SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND URBANIZATION IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

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Purpose: The aim of the paper was to evaluate the level of development in selected OACPS countries and to evaluate the relationship between the level of development in selected OACPS countries and the level of urbanization.

Design/methodology/approach: The TOPSIS method was used to rank countries in terms of socio-economic phenomena in African countries covered by the OACPS. The paper focused on aspects of the labor market, demographics and economic structure, among others.

Findings: It refers to the basic concepts and significance of urbanization in international terms and theories related to it. Moreover, it presents the link between urbanization and the level of development of countries in the context of socio-economic transition. At the same time, it presents the process of social and economic transformations that have taken place in OACPS countries since the 1990s.

Research limitations/implications: The text discusses problems related to the developing countries, urbanization and socio-economic development in the region.

Practical implications: The manuscript concerns on the development of OACPS countries and the urbanization processes taking place in them. The text may be of interest to the government sector at large. Social implications: the research carried out can provide a basis for working off international and national development strategies from the point of view of improving the well-being of their populations, pointing out the direction of transformations and providing the possibility of comparability of the transformations taking place between developing countries, including primarily African countries.

Originality/value: The originality of the article is the use of the TOPSIS method, which is necessary to classify countries and determine their level of development from the point of view of socio-economic phenomena in the context of urbanization.

Keywords: urbanization, OACPS, TOPSIS, level of development, socio-economic aspect.

Category of the paper: own research and review.

1. Introduction

Cities are considered one of the basic elements of the world's spatial system, but they are also a component of the socio-economic development processes of highly and underdeveloped countries (Ichimura, 2003). Szymańska (2007) points out that they are the place where more than half of the world's population lives and urbanization itself is a phenomenon of modern civilization. Paluch (1975) argues that cities are the center of the most advanced processes of change, and their importance in the context of development has changed significantly over the ages.

In literature, urbanization is considered a natural consequence of the development of countries, associated with the shift of labor from agriculture to the production of urban goods. It also represents a process of modernization of traditional societies and transformation of economies. The concept of urbanization is heterogeneous and has multifaceted aspects (e.g., economic, social, environmental or legal). Müller (1975) argues that urbanization is both a process and a state, which allows it to be understood in two aspects. In the context of process, urbanization should be identified with socio-economic changes or changes in human activities, while from the point of view of the state, it means the result of change.

According to Henderson et al. (2002) and Henderson and Wang (2003), the growth of cities and the economies themselves is due to three primary factors. The first factor relates to population growth, the second relates to migration from rural areas to urban zones while the third relates to technological change driving the growth rate of existing cities. The reasons for the migration of people from rural to urban areas are most often related to the difference in expected income (Todaro, 1978; 1980). Often, however, the rapid influx of people and growth of cities outpaces their economic development. This results in increased unemployment, poverty and overcrowding, as well as infrastructure deficiencies (Kuddus et al., 2020).

Africa is considered the "Continent of the Future" with development prospects, but also with challenges. This is influenced by positive demographics - a relatively young population, significant natural resources (including 80% of the world's platinum) or the world's lowest default rate (African Development Bank, 2022b). Urbanization is considered one of the key transformation processes that will take place on the continent in the 21st century (OECD, 2022). In 1960, the percentage of urban population in African countries was less than 20%, in 1990 it was 39% (African Development Bank, 2014), and in 2020 it will be just over 40%. Projections indicate that in 2050 the urban population is expected to make up 60% of Africa's population. As the United Nations (2008) report indicates, cities in Africa generate 55% of the continent's GDP. In some places, urbanization will result in improved quality of life, in others in increased poverty. These phenomena are occurring simultaneously with varying degrees of intensity (Rana, 2011; Aliyu, Amadu, 2017).

Urbanization processes in African countries were not always aimed at sustainable development, the reasons for which can be found in the colonial period. As Fuseini and Kemp, (2015) point out that after independence, these economies did not implement effective development plans, due in large part to a number of factors including rapid urban growth, insufficient manpower, low capacity, lack of institutional coordination, increased political interference in planning or the complexity of land tenure.

