150 million Indians are living with mental disorders, but 90% of people with common mental disorders and 60% of people with schizophrenia remain out of care. Within this sobering scenario, the recursive relationship between homelessness and mental health represents a particularly complex challenge characterised by systematic exclusion and marginalisation of people affected by this double jeopardy. Trapped in an unrelenting, cruel coupling of mental ill-health and homelessness, this injustice is further exacerbated when met with services that mirror a dogmatic curative archetype, detached from the underlying sociocultural and economic associations.

This thesis explores the phenomenon of homelessness and mental health in the Indian context, particularly among women. It investigates the development of a mental health system and the effects of two approaches - Emergency Care and Recovery Centre (ECRC) and Home Again, a housing with supportive services intervention - on promoting recovery and social inclusion of women with mental illness with histories of homelessness. The existent reality of mental health service provision, policy, law and discourse in India are critically examined to derive prospects for system reform based on results from the five studies in this thesis.