



# Rayer Bazar to grow up in

**A Children and Young People's  
Plan for Rayer Bazar, Dhaka**







# This is our plan for Rayer Bazar

This is our plan for Rayer Bazar. The plan was written by the children and young people of Rayer Bazar, Dhaka, alongside a team from Cardiff University, BRAC University, and Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust.

We want Rayer Bazar to be a liveable and wonderful place for every child and young person to play and grow up in.

We think it is important for everyone to listen to children and young people. Rayer Bazar is where we live, play, learn and hang out with friends. We love Rayer Bazar for what it offers us and we have lots of ideas and plans for how it could be better.

We want you to help us to make our plan work and bring our ideas to life!

"I like to see different natural scenes and social structures such as trees, houses, animals, birds etc."





# How we made our plan

**236 children and young people in Rayer Bazar worked together with researchers to make our plan. Our parents also shared their opinions. In addition, a team of architects and researchers from BRAC University mapped our outdoor play activities in playgrounds, streets, and open spaces.**

Each of us participated in a series of four workshops in the Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust office from October 2024 to January 2025. We used the workshops to:

- Map the places in Rayer Bazar that we like and the places that we don't like
- Draw the places that are important to us
- Talk about how we move between places by walking, cycling, using rickshaws, or going in a car or a motor-cycle
- Share our ideas for making Rayer Bazar better
- Make models and plans of some of our ideas
- Prioritise our ideas for changing things in our area

In 2022, 150 children and young people in Grangetown, Cardiff in the United Kingdom co-created a plan<sup>1</sup> and a toolkit<sup>2</sup> for creating a child- and youth friendly neighbourhood. We used the methods from that 'toolkit'. Children and young people in other places can also make their own plan using those methods.

We followed a similar reporting format to the Children and Young People's Plan for Grangetown, UK. There are similarities between how we see our neighbourhoods, but our stories are unique to the place we live and play.

<sup>1</sup>Khan, M., Nekeb, S., Smith, T., Harris, N. and McVicar, M. 2023. A Grangetown to grow up in: A children and young people's plan for Grangetown, Cardiff.. Project Report. Cardiff University.

<sup>2</sup>Khan, M., Smith, T., Harris, N. and Nekeb, S. 2023. Co-creating a neighbourhood plan with children and young people: A toolkit for planners, designers, teachers and youth workers.. Cardiff University.



# A summary of our plan

A plan is a way to show what we want to change now and in the future in our neighbourhood.

A plan can use writing, maps and drawings to show how we feel, what we like and don't like, and what we want to see change.

Our plan has five parts:

**A Our Rayer Bazar NOW: Places we like and don't like** This is a map showing what we think about our neighbourhood now.

**B Where do we PLAY in Rayer Bazar?** There are some places in Rayer Bazar, where we mostly play. Here we show where we play in Rayer Bazar.

**C What do our parents say?** Here we present what our parents think of our play behaviour in Rayer Bazar and what should be there to help us grow up here.

**D Our FUTURE Rayer Bazar** We have lots of ideas for how to improve Rayer Bazar. There are five different maps that show what we think:

**1 A Safe & Barrier-free Rayer Bazar**

**2 A Clean & Pollution-free Rayer Bazar**

**3 A Playful Rayer Bazar**

**4 A Green Rayer Bazar**

**5 A Rayer Bazar for All**

**E Things that need changing now, in 3-4 years and in 5+ years** This is what we think should happen soon, in a few years and in more than 5 years time.





## A Our Rayer Bazar NOW: Places we like and don't like



## C What do our parents say?



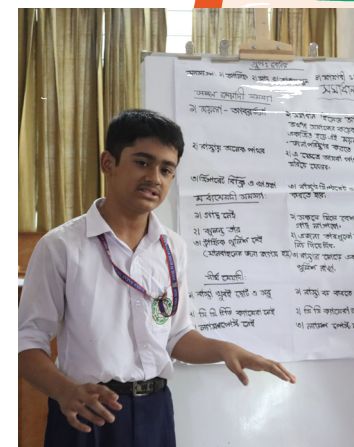
## B Where do we PLAY in Rayer Bazar?



## D Our FUTURE Rayer Bazar



## E Things that need changing now, in 3-4 years and in 5+ years







# Our Rayer Bazaar NOW

We made a map showing the places we like in Rayer Bazar. These are places where we like to go, where we feel safe and free to play and hang out. We show these using green dots on the map.

## The places that we like are:

- Our home - especially the home fronts and rooftops
- Play spaces - Baishakhi Field, Partex Field, our school grounds, and the lane near Akhra Temple
- Natural and green spaces - especially trees, grasslands, parks at Rayer Bazar Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard
- Safe spaces - streets with CCTV camera, less car, small shops
- Our schools - mostly school playgrounds
- Places where we pray and socialise - mosque, temple

We also mapped the places we don't like. These are places where we don't always feel safe, or cannot hang out easily. We show these with red dots on the map.