The result has been that urban centers in African countries struggle with adverse environmental conditions, poor infrastructure and low-quality services, as well as uncontrolled growth.

Many authors suggest that urbanization can be the driving force behind socioeconomic development in developing countries, meaning that the higher the share of urban population (urban population (% of total population)), the higher the level of socioeconomic development of the country (Pugh, 1995; Kojima, 1996; Kowalewski, 2005; Cohen, 2006; Henderson, Wang, 2007; Szamańska, Biegańska, 2011; Yuan, Guanghua, 2015; Gu, 2019; Fan et al., 2019; Henderson, Turner, 2020). Özden and Enwere (2012), Zhong and Chen (2022) and Zheng and Walsh (2019), argue that an increase in the level of economic development determines the influx of people to cities, where there are greater opportunities for social or professional development of the population. However, in the context of African countries, it becomes crucial for national and local governments to effectively shape policies to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty, as a natural effect of the increased influx of people from rural areas to cities (Bertinelli, Duncan, 2004).

The aim of the paper was to evaluate the level of development in selected OACPS countries and to evaluate the relationship between the level of development in selected OACPS countries and the level of urbanization. The time range was 1990-1999, 2000-2009 and 2010-2019 to compare changes over the long term. The first period represented a time of diminished interest in developing countries due to global political and economic instability. Period two refers to the millennium years, when the Millennium Declaration for the Development of Developing Countries was created. Period three presented the current situation, and is supported by available data.

Developing countries often form groupings to provide a source of cooperation and mutual support for social and economic development. One example of cooperation is the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), which was formed under the 1975 Georgetown Agreement. The purpose of the agreement was to protect local markets and external support. The group is composed of low- and middle-income per capita countries with varying rates of urbanization. On this basis, 29 African countries included in the OACPS were analyzed and sourced materials collected from World Bank data was used to achieve the purpose of the paper.

The outline of the paper is as follows. First, a review of the literature on urbanization in developing countries and its importance from the point of view of the socio-economic development of countries is presented. Second, the method of the study is described. Third, the TOPSIS method was used to classify countries in terms of selected indicators in African countries, part of the OACPS. Finally, the classification of countries in terms of the level of socio-economic development in the three periods studied is presented, and the relationships that exist between the level of development and urbanization are described. The article closes with a discussion on the importance of urbanization in terms of socioeconomic development in the countries studied.

2. Material and Method

The first stage of the research was a literature study and the aggregation of the necessary data to diagnose the socio-economic situation of OACPS countries. The literature study dealt with both theoretical issues, related to the problems of developing countries, the TOPSIS method and how to use it. Preliminary analysis of data describing the characteristics of the economies of OACPS countries presented significant gaps in public statistics, hence on this basis the focus was on 29 African countries (fig. 1).

Figure. 1. Geographic distribution of OACPS countries included in the analysis
Source: own study.

The next step was to select indicators to evaluate the socio-economic situation of OACPS countries. A set of 15 indicators, defining the socioeconomic situation, was collected for the analyzed group of countries (Table 1). Their selection was based on merit and data availability.

The selection of development indicators is always associated with subjectivity. Different authors (Stec, 2004; Glodowska, 2008) qualify the activities in different ways in order to achieve the set goals and assign them appropriate measures. To study the level of development of countries, similar variables as used by Stec (2004) and Cieslik (2017) were considered in this paper.

The extensive range of this study concerning development of countries made it possible to select characteristics and the structure of a synthetic measure. The material for analysis included information from the World Bank database. Due to the availability of data the conducted analysis covered three years, i.e. 1990-1999, 2000-2009 and 2010-2019, thus facilitating observations of changes in the discussed phenomenon over time.

The diversified level of development in the OACPS countries was investigated using a synthetic measure of development based on the classical TOPSIS method.

