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**The Effect of Economic Development on Urbanization in Lebanon: An
Empirical Study**

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Abstract:

The paper aims to study the evolution of urban growth in Lebanon as a developing country with respect to its economic development. Also, the dynamics of this relationship are to be explored and shed some light on the effect, if any, of economic development on Urbanization in Lebanon. Therefore, the study identifies through literature how economic development impacts urbanization. Finally, this paper advances the research on the subject topic in Lebanon beyond the restrictions and limitations of previous literature through empirical results. The study focuses on previous literature regarding the relation of economic development and urbanization. The study uses time-series OLS multi-variate regression analysis in the case of Lebanon from the year 1988-2018. GDP per capita, school enrolment and life expectancy were used to capture the urban population growth, while ores and metals exports, manufacturing value added and agricultural value added were used as control variables. The results indicate a positive correlation and at least one co-integrating equation between the variables. The results showed that two variables are significant with urban population at regional level supporting the expected hypothesis (GDP and school enrolment) and all other variables did not show any significant relation with urbanization in Lebanon.

This study might be of interest providing insights on the relationship between urbanization and economic development specially for further studies in the field of urbanization.

The study believes to contribute positively to understanding of urbanization and the creation to an innovative era of economic growth, luxury and improved resource allocation.

Keywords: Economic development, population growth, stationary, urbanization.

JEL Classification: A1, P25, R1, R14

1-Introduction

Extensive urbanization is a modern trend. The transformation towards urbanization occurred in the 20th century, as the rate of urban population increased quickly in about 1950. However, urbanization has its own “dark side” as well. While urbanization has long been known as an essential driver for economic development, relentless urbanization has developed into one of the most critical challenges for developing countries such as Lebanon. According to (Annez & Buckley, 2009), several policymakers oppose urbanization more willingly than welcoming it. In their own beliefs, they desire to stop the urban rush and witness decentralization and rural development. Hasty urbanization also carries out serious social, economic, and political outcomes, like overcrowding, street violence, crimes, rapid diffusion of illness and concentrated immorality.

Although urbanization is not always preferable by policy-makers or even the public, it is still essential to maintain growth in the developing countries. For this reason, supervising urban growth is necessary when fostering growth. Ignoring regions and cities in countries where the level of urban growth is low can enforce serious effects.

The overall population around the world has reached presently around 7+ billion and it is forecasted to reach 8+ billion in the upcoming years, where the largest growth is expected to be concentrated in the urban regions of the world’s poorest countries. Africa and Asia will probably witness the largest increase in rates, with improved social, economic and environmental revolutions (United Nations, 2014).

Large cities correspond to a chance for fresh opportunities for lots of citizens. Therefore, a great linkage exists between urbanization and economic development. Cities worldwide drive over 80 percent of global gross domestic product (World Bank, 2019). World Bank forecasted worldwide economic growth to increase up to 3.1 percent in 2018 which is much better than that of 2017, due to the improvements in investment and industrialization (World Bank, 2018). The urban growth effects and the degree of agglomeration economies are very changeable.

Therefore, recognition that economic and social development has a role in the urbanization progress is important. The relation between economic development and urbanization has for long attracted many arguments to investigate the effect and direction of this relationship. It is difficult to decide precisely the direction of relation on whether economic development causes the rapid urban growth around the world or the other way round. Urban development is most persistent in Asia, where much of the world’s population growth is taking place. This urban growth can also be a great chance for a country’s sustainability, if the correct guiding principles are established (UNFPA, 2016). Basically, when levels of economic development are low, urbanization appears to be entirely detached from the country’s economic performance. In other terms, significant stages of urbanization came along with increased sizes of towns and cities in developing countries. The biggest city in some developed countries doubled or even in some cases more than doubled between 1985 and 2010.

When people migrate to new urban areas, they allow for the diversification of new industries and corporations; therefore , it can be concluded that any change (slow or fast) in the country’s structural variation will surely affect the country’s development as well. Thus, this research aims to explore these dynamics and shed some light on the effect, if any, of economic development on urbanization in Lebanon. Accordingly, addressing 3 main

objectives. First of all, to explore and define through literature how economic development impacts urbanization. Second, to identify the impact of economic development on urbanization in Lebanon. Last, to advance the research in Lebanon beyond the restrictions and limitations of previous literature through empirical studies.

