The Role of Interim Housing Community Organizations in Reconstruction of the Community: A Case Study of Jongchan Base in Pingtung, Taiwan

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Interim housing is temporary housing for those people affected by disasters. It is administered by the government or private sectors as it means to meet the needs of disaster survivors. Due to the impermanence and lack of newsworthiness, interim housing usually gets less public attention in comparison with sheltering and permanent housing. Interim housing, however, is only a step away from reconstruction of original communities or relocation. Whether for both victimized communities and local government, many decisions need to be made during this intermediate period. This case study looks into the following facts: (1) How will the decisions being made affect the relationship between the residents of interim housing and the authority structure of the original community? (2) Is there any formation of new authority structure among residents in the interim period? (3) Does the new authority structure, if established, have an impact on choice over reconstruction or relocation? and (4) How do public and private sectors’ decision-making wheel the formation and decision-making of the organization among residents of the interim housing? Through a literature review, interviews with representatives of residents in interim housing and public/private sectors, to analyze the factors which affect organization formation and decision-making process during the stage of interim housing. While, unpredictable disasters may happen anytime. Hopefully, this case study could offer an experience-based and valuable piece of information that helps public and private sectors make right decisions on disaster management.

Keywords: social work on disaster relief and reconstruction, interim housing, community work, decision-making