Abstract

Displacement, Housing Conditions and Residential Satisfaction:

An Analysis of Shanghai Residents

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Chinese cities are undergoing massive transformation. One after another, inner city

neighbourhoods of pre-1949 origin and work-unit compounds built in the socialist

period have been torn apart, giving way to glossy office towers and luxurious

condominiums. Millions of people have been uprooted and forced to be relocated. The

mass media and research based on case studies generally convey a message of

widespread grievance among the displaced residents. Based on a survey of 1200

households conducted in Shanghai in 2006, the present study provides a systematic

account of the profiles of the displacement residents, juxtaposed against other residents

of the city classified according to migratory status. The major conclusion is that

irrespective of all the criticisms concerning unregulated demolitions and forced

evictions, the housing conditions of the displaced residents are somewhat better off

than other Shanghai residents, both objectively and in terms of subjective evaluations.

Keywords: displaced residents, community satisfaction, community relationship,

Shanghai