Jana Kubelková

URBANIZATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Bachelor thesis

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Thesis supervisor: RNDr. Josef Novotný, Ph.D.
Aims and hypotheses

Aims:
• To evaluate the state and trends of urbanization in developing countries
• To define the problem of urbanization of poverty

Hypotheses:
• Poverty threat moves from rural areas to the cities
• Rural poverty is still perceived as a prevalent problem, even in the poverty reduction strategies
Current situation

• There are substantial changes in the poverty in developing countries at the edge of the millennium

• Quick urbanization keeps bringing a larger part of the poverty into the cities

• The usual idea of flourishing cities and poor countryside is becoming a myth

• The situation of poor city inhabitants is in many cases even worse than in rural areas, although the statistical data may not reveal this
Structure and content

1. Urbanization in the global context
2. Poverty definition and characteristics of the particular issues of urban poverty
3. The urban poverty reduction efforts
Total population of the World
1950-2030

Source: UNDP, World Urbanization Prospects, 2005 Revision
Urban poverty analysis

Poverty measurement and available data

• Problematic 1$/day income limit

• The urban data are often not representative

• There are still problems even if the poor urban inhabitants’ data is differentiated from the other

Vulnerability of the poor urban inhabitants
Slum in Cuidad de México

Rural area of the poorest Mexican state Chiapas

Share of the urban population living in slums

PRSP and the urban poverty

• The problem is described

• It is the first step to understand the importance and threat of the urban poverty

• Absolutely necessary for the future steps
Zambia

Total and extreme poverty in Zambia by urban and rural population

SWOT analysis of the PRSP

**Strengths**
- Differentiation of the rural and urban poverty
- Pointing out the urban problems and regular researches
- Poverty measurement tries to deal with the urban-rural differences

**Weaknesses**
- Weak reflection of the urban-rural differences in reality
- Statistical data deliver only average urban data
- Prevalent material focus not dealing with psychical and social dimension of the poverty

**Opportunities**
- Better understanding of the situation and urban poverty context
- Setting a different limit for the urban and rural poverty
- Better strategy setting for the urban poverty reduction

**Threats**
- Wrong evaluation of the urban statistical data
- Escalating of the situation in cities due to the high urbanization rate
- Rigid poverty help targeted at rural areas
Summary

• Urban poverty is a substantial problem due to the high urbanization rate of poor

• The situation of poor inhabitants of slums is often worse than in rural areas

• Despite these findings, the rural areas gain more attention and resources
Thank you for your attention