

Theoretical Flaw and Practical Benefit of the Modern Urbanization and Globalization: China and Kyrgyzstan Case Study

Zichu Li^{1,a,*}

¹*Department of Social Science & Public Policy, King's College London, London, WC2R 2LS, United Kingdom*

a. K23072087@kcl.ac.uk

**corresponding author*

Abstract: This paper explores the intricate relationship between globalization, urbanization, and rural economies, with a focus on the Global South and a specific case study of China. It examines how globalization has driven significant transformations in rural economies, leading to accelerated urbanization trends. The paper provides a comprehensive analysis from two major perspectives—urbanization and globalization—highlighting the rapid pace of development and its associated challenges. By analyzing China's experience and comparing it with neighboring countries, the paper delves into the side effects of these modern developments, such as intensified exploitation and the loss of species diversity. The study also offers a multi-faceted analysis that considers geographic, political, and economic factors to understand the broader impacts of globalization. Moreover, this paper emphasizes the importance of environmental protection in the context of rapid development and provides valuable insights into the role of agricultural trade in economic globalization. It assesses the influence of agricultural trade between China and its neighbors on local residents, domestic political stability, and economic policies. The paper concludes with practical suggestions to address the challenges posed by globalization and urbanization, contributing to the ongoing discourse on sustainable development in rural economies.

Keywords: Globalization, Minorities, Urbanization, Exploitation, Bio-Diversity.

1. Introduction

1.1. Research Background

Globalization and urbanization in rural economies are regarded to be interconnected in most cases that shape the contemporary world in various ways. The accessibility to globalization and urbanization of the rural economies is essential for realizing this growth. This paper focuses on assessing the relationship and impact of transformation from the rural economy to globalization and urbanization. in the Global South, specifically a case study of China, to understand how globalization has driven transformations in rural economies, leading to significant urbanization trends.

1.2. Literature Review

Globalization has greatly influenced the current society from multiple perspectives. According to Jamok, the concept of globalization is characterized by an increasing interconnection between economies, societies, and cultures, which have more impact on the rural economies, and the integration of agricultural markets in the rural area mixed into the global economy is a strong indicator of the core globalization'' mechanism [1]. Akram-Lodhi et al. study states that in the modern globe, many cases of developing countries generated the need to understand economic growth and competitiveness in these developing countries is tied up to the agricultural sector, where the essential operations such as restructuring and change from live-maintaining crops to cash crops, and export-oriented agriculture is the key transformational change that many countries have enhanced in the recent areas [2]. In most cases, the restructuring aspect includes the commitment to adopting modern agricultural practices, mechanization, and the consolidation of landholdings, leading to changes in land use patterns and rural livelihoods. Marslev et al. state that among various social structures and cases of globalization all over the world, China is one of the most successful countries in which globalization has positively changed Chinese rural economies [3]. After years of globalization, most areas in China have experienced rapid economic growth, and this has been because of export-oriented industrialization and foreign direct investment. The succession of investments generates an upward trend in Chinese rural economies' growth and development. Through Chinese rural reaction to the pressure led by globalization, many rural communities in China had decisions. One of the decisions that worked well was that the community shifted their aims for the types of crops from subsistent farming to commercial agriculture, with its key area of focus being high-value crops for export markets.

Martinussen added some essential details to the changes and transformation of the Chinese rural economy [4]. The transformation can dominantly appear from government policies and the improvement of the business created by the new types of agriculture. To be specific, the methodologies of agriculture have been enhanced by government policies whose main rationale is to modernize agriculture, and this generated improvement in the modern life agribusiness and the long term, specifically in the integration of rural areas and the global value chain. What is more, Martinussen, in his paper, further stated that the economic transformation had greatly influenced the Chinese rural areas from various perspectives [4]. For example, Chinese agriculture traditionally focuses on agriculture as the main source of livelihood. Furthermore, Forero and other supporters of alternative development argue that these policies aim to help improve agricultural productivity, create competition, enhance rural livelihoods through modern agricultural technology, promote the cultivation of high-value crops for export markets, and provide market access and financing for rural farmers [5]. The Chinese government has also invested in infrastructure, including the development of important irrigation systems, roads, and storage facilities, which provide support mechanisms for agricultural production and sales in rural areas. These efforts have helped Chinese rural communities transition from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture to increase the export of high-value crops. This change has enabled farmers to discover and focus on new income opportunities, improving their standard of living. By integrating into global value chains, rural communities have entered the international market and benefited from global trade opportunities, thereby promoting economic development and prosperity. Challenges such as disparities in access to resources and market opportunities, environmental degradation, and social inequality require policy responses.

2. Case Description

The change to export-oriented industrialization has placed rural communities under increased pressure to adapt to the changing economics and market demands. For example, according to

Armelagos' paper, China in the past produced wheat, which is the main source of rice, beer, bread, etc. [6]. For the European food import market, Europeans eat the bread since the Germanic age. European history made its food market filled with barley-made bread, and the barrier set by the barley is too solid to allow other grain to enter the European food market.