2-An Overview of the literature

Urbanization refers to the increase in the volume of population in cities in comparison to those living in the rural regions. A nation state is said to be urbanized if 50 percent of the population lives in urban places (cities, towns and suburbs). Due to the rural poverty, population pressure, poor economic conditions a shortage of resources in rural areas; rural population is drifted to urban areas. Before the Industrial Revolution, countries were relatively un-urbanized. For instance, the urbanization rates before the nineteenth century were about 10% to 15%, like Italy, China and India. At the time when other countries industrialize, the urban growth rates had risen ranging from about 10 to 40 percent (Bairoch, 1988).

Most studies in the literature review stated that economic growth has a positive impact on urbanization (Arouri, Ben Youssef, Nguyen, & Soucat, 2014). On the other hand, many other papers studied a reverse relation between these two variables (Turok & Mcgranhan, 2013). For this reason, we cannot ignore this reverse relationship in our paper. One of these papers was done by (Frick & Rodriguez-Pose, 2018) who used a set of data for '68 countries' for the past 3 decades (1985-2010), comparing the effect of urbanization rates for developed as well as for developing countries. The result conducted in this paper from the developed countries case draw attention to the fact that urban concentration in certain countries could be beneficial only if the correct urbanization procedures and recommendations are made correctly and put in the right place and if the countries' economies benefit from agglomeration economies. In other words, a city's growth depends mainly on its capability to pull useful workforce and employ them into the appropriate job. Therefore, urbanization is the main reason for the movement of skilled workers to the largest cities in the country (Sinclair, 2017).

The region has recently experienced high population growth and urbanization raising the challenge of maintaining sustainable economic development as it relates to food security, education, and health. There exist wide studies regarding the process of urban development concentrating on both urbanization and economic development.

Africa for example, cannot generally be characterized with the title "urbanization without development". Economic development took place in Africa in the past few decades mainly due to sectors that are based in urban areas such as the service and industry sector. But on the other hand, some cities did not live up to their productive potential because of the mismanagement and extensive ignorance, Cheru, F. (2005).

Countries in the Arab region are considered to be the most urbanized in the world . The Arab region witnessed a huge urban growth by the years 1970-2010 with 400% urban growth. In the year 2010, 56% of the population lived in cities and is expected that by 2050 68% will be living in cities (ESCWA, 2015).

The majority of the urban growth lies in secondary cities with unplanned growth and development due to the fast and struggling growth. The secondary cities in developing countries are the fastest growing urban areas with specific areas all of which were generally

poorly mapped with restricted information concerning land tenure, infrastructure and planning processes. Table 1 provides a summary result of the literature in the Arab region.

Table1. Summary of Results in Arab Countries

Country	Authors	Main Variables	Control variables	Findings
KSA (2016)	Mantu Kumar Mahalika,, M. Suresh Babub, Nanthakumar Loganathan, Muhammad Shahbaz	Financial development + energy consumption	economic growth, capital and urbanization	Negative relationship exists between urbanization and economic growth.
Qatar (2018)	Lanouar Charfeddine, Afnan Yousef Al-Malk, Kholoud Al Korbi	energy use + economic growth	Real GDP per capita + labor force + energy consumption per capita + electric power consumption per capita + openness trade + urbanization rate	Urbanization and economic growth are positively related.
GCC (2015)	Mohammad Asif, Raj Bahadur Sharma, Anass Hamad Elneel Adow	Economic Growth + Urbanization + Energy Consumption + CO2 Emission	Total primary energy consumption (in quadrillion Btu) + total carbon dioxide emission + GDP + total urban population	Urbanization has a positive impact on CO2, energy consumption and economic growth.
UAE (2017)	Rashid Sbia, Muhammad Shahbaz, Ilhan Ozturk	economic growth+ urbanization + financial development + electricity consumption	real GDP + electricity consumption (kWh) + domestic credit to the private sector as a share of GDP + urban population	Economic growth and urbanization are interdependent

Source: Author’s own compilation

In summary, the previous researches with reference to the relation between economic growth and urbanization have an outstanding feature. Their final endings were not steady. Several researchers assume economic growth has a basic role in urbanization, even as others think that the change or growth in country’s economic activity has no influence on urban changes however it is the result of it. While others also found that urban change is also able to influence economic development, but the direction of the relationship varied from study to another.

