

Urbanization and Human Development

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Human Development and Resource Management: A Field Course



What is a livable city?



Monocle Magazine's Top 10 Most Livable Cities

1. Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2. Tokyo, Japan**
3. Melbourne, Australia
4. Stockholm, Sweden
5. Helsinki, Finland
6. Vienna, Austria
7. Zurich, Switzerland
8. Munich, Germany
- 9. Kyoto, Japan**
- 10. Fukuoka, Japan**

Urbanization and Asia

- Asia has seen rapid growth over the period 1990-2008
- Even with the financial crisis, this growth has been sustained
- But what kind of growth?
 - Asia still home to the most number of poor
 - Despite growth, still rising inequality

Features of Urbanization in Asia

- Rapid pace
- Highest densities in the world
- Most number of megacities in the world
- Largest cities are likely to get bigger—
therefore, rise of even more megacities

*Source: Expert Dialogue on the Quality of Growth, 14-16 November 2012,
Meeting Room H, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok Thailand*

Asian Urban Century

- Half the world's urban population lives in Asia
- The region accounts for 65% of the demographic expansion of urban areas across the world
- 7 out of 10 of the most populous cities in the world are in this region

Growth Patterns

- Cities are expanding in a way that is not sustainable
 - Discontinuous, scattered, very land consuming
 - Suburban sprawl
 - Urban expansion increasing faster than population growth—creating disconnected areas and creating challenges for transport and communications

The Role of Cities

- Engines of national economies
 - Employment
 - Income generation
- The UN-HABITAT Report 2012/2-13 says that the city is the “Home of Prosperity”
 - It is where people find basic needs and essential public goods

Urban Prosperity

- What does Urban Prosperity mean?
 - Generally, prosperity is defined according to economics, ignoring other dimensions that are essential to human well-being
 - The financial crisis emphasizes that there is a need to include other, non-economic dimensions to prosperity

Urban Prosperity

A prosperous city:

1. Contributes to economic growth through productivity, generating income and employment that affords adequate living standards for the whole population
2. Deploys the infrastructure—water, sanitation, power, roads, information and communication technology—required to sustain both the population and the economy

3. Provides the social services—education, health, recreation, safety and security—required for improved standards of living, enabling the population to maximize individual potential and lead fulfilling lives
4. A prosperous city is only prosperous to the extent that it can minimize poverty and inequality
5. A prosperous city does not destroy or degrade the environment, preserving the city's natural assets for sustainable urbanization

