

**URBAN GROWTH: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN MARGAO TOWN OF GOA;
PEOPLES PERSPECTIVE**

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Abstract

Today, along with globalisation, industrialisation and modernisation another change that is largely occurring is urbanization. Urban areas are growing at a fast pace due to multiple facilities and amenities they offer. According to the 2011 Census, presently, 62.17 percent of Goa's population is residing in urban areas and this number will further see a phenomenal growth. Urban growth though seen as a determinant of development comes with its own set of issues and challenges like traffic congestion, garbage disposal, pressure on land and resources. Hence, this research is directed towards understanding the traffic and garbage management issues and challenges in Comba and Fatorda (both suburbs of Margao town of Goa). The methodology comprises of both primary as well as secondary data. A survey was conducted of 276 respondents. Descriptive and analytical data has been interpreted to attain the findings. Ranking method has been used to reveal the variance in opinion of the respondents. As per the findings, garbage management and traffic congestion is a ground reality that has to be paid heed to rapidly.

Key words: Urban area, urban growth, traffic and garbage management.

Introduction:

Urban growth can refer to any type of growth of the urban environment. For example: Population, land area and intensive land use (Burdett, 2018). Today, 55 per cent of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68 per cent by 2050 (United Nations, 2018). As population increases, pressure on the available resources also increases paving way for a load of problems like garbage disposal, traffic congestion, crime and

scarcity of resources. Therefore, in the said research paper effort has been made to identify the local issues pertaining to urbanization in Margao and suggestions have been offered.

Objective:

The objective of the research is to understand the traffic and garbage management issues and challenges in Comba and Fatorda according to people's perspective.

Database and Methodology:

The following research is a product of both primary as well as secondary data. Primary data focused on field based study, using survey method where, 276 respondents were surveyed from two different wards of Margao. The sample size of the study area are; Comba (111) and Fatorda (165). A questionnaire was prepared to study and understand the perception of the population based on traffic and garbage management issues and challenges faced. The questionnaire focused on ranking method in order to gauge the variance and perceptions of the population.

Secondary data sources consisted of published newspaper articles, Government reports, Official Gazetteer, Electoral roll of 2012 published by the Election Commission of Goa Government, Census of Goa 2011, published books, projects, articles, journals. Descriptive and analytical data has been interpreted to attain the findings and determine the perception on the issues and challenges faced.

Study area: Goa, Margao, Comba and Fatorda

Goa nestled in the Sayadhris on the Western Coast of India covers an area of 3,702 sq. kms. Administratively, the state is divided into two districts i.e. North Goa District and South Goa District comprising of 12 talukas with 443 villages and 70 towns (Census of Goa, 2011). In South Goa, the two most urbanized talukas are Mormugao (85.6 percent) and Salcete (72.2 percent). Among the towns of Salcete taluka, Margao town is the largest urban settlement. According to the 2011 Census, Margao is an Urban Agglomeration with the total population of 87,650. Comba and Fatorda have rich cultural and architectural heritage. Comba is located in the core of the town and is a home to 2002 people while Fatorda is located in the suburbs. As per the voter list of 2017, there are 28985 electorates in this suburb.

Discussion:

The following discussion is divided into three sections. The first section focuses on the major problems faced. The second section comprises of traffic management issues and in the third section, garbage management issues are discussed.

Margao is a commercial center and has good connectivity, which has resulted in large scale in-migration from all over India. According to the Census, in the year 2001 the population was 78,382 whereas there is a sudden increase of population in 2011 by 87,650, this may be due to the growing job opportunities which not only provided opportunities for Goans but also attracted migrants from other States like Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh etc.

I. Major problems faced in Comba and Fatorda:

Suburban regions are expanding in terms of settlement and population. The accelerated rate of increasing population needs to be controlled to improve the standard of living and protect the habitat.

Table no. 1: Major problems faced in Comba and Fatorda

Major problems faced in Comba	Ranks	Major problems faced in Fatorda	Ranks
Crime	1	Garbage	1
Garbage	2	Lack of employment	2
Lack of employment	3	Crime	3
Poor access to health	4	Poor access to health	4

Source: Primary Survey, 2018-19

With the commencement of door to door collection of domestic waste by the municipality, the problem of garbage is ranked second in Comba and first in Fatorda. Even after the collection of domestic waste, garbage is seen dumped along the road side, into drains and open spaces. A major fire broke out at the garbage dump near the Solid Waste Management plant at Sonsodo on 27th May, 2019. The garbage from Margao town is dumped at this plant. Due to the fire incident, garbage was not collected from residences leading, stench overflowing from garbage bins and trash being piled up. Unemployment among the locals is ranked third in Comba and second in Fatorda mainly because of the influx of inter and intra state migrants. The purpose of these

migrants is to avail good source of income and possess facilities which are not available to them at their original place of stay.

