

A Review of the Common Drivers of Urban Spatial Inequality and Social Segregation in the Global South

Modupe Ogunmiloro, Doyin Alliyu, Akintunde Onamade, Ayokunle Akinmoladun & Olaniyi Olaniyanu

Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, Nigeria

Abstract

Humans are social beings, and therefore need to relate with one another to have sustained health, wellness, and prosperity in their daily lives. Successful Business endeavours also cannot be carried out without effective relationships between people of different statuses, races, religions etc. Anything that inhibits such can be categorized as an inequality driver of socio-segregation among humans within any given region or nation. An essential characteristic of many emerging nations that appears to get worse with economic development and expansion is spatial inequality which perpetually leads to socio-segregation. Nations that suffer a high level of spatial inequality tend not to do well on the global platform as well as in business activities. This study adopted the review of literature and reference to secondary data such as articles and online resources. The countries used for this study were picked because, among other things, they have a high Gini index percentage. According to research, spatial inequality is significant and rising alarmingly in the countries of the global south as a result of their unique characteristics. Income, education, employment, and ethnicity are the four common drivers identified and covered in this paper, all of which are significantly impacted by government policies, programs, and urban planning. As government policies and programs can be used to abate the consequences of these drivers, urban planning can also be used to greatly improve and incorporate people of different social statuses in the urban area to reduce socio-segregation.

Keywords: *global south, socio segregation, spatial inequality, urban space, urban drivers of spatial inequality.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Globally, urban spatial inequality has been from time immemorial a subject matter among several disciplines of studies. Due to the significant socio-spatial processes, our perception of cities has experienced substantial modifications since the turn of the twentieth century. Particularly, in recent decades, trends like globalization and decolonization have had extensive effects on cities, drawing responses from eminent urban researchers. Of these consequences, spatial segregation has become a major challenge that needs serious attention both from the government and society at large. Spatial transformations have been a source of new challenges for urban theory makers throughout history. A state of socio-spatial exclusion and isolation among social groups, segregation has a long history, but what makes it more obvious in our current age is the increasing intensity of the socio-spatial drivers or influencing variables involved with it (Boros, 2017; Kanbur & Venables, 2005). Social discrimination includes racial, religious, class and ethnic segregation which occurs in the world today. The rapid development of the new urban economy, where wages are frequently substantially higher than in manufacturing or low-skilled services, has contributed to rising inequality, which is likely to continue in the coming years (Galster & Sharkey, 2017). There are several drivers of spatial inequality but this paper will be focusing on four common spatial inequality drivers which are income, education, occupation, and ethnic. Socio-segregation which is a result of spatial inequality is a deficiency of uneven distribution of resources and services. The following nations are the case studies for this article's global south: Botswana, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, Egypt, Morocco, China, India, Colombia, and Brazil. This paper aimed at identifying the effects of the four common drivers identified in the urban spatial inequality and urban social segregation and the relationship between them in the global south.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 GLOBAL SOUTH

The term "Global South," which was first used in 1969 by progressive social activist Carl Oglesby, is a metaphor for phrases like "developing countries," "least developed countries," "S" "underdeveloped countries," "low-income economies," and "out-of-favor third world countries." The phrase "Global South" is used to characterize nations with underdeveloped economies that struggle with issues including low per capita income, high unemployment, and a lack of valued capital (Odeh, 2010; Planning et al., n.d.). However, few socioeconomic words are as hotly contested, potentially polarizing, or frequently misunderstood. The emerging nations of Asia, including the Middle East, the Pacific Islands, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa make up the Global South. In the past, impoverished or economically disadvantaged countries have been referred to as belonging to the Global South (Diamantini, 2010; Odeh, 2010; Planning et al., n.d.). These are the nations that historically have experienced colonialism by the Global North, have industrializing economies, and tend to have unstable democracies (especially by European countries). It's common to abuse and misinterpret the term "Global South". The inclusion of "South" causes many users to mistakenly assume the term is meant to be geographical. It is not. The phrase "Global South" refers broadly to the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. It is one of a family of terms, including "Third World" and "Periphery," that denote regions outside Europe and North America, mostly (though not all) low-income and often politically or culturally marginalized. The use of the phrase Global South marks a shift from a central focus on development or cultural difference toward an emphasis on geopolitical relations of power (Woon, 2013).

