

REPORT

URBAN OCTOBER CAMPAIGN 2022

**BY INFORMATION AND RESOURCE
CENTRE FOR THE DEPRIVED URBAN
COMMUNITIES**



URBAN OCTOBER CAMPAIGN 2022

BY IRCDUC

Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) has launched the Urban October Campaign to highlight the problems of growing inequality in the urban spaces exacerbated by COVID-19, Climate Crisis, and Conflicts. Emphasising on the theme for the World Habitat Day (3 October 2022) for the year 2022 'Mind the Gap. Leave No One and No Place Behind', IRCDUC seeks to generate awareness on the issues faced by the deprived urban communities related to access to land, housing, social entitlements, and opportunities.

Through the campaign, IRCDUC seeks to -

- * Facilitate a platform to amplify the voices of the marginalised communities
- * Advocate for legal and policy safeguards to protect the deprived urban communities from arbitrary eviction
- * Reiterate the need for adopting inclusive climate resilient strategies without displacing marginalised communities from their places of habitation, and
- * Ensure enhanced access to social entitlement by connecting people with the policy makers

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WORLD HABITAT DAY

3 OCTOBER 2022

FACILITATE A PLATFORM TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF THE MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

IRCDUC facilitated creative engagement initiatives with children to emphasise the need for facilitating a democratic space for children to provide their inputs for strengthening public policies and programmes. IRCDUC firmly believes that inclusion of the voices of children in planning and development will help the Government efficiently address issues with a child-friendly perspective.



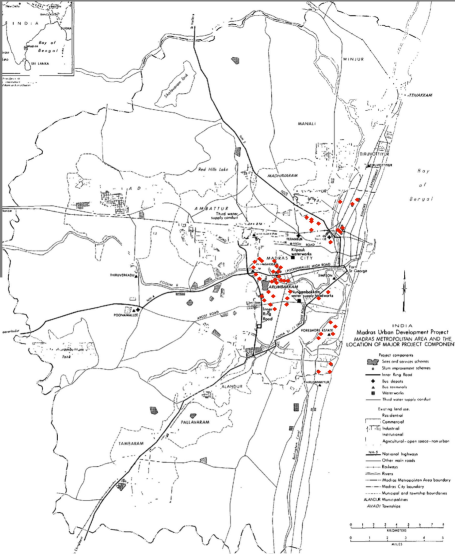
Over 50 children (31 girls and 19 boys) participated in this initiative and through drawings they expressed their aspirations for a child-friendly city.

A child-friendly city is defined as “a city, town, community, or any system of local governance committed to improving the lives of children within their jurisdiction by realising their rights as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of Child. In practice, it is a city, town, or community in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes, and decisions.” - UNICEF, Child Friendly Cities Initiative.



In June 2022, Government of Tamil Nadu formulated rules for formation of Ward and Area Committees under the Urban Local Bodies to enhance participation of public in governance. However the rules formulated had no reference to participation of children. Through this campaign IRCUDC reiterates the Government of Tamil Nadu to amend the rules and facilitate formation of groups for children

ENSURING ACCESS TO SECURITY OF LAND TENURE FOR THE DEPRIVED URBAN COMMUNITIES: REPORT RELEASE



SECURITY OF TENURE IN THE MADRAS URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (MUDP): ASSESSMENT

OCTOBER 2022

RELEASE OF REPORT

On
3 October 2022
at
2 pm

ICSA, Egmore

For more information, contact
9940205623/9941537581



The report released on World Habitat Day 2022 reveals that 64% of settlements eligible for land titles do not have access to secured tenure in the city of Chennai.

* Media Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/four-decades-on-world-bank-funded-beneficiaries-in-city-slums-yet-to-get-sale-deeds/article65967630.ece>

* <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2022/oct/04/sale-deed-evades-residents-for-35-yrs-in-chennai-2504708.html>

4 decades on, World Bank project beneficiaries in city slums yet to get sale deeds

The deeds, which protect the land rights of people, have not been provided to families in 32 of 50 settlements studied; some of these sites face eviction threats as they are located near Cooum river

Pon Vasanth B.A.
CHENNAI

A report by the Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCUDC) has indicated that a majority of the beneficiaries of the World Bank-aided Madras Urban Development Project (MUDP) in slums in Chennai were yet to receive sale deeds for the land even four decades after the implementation of the project.

