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A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF RERA ACT ON CUSTOMERS AT SHUSHMITHA SOUTHERN HOUSING, CHENNAI

SHUSHMITHA.R STUDENT DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS CHENNAI

ABSTRACT

The project work entitled "A study on the impact of RERA ACT on Customers at Shushmitha Southern Housing, Chennai" www.rushmoressh.com was mainly conducted to identify the resolved and unresolved factors within the Indian Real Estate Industry, radiating direct and indirect impact on customers after the implementation of RERA ACT across the Indian states and it found that RERA has increased Quality of Construction since Developers are made to give 5 years warranty period to Flat Buyers against Construction defects. It has made Developers deliver their projects On Time without delays. It has thrown a transparent picture of the Real Estate Industry where a customer can analyze the choices of property with the help of RERA validation features. Customers are courageously reporting to RERA offices whenever Developers violate Agreement norms and RERA steps in to set it right at once. India's Global Image on Real Estate Sector has been upgraded by RERA act.

KEYWORDS

RERA Act, housing projects.

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INTRODUCTION

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 is an Act of the Parliament of India which seeks to protect Customers as well as help boost investments in the real estate industry. The Act establishes Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in each state for regulation of the real estate sector and also acts as an adjudicating body for speedy dispute redressal. The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 10 March 2016 and by the Lok Sabha on 15 March 2016. The Act came into force on 1 May 2016 with 59 of 92 sections notified and remaining sections/provisions came into force on 1 May 2017. The Central and state governments have notified the Rules under the Act.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study has diluted and concentrated samples from SSH's customers as well as general public living in Chennai City RERA zone in order to secure a more realistic feedback from Chennai's Real Estate Industry.

The scope of this study is to identify the impact of RERA on Customers and also hunt for grey areas for further curative measures for 100% Customer Protection under RERA era. The scope of the study involves the preparation of questionnaires and data sheet for Chennai RERA zone audience only.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

RERA Act has only protected the interest of customers (home buyers / joint development land owners) of projects executed on lands which are ABOVE **500 sq.m** (5380 sq.ft/2.25 grounds approx.) and on projects with above 8 flats thereby failing to protect the interest of customers (home buyers / joint development land owners) of projects executed on lands LESS THAN 500 sq.m (5380 sq.ft/2.25 grounds approx.) and on projects with less than/equal to 8 flats.

To illustrate the above said loop-holes with respect to Chennai RERA Zone, customers (home buyers / joint development land owners) are exposed to high risks in areas such as Anna Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Madipakkam, Adampakkam, etc. wherein most of the lands there are less than 5380 sq.ft/2.25 grounds approx.) and most of the projects are less than/equal to 8 flats. This research is limited to understanding Chennai Customer Behaviours under RERA era across the positive, negative and neutral parameters.

In addition, there are other teething issues, monitoring concerns and grey areas revolving around the RERA Act which needs to be addressed and ironed-out for a fool-proof and water-tight RERA ACT.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To study the impact of RERA ACT on Customers.
- 2. To validate quality assurance, timely delivery & rectification procedures.
- 3. To audit grey areas, corrective measures & speedy redressal of disputes.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

- 1. The study was limited to a short period only.
- 2. The data depends totally on the respondent's perspective, which may be proficient or biased or opinionated or ill-informed.
- 3. In this study the sample size was 132 taken within Urban Chennai RERA zone only. Hence, it cannot represent the mind-set of Rural Tamil Nadu too.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Shubham Jain (May 9th 2018) is her article "How RERA change the real estate landscape" published by www.FinancialExpress.com stated that there is sea of positive changes post-RERA getting notified in the respective Indian states and the respective state governments will have to play an important role and be proactive in tackling issues of under-staffing and streamlining of operations of the RERA authority and tribunal. RERA success depends on the Political willingness and administrative efficiency of the State Government of the respective Indian States. The State Governments must take all pro-active and comprehensive steps to protect customer's right using RERA Act.

Samridhi Malhotra (Jun 5th 2018) is her article "Advertisement guideline in RERA" published by by <u>www.rerafiling.com</u> stated that the promoter shall not issue any advertisement in any manner including by the way of issuance of brochures, pamphlets, words of mouth, or in any other manner, for booking of the apartment or plots or building in real estate project without getting their particular project registered under RERA. If he/she is found advertising the project without getting it registered, he/she will be imposed on harsh penalties that are prescribed in the norms. After getting the project registered, the promoter then gets the right to

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advertise his/her project via any sort of media like brochures, pamphlets, etc. Advertisements published for inviting buyers for the purchase of apartment/plot, shall be truthful and based on the facts as have been revealed to the authority with strictly no exaggeration or misinterpretation which may create a biased impression in the minds of the buyers about the property they are interested to buy. In case, the promoter is found advertising any false claims that he/she fails to deliver, he/she shall be exclusively liable for further penalties.

METHODOLOGY

The type of research design opted for this study is descriptive research design. Descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena. Data collected for this study was from both primary and secondary sources.

The main objective of this type of research is to describe the state of affairs as it exists at present. It determines the customer attitude towards the RERA ACT and its impact on them. This design was selected with the objective of knowing the impact of RERA ACT. The main characteristic of this method is that the researcher has no control over the variables; he can only report what has happened or what is going on.

