PROPERTY RIGHTS, POVERTY & INTRA-HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING
- ROLE OF GENDER IN URBAN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

A Dissertation
Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School
of Cornell University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

by
Namita Datta
January 2005
TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1

PAPER ONE: Joint Titling -- A Win-Win Policy? Gender and Property Rights in Urban Informal Settlements in India
   Introduction 19
   Methodology 23
   The Significance of House as Property 27
   Joint titles – Moving towards Empowerment 32
   Deconstructing “Attachment” to the House 50
   Do Joint Titles Make Women More Assertive? 55
   Home- A Site of Oppression or a Source of Security? 58
   Regularization: - A Critical One-time Opportunity 62
   Conclusion 67
   References 71

PAPER TWO: Patterns of Urban Poverty in India: Tenure Security, Tenure Status and Gender in Informal Settlements
   Introduction 78
   Tenure Security and Poverty 80
   Tenure Status and Poverty 83
   Gender and Poverty 85
   Data 89
   Methodology 95
   Empirical Results 98
   Decomposing Inequality 113