

FORCED TO THE FRINGES

REPORT
2

Disasters of 'Resettlement' in India

KANNAGI NAGAR, CHENNAI



Information and Resource
Centre for the Deprived Urban
Communities



HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK
Habitat International Coalition – South Asia

Title and Suggested Citation

Forced to the Fringes: Disasters of 'Resettlement' in India. Report Two: Kannagi Nagar, Chennai.
Housing and Land Rights Network (New Delhi: 2014).

New Delhi, June 2014

ISBN: 978-81-902569-6-4

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Cover: Shivani Chaudhry

Inside: Vanessa Peter and Shivani Chaudhry

Design and Printing

Aspire Design, New Delhi

Published by

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)

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REPORT TWO: **KANNAGI NAGAR, CHENNAI**



Information and Resource Centre
for the Deprived Urban Communities



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List of Acronyms / Abbreviations

BSUP	Basic Services for the Urban Poor	No.	Number
CBOs	Community-based Organizations	NOC	No Objection Certificate
CCTV	Closed Circuit Televisions	NUHHP	National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy
CD	Community Development	NULM	National Urban Livelihood Mission
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	NGOs	Non-government Organizations
CWC	Child Welfare Committee	NRRP	National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	OBC	Other Backward Classes
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	PDS	Public Distribution System
ETRP	Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project	PWD	Public Works Department
EWS	Economically Weaker Sections	RAY	Rajiv Awas Yojana
GoTN	Government of Tamil Nadu	R & R	Resettlement and Rehabilitation
G.O.	Government Order	Rs	Rupees (Indian)
HLRN	Housing and Land Rights Network	SC	Scheduled Castes
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services	SCSTEDS	Slum Children Sports Talent Education Development Society
INR	Indian Rupee	SIA	Social Impact Assessment
IRCDUC	Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities	SHGs	Self Help Groups
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission	ST	Scheduled Tribes
LIG	Low Income Groups	SUHHP	State Urban Housing and Habitat Policy
MD	Managing Director	TN	Tamil Nadu
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly	TNUDP	Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project
MoHUPA	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	TNULM	Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission
MRTS	Mass Rapid Transit System	TNSCB	Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board
MUDP	Madras Urban Development Project	ULB	Urban Local Body
		UN	United Nations

Executive Summary

Introduction

Kannagi Nagar, one of the largest resettlement sites in India, is located in Okkiyum Thoraipakkam Town Panchayat, Kanchipuram District, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. From an initial size of 3,000 houses in the year 2000, the settlement of Kannagi Nagar has steadily grown, in a phased manner, to 15,656 constructed and occupied houses, and is still under expansion and construction. An additional 2,048 tenements also have been completed under the Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project (ETRP) and another 6,000 houses are now under construction under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) and Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) conducted a human rights research study in Kannagi Nagar in order to identify the gaps in the resettlement process; to assess and analyse the living conditions at the resettlement site as well as the preceding process of forced eviction; and, to propose recommendations to improve conditions and enable residents to realise their human rights. The study consisted of a combination of primary data collection and secondary research. Data was collected through a survey administered to a sample size of 300 households, consisting of 1,243 people.

Major Findings of the Study

I. Socio-economic Profile of the Respondents

Among the respondents, 32% were men, 35% women, 17% boys, and 16% were girls. Almost 77.6% of the respondents are dalits and 22.4% of them belong to Other Backward Classes (OBC). Forty-six per cent of the respondents are illiterate; 49.6% have completed high school and 4.4% have college education. Thirteen percent of children in the age group of 6-14 years are out of school and 35% of the children in the age group of 15-18 years are school dropouts. The study also reveals that 76% of the respondents have four or more members in their household.

II. The Eviction Process

The study uses the human rights standards provided in the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Resettlement (2007) to analyse the process of eviction that led to families being resettled in Kannagi Nagar. The study reveals the following findings with regard to the three stages of the eviction process: before, during and after.

Prior to Evictions

Lack of notice: Only 40.6% of the respondents received legal notices of the eviction. Others received only verbal information from the officials. Most families thus had very little time to collect their belongings before the state demolished their homes. Where notices were given, they did not explain the reason for the eviction.

Absence of information, consultation, and public hearings: Of those surveyed for this study, 92.6% stated that they were neither consulted about the process nor was their opinion heard. The study finds that 97.3% of the respondents did not receive any details about the proposed resettlement plans. The state did not conduct any public hearings to discuss the proposed relocation or to provide affected persons with an opportunity to present their views.

During Evictions

Absence of neutral observers: The respondents mentioned that no neutral observers were present at any of the sites during the eviction process. Only police officials, politicians and officials of the land-owning department were present at the eviction site during the eviction.

Inappropriate timing of the eviction: Thirty-eight per cent of the evictions were carried out during the mid-academic year while 14% of the evictions occurred during the monsoons – in violation of the UN Guidelines. Thus, all the residents, especially the children, suffered greatly during the eviction process.

Loss of property and possessions: Ninety-one per cent of respondents reported losing property and possessions, as they were not provided adequate time to salvage their belongings from their homes before the eviction/demolition. Almost 11% of the respondents lost vital documents and identity cards during the eviction process.

Forceful demolition and relocation: The survey reveals that 31.66% of the respondents' houses were demolished by force. In addition, 89.66% of the respondents claimed that they were made to relocate to Kannagi Nagar against their will. Their signatures for consent were allegedly procured by the Slum Board under the guise of collecting signatures for determining 'eligibility' for housing, but not for relocation.

After Evictions

Lack of immediate relief: The state did not provide relief, including food, medical services, and other amenities, to any of the evicted families. Around 7% of the respondents were not provided with alternative housing immediately after the eviction but were made to wait for about a week before they were provided housing. Around 80% of the respondents lost their employment immediately after the relocation because of the increased distance of Kannagi Nagar from their places of work.

Gross violations of human rights: The survey process and group discussions with residents of Kannagi Nagar reveal gross violations of their human rights, including their human right to adequate housing, food, water, education, health, work / livelihood and security of the person and home.

Remedies for Forced Evictions

The Tamil Nadu government has not provided any compensation to any of the evicted families for the loss of property and personal belongings or for lost educational and work opportunities and income. The resettlement provided in Kannagi Nagar, as highlighted by this study, is grossly inadequate.

III. Housing and Living Conditions in Kannagi Nagar

The study uses the elements of ‘adequacy of housing’ expounded in General Comment 4, ‘The Right to Adequate Housing’ of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1991) to assess the housing and living conditions of families in Kannagi Nagar.

- a. Legal security of tenure:** The government has not provided long-term legal security of tenure in the form of sale deeds over housing and land to any of the residents. The flats in Kannagi Nagar have been given under the ‘Hire Purchase Scheme’ of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB), which provides residents with an ‘allotment order’ for which they have to pay Rs 150 to Rs 250 on a monthly basis for a period of 20 years. These allotment orders are subject to cancellation on various conditions, including non-payment of monthly dues. At the end of 20 years, residents have been promised ‘sale deeds’ over the flats, but these will also not provide complete security of tenure.
- b. Access to basic services:** The site has 19 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres that meet the needs of only 410 children. According to the population size of the site, which is 15,656 houses consisting of around 4,900 children between 0-6 years, it should have 80-90 ICDS centres. The existing schools cater to only 2,000 of an estimated total number of 22,000 children in the settlement. After the relocation, 98.3% of the respondents reported that they have to access healthcare from private agencies/actors because of the non-availability of government healthcare facilities within the settlement. The houses do not have piped water connections. Women complained of the burden of collecting water for their households from public taps. The quality of water supplied to the settlement is also a serious issue of concern, as certain areas reported receiving contaminated water. The site lacks adequate sanitation services, and residents complained of stagnation of sewage water and piles of garbage in various places.
- c. Affordability:** Each relocated family in Kannagi Nagar has to pay Rs 150 or Rs 250 per month for a period of 20 years in order to receive a ‘sale deed’ over their flat. This works out to a total of between Rs 36,000 and Rs 60,000 for each flat, which is very expensive for the families, especially since their annual income is not high and also since many of them lost their jobs as a result of the relocation.
- d. Accessibility:** The accommodation consists of flats in three-storey structures. Thus, accessibility for persons with disabilities, older persons, pregnant women, young children, and women who need to carry water to the higher floors, is a serious issue of concern.
- e. Habitability:** The size of the flats that people received ranges from 195 square feet to 310 square feet, which is too small for each family to live comfortably and to store their belongings. Since most of the households have at least four members in the family, the size as well as the design of the house is inadequate for the habitation of family members. The house has no separate room; it has a ‘multi-purpose hall’ with a small divider for a kitchen and a separate toilet cum bathroom. The lack of space has resulted in home-based workers losing their livelihoods. The houses also do not have adequate ventilation and the kitchens are not conducive for cooking.

- f. **Location:** The site is far from the original places of habitation of the communities (between 15-25 kilometres). Many people thus lost their employment immediately after the relocation. Higher education institutions, hospitals, and PDS shops are also located very far from the site. Relocation has been the major reason for 35% of children in the age group of 15-18 years to drop out of school. According to the study, 42% of children are forced to commute long distances by bus to their schools, which are located close to their original sites of habitation in the city. Around seventy-three per cent of the respondents reported travelling between five to ten kilometres to work, on a daily basis. While transportation facilities have improved, it is expensive for the residents of Kannagi Nagar to commute to central Chennai and to their former places of education and work. Relocation of fishing communities far from the coast has completely altered their lifestyle, including their food habits and nutritional intake.
- g. **Cultural adequacy:** The government constructed the houses and the resettlement site without any consultation with the affected communities. The specific cultural needs of different communities, including fishing communities, thus, were not taken into account.

The study also used the additional elements to determine adequacy of housing at the resettlement site:

- h. **Physical security and freedom from violence against women:** All respondents stated that the site is not safe for women and girl children. A few incidents of violence against women have been reported. Mothers are afraid to leave their young daughters alone and hence take them along with to work. This has resulted in many girl children having to drop out of school and has also triggered the phenomenon of early marriages of girls. There is also no women's police station within the settlement.
- i. **Participation and information:** The study reveals that 92.6% of the respondents were neither consulted about the resettlement nor was their opinion heard.
- j. **Resettlement, restitution and compensation:** Respondents reported that the government has not provided compensation to any of the affected families for land, housing and common property resources that they lost during the eviction and relocation.

Compliance with State and National Laws and Policies

The provisions of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (2007) have been violated during the resettlement process in Kannagi Nagar. The Policy requires states to follow certain steps to be taken prior to evictions, including the preparation of a social impact assessment report, but in the case of Kannagi Nagar, this was not done. An environmental and social impact assessment report was prepared only for the 5,166 houses constructed under the World Bank ETRP, by a private firm named IL&FS Ecosmart Ltd. The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (2007) calls for state governments to prepare a State Urban Housing and Habitat Policy but the Government of Tamil Nadu has not followed these directions.

The eviction and resettlement process also reveals violations of the Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act (1971). This study highlights that most of the settlements evicted and relocated to Kannagi Nagar were not 'declared' and thus TNSCB has violated this Act. Tamil Nadu does not have a state resettlement and rehabilitation policy; resettlement is either project-based or department-oriented. There is thus a lack of state accountability regarding resettlement.

Recommendations

The report makes detailed recommendations for different departments and agencies of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Some of the major recommendations are presented below.

Recommendations for the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board

- Finalise and make public the findings of its study of the resettlement sites of Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery, and officially incorporate the findings in the future planning of its work.
- Strengthen the Community Development Wing of the TNSCB and ensure that it has a comprehensive development plan for Kannagi Nagar.
- Waive pending payments to be made by the community under the 'Hire Purchase Scheme,' issue sale deeds for all flats in Kannagi Nagar, and ensure that houses are provided free of cost to the people.
- Ensure that the various benefits made available under the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM) as well as other schemes, including ICDS and the National Urban Health Mission, are made available at all resettlement sites.

Recommendations for the Corporation of Chennai

- Ensure that the implementation of the various plans that exist for Kannagi Nagar are expedited, especially those related to the provision of medical services and schools.
- Clear stagnant sewage water and garbage in the site, and take steps to prevent future water logging.
- Increase the number of schools and upgrade the existing Corporation Schools.
- Establish well-maintained playgrounds with adequate play facilities.
- Conduct specialised medical camps, through the Health Department, in schools, ICDS centres, and other areas to monitor malnourishment among children.

Recommendations for the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board

- Undertake regular monitoring visits to the site and regularly test the water in order to ensure improved water quality and services.
- Ensure that the water pumps in the settlement are cleaned on a regular basis.

Recommendations for the Tamil Nadu Police

- Remove all Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) from the settlement, as residents feel that they contribute to the perception that the settlement is 'crime-prone.'
- Establish an exclusive women's police station within Kannagi Nagar.

Recommendations for the Department of Social Welfare

- Create additional ICDS centres in Kannagi Nagar and requisition the land from TNSCB for their construction.

Recommendations for the Department of School Education

- Bring schools under the administrative purview of the Corporation of Chennai.
- Conduct a specific survey to identify dropout in coordination with the community-based organizations (CBOs) in the area.

- Institutionalise non-formal education for school dropouts.
- Establish new schools, including special residential schools for orphans and other vulnerable children in the settlement.

The state government should also take immediate measures to ensure that adequate compensation for actual losses incurred is given to all evicted and relocated communities on a priority basis, and that reparations are provided for the gross human rights violations inflicted by the state government on all families in Kannagi Nagar.

Conclusion

A close examination of the various issues in the resettlement site of Kannagi Nagar reveals that the state has treated the urban poor as experimental subjects, and has forced them out of the city to a distant uninhabitable site without understanding the adverse and long-term socio-economic impacts of the resettlement process and the multiple human rights violations.

About 21,000 households have already been resettled in Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery. Another 31,912 households will be evicted and shifted to the settlement of Perumbakkam and to Kannagi Nagar. Over 52,000 households in total will have been evicted from their original places of habitation in Chennai and relocated to these large resettlement colonies. This is a deliberate act of dispossession and 'ghettoisation' of deprived urban communities. This study documents the suffering and human rights violations faced by the residents of Kannagi Nagar during the eviction and resettlement processes and at the resettlement site as well. This report is an appeal for justice for those who are evicted and forgotten by the state, and calls for an urgent attention from the state to improve living conditions in Kannagi Nagar and to prevent the creation of such sites in the future.

CHAPTER I

Introduction

In the year 2010, the Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department, Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN), in reference to the *en masse* housing programme in Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery,¹ had clearly pointed out that, “This kind of concentration of slum population in one place is not desirable and that future programmes should ensure that they are more distributed and there is mixed development.” He requested that smaller plots of land should be provided to the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) for rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) schemes at different places for this purpose. The Managing Director (MD), TNSCB also stated that when such huge resettlement projects are taken up, “There is a need for service delivery; otherwise it brings a bad name to the government as well as renders the entire process in-fructuous given that these people are the most disadvantaged sections who have been deprived of their livelihood and also have been moved out of their homes within the city.”²

To address the various gaps in these housing programmes, the Chief Secretary to the Government, in a meeting dated 1 March 2010, had commissioned the formation of a high level committee,³ to prepare a policy / set of guidelines / norms to be followed whenever a rehabilitation and resettlement scheme comprising around 5,000 households is to be provided. He stated, “Given that there are more than 5,000 households (25,000 population), all the facilities necessary / infrastructure, funding, staffing, operation and management issues related to this and delivery of services by the local bodies and all other departments should be included as part of the package, and the committee should come up with a set of norms for this purpose.”

Despite having established a high level committee in the year 2011 to formulate a policy, there is still no clear policy or guidelines at the state level to govern rehabilitation and resettlement in Tamil Nadu. The current resettlement and rehabilitation practices of the government are diverse in nature; they are either project-based or department oriented. Despite the fact that GoTN is aware of the gaps in the *en masse* housing programmes (including deprivation of livelihood, as stated by the MD of TNSCB), there are plans for constructing 44,870 tenements at a cost of Rs 2431.16 crore⁴ as “Integrated Townships” in the

1 Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery are massive housing programmes initiated by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board to resettle residents of informal settlements living in “objectionable locations” in Chennai. Earlier these settlements were located in Kanchipuram District and after the expansion of the Corporation of Chennai they are now located in Zone XIV of the Corporation of Chennai.

2 Minutes of the meeting held by the Chief Secretary to the Government, in the Chief Secretary’s Conference Hall, at 3:30 pm on 1.03.2010. The meeting was about infrastructure facilities to be provided in Okkiyum Thoraipakkam, Semmenchery and Perumbakkam by TNSCB.

3 The committee was officially formulated by Government Order (MS) No. 117; dated: 26.08.2011, Housing and Urban Development (SC 1 (2)) Department.

4 A crore is a unit in the South Asian numbering system that is equal to ten million. The Indian Rupee (INR) is written as Rs.

mega cities—namely Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore—to resettle families living in “objectionable locations” under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).⁵

The details of the housing projects in the various cities of Tamil Nadu are as follows:

INTEGRATED TOWNSHIPS UNDER JNNURM

City	Location	Number of Tenements	Project Cost (In Crore Rupees)
Chennai	Ezhil Nagar Okkiyum Thoraipakkam	6,000	228.6
	Ezhil Nagar Perumbakkam	3,936	175.35
	Perumbakkam Phase I	10,452	686.03
	Perumbakkam Phase II	9,476	685.62
	Total	29,864	1,775.6
Coimbatore	Ukkadam Phase I	2,232	118.48
	Ukkadam Phase II	816	30.45
	Amman Kulam	792	23.44
	Ukkadam Phase III	9,600	435.43
	Total	13,440	607.8
Madurai	Periyar Nagar - Rajakkur	1,566	47.76
	Total	1,566	47.76
Grand Total		44,870	2,431.16

TNSCB has planned to complete the construction of 16,856 tenements for Rs 913.6 crore in Chennai, and to commence the construction of an additional 11,816 tenements for Rs 639.06 crore in 2013-2014. In addition, the construction of 2,048 tenements at a cost of Rs 106.11 crore is near completion at Okkiyum Thoraipakkam, while 3,616 tenements at a cost of Rs 132.99 crore have been constructed at the All India Radio site, under the World Bank-funded Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project (ETRP).

The above-mentioned projects planned by TNSCB are located around 10 to 25 kilometres from the original places of habitation of the communities, without considering the fact that the livelihoods of these communities are location-centric and, therefore, living in these distant sites is not viable for them. The Master Plan for Chennai clearly mentions that 78.47% of those living in informal settlements walk to their work place, 5.52% use cycles and 15.76% use buses or trains for commuting to their work place, clearly indicating the integral linkage of the place of habitation to that of livelihood and survival.

With the government constructing a growing number of large-scale sites with no Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy in place, there is an emerging need to document the process of resettlement in order to learn from past experiences and to take action in order to safeguard the human rights of displaced and relocated communities. *Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities* (IRCDUC),⁶ Chennai, and *Housing and Land Rights Network* (HLRN),⁷ Delhi, conducted a human rights research study in Kannagi Nagar—the largest of the existing resettlement housing projects in Tamil Nadu comprising of 15,656 houses—in order to identify the gaps in the resettlement process; to assess and analyse the living conditions at the resettlement site; and, to explore solutions and propose recommendations.

