

BOOK REVIEWS

Cities – Engines of Growth, Edited by Nadeem-Ul-Haque and Durr-e-Nayab, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, 2019, pp.202.

The book under review is divided into four (4) parts consisting of eleven papers and each of them is related to cities in various aspects. It is a publication of “Pakistan Institute of Development Economics”, Quaid-e-Azam University Campus Islamabad, Edited by Dr. Nadeem-Ul-Haque and Dr. Durr-e-Nayab. The book covers various topics such as “Human life in Cities” and “On Ranking of cities” in Part I under the title of “Understanding Cities”. In contrast, Part II gives the Historical viewpoint of the cities. This part includes three papers, which are “Two Tales of a City: Lahore and the End of Empire”, “Neo-Liberal Urban Development Paradigm, and Civil Society Responses in Karachi”, and then the third paper is about “Understanding Urbanizations Policy and Research Agendas”. Part III of the book discusses the most important issue under the title of “Shelter”. Topics included are “Shelter for the Urban Poor”, “Mitigating housing issues in Pakistan”, “Housing Demand in Islamabad Capital Territory”, and “Solving the Urban Sprawl: A case study of Kot Lakhpat, Lahore”. Finally, Part IV is about “Development and Preservation”. Under this title, papers include “Development Paradigms”, “Globalization, and Pakistani Cities: Including the World, Excluding the Citizen”. All these papers under the titles above were presented at PIDE Conference during 2006 with the theme: “Cities - the Engine of Growth”.

In the beginning paper of Part I, author Durr-e-Nayab explores the importance of the city in human life. She first refers to men as political creatures what Aristotle thought that it is like men to live in the city and the term civilization derived from the Latin word *civitas* city. She begins with the reference of Robert Lukes, who wrote in 1988 that the theory of Production has not anything to grip the city jointly and that the city is only a set of factors of production, which are capital, labour, and land. He argued why humans do not live outside or near cities as land is cheaper so that the profit can be increased. It is true as most of the production hub is in, outside, or near the skirts of cities.

Nevertheless, cities play a role to help people to interact even internationally. The author goes on to compare cities historically. The comparison of cities is initially built in China, Mexico, Egypt, and Turkey. How religious buildings, such as Temples and Mosques, are built, which depicts religious architecture. Then gradually, as civilization started taking place, the shift in the pattern was seen first with

the Egyptian Civilization. In this paper, the history of civilization in different countries and then Urbanization is narrated too well. When cities got urbanized and started the role of Engine of Growth, problems also arise like lack of housing, traffic congestion, city management, crimes, and governance issues, to name a few. Job opportunities are more in cities with high wages as compared to parts outside cities. Cities are the hub of the market where people can interact for their businesses.

In the following paper, “On Ranking Cities: Issues and options”, the author Lubna Hasan first discusses the ranking of cities as to how it estimates and that it is not a new phenomenon. It is said that rankings are relatively vogue. There are certain indicators taken into account in ranking the city. Some of them are the cost of living, business opportunities, health care facilities, good educational institutions, etc., which help enhance the quality of life. The reason why people prefer to reside in a city that is more urban migration is there. The research also reveals that factors like human capital, lifestyle, and access to amenities are also the main attraction. In her introduction, she mentioned that Zurich is the world’s finest city to live in, reported by Mercer discussing its worldwide quality of living survey (2006). However, London, New York, Oslo, Tokyo, and Zurich are the most luxurious cities to live in. Vancouver is first at “Liveability Ranking” in the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) ’s report of 127 cities (EIU 2005) while London and Paris are most excellent in terms to establish a business (Cashmen and Wakefield 2005).

Every year ranking is conducted according to the quality of life. The cities generate wealth because the productivity of cities is higher as compared to villages; hence cities are termed as Engine of Growth. The author discusses various indicators of city ranking in detail in Tables 1 and 2. It is interesting to go through these factors that affect the ranking and quality of life of the cities. The author concluded by stating no nationwide quality of life (QOL) coverage scheme in Pakistan. The reason being there are some concerns to be resolved for this mainly whether to opt for objective or subjective, then she explains what these indicators are. This study suggests opting for objective indicators, which include infant mortality, literacy rate, and infrastructure, to name a few.

As far as Part II concern, first of the three papers, “Two Tales of a city – Lahore and the Ends of Empire” authored by Imran Ali, the title itself suggests that here the analysis is conducted for one city, Lahore although presents a comparative analysis of two periods that stretch over two centuries is very interesting. The author aims to examine the past events that help develop the city. Secondly, this study also identifies the events that explain the historical role of Lahore. Then he went on to explain the usefulness of such a study. It is to identify the reasons for Lahore’s growth experience during the two major empires, the Mughal and British Empires. The author started seeing Lahore that emerged as a sizeable city and was established from the development period. With the development process, a large number of merchants entered who added the process. Then there is a mention of Havelis that

belong to the Mughal emperors like Asif Jah. Lahore has also seen a lot of inequality in the level of enjoyment and consumption of resources. It was possible due to feudal and imperial dominance. It was possible mainly due to the income produced by agriculture. "The Agrarian System of Mughal India" by Irfan Habib refers to the author. He concluded about the Agrarian Economy, i.e. the agrarian crisis during the eighteenth century overtook the Mughal economy, causing the collapse of the Mughal empire. The city of Lahore during the British Rule remained as the provincial capital; its education and transport are all developed. Parts of Lahore have become business hubs. Offices were built on Mall Road, McLeod Road, and the retail zone was developed which is named Anarkali Bazar.