## The places that some of us don't like are:

- Some streets and back alleys for antisocial activities
- Broken and jittered roads, where water gets logged
- Busy roads with no zebra-crossing
- Chaotic and noisy areas
- Polluted spaces with bad smell

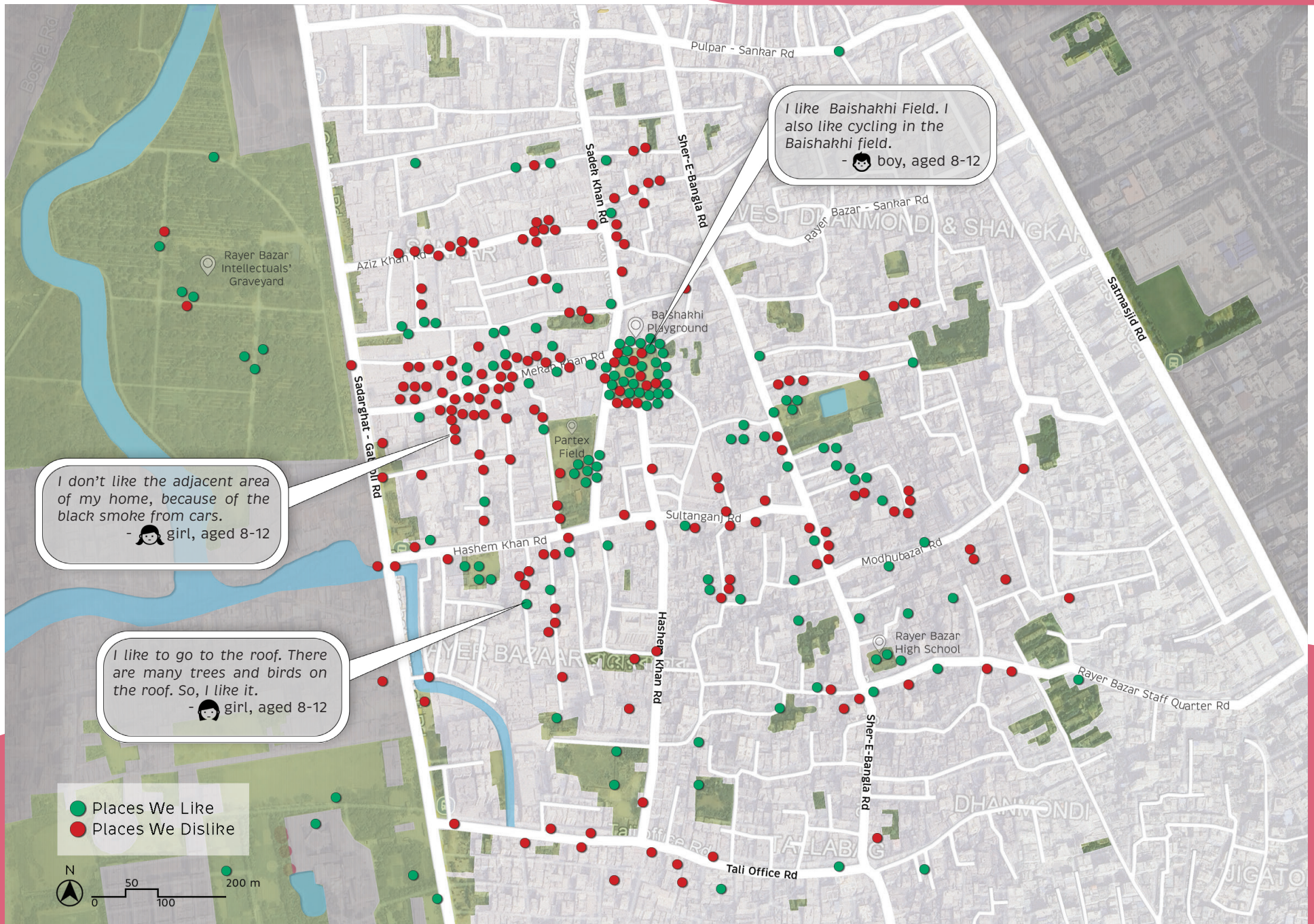
All of us did not all feel the same about the same places. Some of us liked the parks, but some of us thought the parks could be dangerous. Some of us liked streets with street vendors, but some of us found these spaces chaotic because of them.

This means when we think about changing places, we need to carefully consider the needs of everyone.





# Places we like & places we don't like







# Where and how we PLAY in Rayer Bazar?

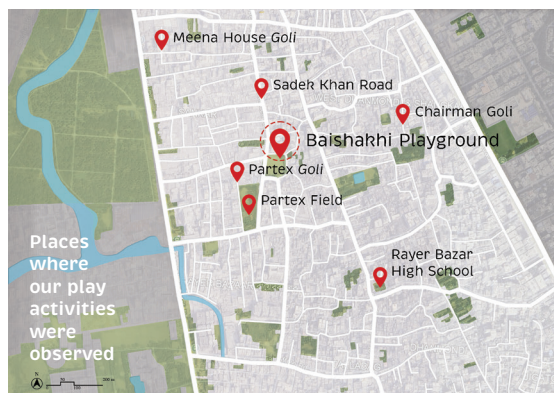
Our outdoor play activities in 3 playgrounds and 4 streets were mapped by a team of researchers. They observed where we play in these places and what we do there in weekdays and weekends from 7 AM to 7 PM between September 2024 to December 2024. They recorded our activities on paper-based maps.

Researchers recorded our activities on paper-based maps.

- We play outdoors mostly in the afternoons from 3pm to 5pm.
- We play football and cricket. We play with loose materials. We engage in pretend play and imaginative play.
- We also like cycling and skating.
- Many of us like to watch others play.
- Amongst us, girls play less than boys. Teenage girls rarely play outdoors.

The maps on the next page put all the activities we do in Baishakhi Field - one of the playgrounds, we like most.

- Most of us play in Baishakhi playground, most of them are boys and young pupils aged 5-11.
- In Baishakhi playground, we play football and cricket. We play with loose materials and some of us enjoy cycling and skating.