Lebanon is classified as an urbanized country not only between the Arab countries but also in the world, has an estimated of 64% living in municipal regions of Tripoli and Beirut. This spread in Lebanon is condensed mainly in and around the coastal cities (Beirut, Saida, Tripoli and Tyre). Therefore, it is expected that more refugees and migrants will move towards larger cities to seek out work opportunities during the coming years (UN Habitat, 2016). During the period 1975 and 2011, Lebanon has witnessed many migration waves as

more than 1.5 million people emigrated from Lebanon. On the other hand, Lebanon hosts over 1 million refugees and shelter-seekers specially those coming from Palestine, Iraq and Syria (World Population Review , 2018).

According to (Worldometer, 2019), it was estimated that the population of Lebanon is 6.85 million in 2018, up from 5.91 million in 2013 with a growth rate that equaled 0.18%. Beirut, Lebanon's capital is the country's biggest city in which it contains a large urban population concentration per km². Over the recent 50 years, the country has experienced significantly unbalanced population growth and is currently growing by 1% annually.

Lebanon which covers an area of approximately 10452 km² is considered a small but open economy of high-middle-income status. The annual GDP for Lebanon was last reported in 2018 at USD 56 billion which was estimated to have undergone a slight acceleration to reach a predictable 2.4 percent, compared to 1.6 percent in 2016 (Countryeconomy, 2018). This was generally driven by the tourism and services sectors. However, due to the high cost of debt financing and low growth, the country's public debt continued to ascend at end of 2017 reaching 153.4%. Despite that, in a comparative of GDP per capita for Arab countries, Lebanon ranked 7th out of 14 Arab countries (Blom, 2015).

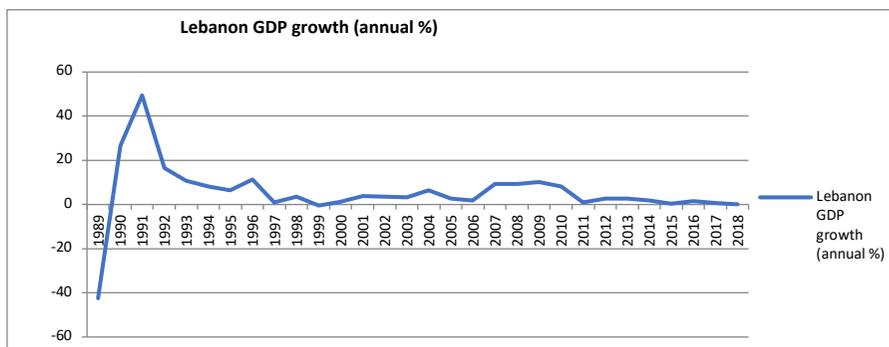
There has been no clear definition concerning the stages of economic development like those for economic growth. However, many of the development economists agree that the stages are mainly related to 3 different shifts/passages which are urbanization, structural transformation and demographic conversion. The Lebanese economy had gone through two different phases internally, "before" and "after" the Civil War that lasted from 1975 till 1990. In the first phase, due to the destruction of infrastructure and public policy, the Lebanese pound collapsed. Despite that, the war had a transitional beneficial outcome by making the Lebanese economy less centralized and less focusing on the Beirut territory (UNDP). The second phase was after the civil war where Lebanon entered an innovative social and economic recovery program "Horizon 2000" which was launched in the 1990s. The main goal of the Horizon 2000 program was targeted at restoring the conventional status of Lebanon as main regional financial and trade center (UNDP). International companies and global businesses started to re-enter to Lebanon especially to Beirut after the physical infrastructure reconstruction was undertaken.

As of 2011, investment in Lebanon had notably declined and tourism rates had fallen as well due to the collapse of the internal security system. After two year of enhancement, Lebanon's budget of deficit increased by 47.6% in 2012 and its trade deficit increased by 5.7% reaching USD 16.8 billion (Audi, 2012). Although the banking sector proved to be flexible and resilient achieving 8% growth in 2012 with total assets around \$151.9 billion; however, according to a bank Audi report, the Lebanese economy and net outcome was negative.