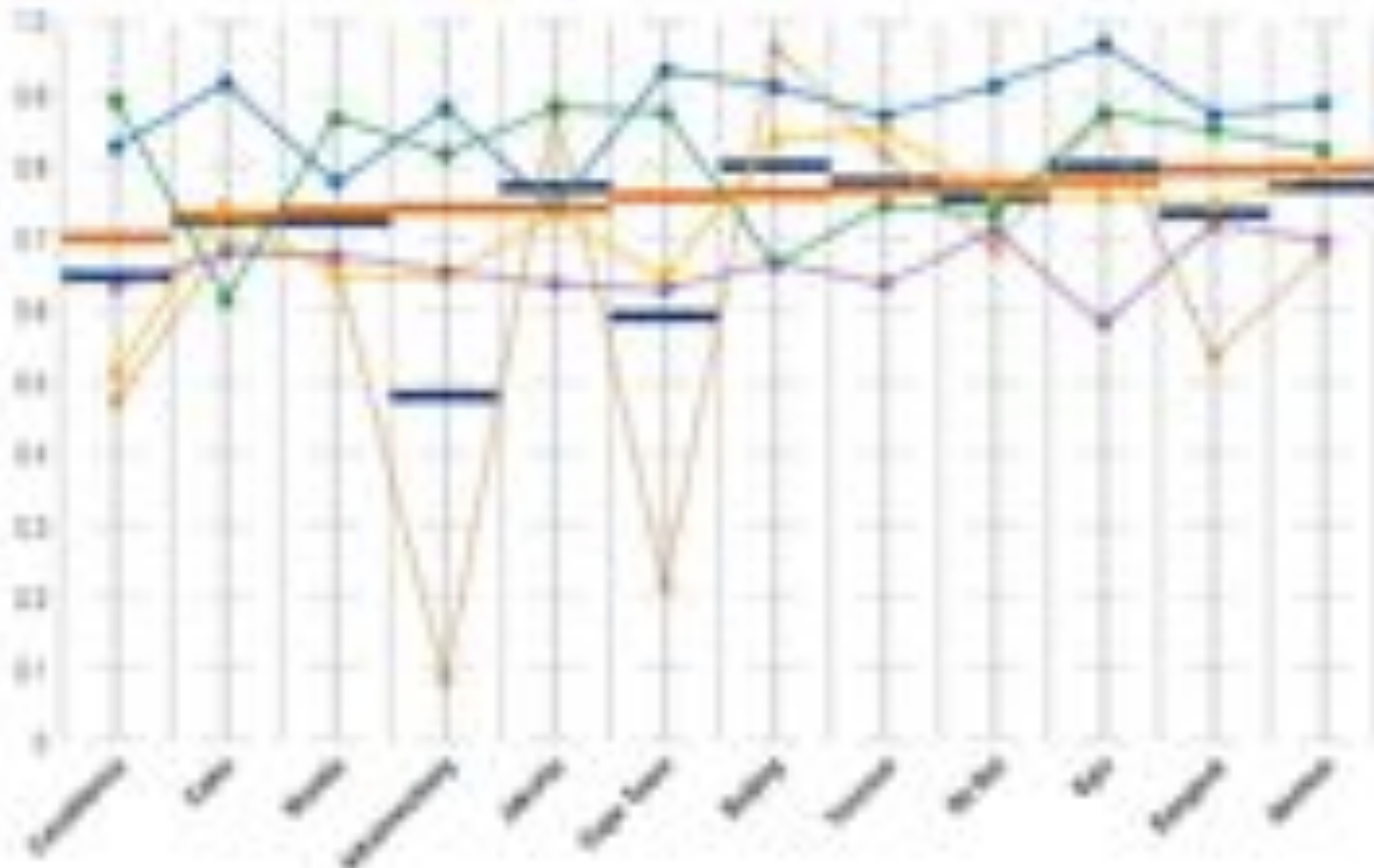
The UN HABITAT Prosperity Index

1. Productivity: investment, employment, household consumption
2. Quality of life: education, health, public space
3. Infrastructure development: infrastructure, housing
4. Environmental sustainability: air quality, CO2 emissions, indoor pollution
5. Equity and social inclusion: inequality of income, inequality of access to services and infrastructure

Figure 1.14

Cities with solid prosperity factors - second category

■ GDI Index (with five dimensions) ▲ Productivity Index ◆ Infrastructure Development Index ▼ Equity Index
■ GDI Index (with four dimensions) ▲ Quality of Life Index ◆ Environmental Sustainability Index



Inclusive economic development

- Urban economic divide
 - Income inequalities
 - Imbalanced labor markets
 - Lack of pro-poor policies
 - Unequal consumption
- Spatial inequality
 - Slums: isolation, disconnected
 - Shelter deprivation
- Inequality of opportunities

Inclusive economic development

- Growing severity of urban poverty in comparison to rural poverty
 - 4/10 slum children malnourished—comparable to rural data
 - More incidences of diarrhea in urban slum areas than in rural areas
- Main conclusion is that slum populations are not benefiting from the advantages and opportunities offered by cities.

State of the World's Slums

- Lack of non-permanent housing, much housing not according to building code
- Overcrowding, lack of sufficient living area
- Lack of access to improved water and sanitation
- Insecurity of tenure

UN Habitat Report State of the World's Cities 2006/2007

The Millennium Development Goals and Urban Sustainability: 30 Years of Shaping the Habitat Agenda

Urban population and slum proportion in Asian Countries



Inclusive social development

- Social Divide in Urban Areas
 - Hunger
 - Health—the poor often live in areas that are poorly integrated with the rest of the urban society where poor environmental quality results in poor health outcomes
 - Lack of access to safe water, sanitation
 - Access to education
 - Children from slum areas less likely to enroll in school
 - Employment opportunities

What is an Inclusive City

- Residents feel that they are important contributors to decision-making
 - Political inclusion, greater participation
- Need for stronger institutions: governance
 - Many institutions and existing policies favor the rich and powerful with little regard for other social groups
 - How can the poor participate?

Environmental Sustainability

- Infrastructure adaptations are needed to respond to the impact of climate change:
- Air pollution and its impact on health
- Water and sanitation, “dirty water”
 - Impact of poor sanitation on rivers
- Quality of urbanization
 - Poor urban planning, “sprawl” that creates transport challenges
 - Urban space, green space

Peace and Security

- Expansion of slums
- Rising crime
- Increased vulnerability due to impact of climate change
- Highly concentrated population creating tension

5 Catalysts to an Inclusive City

- Improve quality of life: shelter, tenure, basic services, health, education
- Invest in human capital formation
- Create sustained economic opportunities
 - Stimulate sustained economic growth for the poor: public works, construction industry etc.
 - Conditional Cash Transfer—some success, some failure

5 Catalysts to an Inclusive City

- Enhance political inclusion
 - More engagement of marginal groups
- Cultural inclusion
 - Consider the cultural aspects of urban life: traditions, social capital, sense of belonging, pride of place, optimal use of cultural resources of a city

References

- State of the World's Cities 2006/2007: The Millennium Development Goals and Urban Sustainability: 30 Years of Shaping the Habitat Agenda. UN-HABITAT

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