

# Safe Environment

- Physical environment
- Personal safety, protection from violence

Personal safety and protection from violence

# **High-risk environment : “Mahol kharaab hai”**

- **High ambient violence – private and public spaces are unsafe**
- **Atmosphere of suspicion, antagonism immediately after evictions**
- **Fights between neighbours common**
- **Caste divides and prejudices within community**
- **Domestic violence high**
- **Young men - ‘raids’ between blocks**
- **Break-up of community – women get little support from neighbours**

# **Violence from service providers**

- **Caste, communal prejudice – school, health system**
- **Ration shop owners – caste abuse, physical violence, anger at resistance to corruption**
- **‘Sulabh’ attendants – mostly upper and middle castes – sexual harassment, physical violence**
- **Bus drivers and conductors – humiliation, caste abuse**

# **Violence by employers**

- **Factory owners – sexual harassment, refusal to pay wages, forced overtime, lack of safety precautions, refusal to compensate injuries and accidents at work**
- **Working conditions – no toilets, no breaks, no rest**
- **Complainants easily bought off – too poor to resist**

## **Violence from local community**

- **Area dominated by middle castes – *Jats* and *Gujjars* with money, muscle, political clout**
- **Resentment at location of *basti* – raids by young men, thrashing, looting shops, attacks on women going to fields**
- **Sexual harassment, assault – takeover of public space by supposed *netas***
- **Takeover of *basti* – corner plots and road-facing plots bought out for business, all large shop owners are from Bawana village**
- **Property dealing and pressure for sale of contiguous plots – suspected involvement in starting fires**
- **Suspected to have provided capital for distilleries, drug dealing**

# **Violence from police**

- **Police are mostly locals, middle castes with relatives and commercial interests in Bawana village**
- **Regular *hafta*, ‘fund-raising’ raids**
- **Response to complaints – beat up both parties, extort money to drop the case**
- **Harassment of women, girls – usually picked up and “questioned” after dark**
- **Presence of police beat boxes inside colony has increased women’s vulnerability**
- **Refusal to act on domestic violence**
- **Trickle-down effect of anti-migrant ideologies of top brass?**