Despite having police stations in these areas, crime is another problem faced by the people and this is mainly because of robberies which includes burglary of residences, shops, motor vehicles mainly bikes, assaulting and attempt to murder and desecrating crosses. Increase in rate of unemployment, idleness and joblessness lead to increasing problem of crime. With regards to access to health, Comba has relatively more number of health facilities than Fatorda, hence people prefer visiting the core area where there are more specialized health centers.

II. Traffic Management issues:

Traffic management issues in the suburbs are caused due to increase in population and vehicles leading to traffic congestion on a regular basis.

a. Causes of traffic congestion in Comba and Fatorda:

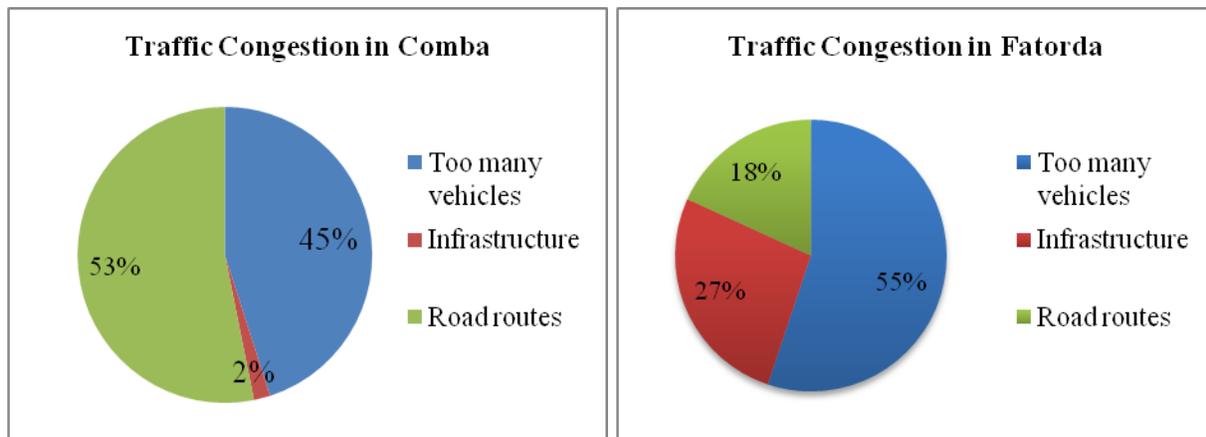


Fig. 1: Causes of traffics congestion in Comba and Fatorda

Source: Primary Survey, 2018-19

The traffic congestion in Comba mostly occurs due to the road routes, as they are narrow and the parking of vehicles (53 per cent) besides the roads leading to traffic congestion, followed by too many vehicles (45 per cent). This is mainly because Comba is located at the core of Margao which is the only route connecting to the offices, schools and colleges. Parking of vehicles is a

major concern as parking slots are made available besides roads leading to decrease in the space for vehicular movement.

With respect to Fatorda, 55 per cent of the respondents feel that the usage of too many vehicles is a major problem of traffic congestion. During peak hours, the traffic is too dense such that it delays the flow of network of the users. The main Margao bus stand, fish market, commercial offices, stadium, theatre, shopping centers are all located at Fatorda which is the major reason for the increase in flow of traffic. People from other villages too come to this place to purchase daily essentials. People from Margao who work at Panjim have to commute everyday on National Highway number 66, and have to pass through Fatorda which again leads to heavy flow of traffic. 27 percent respondents opined that infrastructural development along the roads reduced the road efficiency. 18 percent of people responded that the interior roads' connecting the main junction causes traffic congestion.

b. Problems of public transport services:

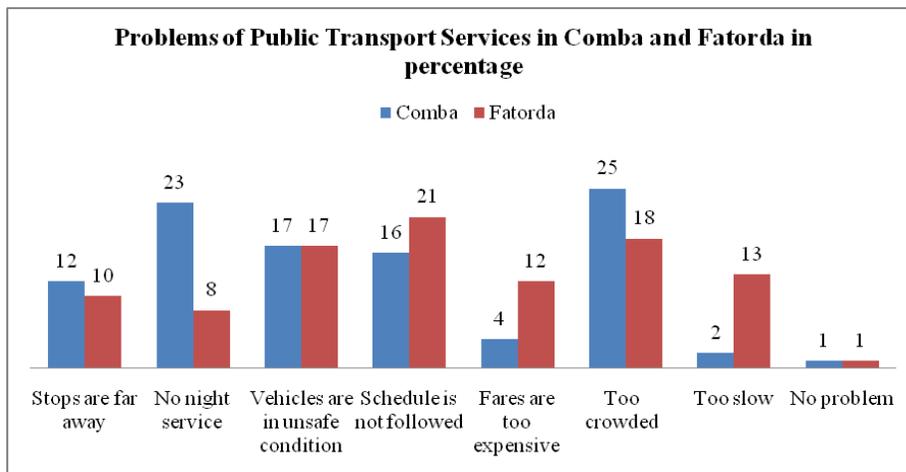


Fig. 2: Problems of Public Transport Services in Comba and Fatorda

Source: Primary Survey, 2018-19

The major problem faced by the locals is over-crowding of public transport. This is basically due to the small size of the buses, and despite the traffic regulations, buses continue to go packed beyond the permissible limit. People don't prefer travelling by rickshaws and taxis to a short

distance because the fares are unaffordable. The second problem is absence of ‘night services’; the respondents face this problem as some of them finish their work late, for example; people working in hospitals.