2.2 SPATIAL INEQUALITY

The degree of disparity in urban spaces allocation is termed spatial inequality which varies from one spatial jurisdiction to the other based on several modifying factors (Galster & Sharkey, 2017). Spatial inequality is the unequal distribution of resources and services across different areas or locations, such as healthcare, welfare, public services, household income and infrastructures (McIntyre, 2017). Even while there are inequities in both the Global South and the North, they are more obvious in the global south which consists of mainly Africa and Latin America (Yenikalayc, 2022). Due to distinct histories of urbanization and industrialization, inequalities between the Global North and South are caused by the same fundamental factors, but they are more obvious in the South. When societies develop, there is a clear disparity in who has access to resources, rights, and incentives. Development in urban areas if not properly distributed can further push the less privileged out of that environment thereby causing socio-segregation (Marcinićzak et al., 2015). Spatial inequalities exists where the need for resources such as fresh drinking water, infrastructure, and services including educational institutions and hospitals/other health services are not accessible by all in other words some have access to more facilities than the others. The information-based economy is firmly rooted in urban areas, and it has created new spatial disparities within and among metropolitan areas as well as urban populations. Widening income inequalities, increasing inter-city disparities, reclassification of suburbs based on class and race or ethnicity, and a rise in the prominence of numerous center cities within metropolitan areas are just a few of the changes that have occurred (Nijman & Wei, 2020). The causes of spatial segregation encompass sociocultural, institutional, and economic factors. Yenikalayc, 2022 argued that these spatial disparities are mostly caused by gentrification, which is supported by the housing market and housing regulations in both the Global North and South while Kilroy, (2007) emphasizes that spatial inequalities within urban areas are a natural consequence of income inequalities between households. Societies should establish policies and standards to lessen inequality, lessen segregation, increase mobility and access to resources, and redistribute real income to reduce the degree of disparity among people.

2.3 SOCIAL SEGREGATION

Socio-segregation, as defined by Merriam-Webster, is the division or exclusion of a race, class, or ethnic group through required or intentional residence in a constrained area, obstructions to social interaction, distinct academic frameworks, or other repressive criteria. This resulting social interactions are modified by social indicators. Social indicator is defined as a "statistic of direct normative interest which facilitates concise, comprehensive, and balanced judgments about the condition of major aspects of a society" in an early definition by economist Mancur Olson, the main author of *Toward a Social Report*, based on the premise that social indicators should directly relate to social policy-making considerations (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare 1969:97). According to Sheldon and Land (1972:146), the content of social indicators under "Socio-economic Welfare" is listed below; population (composition, growth, and distribution), Labor force and employment, and Income. Social indicators range from economics used to measure GDP, to demographic for population, age, gender measurements etc., socioeconomic, health, security and safety and environment and energy (Osborn, 2002). Among the many different definitions of social indicators mentioned above, emphasis is laid on the importance of social indicators' attention to the quality of life in areas of social concern as well as their role in tracking these circumstances over time and in making policy or studying trends that are impacting socio segregation. Social segregation exists whenever the proportions of population rates of two or more populations are not homogenous throughout a defined space. This takes place in many formats, it happens with ethnic groups, social classes, and gender groups. Inequalities is a determinant factor for social segregation, it is therefore noted that increase in inequality in any city will attract a commensurate rise in segregation too. Hence spatial inequality leads to socio-segregation.