The report, released on World Habitat Day that fell on Monday, was based on the field study done by the organisation in 50 of the roughly 300 settlements where the MUDP was implemented in two phases between 1977 to 1987 with the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), formerly Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB), being the key implementing agency. Nearly 50,000 families were covered as part of the two phases of the MUDP project.

Regarded as a relatively successful model at the time of implementation with focus on in-situ development, the 'slum improvement scheme' component of the MUDP involved developing basic infrastructure in identified slum settlements and providing secure tenure (freehold titles) to the residents with the recovery of improvement costs done

Inordinate delay

Four decades on, many beneficiaries of the Madras Urban Development Project (MUDP) funded by World Bank in slum settlements in the city are yet to receive their sale deeds



through hire-purchase agreement.

Of the 50 settlements studied by IRCUDC, sale deeds, which will protect the land rights of the people, have not been provided to the families in 32 settlements.

The sale deeds have been provided to at least some of the families in the remaining 18 settlements. The inordinate delay is despite an order of the Madras High Court in 2012 directing the State government to ensure the execution of sale deeds for the families covered in the project, the report noted.

Despite being covered under the MUDP project, families in at least seven of these 32 settlements faced threats of

eviction as they were located near the Cooum river, the report said.

Land alienation

According to the report, a key problem is the excessive delay in the transfer of these lands by the landowning departments to the TNUHDB. The land, in many of these settlements, belonged to other departments like the Greater Chennai Corporation and the Public Works Department.

Vanessa Peter, founder, IRCUDC, said that a high-level committee should be formed to monitor the transfer of land to TNUHDB (wherever necessary) and to ensure the issuance of sale deeds to all these covered under the

MUDP project, irrespective of the present classification of the land. She said that Chennai District Habitat Committee can be a forum for discussing the issue, in coordination with the landowning departments.

Sources in the TNUHDB said that measures were being taken to expedite the process of issuing sale deeds in areas where the land has already been alienated to the board.

A senior official said that special camps were being arranged along with delegation of powers to speed up the process. The official added that recent developments regarding the reclassification of 'watercourse poramboke' land posed a problem in some places.

Sale deed evades residents for 35 yrs

Delay by various departments in transferring land ownership to TNUHDB cited as a reason

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @ Chennai

MORE than 60% of slum settlements under the Madras Urban Development Projects (MUDP), which ended over 35 years ago, are yet to get land tenure according to the recent random assessment of 50 settlements.

This is mainly due to the delay in transferring land ownership from various departments to the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) despite several government orders in this regard and a recent judgement to evict those near waterbodies.

The slum improvement scheme under MUDP I and II, funded by the World Bank, was implemented from 1977 to 1982 and 1982 to 1987 respectively. While the first project covered 24,862 families in 56 locations, the second one was to benefit 23,510 residents in 256 settlements across the State.

Subsequently, the state also implemented TN Urban Development Project I & II (TNUDP) from 1988 to 2003 in 690 settlements in 10 cities across the State, covering 84,000 families. Under these projects, the families had paid between ₹20,000 and ₹1 lakh together for land ownership and other facilities.

The performance audit report of the World Bank for both



The slum improvement scheme lasted from 1977 to 1987

MUDP projects states that the issuing of lease-cum-sale and land tenure for dwellers was very slow. It also stated that the provision of serviced urban land, transfer of land tenure and in situ improvement carried out under the project were cost-effective ways of meeting shelter needs.

While some lands were classified as objectionable after these projects were implemented, the Madras High Court in 2012 ordered in favour of the residents and asked the board to execute the sale deeds. In the assessment of the

MUDP projects by the Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCUDC), in 50 settlements developed under the projects, land titles are not available for 32 while full or partial titles were available for the rest.

While efforts are being taken by the residents, elected representatives, officials and associations in these areas to obtain the sale deeds, the main obstacle is the delay in the transfer of the land to the TNUHDB. Of the 50 settlements assessed, the land belonged to the Chennai Corporation in 29 places, tem-

ples in three, TNUHDB in four while the residents were not aware of the land-owning department in 16 places. A total of 120 scheme areas, covering 37,000 beneficiaries, taken up under the MUDP and TNUDP are classified as water sources. In 2019, TNUHDB cancelled allotments in one such settlement and gave back the money collected from the residents.

"To provide the sale deeds and resolve all issues related to it, it should be discussed in the Chennai District Habitat Committees for coordination between land-owning departments. A high-level committee should be formed to monitor the issue of transfer of land title to TNUHDB," said Vanessa Peter, founder of IRCUDC.

