

Studying the Real Slums of Bangalore, Jaipur, and Patna

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Introduction

There is a relative paucity of knowledge about urban poverty in developing countries specifically about their current physical state and slums progress overtime. Our research explores tenure security and social mobility- two aspect of the knowledge of Indian poor that have yet to be fully explored.

Social mobility- the ability to ameliorate one's social strata. This paper is an attempt to specifically distinguish the impact of different kinds of social capital on social mobility. Learning about the impact of social capital on social mobility can predict how slum household statuses will progress over time. I hypothesize there exist two clusters of social capital characteristics that drive social mobility: the degree to which parts of a household's identity matches households in the same neighborhood and the degree to which there is social organization and engage between households in each neighborhood

Another important piece that our project looks at is tenure security. Four years ago, the Bangalore government responsible for providing infrastructure evicted over 5,000 slum-dwellers from their homes in an area called Koramangala. Evictions happen in unofficial settlements, and we are curious about how secure these residents feel about their tenure.

Methodology

- ✓ India is particularly interesting country to study social mobility and tenure security
- ✓ It is especially interesting because slum dweller or low income earners that make up 25% or 81 million people of the country and the urban poor is an understudied population
- ✓ Our data contain information from 3 different cities: Bangalore, Jaipur, and Patna
- ✓ These cities are all state capitals and are hubs of regions growing at different speeds- fast (Bangalore), medium (Jaipur) and slow (Patna).
- ✓ The data was collected via locally hired enumerators with digital tablets conducting 45 minute long surveys fielding questions from age, education, and gender of household members to assets, neighborhood organizing, and voting banks.

Results

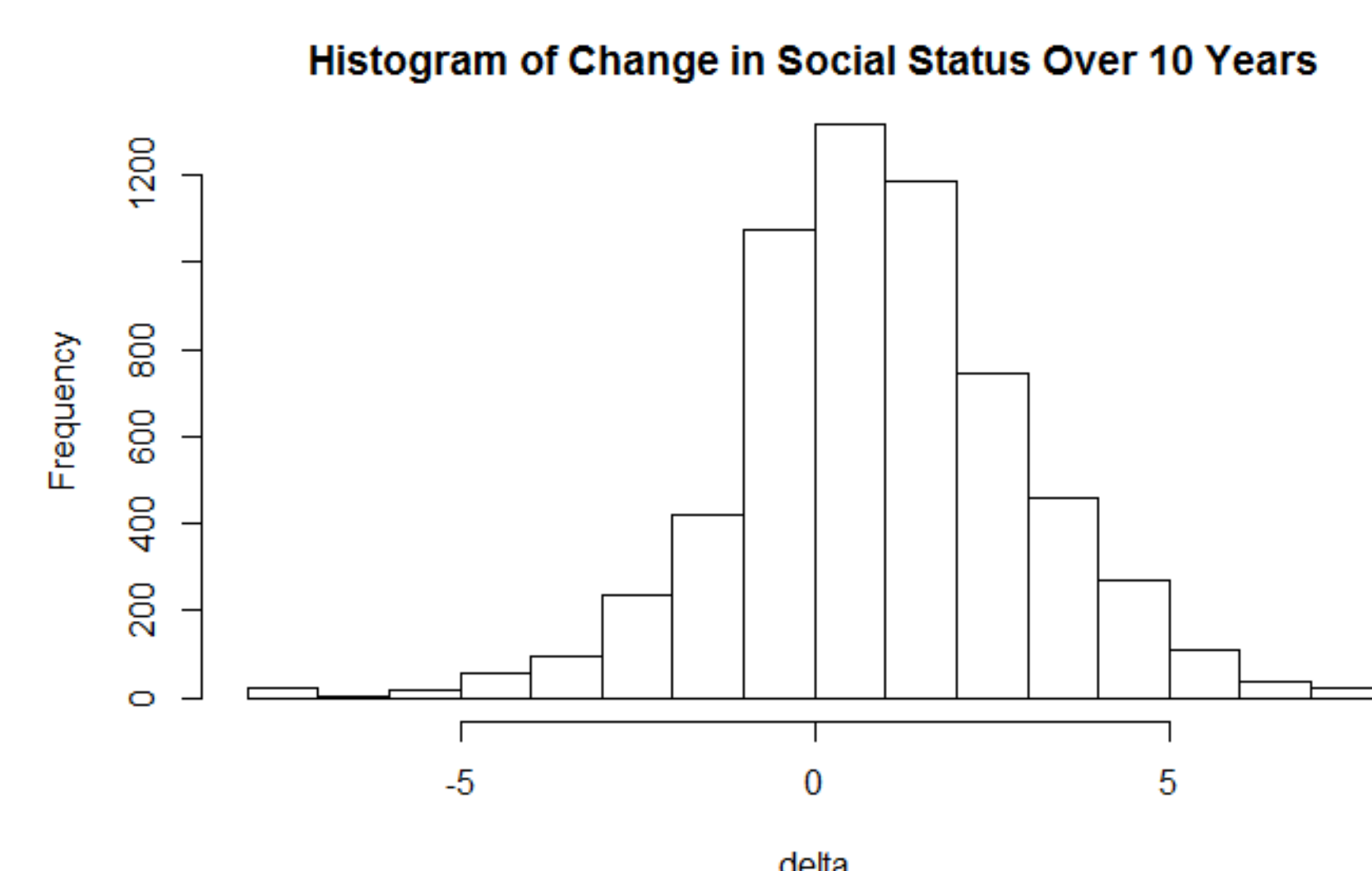
To predict social mobility I regress change in social status against social capital and individual characteristic variables in a random intercept, linear model.

