



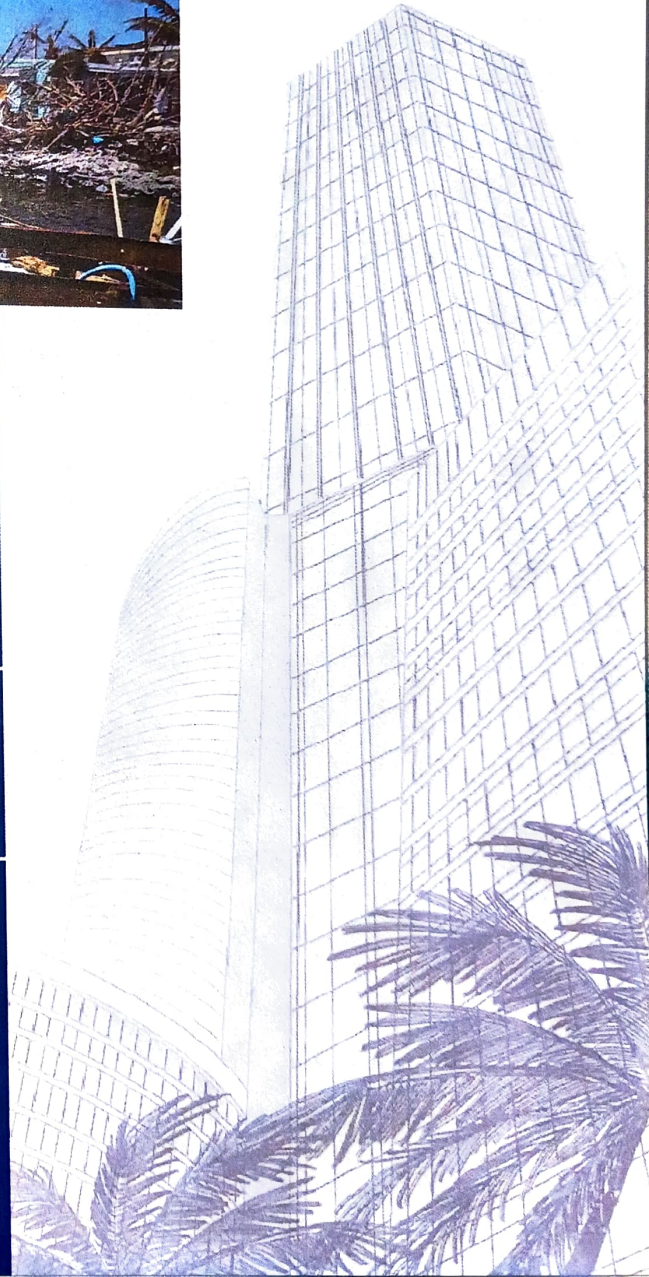
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Regional Workshop on Relocation as a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in South Asia

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Homemaking after Forced Relocation: Experiences from Urban High-rises in Colombo, Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Homemaking is the process through which people make and maintain their living space. It encompasses activities from organizing the household spaces and labour division to cultivating social and emotional connections with the living environment. Homemaking after a forced relocation can be challenging, especially if the relocatees were moved into a pre-built environment without other relocation options. This presentation focuses on explaining how the disruptions in the homemaking process after an involuntary relocation can directly impact the resettlement process based on the findings from a larger study on urban space and governance, which followed a grounded theory approach. In the first section, the presentation will explain the concept of 'Homemaking' and how the spatial arrangement in a built environment is important in homemaking processes. In the second section, the presentation will elaborate on the experiences of the inhabitants in homemaking from different low-income high-rises in Colombo, Sri Lanka, built under the Urban Regeneration Project (URP), which used a forced relocation strategy. This section will explain how the built structure of the high-rise has hindered the inhabitants from creating liveable spaces and arranging their day-to-day activities as they wish. The presentation argues that for a successful resettlement after a forced relocation, it is important to provide the affected community with sufficient avenues to create their living spaces as they deem fit. A strong homemaking process would enhance the 'sense of place' among the relocatees, strengthening relocation as a better Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.

Keywords: Homemaking, Involuntary Relocation, Built Environment