

Of Housing and Politics

Mapping political opportunities for mobilising in Bangalore, India

“India inherited traditions of **governance** and **movement**” (W.H. Morris-Jones, 1964 in Mitra, 2006, 50)

Why failure to deliver adequate housing to the urban poor?

Problem
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Why no social movement on the issue of adequate housing for the urban poor?

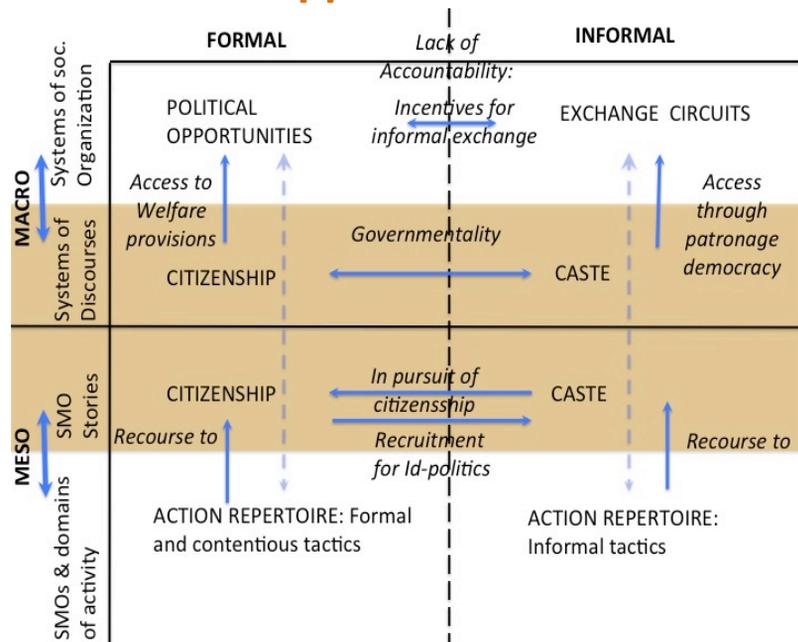
Research Questions

What are the conditions for mobilising on the issue of adequate housing in Bangalore for differently resourced social movement organisations (SMOs)?

1. To which extent are political opportunities differential?
2. Are action repertoires of diversely resourced SMOs different in response to the differential political opportunities?
3. To which extent do informal exchange circuits skew conditions for mobilising?

These questions were investigated through a qualitative CASE STUDY research design.

Theoretical approach



Results

1. Political opportunities are differential and perceived as closed and highly corrupt. Civil society is segmented.
2. Informal exchange circuits skew conditions considerably, as urban poor represent a large vote-bank and clientelistic logic and corruption fuel each other.
3. Assertions involving urban land compel strong informal repression and have an amplification effect on action repertoires.
4. Investing into social skills of slum-dwellers by challenging caste in favor of citizenship is the most sustainable to resist co-optation.

Outlook

Governance of public goods should be reconceptualised away from “good” governance prescriptions that don’t grasp ground realities towards forms of “vernacular” governance.

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