Processes and patterns of global migration

2.2.5

Causes, consequences, and management of rural-urban migration in developing countries

Specification content

Push factors in rural areas, including mechanised agriculture, MNCs, land grabs and the displacement of indigenous peoples by global systems

Employment pull factors in urban areas in developing and emerging economies, including global supply chain growth in export processing zones (EPZs)

Consequences of rural-urban migration for rural and urban areas of the developing world, including top-down planning in developing megacities, and bottom-up urban community development

Specialised concepts of **causality** and **globalisation** are especially important here.

Also, care needed to ensure content (concepts, terms, examples …) are A Level, not simply GCSE … or even KS3!

Rural-urban migration - context

Globally, it's the most significant population movement in terms of numbers involved

It's one of the causes of urbanisation (the increase in proportion of people living in towns and cities) – *the other being ?*

Read Extract A for more contextual details on the importance of this process

As for all migrations, it's driven by **push** and **pull** factors

Causes of rural-urban migration

Push factors in rural areas, usually associated with poverty.

A combination of some/all of these:

- Changes is agricultural practices: *mechanisation**, agribusiness, cash-cropping, land reform…

  - Therefore fewer jobs available and exacerbated by growing populations

- *Land grabs* and *the displacement of indigenous peoples by global systems* (?)

  - People therefore have no opportunity to continue traditional way of life

  The above are often driven by the actions of *MNCs*

*Terms/phrases in italics are those identified in the specification

Causes of rural-urban migration

Other push factors:

- Regional economic disparities, e.g.?

- Forced migration through conflict, natural disaster or environmental change

In addition, other factors have made rural-urban migration easier, especially improvements in communications technology and transport

Causes of rural-urban migration

Economic **pull** factors in urban areas:

- Globalisation has helped shift manufacturing to Asia, S America and Africa

- Again, often driven by MNCs through **offshoring** and **outsourcing** as part of their *global supply chain*

- Also encouraged by *the growth in export processing zones* (EPZs):

  - "areas within developing countries that offer incentives and a barrier-free environment to promote economic growth by attracting foreign investment for export-oriented production".
  http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0276146707300070

  - Aka Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

  - Often near/on the coast for ease of shipping

  - Important in India, China, Indonesia… see Student Guide for egs./details

  - This is an example of how governments can influence the location of manufacturing and thus rural-urban migration

Causes of rural-urban migration

Informal employment opportunities:

- Read Extract B for details regarding reasons for its importance

- Rural-urban migrants as <u>economic optimisers</u> (Harris-Todaro model (1970), i.e. even though it's more expensive to live in a city, there are more opportunities and it's possible to earn more.

- So, even with high urban unemployment, it still is economically rational to migrate… <u>and stay</u>, even if conditions are poor.

- Read Extract C for supporting evidence

- This has important implications for the management of rural-urban migration and its impacts…why?

Causes of rural-urban migration

Social factors, e.g. education

UNESCO Report: *Migration, Displacement and Education: Building bridges not walls* (2019)

- Internal migration peaks in the 20s - often to learn new skills or make the most of skills already acquired. 21% of Thai youth said they migrated for education.

- People with a primary education are 2x as likely to migrate as those with no education; with secondary education 3x as likely; with tertiary 4x as likely.

Consequences of rural-urban migration

On rural areas:

- Ageing populations

- Consequent impacts on:

  - Economic productivity

 - The environment

  - Tradition/culture

Consequences of rural-urban migration

On urban areas:

- Development of slums and squatter/shanty towns in zones of disamenity
    - Care needed: there are distinct variations, especially in those that have been established for many years (e.g. Rocinha in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- Impacts on the environment, e.g. air pollution in Delhi

Managing rural-urban migration?

