Application of Grounded Theory Method inExploring the Discourse of Involuntary Resettlement; Challenges Encountered

Abstract

Grounded theory demystifies complex real-world contexts, such as community related issues comprising of multiple eventsoccurringsimultaneously. Forming an integral part of a case study on involuntary resettlement using Grounded theory,the intent of this paper is not to provide a detailed account of the completed study, but rather to provide a couple of examples involved in the process followed in line with the accepted norms of the Grounded theory in the qualitative research arena. Illustrating how the Grounded theory was used to explain the phenomenon of involuntary resettlement due to a highway construction project in Sri Lanka, the paper explains the challenges the researchers encountered in maintaining theoretical sensitivity, yielding codes and categories, undertaking theoretical sampling, achieving theoretical saturation, validating research outcome and defying their own biases.In conclusion, this paper shows that the research design, philosophy and approach have lent itself to a unique Grounded theory research study which dealt with involuntary human resettlement.

Keywords: Grounded theory, Coding, Inductive enquiry, Involuntary resettlement, Research methodology

Introduction

Grounded theory, as a method of qualitative research, is evolving progressively (Julie Bytheway, 2018). This method has been used in a variety of instances including the public masses who have been denied a voice (Ayón et al. 2017, Gibson 2016; Scull, Mbonyingabo, and Kotb 2016; Tuason 2013), developing policy (Faija et al. 2017) etc.Developed by Glaser and Strauss (1967), the Grounded theory has been premised upon pragmatism- matter of factness (Mead, 1967) and symbolicinteractionism- making sense of the social worlds via language and symbols(Blumer,1969). Groundedtheorydoesnot thereforetesthypotheses (Birks & Mills, 2012). Nor, itmerely 'describes' a phenomenon(Dunne, 2011)insteada theory is generated inductivity (Pidgeon&Henwood, 1997). Urquhart (2013) describes Grounded theory is rich in integrity because it does not easily allow preconceived ideas.Grounded theory explores participants' beliefs, perceptions, preferences and actions to generate theory embedded inthereal world (Urquhart, 2013). Grounded theorists are not concerned with testing prior theories, but attempt to showcase the reality in a given phenomenon (LaRossa, 2005; Locke, 2001).Notheoreticalframeworkisinitiallyidentifiedorapplied(Birks & Mills, 2012). A grounded theory study promotes theoretical relevance toemergetheories (Andersen,Inoue,&Walsh,2013).In this effort, the researchers are required to be theoretically sensitive (Julie Bytheway, 2018). According to Strauss and Corbin (2008), a theory is a set of relationships that suggests a reasonable account of the phenomenon under study. However,Denscombe(2010)assertsthatresearchersneedtoidentifytheir philosophicalstancetoshed light onthesubstanceoftheirresearch.BirksandMills(2012) also caution that methodological congruence is essential to establish research as credible (Birks&Mills,2012).

The process of generating a grounded theory begins with discovering an unnoticed arena to investigate. In human resettlement, a plethora of problems such as irregular erections, lack of services, security, safety and health issuesexists. Yet, the study is not aimed to solve these problems; rather it aims to uncover,in its full spectrum,the question as to'why all these grievances' with the aim to espouse the theories underlying the phenomenon. Theory building requires identification of variables and their relationships, patterns and trends. Though a number of studies have identified the policy gaps in different contexts such as post conflict reconstruction (Seneviratne K, 2017), Southern Expressway (H.M.T. Dharmawardhana, 2017) and (Akira Ozawa, So Morikawa , 2017), expansion of built up areas (Kathryn Gomersall, 2018), remote relocation mixed with another community (Vanclay, 2017), spatial effects (Rogers, S., &Wilmsen, B. (2020), landslide resettlement (PA Vijekumara, 2015), this particular study identified the technical gaps in addressing housing and infrastructure needs in resettlement related to a highway construction. In this project (the Central Expressway project Phase1 in Sri Lanka), 6,432 people from 1,742 families got affected due to loss of landholdings and there are 6 resettlement sites. However, the problems they faced in trying to regain their lost livelihoods are in most cases, unique. Eventually, Grounded theory became an effective way to explore this kind of "uncharted territories" where it is not known in advance what will be revealed or what will be needed to further the enquiry. The process adopted in the study is given in Figure 1 below.