Physical Activity





# Baishakhi Playground

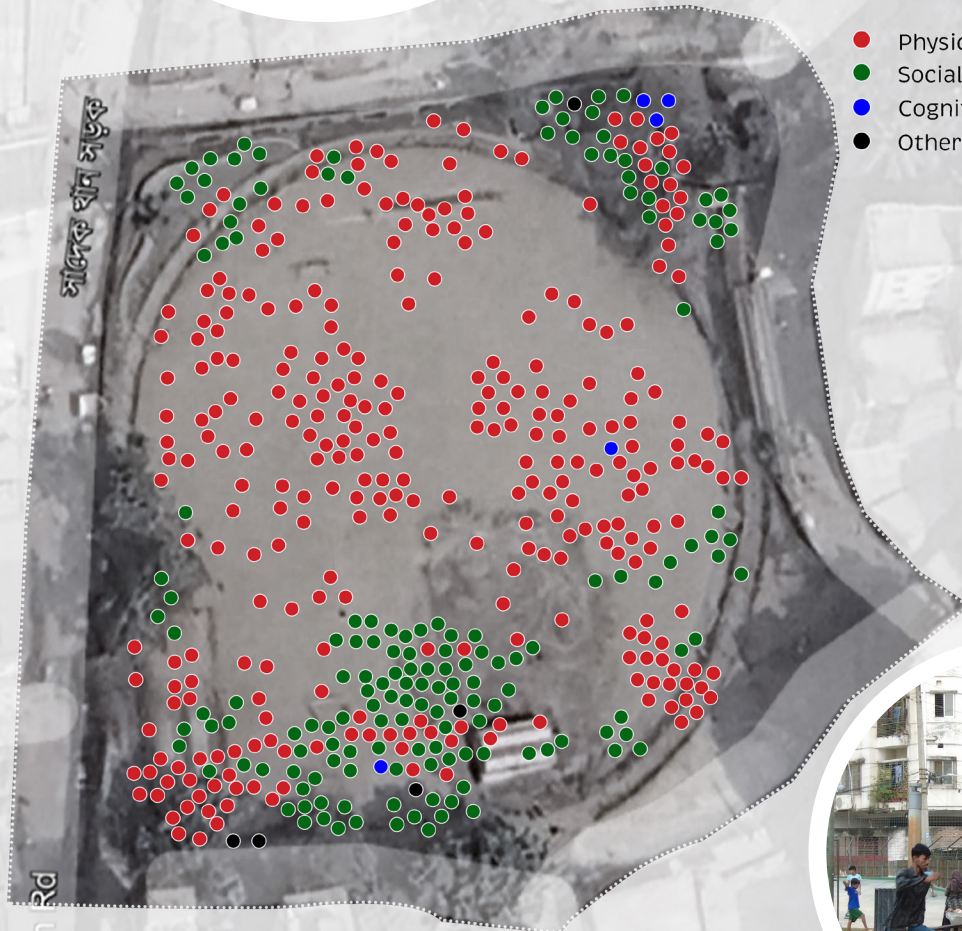


Kori [a local game played with small seeds, stones or sea-shells]



0 100 ft

- Physical Activities
- Social Activities
- Cognitive Activities
- Other Activities



Our activities in Baishakhi Playground at 3 pm - 5 pm

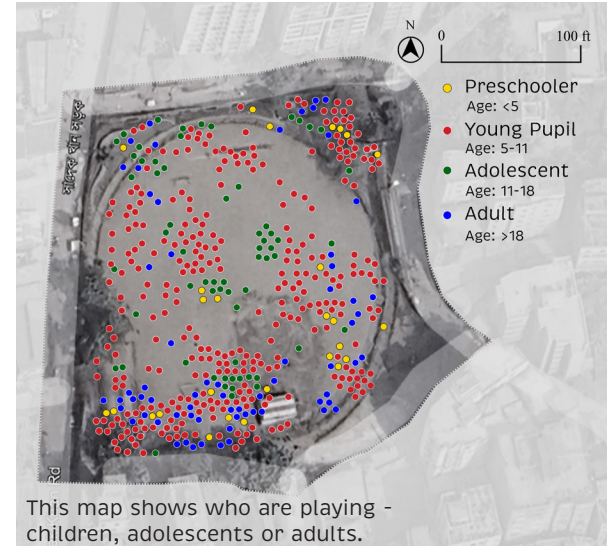


Social Activity



0 100 ft

- Preschooler  
Age: <5
- Young Pupil  
Age: 5-11
- Adolescent  
Age: 11-18
- Adult  
Age: >18

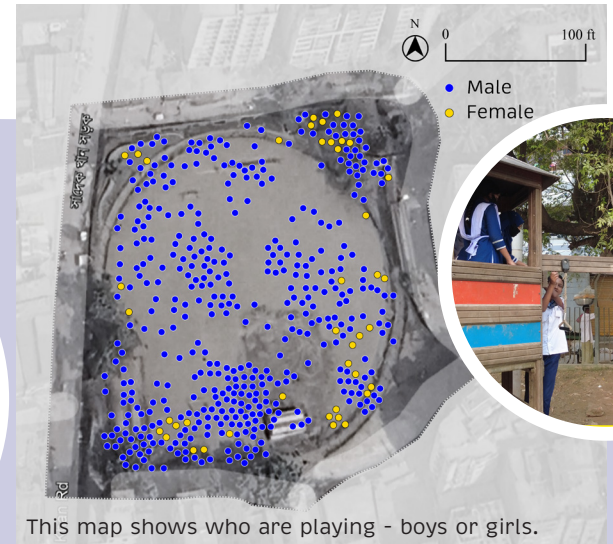


This map shows who are playing - children, adolescents or adults.



0 100 ft

- Male
- Female



This map shows who are playing - boys or girls.