China has two different ways of exporting crops to realize the benefits from the political attitudes of China and its neighbors. Johnston, Downie, et al.'s paper on Kyrgyzstan and their political study of China's neighbors, Myanmar, Tanzania, and Kyrgyzstan, highlight the interplay of geography, politics, and economics [7].

Kyrgyzstan, for example, borders China. Geographically, Kyrgyzstan's border areas are not as densely populated as the center of the country. At the same time, the country's border is not close to either country's main economic agglomeration. From a political and economic perspective, years of political instability in Kyrgyzstan have hindered economic development by inhibiting long-term policies and investments to boost imports and exports of agricultural products.

Nevertheless, China has expressed interest in supporting Kyrgyzstan, and the Chinese government hopes to develop and promote bilateral economic relations through good policies and diplomacy, including increasing Chinese imports. From China's point of view, the size of the country's imports and exports is small for China as a whole. Still, from Kyrgyzstan's point of view, friendly diplomacy with China has promoted the import and export relationship. Farmers in rural Kyrgyzstan who grow selected crops and products can continue to improve their quality of life through the money and materials exchanged for agricultural products [7]. So, imports and exports can mean a lot to local farmers.

3. Analysis on the Problem

3.1. Challenges and Inequities in Globalization: The Impact on Smallholder Farmers and Domestic Markets

The benefits of globalization have not been evenly distributed among rural communities, and its effects have increased already existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. According to Hall and Gieben's work in 1992, agricultural integration has exposed smallholder farmers to a range of challenges, including key aspects such as price volatility, competition from cheap imports, and land grabs by agribusinesses [8]. In most cases, smallholder farmers lack the resources and bargaining power to compete in the global marketplace and are vulnerable to these pressures, which often threaten their livelihoods and economic security. Cheap imports flow into domestic markets through globalization, affecting local producers in most cases and undermining competitiveness. For the most part, smallholder farmers who rely on agriculture for their income have, in most cases, found themselves squeezed by falling product prices and rising input costs such as seeds, fertilizers, and machinery. This has implications for their economic viability and local food sovereignty and security, as most communities will focus on increasing their dependence on imported goods for subsistence [9]. An increase in imports can intensify competition in the domestic market, potentially harming local businesses that cannot compete on price or quality, and a heavy reliance on imports without corresponding exports can lead to trade imbalances that can affect a country's economy and currency value. Over-reliance on imports can cost jobs and lead to the loss of domestic manufacturing jobs when countries import goods that were previously produced locally.

When the domestic trade imbalance, at the same time, excessive dependence on imports has challenges for the quality control of imported products received by the country, enterprises may face challenges in ensuring the quality and safety of imported products, which will affect consumer trust and safety.

3.2. Minorities being Exploited

According to the introduction, these two authors, Escobar and Martinussen, on society, state, and market further confirmed that the pursuit of export-oriented agriculture has resulted in the sacrifice of food security and rural development [10]. Governments and international donors are incentivized by the promise of export revenues that focus on the production of cash crops rather than staples such as grains and vegetables, which in the long run leads to less food being produced for local consumption. Many rural communities face food insecurity and malnutrition due to a lack of access and affordability to nutritious food.

Whitehead mentioned an essential point; to be specific, this exacerbates rural poverty and perpetuates the cycle of hunger and deprivation, which is seen in vulnerable groups such as women, children, and indigenous communities [11]. They further noted that the expansion of export-oriented agriculture had led to environmental degradation and the loss of natural resources in many rural areas. Intensive monoculture farming practices have led to deforestation, soil erosion, water pollution, and loss of biodiversity in terms of yield and profit maximization. Environmental impacts not only affect the long-term sustainability of agricultural systems but also often threaten the livelihoods and well-being of rural communities that rely on ecosystems for their viability.

3.3. Analysis of Urbanization with Case Study in China

Von Findlinger argues that the rural instability brought about by globalization has improved settlements, social changes, and the social structure of cities [12]. In rural areas, livelihoods are increasingly unstable due to price fluctuations, competition for cheap imports, and land grabs, and many people head to urban areas in search of jobs and economic opportunities. The shift from rural to urban areas and increasing urbanization have led to the concentration of the rural population in urban areas, driving urban growth and expansion.

In most cases, urbanization leads to the development of certain economic sectors, such as industry, services, and knowledge, which are believed to contribute to the growth and development of cities.

In terms of society, Preston argues that in most cases, urbanization changes social relations, identity, and cultural habits, forcing people to live in big cities. The city is a melting pot of cultural diversity, where people of different races and religions exchange ideas and build a vibrant social network [13]. Siddiqi and Akhtar Husain, in their paper, take a close study on the urbanization in Aisa that listed some features: Social challenges associated with urbanization - inequality, crime, and social exclusion - often limit marginalized groups' access to housing, education, health care, and other basic economic services [14].

