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RESIDENTS OF BAWANA GRAPPLING WITH INSANITARY CONDITIONS

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08/10/2010

The crores spent on hosting the Commonwealth Games (CWG) could have been better utilised in providing better sanitary conditions to about 50,000 families living in Bawana. They were anyway displaced from the places they were living in earlier as part of the beautification of the city in the name of the Games.

But the residents of Bawana are grappling with filth and clogged drains. Now, the filth is being removed and the drains being cleaned and repaired. But at the behest of the Robin Raina Foundation (RRF), an NGO that first built 6,000 free homes for the slum dwellers here. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, however, has no funds for the long pending drainage project.

"We have two choices, either get used to the muck and stench or try to find a solution ourselves."

- MUNNO BANO resident

As per official records, only 40 per cent of Bawana is covered by a proper drainage system. The condition of the remaining 60 per cent of the neighbourhood is deplorable. But despite repeated pleas, MCD has neither made any arrangement for the cleaning of the drains nor laid new lines.

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Still we are better off from those living in areas where there is no drain. People in those areas have dug up a nala on their own for the outlet of sludge," says Munno Bano, a resident.

It is not just the clogged drains, filth is strewn all around as there is no designated dumps or garbage removal arrangement. Now the RRF has hired contractors to set up a drainage system for the entire Bawana area. "It will cost us about Rs 3 crore. We have already hired the men to first clean up the gutters of filth, plastic and sludge.

Thereafter, we will build the ledge for the drains and cover it with red stone," says Robin Raina, founder of RRF.