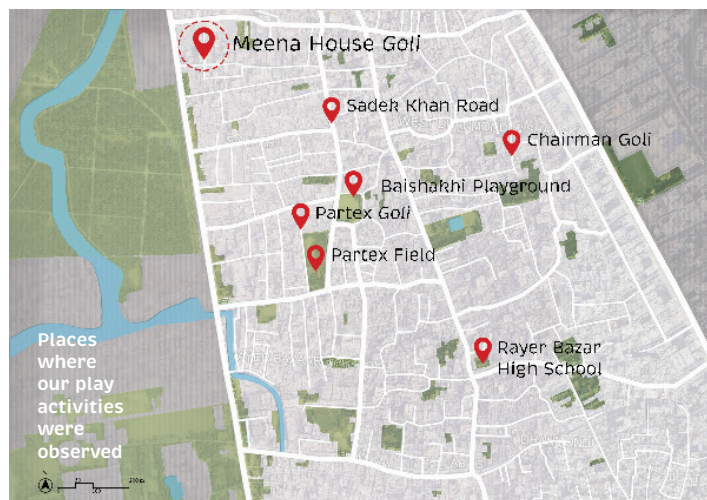




# Where do we PLAY in Rayer Bazar?

The maps here put all the play activities we do in Meena House Goli<sup>3</sup> - a dead-end street.

- In the streets we also play with loose materials such as sand, leaves etc. We also pretend to be rickshaw pullers playing with rickshaw.
- Both girls and boys play in the mobile playgrounds<sup>4</sup>. We play Carrom (a table-top game) and Badminton. We like to slide and play on the seesaw.



<sup>3</sup>Goli is a Bangla word referring to an alley.

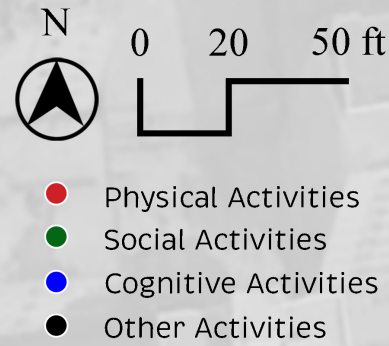
<sup>4</sup>Mobile playgrounds is an initiative by the Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust, organised once a week in some of the alleys of Rayer Bazar.



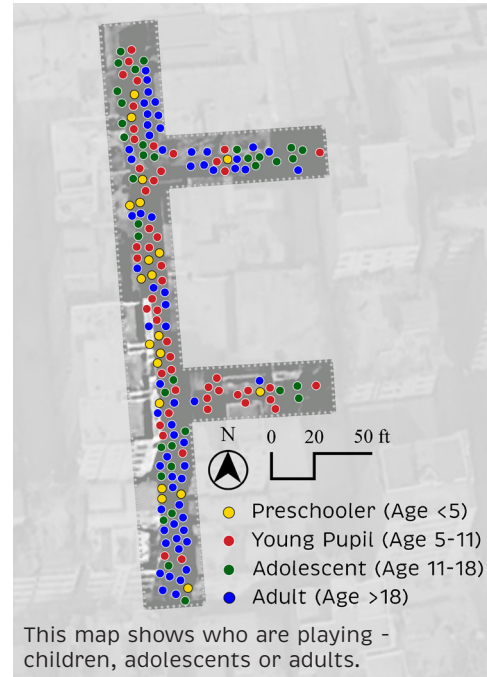




Physical Activity



Our activities in Meena House Goli at 3 pm - 5 pm



Mobile Playground







## What do our parents say?

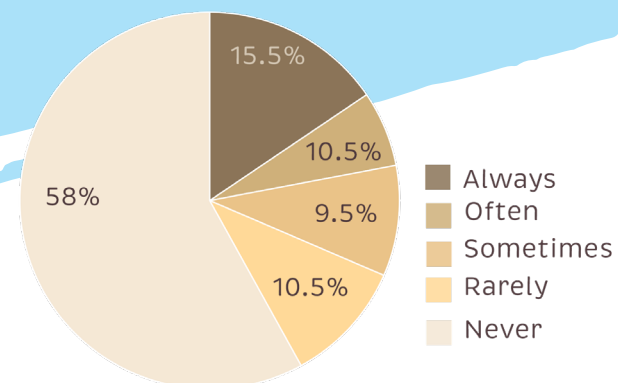
Our Parents shared through a survey what they think about our play spaces and our daily activities. Among many other things, our parents talked about what we like to play, how often we play outside on our own, barriers to our outdoor play and what can be done to make our neighbourhood better for children.

### Our parents think:

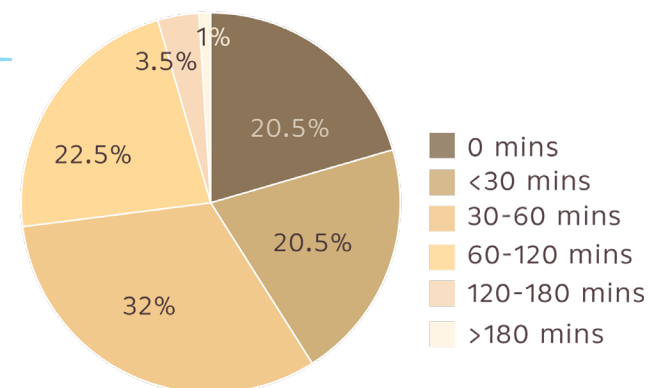
- We like to play outdoors and independently.
- Six out of ten amongst us are not allowed outdoors on their own.
- Three out of ten amongst us play outdoors for 30-60 minutes daily, only two out of ten can play for 60-120 minutes.
- Two out of ten children play every day of the week.
- One-third of us do not play outdoors at all.

So, in our plan, we include safer streets and playgrounds where our parents will allow us to go and play on our own.

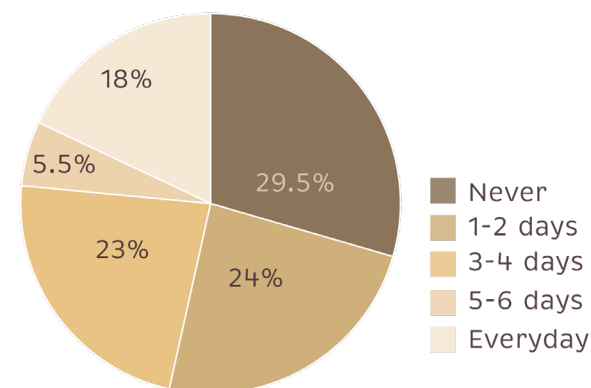
### Our independent playtime



### Our daily outdoor playtime



### Our weekly outdoor playtime











## Our FUTURE Rayer Bazar

We took part in the workshops. We learnt what our parents say about us. We know where and how we play. Now we're ready to share our ideas about child- and youth friendly Rayer Bazar.

