

## HOW DOES URBANIZATION INFLUENCE EDUCATION?

by:

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Urbanization is a continuous phenomenon that transforms society. It is defined as the migration of people from rural to urban areas leading to developing cities--- a venue for improving life, and a den of advanced technology and infrastructure where progress exists. People tend to move places to sustain themselves and have access to a better life. In 2014, 54% of the world's population lived in urban areas and expected to increase to 66% by the year 2050 (UN, 2014).

Urbanization has greatly affected society. The movement of people will bring an impact not only on the lives of the people as well as in the whole community. As the urbanization rate increases rapidly, the urban population will face varied issues and challenges in the aspects of the economy, environment, and education. Urban areas are viewed as a venue for job opportunities and better living. It implies that the higher the standard of living, the more competition, and the higher the qualifications such as skills and educational attainment needed for employment.

In terms of economy, urbanization and education complement each other as countries like South Korea, China and Singapore pointed out that education serves as fuel for the success of the countries. It is through education and training that skills and competencies are honed and used those skills to reach the citizen's full potential as the future workforce of the nation. Education has continued to equip and prepare the individual for the future and becomes a partaker of transforming society for the betterment of the nation as a whole.

At the same time, education has been greatly affected by rapid urbanization. Education serves as the driving force for an individual to migrate to urban areas to have a better life. According to Choy and Li (2017), education and urbanization have positively affected labor employment. Thus, education promotes social mobility and certification which is a prerequisite for getting a job, and inspires people to obtain professional qualifications, and achieve higher results in their workplace (Ren, 2017).

Moreover, education is viewed as the key to alleviating poverty by empowering and strengthening people through the skills and training to become productive citizens of the country. Recent researchers viewed education as the means of reducing a nation's ills and problems. With the situation today, still education has also a problem for many. Inaccessibility is

On the other hand, inequality is a common issue in the urbanization process. The difference between urban and rural education is a common trend in developed and developing nations. Urban education offers an advantage in terms of access to education compared to rural areas. At the same time, rural schools have commonly less adequate human and material resources and facilities which hinders the student's potential to learn (Global Data and OECD, 2017).

Education has been a salient contributor to the long-term development of a nation. Education has been a powerful tool to train people to sustain development (i.e labor force) and combat challenges and threats in urban areas. Thus, proper urban planning and management are needed to create policies that will sustain the needs of the urban population including migrants, women, children, and minorities.

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