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## Urban Resettlement and Sustainable Urban Development: Comparative Case Studies in Hyderabad

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### Abstract

*In the semblance of development, the urban landscape has changed all across India. Promoting infrastructure for attracting multinational companies on one hand and Beautification of the cities on the other hand has not only made a few businesses aggrandised, but displaced and affected a large number of families in the recent times. The case in point in this research is the Multi Modal Transport System (MMTS) Project which has displaced many families in and around the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, the urban slums through which their pillars were constructed. In this research, the trauma experienced by the families who were displaced from their homes and resettled in a new environment and how they coped with the traumatic experiences were addressed. Indeed the families experienced a variety of traumatic experiences and did cope with them in their own way. Implications are drawn for sustainable development of such families who are not only displaced they were affected by such displacement in the form of losing out on their livelihood.*

**Key words:** Urban development, Slums, Trauma, Coping Mechanism, Sustainable urban development

## Introduction

India is transforming from the state of being a traditional economy to a modern avatar of emerging economy in the eyes of the world over. The changing mundane appearance of the nation to the world, in the standpoint of infrastructural marvels happening in the country; vouch for the competitive advantage of our country in the south Asian region. This has resulted in attracting foreign companies to start their investments and also their business operations in the country. In order to promote and facilitate foreign business, it is realised by the policy makers that there is an urgent need for changing urban topography that removes bottle necks in the flow of information, flow of decisions and also flow of transportation of physical resources including people. Among all of such bottle necks, there is an incessant realisation of the importance of traffic congestion in the urban locations. The overcrowding of urban areas as a result of migration of people from the surrounding villages to eke out their livelihood has resulted in more slums some of which are recognised and the others are non-recognised by the urban metropolitan authorities.

The recognised slums are those which have the stamp of approval of the municipality corporation which provides for certain basic amenities and services. Whereas, the non-recognised are not provided due to the legal constraints interfering with the land over which the slums are mushroomed. Despite such categorisation of the slums for compliances and conveniences, the livelihood of such slum dwellers is deplorable and their health status is deteriorating. In addition, they are not hopeful of how long they will live in their own places in the slums, since they might be asked to vacate any time by the government officials.

## Background of the Study

Hyderabad metro project limited had acquired some private land for commissioning its project. Land is a scarce commodity in metropolitan cities. HMRL had to make every effort to acquire barest minimum private property for Depot and route alignment on sharp bends, station buildings, platforms, entry/exit structures, traffic integration, power sub-stations, ventilation shafts, administrative buildings and temporary construction depots / work sites etc. They had acquired Landon the Miyapur – Chaitanyapuri corridor is about 46.06 hectares (42.14 hectares of government and public sector organizations and 3.92 hectare of private land. Similarly, on the Secunderabad – Falaknuma corridor the total land acquired was 14.61 hectares (7.99 hectares of Government and public sector and 6.62 hectares of private land). In this process, the project had to resettle and rehabilitate people of a good number of residences, shops. Offices and religious structures.

This process involved displacement of about 194 residences, 946 shops/offices, 33 small religious structures and few government properties. All of the affected, the most affected structures are behind Khairtabad Railway station, Purani Haveli road, Sultan Bazar, Putli Bowli and near M G bus station Road, station locations and various junctions where sharp bends are provided. All of these residences and shops and

religious structures were resettled and rehabilitation measures were also initiated resulting in massive adjustments amongst them in their new locations.

### **Some Research Studies**

Emphasizing on job aspects Fernandez says, “While it is destructive in general of the marginalized categories, it is much more so for women’s status. Even when only unskilled jobs were available, they were given almost exclusively to men since illiteracy is higher among women.

The traumatic experiences are first registered at a physiological level, as the body’s stress response system takes over to identify and respond to a situation which is threatening. The brain plays a decisive role in identifying incoming sensory information as threatening (Shin, Rauch, & Pitman, 2006; Cohen, Peril, Dobell’s, Friedman, & Putnam, 2002; Perry, 2001). There are acute symptoms as a fall out of traumatic experience includes nightmares or flashbacks; agitation, irritability, and anxiety; hyper vigilance; trouble concentrating; and feeling numb or disconnected (American Psychiatric Association, 2000).

Trauma experienced by displaced individuals and families are exposure to violence, loss, extreme poverty, and long-term instability can have deleterious effects on their quality of life. As these experiences unfold, responses become more intense and have a greater impact on personal and social functioning. Incessant exposure to trauma can impact all areas of people’s lives, including biological, cognitive, and emotional functioning; social interactions/relationships; and identity formation (Putnam, 2006; Saxe et al., 2006; National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2005; Cohen et al., 2002; Perry, 2001; Perry et al., 1996). All of these studies suggest that there is a consistent pattern of trauma experienced by people across the world. In this study, attempts is made to explore whether such assumption holds good to a local context in which a metro rail project has been the cause of trauma among displaced families.

### **The Present Study**

Displacement of people, ecological changes and environmental degradation have been companions to development throughout history in both the developed as well as developing countries. Project displaced people across world have common adjustment issues include adapting to a new culture, language, climate or environment, and learning new customs, while simultaneously maintaining family and cultural traditions. For those people who are displaced by the developmental projects, trauma is central to their experience prior to, during, and post-resettlement (Perez-Foster, 2001; DeCandia, Murphy, & Coupe, 2013). Therefore, it is

critically important when serving people who have been displaced that project officials understand trauma and its impact and design programs and services that reflect the effective resettlement programme.

The traumatic experience of project displaced people involves a threat to an individual's physical or emotional well-being. Such experiences are overwhelming. Trauma results in intense feelings of fear and helplessness. It leaves people feeling hopeless. It changes the way a person understands himself/herself, the world, and others. (American Psychiatric Association, 2000; Herman, 1992).