We have five big ideas in our plan. We want:

- A Safe and Barrier-free Rayer Bazar
- A Clean and Pollution-free Rayer Bazar
- A Playful Rayer Bazar
- A Green Rayer Bazar
- A Rayer Bazar for All







## A Safe & Barrier-free Rayer Bazar



Safe community, free of anti-social activities



Supervised outdoors - eyes on the streets



Safe streets with less obstacle



Streets with fewer cars



Streets where we can walk safely



# Rayer Bazar to grow up in



## A Clean & Pollution-free Rayer Bazar



Clean outdoors with no rubbish lying around



Noise and odour-free environment



Well-maintained drains and waterbodies



Toilets and drinking water facilities



Mosquito control and dust-free environments



## A Playful Rayer Bazar



More natural play



Playable streets



Play spaces with more play zones, play equipment, and seating



## A Green Rayer Bazar



More trees for shade



Grassy fields for comfortable play



Biodiversity



## A Rayer Bazar for All



Play spaces with provision of children's play with families



Women-friendly spaces



Age-friendly spaces



More education and health facilities



## Our FUTURE Rayer Bazar

### 1 A Safe & Barrier-free Rayer Bazar

We want a 'safe' Rayer Bazar. By 'safe', we mean well-protected and walk-friendly public spaces with no antisocial-activities. By 'Barrier-free', we mean unobstructed and uncluttered streets. We made a map showing where we want these ideas to happen.



Our ideas for 'A Safe and Barrier-free Rayer Bazar' are:



#### Safe community, free of anti-social activities

- Measures to prohibit drug use
- More awareness to stop eve-teasing



#### Supervised outdoors - eyes on the streets

- CCTV installation for monitoring criminal activities
- Public lighting for safe movement at night
- Police patrol to control crimes (hijack, bullying, extortion etc.)
- Safety and security of girls in public spaces



#### Safe streets with less obstacle

- Covered manholes on streets
- No loose wires in electric poles alongside roads
- Elevated roads, with no waterlogging
- Uncluttered footpath, e.g., less illegal shops, oil drums, construction debris, too many posters
- Speed bumps to slow down cars and make it safer to use the streets



