Youth and Prosperity of Cities

By
Markandey Rai
UN-Habitat
P.o.Box-30030
Nairobi, Kenya
Markandey.rai@unhabitat.org
WHY THIS THEME?

• **Youth** are society’s most important and dynamic human resource. There are more people under the age of 25 today than ever, totaling nearly three billion, or half of the total global population; 1.3 billion of that total are aged 12 to 24.

• **The demographic dynamics** – the “urban youth bulge” – makes it imperative to address the diverse dimensions of the youth against the broader background of prosperity.
WHY THIS THEME?

Earlier studies by UN-Habitat showed that
• inequity,
• unequal opportunities and
• related issues of unemployment and underemployment are,
the greatest challenges faced by urban youth in this early 21st century.
WHY THIS THEME?

• The degree of outcome inequality (such as earnings and assets) defines youth exclusion in urban life and is closely related to the (un)equal opportunities that occur in successive life stages, E.G unemployment.

• Unequal access often begins in childhood and continues into youth and adulthood, perpetuating the disadvantage faced in the early years.
IS ECONOMIC GROWTH GENERATING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT?

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
URBAN Youth Quality of Life: Is Education Freely Available?

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
The Link between Economic Growth and Equity

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
Distribution of Economic Prosperity

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
Extent of Infrastructure Contribution to Prosperity

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
Policies Promoting Youth Prosperity

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
Policies for Equitable Youth Development

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
SUMMARY FINDINGS

1. The Youth Bulge: Great asset

2. Predetermined Circumstances Undermine Equality of Opportunity in Cities

3. Education is the Key to Urban Employment Opportunities

4. Sound Health and Education Infrastructure bring Quality of Life

5. Equity enhances the Productivity and Prosperity of Youth

6. Knowledge and skill deficiencies hinder urban productivity

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
Policy Messages

• National and City-level policies should confront the effect of structural change on skill requirements.

• Invest in Formal and Vocational Training and Learning

• Invest in Technological Literacy, Numeracy and ‘soft’ skills

• Invest in Youth Apprenticeship Training

• Use Higher Education and improved Skills-Sets to Raise urban Productivity

• Build Complementary Strategic Partnerships with the Private Sector

• Educational Strategies for Low-Skilled Youth.

Source: State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013
THE CITY IS THE HOME OF PROSPERITY.

These crises have strongly impacted on cities.

THE CITY CAN ALSO BECOME THE ARENA WHERE THE RIGHT TO SHARED PROSPERITY IS CLAIMED AND FOUGHT FOR.
WHY? Distorted Notion of Prosperity

- Wealth-accumulation pattern
- A narrow focus on purely financial prosperity
- Land and real estate speculation

- Endless growth of cities in the periphery
- Growing inequalities between rich and poor
- Serious distortions in the form and functionality of cities
- Grave damage to the environment
- Unsustainable financial systems
CITIES CAN BE A REMEDY TO THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CRISES

RESPONSES TO GLOBAL CRISES MUST ALLOW FOR A VIGOROUS ROLE FOR CITIES:

✓ To impact on the real sector of the economy at local level
✓ To help to create better linkages, trust, respect and inclusiveness
✓ To negotiate and agree on responses with local actors
✓ To forge new partnerships and local social pacts.

They can become flexible and creative platforms
- Optimize resources & Harness potentialities
- Strengthen National Governments.
NEED FOR A FRESH NOTION OF PROSPERITY

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Holistic  People-centered  Inclusive  Sustainable

CITY OF THE 21ST CENTURY

- Integrates tangible and intangible aspects of prosperity
- Responds to the inefficient, unsustainable forms and functionalities of the city of the previous century.
The City of the 21st Century

- More compact form
- Balance lower energy costs
- Smaller ecological footprint
- Greater heterogeneity and functionality
- Safeguards against new risks
- Higher provision of public goods

Prosperity of Cities
The Wheel of Urban Prosperity

Integrates 5 ‘SPOKES’ dimensions of prosperity:

1. Productivity
2. Infrastructure
3. Quality of life
4. Equity

Controls the direction and pace of city growth towards prosperity.
The City Prosperity Index (CPI)

- Gauge each dimension of prosperity (5) in individual cities
- Measure present and future progress of cities towards the prosperity path
- Enable decision-makers to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention.

