

Urbanization and Foreign Aid to Victims of the Negative Impact of Fast-Growing Cities

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Abstract

The negative effects of urbanisation on industrialised countries and emerging nations as well as foreign aid are the focus of this paper. The study also addresses difficulties linked with public health problems that are prevalent in urban areas. The development of metropolitan areas' infrastructure, the enhancement of their public services, and the facilitation of economic expansion are all potential targets for aid. For the sake of illustration, foreign aid may be utilised to finance the building of housing projects, water and sanitation systems, and transportation networks. The capacity building activities in metropolitan areas may potentially get assistance from foreign aid, in addition to the help that is provided for the construction of infrastructure. This might involve teaching local authorities and groups that are part of civil society on how to successfully manage urbanisation and handle the difficulties that are connected with it, such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality.

I. Introduction

While urbanisation has historically been associated with human development and progress, current research suggests that metropolitan settings may also lead to significant health disparities. Individuals who live in urban areas are more likely to be exposed to greater amounts of air pollution, which may raise the risk of developing respiratory disorders such as asthma and lung cancer. Damage to one's hearing as well as disruptions in one's sleep are both potential outcomes of exposure to noise pollution, both of which may have a detrimental influence on one's general health and well-being. Especially in major cities, the effects of urbanisation may bring to feelings of social alienation and a weakening of links to one's community. It is possible that fewer people will know their neighbours and have a stronger feeling of disconnection from their immediate environment (Kuddus, *et al.*, 2020). This may result in feelings of isolation and alienation, both of which can have a detrimental effect on a person's mental health.

II. Literature Review

According to Khalil *et al.*, (2018) rising land and property costs in rapidly expanding cities might force some residents to leave their houses and look for other places to live. This may have a particularly detrimental impact on communities with low incomes and marginalisation, since these groups often lack the means necessary to compete successfully in the housing market. As a consequence of this, individuals may be compelled to relocate to unofficial settlements or slums, which often have deplorable living conditions and limited access to amenities such as clean water, sanitation, and medical care (Fox and Goodfellow, 2021). As per Haldar and Sethi (2022) both the rate of urbanisation and the amount of foreign aid given to nations are significant factors that influence the overall development of such countries. USAID, which stands for the United States Agency for International Development, has participated in urbanisation initiatives in a variety of nations. For instance, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been working in Vietnam on a project to better the urban environment in Ho Chi Minh City. This project has included the development of public transportation, the improvement of water and sanitation systems, and the reduction of air pollution.

The process of people migrating from rural regions to urban areas is referred to as urbanisation, and it is possible for urbanisation to have both beneficial and bad consequences on the economic and social fabric of a nation. On the other hand, when people talk about foreign aid, they are referring to the financial, technical, and other forms of help that one nation gives to another. As Adom and Boateng (2019) state assistance from international services may be used to help fund the construction of essential infrastructure, such as roads, water supply systems, and housing, which is required for urbanisation to take place in a manner that is environmentally responsible. The development of urban industries, such as manufacturing and services, may be supported by foreign assistance, which can both contribute to the creation of employment and to the acceleration of economic growth. Tull (2019) opined urbanisation may also result in difficulties that may need to be addressed by international assistance. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been a major contributor of financial assistance in the form of foreign aid to several nations in order to promote urbanisation initiatives. They have provided

financial assistance to a project in the Philippines that aims to enhance urban infrastructure by constructing new roads, bridges, and public transit networks.

Fast urbanisation may result in the expansion of informal settlements, which often lack fundamental amenities such as potable water, sanitary facilities, and medical care. This may make it more difficult for individuals to get themselves out of poverty and can also contribute to a rise in the incidence of sickness (Pham and Sim, 2020). Urbanization is linked to a number of environmental issues, including air and water pollution, climate change, and the loss of forest cover, all of which may be helped by assistance from other countries. This may be of utmost significance in developing nations, which often struggle to keep up with the pace of urbanisation while also lacking enough government oversight. According to Abbas, *et al.*, (2022) in Kenya, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has engaged on urbanisation initiatives in various cities, including Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu. The programmes seek to enhance access to essential amenities such as water, sanitation, and health care, and to offer work opportunities for the urban poor.

