



## Location Profile: Kirby Place, Delhi



## Kirby Place, Delhi Location Profile

### Location details

<b>Place</b>	Kirby Place, Delhi Cant., Near CSD Canteen
<b>Population</b>	Up to 10000
<b>Average Family size</b>	6-7 members (3-4 kids per family)
<b>Average salary</b>	Rs 8,000-10,000 per month
<b>Profession of inhabitants</b>	Most of the houses are occupied by families of labourers, drivers

Situated in the centre of Delhi Cantonment Army area, Kirby place is a huge Basti with approx. 2000 jhuggis and up to 10,000 people living in houses made of bricks and mud, with narrow muddy paths between these houses. Most of the houses are owned by the residents with people living here since past 50 years, with the houses being passed through generations.



### Living Conditions

Each house either has no room or at most one room, with 6-7 people living in each house on an average, leading to cramped living conditions. The biggest concern in the area is lack of electricity, because of which most of the houses don't have a TV or fridge. The inhabitants have to bear the heat with no respite, the heat sometimes even forces them to stay awake for most of the night and fall asleep during the day when the weather is slightly cool. Some of the houses have a bathing area and toilet attached to it, for those houses that don't have this facility, there is a public toilet nearby that is used by most of the people living there. Some of the residents have also built separate toilets in another area, that can be used in case the public toilets are full. There is no open defecation in the area. The houses are either on level with the road or a step lower than the ground level, which leads to water getting filled inside houses during heavy rains.



An inside look into one of the houses, with just one room having the bed, storage for clothes and kitchen for cooking



A row of houses in the locality. Each house is situated right adjacent to other houses with muddy roads between them



A small toilet and bath area attached to one of the houses for use by the house residents



The public toilet built by Government for use by residents for bathing and bathroom needs

A separate public toilet built by residents in an area separate from the Govt built public toilet, for easy access by residents close to that area, providing convenience in case the main public toilet is crowded



## **Basic Facilities: Water, Electricity**

There is a water pipeline for use by the army personnel residing in the nearby area. This pipeline has been tapped into by people in the slum area to meet their water needs. This tap water is used directly for drinking by everyone in the area, as well as for washing clothes and for other water related needs. The water is consumed directly without purification or boiling by everyone, posing a health risk for children and adults both. The biggest concern for the area is unavailability of electricity. The whole area functions without electricity. The kids miss out on a lot due to the unavailability of it and even basic education and online classes are impossible to conduct in such a situation. Some of the households pay a certain sum to get electricity through generators but that supply too is available only in the evening from 7 to 11 PM. Mobile network connectivity is not an issue. Mobile charging is done by the male members of houses when they venture out to other areas for earning their livelihood, since there is no scope for mobile charging in this area. Cooking is done using LPG Cylinders purchased separately.



*The army water pipeline that has been tapped into by residents to meet their water related needs, including for drinking purposes*

*The same pipeline (army pipeline) is tapped into in another location within the area and a tap has been built to ensure easy water access.*



## **Food Supplies, Medicines, Doctor availability**

There is no proper grocery store within the vicinity, but there are small shops and even a chowk for regular purchases. People travel to nearby Nangal market for the required supplies and medicines. There is a local doctor available who reside just across the vicinity, who charges a minor fee and helps the residents in case of any minor health issues. In case of major health issues, Cantonment hospital is nearby (10-15 minutes away) and easily accessible for the area residents. Travelling in and out of the area becomes difficult during periods of excessive rains, since the roads are muddy and get water logged in such times.

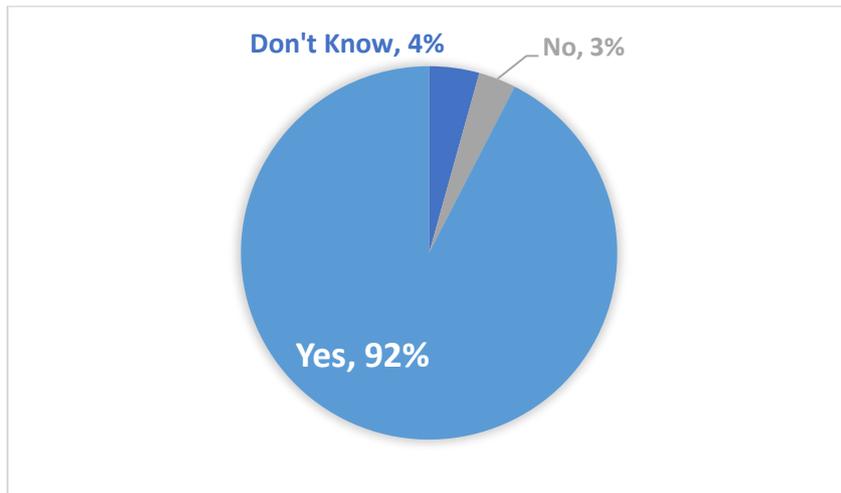
## **Education**

Sardar Vallabhai Patel school is an hour's walk away from the area and almost all the children in the area are enrolled in that school, although its closed at present due to lockdown measures. The school provides education, books, stationery, uniform, meals, playing area to the children without any costs. There are other schools like Kendriya Vidyalaya in which some of the children are enrolled. This school too remained closed till

August 2021, without any confirmation on re-opening in the near future. In such a situation, Lakshyam is helping to fill the gap by providing education to the children in this difficult period.

Majority of the students in the area are keen on studying, used to love going to school prior to lockdown, and spend most of their day in and around the Lakshyam center in the area where they get to study and interact with other students. They show complete sincerity in studies, in spite of there being no electricity in the center. Even the parents are mindful of the importance of education for their children and wish for them to study and become something in life.

*As per the survey conducted, 92% of the children enrolled with Lakshyam want to keep studying.*



### **Personal Hygiene**

In the area, there is a good sense of personal hygiene among the families. Most of the children have the habit of washing their hands with soap before eating or after touching any dirty area or street animals. Adults are mindful of making their children wear clean clothes, which is indicated by the fact that for majority of the children, clothes are washed after wearing just once. There is considerable discipline in other hygiene habits like brushing teeth, and bathing regularly.

However, garbage disposal is unhygienic since the daily trash is just thrown in a nearby brook which has led to garbage accumulation in the water. Even used sanitary pads are wrapped in cloth or paper and thrown into the water. There is a need for awareness regarding proper waste disposal among the residents.