The respondents feel that the public transport services are unsafe to travel especially the buses which are in bad condition. They are also unhappy by the time schedule that is not followed by the public transport especially the buses, because they do not leave until the entire bus is accommodated with passengers and also, the buses move at a slower pace and make unscheduled stops. Residents also feel that the bus stops are far away and not maintained. Also the motorcycle taxi pilots or rickshaws are not available nearby as they have their depot located at bus stands, railway station making it inconvenient.

III. Garbage Management issues in Comba and Fatorda:

Population growth, rapid urbanization, booming economy and the increase in the standards of living in a community have substantially enhanced the rate of municipal solid waste generation in developing countries (Minghua et al., 2009).

Disposal of garbage by households:

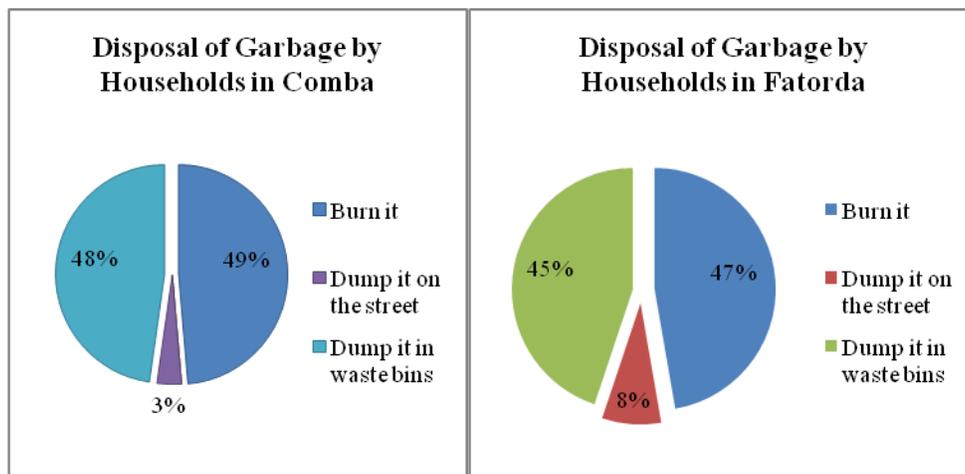


Fig. 3: Disposal of garbage by households in Comba and Fatorda

Source: Primary Survey, 2018-19

The issue of garbage in Margao is a huge problem as garbage is still seen dumped along the roadsides despite having started door to door waste collection exercise. In Comba, it is noticed that 49 percent of the respondents burn the waste in their backyard as these people live in houses, which mostly consist of plastic and paper. In Fatorda, 47 percent burn the dry waste along with dry leaves as in when they clean their backyards.

