

# Research on how disaster affects the livelihoods and survival strategies of impoverished urban families

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Place of fieldwork: Republic of Philippines

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- Research background

Metro Manila has been experienced the impact of huge disaster impact many times. The extent of these impacts is attributed to lack of infrastructure and also to urban poverty. In urban areas, the most vulnerable people belong to the impoverished urban communities in river, lake and coastal areas. Even though these communities are supposed to be empowered, they are the targets of demolition and relocation. To properly consider the issue of disaster in Metro Manila, it is important to discuss it from the point of view of the impoverished urban community.

- Research purpose and aim

To achieve the resilient city, impoverished urban communities are erased from city. In this situation, displacement by disaster and disaster management has to be considered and also how the urban poor adjust to relocation site. This study discusses how displacement and relocation affects an urban impoverished family's livelihood and survival strategy. Research focused on families who had had their homes in Navotas destroyed by Typhoon Pedring and were relocated to San Jose del Monte.



**Photo 1: Following the ferocious impact of Typhoon Pedring**

- Results and achievements from fieldwork

A follow-up survey was conducted in San Jose del Monte city, Bulacan. First, I tried to follow up 17 households, but 4 households were already sold their houses. In interviewing the remaining households, I point out three aspects about jobs and livelihoods stood out.

First, the reduction of the informal sector and informal economy. Wives were required to take on additional jobs but, as these could not be outside the relocation site, the resulting benefits were limited compared with what they had lived in Navotas.

Second, their additional jobs are mainly dependent on their husbands' income. If a husband becomes unemployed or sick, they find it difficult to sustain their activities. Some of wives had access to microfinance, but microfinance requires a certain minimum level of property and experience.

Third, many households described the relocation site as a difficult place compared to Navotas. They say life was easy in Navotas and money easier to earn. Life in the relocation site is difficult and money has to be used wisely, unlike in Navotas. It could be said they are still in the process of developing a new relationship with the environment of the relocation site.



**Photo 2: Market in relocation site**

- Implications for and impacts on future research

It is important to research the different outcomes for families who sold their houses and those who did not, as well as the changes in the lives and livelihoods of the families after selling their houses.



**Photo 3: With my friend's family in relocation site**