The following slides come from:
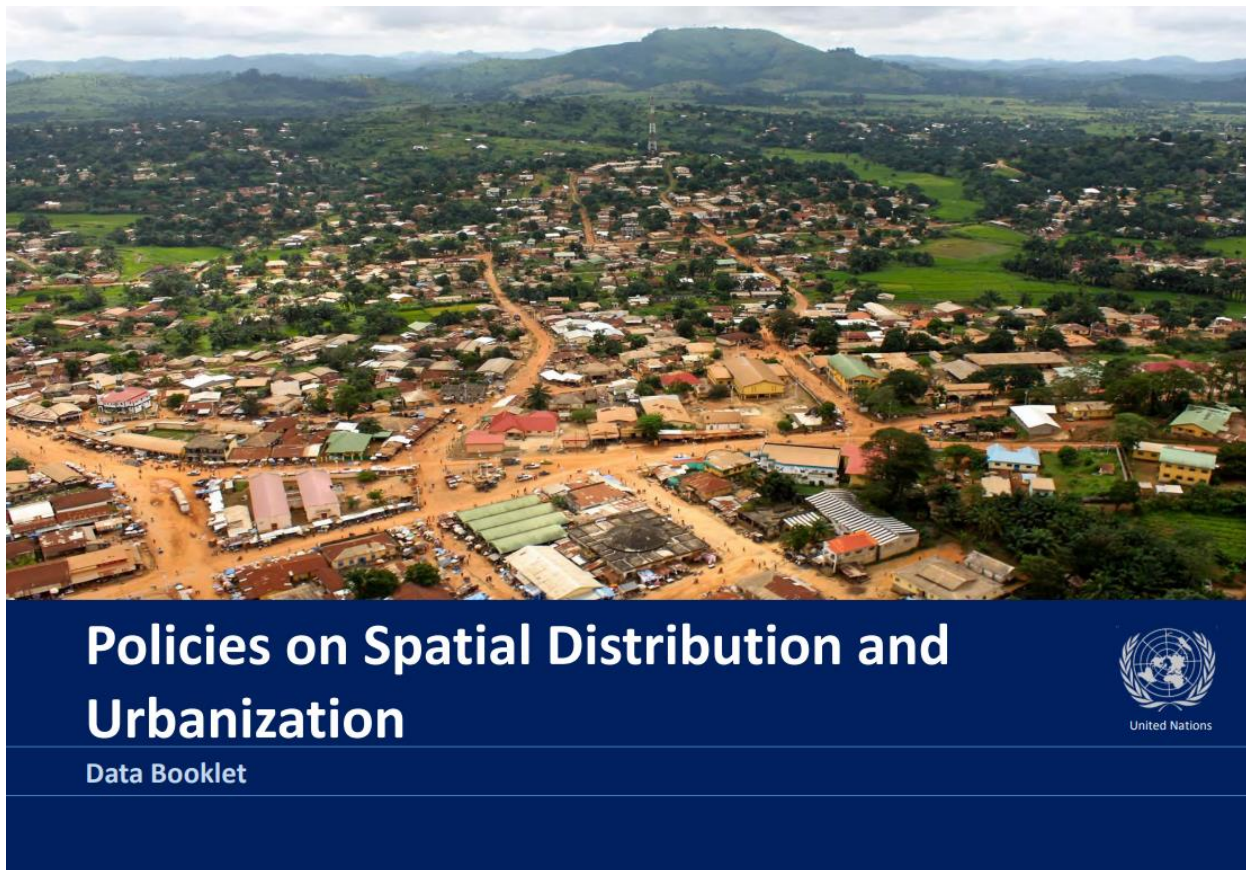
United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2016). Policies on Spatial Distribution and Urbanization: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/ SER.A/394).

Managing rural-urban migration?

Governments in less developed regions were more likely than those in more developed regions to have adopted policies or strategies in the past five years to influence the spatial distribution of the population in their countries.