Classic TOPSIS (Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to an Ideal Solution), a method for structuring a synthetic metric, was used in assessing the level of development of OACPS countries. Yoon and Hwang developed the Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) based on the concept that the chosen alternative should have the shortest distance from the ideal solution and the farthest from the negative-ideal solution (Hwang, Yoon, 1981).

Step 1. Selecting the simple characteristics of countries development levels

Table 1.
Diagnostic variables proposed to be used in measuring the development of OACPS countries

No.	Diagnostic variables	Nature of variables
X1	Population growth (annual %)	S
X2	Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	S
X3	Life expectancy at birth	S
X4	Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)	D
X5	Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	D
X6	Population ages 15-64 (% of total population)	S
X7	GDP per capita (USD per capita)	S
X8	GDP growth (annual %)	S
X9	Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	S
X10	Industry (% of GDP)	S
X11	Agriculture (% of GDP)	D
X12	Employment in industry (% of total employment)	S
X13	Employment in services (% of total employment)	S
X14	Unemployment, total (% of total labor force)	D
X15	Labor force participation rate, total (% of total population ages 15-64)	S

D – destimulant, S – stimulant.

Source: own study based on the World Bank data.worldbank.org/, 20.02.2023.

An important part of selecting the simple characteristics to be covered by the study is to assess their variation and correlation with one another. It is necessary to remove the ones at very low levels of variation (with a coefficient of variation below 10%) and those highly correlated with other simple characteristics (values largely above 10). The characteristics x6

(coefficient of variation below 10%) and x2 (values largely above 10) were removed from the set of diagnostic variables (Wysocki, 2010).

Step 2. Normalization of simple characteristics

As indicated by Wysocki (2010), this step consists in unifying the simple characteristics, making them mutually comparable, eliminating non-positive values and replacing different ranges of variability of particular characteristics with a constant range. This study relied on an approach based on linear normalization, referred to as zero unitarization.

Hence, the values of simple characteristics were normalized using the following formulas (Wysocki, 2010):

- for variables with a stimulating effect:

$$z_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij} - \min_i\{x_{ij}\}}{\max_i\{x_{ij}\} - \min_i\{x_{ij}\}} \tag{1}$$

- for variables with an inhibiting effect:

$$z_{ij} = \frac{\max_i\{x_{ij}\} - x_{ij}}{\max_i\{x_{ij}\} - \min_i\{x_{ij}\}} \tag{2}$$

The normalization of simple characteristics was performed for a total of two periods under analysis (referred to as object-years) based on average values of simple characteristics recorded in these periods. This was done in order to ensure comparability of results between the periods and to capture the development trend affecting the phenomenon process under consideration.

Step 3. Determining the coordinates of ideal units for normalized characteristics: the positive ideal (A+) solution and the negative ideal solution (A-) as per the following formulas

$$A^+ = (\max_i(z_{i1}^*), \max_i(z_{i2}^*), \dots, \max_i(z_{iK}^*)) = (z_1^+, z_2^+, \dots, z_K^+) \tag{3}$$

$$A^- = (\min_i(z_{i1}^*), \min_i(z_{i2}^*), \dots, \min_i(z_{iK}^*)) = (z_1^-, z_2^-, \dots, z_K^-) \tag{4}$$

Step 4. Calculating the Euclidean distances of each object (country) under consideration from the positive and negative ideal development

$$d_i^+ = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^K (z_{ik}^* - z_K^+)^2} \tag{5}$$

$$d_i^- = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^K (z_{ik}^* - z_K^-)^2}, \tag{6}$$

where: i = 1, 2, …, N.

Step 5. Using TOPSIS to calculate the value of the synthetic characteristics of country development

$$S_i = \frac{d_i^-}{d_i^+ + d_i^-} \tag{7}$$

with $0 \le S_i \le 1$, where i = 1, 2, …, N.

The values of the synthetic metric calculated using TOPSIS vary in the range of 0 to 1. The closer the town to the ideal unit (development model), the more distant it is from the negative ideal solution, and the greater the value of its synthetic metric. At the same time, it indicates a higher development level of the country.