The aftereffect of these evolutions was to stagnate growth and, as a result, deteriorate the entire production system, which was reflected mainly in the decline of per capita and aggregate GDP. In addition to these losses, Lebanon's domestic productive capacity had weakened due to the refusal of investors to invest in Lebanon which had prevented Lebanon from exploiting the rapid technological advances elsewhere (UNDP).

The Lebanese economy had always faced huge challenges and risks, including the probability of being subjected to more stagnation in cumulative net foreign currency assets throughout the two ongoing large deficits in the current account on general budget. However, the brief classification for economic development stands under the progress in the quality of living standards for the population mainly growth, education and health.

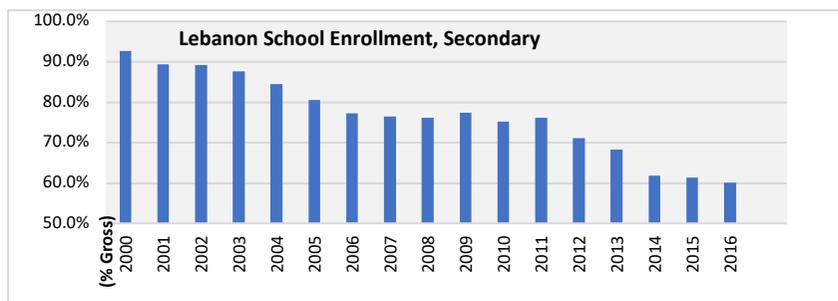
Figure 1: Lebanon GDP Growth



Source: Lebanon GDP Growth 1989-2018. Data from World Bank (2019)

The graph shows that before 1989 and during the Lebanese civil war, Lebanon did not face any economic growth. Post 1990, Lebanon got into a new era of reconstruction process with an influx of foreign and local investments that drove GDP growth up to almost 50%. The Lebanese GDP growth then started to decrease due to several geopolitical challenges including the Israeli operation ‘grapes of wrath’ in 1996. This decline persisted throughout the early 2000s up until 2008-2009. During the financial crisis, and unlike some other countries, Lebanon witnessed an increase in GDP growth especially with high liquidity influx and bank deposits from expats and other nationals. Then again, the GDP growth dwindled down after 2010 and remained at very low levels ever since.

Figure 2: Lebanon Secondary School Enrollment



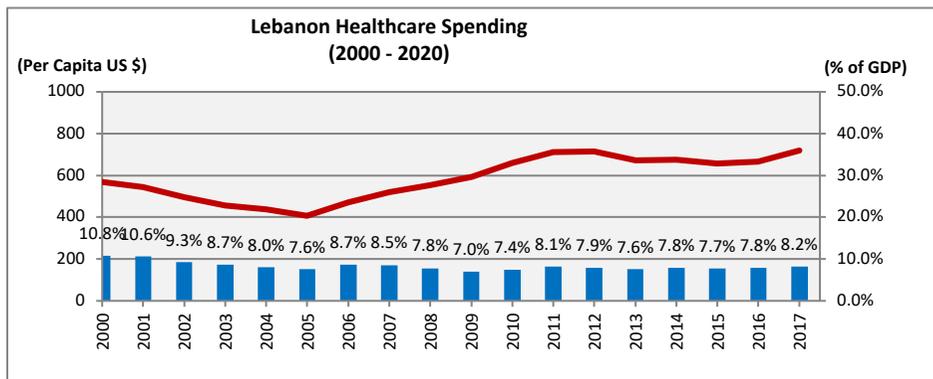
Source: Secondary School Enrollment in Lebanon 2000-2016. Data from World Bank(2019)

“Lebanon’s National Accounts” stated that the total expenses in 2011, for the both sectors public and private were USD 641 million and USD 1,783million, compared to 2010 were it

was USD 633 million and USD 1302 million respectively (Soueid, Ghanem, Hariri, Yamout, & Nehme, 2014).