5 Policy Note 2013-2014, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. Available at: http://cms.tn.gov.in/sites/default/files/documents/housing_5.pdf

6 IRCDUC is a consortium of community-based groups and people from various walks of life trying to assert the rights of urban deprived communities. Its primary objective is to enhance the capacities of deprived urban communities by collecting, collating and disseminating information on various laws and policies related to adequate housing.

7 Housing and Land Rights Network (www.hic-sarp.org) is based in New Delhi, and is an integral part of the Habitat International Coalition. It works to promote the human rights to adequate housing and land, and related rights.

The report uses the ‘human right to adequate housing’ framework provided by Article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;⁸ General Comment 4 (‘The right to adequate housing’) of the United Nations (UN) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and, the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement⁹ to analyse the resettlement process undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) and to monitor its international legal obligations. This report also assesses the implementation of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (NRRP) 2007 in Tamil Nadu, as this was the only policy dealing with rehabilitation and resettlement during the construction of Kannagi Nagar and the process of relocation of its residents. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 only came into force on 1 January 2014. While the Act contains provisions for compensation and resettlement when land is acquired by the state for ‘public purpose’ projects, it does not provide for urban dwellers who are evicted from state land or other land that they do not own.

This report also identifies various efforts undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu, non-government organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) towards improving the standard of living in Kannagi Nagar, and makes recommendations towards ensuring the realisation of the human rights of the displaced and deprived communities, in particular their human right to adequate housing.

8 Article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) guarantees the human right to adequate housing. The human right to adequate housing is further elaborated by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in its General Comment 4, ‘The right to adequate housing,’ 1991.

9 The UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement were formally adopted in December 2007 by the UN Human Rights Council. They were presented in the 2007 report (A/HRC/4/18) of the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Miloon Kothari, and were developed with the objective to assist states and the international community in developing policies and legislation to address forced evictions. Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/Guidelines_en.pdf



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CHAPTER II

Kannagi Nagar: The Site under Study

Kannagi Nagar, one of the largest resettlement sites in India, is located on Old Mahaballipuram Road, in Okkiyum Thoraipakkam Town Panchayat, Kanchipuram District. Since November 2011, this settlement is part of Division 195 of Zone XV, under the extended areas of the Corporation of Chennai. Kannagi Nagar was built in a phased manner from the year 2000 (when 3,000 houses were first constructed), and is still under expansion and construction.

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF THE RESETTLEMENT SITE OF KANNAGI NAGAR

Name of the Scheme	Number of Houses Constructed in Kannagi Nagar
Flood Alleviation Programme ¹⁰	3,000 houses (Rs 26.23 crore)
Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Families living in "Objectionable Areas" in Chennai City – Special Problem Grant, Tenth Finance Commission of the Government of India ¹¹	6,500 houses (Rs 54 crore)
Eleventh Finance Commission, Special Problem Grant – Resettlement of Slums Living in Mega Cities ¹²	1,620 houses (Rs 6.32 crore)
Chennai Metropolitan Area Infrastructure Development Plan ¹³	3,618 houses (Rs 67.13 crore)
Permanent Housing for the Seashore Fisher People/ Families affected by the Tsunami Disaster – 2004 ¹⁴	1,271 built houses purchased

From an initial size of 3,000 houses, the settlement of Kannagi Nagar has steadily grown, in a phased manner, to 15,656 constructed and occupied houses. An additional 2,048 tenements also have been completed under ETRP and another 6,000 houses are now under construction under JNNURM.

10 The Flood Alleviation Programme was designed for construction of houses for families living on the river margins and posing hindrance to the de-silting works. TNSCB and the Public Works Department (PWD) have jointly identified 33,313 families who are living on the river margins to be provided houses at alternative locations.

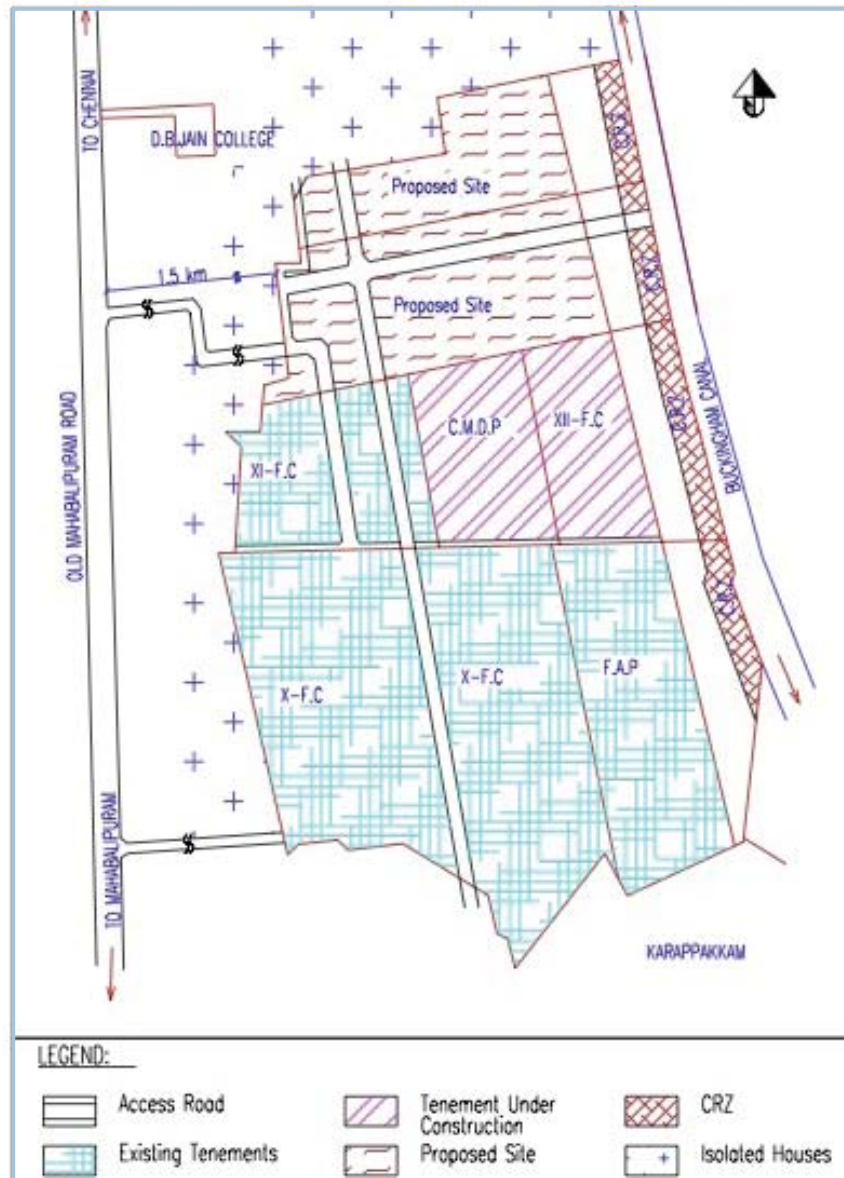
11 TNSCB obtained a 'special problem grant' of Rs 54 crore from the Tenth Finance Commission for the improvement of urban settlements in Chennai and for the alignment of the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) Phase II. "Demand No. 25, Policy Note 2003- 2004," Housing and Urban Development, Government of Tamil Nadu: 7-9.

12 In Okkiyum Thoraipakkam 1,620 tenements were constructed for families living in Thideer Nagar, near Marina Beach in Chennai.

13 In order to resettle the 25,149 families living on the river margins in Chennai City, TNSCB proposed to construct 5,164 tenements (having a plinth area of 21 square metres each) at a total cost of Rs 67.13 crore. Of these houses, 1,404 were constructed in Semmenchery and 3,618 in Kannagi Nagar.

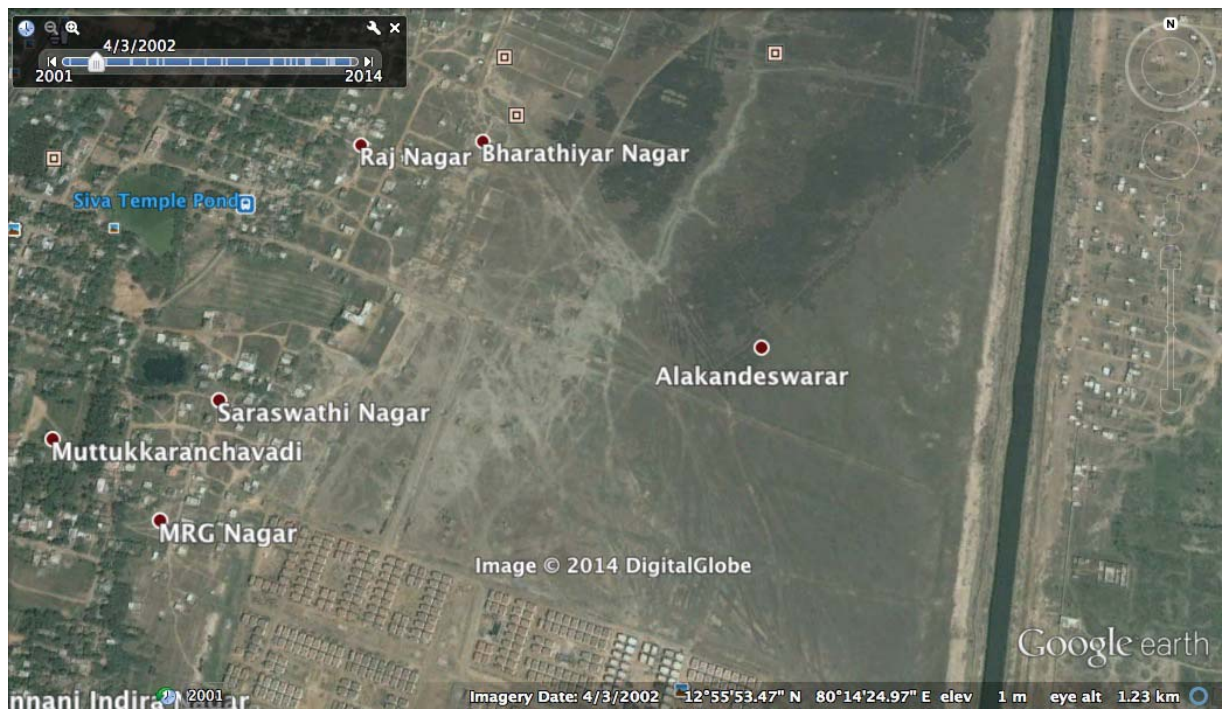
14 "Update on the tsunami related activities in Tamil Nadu as on 31-12-2009," Government of Tamil Nadu, 2009. Available at: <http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tsunami-relief.pdf>

SITE MAP OF KANNAGI NAGAR



IMAGES OF KANNAGI NAGAR BETWEEN 2002 AND 2014

2002



2006



2010



2014



CHAPTER III

The Study Process and Methodology

This research study has been designed with a community-centric approach. The data was collected by a community-based organization called *Kannagi Nagar Pothu Nalla Sangam* (Kannagi Nagar Residents' Welfare Association) supported by youth from settlements in north Chennai and organised by *Slum Children Sports Talent Education Development Society* (SCSTEDS). Youngsters from the settlements in Chennai were involved in the process to help them gain a better understanding of the situation in the resettlement sites, thereby also enabling them to advocate directly for their human right to adequate housing.

Pre-Research Preparatory Work

The research team of IRCDUC along with the *Kannagi Nagar Pothu Nalla Sangam* undertook the task of collating various evidential facts, including government data available in the public domain and information acquired through the Right to Information Act 2005 and media sources, in order to gain a holistic understanding of the resettlement process. The team of researchers also visited Kannagi Nagar to interview the relocated residents and assess the situation on the ground.

The questionnaire for the study was designed by *Housing and Land Rights Network* (HLRN) and uses the human right to adequate housing framework, in particular the elements of 'adequate housing' as expounded in General Comment 4 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁵ and further expanded by the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing and HLRN. The questionnaire is also based on the operative procedures and human rights standards set by the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement. As HLRN has conducted similar studies in resettlement sites in Delhi and Mumbai, a common questionnaire was used. It was, however, slightly modified to incorporate specific issues related to the local context, which emerged from discussions of the research team with the community-based organization.

15 General Comment 4, 'The right to adequate housing,' of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1991. Available at: [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/469f4d91a9378221c12563ed0053547e?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/469f4d91a9378221c12563ed0053547e?Opendocument)

Methodology

The sample size of this study is 300 respondents. The random sampling method was used to identify and interview members of the community. The research team also ensured that residents relocated from various areas in Chennai, at different periods of time and under various projects, were included in the sample to ensure a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the process of resettlement undertaken by GoTN.

The details of the areas from where the respondents were relocated are provided below:

	Name of the Area	Number of Families Surveyed
1.	Chetpet / Nungambakkam / Kilpauk / Ayanavaram	31
2.	Triplicane / Saidapet / Teynampet	48
3.	Srinivasapuram / Doming Kuppam (Tsunami Affected)	102
4.	Mylapore / Adayar	53
5.	Pudhupet / Chintadripet	66
	Total	300

A team of enumerators from the communities (trained exclusively for this purpose) conducted door-to-door household surveys. SPSS software was used to compile and analyse the data.

The members of the research team also carried out house visits and interacted with the resettled communities and the urban local body (ULB) to understand and document the living conditions of the people in Kannagi Nagar. Focus group discussions were conducted with men, women, youth and children at the resettlement site. The study team also interacted with elected representatives of the area, the findings of which are presented in this report.

CHAPTER IV

Findings and Analysis

Profile of the Population

TOTAL POPULATION OF 300 HOUSEHOLDS

	Particulars	Total Population	Percentage
1.	Men	397	32%
2.	Women	433	35%
3.	Children (Boys)	211	17%
4.	Children (Girls)	202	16%
	Total	1,243	100%

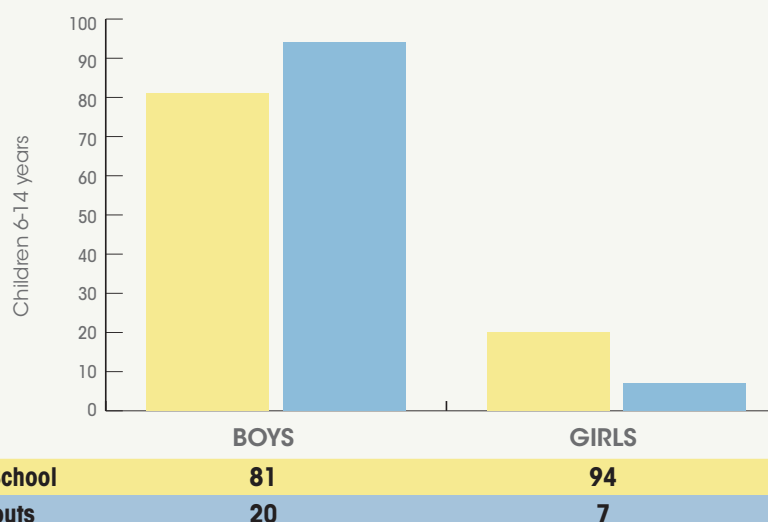
The study reveals that 77.6% of the respondents are dalits and 22.4% belong to Other Backward Classes (OBC). Forty-six per cent of the respondents are illiterate, 49.6% have completed high school, and 4.4% have a college education.

AGE-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE CHILDREN

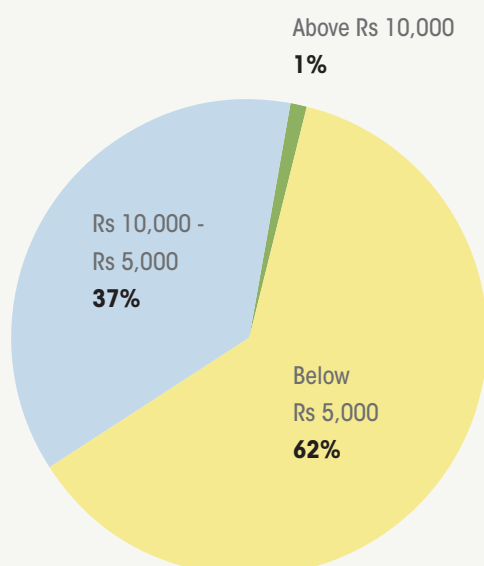
18-15 years		14-6 years		0-6 years	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
58	55	101	101	52	46
Total Boys		211			
Total Girls		202			
Total Children		413			

One of the important findings of the study with regard to the human right to education of children is that 13% of children in the age group of 6-14 years are out of school. It is also a fact that 74% of the school dropouts of this age group are boys. Twenty per cent of the boys of this age group are out of school and 7% of the girls of this age group are out of school. Discussions with parents reveal that the boys of this age group drop out of school because they are either supporting their families by working or are into substance abuse. The school dropout rate has increased by 30% since the families were relocated to Kannagi Nagar.

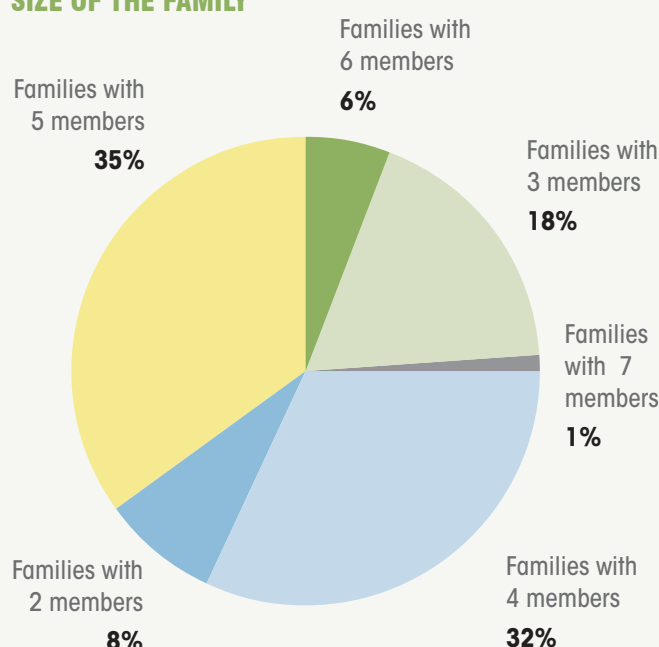
EDUCATION STATUS OF CHILDREN IN THE AGE GROUP OF 6-14 YEARS



MONTHLY FAMILY INCOME



SIZE OF THE FAMILY



An alarming finding of this study is that 35% of children in the age group of 15-18 years are school dropouts. Sixty-seven per cent of the total school dropouts of this age group are boys. Forty-five per cent of the boys of this age group are out of school, while for girls, the figure is 24%. The number of children discontinuing their education increases as they enter adolescence; however, the rate of drop out among boys is significant.