The process of urbanisation often results in a rise in the amount of competition for scarce resources like housing, water, and food. As per Rumbach and Follingstad (2019) this may make it more difficult for foreign aid to reach those who need it most, since resources may be misdirected to those who are better equipped to obtain them. Urbanization may also worsen existing disparities, as money and resources become concentrated in metropolitan areas. Because of this, it may be more challenging for foreign assistance to reach underprivileged people, many of whom are likely to be situated in rural or otherwise inaccessible places (Melo and Jenkins, 2021). A large amount of stress may be placed on a city's infrastructure as a result of urbanisation. This includes the transportation systems, water and sanitation facilities, and healthcare services. Because of this, it may be more difficult to properly deliver foreign help to places that need it since difficulties with the infrastructure may restrict access to such areas. Maio, *et al.*, (2018) adds that urbanization may also contribute to political instability, since fast urbanisation can lead to social discontent, political conflicts, and violence. Because of this, it may be more challenging to distribute help from other countries in an efficient and secure manner, since personnel providing relief may be subjected to increased danger.

III. Methodology

The methodology is the framework that governs the whole process of doing research, beginning with the original research question and continuing all the way through to the final analysis of the data and conclusion. When it comes to assuring the validity and trustworthiness of the study findings, the technique is quite necessary (Ørngreen and Levinsen, 2017). The use of a methodology that has been thoughtfully developed may help to lessen the likelihood of bias on the part of the researcher while also ensuring that the study is carried out in a way that is consistent and standardised. In contrast to primary research, which includes the collection of new data using various methods, this study is an example of secondary qualitative research. It makes use of information that was gathered by previous researchers in the field. In this study, the *descriptive research design* is used to examine and interpret previously collected data in order to get a greater level of comprehension of a certain occurrence or subject matter. According to Atmowardoyo (2018) since it enables researchers to describe and synthesise existing data and information obtained from previously carried out research studies, surveys, or other sources, descriptive research design is often employed in secondary qualitative research.

While doing secondary qualitative research, the data are often gathered in a new setting, by a different set of researchers, and with a distinct set of study objectives in mind. Since it places an emphasis on understanding the meaning behind data and the significance of the environment in which it was collected, *interpretivism* is an appropriate research philosophy for this research. In this study, the *deductive research approach* is employed when the researchers begin with an already established theory or hypothesis, and then gather data to assess whether or not the theory or hypothesis is correct (Casula, *et al.*, 2020). Secondary qualitative research comprises the analysis of data that has already been gathered by others, such as the data that may be found in published papers, books, or reports. Because of this, this method is used. In this particular instance, the pre-existing theory or hypothesis is used not to drive the collecting of new data, but rather to guide the analysis of the data that is already available.

In this research, the data sources and types employed might be different depending on the research topic that is being asked. Here *published scholarly articles, journals* together with *reports and data compiled by the government*, have all been taken into account. Throughout the course of this research, the procedure of collecting data entailed making use of preexisting sources of information that are already in existence and have been gathered by other researchers or organisations. Before beginning the data collection process, a literature review was carried out to locate the existing data sources that were pertinent to the researchers' research issue. In addition to that, the data has been looked through and examined. Both the procedures that are utilised to gather the data and the data sources that are being used are accurate and reliable. The quality of the data sources being used is also accurate and dependable.

IV. Results

When it comes to urbanisation, the possibility of being dependent on international services and money is one of the possible unintended consequences of receiving foreign aid. It is possible that the growth of domestic industries and the encouragement of entrepreneurial activity will suffer if a nation starts to rely excessively on assistance from other nations. In addition, assistance may be susceptible to corruption, which can result in the diversion of resources away from their intended aims and the exacerbation of inequalities that already exist (Amaratunga *et al.*, 2018). Fast-growing cities also provide distinct problems. Increasing urbanisation places a pressure on existing infrastructure and services, which may result in overpopulation, pollution, and a variety of other social and environmental problems. The sponsorship of initiatives by international assistance organisations that are not sustainable or that do not correspond with local needs and goals may often make these issues even worse.