Data was collected using by distributing questionnaires through WhatsApp using survey tools and in-person sessions. Quantitative questionnaires (close-ended questions & mathematical and statistical calculations) were used. The structured questionnaire with majority of closed-ended with multiple choices was distributed to the respondents to be filled up. Likert and Dichotomous scaling techniques were used.

Sample size selected for this study was 132 Stratified Sampling technique was used (Probability sampling).

The populations representing real estate customers was divided into three layers / strata. Each layer / strata of the population consisted of Along with the Percentile Analysis, statistical tools such as Chi-square and Correlation were used for data analysis. Software tools such as SPPS/ MS Word/ MS excel were used.

Layer 1	Recent Past Customers of the company
Layer 2 A	Present Customers of the company
Layer 2 B	Prospective Customers of the company
Layer 3	General Public outside the company

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

TABLE 1 - GUARANTEED TIMELY DELIVERY & 5 YEAR DEFECT RECTIFICATION, POST-RERA

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Strongly Agree	31	23.49
Agree	92	69.69
Neutral	7	5.30
Disagree	1	0.76
Strongly Disagree	1	0.76
Total	132	100

From the above Table, it is inferred that 23.49% of customers strongly agree that they are satisfied regarding guaranteed timely delivery under RERA regime, 69.69% of customers agree the same, 5.30% are mixed mind-set about the same and 0.76% of customers agree that they are not satisfied regarding the same and 0.76% of customers strongly agree they are not satisfied regarding guaranteed timely delivery under RERA regime.

TABLE 2: UNHAPPY THAT RERA DOES NOT PROTECT FLAT BUYERS OF PROJECTS WITH <= 8 FLATS AND <= 2.25 GROUNDS IN INDIA

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Strongly Agree	74	56.06
Agree	57	43.18
Neutral	1	0.76
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0
Total	132	100

From the above Table, it is inferred that 56.06% of customers strongly agree that they are unhappy that RERA does not protect flat buyers of projects amidst <= 8 flats and <= 2.25 grounds, 43.18% of customers agree the same, 0.765% of customers are having mixed mind-set about the same, 0% of customers disagree the same and 0% of customers strongly disagree that they are unhappy that RERA does not protect flat buyers of projects amidst <= 8 flats and <= 2.25 grounds.

TABLE 3: 100% SAFE TO BUY FLATS FROM RERA REGISTERED PROJECTS IN INDIA

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Strongly Agree	68	51.52
Agree	56	42.42
Neutral	5	3.79
Disagree	3	2.27
Strongly Disagree	0	0
Total	132	100

From the above Table, it is inferred that 51.52% of customers strongly agree that they feel 100% safe to buy flats from RERA registered projects, 42.42% of customers agree the same, 3.79% of customers are having mixed mind-set about the same, 2.27% of customers disagree the same and 0% of customers strongly disagree that they feel 100% safe to buy flats from RERA registered projects.

FINDINGS

- 1. Maximum respondents (92%) were extremely happy that RERA has made Developer accountable and punishable for delay and construction defects.
- 2. Maximum respondents (70%) were happy that RERA has guaranteed Timely delivery by Developers.
- 3. Maximum respondents (78%) were happy that RERA has Developer assure Maximum Quality of Construction and 5-year rectification commitment.
- 4. Maximum respondents (52 %) profoundly endorsed that it is 100% safe to buy flats from RERA Projects.
- 5. Maximum respondents (98%) wanted all projects irrespective of number of flats and land extent to be covered by RERA
- 6. Maximum respondents (100 %) wanted more regulatory norms for RERA to make it loop-hole free
- 7. Maximum respondents (89%) endorsed that RERA has regulated the real estate industry

SUGGESTIONS

RERA acts must guards all Customers across India irrespective of Total Land Extent and Total No of Flats. Currently, Developer projects with <= 8 Flats and <=
2.25 Grounds are NOT covered under RERA thus exposing Flat Buyers of such projects to potential RISKS. This loop-hole must be addressed with immediate

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effect. RERA act must also protect customers of projects with <= 8 Flats and <= 2.25 Grounds and this corrective measure will make the act 100% loop-hole free one.

- 2. RERA act must bring more reforms to rope in the Professionals such as Engineers and Architects vouch for Quality Assurance since they are the spine behind Developer's RERA registered projects. RERA must bring them within the legal loop so that Developers are cornered on all sides to delivery on time with hiquality of construction.
- 3. State government bodies across Indian states must enforce all norms effectively without any laxity since signs of laxity will kill the very essence of what RERA stands for.

CONCLUSIONS

RERA has increased Quality of Construction since Developers are made to give 5 years' warranty period to Flat Buyers against Construction defects. It has made Developers deliver their projects On Time without delays. It has thrown a transparent picture of the Real Estate Industry where a customer can analyze the choices of property with the help of RERA validation features.

Customers are courageously reporting to RERA offices whenever Developers violate Agreement norms and RERA steps in to set it right at once. India's Global Image on Real Estate Sector has been upgraded by RERA act.

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