

Research Project

The determinants of urbanization and urban growth in developing countries: rural-urban migration, income mobility, agricultural exports, and the urban bias

Project funded by own resources

Project title The determinants of urbanization and urban growth in developing countries: rural-urban migration, income mobility, agricultural exports, and the urban bias

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Organisation / Research unit

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We show theoretically how low rural income mobility linked to inequality (e.g. rural India) and an urban bias in government spending leads to an increasing internal migration. Better market access in the rural area for agricultural goods will decrease migration. We then set out to test the model prediction empirically on macro-level, by employing a novel econometric two step approach. We find both that inequality and urban bias will lead to significant higher internal migration and market access to lower internal migration.

Keywords urban bias, migration, inequality

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