Officials from the TNUHDB said sale deeds were promised on a conditional basis that they would be provided if the land ownership is transferred to the board.

"At present, there are several issues in providing sale deeds even in areas that were given to the board. Like problems between the legal heirs and encroachment of additional land by the residents. In Chennai, we have devolved the powers to provide the sale deeds to the executive engineers," said a senior official.

POSTER A DAY INITIATIVE

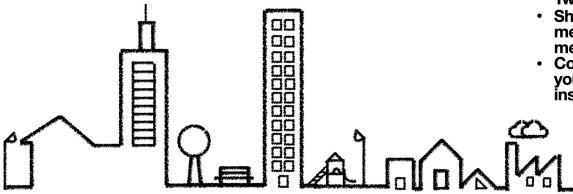
**31 AWARENESS POSTERS TO ADVOCATE FOR
LEGAL AND POLICY SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT
DEPRIVED URBAN COMMUNITIES FROM
ARBITRARY EVICTIONS AND REITERATE THE
NEED FOR ADOPTING AN INCLUSIVE CLIMATE
RESILIENT STRATEGY WITHOUT
DISPLACEMENT COMMUNITIES FROM THEIR
PLACES OF HABITATION**

POSTER TEMPLATE

To know more Ask our researchers

Join us to amplify the voices of the deprived urban communities

- Follow @ircduc on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter
- Share our 31 campaign messages as your social media status everyday
- Co-host events with us in your organisations/ institutions



Urban October Campaign



POSTER CONTENTS

Day	Theme	Content
Day 1	Urban October	Urban October is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of change in our cities and towns. The month begins with World Habitat Day on the first Monday of the month and ends with World Cities Day on 31 October.

Day 2	Legal and Policy Safeguards – Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy	The draft Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy was made available in the public domain for comments in October 2021. One year on, the policy is yet to be finalised by Government of Tamil Nadu
Day 3	Legal and Policy Safeguards – Definition of ‘Slums’	“Any area is or may be a source of danger to the health, safety, convenience of the public of that area or of its neighbourhood, by reason of the area being low-lying, insanitary, squalid, overcrowded or otherwise.” (Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1971. Need for adopting a sensitive definition upholding the dignity of the residents.
Day 4	Legal and Policy Safeguards – Urban Homeless	The ‘Tamil Nadu State Policy to Address the Needs of the Homeless Persons with Mental Health Issues’ is the only policy available. There is a need for framing a Comprehensive State Policy for the Urban Homeless to address the intersectional issues faced by families, individuals, elders, persons with disabilities, and transpersons in homeless situations.
Day 5	Legal and Policy Safeguards/ Rights of Children – Participation of children in urban governance	The Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children, 2021 and the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Ward Committee and Area Sabha) Rules, 2022 notified by Government on 24 June 2022 has no reference to formation of Bala Sabhas or ‘Siruvar Nagara Mandrams’ in urban areas. The inclusion of the voices of children in planning and development will help the Government efficiently address issues with a child-friendly perspectives.
Day 6	Legal and Policy Safeguards – Notification of ‘Slums’	After the Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1971 was passed, 1202 ‘slums’ were notified in Chennai. 17 more were added to the list in 1985. Since then, no new ‘slum’ has been officially recognised in the city.

Day 7	Legal and Policy Safeguards – Notification of ‘Slums’	Of the 100 ‘slums’ surveyed under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) only 87 ‘slums’ are not notified. Notification process of the 13 notified ‘Slums were carried out prior to 1992.
Day 8	Legal and Policy Safeguards – Notification of ‘Slums’	The absence of information about the status of notified ‘slums’ in the Slum Free Plans of Action (Rajiv Awas Yojana) for the cities of Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, and Vellore (Tamil Nadu) and the high prevalence of non-notified ‘slums’ in the other cities reveal the lack of importance given to the notification process.
Day 9	Legal and Policy Safeguards – Notification of ‘Slums’	In the city of Salem, none of the ‘slums’ surveyed under the Slum Free Plans of Action (Rajiv Awas Yojana) are notified.
Day 10	World Homeless Day	The World Homeless Day is observed every year on 10th October to draw attention to the needs of people who experience homelessness.
Day 11	Evictions in Chennai: Facts	96% of the evictions carried out in Chennai from 2015 to 2022 were carried out for ‘restoration of waterbodies’
Day 12	Evictions in Chennai: Facts	88% of the evictions carried out in Chennai from 2015 to 2022 were carried out in the middle of the academic year affecting children’s education.
Day 13	Evictions in Chennai: Facts	99% of the settlements evicted from 2015 to 2022 in Chennai were not issued legal notices prior to the eviction.
Day 14	Evictions in Chennai: Facts	In Chennai, 18,723 families (around 74,000 individuals) were evicted from 2015 to 2022.
Day 15	Evictions in Chennai: Facts	In the last two decades, 61,432 families (around 2,34,728 individuals) were evicted from Chennai and resettled in sites located in the peripheral areas of the city.

