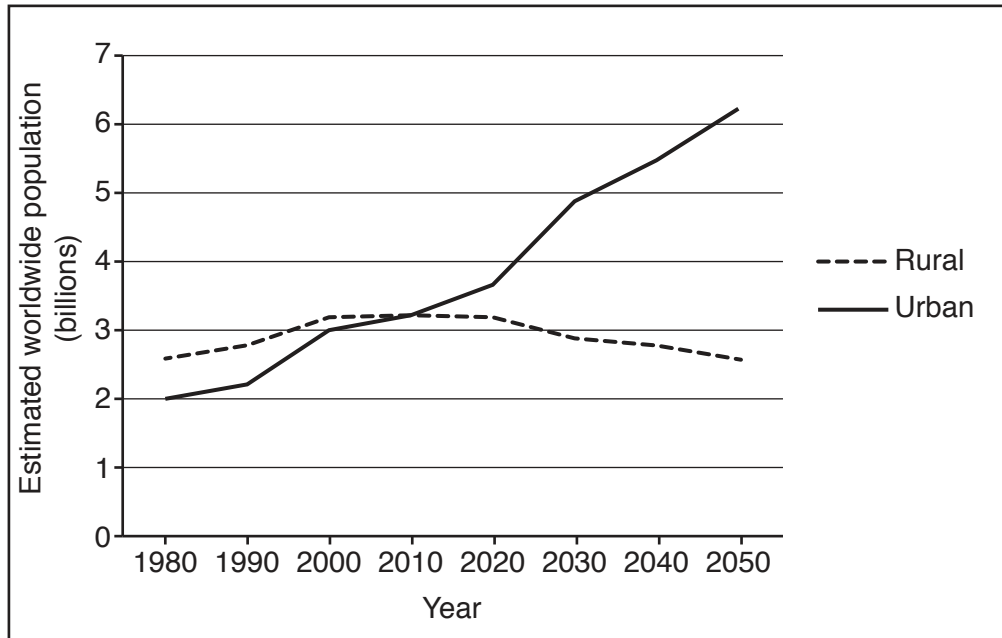
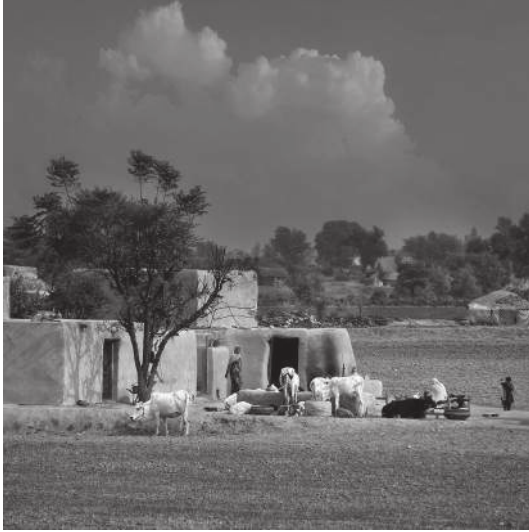


Source 1: Trends in urban and rural populations

The term 'urban' is used to describe towns and cities, which usually have large populations. The term 'rural' is used to describe areas in the countryside, which usually have smaller populations.

The graph below shows estimated population change in urban and rural areas worldwide between 1980 and 2050.



Source 2: Movement from rural to urban areas

Rural area



Urban area

People move from rural to urban areas for many reasons. They often want to improve their standard of living by finding a well-paid job. In urban areas there are better opportunities for housing, education and healthcare. Cities also offer better leisure and entertainment facilities.

Today, about half of the world's population live in urban areas, which has caused overpopulation in many cities. There are now over 400 cities with more than a million people. If cities become overpopulated this can cause crime, encourage the spread of disease and put pressure on local services like education and healthcare. This also causes problems for rural areas like depopulation, increased poverty, and fewer facilities.

Extract from an article about rural to urban migration

Source 3: Investing money in cities

I believe governments must spend more money improving cities.

Eighty per cent of families in rural areas work in farming. Food markets in towns and cities offer opportunities for local farmers. But those families who do not have land or any other source of income are often very poor. If more money is invested in cities they would become more attractive to these families.

By 2050, 67 per cent of the world's population will live in towns and cities. But this will bring congestion, overcrowding and higher prices for housing. More money is needed to solve these problems.

About one billion people live in slums on the edges of cities, with limited access to basic services (World Bank, 2013) and this number is expected to rise to two billion by 2030 (United Nations). Cities add to global energy use and gas emissions. Despite this, if cities are well managed they might be better places to live in.

Extract from a blog about government spending

Source 4: Views from young people about moving from rural areas to cities**Ni Lui**

I do not agree that people should move away from where they were born. My teacher told us that 70 young people left our village this year and half of them left to find work. She said that soon there will be no new generations in our village and our traditions will die out.

My parents have lived in this village all of their lives, just like their parents and grandparents did. They have been very happy here. They have taught me everything they know about the village history. My father runs a business here and if too many people leave the village his business may have to close. I would also like my own children to grow up here.

Putu

As soon as I finish school I want to go to live in the nearest city. Life there is more exciting. If I am lucky, I may be able to go to university there next year. My two younger sisters are living at home so they can help with the family. Finding a part-time job will be very easy because I have excellent computer skills. This means that I will be able to send some money back to my family to help them.

I have some relatives in the city. I can stay with them for a while and they will teach me how to survive in a city.

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