2.4 URBAN SPACE DESIGN

An urban setting can be defined broadly based on population density, the concentration of administrative bodies and infrastructure and a diverse set of livelihood and income generation activities (Nations et al., 2013). Urban areas are categorized by high population density in comparison to other areas, it is however, an area with human settlement and a high population density of the built environment. They are created through urbanization and it grows in character as people are attracted to the urban area. The characteristics of urban areas are represented by the term 'urbanism' and the process of its expansion is called 'urbanization'. Though urban space definitions vary, common characteristics of urban space are population (high density), and accessibility to infrastructure and services (Website, 2009). Diamantini, (2010) explained that Neoliberal policies in urban land markets, where flexibility is given to private developers (rent seekers) for land development, result in spatial inequalities in urban development processes. This spatial inequality is mainly because of the lack of provision of public infrastructure and unauthorized development (explained by regulatory fractures) in the expanded areas. The lack of urban status means that local authorities are not equipped with the necessary technical capacity, financial base, and decision-making power to address the environmental, economic, and social issues that arise in these densely populated settlements (Tacoli, 2008). This belief that ideal urban status can be achieved even in small to medium-sized towns can be a direct approach to addressing spatial inequality in the urban region since it decreases migration from rural to urban areas. Despite the fact that it was observed that this strategy was initially opposed by central governments in part because it entails the movement of resources from major urban centers, where power is held, to the countryside, which has no political voice (Lipton, 1977). One of the three suggestions by Diamantini, (2010) on designing the urban space to reduce spatial inequality is focused on giving each town a homogeneous character and integrating their different areas, by distributing focal points. The planning experiences carried out in Caia and Sena were intended to realize this integration, through the application of more appropriate models of urban design. In particular, the use of zoning was sparing, given that, although useful in the assignment of

rights it can by drawing boundaries, encourage division. In the premise that direct interventions, rather than land use regulation, would better ensure the coherent implementation of planning choices, a project-based strategy was developed (Boros, 2017).

2.5 URBAN DRIVERS OF SPATIAL INEQUALITY

The level of income of an individual/household determines the kind of luxury or basics of life the individual and households have access to. Basics such as housing, feeding, and clothing to further basics of life such as health care facilities, education, infrastructure to luxury like cars, gadgets etc. Of the 13 major European cities, income segregation has worsened in 11, with Madrid being the worst offender, race, gender, and income. Maarten van Ham, professor of urban regeneration at the Delft University of Technology and the University of St. Andrews, claims that housing in the core portions of London is extremely expensive and segregation is already high. The study, which examined a variety of factors linked to segregation including income, occupational position, education, and more, was co-authored by Van Ham. More expensive houses usually have a desirable living environment and better accessibility to superior urban amenities, while “negative amenities”, are related to potential adverse effects on people including safety and health hazards (Li, Wei, Yu, & Tian, 2016), which are usually associated with decrease housing prices (Bin & Landry, 2013). Consequently, as richer people can buy “better houses” and poorer people cannot, the housing market results in evolutionary inequality and residential segregation. Slums are a dreadful kind of urban living, and homeless people are the results of the lack of cheap housing (Shinn & Gillespie, 1994). Residential segregation and housing market inequality may reduce opportunities for upward mobility (Ewing et al., 2016).

According to research, one of the primary factors that easily reveal inequalities is education. Walker et al., (2019) opined that a high levels of educational inequality might also drive people further apart while children born into wealthy families typically attend the best schools and are frequently educated privately. They'll have small class sizes, competent teachers, and successful outcomes with numerous chances which were provided for these pupils to develop their inherited privilege.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

A systematic review was done in identifying indicators and common drivers of urban spatial inequality from scientific journals like world population review (2022) and World bank data (2022). The spatial inequality indicators presented in this paper are used to illustrate in broad terms measurements of common drivers of socio segregation because of high spatial inequality in the global south. Indicators were drawn from four domains: income, education, employment, and ethnicity. Ten countries were picked from the different zones to analyze the common indicators causing spatial inequality thereby leading to socio segregation. Considering countries of the global south which consist of four zones of which Africa constitutes (one- third) 33% of the entire population while other remaining three zones constitute (two third) 67% (extract from Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD). Therefore six (6) countries were selected randomly in Africa and four (4) from other zones. The countries of study are **Botswana, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, Egypt, Morocco, China, India, Colombia, and Brazil**. This study adopted the review of literature and reference to secondary data such as articles and online resources. The countries selected for this paper were selected because it has a high percentage of the Gini index among other factors considered. Since the data for urban spatial inequality is limited to the available literature and online resources, the researchers recognize that thorough site surveys and behavioral mapping can show a more in-depth understanding of the degrees of socio segregation. This study does provide insights into the links between urban spatial inequality and socio segregation, albeit there is no guarantee that the results will be indicative of the larger typology of spatial inequality and socio segregation in other areas.