Key Concepts

- ✓ **Social mobility** is the ability to change in social standing in society.
- ✓ To measure social standing did calculations using I use an asset-based poverty metric:

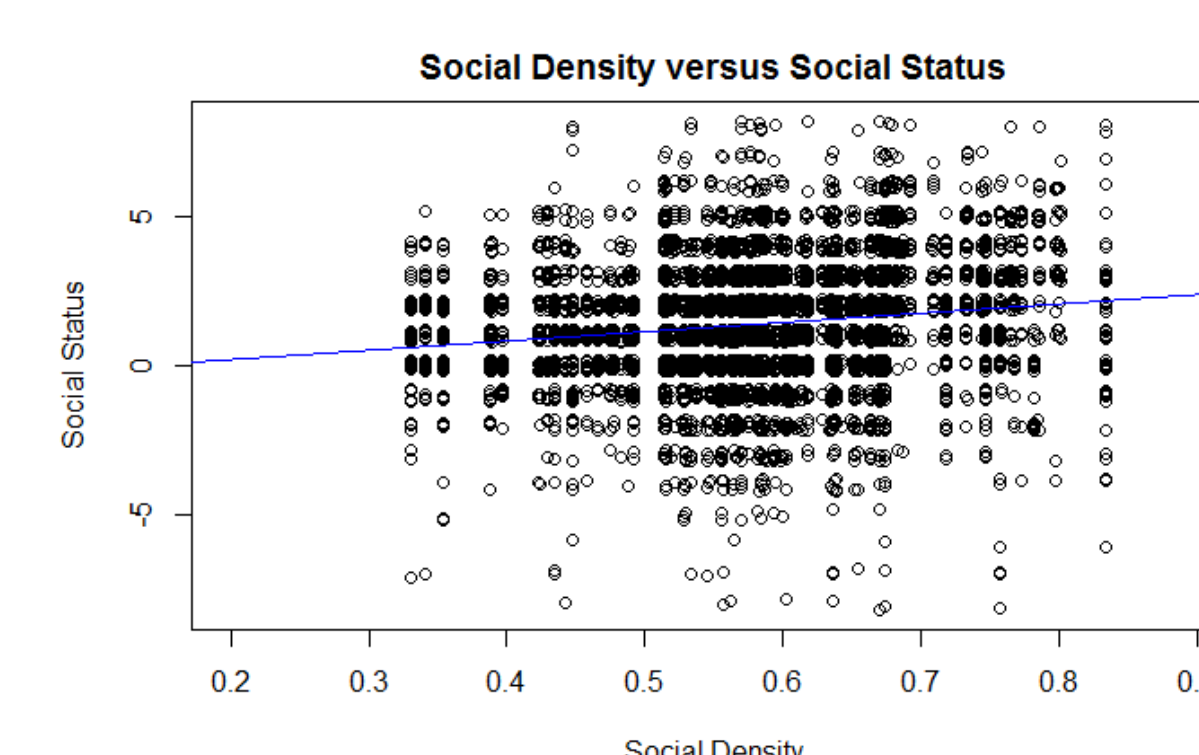
$$\text{Change in Social Standing} = s_{10} - s_{now}$$

Where s_{10} is up to what item a household could afford 10 years ago and s_{now} is up to what item a household can afford now.

