Draft for Working Paper

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Urbanisation Patterns for Poor Communities: Comparison Study of China and Venezuela

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URBANISATION PATTERNS FOR POOR COMMUNITIES:
CHINA & VENEZUELA

A. Title

Urbanisation patterns for poor communities: China & Venezuela

B. Rationale

The rapid urbanisation in many developing countries has profound impacts on their current urbanisation stage, economy growth and modernization resulting in vastly differing spatial patterns, income distributions, demographic changes and population migrations. While China and Venezuela's urbanisation over the last three decade did contribute to economic growth and the modernization, it has been accompanied by growing wealth inequality, social exclusion, poverty, violence among another social economics phenomena that are affecting the poor community in urban area. Despite both countries are considered as developing countries, the conditions and the driving forces behind the urbanisation are in both cases very different. It is therefore relevant to investigate what are the main factors to be considered in the different urban patterns of two developing countries. Based on China-Venezuela comparative case study, this paper examines their urbanisation patterns has become such a pressing issue that it resulted in tremendous different social challenge.

C. Objectives

To identify the factor has driven the current pattern of urbanisation of both countries: (policies, urban structure & designs and conditions).
What differences exists in the slum phenomenon of China and Venezuela?
To examine the Slums conditions in developing countries based on four distinctive elements (Factor, nature, actors, conditions and policies).
To contribute to the research literature on the urbanisation patterns of developing countries.
To propose recommendations to a consideration policy responses to this process.

These cases were chosen for several reasons
1) They occurred as result of urban-poverty concept associated with the urbanisation pattern in developing countries.
2) Despite both countries belonging to developing countries and face the slums challenge.
3) Both case studies demonstrate the role of political leverage and communities' engagement can produce radically different results.

D. Methodology

Content analysis on existing literatures and research reports are adopted to examine and describe the current urbanisation problem among developing countries.

The comparative case study is employed to demonstrate the differences of patterns among developing countries in refereeing to the government policy, social structure and economic growth in the urban development.

Based on the current developments of each country slums factors, nature, actors, conditions and Polices (Table 1) to

E. Expected Output:

F. Activities: Presentation of the article in an Conference on March

For the first time in history, more people live in cities than in the countryside.
Our world is no longer simply going through the experience of urbanisation.
Our world has become urbanized. ... One billion people - or one in every three urban residents –
now live in an urban slum, the vast majority of them in developing nations (Kramer 2006).

While urbanisation in developed countries has been conditioned by the costs of spatial interaction, the degree of economies of scale and the elasticity of labour supply to the urban sector with respect to rural wages, in which the people flocked to the city as new industry and growth offered millions of new jobs, the situation is different in developing countries where the urbanisation has been associated with the poverty. Short-sighted urban development, deficient –designed public policies that have leaded inequality distribution of resources are the main factors that have been conditioned the "urban poverty" in developing countries.

On the one hand, these countries have experienced unprecedented rates of urbanisation, and it has helped to reduce absolute poverty and stimulated economic grow in the aggregate. On the other hand, this has caused wider gap between cities and among different social groups and increase number of urban poor. Urbanisation thus is strongly associated with the poverty. Many different observers has named this phenomenon "urbanisation of poverty" — rising share of the poor living in urban areas —. Despite this strong co-relation it is worth to mention that urbanisation by itself is not a problem.

In this context of urban poverty, even though the characteristics and patterns of urban among these countries might be different, the urbanisation processes have come with a common phenomenon: Slums. According to data from UN-Habitat (2008: 15), over the next four decades 'developing world' cities will absorb 95 per cent of the world's urban population growth. In cities where informal development is the norm rather than the exception, this means that 'urban growth will become synonymous with the spread of informal settlements' (UN-Habitat, 2006). Therefore,

Urbanisation has become a major challenge among planners and decision makers in developing nations.

The definition of Slums is still not clear, in particular in less developing countries. There is no unique standard for the classification of urban area, since what constitutes an urban are varies among countries and in some cases it even varies over time within a single country[1]. From the point of view of urban planning, the squatter settlements can be only a simple informal process of urbanisation in which households settle in the land before the neighbourhood is developed. From the governments, the squatter settlements are serious problem for their economies and political contexts, especially in fulfilling the provision of services and infrastructures, creating job opportunities and providing houses for urban dwellers. Socialist note slums as an example of emerging social inequality and spatial segregation. These terms are often used to describe their illegal or semi-legal status. Despite "slums" are informally established and unplanned; they are not merely an illegal, instead they play an important role such as grassroots organizations that shape urban poverty planning. Therefore the term slum in this study is defined as "group of individuals living under the same roof, in urban area that lack at least one of the following housing conditions: access to improved water, access to adequate sanitation, access to secure tenure, housing durability, and sufficient living area" (UN-HABITAT, 2003).

Another key implication is the strong correlation between slum and the affordable housing; in fact this phenomenon has been aggravated by the fact that most of the developing countries have insufficient resources and personnel to cater for affordable housing (Samat, 2002). It is not new to say that the accessibility of housing in developing countries has been the structural cause of slum. The urbanisation pattern, the rapid growth in urban population and the physical expansion of cities areas have limited the ability of governments to provide sufficient housing, and private sector housing provision is too expensive for most households.