Day 16	International Guidelines: Forced Eviction	A forced eviction is defined as, “the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection.” - Article 3, General Comment 7 (‘Forced evictions’) of the UNCESCR.
Day 17	International Guidelines: Forced Eviction	Evictions shall not be carried out in a manner that violates the dignity and human rights to life and security of those affected. - United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development based Evictions and Displacement, 2007
Day 18	Demands for Upholding Human Rights of the Resettled Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake comprehensive and holistic human rights-based impact assessment in all the resettlement sites • Evolve site-specific development plans for all resettlement sites.
Day 19	Demands for Upholding Human Rights of the families facing eviction threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tamil Nadu Draft R&R Policy 2021 should be finalised with provisions upholding the principles of Social Justice. The Policy framework should include a human rights-based approach that is gender-inclusive, child-friendly, and facilitating an enabling environment for persons with disabilities and the elderly.
Day 20	Children & Resettlement	56% of the children from the resettlement sites of Perumbakkam, Navalur and Gudapakkam, travel more than 10 kilometres every day to access education. (IRCDUC, 2018)
Day 21	Children in Street Situations	54% of the children in street situation do not have access to anganwadi centres (Day Care Centres) - (IRCDUC, 2018)
Day 22	Children in Street Situations	There are 10,674 children in street situations in Tamil Nadu

Day 23	Women-headed households and Resettlement	44 per cent of the women-headed households have lost their livelihood after resettlement. (IRCDUC, 2020)
Day 24	Persons with Disabilities and Resettlement	40 per cent of persons with disabilities have lost their livelihood after resettlement. (IRCDUC, 2020)
Day 25	Domestic Workers and Resettlement	Of the women who lost livelihoods after Resettlement 50.2 per cent are domestic workers (IRCDUC, 2020)
Day 26	Women and Resettlement	Absence of adequate day care facilities for children and lack of safety in the site forces resettled women to stay at home and take care of their children. Lack of safety in the settlements results in restriction of mobility of women and children and increases the dependence on family members for their mobility. (IRCDUC, 2020)
Day 27	Women and Resettlement	In the resettlement site of Perumbakkam, Chennai women travel over 10 kilometres to access maternity care (IRCDUC, 2022)
Day 28	Disaster and Vulnerable Communities	The disaster management policies of Tamil Nadu should have specific interventions for the vulnerable communities and comply with, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters.

Day 29	Restoration of Water Bodies and Vulnerable Communities	Historically, marginalized communities settled near water bodies, as these were the only available lands that were neither in demand nor in possession of affluent communities. The trend of excluded and deprived communities settling on non-titled, government lands is directly linked to the process of historical marginalization that has prevailed in the state of Tamil Nadu and other parts of India. The act of forcibly dislocating marginalized and vulnerable families from their places of habitation to city margins, without exploring possibilities of relocation near their existing sites of residence, is an act of socio-spatial segregation.
Day 30	Restoration of Water Bodies and Vulnerable Communities	All conservation and restoration programmes and processes should include the active participation of poor and marginalized communities. They should be seen as contributors to the process, and not targeted and discriminated.
Day 31	World Cities Day	World Cities Day brings Urban October to an end on 31 October each year and was first celebrated in 2014. As with World Habitat Day, a global observance is held in a different city each year and the day focuses on a specific theme. This year's global observance is planned to take place on 31 October 2022 under the theme Act Local to Go Global.



ENSURE ENHANCED ACCESS TO SOCIAL ENTITLEMENTS BY CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH POLICY MAKERS

- * On World Homeless Day Observed on 10 October every year, IRCDUC took up a campaign to ensure access to social entitlements for the urban homeless. With support from students of two city colleges (Loyola College and Madras School of Social Work) health insurance scheme was availed for 18 individuals in homeless situations.
- * 372 individuals in homeless situations were identified and efforts are being taken to access social security measures applicable for workers engaged in informal sector of employment. This process was also supported by students of social work departments.