They answer that urbanization tends to lead to cleaner, more developed environments as cities expand primarily to feed growing populations. Land development leads to agricultural use of land, population, infrastructure, and industrial areas. Urbanization alters ecosystems and environmental processes, as urban areas often cause pollution, resource depletion, and habitat destruction, affecting biodiversity, water quality, and air pollution levels.

4. Suggestions

4.1. Suggestion on Mitigating Drawbacks of Globalization Based on the Problem

According to Whitehead, over-exposure will generate numerous problems, such as deforestation, soil erosion, and so on. In this case, the positive intervention from residents and government can be a panacea.

Perrings, Charles, et al. stated that biodiversity is an important foundation for human survival and development, as well as an important symbol of national competitiveness and high-quality

development level [15]. At present, the world is facing the serious challenge of accelerating biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. In the new era, biodiversity protection must adhere to the development of protection and protection in development to form the restoration of biodiversity.

In China, the government enacted policies about the sustainability of the goal of biodiversity conservation in the new era. The Chinese government should publish an act that guarantees that school education can alert students and citizens to respect nature. Nevertheless, to protect nature and promote the harmonious coexistence between man and nature. Second, the financial department should invest more funds in the overall improvement of biodiversity governance, systemic integrity, and the overall improvement of important ecosystems. Saunders Carol et al., in their paper, mentioned the use of psychology to solve the problem of loss of species diversity [16]. They defined a part of manufactured nature and called on people to understand nature from the perspective of psychology while actively preserving the species diversity of nature. In the program of restoring species diversity, the law should be strengthened to punish people for destroying the natural environment and poaching animals, and at the same time, it should be enhanced to give corresponding rewards to people for voluntarily protecting animals and reporting poachers, mainly highlighting the importance of policies promulgated by the government.

4.2. Suggestion on Mitigating Drawbacks of Urbanization Based on Methodical Ways to Alleviate the Urbanization Issue

First, government, authorities, institutions, and residents should prioritize conservation and constantly improve the spatial pattern of biodiversity conservation. In recent years, China has been establishing nature conservation bases with national parks as the main base and establishing shelters for endangered species with botanical gardens and zoos as the main ones. At the same time, unearthing endangered species can improve the quality of life in remote areas. For example, in some poor areas, the government has actively discovered unique biological resources, turning ecological advantages into economic development advantages. Under the protection of local residents and government policies, biological resources can be fully exploited and utilized. For example, organisms can be combined with unique natural landscapes, coupled with the appropriate development of artificial breeding, cultivation and utilization, biomass conversion and utilization, disease and pest control, and other green industries, as well as ecological tourism and other activities, to achieve biodiversity protection and economic and social coordinated development.

Furthermore, Briffault and Richard, in their paper, point out the government and the law. The government should strengthen law enforcement, supervision, and inspection, as well as severely punish acts of ecological destruction. In terms of increasing law enforcement and supervision, innovative monitoring and enforcement methods can be used, such as implanting chips for endangered species without harming animal life. In this way, when the vital signs of the species are in danger, professionals can plan and arrive at the scene in a timely manner to protect the endangered animals.

4.3. Analytical Suggestion on Globalization Based on Chinese Case Study

Urbanization is becoming more and more common in modern society. Urbanization is not only a demographic phenomenon but also a spatial, economic, and social change. Demographically, people have to move from rural areas to urban areas, which means the population is concentrated in urban areas. This change in population dynamics will have an impact on the infrastructure, services, and resource allocation of cities that must adapt to the needs of a growing population.

Moreover, as Galeano points out, from an economic perspective, urbanization contributes to the economic growth of cities by increasing labor supply, consumer demand, and investment

opportunities. Cities such as China have become hubs of economic activity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, attracting talent, capital, and investment from around the world [17].

Urbanization also affects the structure and decision-making of governments, making cities centers of political power and governance. In many cases, local authorities play an important role in urban planning and in achieving sustainable urban development in terms of urban planning, spatial planning, infrastructure investment, and services. In most cases, governance challenges, such as corruption, inefficiency, and accountability, undermine the efficiency of urban governance and exacerbate the city's problems.

In China, urbanization is influenced by motivation and attractiveness. On the other hand, the restructuring of the rural economy and the reduction of agricultural employment have led many farmers to focus on cities and seek better opportunities. On the other hand, the rapid expansion of industry, construction, and urban services also created a demand for labor, attracting a large number of rural migrants. As a result, China has experienced urban development, and many people have moved from one place to another in search of jobs and improved living standards. This is one of the key areas that globalization and urbanization are changing. This change will improve life and living conditions in areas close to resources.

