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*'Does Citizenship Abate Class? Reflections on Urban India'*

**Abstract:**

We reformulate the question of public service delivery to the urban poor in terms of citizenship. Reframing citizenship theory, rooted in TH Marshall's seminal work done at LSE, we ask how effectively the poor exercise their citizenship rights and what the outcomes are. Based on a survey of over 4000 households in Bangalore, we find that: (i) though formal citizenship is equally available to all, effective citizenship is unevenly distributed, and education and class are the biggest predictors of citizenship *in practice*; (ii) even though the poor have lower *effective* citizenship than the non-poor, they get more out of it, in that without the exercise of citizenship rights, the poor would be less well served by the state and would get fewer public services. In this sense, citizenship is an ally of the poor, as it abates class. If the poor could get more involved in citizenship practices, they would get more from the system