

2nd International Symposium "NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES" - Strategic planning, spatial planning, economic programs and decision support tools, through the implementation of Horizon/Europe2020. Isth2020, Reggio Calabria (Italy), 18-20 May 2016

The mega urban human agglomerations (MUHA) as an expression of regional imbalance: another facet of the modern underdevelopment

Jesus Morett Sanchez^{a,*}

^a Universidad Autonoma Chapingo. Rosario Castellanos 2332, Residencial Cruz del Sur, Guadalajara 44950, Jal. Mexico.

Abstract

One of the new features of the underdeveloped countries, is the existence in them of enormous human settlements inhabited by millions of people in very precarious conditions, with lack of the minimum municipal services and urban infrastructure, so these places are cities just for its size. These are human agglomerations result of the lag of their countries and that, paradoxically, will make even more difficult its development. To these settlements, I have given the name of Mega Urban Human Agglomerations (MUHA), being evidence of the unbalanced regional development in poor countries (whose economic activities are concentrated in a few places) and ruin of the domestic agriculture and small-scale. Enormous contingents unable to find possibilities for survival in the rural areas of poor countries move to these cities. This is not a process of attraction of the cities, but of expulsion of the people from fields, farms and fisheries toward urban areas that offer very little chance of formal and well paid employment. Of the one hundred largest cities in the world, 69 are located in underdeveloped countries and there are eleven poor countries with cities with more than 20 million inhabitants; in contrast, in almost 60% of developed countries its largest city is less than 3 million inhabitants; and has reached the absurd that the region least industrialized in the world, sub-Saharan Africa, shows the highest rates of urban growth in the world (around 5 per cent per annum). As the trend is headed for the growth of the MUHA the challenge is huge for governments to guarantee people's minimum levels of income, food, health, housing and urban satisfiers (infrastructure and services) as part of citizens' rights, it raises the conception of a new human right: the right to the city. The growth of the population in many MUHA stances great challenges to meet the needs of its inhabitants in housing, as in transportation, infrastructure and the provision of basic services. Which leads to think that it will be almost impossible to the governments of poor countries to cope with, because of the enormous costs involved.

© 2016 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license

(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the organizing committee of Isth2020

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +52 33 36 46 77 94

E-mail address: jcmorett@hotmail.com

Keywords: mega urban human agglomerations; underdeveloped countries; slums; mega cities

1. Introduction

The author is preparing a series of essays to prove the hypothesis that in this era of globalization, the underdeveloped countries manifest new features that will make even more difficult to step out from poverty and for them to decrease the inequality in income distribution, these features are: a weak export sector, increase of unbalanced regional development, mega “cities”, extractive economy, increase of food vulnerability, denationalization of the industrial production and establishment of enclaves of export industries, reorientation of the domestic bourgeoisies to exporter raw materials, loss of sovereignty of the domestic banking and undervaluation of the currencies, diversion of resources toward international reserves inactive (but indispensable for maintaining the exchange parity), free trade treaties disadvantageous and asymmetrical; and, in the political sphere, superficial democratic advances and huge weakening of the Nation-State, coupled with the insurgency of criminal groups and which clearly distinguishes the insurgency of previous decades, which was fighting for better living conditions (economic and political). This essay has the objective to demonstrate one of these new features of poor countries: the increase in the MUHA. In general the population from the rural areas served as the basis for the growth of cities and was a result of the industrialization process it needs workers for the factories and services, particularly in the early stages of industrial development, because of the subsequent supplied of workers of the same cities; currently in poor countries, the growth of the cities is the result - to a large extent - the failure of agriculture that makes impossible the life in the rural areas, to the extent that it is estimated that - on a planetary scale - migrate to the cities an average of 200,000 people each day. As a result, appears a vicious circle in which the abandonment of the agricultural activities are translated into a decrease in food production, with the consequent loss of food self-sufficiency; so that another new feature of the underdeveloped countries is also poor domestic food production. There is currently not a generalized process of industrialization in the underdeveloped countries to attract the inhabitants of rural areas to work in the cities, on the contrary, it expresses a clear process of de-industrialization and, in very few countries and very few places, a process of reindustrialization - under the modality of export enclaves - that the foreign companies take advantage of the poor countries for foreign direct investment (low wages and precarious working conditions, exchange rate artificially low and few regulations to conserve the environment). Unlike the developed countries where in their cities there are areas where the poor live, in the underdeveloped countries a large part on their megacities is constituted by poor neighbourhoods, with the four components of slums lacking (improved water, improved sanitation, durable housing and sufficient living area) and also with severe deficiencies in transport, on the garbage collection, without green areas, with great insecurity and great violence, and with very few opportunities of formal work for its inhabitants. Unfortunately the global trend is toward the growth of urban areas mainly in poor countries. The MUHA are an enormous challenge for public policy, because to those places are moving rural poverty, now more than ever there are in the underdeveloped countries cities that have two faces: the modern with all the services and the poor that lack almost all of public services; and between them is frequent the presence of walls that divide them (for example in Rio de Janeiro, Lima or in Buenos Aires). Currently, UN-Habitat estimates 12% of the humanity living in someone of the 200,000 squatter settlements that exist (slums, favelas, lost cities) and it is estimated that they will double in the next three decades and it is estimated that its population will have little chance of finding a formal employment in this places. In developed countries, the global cities are authentic world capitals of the industry, trade, commodities, finance, insurance, technological innovation and policy, while the Mega Urban Human Agglomerations are global capital of poverty. To this essay has been reviewed the state of the art, finding many references with respect to the characteristics of the slums, but relatively little in terms of the causes that have increased the migration field-city in poor countries. On the other hand, the basic source of data to this paper was the Global Urban Indicators Database of the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), as the most comprehensive compilation of information on the world population.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1107585>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1107585>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)