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*Paper Title:- Khula Area: The Urban and the Pathological*

This paper explores the relationship between the urban and the pathological by trailing the *Aedes* mosquito, the dengue vector, to trace the intersection of civic, social, and ecological in the everyday life of Delhi. To control the possibility of a dengue epidemic, the gaze of public health authorities primarily focuses on marginal areas considered inherently 'dirty'. The residents of such areas, however, have to deal with the absence of basic urban infrastructure while also being under the stringent administrative glare for pest control. Interestingly, both the inhabitants of these areas and their administrators express the ungovernable stubbornness of such regions using the colloquial expression 'khula area'. Ethnographically following the many usages of khula by several actors, this work argues that the word khula is an empty signifier, which, through many of its meanings, enables us to see urban spaces through the prism of pathological and all things that fall within its shadow.