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Social Inclusion Or Segregation? - Study Of Housing For Landless And Homeless

The study aims to validate the need of scattered model and congregate model of housing for facilitating the social inclusion of landless and homeless people in the urban areas of Kerala. Although several housing programs have developed over the decades targeting the homeless including projects like Rajiv Awas Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, National Urban Livelihood Mission, and Pradhan Manthri Awas Yojana, the landless and homeless category of people in urban areas are largely excluded from the framework of housing programs. Current policies for the housing of the homeless do not have holistic plans to bring them out of the state of homelessness. It focuses primarily on providing shelter in a congregate model, where all categories of homeless beneficiaries are provided similar facilities and infrastructure irrespective of their differences. International approaches adopted for successful inclusion of homeless people suggest that scattered model of housing facilitates social inclusion better than the congregate model. The people-centered approach adopted in international housing policies allows beneficiaries to choose between the congregate and scattered model of housing. On the contrary, the Indian framework for homelessness is place centered and less people oriented which makes it less inclusionary when compared with foreign policies. Indian housing policy has to diversify in the choices offered to the beneficiary in the form of scattered and congregate housing models with dwelling units designed in response to the user needs. This will require administrative and legislative reforms in the rental housing sector that will incentivize and favour investment by private players for opening up the affordable rental housing market that can initiate a scattered model of housing in Kerala.