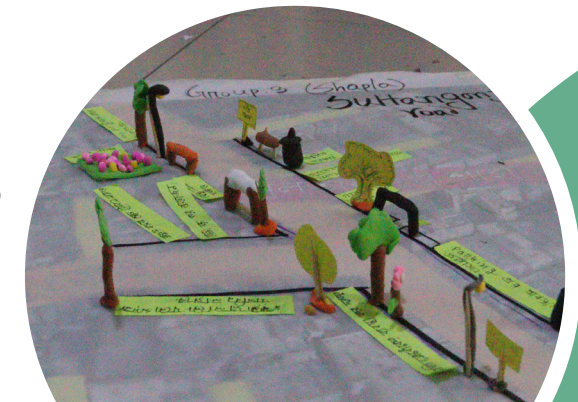
#### Streets with fewer cars

- Reduced number of cars on the roads
- Strong policies against illegal parking



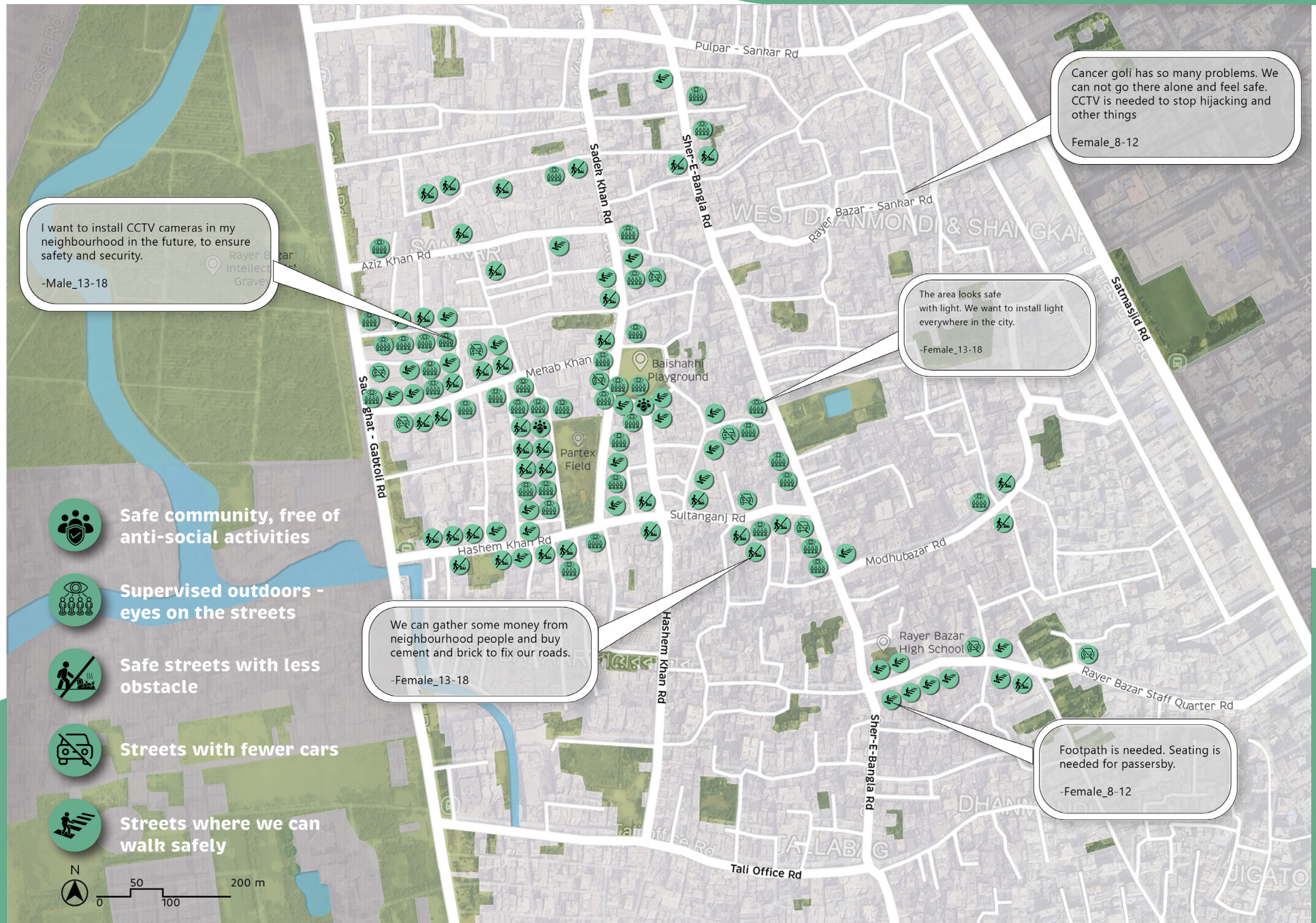
#### Streets where we can walk safely

- More footpaths to walk
- Roads with better direction signages, traffic lights, and crosswalks
- Zebra crossings to make it easier to get to the other side of the street





# A Safe & Hazard-free Rayer Bazar





# Our FUTURE Rayer Bazar

## 2 A Clean & Pollution-free Rayer Bazar

We made a map of our ideas for a clean and pollution-free Rayer Bazar and where we want these ideas to happen.



Our ideas for 'A Clean and Pollution-free Rayer Bazar' are:



### Clean outdoors with no rubbish lying around

- More waste bins on streets and in play spaces
- Awareness against littering, ugly posters
- Rules to issue fines for littering



### Well-maintained drains and waterbodies

- Clean and covered drains
- Waterbodies turned into nice lakes
- Regular cleaning of drains and waterbodies to prevent Dengue
- Clean play spaces with no waterlogging during rain



### Mosquito control and dust-free environments

- Spray for mosquito control
- Dust-free public spaces and playgrounds to reduce breathing problem



### Noise and odour-free outdoors

- Rules to reduce noise pollution, e.g., no horns
- Covered waste bins
- "No Smoking" signage in public places
- Reduce bad smells in poultry markets



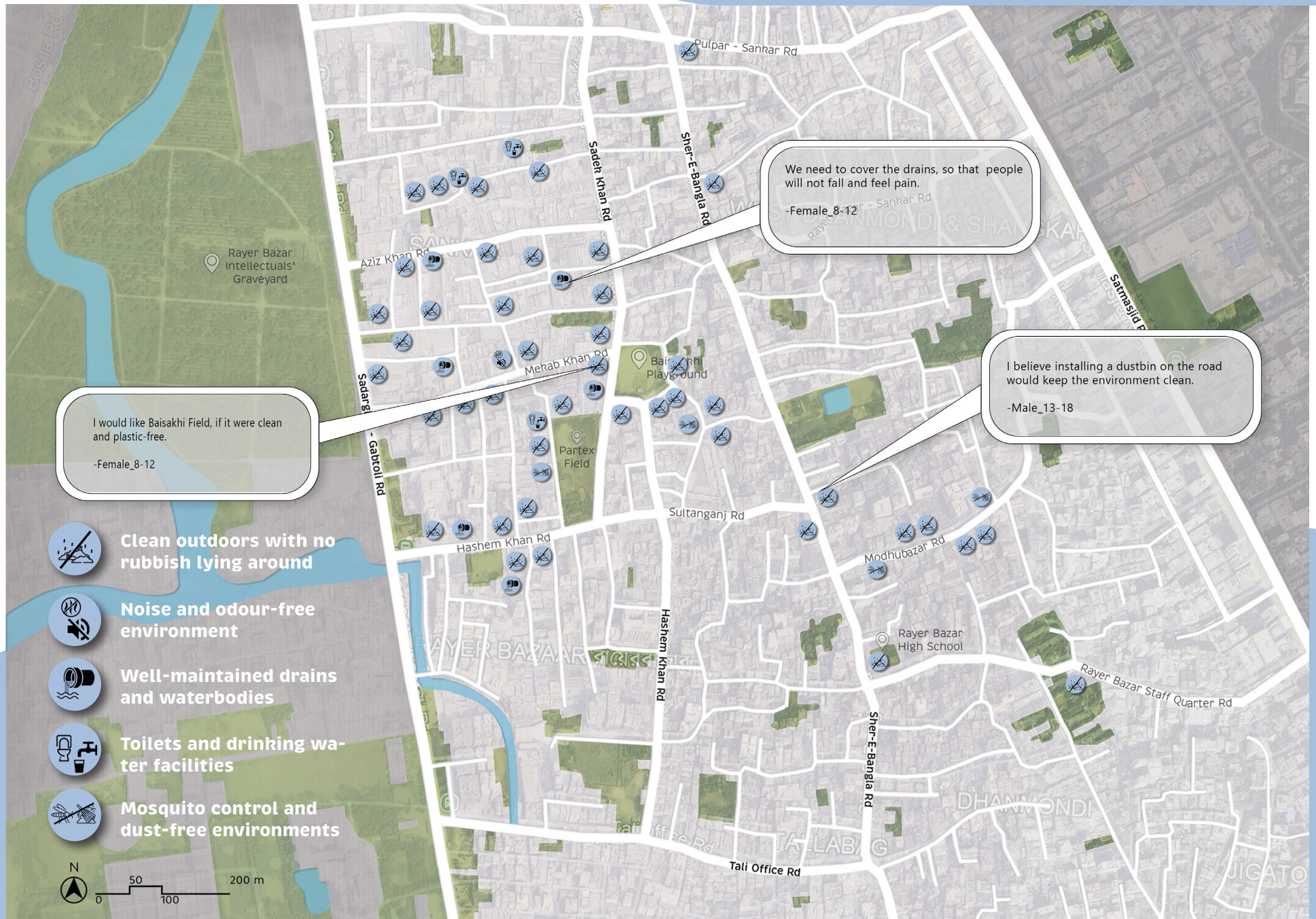
### Toilets and drinking water facilities

