

THE CONTRIBUTION OF URBANIZATION TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN MAJOR INDONESIAN CITIES

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Abstract

Urbanization is an important phenomenon in urban development and is a natural phenomenon that goes hand in hand with economic development and the level of population welfare in a country. Increased urban population growth will cause various problems and bring consequences in all aspects of urban life, including various positive and negative impacts. Urbanization is often synonymous with a country's capital city as a place of capital accumulation that attracts a high level of economic activity. An effective solution to the problem of urbanization and to ensure relevant urban development is to utilize efficiency in community empowerment and equitable distribution of public welfare.

Introduction

The term "urbanization" is defined as the proportion of the population residing in urban areas. The growth of the urban population can be attributed to a number of factors, including: The following factors contribute to the growth of urban populations: 1) Natural births occurring in the area, 2) Population movements, both from other cities and from rural areas, 3) Annexation, and 4) Reclassification. Therefore, the migration of individuals from rural to urban areas represents merely one of the numerous factors that contribute to the phenomenon of urbanization. The processes of urbanization and city development are profoundly shaped by economic development. Furthermore, the patterns and processes of urbanization and urban development reflect economic development in cities, particularly in large urban centers. The issues encountered in urban development remain consistent, namely the rising number of individuals who will reside in urban areas.

The term "urbanization economics" can be defined as the set of factors that encourage businesses to establish themselves in large cities, where they can benefit from a concentration of population and urban infrastructure, including a pool of potential consumers and a source of labor. Additionally, production infrastructure, such as electricity and water ports, can facilitate more efficient business operations. It is unlikely that these factors will be found in small towns,

let alone rural areas. The expansion of the industrial sector in urban areas has precipitated accelerated urban growth in Indonesia. Furthermore, the concentration of population and industrial locations has resulted in elevated pollution levels in urban regions. This phenomenon has the potential to diminish the quality of human life and compromise the natural resources essential for sustainable development processes. Consequently, this essay will examine the ways in which urbanization can enhance the quality of life and associated aspects.

Concept of Urbanization and Quality of Life

The process of urbanization is regarded as the most significant socio-economic transformation in the modern era. Furthermore, urbanization is a highly intricate phenomenon, encompassing a multitude of interrelated social, economic, political, and geographic factors. (Katherina, 2014). The primary driver of urbanization is poverty in rural areas, with key contributing factors including: (a) The prevailing condition of the village is one of relatively static life, exhibiting minimal signs of change. This can occur due to the influence of deeply entrenched customs or religious beliefs (b), the seemingly intractable state of rural poverty (c), the dearth of employment opportunities due to the fact that a significant portion of the population's livelihoods are dependent on agricultural products (d), the low income levels observed in rural areas (e), and the lack of security.

Tjiptoheriyanto (1999) in (Dewi, 2017) that urbanization is not merely a demographic phenomenon; rather, it is a multifaceted phenomenon encompassing political, social, cultural, and economic dimensions. A review of the literature reveals a clear correlation between a country's economic development and its level of urbanization. Urbanization is a natural phenomenon that occurs in conjunction with economic development and the overall welfare level of a country's population. In considering the phenomenon of urbanization, it is essential to avoid the concentration of a significant portion of the population in a limited geographical area, a phenomenon known as agglomeration or primacy.

The high rate of urbanization in several Indonesian provinces suggests that these areas, which are currently centers of population concentration, will continue to experience population growth in the future. Furthermore, some provinces that were previously less populated will become new centers of population concentration as a result of spillover from provinces that have reached their capacity. (Hadijah & Sadali, 2020) posited that during the initial stages of

urbanization, there was a notable acceleration in the rate of urban population growth, which was subsequently followed by regional economic expansion. At an advanced stage of urbanization, the growth rate of the urban population will begin to slow. The phenomenon of urbanization in Indonesia is still in its nascent stages and has the potential to reach an advanced level within the next 5 to 15 years. It is projected that Indonesia will reach the peak of the demographic bonus between 2025 and 2030. This implies that an increase in the number of individuals within the productive age bracket will result in a corresponding rise in the number of workers seeking employment in urban areas..

Contribution of Urbanization to Improving Quality of Life

Local governments are of critical importance in enhancing the quality of life for communities. As the primary entities responsible for the delivery of public services, local governments bear the direct responsibility for meeting the basic needs of their constituents, facilitating the development of infrastructure, and managing local resources in an effective manner. The prevailing approach to development, which prioritizes rapid growth, has not fully guaranteed the social welfare of the community. This is evidenced by the existence of development gaps in urban areas that have failed to guarantee access to essential services, including clean water, sanitation, waste management, and affordable energy, particularly for marginalized communities in Indonesian cities.