Entitlement Camps for persons in homeless situations



Students filling up the application forms for health insurance



Rights holders with their health insurance cards

URBAN OCTOBER CAMPAIGN IN THE MEDIA

* Policy needed to help homeless people lead dignified life in Tamil Nadu, The New Indian Express, 8 October 2022. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2022/oct/08/policy-needed-to-help-homeless-people-lead-dignified-life-in-tamil-nadu-2505878.html>

POLICY NEEDED TO HELP HOMELESS PEOPLE LEAD DIGNIFIED LIFE

In 2021, a 16-year old girl Kailaswari (name changed), who was living with her mother on the pavement in Broadway, Chennai, died of illness. The girl's mother, a single parent, has been living on the streets for over a decade because she could not afford a roof above their heads.

The police, while registering the girl's death, mentioned her name and noted that she had been "C/O (Care of Platform)" in the Accident Register. Apparently it has been the practice of the police to refer to people who died in homeless situations as "C/O Platform".

For the grieving mother who had raised her child despite all her difficulties, the usage of such an insensitive phrase was another blow. The term under-

mined all her struggles and sacrifices she had made for her daughter.

Kailaswari's mother was among the thousands of people across Tamil Nadu forced to reside on the streets for various reasons, including proximity to places of employment and sources of income.

FOOTNOTE

According to the Census 2011, there were 27,117 homeless people in Tamil Nadu, 16,682 of them living in Chennai. There were 4,022 homeless children in the 0-6 age group in TN as per the Census 2011.

mined all her struggles and sacrifices she had made for her daughter.

The GCC survey also revealed that 8% of the urban homeless population resided as families. While individuals in homeless situations could be accommodated in shelters run by government agencies, there is a need to provide housing facilities for families. Through the Tamil Nadu Affordable Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2020 recognised "right shelters" as a solution for the homeless. It does not prioritise housing units in the vicinity for growing up a secure environment.

For over a decade, families in homeless situations have been demanding housing near their places of livelihood. They have made several representations to

On shaky ground

According to the Census 2011, there were 3717 homeless people in Tamil Nadu, 16,682 of them living in Chennai. There were 4,022 homeless children in the 0-6 age group in TN as per the Census 2011.

the Government of Tamil Nadu and to the National Commission for Scheduled Caste seeking housing facilities. Earlier this year, the State government recognised the need for housing for 1,200 homeless families in North Chennai, but issues relating to payment of beneficiaries contribution (6% of the housing cost) remain unresolved.

At present, free housing for homeless families depends ex-

clusively on the funds available with the land-owning department or project implementation agency with which to bear the beneficiaries' cost. Hence, there is a need to evolve a policy decision on the payment of beneficiaries' cost, especially for vulnerable sections such as the urban homeless, women-headed households, the elderly, transpersons and persons with disabilities.

For thousands of homeless people, housing is not the only challenge. Even accessing basic identity documents and social entitlements like the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme is difficult. Despite availability of several progressive schemes and services in Tamil Nadu, access remains a

challenge as there is no policy to ensure synergy between different departments to facilitate the convergence of schemes.

Therefore, there is a pressing need to frame comprehensive policy guidelines in the State to ensure services such as housing, health, livelihood/entrepreneurship, education, social entitlements, and legal services under a unitary policy framework.

There are multiple days observed across the world in the month of October such

as the World Homeless Day on October 10 to ensure vulnerable groups are not left behind. This is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This October is yet another reminder for our policymakers to make our cities inclusive and safe by ensuring policy safeguards for the vulnerable sections.

Footnote is a weekly column that discusses issues relating to Tamil Nadu



Venkatesh Peter is the founder of Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities, Chennai and Prof. Anuroop Stephen is the Head of the Department of Social Entrepreneurship, Madras School of Social Work, Chennai

* How flawed eviction and resettlement are triggering child marriages in Chennai, Citizens Matters, 4 November 2022, <https://chennai.citizenmatters.in/child-marriages-in-chennai-resettlement-areas-evictions-school-dropouts-girl-child-protection-53551>

ABOUT US

Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) is a community-centric information and resource hub for the urban communities located in Chennai, India. Since 2011, IRCDUC has evolved as platform to enhance capacities of communities, facilitate community-led initiatives, information about laws and policies, and undertake policy researches related to land and housing of the deprived urban communities.

Contact us for more information: <https://ircduc.org/contact-us>