The role of community resilience in adapting to climate change in a megacity
- The urban poor in Jakarta / Indonesia
Contents

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Urban Dynamics

Dynamics in Megacities

Disasters/Climate Change
- Majority located in DC
- Majority in coastal areas

Urbanisation
- Urban Turn 2007
- Dynamic in DC

→ Urban poor
  - Poor are particularly vulnerable (hazard and poverty)
  - Migrants will be absorbed in slum areas
Planet of Slums

- “Parasitic” (Hoselitz 1955)
- “Slums of Hope” vs. “Slums of Despair” (Stokes 1962)
- “Two stages theory” (Todaro 1969)
- “Redundant Population” (Scholz 2003)
- “Planet of Slum” (Mike Davis 2007)

→ Formal vs. Informal Sector
Slum as Sub-System

- Megacity: Complex System with complex sub-systems (slums) (Barros & Sobreira)
- Slums formally and informally integrated in municipal administration (Barker 2009)
- Formal and Informal sector are complementary (Korff 1996):
  - Services and products are offered to formal sector
  - Slum areas provide affordable living costs
  - Informal sector contributes to competitiveness of the city

→ Slums/Informal Sector are neither “slums of hope” nor “slums of despair”. They are integral part of the city.
Urban Planning

→ Slums: Ambivalent places (infrastructure, standards etc. ....)
→ Megacities are un governable and limited “plannability”
Case Study Jakarta: Flood Situation

- Flood has historical routes (harbor principality)
- Limit of urban planning (colonial plans from 1920)
- Population growth 0.3 mio. (1920) > 10 mio. (2010)
- 40% located below sea level
- Sealing of surface
- Deforestation up-stream
- Waste disposal through rivers
- ........

- Look in the past: Technocratic Approaches Failed!
- Look in the future: Astronomic cycle (peak in 2025) Climate Change?
Case Study Jakarta: Local Adaption

- Informal Early Warning
- Housing structures adjusted
- Informal evacuation institutionalized
- Resources pooled and collective action
- External support accessed through leaders
- Flood recedes – people continue as usual

⇒ Flood is perceived as “normal”
⇒ People developed capacity to adapt and cope
⇒ Adaption and coping is based on social capital (self-organisation, social networks, social cohesion)
Conclusion (1/2)

- Slum areas have to be recognized as integral part of the city system.
- Urban planning based on instrumental rationality is not able to plan the city: Simulation of Illusions.
- In the absence of successful planning concepts, people structure the city with everyday life practices (e.g. social capital).
Conclusion (2/2)

→ This does neither imply that urban planning is redundant, nor does it imply that people are resilient to future dynamics (e.g. climate change).

→ This implies that urban planning has to be interlinked with adaption and coping strategies of citizens (e.g. self-organisation).

→ Paradigm shift: shift from instrumental rationality to a governance process involving citizens.
Thank You!

Positive proof of global warming.