The study reveals that the family income of 62% of the respondents is less than Rs 5,000 per month. About 92.3% these families are predominantly involved in the unorganised sector. The family income of 37% of the respondents ranges from Rs 5,000 to 10,000. This includes some people in the settlement who provide housekeeping services with private firms.

According to the study, only 26% of families interviewed have less than four members. Thirty-two per cent of the families have four members, 35% have five members, 6% have six members, and 1% has seven

members in the family. The study highlights that 76% of the respondents have four or more members in their family.

Discussions with the residents of Kannagi Nagar highlight that the size as well as the design of the house is inadequate for the habitation of family members. The house has no separate room; it has a ‘multi-purpose hall’ with a small divider for a kitchen and a separate toilet cum bathroom. The size of the houses (inclusive of the common space allotted per house) that were constructed initially in Kannagi Nagar was 195 square feet. Later it was increased to 235 square feet, and now under JNNURM, the newly constructed houses are 310 square feet. According to the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (NRRP) 2007, however, “Each affected below poverty line family, which is without homestead land and which has been residing in the affected area continuously for a period of not less than three years preceding the date of declaration of the affected area and which has been involuntarily displaced from such area, shall be entitled to a house of minimum one hundred square metre carpet areas in rural areas, or fifty square metre (538 square feet) carpet area in urban areas (which may be offered, where applicable, in a multi-storied building complex), as may be, in the resettlement area.”

The report of the ‘Task Force on Affordable Housing for All,’ (December 2008) visualises the average size of the household as five members and recommends that the size of houses for Economically Weaker Sections / Low Income Groups (EWS / LIG) should be between 300-600 square feet. The recently passed Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, also states that, “If a house is lost in urban areas, a constructed house shall be provided, which will not be less than 50 square metres in plinth area.”

The inadequate size as well as the inappropriate design of the houses provided in Kannagi Nagar makes the houses inhabitable for the residents. As there is no separate room in the housing provided, parents and children have to lead a restricted life in the ‘multi-purpose hall’ which provides no privacy for women and girl children. Though houses constructed under JNNURM have provisions for the construction of a separate room, the size of these houses has not increased in proportion to the average size of the family.

I. Adherence to the United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement (2007)

a) Fulfillment of the Obligations of the State and Duty Bearers

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
Any eviction must be authorized by law, carried out in accordance to human rights laws and in accordance to the present guidelines (Paragraph 21)	According to this study, only 40.6% of the respondents received legal notices of the eviction. (Legal notices were not issued separately to the individuals but to the entire community.) The others reported receiving only verbal information from officials of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board who had come to the area for the purpose of enumerating families.

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
<p>States must adopt legislative and policy measures prohibiting the execution of evictions that are not in conformity with their international human rights obligations (Paragraph 22)</p>	<p>There is no resettlement and rehabilitation policy in Tamil Nadu; the resettlement is either project-based or department-oriented.</p> <p>At the national level, the policy that relates to housing is the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (NUHHP) 2007, which states that, "The State Government would (in consultation with the Urban Local Bodies) prepare the State Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (SUHHP) and take all necessary steps for implementation of the same." The NUHHP also mentions that, "Plan funds and other assistance for housing and infrastructure would be dovetailed according to the Action Plan prepared and adopted by the States under their SUHHP. This would bring about synergies in the operation of various schemes and funding sources." In the State of Tamil Nadu, there is still no SUHHP in place.</p>
<p>States should take immediate measures aimed at conferring legal security of land tenure upon those persons, households and communities lacking such protection, including all those who do not have formal titles to home or land (Paragraph 25)</p>	<p>The government has failed to provide legal security of land tenure to the residents of Kannagi Nagar, even in the post-rehabilitation phase. A detailed analysis of the housing allotment order provided to residents of Kannagi Nagar provides the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who were resettled prior to 2003 have to pay Rs 150 for 20 years to enjoy complete ownership, while those resettled after 2003 have to pay Rs 250 for 20 years under the 'Hire Purchase Scheme.' • The amount has to be paid before the tenth of every month, and if the person fails to pay the monthly installment, then TNSCB is authorised to levy a late fee. If the person fails to pay the monthly installment consecutively for three months, TNSCB can cancel the allotment without providing prior information. Furthermore, it has the authority not to refund the previous monthly installment/s paid. • The beneficiaries are not permitted to sell, rent or allow another party to occupy the house, or use the house for any other purpose. If they do so, the allotment will be cancelled without any prior information. They can also be imprisoned for three years and charged a fine of Rs 1,000 under the Tamil Nadu Slum Act (1971). Furthermore, the beneficiaries and their family members will be declared by TNSCB as ineligible for any other housing scheme. • The allotment order can be cancelled if the occupant extends or modifies the house or fails to maintain the house properly and keep the surroundings clean. • The various clauses (mentioned above) in the allotment orders do not ensure security of land tenure for families who are deprived of their right to live in cities and forced to live in sites with no legal safeguard to their houses. The various conditionality clauses in the allotment order further increase the vulnerability of the relocated communities. Even though many residents lost their jobs as a result of relocation to Kannagi Nagar, the fear of cancellation of allotment forced them to avail loans at higher rates of interests so they could pay their monthly installments. This study also reveals that 90.6% of those surveyed had increased debts after the relocation process. <p>A report compiled by Transparent Chennai¹⁶ in the year 2012 highlights the existing facts about land tenure in the city. The report states that as of 2007, the percentage of issuance of sale deeds under various housing projects of TNSCB are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty-five per cent of the 48,459 Madras Urban Development Project (MUDP) households had been issued sale deeds; • Only 5% of the 47,790 eligible households received sale deeds under the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project (TNUDP); and, • Of the other tenement projects built by TNSCB, only 14% of the 72,392 eligible households received sale deeds. <p>The sale deed is the document that ensures complete ownership of houses. These are thus indicators of the fact that there are setbacks in the issuance of sale deeds in Chennai. Based on the precedents set by TNSCB, it seems unlikely that resettled communities in Kannagi Nagar, who also fall under similar housing schemes, will be provided with sale deeds.</p> <p>It is important to understand that sale deeds ensure ownership only over the houses whereas the right to the land is always vested with the land owning department.</p>

¹⁶ Transparent Chennai is a research organization that aggregates, creates and disseminates data and research about important civic issues facing Chennai, including issues facing the poor.

b) Procedures to be Followed Prior to Evictions

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
<p>State should explore fully all possible alternatives to evictions. Prior to any decision to initiate eviction, authorities must demonstrate that the eviction is unavoidable and consistent with international human rights commitments.</p> <p>(Paragraph 38 and 40)</p>	<p>The key factor that influences eviction of the urban poor is that of land. The “India Urban Poverty Report” 2009 of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA) points out that Chennai needs only around 2.43 to 3.20 % of the city’s land area to provide housing for all residents of informal settlements, assuming that these settlements are accommodated within the city and not on the outskirts. If providing even a small amount of land is a difficulty and if resettlement sites are constructed on the fringes of the city, land usage patterns in cities need to be examined. Moreover, there is no open and transparent process to project the availability of land within cities. Equitable distribution of land in urban centres is not a priority for the government. Issues of land and settlement development thus need to be brought to the centre stage of the policy discourse.</p> <p>JNNURM earmarks at least 20-25% of developed land in all housing projects for EWS housing with a system of cross-subsidisation. There is no mention of this in the policy note of the Housing and Urban Development Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu for 2013 or the previous years.</p> <p>Another important aspect to be noted is the change in land use after people are evicted. In the case of Chintadripet / Pudupet the land was used for constructing parks to ‘beautify’ the city after the original residents were evicted.</p> <p>At a Seminar on Waterways conducted on 4 and 5 March 2010 by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, the Chennai Mayor stated: “There were about 11,000 huts that encroached on the Coovum banks, out of which 5,000 huts have been shifted and the households rehabilitated by providing alternative accommodation in storied tenements.</p> <p>The remaining 6,000 huts and the auto workshops near Chintadripet would be shifted to the places identified for the purpose. The river margin lands from where the huts were evicted have been developed as parks; to cite a few, the development of park at Chintadripet at a cost of about Rs 1.5 crores, and development of park along Sivananda Salai on the cleared Coovum River margin.”</p>
<p>Effective dissemination of the information by the authorities in advance, including land records and comprehensive resettlement plans</p> <p>(Paragraph 37)</p>	<p>Of those surveyed for this study, 92.6% stated that they were neither consulted about the process, nor was their opinion heard. The study finds that 97.3% of the respondents did not receive any details about the resettlement plans, including the location of the site, design / size of the houses, and the housing scheme.</p>
<p>Reasonable time period for public review. Public hearings on the proposed plans and alternatives to be shared with the people</p> <p>(Paragraph 37)</p>	<p>All respondents stated that there was no public hearing conducted to hear the opinions of the people. The minutes of the ‘public hearing meeting’ to discuss the findings of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) conducted for the construction of the 5,166 houses in Kannagi Nagar reveal that only officials were present. This ‘public hearing meeting’ did not have any representation from the affected communities and was not open to the residents of the area.</p>
<p>Opportunities and efforts to facilitate the provision of legal, technical and other advice to the affected people to articulate their demand and development priorities.</p> <p>(Paragraph 37)</p>	<p>Of those surveyed, 89.66% claimed that they were forced to relocate. Their signatures for consent were allegedly procured by the Slum Board under the guise of taking their signatures for determining ‘eligibility’ for housing in the vicinity, but not for relocation. Many had clearly voiced their opposition to housing in an alternative location, but the state did not taken into consideration their dissent and proposed plans.</p>

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
Special efforts to ensure equal participation of women in all planning processes. (Paragraph 39)	Discussions with the women of Kannagi Nagar reveal that they were not consulted in the process of resettlement and rehabilitation.
Evictions should be announced in writing in the local language to all individuals. (Paragraph 41)	The study highlights that only 40.6% of the respondents received legal notices of the proposed eviction. The notices were not issued to individuals separately, but only to the community leaders and hence most of the residents were not aware of the impending eviction. At a few of the sites, communities reported receiving a notice 30 days.
Eviction notice should include full justification of the decision, including details of the proposed alternatives. (Paragraph 41)	The affected communities reported that the eviction notice issued to them did not mention the reason for the eviction or any details of proposed alternatives.
An inventory to assess the values of the property, investments and other material goods that may be damaged needs to be maintained. (Paragraph 42)	All the respondents reported that neither the government nor any other agency carried out an inventory to assess the value of their property or possessions.

c) Procedures to be Followed During Evictions

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
Mandatory presence of government officials or their representatives on site during evictions. The officials must identify themselves to the persons being evicted and present formal authorization for the eviction. (Paragraph 45)	Of the respondents who participated in the survey, 24.66% mentioned that police officials were involved in the eviction process, while 73.6% of them said that politicians along with officials of the land owning department were present at the site during the eviction process.
Neutral observers, including regional and international observers, should be allowed access upon request... (Paragraph 46)	No neutral observers were present at any of the sites during the eviction process.
Evictions shall not be carried out in a manner that violates the dignity and human rights to life and security of the affected. States must also take steps to ensure that women are not subject to gender-based violence and that the human rights of children are protected. (Paragraph 47)	Ninety-two per cent of the respondents surveyed felt that their human rights were violated during the eviction process, as the entire process was based on coercion and against the free will of individuals. Thirty-four per cent of the respondents reported that they were transported from their original place of habitation to the relocation site in garbage vehicles. Of the 300 respondents, one woman complained of injury during the eviction process.
Evictions must not take place in inclement weather, at night, during festivals or religious holidays, prior to elections or during or just prior to examinations. (Paragraph 49)	The survey reveals that 38% of the evictions were carried out during the mid-academic year and 14% of the evictions occurred during the monsoon floods.

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
<p>States and their agents must take steps to ensure that no one is....arbitrarily deprived of property or possessions as a result of demolition, arson and other forms of deliberate destruction...</p> <p>(Paragraph 50)</p>	<p>Ninety-one per cent of the respondents reportedly lost their property and possessions during the eviction process, as they were not given enough time to salvage their possessions. People complained that they were unable to save their household articles and children's school books before the demolition of their homes.</p> <p>The findings of this study highlight that 10.6% of respondents lost vital documents and identity cards during the eviction process, and that 31.66% of the respondents' houses were demolished by force.</p>

d) Access to Immediate Relief and Relocation after Evictions

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
<p>Competent authorities shall ensure that evicted persons or groups, have safe and secure access to:</p>	
<p>a. Essential food, potable water and sanitation</p>	<p>a. The state did not provide for immediate food for the evicted persons. The study reveals that 99.5% of the respondents have ration cards (to avail of subsidised food under the Public Distribution System) in Kannagi Nagar. Only 23% of the respondents, however, were able to transfer their ration cards to the present address within six months. Seventy-seven per cent reported that it took them between six months to a year to get new ration cards in Kannagi Nagar. Initially the respondents had access to water once in every four days. At the time of this survey (August 2013), they had daily access to water. Over 83% of the respondents complained about the poor quality of the tap water provided.</p>
<p>b. Basic shelter and housing</p>	<p>b. Alternative housing was immediately provided to most of the evicted persons, except for 7% of the respondents who reported that they were made to wait for about a week before they were given housing.</p>
<p>c. Essential medical services</p>	<p>c. Prior to the relocation to Kannagi Nagar, 99% of the respondents accessed government hospitals for medical services. After the relocation, 98.3% of the respondents reported that they access healthcare from private agencies/actors because of the non-availability of government run healthcare facilities within the settlement. Only 1.7% of the relocated population has access to services from state urban health posts.</p> <p>Prior to the relocation to Kannagi Nagar, 97.3% of the respondents reported spending less than Rs 100 per month for medical services; after the relocation 97.6% of the respondents reported spending more than Rs 500 a month on healthcare. The considerable increase in expenditure is because of the non-availability of government healthcare services in Kannagi Nagar, which has forced the residents to access private medical services that are much more expensive. The state is obliged to provide free medical services for the poor and is thus violating its commitments to the residents of Kannagi Nagar.</p> <p>Prior to the relocation, 97% of the respondents mentioned that they had to travel less than five kilometres to avail medical services while after relocation 98% of those surveyed reported having to travel more than 10 kilometres to access healthcare facilities.</p>
<p>d. Livelihood sources</p>	<p>d. The findings of the survey highlight that 79.3% of the respondents lost their employment immediately after the relocation because of the increased distance of Kannagi Nagar from their places of work. They were unable to commute to their work place on time and hence had to look for employment closer to their homes.</p>

UN Basic Principles and Guidelines	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
<p>e. Education for children (Paragraph 52)</p>	<p>e. Prior to the relocation, only 1% of the respondents reported using bus services to commute to school. After the relocation, 42% of children are commuting by bus to their schools that are located close to their original sites of habitation.</p>
<p>Communities shall be given at least 90 days notice prior to the date of resettlement. (Paragraph 56 (j))</p>	<p>Of those surveyed, 89.6% mentioned that they did not get enough time to relocate.</p>
<p>Rehabilitation policies must include programmes designed specifically for women and other vulnerable groups including right to food, water, education, health and security. (Paragraph 57)</p>	<p>All respondents reported that Kannagi Nagar is not safe for women and girl children. The resettlement process has been marked by gender-insensitivity, and the human rights of women have not been protected.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The design of the house is not suitable for women. Since there is only one room, women and girls do not have any privacy. The flats do not have internal water supply connections. Hence, women are forced to collect water from hand pumps outside their homes and climb one to three floors with a minimum of six water pots, on a daily basis. Certain anti-social elements, including hooligans, have sought refuge at the site and pose a threat to women's security and safety. There is also no separate women's police station within the settlement. The nearest government hospital where women residents of Kannagi Nagar can avail of maternity care and other healthcare services is located over 10 kilometres from the site. One woman reported that an officer had asked her for sexual favours during the housing allotment procedure. Since women are not treated by the government as a single economic unit, single women are unable to gain independent houses.
<p>The time and financial cost required for travel to and from the place of work or to access essential services should not place excessive demands upon the budgets of low-income households. (Paragraph 56 (f))</p>	<p>Of the respondents surveyed for this study, 1% claimed to travel less than five kilometres to reach their places of work; 73.3% of the respondents reported that they have to travel from five to ten kilometres to work on a daily basis; 22.3% travel up to 25 kilometres; and 3.4% of the respondents have to travel up to 50 kilometres to reach their sources of livelihood. The survey reveals that 25.7% of the respondents have to travel around five hours on a daily basis to reach their work places. Sixty-nine per cent of the respondents declared that they spend an average of Rs 100, on a daily basis, to commute to work. As most of the residents are involved in unorganised daily wage labour, the distance of the site from their work place and the excessive cost and time spent commuting daily, greatly impedes their earning capacity as well as their ability to work.</p>
<p>Persons, groups or communities affected by an eviction should not suffer detriment to their human rights, including their right to progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. (Paragraph 58)</p>	<p>The survey process and group discussions with residents of Kannagi Nagar reveal gross violations of their human rights:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The human right to adequate housing has been systematically violated as people's homes were first demolished without due process, after which they were forcibly made to relocate and live in a remote settlement in extremely inadequate conditions. The human rights to food, water, education, health, work/ livelihood of residents of Kannagi Nagar have also been violated. Officials allegedly used caste names and passed sarcastic comments during the relocation process.

e) Remedies for Forced Evictions

Policy Guidelines from the UN Basic Principles	Gaps in Implementation in Tamil Nadu
<p>When eviction is unavoidable for the promotion of general welfare, the State must provide fair and just compensation for any losses of personal, real or other property of goods. Compensation should be provided for any economically assessable damage. Compensation should be provided for loss of life or limb; physical or mental harm; lost opportunities including employment, education and social benefits; loss of earning and earning opportunities; moral damage; and costs required for legal or expert assistance, medicine and medical services, and psychological and social services.</p> <p>(Paragraph 60)</p>	<p>The Tamil Nadu government has not provided any compensation to any of the evicted families for the loss of property and personal belongings or for lost educational and work opportunities and income. There is no practice of assessing economic damage incurred by the people in any of the eviction processes.</p>
<p>Cash compensation should under no circumstances replace real compensation in the form of land and common property resources. Where land has been taken, the evicted should be compensated with land commensurate in quality, size and value or better.</p> <p>(Paragraph 60)</p>	<p>No compensation has been provided for the loss of land or common property resources. Though the evicted families have lost land, they have not been provided with alternative land. Instead, they have only received alternative housing, which is inadequate and does not provide long-term security of tenure.</p>

II. Adherence to General Comment 4, 'The Right to Adequate Housing' (Article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1991)¹⁷

Article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1996) states that, "The State Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions."

