



### **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY STUDY OF SOHNA**

*The core practice of architecture is the design of spaces for inhabitation. This includes the design of buildings, the spaces between buildings, spaces without buildings, conglomerations of buildings, parts of buildings (inglenooks, details, the elements of buildings we touch, the parts we never touch), and other aspects of the built environment. Architecture has the capacity to imagine new forms of living, new patterns of occupation of the surface of the earth, new spatial and aesthetic and social relations. (Aidan Williams)*

School of Architecture & Planning, G.D Goenka University has a focused vision to integrate community study as part of its curriculum. The primary intent is to curate the student's thinking process in a way that they understand the role and impact of architects and designers in the design of the built environment not only physically but also metaphysically. This may be achieved through critical research, documentation and analysis.

This semester we intend to study Sohna at different levels including settlement, neighbourhood, dwelling unit and institutional level. The primary reason for considering Sohna is the location of GDGU and thus planning a long term engagement with its context. Through this we intend to study the impact of people on built environment and vice versa.. In case of Sohna, the development started about five years ago when minimal high rise development was set amongst agricultural land. Since then, Sohna has witnessed rapid urbanization and is poised to become a suburb of Gurgaon and is located on the proposed Delhi-Mumbai transit corridor.

We are particularly interested in the role of social processes in architecture and looking at engaging with the community at all levels to arrive at a holistic, participatory process.

The intent is to study Sohna in terms of its existing development fabric, locality, its history and culture, population, communities, housing and settlements, existing infrastructure and built and natural environments. Secondly the information gathered will be interpreted through cognitive maps to find out the density, settlement and infrastructure agglomeration, and their distribution patterns. This will be consequently analyzed as a joint effort of School of Architecture & Planning and School of Humanities & Social Sciences.

These studies will be treated as the base for proposing design solutions as per individual studio interpretations of the Vertical Studio i.e. Sohna will be an experimental laboratory for this semester and hopefully the engagement will last for the next semester too.

For a more humanistic approach towards the study and its analysis, we are looking at Ambedkar University, Delhi to guide both the Schools towards a holistic approach to settlement study and engagement with the context borrowing from the idea of neighbourhood museums.