Understanding Extreme Heat in Informal Settlements

(Concept and teaching instructions)

Why is this module important?

1. Increasing incidence of events of extreme heat – higher temperatures and longer spells of higher temperatures – have been a matter of concern for institutions of urban governance for the past decade.
2. In India heat is largely understood in terms of disaster management framework. Governmental response has been limited to metropolitan regions and in a more diffused manner across large regions. The datasets with which such plans are designed are at a scale where local specificity is completely missing.
3. These plans are often spatially blind and unable to respond to local specificity in terms of resources and mitigation practices.
4. Solutions are imagined within the binary of state and market with no room for developing enabling tools for grassroots initiatives.

Who is it designed for?

5. The two-day module is designed for mid-level government officials and civil society actors who work at the frontier between policy and implementation.
6. It is assumed that the learners have some experience of working in the field. They should have working knowledge of planning, and executing.

What is in the Module ?

7. The module is spread over two days with four components.
    a. Understanding heat and urban climate change (Lecture 2 hours)

        This unit is designed to deliver through a lecture, the basic science of climate change and heat with a focus on the urban. This is done through a combination of a structured powerpoint presentation, white board illustrations and videos.

    b. Heat vulnerability in Indian cities (Field study 4 hours)

        This unit is a guided field visit where learners will be provided basic information about the neighborhood and its characteristics. Learners will be encouraged to analyse buildings and open spaces from the point of view constraints and resources and how these are shaped over time through histories of settlement. Learners are encouraged to document

features of the built environment as well as social organisation from the point of view how they might aggravate or mitigate extreme heat events

c. Measuring and mitigating heat hazard (Demonstration 2 hrs)

   This unit is designed to help participants access and read relevant data from multiple sources. At the end of the unit they will be able to interpret and visualise presentations.

d. Heat mitigation: Whose responsibility (Workshop Group work 4 hours)

   In this unit, the participants will work in groups on specific locations – preferably the site visited for field study on Day 1. Analyse Heat Action Plans and other disaster management plans for the region. Based on this analysis, they will work towards building executable plans for their own areas.