

# URBAN AGE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2006

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*Informality: Problem or simply a reality*

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# *Linkages between formal and informal processes*

## *Urban Age Mexico City 2006*

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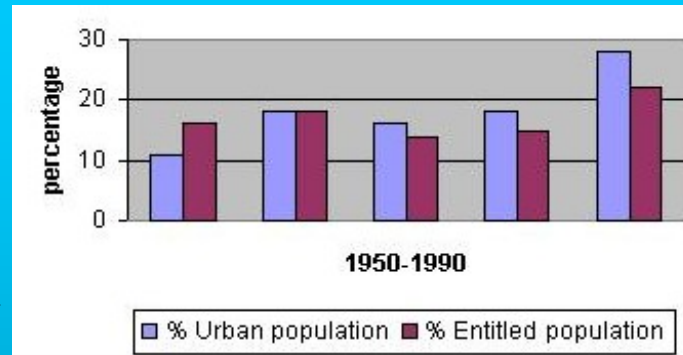
*Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme  
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi*

# “Informality” an imposed definition?

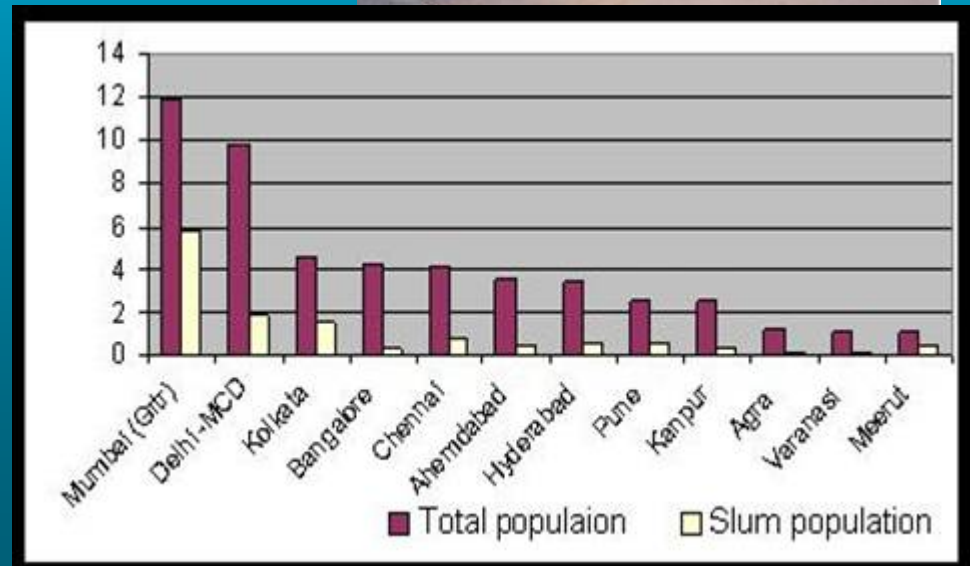
- Performance & growth of city economy depends upon heterogenous employment opportunities and labour market.  
*Free market demands street hawking outside malls our definition of legality does not permit it therefore no ‘formal solutions’.*
- GDP of Mexico city equals Thailand, Mumbai generates 1/6<sup>th</sup> of India’s GDP, *could this be possible without the contribution of informal sector?*
  - *60% housing*
  - *60% jobs*
  - *25% of taxis*
  - *25,000 street vendors*

# Urbanization in Asian countries

- CHINA
- 'Planned urbanization 1950-70
- 'permit holders' vs floating population, informal service sector small
- 1980-90 growth of informal economy, street shops etc.



- INDIA
- 30-50% slum dwellers, 'unauthorized' self constructed dwellings, close to work
- **Growth of informal sector often faster than formal sector**



# Social Morphology of City

- Traditionally depended on the division of labour – *heterogeneous labour force*
- Result of treating informal as problematic has resulted in lower social mobility. *Cost of providing high skills are high.*
- Social and physical polarization between rich and poor. *Long commuting distance increasing time and economic poverty*

# Urban Streets and captive users

- Understanding of use of streets, or urban plans are limited by the definition of legal.
- Urban streets offer opportunities for range of human activities
- Since many of these activities are necessary for survival, the physical framework influences their incidence only slightly.
- The participants have no choice.
- *Focus on captive users of bicycles(.7% -??)*
- *Pedestrians (PT commuters)*

