Submission: Thesis proposal
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Note :(X) resettlement sites refer to Kannagi Nagar or Perumbakkam in Chennai, India.

Thesis title

The influence of access to information on the women's social capital in the resettlement site (X) in Chennai, India

Introduction

The term "development-induced displacement and resettlement" (DIDR) first appeared in scientific publications in the mid and late eighties in line with sociological variables in development. Thus, in the scientific literature in the first half of the nineties (Terminski, 2013). Displacement is neither unusual nor new in the development process. Nonetheless, its fast-expanding scale and severe adverse effects are currently a cause for issue anywhere, especially in developing countries (Mathur, 2014; Vanclay, 2017). Natural disasters, conflict, and development are significant causes of displacement (Muggah, 2008). Despite decades of experience and research on development-induced displacement and resettlement (DIDR), the severity of the problem remains, with its negative consequences still unaddressed (Satiroglu & Choi, 2015).

Background information and problem statement
(Viewing some of the key references - academic literature that underpins the study motivation)

In the latest decade (2010–2019), an estimated around 15 million people to be displaced owing to development initiatives throughout the world (Cernea, 2008, P .20). India, along with China, is one of the two countries that contribute significantly to the growing number of persons affected by DIDR (Development-induced Displacement and Resettlement) (Stanley, 2004). Even though relocation and resettlement have grown fastly, it has never been easy to successfully manage development-induced resettlement programs (Quy Nghi et al., 2021). Therefore, practitioners and scholars agree that success depends on the programme's participation mechanisms (Horowitz et al., 2019). Thus, designing a resettlement program that includes meaningful participation of the primary actors (i.e. local authorities, affected households, non-governmental organisations, etc.) and is tailored to the needs and aspirations of specific groups of affected people is a significant challenge (i.e. women, men, children, elderly). Despite the literature on gendered impacts of DIDR development-induced resettlement, there have been limited analyses on women's participation in such lengthy (and often painful) processes. In practice, resettlement programmes are often designed using a one-size-fits-all approach, neglecting gender aspects in all stages (Mehta, 2009). Moreover, Both Ramya and Peter argue that the resettlement process is gender-insensitive; women feel threatened due to the lack of sufficient essential services that should serve women's specific necessities (2014a). Also, Miloon emphasises that the impacts on women are more severe as they suffer from more significant deprivation of livelihood and the right to adequate housing (Miloon, 2009). However, India has not adequately handled this issue. Chennai, the state capital of Tamil Nadu, is seeing an increase in the number of DIDR cases as the Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB)'s approach to dealing with slums is resettlement. Although Chennai is one of the world's ten fastest-growing cities, 28 % of the population lives in slums due to uncontrolled urbanisation and growth (Krishnamurthy & Desouza, 2015). Referring to Ramya and Peter's human rights research study in Kannagi Nagar with the Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) and Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) in order to identify the gaps in the resettlement process. The major study findings regarding the resettlement process were the gross violations of their human rights in terms of their human right to adequate housing, information, food, water, education, health, work/livelihood and security of the

person and home (2014b). The study reveals that 92.6% of the respondents were neither consulted about the resettlement nor heard their opinion (Ramya & Peter, 2014). In the Handbook of the United Nations "Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement" (Miloon, 2009), states that all potentially affected groups and persons, including women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, should be informed before resettlement. Herein lies the problem that this rarely happens; people are told or provided access to information without filtering the information (location, choices, understanding, entitlements, livelihood`, opportunities and alternatives), the participation mechanism, sources of the information supplied and the scale of the access population. As Frankovits emphasises, among other benefits of accessibility in resettlement projects, enabling meaningful access to information would reduce the uncertainty experienced by the affected people. It shows respect for their human (Frankovits, 2006).

The term 'participation' is not new, but takes on different meanings, depending on the context and who is using it for what purposes. In the resettlement context, the term participation refers to actors 'meaningful engagement and involvement (with a focus on women) in resettlement processes. This conceptual approach aligns with the World Bank (1996) Referring to Arnstein's (1969)pioneering work on the participation, she conceptualised participation as 'a categorical term of power' (Arnstein, 1969, P. 216) , consisting of eight rungs, reflecting three participation levels: non-participation, tokenism, and citizen power. Despite critiques of its heavy focus on state-citizen power relationships, and its rigid hierarchy of participation levels (Bishop & Davis, 2002; Collins & Ison, 2006; Tritter & McCallum, 2006),this work remains influential, describing key aspects of participation that merit further consideration. Building on that, Nghi, Phuong, N. and Hang argue (2021) from their perspective, that participation could be assessed through the understanding of three key elements: access to information, consultation exercises, and decision-making patterns. They are not viewed in a hierarchical order, but rather as equal parts that supplement each other and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of participation. Mehta argues that resettlement has disproportionate impacts on men and women who, in turn, have different ways of dealing with such social disturbance (2009). one of these disproportionate impacts on social capital.