4.0 RESULT AND FINDINGS

The indicators here, only make up a small portion of the enormous collection of social indicators. In choosing indicators for these tables, priority was given to indicators whose data are available and largely mentioned in several works of literature as relevant social indicators of spatial inequality and consistently available over an extended period. Political instability affects government policies greatly in the global south, also report shows that lots of these countries are highly indebted. Urban planning has effect on these common drivers identified and should be looked into with effective government policies geared towards these areas considering the uniqueness of these nations and their multiethnic nature. It is noted that government policies in relation to these common drivers can have effect on urban planning strategies to reduce the effect of spatial inequality and socio-segregation.

COUNTRIES	INCOME (GINI INDEX)	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	ETHNICITY
BOTSWANA	53.3% (2015)	87% (2013)	46% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
NIGERIA	35.1% (2018)	62% (2018)	49% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
SOUTH AFRICA	63.0% (2014)	95% (2019)	35% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
ZAMBIA	57.1% (2015)	87% (2018)	64% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
EGYPT	31.5% (2017)	71% (2017)	37% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
MOROCCO	39.5% (2013)	74% (2018)	39% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
CHINA	38.2% (2019)	97% (2018)	65% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
INDIA	37.5% (2011)	74% (2018)	43% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
COLOMBIA	55.2% (2020)	96% (2020)	55% (2021)	Multi-ethnic
BRAZIL	48.9% (2020)	93% (2018)	50% (2021)	Multi-ethnic

Table 1: Table of drivers with their percentages per country.

Source: Authors' review.

- According to our research's first objective to identify common drivers of spatial inequality, income, education, employment, and ethnicity are identified and discussed below.

4.1 INCOME SEGREGATION

Considering the Gini co-efficient indicator of income inequality, the Gini index or Gini ratio put the wider the disparity between the earnings of a nation's richest and poorest citizens. The Gini coefficient of a nation is significant because it aids in identifying extreme income inequality, which can have a number of negative political and economic effects. Slower GDP growth, decreased income mobility, higher family debt, political polarization, and higher poverty rates are a few of them. The top ten nations according to the index data below are in the global south. Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. According to the Gini index data below, the top ten countries are in the global south.

Top 10 Countries with the Highest Wealth Inequality (World Bank Gini coefficient by country 2022):

South Africa - 63.0%
 Namibia - 59.1%
 Suriname - 57.9%
 Zambia - 57.1%
 Sao Tome and Principe - 56.3%
 Central African Republic - 56.2%
 Eswatini - 54.6%

Mozambique - 54.0%
 Brazil - 53.4%
 Botswana - 53.3%

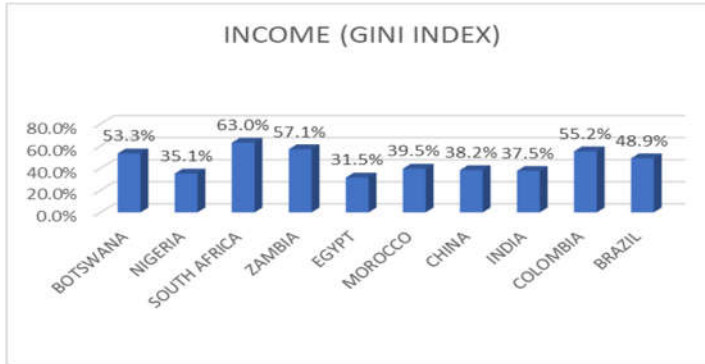


Figure 1: Graph of Income measured with Gini index percentages across selected global south countries.