The word "trauma" is used to describe experiences or situations that are emotionally painful and distressing, and that overwhelm people's ability to cope, leaving them powerless. Trauma has sometimes been defined in reference to circumstances that are outside the realm of normal human experience. Unfortunately, this definition doesn't always hold true. For some groups of people, trauma can occur frequently and become part of the common human experience. The American Psychological Association defines Trauma "as an emotional

response to a terrible event like an accident, rape or natural disaster" (APA, 2013). Immediately after the event, shock and denial are typical. Longer term reactions include unpredictable emotions, flashbacks, strained relationships and even physical symptoms like headaches or nausea. While these feelings are normal, some people have difficulty moving on with their lives. Psychologists can help these individuals find constructive ways of managing their emotions.

When people are displaced simultaneously from different locations. Their traumatic stress experiences also may vary because of the uniqueness of each of the location from which they are displaced and also the location in which they are resettled and rehabilitated. Therefore, one of the research questions rose in this study is "do different locations have traumatic effects differently on the displaced people?" This question is answered in this study, treating traumatic stress experience as a dependent variable and the three locations as an independent variable.

### **The Objectives and the Hypothesis**

In the light of the review of literature, and the context in which the study is carried, the present study attempts to know the various traumatic experiences of people displaced by the metro rail project. Thus, it is hypothesised that, "Trauma experiences of the people relocated from three displaced locations are invariant".

## The Method

Using a descriptive analytic research design, the present study was conducted in three locations namely, Khairtabad, Purani Haveli, Sultan Bazar. From where the people were displaced and resettled as a part of negotiation with Hyderabad metro rail project were considered as universe of the study. From each of the three locations, conveniently 20 families were contacted. Their heads of the households were contacted to interview them with the help of a structured interview schedule. This schedule consisted of two parts. Part A deals with profile of the respondents. Part B included a standardised 36-item scale to measure traumatic stress developed by ChandraSekhar (2010). Data collected from the respondents, were screened before entering into SPSS. Descriptive statistics like means and SD, and Univariate ANOVA were conducted to compare the Traumatic stress by the respondents. Each of the traumatic stress components with regard to project displaced assessed with along with F-values and p value is presented in the table 1.

**TABLE 1: TRAUMATIC STRESS AMONG PROJECT DISPLACED**

Sno	Dimension	Displaced from the Location						F-Value	d.f	P=
		Khairtabad (n=20)		Purani Haveli (n=20)		Sultan Bazar (n=20)				
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
1	Attention	15.47	2.19	14.86	2.18	14.47	2.68	0.91	2,59	>.05
2	Perception	14.7	2.08	15.04	2.1	13.7	2.6	1.12	2,59	>.05
3	Memory	15.05	2.14	14.38	2.18	14.05	2.68	0.94	2,59	>.05
4	Emotion	15.41	3.25	14.95	3.11	14.41	2.61	0.55	2,59	>.05
5	Aggression	14.54	3.03	14.82	3.18	13.54	2.68	1.02	2,59	>.05
6	Feeling	14.75	3.43	15.04	3.21	13.75	2.71	0.93	2,59	>.05

It is clear from the table that as regards attention, respondents at kairatabad experience more traumas, followed by those who were replaced from Purani Haveli and others. Trauma-Attention is the extent to which displaced person has sustained and focused **attention**, though selective **attention as a result of displacement from his or her environment**.

Whereas, with regards to perception, respondents from Purani Haveli experienced it more than others. Trauma-Perception is the extent to which displaced people sense that the world seems to have changed suddenly to an unusual one from what it was before. Experiencing the trauma perceiving that unfairly their livelihood and habitat was taken away. Loss of self-respect due to the poor compensation and unpleasant interactions with the government perceiving that they are being cut off from their livelihood and work culture which is part of their existence.

Regarding memory, respondents from Khairatabad experience it more than those who were replaced from Purani Haveli and Sultan Bazar. Trauma-Memory is the extent to which the displaced persons have a loss of it as a result of sudden resettlement from the place wherein they had spent a long time.

As regards emotion, respondents of Khairatabad expected it more than the others. Trauma-Emotion is the extent to which the displaced people have unstable state of mind as a result of displacement. Experiences of the respondents as shared show they experienced swing in the emotions, showed irritation easily, constant worry and feelings of sadness.

With regards to aggression, respondents from Purani Haveli experienced it more than others. Trauma-Aggression is the extents to which the displaced people have frustration from being displaced eventually have tendencies to speak against and contrary to the responsible people. The persons who are displaced and affected claimed to have experience often annoyance, bitter about certain things, indulge in arguments, biting, even under less provocation anger and at times violent behaviour was seen as a consequence

Lastly, with regard to Feeling, respondents of Purani Haveli experienced it more than the others. Trauma-Feeling is the extent to which the displaced people have sadness due to the loss of many tangible and intangible aspects of life. Experiences of feelings of respondents in an unreal world. To them the reality was sea and fishing; and moving away from it would have left them with feelings of isolation.

Surprisingly, mean variations in all the six dimensions of traumatic stress have not reached statistical levels of significance. In other words, it means that project displaced people at three locations understudy have a universal experience of traumatic stress suggesting that there is no significant variance in the mean scores indicated by the f-values presented in the table.

## Conclusion

Development alternatives in our times have ushered in more opportunities for business, and also for people to experience the fruits of it. However, it also makes a few groups of people unhappy since, they are displaced by such development projects. In this study, the traumatic stress experienced by those who were displaced in three locations in the twin cities of Hyderabad and secunderabad. Their traumatic experiences are quite uniform across all the three regions, suggesting that mere compensation package is not enough. They also need to have counselling before, resettlement and rehabilitation for their suitable livelihood and development.

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