Governments with policies or strategies in the past five years to encourage population redistribution, 2015
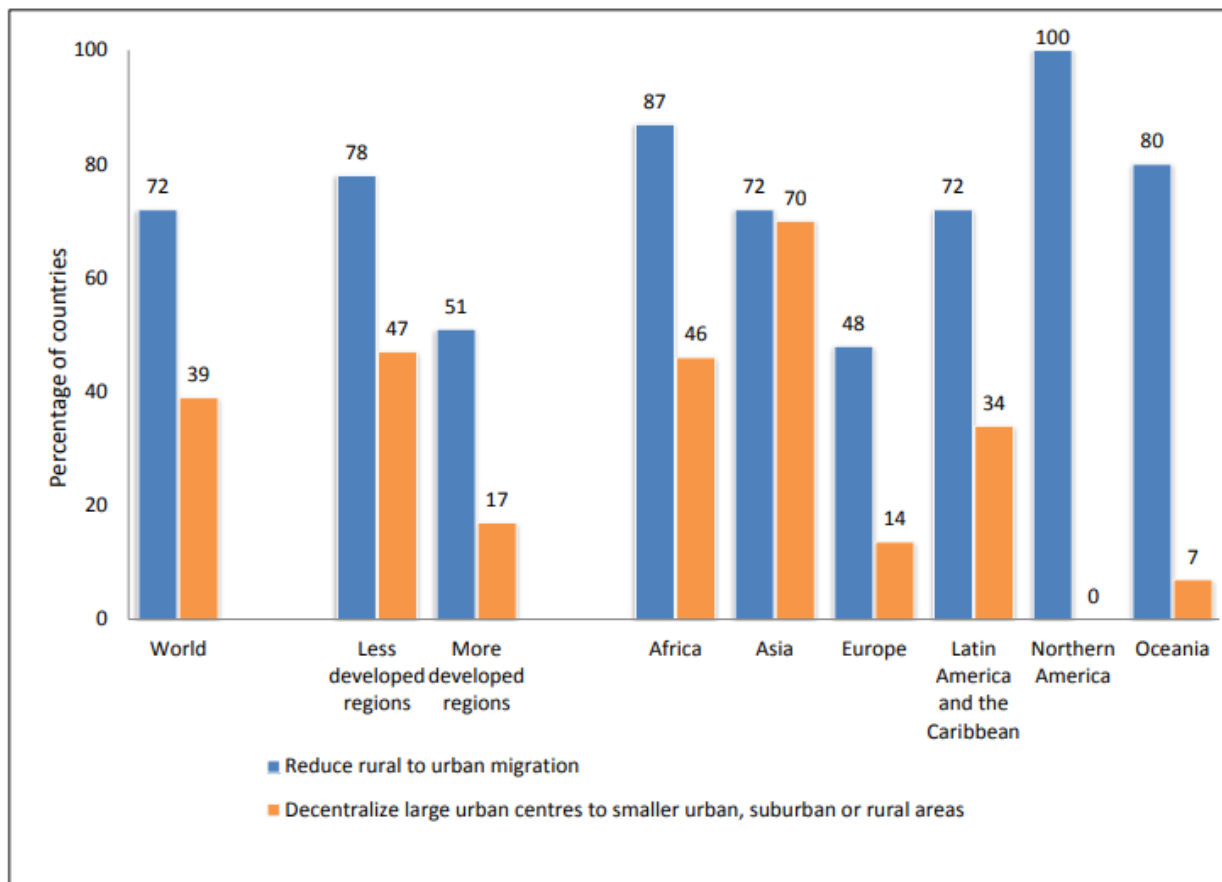
Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2016). World Population Policies Database: The 2015 Revision.

Managing rural-urban migration?