- More public toilets
- Drinking water facilities in playgrounds





# A Clean & Pollution-free Rayer Bazar





## Our FUTURE Rayer Bazar

### 3 A Playful Rayer Bazar

We made a map of our ideas for a Playful Rayer Bazar and where we want these ideas to happen.



Our ideas for 'A Playful Rayer Bazar' are:



#### More natural play spaces with easy access

- Grassy, green and clean play spaces for comfortable play
- More access points from different sides of the playgrounds
- Public playgrounds to always remain open



#### Play spaces with more play zones, play equipment, and seating

- More play equipment like swings, slides etc. in playgrounds
- Swimming pools near playgrounds
- More seating spaces
- Pop-up shops in and around playgrounds
- Designated play zone for younger children in playgrounds
- A video-game centre for kids



#### Playable streets

- Play zone by the street for kids
- Wall art or graffiti





# A Playful Rayer Bazar





## Our FUTURE Rayer Bazar

### 4 A Green Rayer Bazar

We made a map of ideas for making a Green Rayer Bazar and where we want these ideas to happen.

Our ideas for 'A Green Rayer Bazar' are:



#### More trees for shade

- A tree plantation program run by the local authority
- More variety of trees by roads



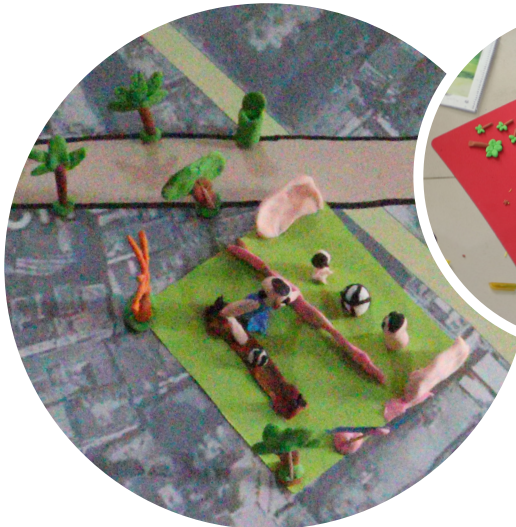
#### Green fields comfortable play for

- Grassy open spaces for play activities



#### Biodiversity

- More flowering plants
- Gardens





## A Green Rayer Bazar





## Our FUTURE Rayer Bazar

### 5 A Rayer Bazar for All

We made a map of ideas for making a Rayer Bazar for All and where we want these ideas to happen.



Our ideas for 'a Rayer Bazar for All' are:



#### Play spaces with provision of children's play with families

- More seats for friends and family
- Allowing children along with family members to play in a field



#### Women-friendly spaces

- Women-friendly parks and playgrounds



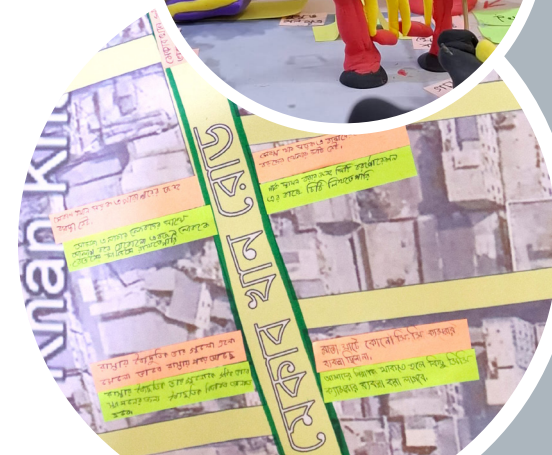
#### Age-friendly spaces

- Designated spaces for older adults, so that they can be active and have support
- Designated play zones for different age groups of children in play grounds



#### More education and health facilities

- More schools with open playgrounds
- Establishment of a local library
- Establishment of hospitals in the neighborhood
- Vocational training centers, for girls











# Things that need changing now, in 3-4 years and in 5+ years

**We have prioritised what ideas should happen now, in 3-4 years and 5+ years.**

**Things that are very important to most of us and should happen now are:**

- Install more waste bins and organise regular clearing of the roads
- Anti-smoking campaigns and law enforcement to stop drug abuse, catcalling, and hitchhiking
- Make footpaths barrier-free for walking comfortably
- Fix the drains on the streets and organise cleaning
- Raise awareness to stop illegal parking and traffic jam
- Increase security and raise awareness to stop eve-teasing<sup>5</sup>