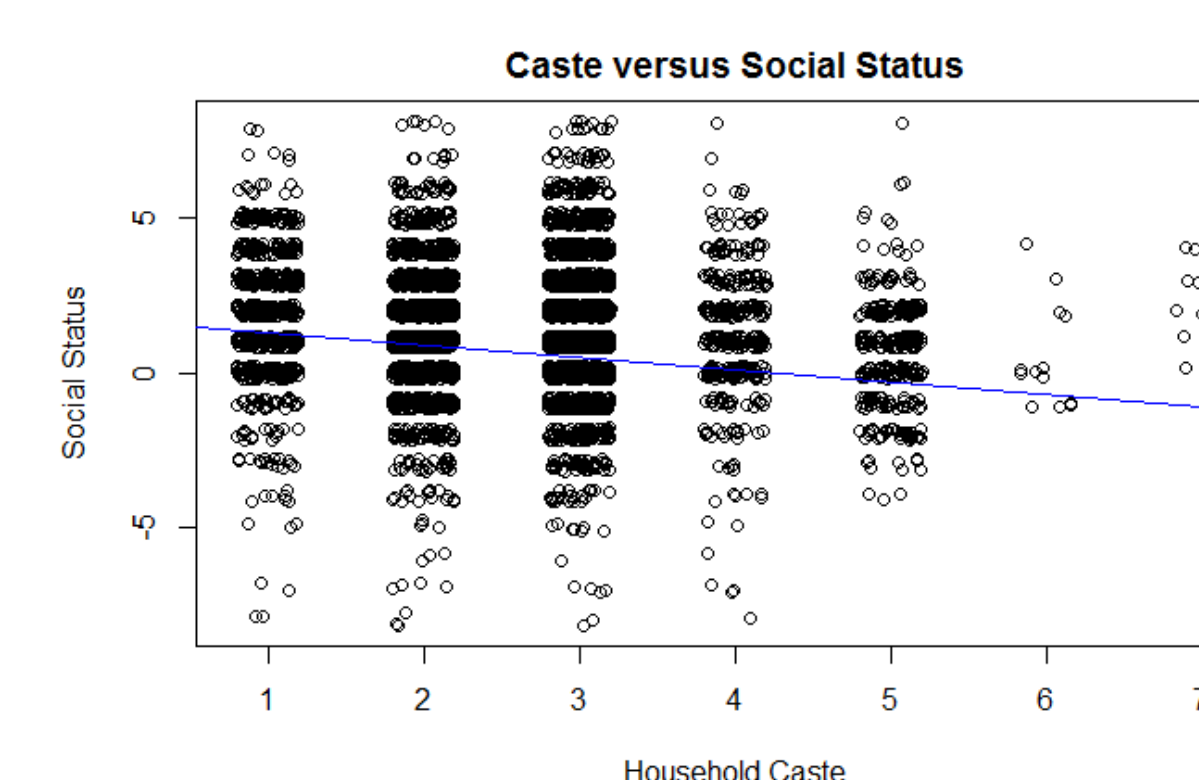


Due to the Gaussian distribution of change in social status I used a linear model to regress change in status against covariates such as individual and community level characteristics.