Governments with policies to reduce migration from rural areas to urban areas in the past five years, 2015
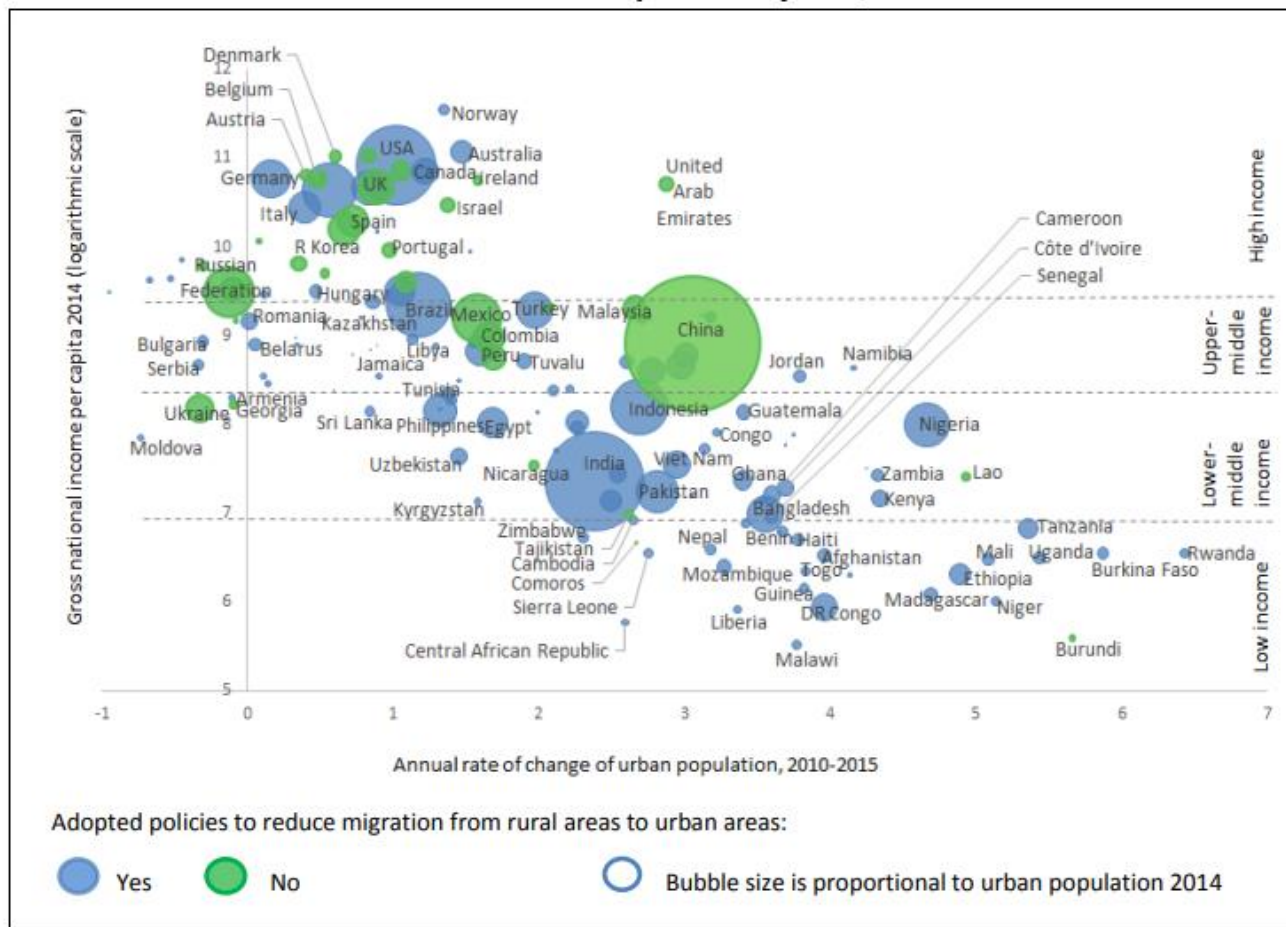

In recent years, countries experiencing higher urban growth rates, which are mostly in lower income groups, were more likely to have policies to reduce migration from rural areas to urban areas.

Data sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2016). World Population Policies Database: The 2015 Revision; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2014). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision, CD-ROM Edition; World Bank (2015). World Development Indicators 2015. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Managing rural-urban migration?

Despite increasing levels of urbanization, measures to promote rural development were adopted by a large majority of Governments in all regions of the world. Policies to develop rural infrastructure and facilities remained nearly universal.

