

Resettlement of Urban Poor in Chennai, Tamil Nadu: Concerns in R&R Policy and Urban Housing Programme

Journal of Land and Rural Studies
4(1) 97-110

© 2016 Centre for Rural Studies, LBSNAA
SAGE Publications
sagepub.in/home.nav

DOI: 10.1177/2321024915616675
<http://jrs.sagepub.com>



Dilip Diwakar G.¹
Vanessa Peter²

Abstract

In Chennai alone, over 21,000 families have already been removed from their primary livelihood area and ghettoised in the peripheral areas of the city like Kannagi Nagar, Semmencherry and Perumbakkam, which are 25 to 30 kilometres from their original habitation. Another 31,912 families are in the process of being removed to these resettlement colonies. The R&R processes adopted by the government for the urban communities have unleashed gross human rights violations including right to adequate housing, food, water, education, health, work/livelihood and security of the person and home. There are no prescribed standards or policy in place for urban resettlement, yet government is constructing more houses in these sites. This article intends to document the human rights violation faced by the resettled communities in Kannagi Nagar, Chennai, and calls for an urgent attention to bring in necessary changes in the R&R policy for urban resettlement.

Keywords

en masse resettlement, R&R policy, Tamil Nadu, urban poor, rights to life, livelihood

Introduction

As India is treading in the paths of development, there is an unprecedented rise of displacement of the poor from their habitats both in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Apart from the natural disaster and war, the development-induced

¹ Department of Social Work, Central University of Kerala, Kasargod, Kerala.

² Independent Researcher.

Corresponding author:

Dilip Diwakar G., Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Central University of Kerala, Kasargod, Kerala.

E-mail: dilipjnu@gmail.com