4.2 ETHNICITY SEGREGATION

The word ‘segregation’ was first coined for techniques to racially isolate Hong Kong and Bombay in the 1890s and from then on spread worldwide (Nightingale, 2012). New urban planning techniques aimed at separating zones according to racial differences got to their peak point in 1948, with ‘apartheid’ in South African cities. Formation of fortified cities. Urban developments with gates, barriers etc. create landscapes with unstable boundaries as well as enclaves and turfs of opposite groups. Cape Town is widely considered to be South Africa’s most segregated city. Social class continues to be intertwined with race, even if the relationship is less direct than it used to be. Wide social and spatial gaps inhibit mutual understanding and trust and undermine policies to draw people together behind a common purpose.

4.3 EDUCATION

Education has a significant impact on where people are placed in life after school, and it usually depends solely on the type and level of education. The place of study of an individual which is also a function of income determines the quality of education an individual gets. Inequality of income as it relates to the education an individual can afford invariably leads to placement in life and often causes some level of socio-segregation. In research by Walker et al. (2019) a highly unequal education system can also pull us further apart. In most countries, children born into rich families will go to the best possible schools, very often being privately educated. They will have small class sizes, good teachers and get good results. These students will be given multiple opportunities to grow their inherited privilege. Prior research indicated a positive correlation between social segregation within education systems and socioeconomic disparities in student achievement (Felouzis & Charmillot, 2013). Education is arguably one of the primary factors that cause income inequality. Recent studies show that the earnings gap between workers with a bachelor’s or more advanced degree and workers with a high school diploma has been widening. And this widening of income inequality is said to negatively affect higher education. As those non-educated workers become poorer, they have difficulty sending their children to college. The income or earnings inequality gap between the bachelor’s or higher degree workers and the non-degree workers has been widening since the late 1970s (UAGC,2021).

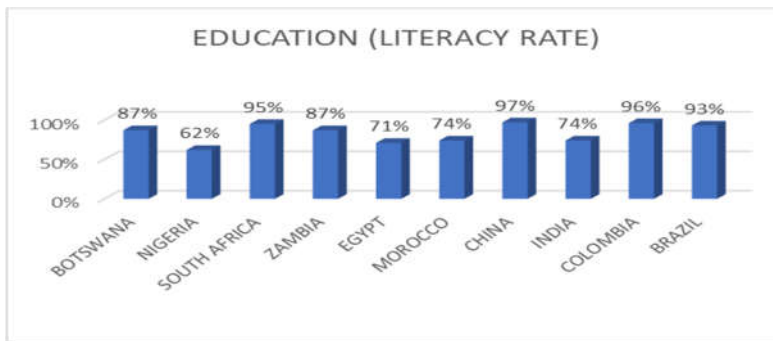


Figure 2: Graph of education measured with literacy rate percentages of selected global south countries.

4.4 EMPLOYMENT

In research from (Wixe and Pettersson,2019) residential segregation is commonly defined as a spatial separation of individuals of different ethnic backgrounds; additionally, segregation has a strong socioeconomic aspect since individuals of different ethnic backgrounds commonly reside in areas with different socioeconomic statuses and are thus exposed to different sets of opportunities. In other instances, prospective job applicants might find themselves discriminated against on the basis that they come from a poor reputation area. Unemployment rates increase when jobs are located distant from where the people who need them live, and this is usually because of social segregation coming because of differences in education status which in turn limits the type of opportunities available to people from poor backgrounds who naturally have no access to quality education(UKCES, 2011).