Results



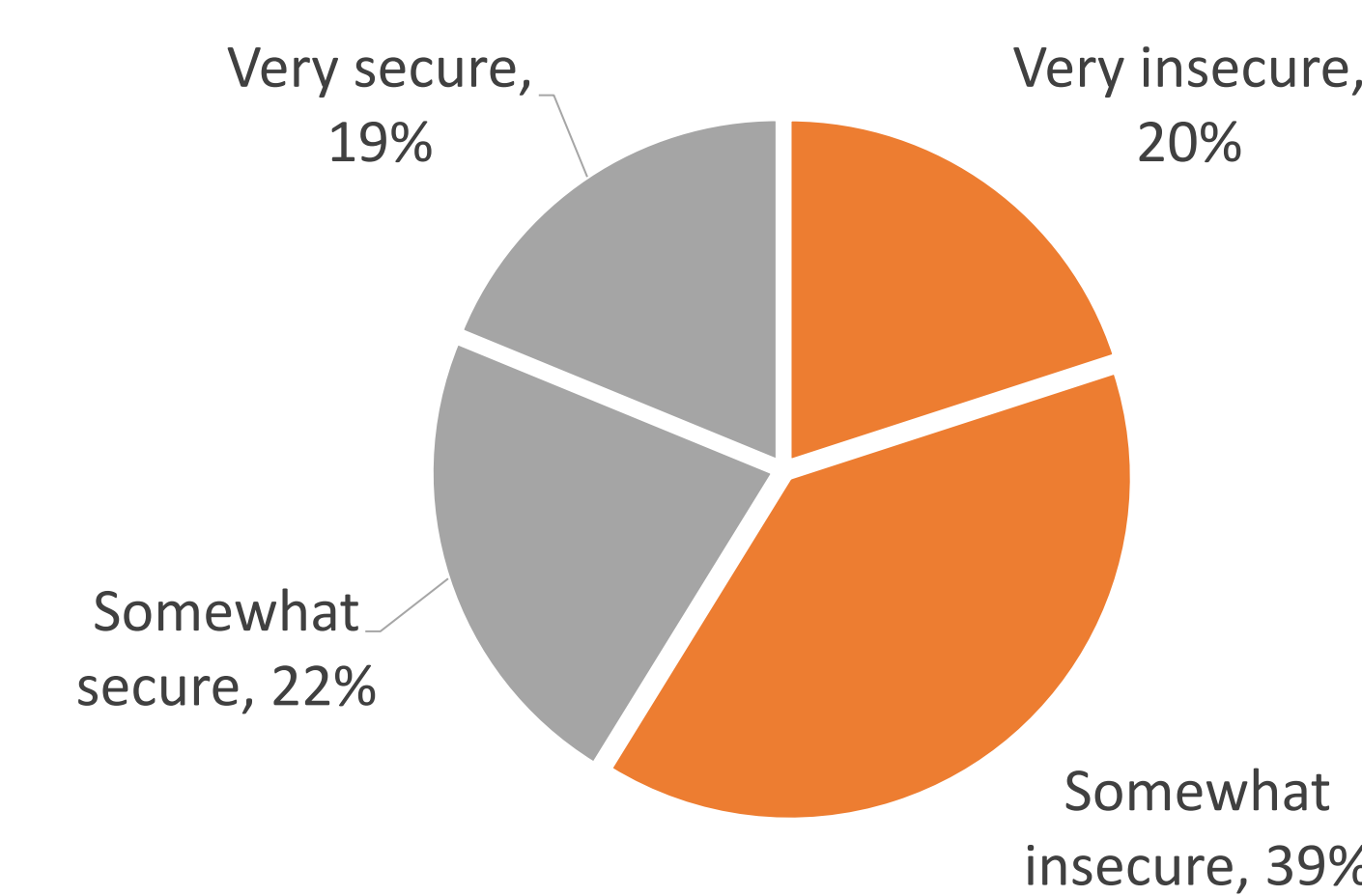
There is a positive correlation between social density (a principle component score on how much a community interacts) and social change. This is an example of a neighborhood level characteristic that affects social mobility.



There is a negative correlation between caste and change in social standing meaning those with lower caste (3,4, or 5) will not have as much change positive change in social standing as those households with higher caste rank. This is an example of an individual level characteristic affecting social mobility.