The rising home prices are generally the results of a city's rapid population growth, which attracts companies and residents with higher incomes. Immigrants and refugees, who may be subjected to prejudice and have a harder time assimilating into the local population as a result of rapid urbanisation, may encounter additional difficulties (Doan and Kusaka, 2018). These groups could also have restricted access to educational opportunities, medical treatment, and social services. As cities expand, they often encroach on the territory of indigenous peoples, which may result in eviction, the disappearance of traditional practises, and a loss of means of subsistence. There is a possibility that environmental deterioration and pollution will have a disproportionately negative effect on indigenous populations. For instance the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has provided financial assistance to urban development initiatives in a number of Haitian communities, notably Port-au-Prince. Since significant infrastructure projects and new urban expansions often need the purchase of land, urbanisation facilitated by foreign assistance has the potential to result in the uprooting of existing local populations (Yaru and Raji, 2022). This may result in the uprooting of local residents against their will, which upends both their way of life and their cultural traditions. The destruction of the natural environment is another potential consequence of urbanisation, especially if it is not managed well.

Children and the elderly are particularly at risk in rapidly expanding cities because of the stress and danger that come along with their rapid population growth. Their quality of life may suffer if factors such as traffic, pollution, and crime rates continue to rise. When cities expand, they often become increasingly concentrated on service-based companies, which typically pay lower salaries than other types of businesses. A initiative to enhance the urban environment in Addis Ababa, which is the country's capital city, has received funding and assistance from the World Bank in Ethiopia. Employees in these sectors could be subjected to exploitation, have to put in excessive hours, and operate in hazardous situations (Asongu and Nwachukwu, 2016). In general, the most vulnerable people of society are the ones who bear the brunt of the negative effects that fast-growing cities have. While formulating and carrying out policies for urban development, city planners and politicians must ensure that the requirements of the aforementioned categories are given top priority.

Future Implications

It is anticipated that the existing trend of urbanisation would continue in the years to come, with an increasing number of people relocating from rural regions to urban areas. The process of urbanisation will result in an increased demand for resources such as energy, water, and food, which may have repercussions for the environment as well as the economy (Uzun, *et al.*, 2019). Urbanization will need the construction of sufficient infrastructure, including housing, transportation, and utility systems, which may provide difficulties for governing bodies and those responsible for the planning of cities. The provision of resources for economic growth initiatives in recipient nations as well as the promotion of economic activities such as trade and investment may be accomplished via the use of foreign aid.

The establishment of democratic institutions, respect for human rights, and responsible government are all areas that may be helped forward by the provision of financial assistance from other nations. It is possible for recipient nations to become dependent on foreign help, which may be detrimental to their efforts towards self-sufficiency and sustainable development. If it is not administered well in the nations that receive it, foreign assistance may potentially contribute to corruption there (Shao and Wang, 2021). Conditions may be placed to foreign assistance, such as compelling the receiving government to adopt specific policies or undertake certain reforms. These criteria may not necessarily coincide with the goals or needs of the recipient country. Changes in social dynamics may be brought about by urbanisation. These changes may manifest themselves in the form of shifts in family structures, social networks, and cultural practises.

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, urbanisation and foreign aid are two topics that are intricately intertwined and demand careful analysis and strategic planning. It is possible for foreign aid to encourage sustainable urbanisation and to assist in addressing the issues that are brought about when it is utilised appropriately. Nevertheless, the

international assistance on its own is not sufficient to solve all of the complex difficulties involved with urbanisation. It is possible that other policies and strategies will also be required to guarantee that urbanisation is sustainable and that all parts of society benefit from it.

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