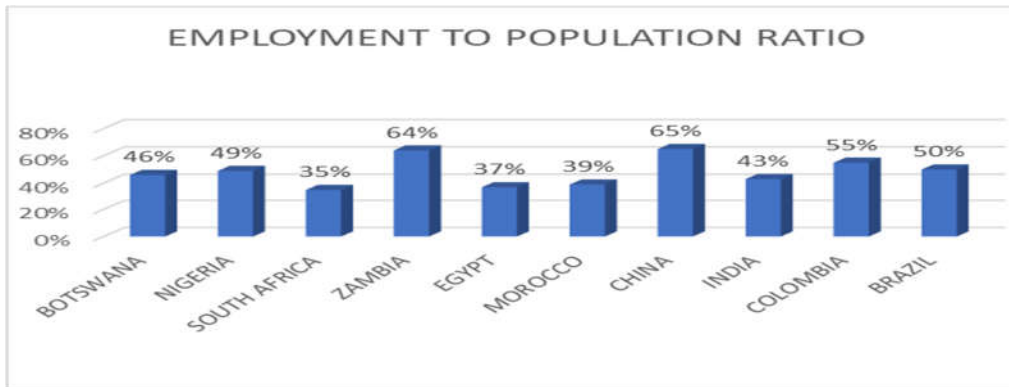


Figure 3: Graph of employment percentages selected global south countries.

- The second objective is to examine the characteristics of urban social segregation which can be linked to disparities in the basic human needs which are housing, feeding, and clothing affordability. All of these are intertwined as the income level of the individual household determines the quality of education and house, they have access to and this income disparity is largely influenced by the policy of government around income and taxation system which invariably point to the system of governance and also confirms what Yenikalayc 2022 argued that “gentrification” is a major cause of inequality in the global south. This is a major issue in developing countries as most of the countries in the global south experience unstable democracy.
- The third objective of this research is to identify the relationship between spatial inequality and socio-segregation is obvious in this research noting that where people live, what they earn, their level of education and ethnicity impact so much on how people perceive

themselves and if not balanced by government policies and proper urban planning intervention can inhibit the ability of an individual to feel among or worthy of some basics of life which is a great influencing factor of socio- segregation (status disparity).

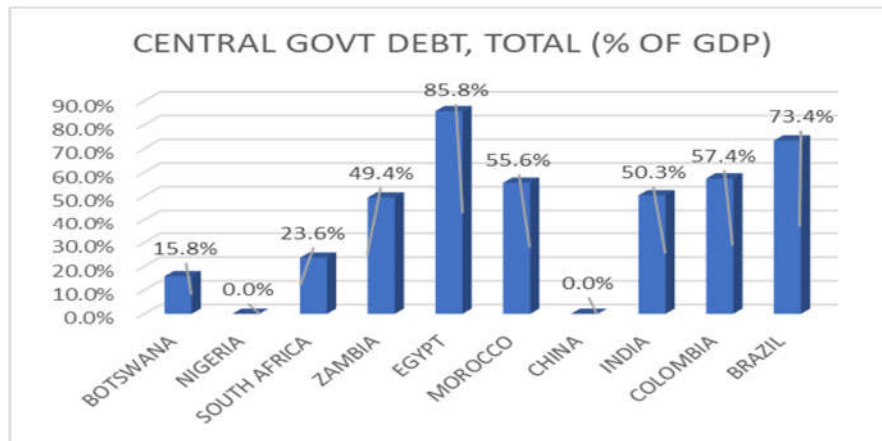


Figure 4: Graph of percentage of central government debt in selected global south countries.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It can be concluded from the findings that spatial inequality is driven by income, education, ethnicity and employment whereas government policies act as modifying factor that reduces inequalities. Also, urban inequality is positively associated with a wide range of wealth disparity, which influences the level and quality of education acquired including the type of housing alternatives obtainable. This has contributed to socio-economic segregation within the urban space. Yet there are only a limited set of policies that can effectively reduce inequality. The rise of property value and uneven distribution of wealth and infrastructure is a major concern for spatial inequality in the global south. In order of importance, it is our opinion that uneven distribution of income is a major cause of spatial inequality followed by infrastructure distribution and to some extent multi-ethnicity factors. All of which are influenced by government policies. One of the biggest challenges of measuring the true level of spatial inequality in the global south is that data is not widely available and not up to date mostly.

Research indicates that all countries reviewed are multi-ethnic; strategies designed to combat spatial inequality in homogeneous countries may not be effective in the multi-ethnic global south due to ethnic characteristics. Therefore, it is recommended that attention should be given to these indicators alongside policies that will enhance the planning of cities and town to achieve some level of urban status across the regions of a nation by the stakeholders to mitigate the consequences of socio-segregation caused by spatial inequalities in the global south.

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