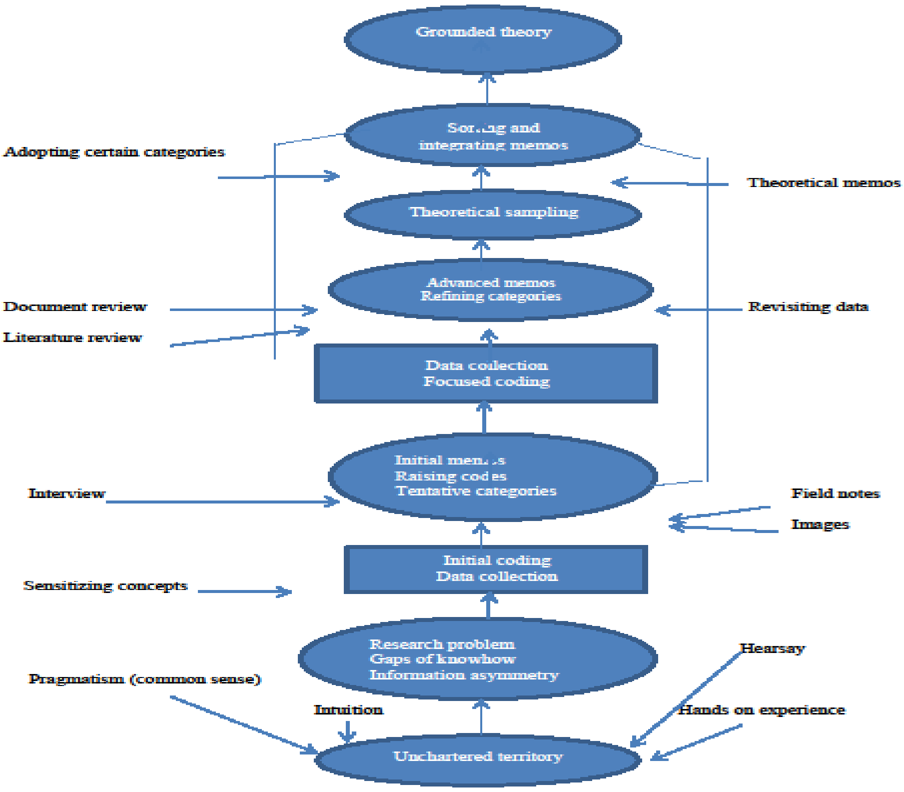

Figure 1: Process of Exploring Theories Grounded in Data

Hence, this paper is aimed to divulge the qualitative roadmap designed and implemented to identify gaps of housing and infrastructure needs in one of the resettlement sites located in the Gampaha district. Its objectives are to (1) critically appraise the key features of the grounded theory as a method of qualitative research (2) describe how grounded theory methodology has been applied by the researchers in the discourse of involuntary resettlement (being a complex phenomenon in the human world) and, (3) make recommendations for future grounded theory applications. The knowledge emancipated in this case study provided useful insights into resettlement planning and implementation.The next sections of the paper explain how the researchersduring the application of the Grounded theory method, coped up with the challenges encountered in terms of maintaining theoretical sensitivity, yielding codes and categories, undertaking theoretical sampling, achieving theoretical saturation, validating research outcome and defying own biases.

Theoretical sensitivity

Theoretical sensitivity is the researcher's ability to define a phenomenon in abstract terms. More of an art than a science, sensitivity can be raised by memoingitself andrecording thoughts as they emerge during data collection, coding, and analysis. As a result of this iterative function, the researcher becomes better equipped to answer the question of what the data does truly mean.In fact, the existing secondary data enables mooting theories. However, since the Grounded theory is expecting the researcher to identify new concepts from the data instead of using pre-defined concepts (Glaser, 2013), some argue that there is no need to review existing literature (Glaser, 1992), literature will inhibit the researcher's effort to generate theories (Reetley, 2008), and will have an impact on the subsequent observations (Suddaby, 2006).Birks and Mills (2012) warn that the use of literature is grossly a misunderstood aspect of the Grounded theory.Hence, literature is searched after, not before, emergence of the theory (Urquhart, 2013). Avoiding literature review beforehand is a strategic grounded theory pacing, not neglect and anti-scholarship (Glaser, 1998). Grounded theory must be free from claims of related literature, its findings and its assumptions in order to render the data conceptually with the best fit (Glaser, 1998). Grounded theory studies do not use literature as in traditional approacheswhere a literature review is conducted to form research questions, design research methods and identify theoretical frameworks (Dunne, 2011; Elliott & Higgins, 2012; Hallberg, 2010; McGhee, Marland, & Atkinson, 2007; Xie, 2009). (L. Cohen, Manion, & Morrison, 2007; Creswell, 2012; Dunne, 2011; Hallberg, 2010).

In contrast, Locke (2001) emphasizes the value of having a little pre-set assumption(s) about the phenomenon under exploration. Maintaining theoretical sensitivity is one of the hallmarks of Grounded theory and, literature review could be in parallel to primary data collection (Julie Bytheway, 2018). An early literature review provides rationale for the study, ascertains gaps in research, places the proposed research within the body of contemporary knowledge and meets academic regulations (Birks & Mills, 2012; Corbin & Strauss, 2008; Dunne, 2011; Elliott & Higgins, 2012; McGhee et al., 2007; Xie, 2009). It has no harm to consider literature leading to accumulated knowledge (Dey, 1993).Areview of the pertinent literature establishes current thinking (Allan, 2003 and AlirezaMoghaddam, 2008). Literature review prior to and during the research process provides a foundation, background and context for new research (Bowen, 2005).Pidgeon and Henwood (1997) also argue that the total exclusion of literature is not possible as the researcher needs to inculcate himself on theoretical sensitivity.

Literally, the review in substantive areas commences only after initial coding, that is after the theory emerges, and is used as further data during constant comparative analysis (Giles, King, & de Lacey, 2013; Glaser, 1998), (Birks & Mills, 2012; Charmaz, 2006; Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Hallberg, 2010). In grounded theory, it is acknowledged that the substantive area of enquiry is not, in its strictest sense, known before data collection, coding and emergence of theory (Christiansen, 2011; Glaser, 1998). An in-depth literature review could of course be commencedassoonascodes,categoriesandemergingtheorieshave been identified.As long as the researcher remains theoretically sensitive and approach data with an open mind, it will help avoid assumptions and preconceptions (Hallberg, 2010). This requires analytic temperament to maintain analytic distance from the data. As to analytic competence, the researcher must be able to develop theoretical insights and abstract conceptual ideas from various sources and types of data. Reading widely in other disciplines is a recommended means of enhancing theoretical sensitivity (Glaser, 1998). In other words, attempting to quarantine existing knowledge is counterproductive. Box 1 explains how the researchers used literature and maintained theoretical sensitivity throughout the study.

Box 1
The researchers reviewed pertinent literature only when coding started and emerging theory identified. Keeping in mind that, preconceived ideas may jeopardize the hallmark of the Grounded theory, this review exposed some important variables in previous similar studies in different contexts in the recent past. Being one of the victims of the resettlement, a researcherneeds to stop preconceptions. Hence, he articulated his assumptions in a memo at the outset of the research. As mentioned, it is not possible, nor indeed desirable, to separate the history from the building of a Grounded theory. This enabled the researchers to reinforce the discussions with more information in hand, remind the interviewees and direct the flow of discussion into areas of silence and inattention and widen up the inquiry. The literature became part of the data and the literature review became interwoven into the discussion. It was therefore felt that the total exclusion of literature is not possible as the researchers needed at least some theoretical knowhow to begin the process of interpretation and representation.

Coding and Memoing

Conclusions reached by the inductive method are not logical necessities(Thagard, Paul and Cameron Shelley, 2005). They are not proven; they are theory (Glaser, 1992). While inductive reasoning cannot yield an absolutely conclusion, it can actually increase human knowledge (it is *ampliative*). The ability to intuitively trust in knowing when to move from one stage in the process to another builds with experience as the analyst gains confidence in exploring and confirming conceptual ideas as they emerge. This is a real challenge where the specific observations are converted to general conclusions.Beginning with line-by-line open coding of data and comparing incidents to each other in the data, the researcher codes the data in every way possible and asks a set of questions of the data. These questions sustain the researcher's theoretical sensitivity, transcend descriptive details and encourage a focus on patterns among incidents that yield codes. Line-by-line coding helps verify and saturate categories, minimize missing categories, and ensure relevance. The result is a rich and dense theory with the feeling that nothing has been left out (Flick, U. 2019). As a starting point, selecting to use field notes enables the researcher to dispense with the meticulous and time-consuming efforts required to record and transcribe detailed interview data and mitigates being overwhelmed by its descriptive detail.

Coding consists of naming and categorising data in order to recognize, develop and relate concepts that are the building blocks of theory (Babchuk, 1997). First, open coding is used line by line throughout the interview transcripts. Gerunds are used during open coding to remain closer the participants' behaviour and language (Charmaz, 2006; Denscombe, 2010). Initial coding needs to accurately preserve participants' words, actions and processes. Second, selective coding is used to identify core categories. Patterns and relationships emerge through cyclic process of comparing data with data, and informal clustering, and mind mapping. Finally, theoretical coding is used to find constructs, connections and explain relationships to generate theory (Urquhart, 2013). Glaser and Strauss (1967) and Glaser (2005) insist that no prescribed or pre-planned codes are used. Codes are created from the collected data. Core categories explain rather than merely describe the phenomenon beingstudied.Birks and Mills (2012) recommend that memo writing include feelings and assumptions, philosophical position, ideas from literature, concerns regarding the study design, reflections on research process, procedural and analytical decision making, coding categories and generating theory. Glaser (1978) states that memos should remain open and be categorised so that they can be referred to as theory emerges and also provide part of the audit trail. In the meantime, diagramscould beusedtomapandconnectcodestoincreasetransparency(Birks&Mills,2012).This iterative process ensures that the data is more focused, and that the analysis is more theoretical. Only those concept groupings which explained the conditions, actions / inter-action and consequences of a phenomenon did constitute a category, as Corbin & Strauss, (2008) mentioned. After the initial breaking down of data into concepts and categories, the next phase, called axial coding, involve placing the data back together in new logical ways (Cho, J. Y., & Lee, E.-H.,2014).

Axial coding is the appreciation of concepts in terms of their dynamic interrelationships. The focus of axial coding is to construct a model that details the specific conditions that give rise to a phenomenon's occurrence. Strauss and Corbin (2008) believe that the purpose of axial coding is to reassemble data that were fractured during open coding.In axial coding, four analytical processes are occurring: (a) continually relating subcategories to a category, (b) comparing categories with the collected data, (c) expanding the density of the categories by detailing their properties and dimensions, and (d) exploring variations in the phenomena (Brown, Stevenson, Troiano& Schneider, 2002).Axial coding resulted in the identification of relationships between categories and sub-categories through a combination of inductive and deductive reasoning. Selective coding was the last phase of coding which means limiting the coding to only those that relate to the core category (Giske&Arthinian, 2007). According to Glaser (1978), as cited by Goulding (2002), “a core category is a main theme which sums up a pattern of behaviour”. Creation of too many codes and consequent loss of understanding of the overall picture" (Rettie, Robinson, Radke, &Ye, 2008). Box 2 explains the coding process undertaken.

Box 2

Initial efforts at open coding were heavily influenced by the latest experience in the struggle for resettlement and reasonable compensation. As much as humanly possible, the researchers allowed data to control the process by writing a theory for only what emerges through induction. A series of open questions began to etch in mind; What is this data meant by?’, ‘What category does this event indicate?’ What is actually happening in the data?’, ‘What is the main concern being faced by the APs?’, and What made him think so?.As a result, 83 codes were initially generated through open coding of data collected and analysed between October 2022 and February 2023; several of these codes were highly descriptive and, in some instances, somewhat repetitive. Field notes enabled capturing the essence of the participant’s main concerns and how that concern is resolved without the burden of laborious transcribing followed by the tedium of lengthy transcriptions.The challenge of this inundation was successfully dealt with axial coding. Questions that were asked during the process of axial coding included “when, where, why, how, and with what consequences”. Axial coding led to the 23 resettlement categories resulting 5 theoretical constructs unfolded.

Theoretical sampling

Theoretical sampling is whereby the researcher concurrently collects codes and analyses data and decides what data to collect next and where to find them. This approach strengthens the rigor of the study while providing a structure to data collection as well as data analysis. It is based on the need to collect more data to examine categories and their relationships (Silverman &Marvasti, 2008). Theoretical sampling allows better-formulated samples, meaningful and sensible than others. One of the tenets in theoretical sampling is that the researcher does not choose cases that are supportive to his argument. In theoretical sampling,a challenge is to overcome the tendency to select cases that support one-sided argument. It would be beneficial to look out for negative cases as well (Silverman, D. &Marvasti, A. 2008). Theoretical sampling is a result of constant comparison which resolves ‘data overwhelm’ (Glaser, 2003). By alternating data collection with coding and conceptual memoing, the researcher is prevented from collecting redundant data as once a category has been saturated. Further collection cannot be planned in advance of the emerging theory. Instead, the researcher can only discover where next to collect data by first coding the initial data and then looking for comparison groups by which to saturate the emerging codes and their properties. Comparing groups gives the researcher the advantage of developing a variety of categories. Box 3 explains how theoretical samplingoccurred.

> Box 3
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> The first sample was those who have been already residing at the resettlement site for several months. Later on, these interviewees identified other possible participants (snowballing). Since it was impossible to gather data from all individuals who have secured a plot of land in the resettlement site, a selection was made from those individuals. The problem of information asymmetry remained, as each individual case was unique. Interviews were conducted at the resettlement site. Interviews were with individuals, individual families and affected community as a whole. The participants led the conversation. Considering the gravity of the issues, the researcher had to actively intervene in the dynamics of the interview. Family discussions enabled participants to freely discuss topics of family interest and allowed researchers to gather a variety of views at a short spell of time. Interview with the affected community as a whole became the forum to reveal matters of common interest. The researcher had to control the flow of the discussion as some of the issues became hotly debated and contested among themselves. Participants were encouraged to lead open discussions initiated through broad open questions. The researcher coordinated the conversation to encourage participants to share perceptions and experiences that potentially explain how they experience the resettlement. During semi-focused interviews participants were asked to describe and explain their experiences, actions, ideas, and feelings by proving examples of specific situations, incidents, barriers and bottlenecks. The research timeline was made flexible enough to accommodate the foregoing steps which are iterative by nature.

The main criterion is that the data collected should apply to a particular category or property, irrespective of the differences or similarities. The first point of locating the data was “by going to places and talking to people who are most likely to be able to provide some insight into the problem” (Goulding, 2002).Although sampling at the beginning of the research is rather unfocused, it become more focused as the data collection and analysis progresses. Initially, the researcher considers the most obvious events. However, as concepts are identified and the theory starts developing, further data incorporated to strengthen the findings. This 'theoretical sampling' will only end when all the categories are saturated (Goulding, 1999). In here, the data collection is not isolated but continuous (Birks & Mills, 2012, Urquhart, 2013). Data collection aims to capture a range of contexts, perspectives and timeframes and can include transcripts, interviews, field notes, memos, elicited texts, questionnaires, documents, and scholarly literature (Charmaz, 2006). The constant cyclic and combined process of data collection, analysis, coding, and memo writing, and direct theoretical sampling are used to identify further research participants, contexts and data collection methods. Memos facilitate reorienting the researcher at a later date (Goulding, 1999). Adequate time will enhance reflexivity to emerge concepts and theories (Glaser & Strauss, 1967). However, data collection was constrained by practical reasons such as the unavailability of resettlers at the site. An audit trail needs to be maintained through detailed field notes, data records, memo writing and diagramming to show how the substantive theory emerges from the data and record flexible, systematic research processes (Birks & Mills, 2012; Denscombe, 2010). Meanwhile, it is important to empower the participations as a source of data. During a grounded theory interview, the participants and the interviewer are treated as equals (Scott, 2011). Regarding the size of sample, Morse (1994) suggests conducting 30–50 interviews for ethnography, ethnoscience and grounded theory. Box 4 explains the quality criteria adopted at the interview.

> Box 4
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> Quality criteria included establishing a comfortable, private, and quiet interview, building rapport with the interviewees, taking the role of an interested learner; active listening; using open-ended questions and avoiding leading questions; probing; and adopting a non-judgmental approach moving back and forth between gathering and analyzing data (iterative process) preventing random collection, feeling overwhelmed and unfocused. Participants were contacted to check whether emerging codes, memo-ideas and theory development resonate. The challenge of get the data overwhelming, inundating and redundant was navigated by strict coding process, however, the idiosyncrasy of the researchers was inevitable to empower the participants, boost up the discussions, and address the information asymmetry. Participants' statements were repeated to check clarity and interpretation. Observation and social skills were used to further the discussion. Previous responses were used to formulate further discussion topics. Prompts such as "Can you explain that further / in more detail?, Tell me more about …, What happens next… ?, Is there anything else you would like to say?" were also used to further the discussion. An audit trail was maintained, with references to location, participants, date and time of interview and non-verbal clues etc. As suggested by theoretical sampling processes, participants were asked if the correspondence exchanged between the affected people and the administration could also be used as data for this study. All research participants were contacted to partake in member checking processes to check whether emerging codes, memo-ideas and theory development resonate and are recognized by them. This was found to be hectic, laborious and tedious to administer.

Letting the participants have their own voice is fundamental (Birks & Mills, 2012). Scott (2011) advises researchers to ask broad open questions, let the conversation unfold, and empower participants to share experiences and perspectives. Researchers record field notes describing the context and any nonverbal clues (Birks & Mills, 2012). Despite the power bestowed on the participants, the researcher is not passive, but instead coordinates the back talks to generate theory (Corbin & Strauss, 2008).

Theoretical Saturation

In grounded theory, research processes continue until a point of saturation is reached, that is "no new concepts emerging from data" (Urquhart, 2013). Researchers need to "look for groups that stretch diversity, confident that category is saturated, based on widest possible range of data" (Glaser & Strauss, 1967, p. 61). As Birks and Mills (2012) instruct, in continuous cyclic processes, the researcher needs to collect and analyse data using constant comparative analysis until new data requires no new codes or categories, and instead fits within existing codes and a point of saturation appears to be reached. Hence, Grounded theory is not a linear process, but instead is a self-correcting approach that integrates research processes—such as collecting data, defining subsequent samples, coding data, analysing data, writing memos and diagrams, generating theory, and reviewing literature—in cyclic and cumulative ways so that emerging concepts can be explored further (Birks & Mills, 2012; Denscombe, 2010; Urquhart, 2013). Theoretical saturation implies that data is collected until "no new evidence appears" or until the researcher delivered enough information to describe the phenomenon under study (Suddaby, 2006). Saturation is only a regulatory idea for sampling size in qualitative research (Mason, 2010). Saturation is a subjective determination that new data will not provide any new information or insights for the developing categories (Creswell, 2012). Theoretical saturation is realised(1) when no new data comes out concerning a category, (2) the category is intense enough to cover variations and process and (3) relationships between categories are delineated adequately (Brown, Stevenson, Troiano& Schneider, 2002). Box 5 explains the process of achieving theoretical saturation.

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Box 5
Each code and significant quote was clearly traced back to the original data. Researchers recorded where codes and quotes specifically occur in the data, including, for example, the participant, interview date, and precise time during the interview recording.As such, the researchers continued to theoretically sample for indicators of several core categories. Through constant comparison, few more indicators of the concept were coded to achieve theoretical saturation and to provide properties and dimensions. The number of indicators per category is not as significant as the requirement to sample sufficiently to achieve theoretical saturation. The important thing is that each concept has earned relevance in relation to the theory, its relevance theoretically sampled for and sufficiently validated and its properties and dimensions identified though constant comparison and interchangeable indicators to theoretical saturation.

Achieving a point of saturation can result in a huge amount of data, however. Furthermore, initial coding can create hundreds of overlapping initial-codes as many interviewees for example will hold the same point of view, similar perception and close experience.

Internal validity and credibility

Strauss and Corbin (2008) suggest the following assumptions on which grounded theory methodology is predicated.

1. Need to go to the field to discover what is really going on.	As researcher, fully emerged in the process alongside the participants, a series of different opinions formed the basis of the discussion up until any new opinion ceased. The participants also contributed the study from their own embodied experiences. This variety brought richness to the discussion.
2. Relevance of theory to the development of a discipline.	Pertinent theories evolved with the empirical findings (shown in Fig 1) scaffold the development of the discipline of human resettlement
3. Complexity and variability of phenomena and of human	In human resettlement, problems remain complex, that is, a lack of disquiet for housing and infrastructure needs which has given

action.	rise to a plethora of uneven problems concerning human action
4. Belief that persons are actors responding to problematic situations.	In the discourse of human resettlement, the APs and Officials as the key actors responding to problems encountering
5. Assumption that persons act on the basis of meaning.	It is believed that people act sensibly prudently and consciously
6. Understanding that meaning is defined and redefined through interaction.	People make sense of the reality during their interactions iteratively. It was found that both the APs and Officials adjust their positions when mistaken.
7. Sensitivity to the evolving and unfolding nature of events (process).	The process adopted helped maintain sensitivity and reciting events that formed a larger portion of the phenomenon
8. Awareness of the interrelationships among conditions (structure), action (process), and consequences	A set of steps and processes which are the building blocks of the grounded theory where categories drawn from respondents and help focus on making implicit belief systems (ie, consequences) explicit.

Table 1: Assumptions predicated in the Grounded theory

Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2003) conclude that "in the literal sense of the question, you cannot know. All you can do is to reduce the possibility of getting the answer wrong".Riege (2003) insists the importance of obtaining a kind of consent (amber light) prior to espouse the findings. Crescentini and Mainardi (2009) conclude that the major difference between internal validity and credibility is owing to the smaller sample size of qualitative studies, since it is claimed that smaller sample sizes cannot be validated. However, the depth and richness of qualitative research counteract the smaller sample size (Crescentini&Mainardi, 2009). Bowen, 2005; Terre Blanche &Durrheim, 2006 recommend the use of multiple sources of data as a source of validation. Bowen(2005) recommends members checking a valid source of integrity. In doing member checking, Glaser, (2002) emphasizes the crucial importance that the participants understand that the study "is not their voice: it is a generated abstraction from their doings and their meanings that are taken as data for the conceptual generation". Peer debriefing is also a method where the peer reviewer evaluates all areas of the research to include decision-making, methodology, legal and ethical issues, and other matters pertaining to the research (Lewis, 2009). Further, it is hoped that the other researchers are able to transfer the findings of this study to new contexts in their studies by using it as a framework for reflection. These~~is~~ aspects have~~s~~ been reiterated by Terre Blanche &Durrheim(1999). In order for it to be sensible, the researchers declared the limitations anticipated contributions of the study. Crescentini&Mainardi, 2009 recommend a structured process to avoid publication pitfalls. Keeping audit trails is an activity that can enhance both the dependability and confirmability of a study. An audit trail can be established by "reviewing memos, logs, journals, field notes, computer files, and any other data pertaining to the research" (Lewis, 2009).Box 6 explains the process of validity.

Box 6

In this study, a process where three sources of data was used, including memoirs; interviews and literature to confirm the findings. The study utilized member validation where participants were contacted and requested to verify the accuracy of the initial findings. The researchers strived to build rapport with the interviewees in order to obtain honest and open responses. However the challenges were the passive response of the APs who feel that researches are only for education purpose which will bring nothing for them. During the interview, the researchers restated, paraphrased and summarized information and then questioned the participant to determine accuracy. Member checks completed after a study are completed by sharing all of the findings with the participants involved. The participants affirmed that the summaries reflect their views, feelings, and experiences. All the member checks were carried out verbally throughout the conduct of fieldwork. On the other hand, prolonged engagement in the study over a period of four months aided in the ability to detect and account for distortions that might be in the data. It also helped become oriented to the situation so content was appreciated. A peer review was finally undertaken to ensure that all the necessary elements have, as much as possible, fulfilled throughout the study.

Acknowledging Bias and Limitations

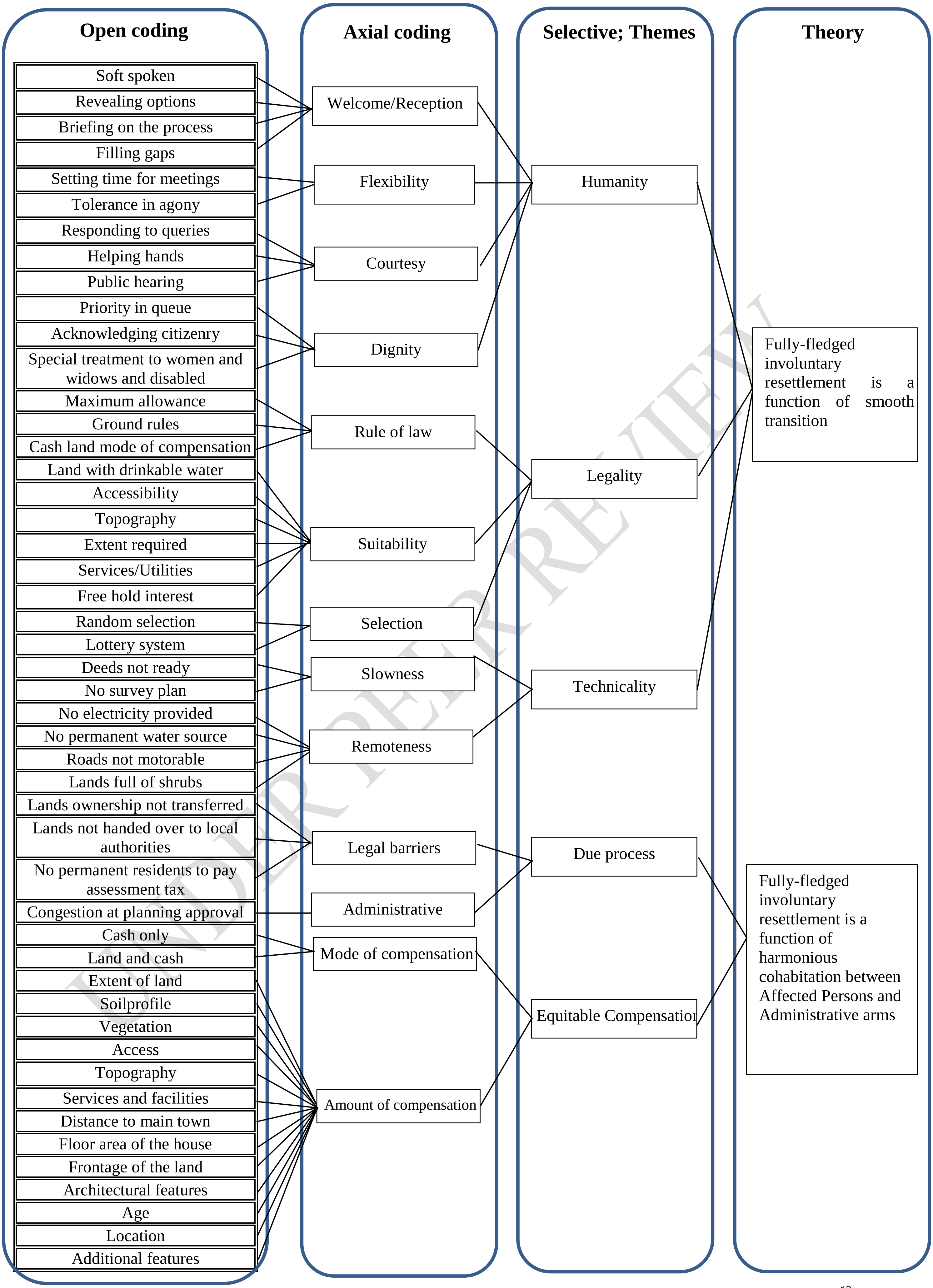
Most researchers entail a disciplinary background that establishes a perspective from which to investigate problems (Goulding, 1999). It is important that, in Grounded theory applications, the researchers challenge their biases and acknowledge their own experiences (Julie Bytheway, 2018). Acknowledging the researcher experience in the subject discourse is ethical attire in research. It is important, therefore to chart the process as it evolves, to use diagrams to illustrate the emergence of the theory, and point out critical junctures and breakthroughs in terms of theoretical insights (Goulding, 1999). According to Glaser (2002), inviting participants to review the theory for whether or not it is their voice is wrong as a 'check' or 'test' on validity. Grounded theory is generated from much data, of which many participants may be empirically unaware. Indeed, grounded theory is not their voice; it is a generated abstraction from their doings and their meanings that are taken as data for the conceptual generation. The study had a limited number of participants which may have some kind of impact on the generalizability of the results.Interviewing officials in parallel with the affected persons eased out the bias of entertaining one sided opinion. Box 7 explains the process of acknowledgement.

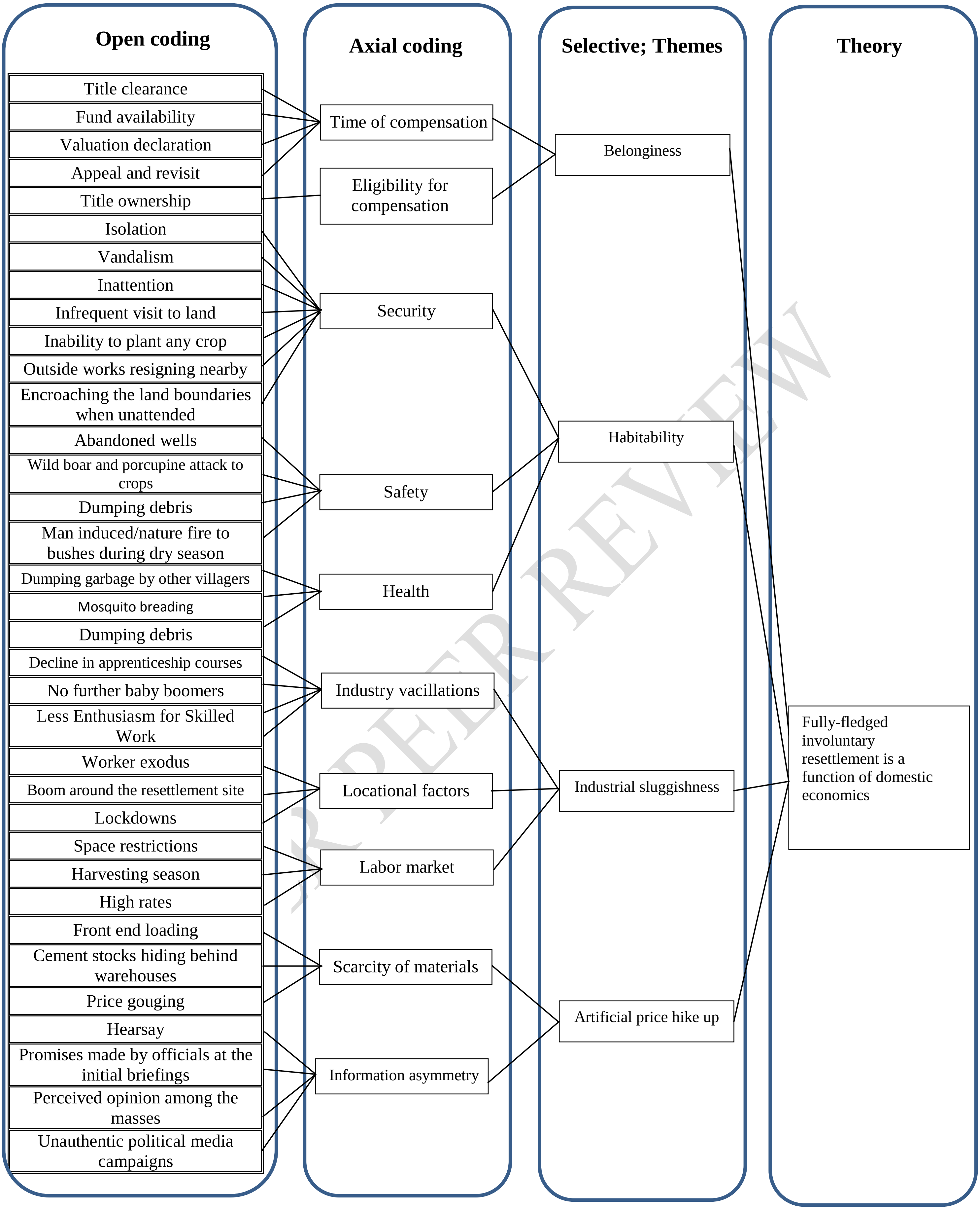
Box 7

The researcher’s bias was minimised by using member checking. Participants were encouraged to share their perceptions and experiences of learning; however they may have chosen not to nor have had the time to include all relevant information and also may not have been able to describe nor be aware of all of their nasty experiences. The researcher judgedthe point of saturation in order to cease data collection process; however more data could have added valuable information to further the understanding and explanation of human resettlement as a discourse.

The researcher constructed codes that fit the data, as far as possible, by engaging in initial coding. The provisional, initial codes were carefully compared with each other and with data, further elaborated and grouped together based on similarities and differences, leading to fewer but more focused and comprehensive codes. As a result of the iterative process, coding and constant comparison, their constructed focused codes fit tightly with their data. For example, the focused code 'courtesy' had its roots in initial codes like 'helping hands', 'public hearing', 'responding to queries". Another focused code, 'dignity', had its roots in initial codes like 'priority in queue, 'acknowledge citizenry', 'special treatment to women, widow and the disabled' as indicated in Figure 2.

Fig.2 Model for Open coding and axial coding


Open coding
Axial coding
Selective; Themes
Theory
Soft spoken
Revealing options
Briefing on the process
Filling gaps
Setting time for meetings
Tolerance in agony
Responding to queries
Helping hands
Public hearing
Priority in queue
Acknowledging citizenry
Special treatment to women and widows and disabled
Maximum allowance
Ground rules
Cash land mode of compensation
Land with drinkable water
Accessibility
Topography
Extent required
Services/Utilities
Free hold interest
Random selection
Lottery system
Deeds not ready
No survey plan
No electricity provided
No permanent water source
Roads not motorable
Lands full of shrubs
Lands ownership not transferred
Lands not handed over to local authorities
No permanent residents to pay assessment tax
Congestion at planning approval
Cash only
Land and cash
Extent of land
Soilprofile
Vegetation
Access
Topography
Services and facilities
Distance to main town
Floor area of the house
Frontage of the land
Architectural features
Age
Location
Additional features
Welcome/Reception
Flexibility
Courtesy
Dignity
Rule of law
Suitability
Selection
Slowness
Remoteness
Legal barriers
Administrative
Mode of compensation
Amount of compensation
Humanity
Legality
Technicality
Due process
Equitable Compensation
Fully-fledged involuntary resettlement is a function of smooth transition
Fully-fledged involuntary resettlement is a function of harmonious cohabitation between Affected Persons and Administrative arms



Open coding
Axial coding
Selective; Themes
Theory
Title clearance
Fund availability
Valuation declaration
Appeal and revisit
Title ownership
Isolation
Vandalism
Inattention
Infrequent visit to land
Inability to plant any crop
Outside works resigning nearby
Encroaching the land boundaries when unattended
Abandoned wells
Wild boar and porcupine attack to crops
Dumping debris
Man induced/nature fire to bushes during dry season
Dumping garbage by other villagers
Mosquito breading
Dumping debris
Decline in apprenticeship courses
No further baby boomers
Less Enthusiasm for Skilled Work
Worker exodus
Boom around the resettlement site
Lockdowns
Space restrictions
Harvesting season
High rates
Front end loading
Cement stocks hiding behind warehouses
Price gouging
Hearsay
Promises made by officials at the initial briefings
Perceived opinion among the masses
Unauthentic political media campaigns
Time of compensation
Eligibility for compensation
Security
Safety
Health
Industry vacillations
Locational factors
Labor market
Scarcity of materials
Information asymmetry
Belonginess
Habitability
Industrial sluggishness
Artificial price hike up
Fully-fledged involuntary resettlement is a function of domestic economics

Conclusion and Recommendations

Theoretical sampling became prominent in the iterative process, which guided the later interviews to fill out emerging categories. These focused codes provided framework for subsequent analysis. Grounded theory methods of focused coding, theoretical coding, constant comparison, memo-writing and theoretical sampling guided the researcher to merge focused codes such as 'flexibility', 'dignity', 'courtesy', into an even more comprehensive focused code developed into a category that labeled 'humanity'. Other groups of focused codes were further merged into other more comprehensive categories such as 'legality', 'technicality', and 'due process'. Theoretical sampling was necessary to reach theoretical saturation in terms of having constructed a grounded theory with theoretical completeness. In addition, the empirical grounding of the theory led to: (a) workability (Glaser 1998) as the developed middle-range theory contributes to explain the link between involuntary resettlement and smooth transitionfound in the literature from the perspectives of the participants; (b) abstract understanding as it contributes to increase our understanding of meanings and actions and how victims construct them; and (c) relevance and resonance as participants in the study could recognize the subtle components forming part of the phenomenon, involuntary resettlement.It is clear that the grounded theory is not created exclusively based on actual data but it may also be based on previous knowledge about the research phenomenon. Hardly the theorists strictly undermine the importance of literature review but stress not to too much depend on the existing literature that may otherwise impair the efficacy of open mindedness. However, grounded theory is an inductive research methodology that substantially avoids preconceived ideas and follows paths of enquiry and self-correction. However, the challenges related to data overwhelming, data inundation, data redundancy, willingness to disclose sensitive information, information asymmetry, thickness of data, treating participants equally, diversified opinion and idiosyncrasy of the individual researchers are inevitable. Along with the theoretical sensitivity, the researchers are to constantly fine tune the approaches to their empirical studies such as empowerment of interviewees, intervention in the dynamics of discussions where desirable, member checking, audit trials and peer briefing.

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