Arif Hasan, in his paper, "The Neo-Liberal Urban Development Paradigm and Civil Society: Responses in Karachi", started with the history as to how the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) was created in 1987. It is an Asia Pacific Network of Professional Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Community Organization (CO) with the Head Quarters in Bangkok. In 2003 a study was carried out to look into the progression of socio-economic, physical, and institutional change that has taken place in the cities with special reference to Karachi and also the effects of this change of interest groups. The main findings of the study are that urban development in Asian cities resulted in the absorption of local, national, and international profit-motive projects. However, the report also pointed out the negative aspects that adversely affect the lives of disadvantaged groups. He also mentioned the procedures taken up by Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) and the Urban Resource Centre (URC).

The third and last paper of Part II by Raza Ali and Fatima Azfar is entitled "Understanding Urbanization Policy and Research Agendas". They started by stating a question How "Urban" is Pakistan. Table 1 gives the details of the urban population by census years. The authors analyzed the population in urban areas and its growth rate by provinces and cities. Findings reveal the ranking of ten major cities to the national urban population remained unchanged since 1951. Karachi's population has increased significantly since independence. They concluded that the significance of urbanization in Pakistan has been ignored or underestimated for political and administrative reasons.

The third part of the book is entitled "Shelter". It deals with the housing issue, its necessity, and problems faced by the people. Part III contains four papers. Three papers out of four discussed the issue of housing scarcity, demand, and supply scenario in detail. The author of the first paper "Shelter for the urban poor", is Tasneem Siddiqui, a renowned name in the field termed shelter as an essential requirement. He is of the view that affordable housing societies should be built for the urban poor. Due to rural-urban migration, the affordable areas were lost. He mentioned the government response to it and why it failed during the 1960s first-ever low-income housing society for the urban poor. He discusses the role of the private and

cooperative sectors in the provision of housing, but most of the builders escape after collecting money from the clients.

The second paper, "Mitigating Housing Issues in Pakistan", by Syed Shabihul Hassan Zaidi, focused on the scarcity or shortage of houses for the poor and its socio-economic implications. He also pointed out the hurdles, such as the most important is the lack of soft loan facility for the poor and lower-middle-income groups. The other is lack of physical infrastructure and provision of amenities in housing schemes owned by the private sector, unplanned commercialization, lack of effort towards poverty alleviation, lack of Building and Development Control, to name a few. He recommends preparing Master Plans for all cities, which point out and mark the areas for the development of housing societies. Building and Development control should be implemented in all areas of the city. He stressed the need to introduce Micro-Credit Schemes for income generation and poverty alleviation.

Ayaz Ahmed discusses the "Housing Demand in Islamabad Capital Territory" in the third paper of part III of this book. The author looks into the historical background of housing demand and supply in the country's Capital city Islamabad. He found that the situation is not very different in the capital city compared to other big cities of the country. He gave an overview of the city with physical characteristics and how typically it is divided into five Zones, then its Demographic Characteristics and role of the Capital Development Authority (CDA). He states that given all the above, Islamabad is no doubt a planned and secured city. Finally, he suggests some Policy Recommendations. The most important suggestion is that the Federal Government should enlarge the area of Capital Territory to overcome the housing shortage in Islamabad. It is very interesting to know the history of Islamabad, how it came into being and how it was planned. Tables help in understanding it well.

The last paper of part III is a case study of Kot Lakhpat, Lahore. Dr. Usman Mustafa, in his paper highlights the various socio-economic issues and problems that residents of slum localities face; here, the case study is of Kot Lakhpat, Lahore City. He also regarded housing as a human requirement, as Tasneem Siddiqui in his paper did. In his case study, he used the PLA methodology. For this purpose, various tools and techniques were used; it is a detailed study. In the end, the author suggested some recommendations to improve the situation of slum areas.

The last part of the book, with the title "Development and Preservation", contains two papers. The first paper, "Development Paradigms", by Kamil Khan Mumtaz, incidentally started the paper with the history of human development or what you call civilization as in the first paper Umme Nayab mentioned. He is very philosophical: Development is a procedure of "becoming" and an aim is a situation of "being". According to him, modern cities are the engine of growth. Referring to urbanization, it is a ready market for goods, services, and labour. He argues that being urban is not enough has to be modern in nature as well. If we look at the en-

vironment of cities, it is much polluted. Cities are termed to be the highest consumers of non-renewable resources of the total world population; only one-fifth live in industrial cities.

“Globalization and Pakistani Cities: Including the world, Excluding the Citizen” is the last paper of the book by Khusro Mumtaz. In the very beginning, he clarified his position that he is neither a town planner nor an architect or development expert nor an economist but a citizen of Pakistan and has lived in two big cities Karachi and Lahore, most of his life. Whatever his observations and experiences in both cities have left him with an uneasy feeling and also alarmed. He begins the first paragraph with an important reality that “in free republics, the term citizen means not only an inhabitant of a town but a complimentary member of the state”. This implies that citizens have the right to demand protection but are also responsible for participating in governing the city. He mentioned that citizens in cities of Pakistan are deprived of essentials. For instance, Karachi is the city where most of the population has no access to clean and safe drinking water. Karachi’s poor would be happy enough to stay at the seaside or visit a park, but parks continue to be turned into business centres and parking areas. For the people of Lahore, the public parks are under assault. I am a witness of Shalamar Bagh. Once visiting Lahore, I went to see Shalamar Bagh and was disappointed to see the condition, which was most neglected.

Finally, the last part of the book is Appendix – Selection from the Press that gives additional information regarding the contents of the book. The Appendix consists of seven items published in newspapers, such as The News, Business Recorder, and on website www.chowk.com. This section is truly the icing on the cake. Cities – Engines of Growth contains a rich history, information, and knowledge regarding the topic with the help of models, tables, flow charts wherever required. Exciting reading even for a non-economist, Instructors of Urban Economics and Researchers writing a thesis or paper will also benefit. All contributors of the book and editors did a great job.

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