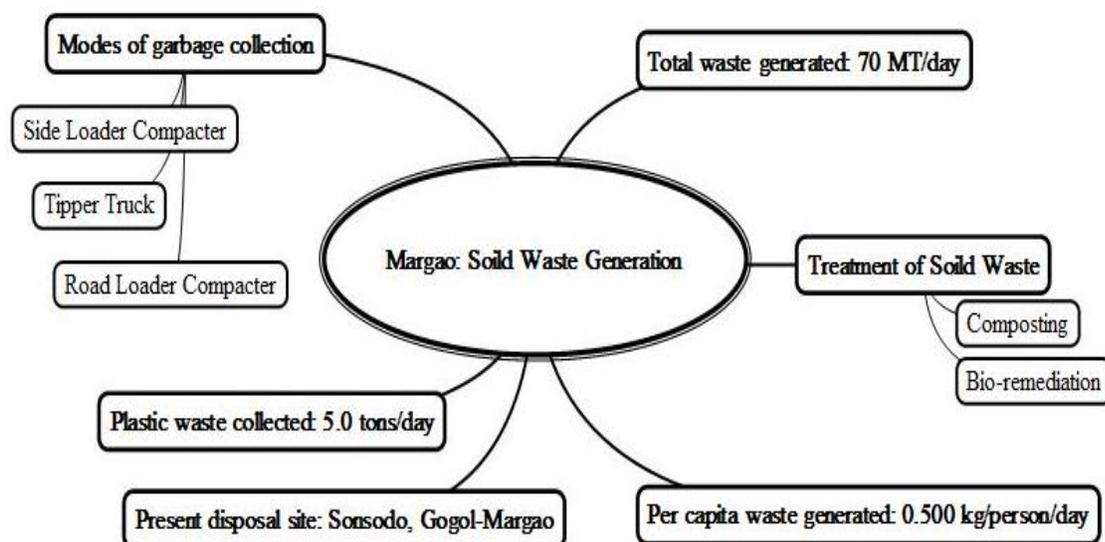


Fig. 4: Margao: Waste Management

Source: Compiled by Researcher

Dumping of garbage in the waste bins here refers to door to door garbage collection which is then disposed off by the worker in-charge. 48 percent respondents of Comba and 45 percent of Fatorda dispose their garbage through door to door collection. With the garbage collection contractor resigning, the door to door garbage collection had stopped in many wards of Margao including Comba and Fatorda which led to increase in waste in the open and stray dogs creating mess with the garbage bags which were not collected. The respondents have said that they dispose the garbage in the open and also at the garbage collection stations because collection of garbage was stopped and the waste was not collected for many days raising stink. The respondents have also said that there are people from other places coming and dumping waste at the garbage collection stations at night as the municipality have failed to collect their waste.

a. Method used to cover the garbage carried by the Municipal Vehicle:

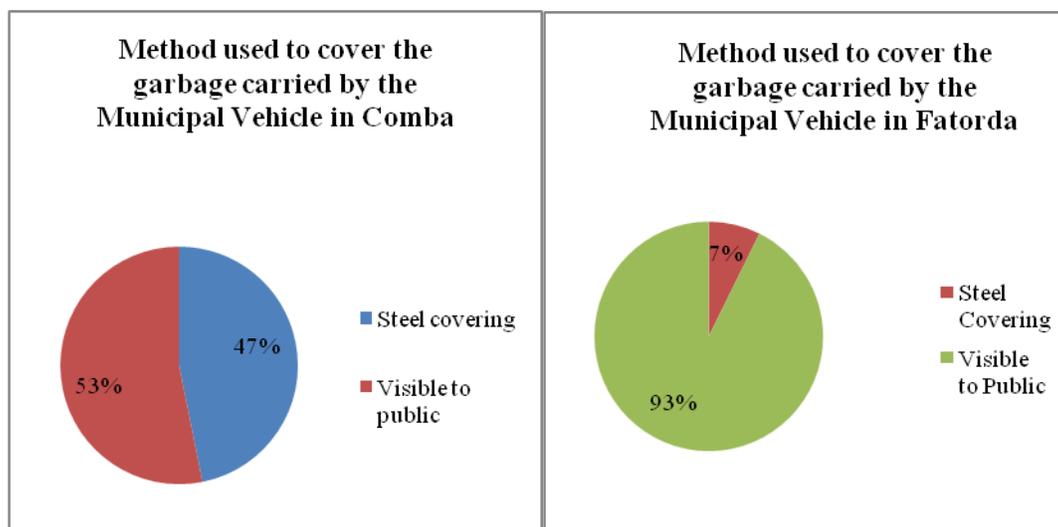


Fig. 5: Method used to cover the garbage carried by the Municipal Vehicle

Source: Primary Survey, 2018-19

Every garbage truck has a covering so that the waste is not visible and the garbage from the vehicle is not fluttered off or on public moving on the road. In Comba, 47 percent of the respondents have said that garbage trucks have a covering. Sometimes the garbage is covered with a tarpal so that it is not visible. 53 percent (Comba) and 93 percent (Fatorda) of the respondents have said that the garbage collected by the Municipal vehicle is visible to the public. The trucks carrying garbage are not maintained as leachate leaks all the way leading to foul smell and causing menace to the public passing by. Many a times paper and plastic waste is blown off from the garbage truck as it is not covered which then lies besides the road leading to pollution.

Suggestions:

The respondents have put forth some suggestions to resolve the above mentioned issues.

1. Broadening the roads wherever possible to curtail traffic congestion making it convenient for the public.
2. Multi-storey parking facility for free flow of traffic.
3. Signals at places where there is heavy flow of traffic especially during peak hours.
4. Stricter implementation of traffic rules.
5. The Municipality needs to upgrade the garbage trucks with proper covering.
6. Installation of surveillance cameras at the sites prone to frequent dumping.
7. Public transport should be made affordable and efficient.
8. With reference to crime, authorities concerned should be vigilant and there should be police patrolling even during day time.

Conclusion

From the current study, it is evident that urban growth has its own set of issues and challenges, for instance, garbage disposal and traffic congestion. Inconvenience caused by these two set of issues cannot be overlooked which demand swift actions. Judicious planning and enforcement of rules and regulations can bring about positive change.

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