road.

VROOMMMM

BRRRR... BR...

BZZZZZZ...

BZZZZZZZ...

But first we need to cross this busy street...

MEEP MEEP

NOW WE NEED TO CROSS THE ROAD

VROOMMMM

BRRRR... BR...

BZZZZZZ...

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NOW WE NEED TO CROSS THE ROAD

VROOMMMM

BRRRR... BR...

BZZZZZZ...

BZZZZZZZ...

...there we go

...there we go
Highway 48 is an express road to Mumbai that cuts right through the city.

Major arterial roads like these divide the neighborhood. Without safe crossings, traffic danger lurks at every corner.

We continue to the playground which is underneath the flyover.

Hold my hand now.

Though there is a gate to the park under the flyover, the entrance to the park is on the side where the traffic is lesser.

We are going to the other side.

Aha...

#TRAFFIC BARRIERS
We are here! Behind the gate is the playground.

1, 2, 3 GO!!

The playground is a very popular place to go. There are services for children, walking paths and benches. These refurbished under flyover spaces are finding innovative ways to use disused spaces.

Eesha: Wow!
There are swings...

...slides

...and seesaws.

SWOOSH!
Time to go home. The route they have to take back is different from the one taken to come here. The route to go back to their home goes through the main roads that are better lit and safer (though not devoid of traffic). 

Sonia, will we come back tomorrow? 

Not... yet...

It's too far to come back tomorrow, we will come again next week!

Eesha, Sonia, ... Time to go!!
Where did she go?
Come Eesha we are falling behind
Meanwhile...
Swooooff...
Brrrrr...
Mom?
Mom must be in a hurry...
Now watch it you kids. Don’t walk on the road. Where is your mother?
Where did she go?
Beeep!
Mom wait!

Hmmmm...

(...) and then he said: "Where is your mother?"

The end!

We are back home. That was one trip to one park in Pune. As you can see it’s not always easy to get around, especially in areas with reduced infrastructure options. Even a simple trip like going to the playground is quite a challenge and we need to work towards creating more inclusive spaces. The right to play and access to play options needs to be universal.

Eesha still thrilled that she got to go to the park

HMMMMM...

A few more steps...

Now where are my keys...

Home!
ABOUT THE NOVEL

A GIRL’S DAY OUT is an everyday story about a trip the “Kumar” family in Pune (India) take to the park. Though names have been anonymised, the route and struggles they encounter are real. This illustrated novel tells their story.

Research done for this project can be found under the name of ‘Supporting Urban Childhoods: Observations on caregiver use of public spaces from Istanbul (TR) and Pune (IN)” and was made possible with funding of the Bernard van Leer foundation (Project no: 222-2018-177).

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A GIRL’S DAY OUT

A GIRL’S DAY OUT is an everyday story about a common trip of a family who live in Pune, the “Kumars”. The route and the struggles they encounter are real. This illustrated novel tells their story.