



Urban public finance in developing countries

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Abstract



The publication of this volume on urban public finance is timely. The book distills the lessons learned by the authors during many years of work. These lessons will be of great value for policymakers, who are recognizing that urban development is still a major challenge for developing countries. Investments by urban local governments in social and physical infrastructure are now recognized as critical. Maintenance of public capital assets in urban areas is now the responsibility of local authorities, thus fiscal discipline and reliance on local resources have become the watchwords of the 1990s. There has been a growing demand to involve citizens more directly in governance. Related to this is the notion that people will pay more taxes if they see a closer relation between what they pay and what they receive in public goods and services. This volume provides a policy framework for urban public finance in developing countries. On the basis of an in-depth survey of global experience during the past two decades, it offers detailed guidance on issues of how to design local revenue instruments. Beyond this, it seeks a better understanding of the critical elements that connect urban policy and national economic development. By following the lessons of comparative experience gathered here, cities can begin to overcome their government's failures to provide them with critical physical and social infrastructure.

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10 financing in developing countries. The dynamics of political economy: A key condition determining the success of reform. Reforming municipal finance is not easy. Perhaps the most significant challenges facing financing of urban authorities in developing countries are related to political economy issues. mobilizing adequate financial resources, urban authorities in developing countries require financing instruments for capital infrastructure development. These involve a mix of capital grants and borrowing from different sources. Annette M. Kim Problem Set 1 ANSWERS Question 1. As you go about your normal activities one day, record all the public services you use and benefit from. Compile this inventory and then rank how rivalrous they are on a scale of 1-5 (5 being non-rivalrous) and how excludable these services are on a scale of 1-5 (5 being non-excludable). The aim was to sensitize you to the public goods we consume which you may be surprised by when you count them – I could think of about 15 public services. Hopefully, you had a healthy discussion about rivalrous and excludable goods which may vary with how the good is structured across time and space. 76668 Urbanization in Developing Countries. Public Disclosure Authorized. Public Disclosure Authorized. Vernon Henderson. The rapid urbanization in many developing countries over the past half century seems to have been accompanied by excessively high levels of concentration of the urban population in very large cities. Some degree of urban concentration may be desirable initially to reduce inter- and intraregional infrastructure expenditures. In looking at the urbanization process in developing countries, the article then explores why urban concentration sometimes increases strongly in developing countries. When is concentration excessive, and what are the costs of excessive concentration? What do inter- and intracountry data show?