

**Abstract title:**

Lean On Me - Inequities of formal support systems during disasters for the most vulnerable residents in an unregistered slum. [Abstract #OS1.4]

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**Introduction:**

Unexpected accidents, calamities, and disasters (both man-made and natural) are relatively commonplace occurrences in urban slum communities, due to marginal living locations and the inherent instability of housing structures. Due to indoor cooking in cramped homes and open electrical wiring, fires are a frequent cause of property loss, morbidity, and mortality in slums. PUKAR conducted a study of a fire that occurred on February 27, 2010 in Kaula Bandar (KB), an unregistered slum in Mumbai, India.

**Objective:**

To evaluate the causalities of inclusion/exclusion for formal support systems in an unregistered slum for creating an equitable future support system for the most vulnerable population within the marginalized slum population.

**Methods:**

An unattended kerosene stove in KB started a fire, spreading rapidly due to extremely high density of living structures and lack of water. This led to the burning down of 251 homes of the estimated total 2777 households in the community. While no residents died, the fire resulted in a massive loss of property. PUKAR Barefoot Researchers went to each of the 251 afflicted homes and gathered information on their household members' demographic, renter versus owner status, and assessment of property loss.

**Results:**

A total of 1188 individuals were affected, comprising of 341 men, 294 women and 553 children. 124 homes were owned while 108 were rented. Data on 19 homes were missing due to residents moving out of the slum. According to government report, loss of property was INR 87,29,500:00 (\$193989:00). The government provided INR 7,48000:00 (\$16,622;00) or 8.65% of the actual value of property loss towards rehabilitation to 164 households.

**Conclusion:**

When the inclusion/exclusion criteria for formal support were evaluated, renting versus owning, religion, language, and gender played a significant role. Exclusion based upon ownership was the strongest variable even in an unregistered slum where no one has tenure, illuminating the most vulnerable population. This knowledge would help to create a model for equitable support systems for future calamities.

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