**Some of the things that should happen in 3-4 years are:**

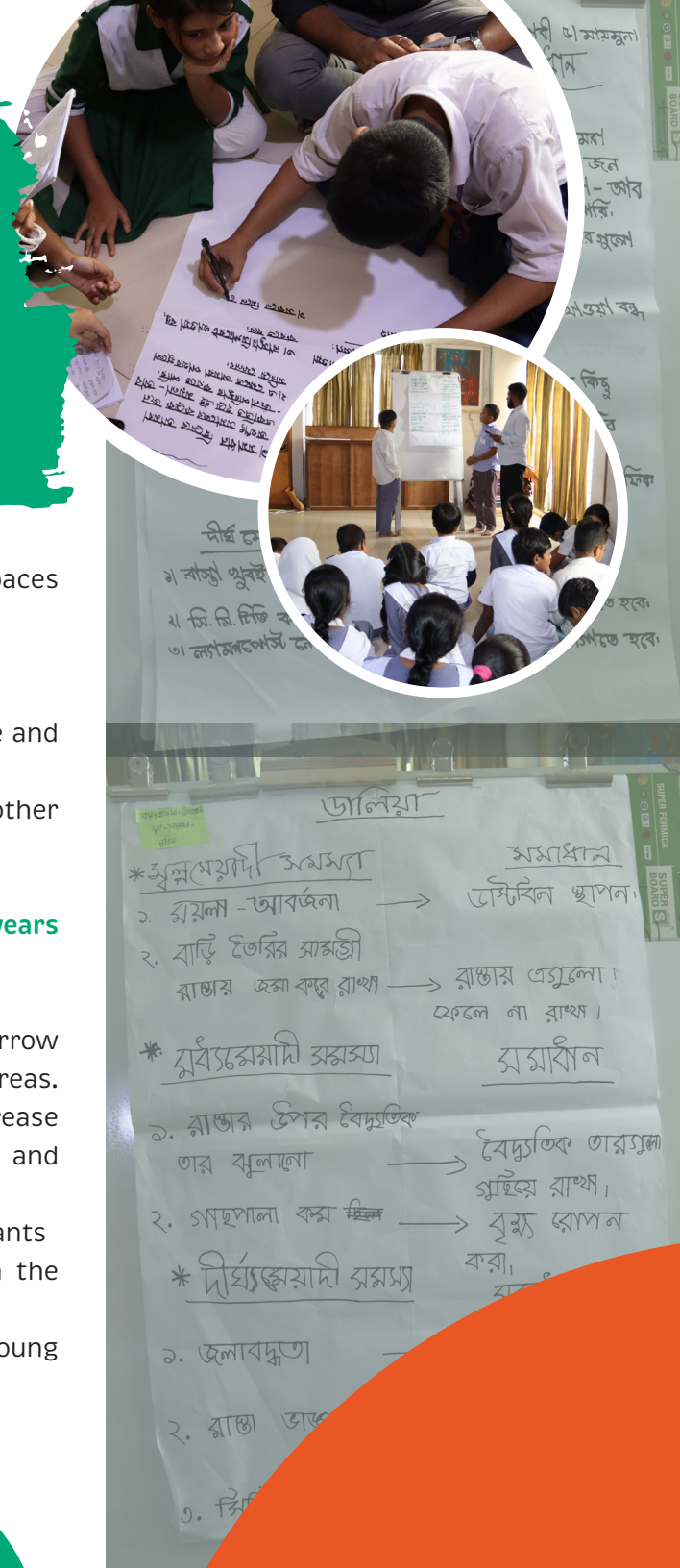
- Plant more trees
- Build more public toilets to improve public facilities

- Build footpaths for walking
- More lights and CCTV cameras in public spaces to enhance safety and lighting
- Turn abandoned plots into gardens
- Install more zebra crossings
- Fix potholes on the streets to make it safe and smooth for cycling and walking
- Improve access to parks, playgrounds and other public spaces for all children

**Some of the things that can happen in 5+ years are:**

- Widen roads and build footpaths
- Create playable streets to address narrow roads, lack of footpaths, and limited play areas.
- Propose dedicated parking and increase security measures to address parking and safety concerns.
- Make streets greener with flowers and plants
- Create public playgrounds for children in the areas where there is none.
- Establish a safe space for women, young women, and girls to socialise with privacy

<sup>5</sup>That means, staring, stalking, passing comments, and inappropriate physical touch by a boy to a girl in a public space.





# Making the plan happen

**We need help from lots of people to help us make our plan and ideas happen. We want to work with:**

- Our local councillors to help other people hear our ideas
- The people who work at Rayer Bazar Ward Commission, who manage our streets, parks and community buildings
- The people who plan cities and design neighbourhoods, parks and playgrounds
- Our schools and teachers
- Local charities and youth services who can help make our ideas happen, or who can represent our ideas to others
- Local youth services, and others like mental health services, to support young people and families in making some ideas happen
- Businesses in the neighbourhood, such as shops or other local businesses, who can support our ideas and help make their spaces in the community more child- and youth-friendly.



## Thank you

**We want to say thank you to everyone that helped us make our plan!**

Thank you to:

- Our friends who helped us in class and in the workshops
- The teachers and helpers of these schools: Dhaka Ideal Cadet School; Rayer Bazar High School, Lorel International School and Dhanmondi Kochikantho High School
- Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust
- School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University,
- Department of Architecture, BRAC University
- Our parents who shared their opinions using survey



# The people that helped us to write our plan

We had help from a team of people of BRAC University, Cardiff University and Work for a Better Bangladesh.

They are all interested in places as urban designers, geographers, architects, and planners.

## Cardiff University



Matluba Khan



Tom Smith



Deysi Ortega Roman

## BRAC University



Md Rashed Bhuyan



Mahia Mustary



Nova Amin Khan



Sadequ Saif



Ruaida Akter



Rakesh Sharma

You can contact Matluba Khan or Md Rashed Bhuyan if you want to know more about making our plan:

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## Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust



Gaus Pearee



Naima Akter



Md. Mithun



Proma Saha



Badhan Ghosh



Bilkis Rumman



Md. Babul Mia



Md. Shawon Mia