The scope of the human right to adequate housing, guaranteed by Article 11.1, was further elaborated by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in its General Comment 4, 'The Right to Adequate Housing.' Adequate housing, according to General Comment 4 of CESCR, consists of seven core elements: legal security of tenure; availability of services; affordability; accessibility; habitability; location; and, cultural adequacy. Civil society organizations as well as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing have further expanded these elements to include: physical security; access to land and natural resources; freedom from dispossession; resettlement, restitution and compensation; freedom from violence against women; education; participation; and, access to remedies.

¹⁷ UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 4, 'The right to adequate housing' (Art. 11.1 of the Covenant), 1991. Available at: [http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/469f4d91a9378221c12563ed0053547e?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/469f4d91a9378221c12563ed0053547e?Opendocument)

Core Elements of the Human Right to Adequate Housing	Gaps in Implementation in Kannagi Nagar
Legal Security of Tenure	<p>The houses provided to the resettled communities are under the 'Hire Purchase Scheme' of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. The residents are entitled only to an allotment order and they have to pay an installment of Rs 150 to Rs 250 per month for a period of 20 years. These allotment orders do not grant them security of tenure, as they are subject to cancellation based on various conditions. Moreover, the allotment for the houses could be cancelled if people consecutively failed to pay three monthly installments. At the end of 20 years, families will be provided with a sale deed, which also does not provide complete security of tenure. The resettled families, thus, continue to live with insecurity.</p>
Availability of Services	<p>For a population of 15,656 houses, Kannagi Nagar has only 19 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres, whereas according to the Government of India (Ministry of Women and Child Development) norms, there should be one ICDS / <i>anganwadi</i> centre for a population of 800 in urban areas. This implies that Kannagi Nagar should have 80 to 90 ICDS centres. The 19 existing centres are able to cater to only 410 children in the age group of 0-6 years. This survey of 300 households indicates that there are about 98 children in the age group of 0-6 years; this works out to around 4,900 children between 0-6 years in the entire settlement.</p> <p>Kannagi Nagar has a population of over 80,000, but there is no government healthcare unit within the settlement. The only operational healthcare unit is a private one, at which the doctors are not regular. There is also no maternity healthcare centre within the settlement; people have to travel over 10 kilometres for maternity care. After several rounds of discussions with the relevant government officials, a web-based healthcare unit was installed and space has been allotted for setting up a healthcare unit within the settlement. However, based on the existing population and with the expansion of another 8,000 houses, there is a requirement for a full-fledged community healthcare centre with a maternity care facility within the settlement.</p> <p>At the time of relocation to the site, residents had access to only 10 pots of water once in every four days. After several rounds of discussion with the government and as a result of various advocacy initiatives, water now is being supplied to Kannagi Nagar every day. The quality of the water supplied is, however, an issue of concern; various pockets within the settlement complain of contaminated water supply.</p> <p>At the time of creation of Kannagi Nagar, most of the houses did not have legal electricity connections. After the release of a fact-finding report on the issue by civil society organizations, every house has been provided with a separate electricity connection. Initially, most of the areas within the settlement were dark. Only after successful lobbying with the government, the entire settlement has been provided with adequate streetlights. The site has also been provided with better roads, as a result of frequent follow up with government officials.</p> <p>Initially, transportation facilities to the sources of livelihood / workplaces were also inadequate, but after the submission of a status report on the situation, transportation facilities to and from the site have improved. During peak hours, however, there is a need to provide special buses for women and children.</p> <p>Ever since the settlement was brought under the jurisdiction of the Corporation of Chennai, solid waste management services have been provided. The sewer lines, however, need to be fixed and the stagnation of sewage water and collection of garbage between the tenements needs to be addressed urgently.</p>
Affordability	<p>Each family has to pay Rs 150 to Rs 250 as a monthly installment for a flat in Kannagi Nagar for a period of 20 years, depending on the year of allotment by TNSCB. This amounts to Rs 36,000 to 60,000 per flat. According to this study, 79.3% of the respondents lost their employment immediately after the relocation to Kannagi Nagar because of the increased distance of the site from their original place of habitation and work. The study also reveals that 92.3% of the workforce in Kannagi Nagar consists of those in the unorganised sector. The family income of 62% of the respondents is below Rs 5,000 per month. Hence payment of monthly installments for their homes is burdensome for the families. Since the allotment for the houses can be cancelled if people fail to pay three consecutive monthly installments, people have been forced to take loans at higher rates of interest in order to pay their monthly installments and cost of basic services at the site. About 90% of the residents surveyed reported being more in debt after the relocation process, as they had to take loans for the reasons mentioned above.</p>

Core Elements of the Human Right to Adequate Housing	Gaps in Implementation in Kannagi Nagar
Accessibility	<p>All accommodation in Kannagi Nagar consists of three-storey houses. Several persons with disabilities and older persons have been allotted flats on the second and third floors, making access a serious cause of concern.</p> <p>The flats in Kannagi Nagar do not have water connections. This increases the burden on women and girl children, as they are generally responsible for fetching water for household purposes from the taps in front of their homes. Those who reside on the second and third floors find it more difficult, as they have to carry buckets of water up flights of stairs. Climbing stairs is often also difficult for pregnant women who live on the higher floors.</p>
Habitability	<p>The size of the flats in Kannagi Nagar ranges from 195 square feet to 235 square feet. This has recently been increased to 310 square feet under JNNURM-funded housing projects, but according to NRRP 2007, people are supposed to receive flats of 538 square feet. Since the average size of the household in Kannagi Nagar is more than four persons, the flats are too small for each family to live comfortably and to store their belongings.</p> <p>As there is just one room in the houses in Kannagi Nagar, parents and children, including adolescents, are forced to lead a restricted life in the one 'multi-purpose hall.' Women and girl children suffer the most, as they do not have any privacy. Discussions with children also reveal that they are exposed to sexual activities of their parents because of the lack of space and privacy.</p> <p>The kitchens are not conducive for the cooking needs of the community; women reported being most affected.</p> <p>The design of the house has provision for only one window; however, people are unable to open the window because of the stench emitted from the stagnation of garbage and sewage water between the tenements.</p> <p>Those who were engaged in home-based employment, such as automobile repair activities and carpentry in their original places of habitation, are not able to continue their work, as the small flats in Kannagi Nagar do not provide them with any space to store their materials or resume their home-based livelihood activities.</p>
Location	<p>Kannagi Nagar is located very far from the original sites of habitation of the communities; the distance ranges from 15 to 25 kilometres. This study reveals that 79.3% of the respondents could not commute and, therefore, lost their employment immediately after the relocation. Housing is integrally linked to livelihoods and appropriate location is thus of great importance. For those involved in fishing and fishing allied activities, relocation to Kannagi Nagar has moved them more than 15 kilometres from the sea, resulting in the loss of their traditional occupation and loss of their customary rights to the sea and the coast.</p> <p>Kannagi Nagar is also far from schools and hospitals. A large number of children were forced to drop out of school after being relocated to Kannagi Nagar, as their schools were too far and they could not commute because of inadequate transportation facilities and high cost of travel. Relocation has been the major reason for 35% of children in the age group of 15-18 years to drop out of school.</p>
Cultural Adequacy	<p>The houses in Kannagi Nagar were constructed without any consultation with the affected communities. The specific cultural needs of different communities, including fishing communities, have thus not been taken into account. The relocation has completely altered the lifestyle of fishing communities, including their food habits and nutritional intake. The distance of the site from the coast has made consumption of fish in their diet impossible as they cannot afford to purchase fish. While living on the coast, they were able to catch their own fish.</p>



**UNCOVERED
WATER TANK**



**LACK OF SPACE FOR
CHILDREN IN THE
ICDS CENTRE**

Core Elements of the Human Right to Adequate Housing	Gaps in Implementation in Kannagi Nagar
Physical Security	<p>The site is reportedly not safe for women and girls.</p> <p>Many girl children have been forced to drop out of school, as their mothers prefer to take them along to their work places because they are afraid to leave their daughters alone at home after school hours. The women work until 7 pm every day, but children finish school by 4 pm. Since the girls would have to be alone at home for about three hours in the evenings, their mothers prefer not to send them to school, as they are worried about their safety.</p> <p>There is no women's police station at Kannagi Nagar.</p> <p>The open and inadequately insulated electrical (junction) boxes placed on every street are a cause of concern, as they pose a risk to the health / lives of residents, especially during the rainy season.</p>
Participation and Information	<p>The study reveals that 92.6% of the respondents were neither consulted about the resettlement nor were their opinions or views considered. The special needs of women have not been taken into consideration either.</p>
Resettlement, Restitution and Compensation	<p>No compensation has been provided for the land or common property resources that were taken from the people. Neither has any alternative land been given to the affected persons. They have only been provided with flats, without complete ownership or legal security of tenure.</p>
Education and Empowerment	<p>According to this survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13% of children in the age group of 6-14 years are out of school. • 35% of children in the age group of 15-18 years are school dropouts. <p>Kannagi Nagar has only four government schools, which cater to around 2,000 children. According to this study, there are 315 children in the age group of 6-18 years in 300 households; this works out to about 15,700 children in the entire settlement. Thus, the educational needs of about 13,700 children are not met by the schools in Kannagi Nagar.</p>
Freedom from Violence against Women	<p>All the respondents of the survey stated that the site is not safe for women and girl children because of the presence of a few anti-social elements, who have sought refuge within the settlement. Incidents of violence against women and girl children have been reported at the site. This has contributed to the rise in early marriages of girls, as parents believe this would protect them from violence and abuse. Many women in Kannagi Nagar reported being stigmatised as hailing from a 'crime-prone' area, which further increased their vulnerability to sexual violence and abuse.</p>

STAGNATION OF SEWAGE WATER AND UNCOLLECTED GARBAGE BETWEEN TENEMENTS



UNSAFE HABITATION



INCOMPLETE MID-DAY MEAL COOKING STRUCTURE



TOILETS IN SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS



THE WASH AREA WITH NO TAPS



III. Adherence to the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (2007)

This study of the resettlement process at Kannagi Nagar finds that the provisions of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (NRRP) 2007 have also been violated. The Policy requires states to follow certain steps prior to evictions, but in the case of Kannagi Nagar, this was not done. Despite the fact that NRRP 2007 emphasises that the State should seek to minimise displacement, the Tamil Nadu government has not made efforts to do so.

According to NRRP 2007, when a project involves involuntary displacement of four hundred or more families *en masse* in the plains, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has to be undertaken. Kannagi Nagar has 15,656 houses. However, an environmental and social impact assessment report was prepared only for the 5,166 houses constructed under the World Bank funded Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project (ETRP) by a private firm named IL&FS Ecosmart Ltd. Moreover, the SIA was not in accordance with what has been prescribed under NRRP 2007, which mandates the inclusion of community properties as well as those of social and public infrastructure facilities.

NRRP 2007 also states that public hearings should be organised where the EIA and SIA should be shared with the project affected people. In the case of Kannagi Nagar, however, ‘public hearing meetings’ were conducted only for the 5,166 houses built under the ETRP and not for all the 15,656 houses. These ‘public hearing meetings’ also violate NRRP 2007, as only the officials, namely the District Collector of Kanchipuram District, District Environmental Engineer, officials of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the project proponent were present with no presence of the project affected people. ‘Public

hearing meetings' carried out without the presence of the affected people defies their purpose. However, separate public consultation processes were carried out for project affected families (families residing on the land where the Kannagi Nagar housing project was undertaken) as well as the host communities.

According to NRRP 2007, the government has to specify ameliorative measures for the issues identified by communities in the SIA, but this has not been done in any of the processes for the relocation of the 5,166 ETRP households. The SIA quotes that over 80% of the families wanted to reside in their original site of habitation. It further states that they had concerns related to the size of housing, as it was smaller than their original houses. They were apprehensive about paying higher rents and were concerned about inadequate schooling facilities for their children and poor infrastructure facilities." Discussions with the residents of Kannagi Nagar indicate that their concerns are still relevant; however, the government has not taken any measures to address them. NRRP 2007 also mandates that an independent multi-disciplinary expert group constituted by the Government should examine the SIA report, but this has also not been done in any of the eviction and relocation processes in Tamil Nadu.

NRRP 2007 points out that, "Every declaration of the policy shall be published in at least three daily newspapers, two of which shall be in the local vernacular, having circulation in villages or areas which are likely to be affected, and also by affixing a copy of the notification on the notice board of the concerned *gram panchayats*¹⁸ or municipalities and other prominent place or places in the affected area and the resettlement area, and/or by any other method as may be prescribed in this regard by the appropriate Government," but this has not been followed in any of the cases.

IV. Adherence to the Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act (1971)

The Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act 1971 says that, "There must be a notification declaring the particular area as slum area under Section 3, and as per Section 11 there must be declaration that such area comes under the slum clearance area. Without following the procedures under Section 3 (c) and 11 (notification and declaration), the Slum Clearance Board has no right to evict."

This study reveals that most of the slums evicted and relocated to the settlement of Kannagi Nagar were not 'declared' and thus the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has violated this Act. Discussions with the communities during the research study also reveal that they were not aware about the status of declaration of their sites of residence. This implies that TNSCB has not taken any efforts to generate awareness among residents about the Act, which is the only legislation in the state pertaining to those living in informal settlements (slums).

It is also to be noted that the city underwent only two rounds of 'slum declaration,' one in 1971 and the other in 1986. Since then, Chennai has not declared any new informal settlements. The first round of declaration occurred at the time of the establishment of TNSCB in 1971 when 1,202 'slums' were declared, and again in 1985, when a very small number of 'slums' (only 17) were added to the existing list.¹⁹ The probability of 'undeclared' slums being evicted is thus much higher, until TNSCB takes efforts to regularise the declaration process.

¹⁸ Local self-government institution in rural areas.

¹⁹ Transparent Chennai, 2012. Report available at:

<http://www.transparentchennai.com/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/10/Analysis%20Final%20ENGLISH.pdf>

The Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act also states that if an eviction has to be carried out, it must follow adequate procedures for issuance of notice. This provision, however, has been violated in the cases of those evicted and relocated to Kannagi Nagar. The study finds that only 40.6% of the respondents received legal notices for eviction. The others received only verbal information from officials of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board who had come to the area for the purpose of enumerating the families residing at the sites.

The terminology used to classify slums, including ‘developed,’ ‘under developed,’ ‘objectionable,’ and ‘unobjectionable,’ in the recent policy notes of the Housing and Urban Development Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu, are extra-judicial, as this terminology does not fall under the purview of the Slum Act. However, settlements are being evicted because they are located in ‘objectionable areas’ based on the above classification. The settlements in ‘objectionable areas’ are evicted without giving due consideration to the declaration or improvement process, as mandated in the Act. The policy decisions regarding evictions are based on the above terminologies, which override the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act.

The study also finds that the Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act does not have specific provisions related to land, security of tenure, community participation, or standards for ensuring adequate and affordable houses that are relevant for the poor in the urban areas. Many of the above mentioned components are usually introduced through the annual policy notes of the Housing and Urban Development Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu or through the issuance of Government Orders (G.O.). As issues related to these are not dealt with in the Act, there are no checks and balances to monitor the introduction and implementation of various schemes and programmes. For example, the tariff rates under the Hire Purchase Scheme are often revised through Government Orders. When the Hire Purchase Scheme was introduced, the monthly tariff rates were as follows: Rs 40 for five years and Rs 45 for 20 years (G. O. No. 299, dated 22/2/1972, issued by the Labour Department). In the year 1974, the tariff rates were revised according to the floors on which the people were accommodated; the monthly rate was Rs 40 for ground floor residents, Rs 35 for first floor residents, Rs 30 for second floor residents and Rs 25 for third floor residents (G. O. No. 299, dated 22/3/1974, issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development). G. O. No. 1118 issued by the same department on 30/8/1980 further revised the rate to Rs 45 for ground floor residents, Rs 40 for first floor residents, Rs 35 for second floor residents and Rs 30 for third floor residents.

The rates were then revised after a decade on 3/8/1990 by G.O. No. 897 issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which states the following:

Year of Construction of the House	Monthly Installment Amount	Number of Years for which Payment Has to be Made
March 1971	Rs 50	10
April 1971 to March 1975	Rs 75	10
April 1975 to March 1980	Rs 100	10
April 1980 to March 1990	Rs 125	15
April 1990	Rs 150	20

G. O. No. 10, issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development on 29/1/2003 finally revised the monthly rate from Rs 150 to Rs 250 and the installment had to be paid for 20 years. As of April 2010, the people in Kannagi Nagar are paying between Rs 150 to Rs 250 on a monthly basis for the flats. The increase in the tariff rates under the Hire Purchase Scheme has further marginalised the urban poor.

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CHAPTER V

Responses of the State, Civil Society and Community-based Organizations

The research team conducted interviews with members of the Ward Council, representatives of non-government organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to map the responses of these agents of change.

1. Response of the Urban Local Body (ULB)

According to the ULB representing the state government, the following work is in progress in Kannagi Nagar:

- Rs 10 lakh (10,00,000) worth of street lights and special lamps to ensure that the area has no dark corners that renders the settlement unsafe.
- Rs 10 crore²⁰ allotted for the 19-kilometre main road within Kannagi Nagar, of which the work for 6.78 kilometres of road is complete.
- Rs 10.48 crore allotted for the 58 sub-roads within the settlement.

One “Amma Unnavagam” (subsidised cooked meal centre) established to ensure that the most vulnerable are able to access subsidised cooked meals.

Future Plans for Kannagi Nagar by the ULB:

- Two more “Amma Unnavagam” to be initiated.
- One community market to be established.
- One Urban Health Post to be created (Rs 60 lakh).
- A 16-bed hospital for the settlement (Rs 8 crore).
- One additional high school to be set up.

²⁰ The unit of one lakh is equal to 100,000, while one crore is equal to ten million.

- One education centre (incorporating a computer centre) for children to be set up, so as to address the increasing number of dropouts in the settlement.
- Rs 30 lakh to be allotted for the functioning of the high school – to create playgrounds and a proper drainage system.
- Four bus shelters to be established within the settlement.
- One Unit Office of the Corporation of Chennai to be established within the settlement to ensure better facilities for the people.

For the first time since the inception Kannagi Nagar, the Ward Council is functioning full-time within the settlement. A committee of top officials of the Government of Tamil Nadu was formed to develop facilities at the site. TNSCB has also conducted a study to analyse the situation in the relocation settlements of Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery.

In a news report dated 26 July 2013,²¹ the elected Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Sholinganallur, Kandan, reported that an urban health centre with maternity care facilities has been approved and will be opened within a year. “In the last two years, basic amenities, including new roads and street lights, are notable changes in Kannagi Nagar. Crime rate has also come down in the last two years,” said Kandan. The credit for this goes to the Corporation of Chennai, as these developments were carried out after Kannagi Nagar was brought under the governance of the civic body. Residents, who have to travel for an hour to reach Royapettah Hospital, have demanded that the hospital project be expedited.”²²

GAPS IDENTIFIED

The major gaps in the process are that the current area of focus of the government is on providing public infrastructure facilities. There is, however, a demand for concentration on social amenities, including ICDS centres, schools, community centres, special interventions for school dropouts and for various livelihood activities for women-headed families, and geriatric care for the elderly. The high level committee needs to meet often to discuss the various issues that still persist in these settlements, and to ensure that basic public and social amenities are provided at the earliest.

