

Sustainable urbanisation in India: The informal sector perspective

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Abstract

For assessing the quality of urbanization this paper based on secondary data tries to examine the nature of relationship among urbanisation, migration and informal sector employment in India. Findings suggest that the informal sector also tends to attract migrants and urbanisation with its positive spill-over effects reduce both rural and urban poverty. The services sector has been growing rapidly and it has emerged as the engine of growth almost replacing the industrial sector. However, a wide range of low income jobs it comprises render many urban households to precarity. Urban households in an attempt to reduce their cost of living, often compromise with basic amenities and cooking fuel. A very significant percentage of the households do not have private sanitation facility: they either depend on public latrines or pursue open defecation. An overwhelmingly large proportion of the urban households, access materials for cooking that are not environment friendly. As a result, many cities and towns do not unravel signs of sustainability, and the overall quality of urbanisation seems to be poor in the Indian context.

Keywords: Urban, Informal Sector Employment, Services, Deprivation, City Size

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