

Paper: “Finding ‘Reasons to Stay’ Amidst Issues of Well-Being: A Case Study of Two Underserved Communities in Colombo”

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Peer review:

Reviewer 1: Blinded

Reviewer 2: Mahgoub El-Tigani Mahmoud
Tennessee State University, USA

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Accepted, no revision needed	
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Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):

General remarks

Need page numbers

'though they may be not be happy' make correction

'Data for this paper was collected mainly through interviews.' Any comparison with government sources?

What is the red colour's spots indicative in Figure 3 of the Wadulla GN division? What are the Buildings for?

What percentage of the area composed the Homesteads scattered at random the way the Figure showed?

Why was the canal encroached and covered with concrete in an area affected by flooding?

Clarifications, Questions, and Suggestions

'The Summit Land was filled with debris/garbage when it was given to evicted people.' Why it was these mostly Sinhalese people were evicted from their places of residence and then placed in this garbage area? Any further political-environmental background? Would these facts make it possible to assume/apply a happiness component fairly?

'Respondents were of the view that the living conditions of this neighbourhoods will drastically improve if the Government paid proper attention to infrastructural issues.' The Government and its tax associate play a significant role in the life of people in the Colombo undeserved areas.

'These migrants have arrived in these sites voluntarily or involuntarily as relocatees during different periods due to 'various relocation projects.' Say something about these projects and the extent of choice the migrants had versus formally designated decisions.

'For example, those with T numbers were concerned about their house being demolished one day and were, therefore, keen to move out of the neighbourhood... The widely known violent nature of people in these underserved communities seemed to create this reluctance towards forming social relationships.' What brought this statement is unclear or how it could amount to such collective condemnation.

The residents seem strongly victims of policies and situations that made their existence what it became. Were they ever offered relocation that maintains their strong social bonds? What reasons make the Government not concerned with that? Any politics? Other than the organized criminals who brought in the government's reactions and perhaps policies, were there any popular movements to motivate the authorities to respond in a positive effort?

'However, generally, underserved settlements are looked at as problematic places, which contain dystopian elements, such as prejudice, violence, drugs, and organized crime.' These factors, however, theoretically embody equally important policy and political motives that might deliberately reserve the situation of these residential areas as it is

'For Roy (2011: 223) the slum is "a terrain of habitation, livelihood, self-organization and politics." In certain places, everyday engagement and interaction among dwellers in low-income neighbourhoods take place for common tasks such as basic infrastructural improvements, security and work (Amin 2013).' Clarify the self-organization and politics and security dynamics versus the 'dystopian elements, such as prejudice, violence, drugs, and organized crime.' Are there antagonistic forces/entities behind these conflicting facts?

Reader questions the role of spiritual and religious faith in the accommodative styles of the communities under study: At least in religiously or spiritually devout societies, as well as communities with political commitments or armed war struggles, satisfaction is partially influenced by faith. Study might focus a bit on the possible impact of these factors.

Your conclusion is fair in the light of the findings. You might wish to consider amendments on the theoretical model.

Comments and Suggestions to the Editors Only: