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Working Title: Building Code for Resilience?: Building standards knowledge and negotiation in India's riparian urban-rural networks.

Policies to improve disaster resilience in the built environment in India often advocate reducing physical and structural vulnerabilities through stronger and more stringent construction standards. Such propositions assume that high standards for construction necessarily enhance resilience and quality of life of people. But this interaction—between standards, resilience and people's wellbeing—is in fact more complex.

To understand this interaction, this research specifically focuses on the case of welfare housing programmes in Odisha, one of India's most flood-prone regions. In Odisha, the study looks at settlements along a flood-prone riparian peri-urban-rural continuum. This riparian continuum combines the presence of highly vulnerable communities in a context of rapid urbanised construction. In this context, this study calls into question when and whether high construction standards improve built environment resilience in poorer peri-urban and rural areas. If there are reasons to review assumptions of formal regulations, it becomes vital to understand how these regulations are formulated, transmitted, negotiated, for what reasons, by whom and for whom.

To understand the above, this research qualitatively analyses data gathered through multiple methods: archived data, semi-structured interviews with key professionals, participatory interviews and games with regional dwellers and masons, and ethnographic and technical documentation of house-types. With findings from this spatial-temporal analysis of construction knowledge codification, this research ultimately hopes to suggest ways to make centralised building standards more effective and efficacious.