2. Response of Civil Society

Discussions with other civil society groups reveal that the following work is being carried out by various NGOs in Kannagi Nagar:

- Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed for women and men within the settlement;
- Crèches are being operated by NGOs, in addition to the 19 ICDS centres being run by the government;
- A gym is being managed by an NGO;
- One primary health centre is being managed by an NGO;
- A school exclusively for vulnerable children is being run by an NGO in addition to the four functioning Corporation schools;
- Children’s groups have been formed and child leaders are being provided training on rights of children by some NGOs; and,
- Community development work to build capacities of community leaders to enable them to assist communities in accessing basic entitlements is also being undertaken by NGOs.

21 ‘New Wave of Migration to Start,’ *The Times of India*, 26 July 2013, Chennai.

22 Ibid.

GAPS IDENTIFIED

The gaps that the research team was able to identify are as follows:

- SHGs are the only mode for livelihood intervention available in Kannagi Nagar; however, the most vulnerable are not included in SHGs (by the community women themselves) as their repayment capacities are questioned by the existing groups. This trend exists because SHGs are predominantly evaluated on their repayment capacity on loans taken.
- Only micro-credit activities are focused on as livelihood measures. Under this activity, though the scope of savings may be an advantage, the income of the family has not increased considerably. Therefore, there is a need for exploring other income-generating livelihood opportunities that will ensure a stable income for the resettled families.
- Civil society should work towards providing inputs on health, hygiene and reproductive healthcare for adolescents, as several adolescents face medical problems related to reproductive health because of early marriages and teenage pregnancies.

3. Response of the Community-based Organization

The research team also mapped the work of the CBO – *Kannagi Nagar Pothu Nalla Sangam* (Kannagi Nagar Residents Welfare) and its development activities in Kannagi Nagar.

- To address the issues faced by the displaced families, the *Kannagi Nagar Pothu Nalla* (a registered organization of the people, for the people and by the people) was created. The organization has representatives from each block of Kannagi Nagar.
- The CBO sent 50,000 postcards to the Tamil Nadu Housing Minister to inform him of their problems. This resulted in the issue being discussed in the Legislative Assembly in the year 2008. As a result of the postcard campaign, various government officials visited the site for the first time in eight years, since the inception of the site. The local MLA, *panchayat* leaders, District Revenue Officials, and district officials of various government departments organised a grievance redressal meeting with the people in Kannagi Nagar.
- *Kannagi Nagar Pothu Nalla Sangam* also analysed the functioning of ICDS and brought forth a report with the help of other civil society groups. As a result of this research study, the Supreme Court Commissioners' Office sent letters to the Tamil Nadu Government to establish ICDS centres in the settlement, as per the existing norms. This resulted in an increase in the number of ICDS centres from six to nineteen in Kannagi Nagar.
- The CBO has facilitated a fact-finding process and a people's audit along with various civil society organizations. This has brought into the purview of the government, various issues related to the settlement, on a regular basis.

SCHEMES AVAILABLE BY THE CBO

Scheme	Beneficiaries		
	Women	Men	Total
Inter-Caste Marriage Benefit Scheme	10	9	19
Birth Certificate	28	14	42
Income Certificate	21	13	34
Death Certificate	7	5	12
Community Certificate	27	21	48
Facilities for Pregnant Women	30	0	30

Scheme	Beneficiaries		
	Women	Men	Total
Disability Identity Card	98	43	141
Widow Pension	108		108
Job Placement	116	100	216
Linkages with Livelihood (Government and Private)	423		423
Total	868	205	1073

The research team interacted with members of the CBO, and has identified that with training and support from the state, they can work towards ensuring the realisation of the human rights of the residents of Kannagi Nagar. Since the CBO is now a registered entity, TNSCB can develop linkages with it and other community-based groups to continue its development work and ensure sustainability in the state's intervention in the community.

CHAPTER VI

Recommendations and Conclusion

Based on an in-depth study of Kannagi Nagar, detailed interviews and focus group discussions, meetings with government officials, and a review of government policies, schemes and records, the study team would like to make the following recommendations.

Recommendations for the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board

The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board should:

- Finalise and make public the findings of its study of the resettlement sites of Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery, and officially incorporate the findings in the future planning of its work. The state government should review the findings of this study before allotting houses constructed at Perumbakkam.
- Ensure that the Community Development Wing of the TNSCB has a comprehensive development plan (with adequate staffing and budgetary allocation) exclusively for Kannagi Nagar, in consultation with the Community-based Organizations.
- Strengthen the Community Development (CD) Wing with adequate staffing and budgetary provisions for specific community development work in the settlement. The CD Wing should be involved in diverse activities. The CD Wing needs to ensure linkages with various departments to ensure that social security schemes are in place within the settlement. The vision, activities, strategies and budget of the CD Wing needs to be revised. The CD Wing could explore supporting creative livelihood models for communities (this could be a joint collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission – TNULM) and ensure marketing linkages with other agencies. There is a need for one or more community development officers in Kannagi Nagar to oversee the various issues. There could be an exclusive multi-purpose community resource centre with trained staff where the residents could seek clarity on existing government schemes and could seek assistance to apply for the same. Counseling and legal aid could also be provided in the community resource centre.
- Waive pending payments to be made by the community under the ‘Hire Purchase Scheme,’ issue sale deeds for all flats in Kannagi Nagar, and ensure that houses are provided free of cost to the people. The demand to waive payments under the ‘Hire Purchase Scheme’ is important as the affected persons were

not provided compensation for the houses and land that they lost during the eviction and relocation process. The government should provide tenurial rights to all residents (without any conditions) when the sale deed is issued.

- Ensure that the various benefits made available under the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM) as well as other schemes, including ICDS and National Urban Health Mission, are made available at all resettlement sites.

Recommendations for the Corporation of Chennai

The Corporation should take steps to:

- Ensure that the implementation of the various plans that exist for Kannagi Nagar are expedited, especially those related to provision of medical services and schools.
- Clear stagnant sewage water and garbage lying around the site, and take steps to ensure that there is no water logging in the future.
- Increase the number of schools and upgrade the existing Corporation Schools, as the current schools can accommodate only 2007, children, whereas the settlement has more than 15,700 children of 6-18 years of age.

SCHOOL SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Name of the School	Number of Teachers	Number of Students	Specific Requirements
Primary School (near the tsunami houses)	1 Head Master + 4 Teachers	314	<p>As there are not enough classrooms, the fifth standard children do not have a classroom to study in, and they have to sit outside and attend classes.</p> <p>The building where the mid-day meal is to be cooked is not complete; one classroom is used to store food supplies and the food is cooked outside.</p> <p>A security guard and sweeper are needed in the school.</p> <p>The water tank needs to be elevated, as the water from the hand wash areas can seep into the water tank.</p> <p>There is a need for proper toilet facilities.</p>
Primary School (14th Main Road)	1 Head Master + 3 Assistant Teachers	145	<p>The first floor needs to have grills installed, as the children could fall.</p> <p>Security concerns exist, as there are incidents of outsiders coming inside the school premises despite high compound walls.</p>
Primary School (14th Main Road)	1 Head Master + 3 Assistant Teachers	145	<p>The first floor needs to have grills installed, as the children could fall.</p> <p>Security concerns exist, as there are incidents of outsiders coming inside the school premises despite high compound walls.</p> <p>This school does not have any budgetary provisions for a security guard or a sweeper. The teachers have pooled funds to hire a sweeper.</p> <p>The building where the mid-day meal is to be cooked is not complete; one class room is used to store food supplies while the food is cooked outside.</p>

Name of the School	Number of Teachers	Number of Students	Specific Requirements
Higher Secondary School – Department of Education	1 Head Master + 29 Teachers + 5 Teachers supported by private actors	998	<p>There is no playground with adequate play facilities (the existing playground got flooded during the rainy season).</p> <p>There is no toilet facility for boys because of the lack of water supply.</p> <p>There is only one toilet allotted for girls (that has no light or proper ventilation). The toilet, however, is not being used because of a lack of water.</p> <p>The flooring in some of the classes needs to be repaired.</p> <p>The height of the compound wall needs to be increased.</p> <p>There are regular incidents of people coming inside the school premises and stealing items, posing a security risk for the school.</p>
Primary School (Opposite Higher Secondary School)	1 Head Master + 15 Teachers	550	<p>Security concerns exist, as there are incidents of outsiders coming inside the school premises.</p> <p>The school needs to be upgraded and improved.</p>

- The Education Department of the Corporation of Chennai should explore the possibility of establishing 'Motivation/Counseling' Centres in all the four schools in Kannagi Nagar. The 'Motivation Centres' are child-friendly spaces within the school premises that will provide students with an array of extra-curricular activities, motivation classes, life skills, and special classes for those children who are unable to cope with their education. These centres could be established in coordination with CBOs or NGOs. These centres should work closely with the teachers and ensure that children in distress situations and those with special needs are identified, and assistance is provided for them.
- Well-maintained playgrounds with adequate play facilities should be established within the schools as well as in other parks in the settlement.
- The Health Department of the Corporation of Chennai should conduct specialised medical camps in schools, ICDS centres, and other areas to specifically monitor malnourishment among children.
- The Corporation of Chennai should conduct overall health awareness campaigns in the settlement with effective information, education and communication material.

Recommendations for the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board and the Corporation of Chennai

TNSCB along with the Corporation of Chennai could set up a multi-purpose community resource centre with the following facilities:

- Evening tuition centres for potential dropouts from schools.
- Non-formal education for dropout children.
- Counseling centre for women and children.
- Full-time community care worker to ensure linkages with various social security schemes.
- Linkages with the Legal Aid Cell, Protection Officer (Prevention of Domestic Violence Act) and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).
- Helpline for women and children in distress.

Recommendations for the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board

- Undertake regular monitoring visits to the site as well as regular testing of the water provided to ensure quality of water and services.
- Ensure that all the water pumps in the settlement are cleaned on a regular basis.

Recommendations for the Tamil Nadu Police

- Remove all Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) from the settlement as residents feel that they contribute to the perception that the settlement is “crime-prone.” The residents hold a strong view that installing CCTVs in the settlement is a violation of their right to privacy and dignity.
- Establish an exclusive women’s police station within Kannagi Nagar.

Recommendations for the Department of Social Welfare

- Create additional additional ICDS centres in Kannagi Nagar and requisition the land from TNSCB for their establishment. The study reveals that there are 98 children between 0-6 years in 300 families. This works out to approximately 4,500 children between 0-6 years for 15,000 families. There are 19 ICDS / *anganwadi* centres in Kannagi Nagar catering to only 410 children of 0-6 years. There is thus a need to provide additional ICDS centres.

Recommendations for the Department of School Education

- The schools are under the administration of the District Education Department of Kanchipuram and only the maintenance of infrastructure is under the Corporation of Chennai. These schools need to be immediately brought under the administrative purview of the Corporation of Chennai.
- A specific survey to identify dropout children needs to be conducted in coordination with the CBOs in the area.
- Non-formal education for school dropouts needs to be institutionalised.
- Residential schools need to be set up for orphans and other vulnerable children in the settlement.
- The Department of School Education, in collaboration with the Corporation of Chennai and TNSCB, should establish ‘Motivation Centres’ (described above).
- The existing Higher Secondary School in Kannagi Nagar needs to be upgraded with additional facilities
- Several new schools need to be established in the settlement in order to fulfill the right to education of all children living there.

Recommendations for the Commissionerate of Municipal Administration

The Commissionerate needs to ensure that the communities living in Kannagi Nagar are prioritised in the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM) and National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).

Overall Policy Recommendations for the Government of Tamil Nadu

For Kannagi Nagar

The state government should take immediate measures to ensure that:

- The above-mentioned recommendations are implemented in coordination with all departments. The high level committee (officially formulated by Government Order (MS) No. 117; dated: 26.08.2011, Housing and Urban Development (SC 1 (2)) Department) should monitor the progress of work done in Kannagi Nagar.
- Sale deeds for the houses are issued immediately to the residents of Kannagi Nagar, as conditional allotment is in violation of the human right to adequate housing and the provisions of General Comment 4 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement.
- Adequate compensation is provided to all evicted and relocated communities on a priority basis, for loss of their property, possessions, income, and loss of education, livelihood and healthcare.
- Reparations are provided for the gross human rights violations inflicted by the state government on all families in Kannagi Nagar.
- Various benefits under the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission (TNULM) as well as other schemes, including ICDS and National Urban Health Mission, are made available in all resettlement sites.

For Housing Projects under JNNURM at Perumbakkam, Ezhil Nagar in Chennai

Construction of large-scale relocation sites is underway at Perumbakkam and Ezhil Nagar in Chennai (near Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery) for people residing in 'objectionable' slum areas in central Chennai. Both these sites are located very far from the original places of habitation and livelihood sources of the communities in central Chennai, and hence the houses constructed in these settlements cannot be allotted to the urban poor. The government must learn from the failures of resettlement at Kannagi Nagar and not repeat the violations of human rights.

For all future housing projects in Tamil Nadu:

- The state should not resort to similar *en masse* housing projects without the consent of the communities, as it results in 'ghettoisation' of communities while violating their human rights to adequate housing, work/livelihood, food, water, health, education and security of the person and home. This planned segregation, apart from contravening the provisions of the Constitution of India and international and national law, further violates the 'right to the city' of all residents.
- The size of housing provided by the state should be increased from 600 to 700 square feet (as specified in NRRP 2007) to also accommodate extended families. This will also reduce various social and psychological problems arising from lack of space and privacy.
- Each housing project should have adequate space allocated for social infrastructure, including community centres, ICDS centres, Public Distribution System (PDS), and playgrounds, based on the existing norms of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India.
- TNULM / NULM should follow the principles of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to improve public and social infrastructure facilities (maintenance of housing, including repair wherever required; maintenance of playgrounds and parks; maintenance of burial grounds; maintenance of community-based solid waste management systems, including segregation of waste; maintenance

of ICDS centres and 'Amma Unavagam' centres; mid-day meal schemes of the schools; PDS; and establishment and maintenance of local and trade markets by the CBOs), and develop community assets in the settlements.

- The state must revisit the Tamil Nadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act 1971. Legal reviews should be undertaken based on civil society consultations. One problematic area is that the Act states that, "Slums are likely to become a source of danger to public health and sanitation of the said area" and further defines a slum as, "An area that may be a source of danger to the health, safety and convenience of the public of that area or its neighbourhood." This definition is disparaging and unfair, and urban communities residing in informal settlements demand its removal. The various gaps in the Act need to be identified and rectified, and the role of TNSCB needs to be revisited.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu must evolve a holistic and comprehensive law on protection of land, housing and livelihood for deprived urban communities. Such a law should concentrate on reservation of land within urban centres for housing and livelihood activities for marginalised urban communities.
- The state should develop a human rights-based comprehensive housing and resettlement policy for Tamil Nadu. Currently, the policy notes for housing and urban development refer to *in situ* upgrading of settlements at "unobjectionable" locations and *en masse* resettlement housing projects for those at "objectionable" locations. This terminology used to classify settlements needs to be changed, as it is against the principles of human rights.

Recommendations Related to Land

The Government of Tamil Nadu needs to look into the following issues related to land, so as to evolve alternatives to evictions and to resort to *in situ* (on site) upgradation of settlements.

- Issue community *pattas* (community-based land titles) over the land on which the tenements are constructed to ensure that ownership and legal rights to the land are vested with the community. Currently, the legal rights over the land on which the tenements are constructed are vested with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board.
- Prepare a white paper on the existing land utilisation pattern with emphasis on the ratio of land provided for EWS (with clear-cut demarcation of lands with and without titles, and details of the land owning department) in all cities to be released.
- Conduct a joint exercise with the various land owning departments in the city and the various parastatal agencies to earmark land for the urban poor. The land owning departments should issue No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to TNSCB for providing land and housing for the people. If there is a dearth of land available, the state government can procure land from private owners. In order to do so, there is also a need to revisit the existing city development plans and spatial allocation. The land mapping process under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) has not been carried out in any of the cities and hence a robust land mapping process should be carried out in coordination with all the land owning departments in the cities.
- Introduce Reservation of Land for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) living in the city. Equitable spatial allocation should be made for the poor based on their proportion to the total population.

Conclusion

This study, through its detailed examination of the various issues in the resettlement site of Kannagi Nagar, demonstrates how the state has treated the urban poor as experimental subjects, and has forced them to the peripheries of cities without understanding the adverse socio-economic and long-term impacts of the resettlement process on the people.

HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN KANNAGI NAGAR AND PERUMBAKKAM



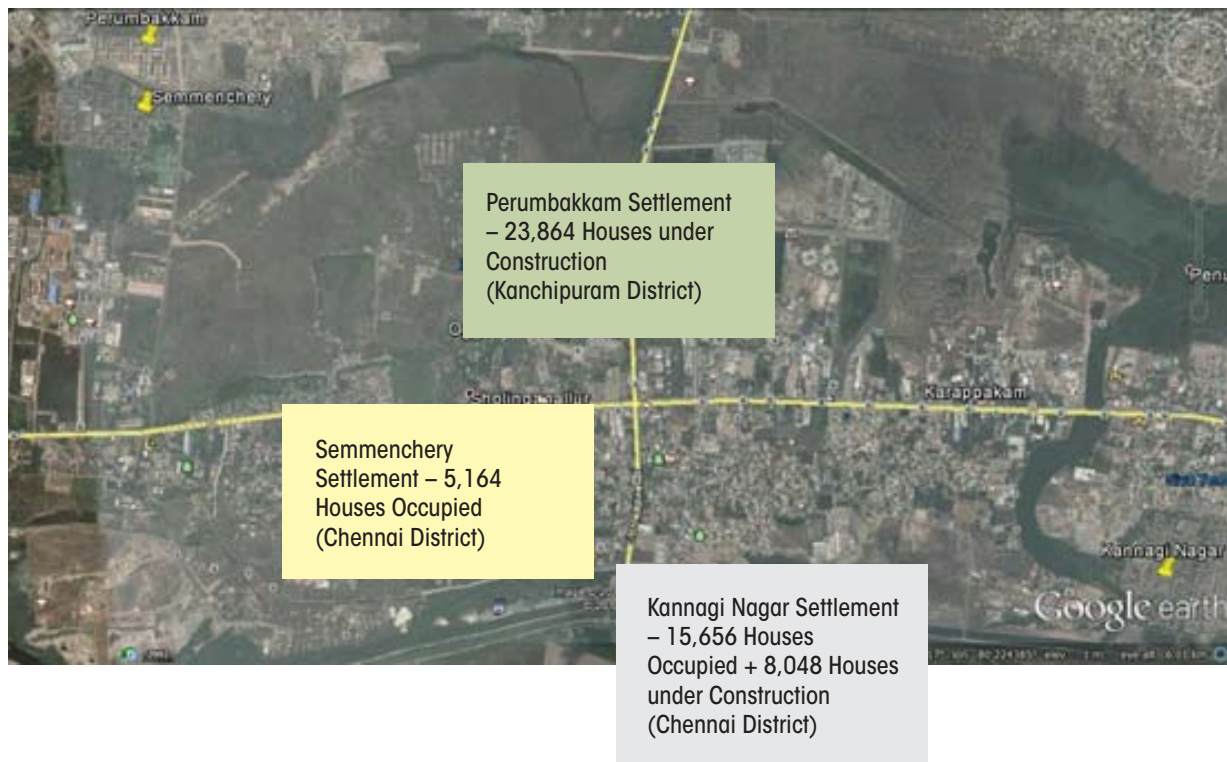
At Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery, 20,820 households have already been relocated. Another 31,912 households will be evicted and shifted to the settlement of Perumbakkam²³ and to Kannagi Nagar²⁴ once construction of the planned expansion is completed. When occupancy in these new tenements is complete, over 52,000 households in total will have been evicted from their original places of habitation in Chennai and resettled in these large and inadequate resettlement colonies.