In literature and theory, there is potential relation between access to information and communications and social capital. Yang, Lee, and Kurnia emphasise that social capital is a very influential concept in social science in understanding contemporary societies. It is found to, directly and indirectly, influences many aspects of social life, such as quality of life. It is also increasingly explored in relation to information and communications. However, little is known about the relationship between Information and Communications and social capital (Yang et al., 2009). The relationship study is still in its early stages and has not produced consistent results (Yang et al., 2009).Pigg and Crank agree that increasing community social capital is widely viewed as one of the benefits of deploying information and communications technologies. Moreover, their results of analysis of the literature related to social capital and Information and Communications emphasise that much work remains to be done before it can be said with any validity that Information and Communications can create community social capital (Pigg & Crank, 2004).

Therefore, this research will highlight the gap in potential relation between access to information and social capital as a significant pillar of livelihood and understanding the influence of access to resettlement information for women on their livelihood in terms of social capital at the resettlement site. By taking (X) resettlement sites in Chennai as a case study, the research will explore to what extent did women access resettlement information in the resettlement project (X) and how that influenced women's social capital. This is an interesting perspective due to the sensitivity and challenge of access to information and social capital regarding the consequences of human rights in the context of DIDR. Thus, understanding how women access resettlement information and its influence on livelihood in terms of social capital might help to improve the housing and livelihood strategies for women in the resettlement sites in (X).

The research objective

The main objective of the research is to explore (or identify) the factors of access to resettlement information that may influence women's social capital in the resettlement site, and to conclude what needs to be improved in access to resettlement information process for women's, to become able to enhance their social capital in resettlement site and thereby also benefit from development causing their resettlement. Therefore, the research will describe:

- How resettled women in the resettlement project perceive the performance of access to resettlement information.
- How the resettlement project influenced women's social capital.

This research will draw the correlation between the performance of access to resettlement information from a women's perspective and its influence on women's social capital. The respondents are the resettled women in (X) to measure the performance of access to resettlement information and woman's social capital.

Main research question

How does access to information influence the women's livelihood in terms of social capital in the resettlement site (X) in Chennai, India?

The sub-questions:

1. **How did women access to resettlement information?**
   a. To what extent did women access resettlement process information?
      (Why, when, where, how, who, ...)
   b. To what extent did women access the resettlement site information?
      (Location, services, facilities, housing units type...)
   c. To what extent did women access resettlement public hearings information?
      (Convocation, participation, ...)
   d. To what extent did women access resettlement alternatives information?
      (Compensation, opportunities, legal and technical advice ....)
   e. To what extent did women understand the informed resettlement information?
      (Communication mechanism, language, culturally consideration....)
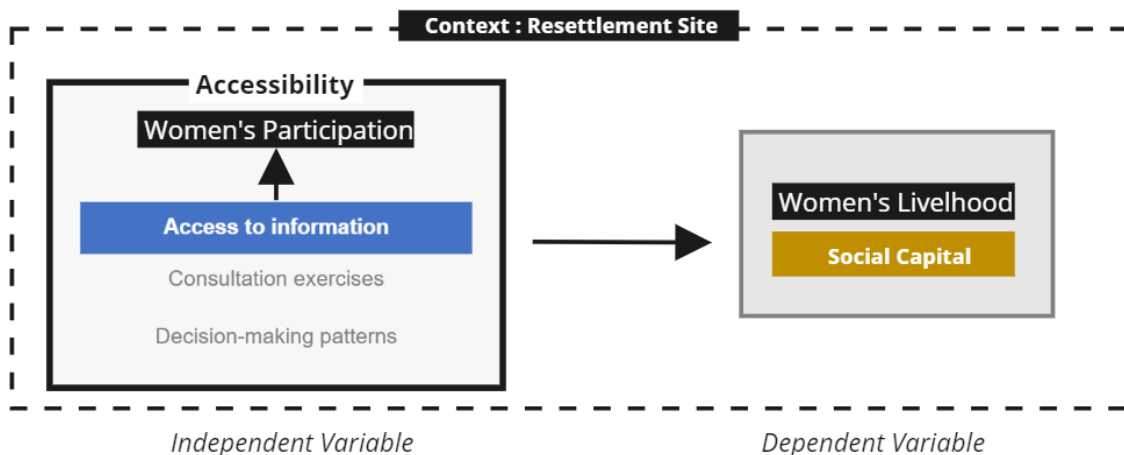2. **How were women's social capital influenced after resettlement in (X)?**
3. **What factors of access to information influenced women's social capital?**