5. Conclusion

5.1. Key Findings: Globalization and Urbanization Enhance the Economy

This paper focuses on the concept of globalization, which is characterized by the increasing interconnectedness between the economy, society, and culture, and the integration of agricultural markets into the global economy as a strong indicator of the mechanism of globalization. In the process of integrating most rural markets into a globalized economy, structural adjustment aspects include commitments to adopt mechanization, modern agricultural practices, and the integration of land ownership, leading to changes in land-use patterns and rural livelihoods. According to the process of globalization of China's rural economy, most parts of China have experienced rapid economic growth, which is due to export-oriented industrialization and foreign direct investment. With the increase in investment, the growth and development of China's rural economy is on the rise.

From the perspective of reality, this paper also mentions the existing cases in reality: Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, and other cases. For example, Kyrgyzstan is not geographically suitable for frequent transactions because the country's borders are far from the main economic agglomeration areas of all neighboring countries. From a political and economic point of view, the political instability in Kyrgyzstan has inhibited the development of the agricultural economy. However, with the Chinese government's good policy and diplomatic means to develop effective economic relations to promote bilateral agricultural products, Kyrgyz farmers can exchange money and materials for agricultural products and continue to improve their quality of life.

From a theoretical point of view, this paper talks about the side effects of urbanization, that is, as economic growth and resource abundance intensify, the exploitation of minorities is intensified, generating environmental issues. The 4.2 gave suggestions about how to alleviate the side effects of urbanization.

5.2. Research Significance

This paper has environmental protection value. And the reference value of agricultural trade and economic globalization. Through the agricultural trade between China and neighboring countries, this paper points out the influence of agricultural trade economic globalization on local residents, the stability between domestic political parties, local geography, economy, policies, and other factors,

analyses the advantages and disadvantages of agricultural trade economic globalization and puts forward positive suggestions.

5.3. Limitations

This paper attempts to explain the research on the environment and species diversity brought about by urbanization and globalization. Due to the lack of the latest data on the exploitation of illiterates and disabled groups, this paper cannot further analyze the plight of the vulnerable minority groups brought on by urbanization. At the same time, this paper lacks specific species that are threatened in the process of rural urbanization and measures to save special species.

References

- [1] Medeiros, C. A. (2006). *Globalization under hegemony The changing world economy*. *Economia e Sociedade*, 15(1), 209-212.
- [2] Akram-Lodhi, A. H., & Kay, C. (2010). *Surveying the agrarian question (part 1): unearthing foundations, exploring diversity*. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 37(1), 177-202.
- [3] Marslev, K., Staritz, C., & Raj-Reichert, G. (2022). *Rethinking social upgrading in global value chains: Worker power, state-labour relations and intersectionality*. *Development and Change*, 53(4), 827-859.
- [4] Martinussen, J. (1997). *Society, state and market: A guide to competing theories of development*. HSRC Publishers.
- [5] Forero, J. E. (2021). *Buen vivir as an alternative development model: Ecuador's Bumpy Road toward a Postextractivist Society*. *Latin American Perspectives*, 48(3), 227-244.
- [6] Armelagos, G. J. (2010). *The Omnivore's Dilemma The Evolution of the Brain and the Determinants of Food Choice*. *Journal of Anthropological Research*, 66(2), 161-186.
- [7] Johnston, L. A., Downie, E., Mwakalikamo, J., & Rudyak, M. (2021). *China's appetite for international agricultural investment: Case studies of Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar and Tanzania*. ODI Report.
- [8] Gieben, B., & Hall, S. (1992). *Formations of Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press in association with the Open University Press.
- [9] Briffault, R. (1990). *Our localism: part I--The structure of local government law*. *Columbia Law Review*, 90(1), 1-115.
- [10] Escobar, A. (2011). *Encountering development: The making and unmaking of the Third World (Vol. 1)*. Princeton University Press.
- [11] Whitehead, John C., and Paul E. Chambers (2012). *Biodiversity*. Copenhagen Consensus Center.
- [12] Chan, K. W. (2010). *Fundamentals of China's urbanization and policy*. *China Review*, 63-93.
- [13] Preston, P. (2010). *New Trends in Development Theory: essays in development and social theory*. Routledge.
- [14] Siddiqi, A. H. (1971). *Urbanization in Asia*. *Land Economics*, 47(4), 389-400.
- [15] Perrings, C., Folke, C., & Mäler, K. G. (1992). *The ecology and economics of biodiversity loss: the research agenda*. *Ambio*, 201-211.
- [16] Saunders, C. D., Brook, A. T., & Myers, O. E. (2006). *Using psychology to save biodiversity and human well-being*. *Conservation Biology*, 20(3), 702-705.
- [17] Galeano, E. H., & Galeano, E. (1997). *Open veins of Latin America: Five centuries of the pillage of a continent*. NYU Press.