"Confronting Urban Displacement: Social Movement Participation and Post-Eviction Resettlement Success in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania"

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This paper examines whether social capital gained through urban social movement participation influences post-eviction resettlement and compares this with the effect of financial capital. Sixty-four slum dwellers from Dar es Salaam were interviewed, including Tanzania Federation of the Urban Poor (TFUP) members. The majority reported improved post-eviction housing, but adverse employment impacts. TFUP membership was negatively associated with post-eviction employment outcomes, particularly for property owners. Expecting TFUP to secure housing, members delayed finding accommodation. This led to resettlement further from their former homes and negatively impacted employment. Women's post-eviction pay fell due to the nature and location of their pre-eviction work. From a practical perspective, the results of this research pose a challenge to urban planners, policymakers and movement organizers. They show that the expectations of movement members can be strongly shaped by the rhetorical and strategic focus of a mobilization effort. When mobilization does not produce expected results, members can be left facing worse circumstances than they might otherwise have encountered. For policymakers, the results suggest that grassroots mobilization alone may be insufficient to provide marginalized groups with an effective means of confronting and coping with rapid urban change. Despite the growth in civil society groups in developing world cities, there remains a strong need to ensure that the needs of marginalized groups are considered in formal planning procedures and that proactive efforts are made to support communities in their efforts to cope with highly disruptive events, such as evictions.