Governments with policy measures to promote rural development in the past five years, 2015
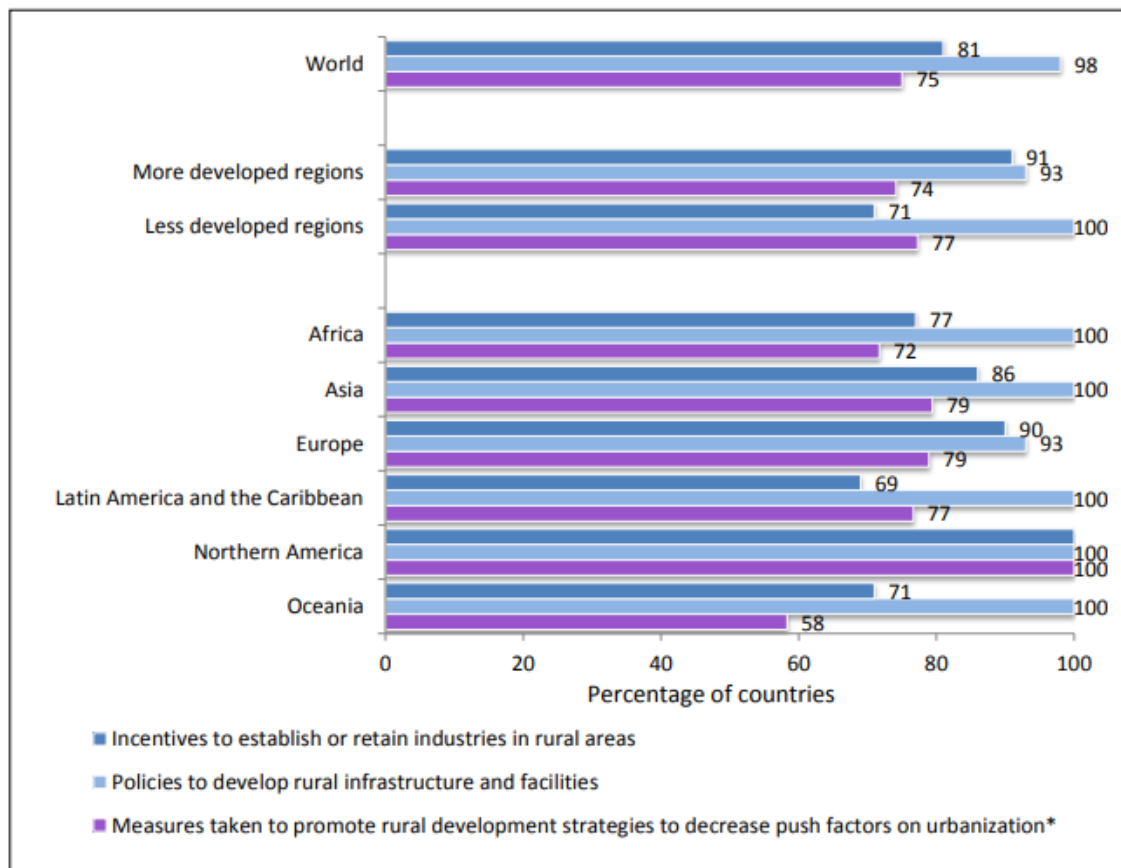
* Refers to five years preceding 2012

Data sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2016). World Population Policies Database: The 2015 Revision; United Nations Population Fund (2012). The ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey Database.

Managing rural-urban migration?

	Spatial distribution of population			Rural development			
	Reduce migration from rural areas to urban areas 2015	Decentralize large urban centres to smaller urban, suburban or rural areas 2015	Relocate out of environmentally fragile or threatened areas 2015	Provide incentives to establish or retain industries in rural areas 2015	Relocate industries from large urban centres to rural areas 2015	Develop rural infrastructure and facilities 2015	Promote rural development strategies to decrease push factors on urbanization 2012*
Africa							
Eastern Africa							
Burundi	○	○	○	●	○	●	●
Comoros	○	○	○	●	○	●	●
Djibouti	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
Eritrea	○	○	○	○	○	●	
Ethiopia	●	●	●	○	○	●	●
Kenya	●	●	○	○	○	●	●
Madagascar	●	○	●	●	○	●	○
Malawi	●	●	○	●	○	●	●
Mauritius	○	○	○	○	○	●	●
Mozambique	●	○	●	●	○	●	●
Rwanda	●	●	○	●	○	●	●
Seychelles	○	○	○	●	○	●	
Somalia				●	○	●	○
South Sudan				○	○	●	○
Uganda	●	●	○	●	○	●	○
United Republic of Tanzania	●	●	○	●	○	●	●
Zambia	●	○	○	●	○	●	●
Zimbabwe	●	●	○	●	○	●	●

Extract from Table 1: Government policies, strategies and measures taken in the past five years to influence the spatial distribution of the population, promote rural development, and improve living conditions and sustainability of large urban centres

Notes:
A black dot ● indicates that the policy, strategy or measure was adopted in the past five years.
A white dot ○ indicates that the policy, strategy or measure was not adopted in the past five years.
A blank cell indicates that data were not available or not applicable.
* Refers to five years preceding 2012.