The research gap and academic relevant

As the woman's rights have shown their impact recently on the various context of development, it should have the potential for the right of access to information and livelihoods in resettlement sites. However, there are studies on the consequences of development-induced resettlement, but there's potential relation between access to information and communications and social capital (Beriya, 2022; Yang et al., 2009) , Therefore, this research will contribute to filling that gap in the body of knowledge on the potential relation between access to information and social capital as a significant pillar of livelihood. Moreover, the focus on women will enrich the knowledge about the gendered impacts of resettlement from a woman's perception and perspective. The research will illustrate understanding the influence of access to resettlement information from women's perspective on their social capital in after resettlement. Thus, the study might contribute to better social awareness of women's needs and gender-insensitive resettlement sites. Moreover, this study will draw attention to the link between participation in terms of access to information and livelihood in terms of social capital in resettlement planning. As well as provide a recommendation of possible actions by various stakeholders and policymakers to ensure better performance of access to resettlement information for women and improve the opportunities for their livelihood in terms of social capital in the resettlement site.

Conceptual framework

Independent Variable   *Dependent Variable*

The operationalization of key concepts (Variables and indicators)

	CONCEPTS	VARIABLES	SUB-VARIABLES	INDICATORS	SOURCES	METHOD
Independent Variable	**The concept of access to information** In the Handbook of the United Nations "Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement" (Miloon, 2009), states that all potentially affected groups and persons, including women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, should be informed before resettlement. Enabling meaningful access to information would reduce the uncertainty experienced by the affected people. It shows respect for their human (Frankovits, 2006). Moreover, access to information considered one of the participation elements (Quy Nghi et al., 2021)	**Access to resettlement information**	Resettlement process information	The questions here seek to procure data on to what extent women's access to resettlement process information (***why*** they are resettlement? ***when*** they will be resettlement? ***where*** they will be resettlement? ***how*** they are resettlement? and ***who*** will be resettlement?.......)	(Miloon, 2009; Stonier, 2012)	Questionnaire, Interview
			Resettlement site information	The questions here seek to procure data on to what extent women's access to resettlement site information (where is the location - how access to the location, how it looks like, what is the available services and facilities, what is a type of housing units - how it look like.......)	(Miloon, 2009; Stonier, 2012)	Questionnaire, Interview
			Resettlement public hearings information	The questions here explore whether, how and to what extent women's access to resettlement public hearings information (receive convocation, comment or objection to the resettlement proposed plan, challenge the eviction decision, present alternative proposals, and articulate their demands and development priorities.......)	(Miloon, 2009; Stonier, 2012)	Questionnaire, Interview
			Resettlement alternatives information	The questions here explore whether, how and to what extent women's access to resettlement alternatives information (receive Compensation, if and who will be obtaining a house title record? if they received any legal, technical and other advice.......)	(Miloon, 2009; Stonier, 2012)	Questionnaire, Interview
			Understand the informed resettlement information	The questions here explore to what extent women understand the informed resettlement information (by looking at the communication language, channel and mechanism that published and delivered the resettlement information.......)	(Miloon, 2009; Stonier, 2012)	Questionnaire, Interview

	CONCEPTS	VARIABLES	SUB-VARIABLES	INDICATORS	SOURCES	METHOD
Dependent Variable	**The concept of livelihood** A process of restoring and improving the abilities, livelihood, and activities as a means of living (DfID, 1999) after the deprivation caused by the impoverishment risks of resettlement (Cernea, 2000; Mathur, 2014; Vanclay, 2017)	**Social capital**	Groups and Networks	The questions here consider the nature and extent of a women's household member's participation in various types of social organisations and informal networks and the range of contributions that one gives and receives from them.	(Grootaert, 2003; Serrat, 2017; Xiao et al., 2018)	Questionnaire, Interview
			Trust and Solidarity	The questions here seek to procure data on trust towards neighbours, key service providers, and strangers, and how these perceptions have changed over time after resettlement.	(Grootaert, 2003; Serrat, 2017; Xiao et al., 2018)	Questionnaire, Interview
			Collective Action and Cooperation	The questions here explore whether and how women's household members have worked with others in their community on joint projects and/or in response to a crisis. It also considers the consequences of violating community expectations regarding participation.	(Grootaert, 2003; Serrat, 2017; Xiao et al., 2018)	Questionnaire, Interview
			Information and Communication.	The questions here explore the ways and means by which women receive information regarding market conditions and public services, and the extent of their access to communications infrastructure.	(Grootaert, 2003; Xiao et al., 2018)	Questionnaire, Interview
			Empowerment and Political Action	The questions here in this section explore women's household members' sense of happiness, personal efficacy, and capacity to influence both local events and broader political outcomes	(Grootaert, 2003; Xiao et al., 2018)	Questionnaire, Interview