Especial attention takes this notion in the case study. Since, the late 1990s, affordable housing has been introduced in major cities for middle and low-income household in China. Nevertheless, the local implementation of affordable housing programs remains highly contentious and unsatisfactory. In Beijing, of the 272,000 urban households that applied for social housing in 2010, only 130,000 were given social housing units. The restrictions of the Household Registration System on labour mobility, the limited supply of public housing and the strict application requirements force most urban

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[1] The restructuring and spatial reorganization At the city scale, the most significant is a redrawing of municipal boundaries to bring rural areas into the urban ambit through the system of ''city administering county'', the system of ''converting county into city'', and the annexation of suburban counties (Chung & Lam, 2004; Ma, 2005). The system of ''city administering county'' is to place one or more suburban counties under the jurisdiction of a neighboring administratively higher ranking city. The system of ''converting county into city'' is that a whole county, which is basically rural by nature, is upgraded into city status without changing administrative boundaries. By 2002, there were 1194 counties under the jurisdiction of 262 cities (Chung, 2007). From1983 to1999, some 380 counties became cities, these accounted for 90% of the total number of newly designated cities during the period (Dai, 2000). The annexation of suburban counties refers to the change of suburban counties into city districts. Regardless of reasons behind such radical restructuring and spatial reorganization, spatial consequences are the enlargement of many existing cities by jurisdictional change of city boundaries, and the arbitrary creation of many new cities that contain large tracts of rural land and substantial rural population.

households to fulfil their accommodation needs from the urban commercial housing market are making the Chinese housing market unaffordable for many. According to Man study, about 84 percent of families in the cities live in homes they own, but only 10 percent of migrants own their urban residence. Across urban areas, prices doubled between 1999 and 2010—in some cities like Shanghai and Beijing, they increased more than fivefold 2.

Similar to the China case, slums are also strict associated with the public housing provision, but the notion take different complexity. Rather than demolish or removing, the Venezuelan government' policy toward the unplanned areas has been permissive and supportive, so householders were given the legal title to their land and therefore the security to improve their houses without fear of eviction. This policy includes slums improved living conditions through extending affordable services to slum dwellers and investing in its upgrading. Such a policy, supported by some non-governmental organizations, runs the risk of turning on the fastest solution to the housing problem at a very low cost as for the governments as for the migrant inhabitants.

In sum since the poor people cannot afford to secure housing in formal markets or through public provisioning and they may not be physically evicted from their cities and towns, then they end up living informally, or even illegally, in locations where neither private nor public ownership controls are tightly enforced.

Literature Review

Previous studies have addressed various theories to explain slum's driven forces development, characteristics and evolution. One of the theories adopted is the "temporality" of the Slums. From this perspective, Slums are a *transitional phenomenon* associated with modernization—a natural by-product of the complementary processes of urbanisation. For example, Frankenhoff (1967) John Turner (1969), (Calthorpe, 1993; Kelbaugh, 1989) modernization theory portrays slums as a natural and temporary manifestation of a market failure arising from the dynamics of structural change in labour markets. In the case of China, researchers (Zhu, 2004; Liu et al., 2010) have defined Slums as transitional neighbourhood in the process of urbanisation from the society transform from rural to urban.

Yet while this claim helps to understand the slums, it does not explain very clear the "temporality" concept in detail. The slum phenomenon includes two important aspects: the inhabitants and the existence of the settlements itself. Given the unique characteristics of Chinese floating

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[2] Man, Joyce Yanyun, Siqi Zheng, and Rongrong Ren. 2011. "Housing Policy and Housing Markets: Trends, Patterns, and Affordability." In *China's Housing Reform and Outcomes*, edited by Joyce Yanyun Man. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

population, Slums are certainly inhabited by temporary migrants, it means they inhabit the place temporarily and then move to another place; however, it is still not clear the further evolution of slums as a temporal space especially under the government policies of demolition or redevelopment. Another question remain as to the slum will work as transformative role of the rural slums inhabitants into urban area³. In the Venezuelan case, where the slums are officially recognized by the government it might be in other development stage where the transitional concept could not fully explain its current evolution, and a stagnation state from which no transformation is possible would describe slums.

Similarly, Turner (1966) also classified slums into four in terms of development levels and security of tenure (the transient, provisional, incomplete and incipient, complete). Abede (2011) described informal settlements into three phase (infancy, consolidation and saturation) based on the availability of open space in the neighbourhood.

Based on the above, questions are raised related to what are the socio –economic characteristics of slum? And what differences exists in the urban patterns of China and Venezuela? Thus, given this limitations, it is clear that further study of the slum is needed in order to appreciate the outcomes being experienced in developing countries.

Methodology

The Method of Most different System Design is used to evaluate a common phenomenon sharing for two developing countries but differing of some patterns. The analysis including some categories: driver-factors, nature of phenomenon, conditions and government policies. By considering two different developing countries, country A (China) and B (Venezuela), this paper compares the similarities and differences of the slum in two developing countries. This is because slums are shaped by countries' socio-economic conditions and different country has different development stages. Whilst China has economic stability and highly institutionalized political system, Venezuela is suffering from shortages of currencies and goods, and high level of inflation, with a presidential system relative instable. One factor that both countries have in common, the dependent variable in this case, is that they the slums.

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³ Especially in the China residential registration system.

Developing Countries		Level of Analysis				
		Variables				
		Factors	Nature	Actors	Conditions	Political
Observations	China	Urbanisation & Poverty	Un-regulated	State	Land Area	Demolition
		Housing Program	Transitional Gentrification	Villagers	Location	Redevelopment
					Construction Density	
				Migrants	Infraestructure : M-A-	
					Healthy	
					Violence	
	Venezuela	Urbanisation & Poverty	* Legal	State	Land Area	Upgraded
					Location	
					Construction Density	
		Housing Program	Sense of Belonging	Poor Communities	Infraestructure : M-A-	Integration
					Healthy	
					Violence	