The elevated urban population density observed in select regions, particularly on the islands of Java and Bali, suggests a significant influx of individuals seeking economic opportunities in these growth centers. Should this process of population concentration persist, the capacity of the region will reach a saturation point. In the case of large cities such as the Jakarta-Bogor-Depok-Tangerang-Bekasi (Jabodetabek) area, despite reaching a saturation point in terms of urban capacity, the movement of people to the area persists. The urban population of the Jabodetabek area has reached a figure exceeding 20% of the total urban population of Indonesia. The influx of population exceeding the capacity of a region can have a detrimental impact on both the concentration area itself and the surrounding regions. The rapid urbanization process resulting from the concentration of population in urban areas is physically characterized by the following: 1) the expansion of cities into surrounding areas to form metropolitan or megapolitan areas; 2) the expansion of urban physical development into suburban and rural areas so that the

number of villages and towns increases; 3) the reclassification of rural areas into urban areas, especially on the island of Java; 4) the tendency to decrease population growth in metropolitan core cities, on the contrary there is an increase in population growth in surrounding areas; and 5) the increase in land use change in rural areas that experience the urbanization process.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the local government must also guarantee that the policies and programs implemented are aligned with the needs and aspirations of the local communities. This may be achieved through the implementation of mechanisms that facilitate community participation in the planning and decision-making processes, as well as through the conduct of public consultations and open dialogues with communities. Furthermore, local governments are obliged to guarantee that the policies and programs adopted take into account the long-term interests of communities and the environment. Consequently, local governments are obliged to implement measures to safeguard natural resources, advance sustainable development, and enhance community resilience to climate change. In discharging its duties, local governments must also guarantee the efficient and effective utilisation of regional resources. This encompasses sound budgetary management, the monitoring and evaluation of existing programmes, and the development of institutional capacity to deliver quality services to the community (Sihite, 2023).

Negative Impact of Urbanization on Quality of Life

The impact of urbanization in developed countries differs from that observed in developing countries. In contrast, developing countries experience urban expansion that is characterized by large, expansive cities with inadequate levels of technology and a lack of quality of urban life. This is evident in the proliferation of squatter settlements and the presence of inadequate infrastructure. The adverse effects of the influx of rural migrants to urban areas include:

1. In terms of physical aspects, the following can be observed: (a) the emergence of illegal settlements and slums without adequate facilities as a place to live, which result from the process of urbanization, and (b) the decline in aesthetics and environmental quality, which manifests in various ways.

2. In terms of economic aspects, the following trends have emerged: the growth of informal sector economic activities, an increase in unemployment, and a widening gap between the wealthy and the impoverished.
3. Social and cultural aspects:
 - a) The emergence of cultural clashes between races, tribes, and religions;
 - b) The emergence of violations of the law, especially criminal law, such as crime and so on.

Conversely, in rural areas and smaller cities, the regions of origin of urban migrants lack a sufficient supply of productive labor for regional development and the expansion of other services (Pramono, 2006; Dewi, 2017). The exponential growth of urban populations presents a significant challenge in terms of matching the carrying capacity of these cities. Furthermore, additional adverse effects include elevated pollution levels in urban environments, indirect natural disasters, social and economic contamination, traffic congestion, and deficiencies in urban planning.

A significant challenge confronting local governments in enhancing the quality of life for their constituents is the scarcity of resources, a problem particularly acute in developing countries like Indonesia. In the context of constrained financial resources, local governments are compelled to exercise sound judgment in the allocation of resources, prioritizing programs and projects that align with the community's needs and priorities.

In order to effectively address these challenges, it is imperative to foster cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders, including the private sector, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and the general public. By collaborating, local governments can optimize the utilization of existing resources, enhance the efficacy of existing programs, and generate synergies that are mutually beneficial.

Conclusion

The process of urbanization is not merely a demographic phenomenon; rather, it is a multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses political, social, cultural, and economic dimensions. Urbanization is a natural phenomenon that occurs in conjunction with economic development and the level of welfare of the population in a given country. The process of urbanization will inevitably give rise to urban development, which in turn will facilitate a more dynamic economic

growth and social transformation. In considering the phenomenon of urbanization, it is essential to avoid the concentration of a significant portion of the population in a limited geographical area. This phenomenon, known as agglomeration or primacy, can have adverse effects on the social and economic dynamics of a region.

The elevated rate of urbanization in numerous provinces across Indonesia suggests that these regions, which are currently hubs of population density, will continue to witness an expansion in the future. The implementation of appropriate public policies at the local level empowers municipal governments to significantly influence the daily lives of their constituents. The implementation of appropriate policies can have a significant impact on a number of key aspects of people's lives, including access to essential services, infrastructure development, local economic activity, environmental concerns, cultural heritage, and security. Moreover, local governments can facilitate economic growth in their jurisdictions through the implementation of targeted policies, thereby creating employment opportunities, enhancing income levels, and reducing poverty rates within their respective areas.

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