From the figure above (figure 2) we notice that although the education system for primary stage is high, in contrast, enrollment in secondary stages and classes is gradually and alarmingly decreasing, 60% in 2016 compared to 93% in 2000 (see Figure 2 below). This may be due to a decrease in public spending from the Lebanese government on secondary education, simultaneously, inequality in society between social classes so that there is no adequate education for low-income families.

Figure 3: Lebanon Healthcare Spending



Source: Lebanon Healthcare Spending 2000-2020. Data from World Bank (2019)

The healthcare spending per capita has been increasing from \$400 in 2005 to around \$700 in recent years (see Figure 3). However, it is worth noting that health spending as a % of GDP has been consistent over the years. Lebanon adopts more than 12500 doctors in which 85% of them are specialists and 15% with two or more specialties. From those specialties, 48% have graduated from American and European Universities. This sector shows an exceptional ability to maintain its leading status despite wars, shortage of resources, migration of excellent medical talent to other countries and other factors like the decrease in government expenditures (Denmark Trade Council in Lebanon).

3-Methodolgy and data

The analysis of this study is performed by conducting an empirical study, using data from World Development Indicators for Lebanon from the period 1988-2018 which is a time-series data of 30 years. Those years were chosen according to the data availability for the previous variables in the case of Lebanon to best fit the model. This study captured urban change using GDP, school enrollment and life expectancy. In order to obtain robust estimation, ores and metals exports, manufacturing value added and agricultural value added are introduced as control variables.

Avoiding spurious results from non-stationary variables relies in the importance to pass by a unit root test first and then move on for testing the co integration relationships between the variables and then applying the Johanson co integrating casuality test through VECM.

The model used in this study is presented as follows:

$$l_{Urban} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{ GDP per capita}_t + \beta_2 \text{ SE}_t + \beta_3 \text{ LE}_t + \beta_4 \text{ OME}_t + \beta_5 \text{ MVA}_t + \beta_6 \text{ AVA}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

where, Urban= urban population as % of total population; GDP per capita= gross domestic product measured in constant 2010 USD; SE= school enrollment primary (% net); LE= life expectancy at birth, total (years); OME= ores and metals exports(%of merchandise exports); MVA= manufacturing value added (%of GDP); AVA= agriculture value added (% of GDP); β_0 = intercept, β_1 - β_6 are the partial slope coefficients, and ε_t = stochastic error term.

4-Results and Findings

The empirical analysis starts with regression test results in Lebanon for the time series period from 1988-2018. Afterward, stationarity of variables is tested through ADF test results. If the estimation of the variables in time series implies that they are stationary, in this case, a simple regression analysis can be used. While, if the time series data appeared to be non stationary but integrated of the same order, co integration must be checked. If there is co integration, in this case the model is estimated using VECM. When there exists at least one or more cointegrating relationship among time series non-stationary variables, VECM model is to be estimated for short run relationships between time series data used in the model. Since this study focuses on the relation between economic development and urbanization, the VECM model would be the appropriate method to specify whether these variables are greatly interrelated to each other or not, since the data is a time series data and variables are non-stationary.

4.1 Regression Analysis

Based on the regression analysis, the effect of each independent variable will be expressed mathematically and it would be possible to determine which variable has the most effect on urbanization and their level of significance.

Table 2: Ordinary Least Squares, Using Observations 1988-2018 (T = 31)

	<i>Coefficient</i>	<i>Std. Error</i>	<i>t-ratio</i>	<i>p-value</i>	
Const	62.0780	7.12020	8.719	<0.0001	***
l_GDP per capita constant 2010U	1.26864	0.353669	3.587	0.0015	***
School enrollment primary %net	-0.0899639	0.0194858	-4.617	0.0001	***
Life exp both genders	0.285756	0.0746946	3.826	0.0008	***
Ores and metals exports	-0.0356634	0.0281123	-1.269	0.2167	
Agriculture value added	0.111541	0.103937	1.073	0.2939	
Manufacturing value added	-0.0376839	0.0823459	-0.4576	0.6513	
Dependent variable: Urban population of total population					
Mean dependent var	86.08448		S.D. dependent var	1.745480	
Sum squared resid	1.764758		S.E. of regression	0.271167	
R-squared	0.980692		Adjusted R-squared	0.975865	
F(6, 24)	203.1695		P-value(F)	2.36e-19	
Log-likelihood	0.435495		Akaike criterion	13.12901	
Schwarz criterion	23.16692		Hannan-Quinn	16.40112	

Rho	0.271304	Durbin-Watson	1.068680
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Source: Author’s calculation based on World Development Indicators (2019)

The OLS output from table 2 indicated that for a 1% raise in GDP per capita, urban population of total population will increase by 1.26%. This indicates the positive relation between GDP per capita and urban population.