This is a deliberate act of dispossession and ghettoisation of marginalised urban communities, and this report is a clarion call for justice for those who are evicted and forgotten by the state. HLRN and IRCUDC

23 23,864 tenements constructed at Perumbakkam under Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP) – Policy Note 2013-2014, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

24 6,000 tenements constructed at Ezhil Nagar, Okkiyum Thoraipakkam (adjacent to Kannagi Nagar) under JNNURM and 2,048 tenements at Ezhil Nagar, Okkiyum Thoraipakkam under the World Bank funded Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project – Policy Note 2013-2014, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

hope that the Government of Tamil Nadu will pay heed to the recommendations provided in this report; take immediate measures to revise state housing schemes in order to focus on *in situ* upgradation and the construction of low cost adequate houses that incorporate the standards of adequacy as established by international human rights norms; and, work to promote the realisation of the human right to adequate housing of all.




ANNEXURES

Annexure 1

Minutes of the Meeting held by the Chief Secretary on 01.03.2010 – Regarding Infrastructure Facilities to be Provided in Okkiyum Thoraipakkam and Perumbakkam Schemes of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board

Letter No. 1319/SW7(1)/10-9,
Social Welfare and Nutritious
Meal Programme (SW7(1) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600009.
dated 18-06-2010.



From
Dr P.Rama Mohana Rao IAS,
Principal Secretary to Government

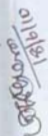
To
The Special Commissioner
of the Supreme Court of India,
in W.P.No (C) 196/2001,
Office of the Supreme Court Commissioners,
B-68 2nd Floor, Sarvodaya Enclave,
New Delhi – 110017.

Sir,

Sub: Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme – Integrated Child Development Services Scheme – status of functioning of ICDS centres in the resettlement sites of Kannagi Nagar of Okkiyum Thoraipakkam, Semmencheri, Perumbakkam and All India Radio Nagar – factual Report – furnished – Regarding.

Ref: 1) From the Commissioner and Special Commissioner of Supreme Court Lr No. Resettlement sites/845/TN, dated 15.04.2010.
2. From the Principal Secretary / Special Commissioner, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme D.O. Letter No.18746/NC.III/2008, dated 08.03.2010, 26.04.2010 & 04.06.2010.
+++++

I am directed to invite your kind attention to the reference cited and enclose a factual Report on the functioning of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme centres in the resettlement sites of Kannagi Nagar, Semmencheri, Perumbakkam and All India Radio Nagar of Thiruvottiyur, for favour of kind information.

Yours faithfully,

for Principal Secretary to Government

Report on the functioning of ICDS Anganwadi Centres in the relocation sites in Chennai

In Tamil Nadu, 50,433 Anganwadi Centres were functioning under ICDS Scheme. As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's orders and the Government of India's guidelines and sanction, 4006 new Anganwadi Centres have been opened recently and have started functioning.

2) In January, 2010, a book titled, "Child Care – Remains uncared for", a situational assessment of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Centres in the relocation settlements of Chennai District was published by Dilip Diwakar G, a Research Scholar of Jawaharlal Nehru University with the assistance of "Action Aid", an NGO.

3) As soon as the report was brought to the notice of the Government, the Principal Secretary / Special Commissioner, ICDS and the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board were directed to form teams to inspect the resettlement locations and open appropriate number of ICDS Centres in the areas on or before 15.2.2010.

4) Teams of officials from the Commissionerate of ICDS and the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board inspected the resettlement locations on 29.1.2010 and 30.1.2010.

5) In the meantime, on 1.3.2010, the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu took up a review meeting on the Infrastructure facilities to be provided in Okkiam Thoraipakkam, Semmencheri and Perumbakkam Schemes of Tsunami resettlement. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is enclosed. In the meeting, it was decided among others, that 13 Anganwadi Centres in Kannagi Nagar of Okkiam Thoraipakkam will be opened in addition to the recently opened 6 Centres based on the availability of space in the area. It was also decided that in Semmencheri, in addition to the already functioning 7 ICDS Centres, 4 more ICDS Centres are to be sanctioned and made operational shortly.

6) In respect of the report titled "Child Care – Remains uncared for", the pictures and details published in the book are the situations prevailed ~~one~~ year earlier. The lack of facilities reported in the booklet have already been improved based on the resettlement of families in those areas. It is reported that 31 Centres are functioning in Semmencheri, Kannagi Nagar and All India Radio Nagar. Now 12 new Centres have been sanctioned additionally for these areas, considering the resettlement of migrated families and as per population norms in the above places (Kannagi Nagar – 6, Semmencheri – 1, Thiruvottiyur – All India Radio Nagar – 5).

7) The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has allocated 8 tenements besides one premises allocated for NGO. These allotments are utilized to run 6 Anganwadi Centres.

Further follow up work is going on for accommodating remaining Centres by Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board.

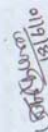
8) At present, 62 Centres are functioning in the above area (31 ICDS Centres and 31 Centres run by NGOs). 12 Centres have been opened additionally and have started functioning. As on date 74 Centres are functioning in these areas. During recent inspection, it was found that there is scope for opening 13 Anganwadi Centres additionally and these Centres will be opened after complete resettlement of families and assessment of the actual population, since resettlement is going on and lot of families do not stay there permanently as they have not settled in the relocation settlements. Action would be taken to open new Centres based on the requirement of the area, making use of the concept of "Anganwadi on Demand", under the ICDS Scheme, after obtaining approval from the Government of India.

9) A requirement of 13 Anganwadi Centres have been assessed in these areas and these centres would be opened after complete resettlement after getting approval from the Government of India.

10) It is submitted that Government of Tamil Nadu is fully geared up to open as many Centres as required by the people in these localities. A further report will be submitted within 15 days.

P. RAMA MOHANA RAO,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

/forwarded by order/


Section Officer

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT IN THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S CONFERENCE HALL, AT 3.30 P.M. ON 01.03.2010, REGARDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN OKKIAM THORAIPAKKAM, SEMMANCHERI AND PERUMBAKKAM SCHEMES OF TNSCB

The Chief Secretary to Government took a review to discuss the issues related to the infrastructure facilities to be provided in Okkiam Thoraipakkam, Semmancheri and Perumbakkam Schemes of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. The list of officials who attended the meeting is appended.

The Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department welcomed everyone and briefly explained the nature of problems relating to infrastructure and other facilities and delivery of civic services in the resettlement colonies. The Chief Secretary to Government requested the concerned Secretaries to Government to highlight the steps taken by them in respect of the infrastructural deficiencies and issues already pointed out in the earlier meetings.

I RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT

The Secretary to Government, HUD Department stated that TNSCB has created infrastructures like roads, street lights, storm water drain, underground sewerage system, etc., and handed them over to the concerned local bodies for maintenance. However, the local bodies are unable to maintain them. Therefore, this infrastructure and also solid waste management are being looked after by TNSCB. TNSCB has neither the infrastructure nor the staff to maintain the facilities since it is not a local body. He said if it is not possible for RD & PR Department to maintain it TNSCB should be authorized to maintain the infrastructure and given necessary funds.

The Principal Secretary to Government, RD & PR Department stated that the Panchayats are basically unable to deliver the services due to two reasons, i.e., (1) they do not have the necessary funds or staff since this was decided based on the Census 2001 and the SFC grants which should not be increased now (2) they were unable to tax the residents to fund service delivery.

He felt that taxes should be collected by the TNSCB and paid or paid by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board and it should not be necessary for the Panchayats to collect the taxes from the individual residents. Also there was the legal issue of ownership which needed to be decided. The Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department opined that the taxes can be collected by TNSCB and given to the RD Department. The Collector of Kancheepuram District said that the Panchayats' access is anyway meagre and so the collection would not yield much.

In reply to this, MD, TNSCB said that the tenements constructed by TNSCB have been allotted on hire purchase basis (and not on rental basis) and in many cases ownership had been transferred to the residents by way of issue of sale deeds and hence TNSCB was not liable to pay taxes. Also, the question of taxes and the legal issues, etc., should not be linked to delivery of services since, in any case as pointed out by the Collector of Kancheepuram, the taxes are too meagre to fund the service delivery. MD, TNSCB also pointed out that when such huge resettlement projects are taken up there is a need for service delivery, otherwise it brings a bad name to the Government as well as renders the entire process in-fructuous given that these people are the most disadvantaged sections who have been deprived of their livelihood and also have been deprived of their livelihood and also have been moved out of their homes within the City.

The Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department also said that there was a special need for special dispensation for such schemes wherein all infrastructure facilities should form part of the original scheme itself including the costs of setting up maintaining and operating facilities. The Chief Secretary to Government noted that while it may be possible to include infrastructure cost in the project. But, it is not possible to include the operating and maintenance cost in the project.

Finally, the Chief Secretary to Government summed up and stated that a committee comprising Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, Secretary to Government, MA & WS Department, Managing Director, CMWSSB, Managing Director, TNSCB be formed to prepare a policy / set of guidelines / norms to be followed whenever an Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme comprising around 5000 households is proposed. Given that there are 5000 households (25000 population), all the facilities necessary / infrastructure, funding, staffing, operational and maintenance issues related to this and delivery of services by the local bodies and all other departments should be included as part of the package and the Committee should come up with a set of norms for this purpose.

(Action: RD & PR Dept. & HUD Dept.)

II CMWSSB / MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION & WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

(i) Water Supply to Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thorapakkam)

Managing Director, TNSCB informed that presently water is being supplied through pipelines from neighbouring underground well and supplemented by tankers and this is not adequate. TNSCB has deposited funds with CMWSSB for augmenting supply from the New Veeranam Scheme in April

2009. Managing Director, CMWSSB said that currently they are supplying around 8-10 lakh litre per day for the 16000 and odd families living in Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thorapakkam). He also said that the pipelines have already been laid and they would start supply of around 3.2 MLD of water as per norms by the last week of March or by mid-April 2010.

(ii) Water Supply to Semmancheri

Managing Director, CMWSSB said that they would complete the scheme for delivery of 1.3 MLD water from Veeranam Water Supply Scheme to Semmancheri by March 31 or at the most by 15th April 2010. Funds for this have already been deposited by TNSCB in April 2009 for supplying water under the New Veeranam Scheme.

(iii) Water Supply to Perumbakkam

About 8.4 MLD (based on 70 LPCD) of water will be required for this scheme since it has been proposed to rehabilitate 24000 families in this area. MD, CMWSSB stated that they are examining the feasibility of providing water under New Veeranam / Nemili Schemes.

(Action: CMWSSB)

III SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(i) Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thorapakkam)

The Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department said that in Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thorapakkam), they would provide one additional primary school and middle school during the next academic year. It will be ensured that adequate number of teachers are appointed. As far as other facilities like compound wall, toilet, drinking water, etc., necessary steps will be taken through PWD. The MD, TNSCB informed that where the buildings / roads were handed over to PWD or Panchayat, there were some audit objections if repairs or additional works were carried out. However, the Chief Secretary to Government said that infrastructure forms part of the project and could be supplemented by TNSCB as required.

(ii) Semmancheri

The Secretary to Government, School Education Department informed that they will upgrade the high school into higher secondary school and ensure that adequate teachers are appointed and necessary infrastructure like class rooms, laboratory, etc., are provided in the coming academic year.

(Action: School Education Department)

IV SOCIAL WELFARE & NOON MEAL PROGRAMME DEPARTMENT

(i) Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thoraipakkam)

The Principal Secretary / Special Commissioner, ICDS stated that 19 Noon ICDS centres have been sanctioned for Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thoraipakkam) Scheme. Out of this, 6 centres have been opened recently and the balance 13 centres will be opened based on the availability of space. Recruitment of staff is being done by the Collector of Kancheepuram District. The Collector informed that interviews have been scheduled and that he would be able to appoint staff within a short time. The MD / TNSCB informed that necessary infrastructure, water supply, electricity, etc., would be made available as required.

(ii) Semmancheri

There are 7 ICDS centres functioning and four more centres are to be sanctioned. The Principal Secretary / Special Commissioner, ICDS stated that these could be made operational shortly. She added that there was a great need for such centres and a need to immediately strengthen the ICDS programme in the area since there was a large population of children.

(Action: ICDS)

V HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

(i) Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thoraipakkam)

The Principal Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department said that G.O. has been issued for one CHC (30 bedded) at Okkium Thoraipakkam and that the Panchayat has identified lands for this. MD, TNSCB clarified that the proposal had been mooted and sent by TNSCB and orders were issued sanctioning CHC based on the TNSCB's proposals. But, the Panchayat is now unwilling to locate the CHC in the site within the R & R scheme Kannagi Nagar. MD, TNSCB requested that site already identified and available within the R & R scheme may be used for putting up the proposed CHC since the need was very large within this area. The Principal Secretary assured that it would be examined.

(ii) Semmancheri

A new hospital has been built by the Times Foundation on a site provided by TNSCB and G.O. has been issued to make this 30 bedded hospital operational. Equipment is being procured and staff are being posted and the Principal Secretary, H & FW said that it would be inaugurated soon and start functioning by the first week of April 2010.

VI HOME DEPARTMENT

(Action: H & FW Department)

The Commissioner of Police, Chennai informed that as far as Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thoraipakkam) is concerned, it is a crime prone area due to large concentration of slum population which was not desirable. The Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department also felt that this kind of concentration of slum population in one place is not desirable and that future programmes should ensure that they are more distributed and there is a mixed development. MD, TNSCB stated TNSCB is continued to take up schemes wherever land is made available. He requested that smaller extent of lands may be provided to TNSCB for R & R schemes at different places for this purpose. The Chief Secretary to Government said, Revenue Department can be addressed for the purpose.

(i) Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thoraipakkam)

The Commissioner of Police said that a police outpost is functioning informally and that it would be made formal and operational in a short while. The Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department said that as far as converting the outpost into Police station is concerned, the operating costs are exorbitant and also as per the norms no new police station can be sanctioned. However, the Chief Secretary to Government pointed out that as a special case it may be considered. As far as operational costs are concerned, TNSCB may not be able to include it in the project cost and the committee constituted for this purpose could look into this matter and ensure that even at the time of sanction of the scheme all such infrastructure facilities are also fully provided for. The Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department also said that the land earmarked for the purpose of Police station in Semmancheri and Okkium Thoraipakkam should immediately be transferred to the Police department. MD/ TNSCB informed that this would be done immediately.

Regarding the illegal sale of land by encroachers on Government and TNSCB lands at Perumbakkam, the Collector of Kancheepuram District pointed out that they had filed an FIR a couple of years back against some people who were indulging in land grabbing and selling these lands

6

illegally using informal documents. This was a classic case of land grabbing in which 100 Acres of land belonging to TNSCB as well as another 90 Acres of poramboke lands adjoining it (for which TNSCB had submitted land transfer proposals) was involved and which was attempted to be grabbed by anti-social elements who were also trying to sell all this land to other purchasers and the whole thing was going on for the last couple of years.

He said that based on the information another complaint had also been lodged on recently. A copy of the complaint and FIR along with documentation was also handed over to the Commissioner of Police, Chennai Suburban Police. He stated that since both Perumbakkam and Sholinganallur fall within the suburban police jurisdiction it was not possible for the Collector to take action. The Chief Secretary to Government stated that this was a very serious issue and requested the Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department to look into the matter. Whether action should be initiated against the concerned individuals by the Crime Branch or EOW was discussed and it was felt that it might be better to have the Crime Branch look into it since it was urgent in nature.

(Action: Commissioner of Police
Suburban Police
Home, Department)

VII TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

The Secretary to Government, Transport Department said that buses in all the new routes as requested by the local population had been introduced and that they were plying. There are some requests for additional services for which action will be taken.

(Action: Transport Department)

VIII COOPERATION, FOOD AND CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

In Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thorapakkam), currently four Fair Price Shops are functioning and two more shops are required.

As per the norms there are two new Fair Price Shops at Semmanchery and two more shops are needed

The Principal Secretary to Government, CF & CP Department informed that instructions will be given to open two more shops in each of the above schemes shortly.

(Action: Cooperation, Food & CP Department)

IX TAMIL NADU ELECTRICITY BOARD

The Chairman, TNEB said in all the cases where NOCs are given by TNSCB, power connections have been given. MD / TNSCB said that main issue is illegal tapping of power and unauthorized connections in both Semmancheri and Kannagi Nagar (Okkium Thorapakkam). While in respect of new tenements provision is being made in FS for both the electrical wiring as well as deposit amount (to be recovered in instalments), for 12500 tenements which have already been built and occupied such provision did not exist. Usually, when encroachments are removed there is pressure to evict them swiftly due to which it is not possible to impose condition that they should complete the wiring and pay the electricity deposit. Taking advantage of this and due to pressure from the land owning departments like Corporation, PWD, CMVSSB, etc., to vacate, the allottees take possession of the TNSCB tenements. The result is that the allottees get away by illegal tapping of power from the main lines and the officials of TNEB were not able to do anything about this due to law and order situation in the area. MD / TNSCB requested that the funds may be sanctioned as a special case in respect of the existing tenements also so that the problem could be solved once and for all. He also pointed out that local Panchayat President had informed that this was the reason why there was lot of goondaism and that there was a mafia operating in the area which does illegal tapping of power and then distributes it to residents.