Developed World: Cities feature solid prosperity indexes (Group 1 & 2)
Africa: A majority of cities have very weak prosperity index (Groups 5 & 6)
Asia & Latin America: Cities with moderate prosperity (Groups 3 & 4)
Cities need to integrate the various ‘SPOKES’ – ensure interlinkages and interdependencies.

Well-targeted interventions in 1 ‘SPOKE’ have multiplier effects in the others.

Shared, balanced development is a crucial feature of prosperity.
The City Prosperity Index (CPI)

- Strong integration of the 5 dimensions of prosperity
- High volumes of goods and services
- Strong economic fundamentals and high productivity

- Show ‘less coordinated’, ill-balanced development in the ‘spokes’
- Institutions, legal and regulatory frameworks are being consolidated

- Dysfunctional systems, institutional failures
- Sluggish economic growth

Poverty and destitution – Post-war countries
Launching The City Prosperity Index (CPI)

PRODUCTIVITY AND PROSPERITY

- Serviced land and reliable infrastructure increases productivity
- Agglomeration economies give cities a competitive advantage
- Top performing cities derive their strengths from high-level infrastructure and enhanced quality of life.

Urban areas contribute disproportionally to national productivity
Prosperous cities have vastly improved the range/quality of their infrastructure.

Infrastructure is a political priority that translates in the provision of public goods.

Investments in transport/communication infrastructure are a major factor behind prosperity.

Prioritizing infrastructure is part of a long term economic & social development plan & environmental protection strategy.
Launching The City Prosperity Index (CPI)

QUALITY OF LIFE AND PROSPERITY

- Enhances prosperity and increases prospects for sustainability.
- Social equity and quality of life go hand in hand.
- Effective public safety is a fundamental for quality of life, and prosperity
- Access to public spaces improves Q of L and allows to gain access to institutional and political spaces.

Re-evaluating the notion of the ‘public’ demonstrates a commitment to improved quality of life.
EQUITY AND PROSPERITY

- Inequalities are increasing, while wealth is growing
- Yet..., Prosperity thrives on equity
- Equity has a significant impact on economic performance
- Equity can enhance efficiency, improve productivity and strengthen social cohesion.

The equity agenda must also consider the promotion of social inclusion.
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ES) AND P.

- ES cities are likely to be more productive, competitive, innovative, and prosperous
- ES cities are able to draw a healthy balance between economic growth and the environment
- Cities must build those financial and other institutions required to achieve environmental sustainability

ES cities are more compact, energy-efficient, clean and less polluted, more accessible, and offer better transport choices
CITY IS A HUMAN CONSTRUCT

Human interventions enable cities to enhance their potential as engines of today’s and tomorrow’s prosperity.

FROM COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO URBAN PROSPERITY

Well-managed urbanization stands out as the new comparative advantage in the 21st century.

Geography alone cannot determine city prosperity.

Government policies, corporate strategies, human capital, investments in strategic sectors, all have an influence on the fate of cities.
Expanding Prosperity for All

INGREDIENTS OF SUCCESS

POLICY

INNOVATE TO SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO THE CITY OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Promoting prosperity involves deployment of proper laws, regulations and institutions involves deployment of proper laws, regulations and institutions.

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Innovate to support the transition to the City of the 21st Century

The notion of urban planning would give any city tighter public control over the use of land, change the form and function of cities based on sustainable development principles, as well as expand the provision of, and access to, public goods.
PROSPEROUS CITIES enhance the public realm, expand public goods and consolidate rights to the ‘commons’.
Thank you for your attention!