Out of the three independent variables, two variables (GDP and life expectancy) showed positive impact on urban population, while primary school enrolment had a negative impact.

In order to find out whether the coefficients used are significantly other than zero, p-value is used for each of the coefficient estimates. P-value shows that at a 5% level of significance, all the variables are significantly different from zero with the exception for control variables.

The R² shows that 98% of the deviation in urban population can be caused by the variation of GDP, school enrolment, life expectancy for both genders and the three control variables. The R² is to some extent higher than the adjusted R² which regulates the sum of square residuals for the degrees of freedom, which is the difference between the sample size and the number of coefficients being estimated. The adjusted R² indicates that our model of variables explains 97% of the variation in urban population of total population.

Accordingly, stationary test for the variables is implemented to check our results.

4.2 Stationarity Tests

We start testing the stationarity of the variables based on Augmented DickeyFuller and Kwiatkowski–Phillips–Schmidt–Shin tests. In the ADF test, a 5% level of significance is used. Then it is important to specify which ADF regression test would be used, constant with trend or without trend depending on the trajectory of our data time series. Regression with constant and trend is used because the visual illustration shows a trend in the data without a zero mean.

Table 3: Augmented Dickey–Fuller and Kwiatkowski–Phillips–Schmidt–Shin

Variables	<i>With constant and trend</i>	
	ADF	KPSS
Urban population as % of total population	I(2)	I(2)
GDP per capita	I(1)	I(1)
School enrolment primary (%net)	I(0)	I(1)
Life expectancy at birth	I(1)	I(1)
Ores and metals exports	I(1)	I(1)
Manuf_ value added	I(1)	I(1)
Agr_ value added	I(1)	I(0)

Source: Author’s calculation based on statistical data from World Development Indicators (2019)

The results illustrate that all non-stationary variables turned stationary at almost same level (Table 2). The results of the stationarity tests are shown in Table 2. The results indicate that all the variables are I(1).

In contrary to other unit root tests, when using KPSS we want to accept the null hypothesis; so, p-value in this case must not be less than 0.05 but *greater*. Based on the KPSS results test, when comparing with the 5% critical value, results showed that all variables have p-values less than 0.149. Therefore, the variables are non-stationary indicating the same results as the ADF test.

4.3 Co-integration Test

Based on previous literature, when the series are individually integrated of the same order, co integration test is to be used. Only stationary variables must be used in regression models in order to avoid the problem of false regression that might arise from non-stationary variables. Despite this, an exception to this rule is allowed in case the residuals of the regression are stationary, and in this case variables are said to be cointegrated (sharing similar stochastic trends and do not divert too far from each other).

Table 3: Johansen Cointegration Test Results

Rank	Eigenvalue	Trace test	p-value	Lmax test	p-value
0	0.89018	171.56	[0.0000]	66.266	[0.0000]
1	0.69987	105.29	[0.0083]	36.106	[0.1322]
2	0.59973	69.185	[0.0542]	27.469	[0.2468]
3	0.50873	41.717	[0.1676]	21.323	[0.2659]
4	0.33539	20.394	[0.4074]	12.257	[0.5358]
5	0.23390	8.1371	[0.4581]	7.9932	[0.3879]
6	0.0047850	0.14390	[0.7044]	0.14390	[0.7045]

Source: Author Calculation; number of equations=7; lag order=1; estimation period: (1988-2018)

The results indicate that the series are I(1). The Johansen co integration test is conducted to check for robustness and the results shown in Table 3 show that variables in the suggested model are co integrated (sharing similar stochastic trends and never divert too far from each other). Results show that at most 1, at least 1 co integrating relation apperas among the variables with a long run association. Also, it implies that even if there are shocks in the short run, series can converge with time. Hence, estimating short run is preferable. The appropriate estimation technique in this case is the Vector Error Corrective Model (VECM).