The Commissioner of Police said he would look into the matter immediately and provide necessary assistance for curbing this menace. The Chairman, TNEB assured that if this is done, he would be in a position to immediately see that all the connections are given legally within a short time

(Action: TNEB & Commissioner of Police)

X Public Works Department

MD, TNSCB stated that presently the entire Kannagi Nagar scheme is accessed on the western side by a narrow thirty feet road from OMR and this create congestion. There exists a possibility of linking this area on the eastern side to the ECR by constructing a Bridge across the B Canal so that there are additional entry and exit points to the area. This option can be explored. Chief Secretary said that PWD and Highways could be asked to explore this option and the feasibility of doing this

(Action: Highways and PWD)
K.S. SRIPATHI,

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

/True Copy/

B. Jayalalitha
11/3/16
Section Officer

List of participants

1.	Tmt. S. Malathi, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Home, Prohibition & Excise Department.
2.	Thiru. M. Kuttalingam, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Dept.
3.	Thiru. V. K. Subburaj, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, H & FW Dept.
4.	Thiru. C. P. Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary / Chairman, TNEB.
5.	Thiru. K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Dev & PR Dept.
6.	Tmt. Meenakshi Rajagopal, IAS, Principal Secretary / Special Commissioner, ICDS
7.	Thiru. K. Shanmugam, IAS, Secretary to Government, CF & CP Department
8.	Thiru. T. Rajendran, IPS, Commissioner of Police
9.	Thiru. Ashok Dongre, IAS, Secretary to Government, Housing & UD Department
10.	Thiru. Atulya Misra, IAS, Secretary to Government, Transport Department.
11.	Thiru. T. K. Ramachandran, IAS, Managing Director, TNSCB
12.	Thiru. Santosh K. Misra, IAS, Collector of Kancheepuram District

Annexure 2

Government Order No. 117, dated 26.08.2011, Housing and Urban Development Department (SC 1 (2)), High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Resolve Infrastructure Issues in the Resettlement Housing Programme



ABSTRACT

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board – Rehabilitation and Resettlement Programme - Constitute a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government to resolve infrastructure issues – Orders – Issued.

Housing and Urban Development (SC1(2)) Department

G.O(Ms) No.117

Dated: 26.08.2011.

Read:

From the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board Letter Rc.No. M1/8571/11 dated 22.07.2011.

ORDER:-

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has been implementing resettlement Programmes envisaging the construction of tenements for the resettlement of the slum families living in objectionable locations in the Periphery of the city. These tenemental schemes lack the basic infrastructure like water supply, sewerage disposal, electricity, street lights, roads and social infrastructure like ICDS Centres, Schools, Colleges, hospitals etc. Hence the slum families living in objectionable location in core city are reluctant to move to the tenements in the periphery of towns. Since the basic amenities like water supply, electricity and other social infrastructures have not been provided to them at the time of occupation, serious law and order problems arose.

2. The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board in his letter read above has stated that earlier Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board had constructed 22,000 tenements in Okkium Thoraiakkam and Semmencheri in Chennai and now the Board is constructing 31,912 tenements in Okkium Thoraiakkam and Perumbakkam in South Chennai. He has further stated that during the review conducted by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 13.07.2011 it was decided that a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government with Secretaries to Government as Members would be set up to resolve the issues pertaining to basic amenities and social infrastructure. The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has requested to constitute a High Level Committee to resolve the infrastructure issues in the resettlement schemes.

3. The Government have carefully examined the proposal of the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board and decided to accept it. Accordingly the Government constitute a High Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary to

.2.

-2-

Government to resolve infrastructure issues comprising of the following members to address the above issues:-

1	Chief Secretary to Government	Chairman
2	Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department	Member
3	Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban Development Department	Member
4	Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department	Member
5	Principal Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department	Member
6	Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department	Member
7	Secretary to Government, School Education Department	Member
8	Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department	Member
9	Secretary to Government, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department	Member
10	Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Member
11	Secretary to Government, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department	Member
12	Principal Secretary to Government, Home Prohibition and Excise Department	Member
13	Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue Department	Member
14	Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	Member
15	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department	Member
16	Secretary to Government, Transport Department	Member
17	Secretary to Government, Youth Welfare and Sport Development	Member
18	District Collector, Kancheepuram District	Member
19	District Collector, Tiruvallur District	Member
20	Commissioner, Chennai Corporation	Member

...3.

21	Collector of Chennai	Member
22	Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	Member
23	Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board	Member and Convener

(By Order of the Governor)

**DEBENDRANATH SARANGI,
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

To
The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Chennai-5.
The Chief Secretary to Government, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Finance Department / Health and Family Welfare Department / Higher Education Department / Environmental and Forests Department / Home Prohibition and Excise Department / Revenue Department / Rural Development and Panjayat Raj Department,
The Secretary to Government,
Housing and Urban Development Department / Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department / School Education Department / Animal Husbandry, Dairing and Fisheries Department / Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department / Adi Dravida and Tribal Welfare Department / Transport Department / Youth Welfare and Sport Department.
The District Collector, Kancheepuram District, Kancheepuram.
The District Collector, Tiruvallur District, Tiruvallur.
The Commissioner, Chennai Corporation, Chennai.
The Collector of Chennai, Chennai.
The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Chennai
The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, New Delhi.
Copy to:
The Sr.PA to Minister (Housing and Urban Development), Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The PS to Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

/Forwarded by Order/

Section Officer.

Annexure 3

Media Reports on Kannagi Nagar

● TSUNAMI REHABILITATION

Relocated and forgotten by the State

Nalini Ravichandran | ENS
Chennai, December 28

A RECENT study done by the Forum for Securing Land and Livelihood Rights of the Coastal Communities (FLLRC) on the appalling conditions of ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) centres in the tsunami relocation sites of Chennai is a grave reminder of the injustice faced by those whose lives were torn apart by the killer waves four years ago.

About 7,432 families were relocated as part of the post-tsunami rehabilitation initiative, to the urban coastal areas of Chennai district. While relocation sites in Kannagi Nagar in Okkiyum Thorapakkam and Semmenchery were constructed prior to the tsunami, the HUL Land and Thilagar Nagar Site were constructed exclusively for those affected by the tsunami.

Inadequate staff and poor implementation of government norms plague the running of anganwadi centres. The report states that there are just nine government ICDS centres established for 78, 919 persons in the relocation sites of Chennai district. According to government norms, there should be at least one centre for a population of 400-800. Going by this, there should be at least 98 more centres.

Children were found bringing food from home to an NGO-run centre. Many centres did not follow the government norm of providing three eggs per week. Only seven government centres follow the norms.

The study also found that apart from nine centres, none of the centres provided sundal for the children, which was mandatory. Almost all the NGO-run ICDS centres were found to provide uncooked and spoilt supplementary food. About two-third centres reported insufficient plates, while 55 per cent lacked adequate vessels. Only 12 centres

had direct electric supply, while the rest survived on illegal connections. Small and congested centres were surrounded by garbage. Only eight centres were run in their own building, while the rest were being run in rented buildings. Discoloured walls in 17 centres, insufficient charts in 13 centres, irregular health check-ups in 25 centres, no toys in 14 centres; the anganwadi centres are in desperate need for attention.

The sanitary conditions were appalling too, as 40 per cent of the toilets in the sites were not in usable conditions. The children end up using the open space.

One centre did not even have a teacher and in another, one teacher took care of two centres, as only seven teachers were available for the nine government centres. Some teachers end up paying the rent for some centres, and do not get reimbursed either.

Two government-run centres in Semmenchery were found to be providing only two eggs, instead of three per week. These two centres do not provide sundal either. Twenty two centres have been reported to supply uncooked and unhygienic food, of which, 20 centres are run by NGOs, which calls for a better monitoring on the NGO-run centres also. Moreover, none of the centres has proper drinking water facilities, as they get water only once in four to six days.

In Tondiarpet, 180 children below the age of five access ICDS centres, while 48 children still do not access it because they have to go to the one in V O C Nagar.

Problems aplenty for school students



RUSH HOUR: Students boarding a bus at Thorapakkam

Nalini Ravichandran | ENS
Chennai, September 29

IT is 6.45 am. The 1,000-odd school children from Thorapakkam rush to the bus stop. They are students of different schools in Santhome.

It is a two-hour ride to their schools and there are just four buses between 7 am and 9 am. The daily ordeal of the students has thrown up several questions on safety.

There are about 13,000 families living in the area and the number of buses woefully inadequate.

For Ranjita of class VII, getting the 7 am bus is all that matters, as missing it will mean being late for school. Mani of class XI suffered injuries to his leg when he slipped and fell down from a bus. He was travelling on footboard in an overcrowded T21 bus. Mani's mother Viji says the hospital expenditure came up to Rs 10,000.

Children of tsunami-hit families, relocated here, continue to go to schools in San-

thome. There are two primary and a high school in Thorapakkam.

"Hardly any teaching goes on in the schools," said a parent. "There is no discipline in the schools," said another parent, whose children discontinued studies.

The only option is to send them to schools outside the area. "But I don't want them to risk their lives in the daily rigorous bus rides," he says. "They are now at home doing nothing. I hate to see them wither away their time like this, but what is the alternative," he asked.

Community leader Stephen says the children wait desperately for their buses, which are always erratic and overcrowded. And when they manage to get on a bus, they are at the receiving end of other passengers, says Dhanalakshmi, a parent.

Buvana, chief community development officer, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, says there is a proposal to ply more buses on the route.

▲ 'PROBLEMS APLENTY FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS,'
NALINI RAVICHANDRAN, *THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS*,
29 SEPTEMBER 2008

◀ 'RELOCATED AND FORGOTTEN BY STATE,' NALINI
RAVICHANDRAN, *THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS*,
28 DECEMBER 2008

Poor facilities in tenements leave families out in the cold

Vivek Narayanan | TNN

A Prathap

Chennai: About 1,200 families evicted from Langa Garden in Pudupet for encroaching upon the land along the Cooum and allotted "homes" at Kannagi Nagar on the Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) now do not have a roof over their heads. Their new homes lack electricity and other basic facilities. Some children appearing for the board exams say they are unable to study in the dark.

In the last week of February, revenue and PWD officials along with the police and corporation staff shifted over 100 families from Langa Garden and gave them tokens to move into slum board tenements in Kannagi Nagar.

But they were in for a shock. The houses were in no condition to be occupied. "For the past three days everyone is suffering in Kannagi Nagar. We are living out in the open with our kids. Some of the children, exposed to the cold weather at night, have fallen ill," said Nagalakshmi, a resident.

As there is no power, preparing for the board exams has become difficult for students. "I study in Class 12 at a government school in



FROM BAD TO WORSE: Many families who were rehabilitated from the slums at Pudupet to Kannagi Nagar on OMR are living out in the open as the tenements lack basic amenities

Chintadripet. Ever since I shifted here, I have not been able to study as there is no power. Sleeping is also impossible because of the mosquitoes," said Rajesh.

Women are forced to attend to the call of nature in the open as there is no water. "Miscreants hide behind bushes and tease us. About 15 days ago, some officials came and asked us to list out the reasons why we were not willing to move from Pudupet. But before we could tell them, they removed us forcibly.

They should have ensured proper facilities in Kannagi Nagar," said Kala, another resident. "We cannot live here till we have proper facilities. Without electricity, we cannot even charge our mobile phones if we have to call someone in an emergency," she said.

Neither Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board managing director T K Ramachandran nor Corporation Mayor M Subramaniam was available for comment.

vivek.narayanan@timesgroup.com

◀ 'POOR FACILITIES IN TENEMENTS LEAVE FAMILIES OUT IN THE COLD,' VIVEK NARAYANAN, *DECCAN CHRONICLE*, 12 MARCH 2009

▼ 'CITY'S SUICIDE POINT,' SANGEETHA NEERAJA, *THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS*, 28 JULY 2009

CITY'S SUICIDE POINT

To beautify Chennai by clearing it of slums that are an eyesore, the State government developed Kannagi Nagar. Billed as Asia's largest resettlement site for slum dwellers, Kannagi Nagar should be a model in urban rehabilitation. But with no basic amenities there, the place stinks of gross mismanagement. For the relocated people, it is an unending nightmare. **Sangeetha Neeraja** reports

Kannagi Nagar, the resettlement site of slum dwellers in Chennai, is also turning into a suicide spot. Ever since families that lived in various slums along different water bodies crisscrossing the metropolis were shifted there, many of the residents, particularly women, are living on the edge.

Unlike Kannagi, the legendary heroine of Silapathigaram who has lent her name to the resettlement colony, the harried women choose to destroy themselves instead of setting the city ablaze. Most of the suicides are related to marital discord stemming from desperate financial situations that they are unable to tackle. Majority of those who killed themselves during the past few years were women the age group of 25 to 35.

The women, who managed to run the household somehow by finding work when they were in the slums, turn helpless when the family coffers are dry. When there is no way of finding a job in the vicinity for both men and women, domestic quarrels start and some then lead to tragedies.

Ranjitha, 27, (name changed) a mother of three children had a fight with her husband, a painter, who didn't go for work for a couple of days because he was not sure he would get any and didn't want to waste money on travel. Ranjitha, too couldn't go for work as she was sick. The crisis snowballed as there was no money in the house. Angry and frustrated, she took her children, who were also sick, and left for her parents' home. Though she returned the next day, she hanged herself to death.

As per records in the City Police Commissioner's office, a minimum of five suicides

are reported from Kannagi Nagar a month. "Not all the suicides get reported," says Manjun, another resident.

"When we lived in the city, it was easier to find employment for us and also for our menfolk. Now after we have been moved to this god-forsaken place, traveling to the city for employment costs us an average of Rs 30 to 40 per day depending on mode of transport - buses or share autos," says Latha, a resident.

"In a week, our men are able to find work only for three-four days. Sometime they go to city expecting work, but return empty handed because there wasn't any. Some days our men don't go to work because they are not sure of finding employment. When they don't do for work, there is no money in the house. This triggers fights between husbands and wives," points out Latha.

In some cases, the men too commit suicide. Their cases are a little more complicated as along with family discord they cannot shake off their drinking habits. Then there are cases of students who have killed themselves.

On June 3, Rajeshwari (15), a student of Raphael Girls Higher Secondary School, Santhome, hanged herself to death when the school didn't give her admission in the group of her choice in the higher secondary course.

When her family moved into Kannagi Nagar from Santhome, she stayed back in a city hostel to continue her studies to save travel time, while her brother Prakash (13) dropped out of school. "The dynamics at play here is pushing the people to take snap decisions," says Stephen, a resident.

Can someone help them overcome the depression?



Blame it on myopic rehab policies

The Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy 2006 (R&R Policy) calls for preparation of a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) report and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report prior to their submission to the expert group for vetting. The sad part is when the TNSCB makes their project proposal, there is no allocation of funds for supporting social infrastructure like schools, balwadis and hospitals for the population that is to be relocated. The social impact on the community due to

lack of supportive infrastructure like transportation, drinking water, electricity, schools and hospitals are grossly ignored," said Vanessa Peter, member of the Citizen's Rights Forum.

"Even the R&R policy is a loosely framed guideline, which is not comprehensive and is hardly followed. The Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2007 is pending. Only when it becomes a law, there can be better enforcement. Till then these frameworks remain loosely worded and hardly followed," said Alvin, member of Citizen's Right Forum a Civil Society platform. The Bill reads: While undertaking a so-

cial impact assessment... "the appropriate Government shall, inter alia, take into consideration the impact that the project will have on public and community properties, assets and infrastructure; particularly roads, public transport, drainage, sanitation, sources of drinking water, sources of water for cattle, community ponds, grazing land, plantations, public utilities, such as post offices, fair price shops, food storage godowns, electricity supply, healthcare facilities, schools and educational or training facilities, places of worship, land for traditional tribal institutions, burial and cremation grounds.

As a result, alternative sites for relocation were developed at Kannagi Nagar in Okkiyur Thoralpakkam, Semmenchery, All India Radio site, Thondiarpet and Perumbakkam. Buildings came up, but without basic infrastructure like water and sanitation. The sites too did not have enough facilities to transport their residents to their work places, some of them in the heart of the city. In sum, people living in shanties moved to concrete slums. The quality of life did not change one bit.

No change in quality of life

KANNAGI Nagar at Okkiyur Thoralpakkam, where settlement started in 1997, was developed to make Chennai slum-free. Ironically it has been named after Kannagi, the legendary character of Silapathigaram who burnt down the city of Madurai seeking justice for her husband's unfair killing by the king.

To put it otherwise, Asia's largest rehabilitation site for slum dwellers has actually hurt the livelihood of the people resettled there by taking them away from the city their place of work. The occupants of the 15,471 houses earlier lived in 49 slums in the city.

It all started with a survey conducted under the World Bank funded Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project-II (TNUDP II) - "Identification of Environmental Infrastructure Requirement of Slums in Chennai Metropolitan Area," which classified 122 slums (41,683 families) as Objectionable Slums. They were part of the total 242 slums within the Chennai Corporation Area. The remaining 120 slums (30,157 families) were termed Unobjectionable Slums. Of the 122 Objectionable Slums, 33 slums (5,425 families) were found along the road margins, six slums (2,306 families) along the railway margins, 29 slums (29,144 families) along waterways and 10 (4,855 families) along the seashore. Since the land on which the slums were located had to be retrieved, 30,157 families faced relocation.

As a result, alternative sites for relocation were developed at Kannagi Nagar in Okkiyur Thoralpakkam, Semmenchery, All India Radio site, Thondiarpet and Perumbakkam. Buildings came up, but without basic infrastructure like water and sanitation. The sites too did not have enough facilities to transport their residents to their work places, some of them in the heart of the city. In sum, people living in shanties moved to concrete slums. The quality of life did not change one bit.

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Human dumpyard

Sangeetha Neeraja | ENS
Chennai, July 26

OFF the bustling multi-lane Information Highway, on its eastern side, is Kannagi Nagar, a housing colony developed on what was once a tract of marshland. But even as you approach the tenements, the mounds of uncleared garbage and puddles give a clear indication of what you can expect inside. Stepping in, you find nothing but squalor and depravation all around.

Home for over 15,000 families, it is touted as Asia's largest resettlement site for slum dwellers. But in real terms it is just a human dumpyard, where people living in 49 different slums in the city have been relocated. Most of them struggle to eke out a living. Many borrow from moneylenders who could put Shylock to shame.

Thandal (money lent for a day) does roaring business - for Rs 1,000 the interest is Rs 150. Kanthu Vatti (weekly interest) is a regular affair - for every Rs 1,000 the interest is Rs 100 per week. They also have other monthly schemes.

Ezhaltharian of Nagar Senai, one the youth cultural groups that is creating awareness amongst the people, says: "Thandal is big business here. On a daily basis the money turnover here is about Rs 10 lakh. Financers from the city come here to lend money. The agents arrive around 9 am and stay as late as 9.30 pm to collect the dues. Our own dadass are also into this business."

A back-of-the-envelope estimate suggests that there are around 25,000 children of school going age at Kannagi Nagar. Dropping out of school is a normal occurrence. According to Asha Nivas, an NGO, the dropout rate is high in the age group of 11

to 16.

Most dropouts are tied to their month of relocation. If the relocation happens in the middle of an academic year, they don't get accommodated in the nearby schools in Thorapakkam as they are already running full. So, the children are forced to go to city schools by bus, which is costly and tiresome. So, quite a few of them take the easy route and drop out of school instead. "There aren't enough buses or enough schools in the neighbourhood to accommodate the children," reasons Stephen, a



morning is between 5 am and 8 am. If they miss a bus, they take share autos to reach the city.

