

In Search of Home

In Search of Home explores a new yet less explored space of urban poverty – rehabilitation housing for the displaced poor, which increasingly dots the peripheries of Indian cities. This longitudinal ethnography examines these new liminal zones suspended between a slum and the legal city, producing ‘citizenship in-limbo’ and relegating the poor to perpetual dependence on the state albeit legal residence. It examines how the flexible governance of such housing produces illegalities, and how state institutions and actors stand to gain through systemic corruption that co-opts urban poor groups, pre-empting radical resistance. This book makes central the gendered nature of such politics, detailing the everyday political work of women, vital to the development of poor neighbourhoods and political struggles for housing. This analysis of rehabilitation housing policies and their implementation chronicles the myriad strategies employed by the urban poor, from documenting to political performances, in their struggles for a home.

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In Search of Home

*Citizenship, Law and
the Politics of the Poor*

Kaveri Haritas



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*In memory of Thara Ramaswamy, my late grandmother,
my avva ...*

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Abbreviations

APL	above poverty line
APSA	Association for the Promotion of Social Action
BDA	Bangalore Development Authority
BESCOM	Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
BMRCL	Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
BPL	below poverty line
BWSSB	Bangalore Water Supply and Sanitation Board
CFAR	Centre for Advocacy and Research
CBO	community-based organisation
CMC	city municipal council
EWS	economically weaker sections
HLRN	Housing and Land Rights Network
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
KSDB	Karnataka Slum Development Board
KSDPJAC	Karnataka Slum Dwellers Protection Joint Action Committee
KEB	Karnataka Electricity Board
LIG	low-income groups
MLA	member of legislative assembly
NSDF	National Slum Dwellers' Federation
NGO	non-governmental organisation
OBC	Other Backward Classes
RAY	Rajiv Awas Yojana
SAC	Slum Action Committee
SJKV	Slum Janara Kriya Vedike
SPARC	Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers
WV	World Vision