4.4 VECM Estimation

Once a cointegration relation between the series appears, the VECM model is constructed.

Table 4: VECM Estimation Results

Urban population of total population	GDP	S.E.	LE	OM	AVA	MVA
Coeffi	0.269983	-2.55396	-0.045670	-2.41854	0.425294	0.374451
Std.error	0.0797183	0.860438	0.208391	1.73131	0.389043	0.551977
t-ratio	3.387	-2.968	-0.2192	-1.397	1.093	0.6784
p-value	0.0022***	0.0062***	0.8282	0.1738	0.2840	0.5033

***, ** and * indicate significance at 1%, 5% and 10% levels; respectively. Source: Author’s Calculation.

The estimation of table 4 demonstrates the existence of short-term relationship between GDP per capita and urban population and between SE and urbanization as well, illustrated by the p-value of error correction. Afterwards, the coefficients of each significant variable are checked to check the direction of relation. GDP appears to have a positively significant relation with urban population as % of total population; while SE has a negatively significant relation with urban population as % of total population.

As for the other variables, none of them appeared to have a significant relation or effect on urban population as % of total population.

So, urban population as % of total population is affected by the change in GDP and school enrollment (% net).

5-Conclusion

This study provides a detailed empirical analysis to analyze and examine the impact of economic development taken as GDP per capita (constant) on urban population as % of total population. This paper used Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimation technique for time series data from 1988 till 2018. Afterwards, we checked the final relation between variables using the Vector Error Corrective Model (VECM) which is used to check for the short run relations between variables. School primary enrollment (% net) and life expectancy were used with GDP per capita to study the effect on urbanization; while ores and metals exports, agriculture value added and manufacturing value added were used as control variables.

This study started by analyzing the relation between urban population and GDP at the regional level by conducting several statistical tests. The unit root statistical test results for the variables at the regional level show that the latter are not stationary at level but become stationary when applying first difference of variables.

The researcher sought to explain the growth of the urban population by involving a certain number of factors. The result of the study shows that GDP, as an economic indicator, positively affects the growth of the urban population at the regional level.

The results conducted highlight other factors that showed a positive impact on urban increase, such as health and education infrastructure. These positive effects highlight the importance in these types of infrastructure as indicators of improvement of quality of life.

For this study’s period, it was conducted that the economic development of the Lebanese regions affects the increase in urban size significantly. It is important to appreciate the relationship between size of cities and growth of urban population when studying urbanization. This study tried to test the evolution of the Lebanese urban system during the last two decades in accordance with economic development.

These population movements have created imbalances in the Lebanese urban system. The econometric tools used have been developed in studies of urban hierarchies and growth in industrialized countries (Barquero, 1990).

The results from this study clearly indicate the need to support, through appropriate policies, the emergence and strong growth of the Lebanese cities, which often grow without basic equipment: they then develop without real planning and urban planning. This dissertation may be of interest to all parties concerned with human development and mainly the government to facilitate the lives of individuals.

The correlation between urbanization and economic development studied within this paper may be relevant to social and economic researchers and social ministries; whom in their turn should highlight the importance of this phenomenon and its results in terms of civil organization and upgrading the human being for better lifeways through community and educational awareness. This might be done through creating an office or research centre which follows up the urban phenomenon of cities and evaluating its positive and negative effects.

Also, assigning universities to provide statistics and studies through students concerned with specializations related to the phenomenon of urbanization. Moreover, requesting from the concerned ministries and official institutions to provide accurate information on the nature of its work and its results.

Some limitations that encountered this paper should be noted. First the limitation created by the fact of limited observation by time and variables. Secondly, because of the lack of economic data at the country level, it would seem appropriate to conduct a program of future research. This program should be designed over a long time period to develop such statistics. Third, there is no basic and comprehensive approach for the impact of economic development on urbanization for the case of Lebanon. Fourth, several methodologies would more clarify and better show the impact of economic development on urbanization but unfortunately time series data wasn't available as some interruptions were found.

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