Step 6: Based on the values of the synthetic metric, the countries covered by this study were linearly ordered by level of development. The study then identified a distinct typological group of countries based on quartile 1 (Q1), quartile 2 (Q2), quartile 3 (Q3), calculated for the synthetic metric

Group I: above Q_3 (countries at high levels of the development).

Group II: Q_2-Q_3 (countries at medium-high levels of the development).

Group III: Q_1-Q_2 (countries at medium-low levels of the development).

Group IV: below Q_1 (countries at low levels of the development).

3. Results

Differentiation of development levels in OACPS countries

In the analyzed OACPS countries, low variation in the level of development was observed in the years studied (coefficient of variation in the range of 10.99-13.93% in 1990-1999, 2000-2009 and 2010-2019) (Table 2). The study revealed a rise in the level of development in the countries examined, as exemplified by the average (0.4511, 0.4847, 0.5260) or the spread of the synthetic measure (0.2820, 0.2054, 0.2294) (Table 2). There was a significant change in the minimum value of the synthetic measure in 2000-2009 compared to 1990-1999. This may indicate an enhancement in the level of development in nations where a low level of development was observed during the period of 1990-1999.

Table 2.
Selected descriptive statistics for the value of the synthetic measure for the OACPS countries in 1990-1999, 2000-2009 and 2010-2019

List	1990-1999	2000-2009	2010-2019
Max	0.5997	0.6103	0.6423
Min	0.3177	0.4049	0.4128
Mean	0.4511	0.4847	0.5260
Med.	0.4374	0.4708	0.5243
Range	0.2820	0.2054	0.2294
coefficient of variation (%)	13.93	11.41	10.99

Max – maximum, Min. – minimum, Med. – median, Mean – arithmetic mean.

Source: own study based on the World Bank data.worldbank.org/, 20.02.2023.

The countries surveyed were divided into four typological groups of development levels. 75% of the OACPS countries experienced an improvement in the level of development compared to the previous period, while one third did not change their ordered group (Table 4). Between 1990 and 1999, half of the countries observed a low level of development (group IV - 51.7% of countries) (Table 3). Subsequent periods witnessed a shift towards higher levels. In 2000-2009, the number of countries in Group IV more than halved (20.7%), and 41.4% of countries were characterized by medium-low levels of development. More than 75% of the countries analyzed high or medium-high levels of development during the period 2010-2019. In contrast, only one country belonged to Group IV (low level of development) (Table 3).

Table 3.
*Typological classes for the levels of development of OACPS countries*

Level of development		Values of the metric	1990-1999		2000-2009		2010-2019	
			N	%	N	%	N	%
I	*high*	above 0.5285	4	13.8	6	20.7	12	41.4
II	*medium-high*	0.4817 to 0.5285	5	17.2	5	17.2	11	37.9
III	*medium-low*	0.4377 to 0.4817	5	17.2	12	41.4	5	17.2
IV	*low*	below 0.4377	15	51.7	6	20.7	1	3.4

N – the number of countries in a group.

Source: own study based on the World Bank data.worldbank.org/, 20.02.2023.

Group I included OACPS countries with a high level of development. In 2010-2019, compared to 2000-2009, the percentage of countries in this group has increased twofold (Table 3). During the period under review, a significant level of progress has been observed in Botswana, Angola, South Africa, and Republic of Congo, all of which are distinguished by a plethora of natural resources, such as oil, diamonds, gold, or platinum. In subsequent years, advancement was observed in countries that were in Group II in the earlier study period. It is noteworthy that significant advancements were observed in predominantly countries, with the exception of the Republic of Congo, which have moderate to low levels of corruption (African Development Bank, 2022a). Furthermore, countries that are achieving significant progress in the fight against hunger and possess oil-rich resources, such as Angola and Ghana, were classified into this group (African Development Bank, 2014), as well as those whose governments have implemented open market policies (Namibia) (table 4).