The research strategy and methodology

The research will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The quantitative data provides a broad overview of all variables within the context (correlation). At the same time, qualitative data will provide a far better explanation of the causal relationship (causality) between those variables.
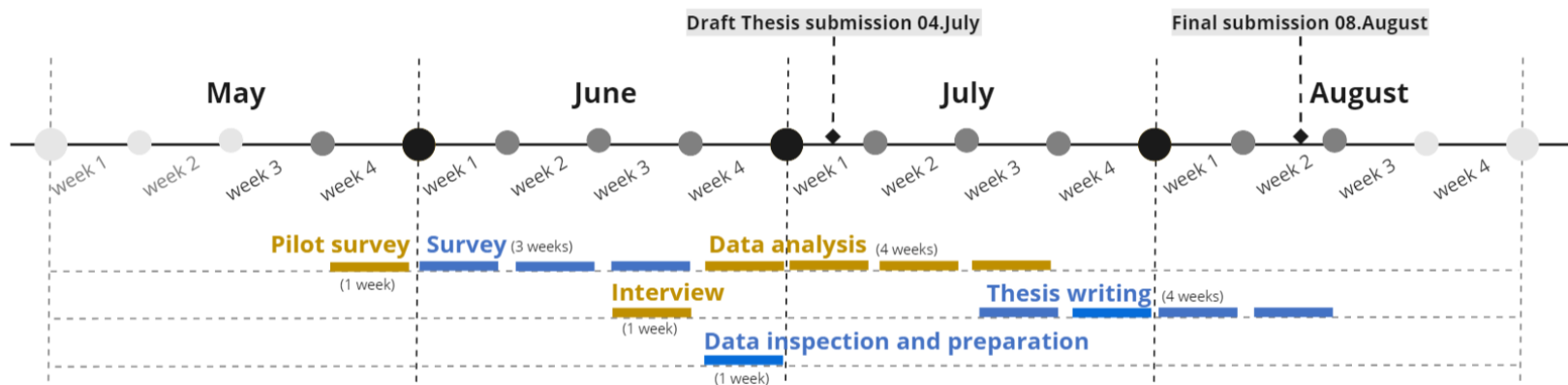
I will conduct a survey through written questionnaires. The respondents are the resettled women in (X) site to measure to what extent did women access resettlement information and measure their social capital after resettlement. The first part of the survey will measure the extent of access to resettlement information befor resettlement. The result will define the respondents into two groups; the first group above the average had access, and the second group under the average didn't had access. Then the second part of the survey will measure the women's social capital after resettlement by using the Integrated Questionnaire for the Measurement of Social Capital. In addition to a part on socio-demographic background information.

I will do interviews (semi-structured) with community women's leaders and any other involvement bodies in the resettlement process for data triangulation. In general, triangulation enhances the validity and reliability of survey outcomes; it can also generate new, credible findings of the situation and create new ways of looking at an influence. Also, additional interviews (in-depth interviews) with a community-based organisation, non-governmental organisation, community associations and government officials to validate and triangulate the data. Moreover, the discussions will enrich the study's narrative to collect more qualitative data and find causality relationships between those variables.

For the survey method, I will use a simple application with safe cloud storage (SurveyMonkey or Jotfoem) or use a printout survey that is filled out manually. I will use the SPSS "Statistical Package for the Social Sciences" for the quantitative analysis method.

Sample size and selection Since including the entire population is quite impossible, a sample selection is necessary due to time limitations. Therefore, the sample size I propose to be by taking one block of apartments from the latest phase of the (X) resettlement project to ensure that residents are relocated recently.

The research timeline

The research process:
1. Pilot survey – Duration 1 week.
2. Survey – Duration 3 weeks.
3. Interview – Duration 1 week.
4. Data inspection and preparation – Duration 1 week.
5. Data analysis – Duration 4 weeks.
6. Thesis writing – Duration 4 weeks.

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