



SUMMARY

The role of small cities in shaping youth employment outcomes in India and Indonesia

Proposed by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and the JustJobs Network

INTRODUCTION

Many emerging countries are counting on the size of their youth population to help revamp their economies. This requires, however, adequate pathways to productive and high-quality employment. As both India and Indonesia are facing similar challenges in realizing their demographic dividends (due to their vast scale, enormous regional diversity, and endemic problems with policy implementation), the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in collaboration with the JustJobs Network, will investigate the role of small cities in creating employment pathways for India and Indonesia's non-metropolitan youth.

WHAT THEY WILL DO

This 10 month project will explore the role small cities are currently playing in facilitating the internal migration of youth and the nature of educational and employment opportunities they are offering to young people. It will also compare the current policies in India and Indonesia in the way they shape the development of small cities and youth employment. Finally, this research will try to find how governance frameworks and policies can be reformed to maximize the positive role of small cities in shaping employment outcomes for migrant youth.

HOW THEY WILL DO IT

The implementation of this project will follow three steps. In the first part, researchers will use secondary data to identify high-growth small cities experiencing high levels of in- and out-migration in certain districts in India and Indonesia. The second part of the study will use the pool of small cities to identify national trends related to the labor market, educational and vocational institutions, and migration. These studies will then be compared amongst each other as well as to larger metropolitan areas and national averages on a range of key indicators. In the final part, the Indian and Indonesian city case studies will be analyzed with respect to the labor market, migration patterns, educational landscape, connectivity, and the governance and policy landscape.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The research will deepen the understanding among policymakers, civil society and the private sector on the role of small cities in shaping employment outcomes for migrant youth in India and Indonesia.