

**Workshop on
Shelter Security and Social Protection for the Urban Poor and the Migrants in
Asia**

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Experience of Massive Forced Eviction in Mumbai 2004-05

Housing and Tenure Rights

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Background

In 2004-05 the massive forced eviction in Mumbai displaced over more than 48 communities which affected more than 90,000 families. YUVA, Apnalaya, National Alliance for People's Movement, Niirbhay Bano Andolan, Shahar Vikas Manch, Girni Kamghar Sangharsh Samiti and many other organizations came together and organized communities and people. After struggling for two years on the street, people collectively resettled in their original place. But four communities could not settle in their land since the counter force of the system was very aggressive and people could not sustain their organizational power.

Communities struggle..... Continue to stake claim.....

Name of community	Evicted Population	Rehabilitation as per Govt. policy	Resettled by Organisational Strength	Land Owner	D.P. Land Status
Ambujwadi (Malad)	12,600	500	7000	State Govt.	C.R.Z
Ektanagar (Malad)	1000	Nil	500	State Govt.	C.R.Z
Mandala	3000	56	Twice people took over the land but State forcefully evicted them and at present the struggle continues	State Govt.	C.R.Z
Sathe Nagar	1500	Nil	1000	Part State Govt & Part Private	Industrial

The reality of the People's (informal) settlement in Mumbai (This is based on the experience learnt during our struggle)

- During this struggle of forced eviction minimum 50% of this population have become homeless or have gone back to their native since they lost their livelihood and shelter.
- People who had some type of support system were able to continuously keep themselves engaged in the struggle.
- More and more cases of hunger and malnutrition were visible in the communities like Bhandup (11), Ambujwadi (8-10) and Mandala (6).

- For around one year children lost the opportunity to be in school. (Dropped out).
- Every monsoon they suffer with water borne disease like diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, etc.
- The threat of forced eviction keeps haunting women and children throughout their daily lives.
- Municipal Corporation denies them with access to basic services like drinking water, Health post, Sanitation, Education etc.
- To fulfill their basic need of water they pay Rs. 4/- per liter in open illegal market (but citizens with tenure rights, low income groups pay Rs. 2.50 for 1000 liters. Upper Middle Class pay Rs. 3.50 for 1000 liter and Commercial Rs. 15 for 1000 liters).

Most of these communities do not possess any legal documents of their stay before 1995 and hence they are deprived and discriminated with every public policy. Since they lack tenure rights State forcefully criminalizes them. Their tenure status tends to be more exploitative and 100% of their earned income is used to fulfill their basic needs. Hence they are pushed back more into severe poverty and become all the more difficult to survive. The illegal status adds suffering to the marginalized masses and the overall beneficiaries are the political and economic mafias.

People's Demands:

- Tenure Rights should be granted to every resident in slum communities
- There should be no discrimination with regards to public access of public services.
- In every mega city 50-60% of the population lives in slums. During development plan reservations should be ensured of land on the above mentioned ratio. (If required amendments should be made in the Town Planning Act norms)
- As a welfare state, it has to play a provider role not a facilitator. The state also has resources and infrastructure with people's trust.