Results

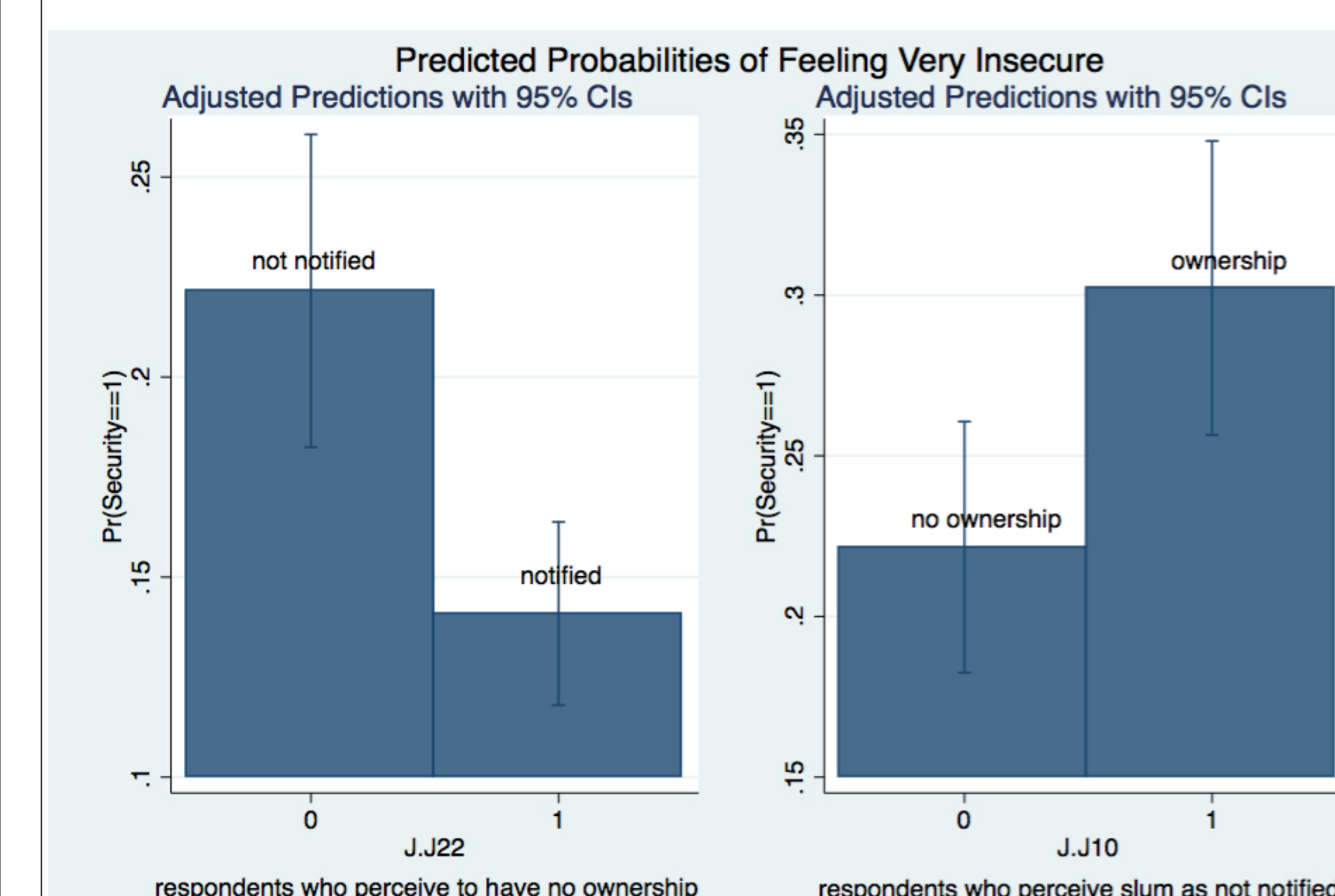
Tenure Security:



I estimate ordered logistic regression on tenure security (scale from 1 = very insecure to 4 = very secure), including a set of household characteristics as independent co-variables.

Co-variables of Significance	Coefficient	P-Value
Notification	0.551	0.000
Ownership	-0.420	0.000
Gender	0.217	0.013

- Perception of slum being notified **increases** perceived tenure security
- Perception of having private title **decreases** perceived tenure security
- Female respondents feel more secure than male respondents.



- Among respondents who perceive to have no private title, those who perceive to live in notified slums are 7% less likely to feel very insecure
- Among those who perceive to live in non-notified slums, those who perceive to have private title are 8% more likely to feel very insecure

Conclusions

Social Mobility:

- ✓ Individual level characteristics affect social mobility such as the number of years of education and type of occupations family members in each household
- ✓ Neighborhood level characteristics also exist that affect social mobility such as community engage. The more active and supportive the community is the more likely upward mobility will be

Tenure Security:

- ✓ Confirms that tenure security increases with perception of collective title and decreases with perception of private title
- ✓ A significant revelation that contributes to the existing research on collective property regimes as a more efficient alternative to private property rights in certain settings

Acknowledgement

Duke University Bass Connections Grant

Professor Anirudh Krishna
Sanford School of Public Policy

Professor Erik Wibbels
Political Science

Jana Urban Foundation

Indian Institute of Management

