Resource Mobilization in Rapidly Growing Urban Areas: Spatially Detailed Information for Improved Monitoring and Evaluation of Property Tax Collection

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Abstract

Most rapidly growing urban areas face considerable challenges for resource mobilization. To reduce administrative costs, some local governments opt for self assessment programs for tax assessment. Self assessment creates incentives for misreporting if filed returns cannot be evaluated with reliable exogenous information and there are no severe penalties for misreporting. We show how spatially detailed information and satellite imagery can be used to improve evaluation of self assessed tax receipts.