Examples of rural-urban migration

Read the two articles – one relating to India, one to China. Identify:

- The scale of rural-urban migration in that country

- Causes of rural-urban migration

- Consequences for both the rural and urban areas in each case

What similarities and differences are there between the two?

What management issues are raised by these two accounts?

Management of rural-urban migration

Remember concept of economic optimisers…

- Top-down urban growth strategies in megacities (>10M)
  - Decisions are made by professionals, senior government officials, etc.
    - + Part of an overall plan/strategy for wider region
    - - Recipients not involved in process, so may feel disenfranchised…
- Bottom-up urban community development strategies
  - + Community sets agenda for change therefore more likely to meet their needs/desires
  - - May not consider/connect with wider issues, so be less effective in long term

More detailed +/- evaluation of top-down vs bottom-up urban planning:

https://www.odi.org/opinion/9618-video-urban-planning-poverty-top-down-grassroots-approaches or https://youtu.be/57ANs3tjMXU

Decent starting points identified in the textbook (see research exercise next)

Management of rural-urban migration

Policies often involve control:

> e.g. Ethiopian regulations prohibiting sale of land, loss of land rights for those leaving rural areas and registration requirements for new migrants

But also through rural development programmes:

> e.g. helping set up women's self-help groups in India, aided by the World Bank and NGOs

Urbanisation can also be encouraged (e.g. by the World Bank urbanisation in Mozambique as it accelerates economic growth and this feeds back into rural areas (*Mozambique Urbanization Review: Accelerating Urbanization to Support Structural Transformation in Mozambique* http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/162881525419243468/pdf/AUS15538-WP-PUBLIC-P156530-MozUrbanReviewASAEngP.pdf))

Some concluding/summary thoughts

Processes and patterns of global migration (Component 2, Theme 2)

From the specification:

"The focus of 2.2.1 to 2.2.5 is processes and patterns of global migration, a global flow which has historically had a major impact on most countries. Technological developments have accelerated migration over time, giving rise to a shrinking world. This brings opportunities and challenges to different localities."

"As an outcome of studying 2.2.1 to 2.2.5, learners will gain an understanding of **specialised concepts:** causality (drivers of global patterns of migration), globalisation (links between countries), risk (associated with refugees), and resilience (ability of neighbouring countries to cope with refugees)."

Some concluding/summary thoughts

Themes to consider, questions to think about:

Causality:

What are the drivers of migration?

Why do people migrate to certain areas?

To what extent are these similar / different for different types of migration?

Some concluding/summary thoughts

Themes to consider, questions to think about:

Globalisation:

What is globalisation?

How and why does it encourage migration?

What role has technology played? How / why?

Who benefits / suffers – and why?

Has its impacts changed over time?

To what extent is this manipulated to encourage / discourage migration?

Some concluding/summary thoughts

Themes to consider, questions to think about:

Risk:

What risks do migrants face, especially refugees?

Why do people continue to migrate despite these risks?

What can be done to mitigate these risks?

Some concluding/summary thoughts

Themes to consider, questions to think about:

Resilience:

What are the consequences of migration on individuals, communities, nations?

How capable are these to withstand pressures?

Are some nations more / less able to cope? Why?

Some concluding/summary thoughts

"Borders are about claims to land, but as soon as you draw one you limit yourself. Every border is also an act of denial, an acknowledgement of another's rights. By contrast, the claim to want no borders, much prized by Business Class executives and anti-capitalist activists alike, is a claim to the whole world. Borders have a far more ambivalent and complex relationship to territory; the combine both arrogance and modesty, both demand and denial."

Bonnett, A. (2015), ***Off the Map****, London: Aurum Press Ltd., p63*

Do you agree?

How can these thoughts be related to what we've covered so far?