"Going by the expansion plan of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB), 10,000-plus slum dwellers could soon make Kannagi Nagar their home. Things may get even worse," worries Stephen.

For the 75,000 odd residents here life is hell as they suffer from various diseases. Blame it on the open sewerage and the piled up garbage, which are ideal breeding places for mosquitoes and houseflies. "Once in 10 to 15 days the civic body cleans up the mess, that too only on the main road. The alleys are left untouched," complains Kalai, a resident.

"The garbage is burnt once in 15 days. It triggers wheezing among children," claims Latha, another resident.

The garbage pile and the open drainage are adjacent a water sump. "As we get water once in four days for two hours, we store it in this sump. Within two days of its storing mosquito larvae start appearing, yet we have to use the water as we don't have any other option. As a result, every other week one person in the household is down with dysentery, abdominal pains, cough or fever," says Shanthi.

Will their woes ever end?

In figures

① 75,000 estimated population of Kannagi Nagar	② 60,000 of them go to the city daily for work or schooling
③ 15,000 families residing in Kannagi Nagar	④ 25,000 children of school going age at Kannagi Nagar

resident of Kannagi Nagar. According to conservative estimates, each year some 150-odd students dropout of school.

Everyday, 60,000 people - men, women and children - travel into the city for work and schooling. The bus service starts at 5 am. They get a bus every 10 minutes. In all, there are 24 buses. The peak period in the

'HUMAN DUMP YARD,' SANGEETHA NEERAJA, THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, 27 JULY 2009

Women sustain families

Deepa H Ramakrishnan

CHENNAI: In most homes in Semmenchery and Kannagi Nagar Slum Board tenements, it is the woman who ensures that there is enough food for the family.

Struggling to run microenterprises such as small petty shops, roadside eateries, growing plant cuttings for a nursery, selling flowers and grinding idly dough, each day is a battle for them.

Some women also work as domestic helps and daily wage labourers. Many of them are part of self-help groups but do not function as a group when it comes to running these enterprises. They utilise the groups to get small loans to run the family.

"I am still waiting for wet grinders and push carts promised when I joined self-help group. At the moment, the group only saves. I pay Rs.110 a month," says R.Selvi of Semmenchery, who grinds about three kg of idly dough every day.

"When we came here two years ago, I had to quit as a housemaid and my husband also had to give up work as a mechanic. We found it difficult with the children. Then a friend suggested that I sell id-



INITIATIVE: A resident of Kannagi Nagar, who runs a petty shop in the area. — PHOTO: M.KARUNAKARAN

ly dough. I am now content with Rs.100 I make a day," she added.

For A. Anjali of Kannagi Nagar, whose husband does not contribute to the running of the family, a job as domestic help is a boon. "Though my present employers are being transferred next month, the salary has helped me all these months. My daughter makes embroidery and supplies to a company. I am on the lookout for another job now."

Investment is a major hurdle for many women, who manage the show on their own. V.Karpagam, originally from Thiruvanniyur, lost her husband a few years ago. A small petty shop helps her

make Rs.30. "If I invest more, I can earn more. For every Rs.100 that I sell, I make Rs.10 and because I sell eatables and some condiments for Rs.300 a day I make Rs.30. My youngest son has an autorickshaw but we do not have money for repairing the vehicle for the fitness certificate."

Geetha John Peter of Kannagi Nagar, who sells breakfast, says she does not have enough water to cook food and supply thrice a day. "I manage with just selling breakfast to children and adults who go to work." Lalitha, also a resident of Kannagi Nagar, runs her family, selling water in pots.

Lack of better schooling adds to their woes

Schools and anganwadis are struggling to cope with the large influx of students

Vidya Venkat

CHENNAI: It has been two years since S. Sudha moved from a tiny hut along the Adyar river to a Slum Board tenement in Semmenchery, close to the much-touted IT corridor. But Sudha is not too happy. She says her 10-year-old son Vijay had better schooling back in Adyar.

Now enrolled in the Government Middle School in Semmenchery, her son Vijay refuses to go to school because he does not enjoy classes.

The school, she says, has only five teachers including the headmistress and with over 500 students enrolled, the child does not get proper attention in school. This adds to her list of woes which includes absence of a steady income, lack of water and other basic facilities.

Not only is the resettlement colony ill-equipped to cater to all their demands, the schools and anganwadis are struggling to cope with the large influx of students. The Government High School in Sholinganallur reportedly turned down admissions this year to several students as

they did not have the capacity to absorb more students.

G.Adikesavan, who works as a security guard at an IT company, said his son was attending the Government High School in Semmenchery, but he was not happy with the quality of instruction. Adikesavan secured this job with great difficulty and could not afford to send his 16-year old to a private school. "And these days without clearing X Standard one cannot even qualify for a security guard's job," he grumbled.

Anganwadis

Most families living in the resettlement colonies such as Semmenchery and Kannagi Nagar depend on wage labour. Anganwadis become essential so that labourers can leave their children there before going for work. But residents here say the number of anganwadis is not sufficient.

T.K. Ezhumalai, who heads voluntary organisation Rural Development Trust, says there should ideally be one anganwadi for every 500 families. Semmenchery needs, at least, 12 anganwadis and Kannagi Nagar needs 20. But in

both the places, the existing number of anganwadis is less than half the number. Women are forced to stay back to tend to their children.

"This could result in students dropping out of schools owing to poor quality of instruction and also encourage them to take up work at an early age to help the families financially," says Ezhumalai. Already about 13 children belonging to Kuravar families in Semmenchery were seen picking waste paper in nearby IT companies in order to support their families, he notes.

Also, absence of water facility in toilets in the government schools of Semmenchery and Kannagi Nagar is a deterrent for students. "Grown up girls are forced to return home during lunch hours. This also encourages absenteeism," said Manimegalai, whose daughter studies in Class VI.

Also, with teenage boys cutting classes often, parents fear they would get into evil habits. It is a common sight at resettlement colonies to see boys in small groups playing cards and passing comments on young girls, says Mangalakavari, a social worker.



MUDDLED: Children at the Slum Board Resettlement Colony in Semmenchery seen missing classes and playing about in murky waters. — PHOTO: VIDYA VENKAT

▲ **'WOMEN SUSTAIN FAMILIES,'**
DEEPA H RAMAKRISHNAN,
THE HINDU, 17 NOVEMBER 2008

▲ **'LACK OF BETTER SCHOOLING ADDS TO THEIR WOES,'**
VIDHYA VENKAT, THE HINDU, 17 NOVEMBER 2008

Govt wakes up, decides to form panel on slum dwellers' resettlement

C Shivakumar | ENS
Chennai, June 28

EIGHT years after the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) relocated more than one lakh slum dwellers in Okkium Thoraipakkam, Perumbakkam and Semmenchery colonies without providing them with basic amenities, the State government has decided to take steps to address their problems.

According to a report submitted by the Tamil Nadu government to the office of Supreme Court Commissioners — a copy of which is available with *Express* — the government stated that it intended to form a committee headed by top officials to prepare a policy or a set of guidelines to be followed whenever rehabilitation and resettlement scheme comprising 5,000 households are proposed.

The panel will comprise the principal secretary to the government, officials from the rural department and panchayat raj department, secretary to government housing and urban development department, secretary municipal administration and water supply and managing directors of Metrowater and TNSCB.

Apparently, the government was forced to take the decision to set up the panel after continuous adverse media coverage and pressure from the civil society. The government's response to the SC-appointed panel proves that the eviction and relocation of slum dwellers till now was haphazard without providing basic infrastructure facilities, pointed out Vanessa of Citizens Rights Forum, an NGO.

"Since it involves 5,000 households (25,000



population), all facilities, including infrastructure, funding, staffing, operational and maintenance issues related to this, delivery of services by the local bodies and all other departments should be included as part of the package and the committee should come up with a set of norms for this purpose," the report stated.

It claimed that the TNSCB had created infrastructure like roads, streetlights, storm water drains and underground sewerage system and handed them over to the concerned local bodies for maintenance. As the local bodies were unable to do so, the TNSCB took over the maintenance.

However, the TNSCB neither had the infrastructure nor the staff to maintain the facilities as it was not a local body.

The secretary for housing and urban development, in the minutes of the meeting, stated that if it was not possible for the rural development and panchayat raj department to maintain it, then the TNSCB should be authorised to main-

tain the infrastructure and given necessary funds for it.

The rural development and panchayat raj secretary contended that the panchayats were unable to deliver the services due to lack of funds or staff. He felt that taxes should be collected or paid by the TNSCB.

Joining issue with him, the TNSCB managing director argued that as tenements constructed by the slum board have been allotted on hire-purchase basis and in many cases ownership was transferred to the residents through sale deeds, the TNSCB was not liable to pay taxes. He pointed out the need for a robust service delivery system when such huge resettlement projects were taken up. Else, it would portray the government in bad light and subject people to avoidable harassment, he said.

▲ **'GOVERNMENT WAKES UP, DECIDES TO FORM PANEL ON SLUM-DWELLERS' RESETTLEMENT, THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, 28 JUNE 2010**

Annexure 4

Letter from Citizens Rights Forum to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)



4th March 2011

From,
Perumal M.,
12/2, Gopal Street,
Choolai, Chennai – 600 112,
Tamil Nadu.
Phone Number: 044-42826467; Mobile Number: +91 9940575675.

To,
National Human Rights Commission,
Faridkot House,
Copernicus Marg, New Delhi, PIN 110001
Tel. No. 23384012; Fax No. 23384863

Sub: Complaint on prevalence of gross human rights violation in the relocation Settlements (Kannagi Nagar and Semmenchery) housing 1,03,774 displaced urban poor in Chennai City.

Respected Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission,

This is to bring to your kind attention that there have been instances of Forced Eviction and sub standard rehabilitation of the urban poor in the city of Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The urban poor in the city are forcefully evicted to relocation settlements in the sub urban areas that have resulted in denial of their basic human rights.

A fact finding mission was conducted by the People's Union for Civil Liberties – Tamil Nadu along with various organizations like the Citizens Rights Forum (CRF); Forum for Securing Land and Livelihood Rights of the Coastal Communities (FLLRC); Kannagi Nagar Podhu Nala Sangam and Kannagi Nagar Pengal Sangam.

The findings indicated that there were forced evictions carried out during mid academic year as well as in the midst of heavy monsoon rains. Evictions were also carried out even without adequate rehabilitation. **Moreover, there is absence of basic amenities like the PDS, ICDS, PHCs and schools. There are complaints of death of children because of lack of hospital facilities (one of the site that houses more than 75,000 people have no PHC in the vicinity).** There also prevails high rate of drop outs

because of lack of adequate schools. **There are only 15 government ICDS centers when there should be 150 such centers. More than 7000 of the displaced do not have access to PDS.** The fact-finding report enclosed with this complaint letter provides detailed reports on all of these based on evidences generated through Right to Information Act and Field Investigation. These sites are unsafe for women and girl children. The entire displaced communities face stigma and hence find it difficult to avail employment.

Despite the fact that this model of rehabilitation and resettlement has been proven faulty (duly accepted by the State) the government is constructing 23,864 houses at Perumbakkam and an additional 6000 houses in Kannagi Nagar that already has more than 15,000 houses.

We request the Commission to conduct a fair enquiry/public hearing in these settlements and ensure that massive housing projects being undertaken in Perumbakkam and Kannagi Nagar should be stopped immediately. Steps to be taken to provide adequate infrastructure facilities for those already residing in the resettlement sites are devoid of basic amenities - All housing sites to have basic infrastructure both physical (water, roads, sanitation and sewerage) and social infrastructure (clinics, schools, training facilities, etc). Livelihood of the already uprooted population should be compensated within a fixed period. Take steps to provide in-situ entitlements for the urban poor communities with security to land tenure. The urban poor should not be forced to pay for their houses under the Hire Purchase/Land-cum-lease Scheme. If the urban poor residences are in dehumanized condition, adequate housing (with physical and social infrastructure facilities) should be provided within 3 kilometers radius of their original place of habitation.

Yours truly,

M. Perumal

Encl:

Document 1: Fact Finding Report

Document 2: Response of the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Supreme Court Food Advisors

Annexure 5

Response of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board to NHRC

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board									
<p>From</p> <p>R. Sethupathy, B.E., Executive Engineer, JNNURM Division, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Semmanchery, Chennai 600 119. Re. No 140/A2/2011/JNNURM Dn</p>	<p>From</p> <p>M. Perumal / 12/2, Gopal Street Choolai, Chennai 112</p> <p>Dated 05.09.2011</p>								
<p>Sir,</p> <p>Sub: National Human Rights Commission - Case No 512/22/13/2011/OC - Complaint by M.Perumal, citizens Right forum, Chennai - Prevalence of gross human rights violations in the relocation settlements (Kannagi Nagar and Semmanchery) Housing 103,774 displaced urban poor in Chennai city - report submitted - regarding.</p> <p>Ref: Board letter no. M1/24652/2009 dated 20.06.2011.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>With reference to the above, I herewith submit the report as follows:</p> <p>The Slum Clearance Board already constructed 15656 tenements and now 8046 tenements are under construction and Kannagi Nagar Okkiam Thorapakkam. Most of the building blocks are four storeyed (Ground+3) and few blocks are two storeyed (Ground+1) and three storeyed (Ground+2).</p> <p>At Semmanchery, 6764 houses were constructed and allotted to Tsunami victims and shelter less poor people. The Semmanchery tenemental scheme is a plotted development scheme with two storeyed (G+1) housing unit measuring an extent of 242 sq. feet. Each comprising a multipurpose hall, kitchen & separate toilet and bath. The following amenities and infrastructural facilities are provided for the welfare of the rehabilitated Slum dwellers.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1) B.T road</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2) Storm water drain</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3) Street lights</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4) Nursery School</td> <td>- 8Nos</td> </tr> </table>		1) B.T road		2) Storm water drain		3) Street lights		4) Nursery School	- 8Nos
1) B.T road									
2) Storm water drain									
3) Street lights									
4) Nursery School	- 8Nos								

<p>(It is pertinent to state that space is earmarked for 3 more school)</p>	
5) Primary school	- 1 No
6) High school	- 1 No
7) Ration shop	- 4 Nos
8) Convenient shop	- 45 Nos
9) Police out post (Separate space is earmarked for police station)	
10) 30 Bedded primary health centre	- 1 No
11) Community hall and vocational training centre	- 4 Nos
12) Parks and C.P.S	
13) Vermi composed shed	
14) Water supply arrangements c) Sump and pump room d) Public fountains	- 1 Million litre capacity - 250 nos
15) Sewage treatment plant	- 1.4 MLD
16) Cremation and burial ground	
17) Space reserved for religious purpose 4 other public purpose.	
18) Bus Terminus.	
<p>At Kannaginagar Okkiyam Thorapakkam, initially 9716 housing units (two storeyed) measuring 195 sq-feet comprising multipurpose hall, Kitchen, bath, toilet were constructed under plotted development category. Subsequently, 5940 housing units (two storeyed) measuring an extent of 235 sq. feet comprising multipurpose hall, Kitchen, individual bath and toilet were constructed. Now under JNNURM scheme, tenemental units measuring an extent of 310 sq. feet (Ground+three) which comprise hall, bed, Kitchen, Separate toilet and bath is being constructed.</p> <p>The above data will surely reveal the fact regarding the improvement in providing better living space for the urban poor. The other infrastructural facilities already provided for the Kannagi Nagar residents are as follows:</p>	

- 1) B.T. road
- 2) Storm water drain
- 3) Street lights
- 4) Nursery school
- 5) Primary school
- 6) Ration shop
- 7) Primary health centre
- 8) Convenient shop
- 9) Police station
- 10) Parks and C.P.S
- 11) Community hall and vocational training centre.
- 12) Water supply arrangements
- 13) Sanitary arrangements
- 14) Burial ground

(It is pertinent to state that separate burial ground is earmarked for Hindus, Muslims and Christians)

15) Bus Terminus.

The amenities provided by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board such as roads, storm water drain & street light etc have to be handed over to the local body for future maintenance as per the Government order. In spite of this, the slum clearance board has been maintaining the water supply arrangements and sanitary arrangements since the inception of the scheme without shirking the responsibility.

The people resettled were not having house on their own and they were living in thatched roof/ huts with un-hygienic conditions and they were frequently affected by the fire and flood. The very purpose of the R&R scheme is to provide pucca shelter for the shelter less people with basic amenities. In the above two schemes, the resettled slum people were having better housing facility with better living conditions when compared to the earlier households.

Initially, there were some bottlenecks/ hiccups in providing service delivery in such tenements due to lack of coordination among the line departments responsible for providing infrastructural arrangements. Despite of this, the slum clearance board has been striving hard to improve the livelihood and socio economic conditions of the slum people by involving N.G.O's and community development wing of the slum clearance board and interaction with the department concerned.

Initially, police out post has been functioning in the above schemes. Now full-fledged police station is functioning within the radius of 3Km (Semmanchery). Adequate land was gifted for the construction of pucca police station and the work will be commenced shortly.

Acquiring land within the city limit is a herculean task and there is no vacant land available within the city limit for R&R scheme. The above two R&R schemes are almost nearer to the corporation limit and on the prestigious OMR this area will be soon included in the corporation limit. Within a short period of time, the people living this scheme will also enjoy all the privileges and facilities offered by the corporation.

Hence, it is submitted that there is no human rights violation in the relocation settlements at Kannagi Nagar and Semmanchery.

T. Sankar
Executive Engineer
JNNURM Division

Copy submitted to Managing Director for information TNSCB with reverence
Encl.No M1/24652/2009 dt 20.06.2011

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) is an integral part of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC). It works for the recognition, defence, promotion, and realisation of the human rights to adequate housing and land, which involves ensuring a safe and secure place for all individuals and communities to live in peace and dignity. A particular focus of HLRN's work is on promoting and protecting the rights of marginalised communities as well as the equal rights of women to housing, land, property and inheritance. HLRN aims to achieve its goals through advocacy, research, human rights education, and outreach through network-building at local, national and international levels. HLRN's South Asia office is located in New Delhi, India.

Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) is a Chennai-based consortium of community-based groups and individuals from different sectors working to assert the rights of urban deprived communities. The primary objective of IRCDUC is to enhance the capacities of deprived urban communities by collecting, collating and disseminating information on various laws and policies related to adequate housing, and enabling them to lead their own struggles.

In this collaborative report, HLRN and IRCDUC present the findings of a detailed primary research study in Kannagi Nagar, Chennai – one of India's largest resettlement sites. The study uses the human rights framework to analyse the eviction process that preceded the relocation of families to Kannagi Nagar as well as the housing and living conditions in the resettlement site. The report makes specific recommendations to the Government of Tamil Nadu to improve living conditions in Kannagi Nagar, and to incorporate human rights standards in law and policy related to housing, land and resettlement, to ensure the realisation of the human rights of urban poor communities across the state.



Housing and Land Rights Network

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