

CITIES, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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Economic Development and Well-Being: Trends and Transitions in Asia



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Urbanization Pattern in Asia & Well Being

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Urbanizing Asia

- Compared with that in Europe, current urbanization in Asia is
 - much larger in scale in terms of population
 - much faster in pace in terms of physical expansion
 - faced with tighter environmental constraints
- 9 out of 12 cities with more than 10 million people in the central core are in Asia.
- Asian cities grow in a few decades to the levels it took European cities 200 or so years

China and India

- Urbanization pattern in Asia is largely set by those in China and India, which account for 40% of the world's & 60% of Asia's population.
- China's Urbanization rate is 50% & India's 30%
- Urbanization in China has followed the common historical pattern of labour transfer from farming to industry then to services. In India often labour transfer has been to services.

Urbanization & Atlas of Poverty

- Historically poverty has been predominantly rural.
- The acceleration of growth rate in China, since 1978, and in India, since the 1990s has gone together with reduction in the poverty rate—much greater in China than in India.
- In both poverty is urbanizing – due to rural-urban shift and to a change in deprivation

China and India – Atlas of Poverty

- Personal incomes have risen in both- as yet more rapidly in China than in India.
- The gap between urban and rural incomes have widened in both countries.
- Income inequalities have risen sharply in both; divisions reflecting inequalities run through the urban landscape.
- Regional disparities are becoming much sharper.

Giant Urban Conurbations – New Trend

- A new trend in the large and populous Asian countries is the emergence of giant cities and vast urban conurbations, with no clear boundaries and stretching hundreds of kilometres.
- Because of the steady growth in population and changing economic structure the rural & urban are more like overlapping spectra than binary categories.

Concluding Remarks

- Poverty and deprivation are assuming urban features: housing and access to services gain in prominence as indicators of well being.
- Inequalities in personal income, the living environment and health are becoming more visible in the configuration of well being.
- The rise of giant cities and urban conurbations raise problems of governance and democratic participation.