

CONCLUSIONS

Lessons from Bawana

“Permanent poverty”

- **‘Shock’ of eviction combines with macro-economic trends to create permanent poverty**
- **Demolition and eviction – destruction of assets, depletion of savings, expense of starting over again in a hostile place**
- **Trends – casualisation of employment, drop in real wages (NSS 61st Round)**
- **Lowered benchmarks and expectations – majority consider Rs.2500/- to be remunerative, but cannot earn that much (NSS 61st Round)**
- **Mechanisms of recovery from shocks destroyed by eviction – diminishing returns to multiple earners, loss of saleable assets, no access to low-interest loans or formal credit**

Waste of women's productive power

- **Huge open unemployment – more women working than previously but still less than 500 working women in 2000+ households**
- **Predominance in domestic work – disproportionate investment of time, travel costs, low and insecure wages**
- **Home-based work, self-employment in trade and services – touted as best option, but insecure and less remunerative than domestic work, casual labour (our data as well as NSS 61st Round)**
- **Policy on employment for women has only dead-end options – creating more jobs in insecure, low-grade, unremunerative sectors**
- **Higher returns from organised attempts to secure wages and working conditions eg. by domestic workers, factory workers ?**

New vulnerabilities created by policies

- **FDI in retail threatens livelihood of street traders, vendors, waste recyclers**
- **Municipal governments investing in shift away from “tiny informal” to “large formal” enterprises in trading, services – ban on rickshaws, street food, free vending**
- **Hardening of anti-migrant policy stance – denial of civic rights, pressure to prove citizenship**
- **Property business as easiest option for semi-educated middle-class youth – working poor as target for land acquisition**
- **Policy of removal of working poor to outskirts – invisible both physically and politically**
- **Compulsion of poorest to keep working buffers impact on city economy, fuels complacency of middle class – economic invisibility**

Exclusive discourse on “right to the city”

- **Judicial attitudes, media support to idea of “world class city”**
- **Police theories on crime and crime control – “profiling” of working poor, “outsiders” as criminals, feeds into existing caste and communal prejudices**
- **Middle-class buys into myths about migrants and *jhuggiwalas* – “dirty”, “criminal”, “freeloaders”**
- **Theory of “overloaded services, limited resources” as excuse for administrative failure**
- **Builders displace planners as arbiters of urban development – eg Tehelka summit**

Future scenario : more Bawanas?

- **Delhi Master Plan and Delhi CDP both mention *in situ* upgradation, but by private developers (Mumbai model)**
- **Multi-storeyed tenements rather than plots - only where land is not needed for public purposes**
- **Priority continues to be “relocation to outlying areas with assured connections to work sites” – long-term lease through cooperatives**
- **Transport plans and budgets do not reflect any investment in “connection to work sites” for resettlement colonies**
- **Even if cheap transport available, opportunities will continue to be restricted to casual work - “working more for less” will continue**
- **“Planned relocation” no different from “forced resettlement”?**

***In situ* entrepreneurship as solution?**

- **Logical response – job creation within colony**
- **Investment in Bawana industrial estate has not benefited JJ colony – has not absorbed even 10% workforce**
- **“Mini industrial estate” for local entrepreneurs as better investment?**
- **Need for infrastructure, safety standards, quality control**
- **Emerging women’s collectives, existing workers’ organisations as monitors of workers’ rights**
- **Women’s collective enterprises – “clean, green” manufacturing?**
- **Experiences from Africa, Latin America**

Larger questions – struggle for housing rights

- **Housing as more than four walls and a roof**
- **“Place to live with dignity” includes security of tenure, decent work, basic services, social security, physical and environmental safety**
- **Fragmentation of movements – tensions between “stop evictions” position and “resettlement with rights” position**
- **“Women’s question” not addressed by movements – response to violence as key indicator of “rights approach”**
- **Strategy to challenge JNNURM**

This work is dedicated to
our friends in Bawana
and is our contribution
to the movement for
a life with dignity for all