

**Barriers and Resources in Activist  
Organizing of Low-income Neighborhood  
Residents Suffering from Housing Distress:  
The Case of the Bomb Shelter Settlement**

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The article describes and analyzes the role of various barriers (personal, community, policy) and mobilized resources, in an organized effort by a group of low-income people to build an affordable cooperative housing project in their "childhood neighborhood". The case study occurred in a major urban development program in Israel which included a citizen participation component. The uniqueness of the case study was in the dramatic shift in mode of action from a self-help group to a political protest group. A conceptual framework was developed, based on both barriers and resource mobilization approaches. Based on the case study findings, the research discusses a number of theoretical and applied issues, such as the interaction between barriers and resources, their impact on modes of action and on the success of the organizing effort; the need for and contribution of citizen participation programs in light of the many barriers to their success; and the "price" that low-income groups "pay" for the institutional and political resources that they mobilize. The article recommends that housing efforts on the part of low-income people use both self help and social political modes of action, and that local housing struggles be linked to national housing struggles.

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