Group II consisted of countries with a medium-high level of development. During the period under review, there was a significant variance in the composition of nations, which were categorized into Group II (Table 3). Despite the consistent increase in the percentage of countries with a medium-high level of development between 1990-1999 and 2000-2009, Namibia was the sole country to be ranked in Group II during the indicated periods (Table 4, fig. 2). In 2010-2019, an medium-high level of development was recorded in countries that were ranked in Group III in 2000-2009.
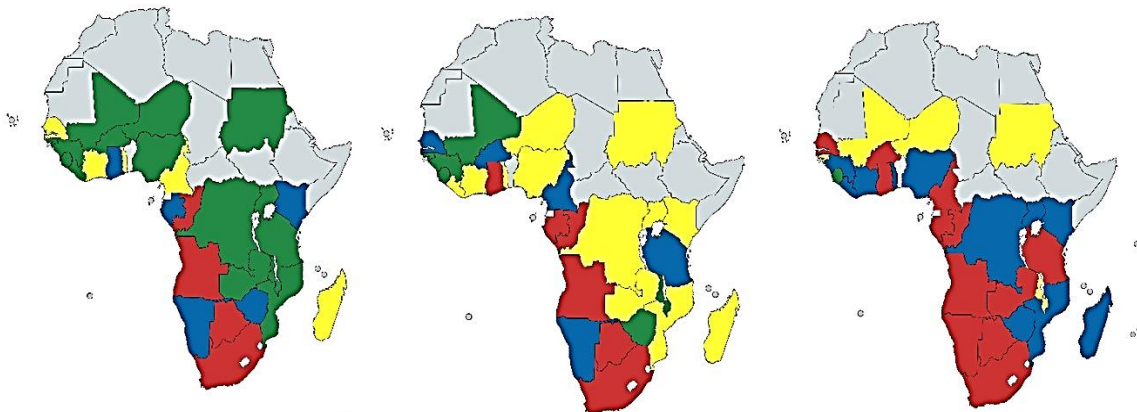
Legend: group I – color red, group II – color blue, group III – color yellow, group IV – color green.

Figure 2. Development level of OACPS countries according to the designated development index in 1990-1999, 2000-2009 and 2010-2019.

Source: own study based on the World Bank data.worldbank.org/, 20.02.2023.

OACPS countries with medium-low levels of development were ordered in Group III. The significant enhancement in the level of development during the period 2000-2009 in comparison to 1990-1999 resulted in the classification of a significant group of countries within this group (Table 3). With the exception of Cote d'Ivoire, the medium-low level of development was identified in countries that were included in Group IV during the period of 1990-1999 (Table 4). In 2010-2019, Niger and Sudan, countries that were afflicted by religious and political conflicts and poverty, experienced a lack of notable advancement in their development, resulting in a medium-low level of development.

Group IV included countries with low levels of development. The proportion of nations within this group underwent significant fluctuations throughout the durations under study. Only Sierra Leone, recognized by the UN as a country in the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group (DAC, 2021), observed a low level of development in all the years examined (Table 4). Furthermore, Group IV included countries with a low share of industry in GDP or exports of goods and services, and a high share of agriculture.

Most of the East African countries recorded an improvement in position in each period. In contrast, countries that were part of Southern Africa had some of the highest values of the development index. The further north one went, the lower the level of development changed (fig. 2).

Table 4.

Values of synthetic measure of development level in OACPS countries in 1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019

1990-1999			2000-2009			2010-2019		
Group	Country		Group	Country		Group	Country	
I	Botswana	0,5997	I	Congo, Rep.	0,6103	I	Ghana	0,6423
	Angola	0,5526		Angola	0,6021		Botswana	0,6368
	South Africa	0,5524		Botswana	0,5923		Congo, Rep.	0,6103
	Congo, Rep.	0,5383		South Africa	0,5646		Burkina Faso	0,6088
II	Ghana	0,5111		Ghana	0,5621		South Africa	0,5944
	Gabon	0,5099		Gabon	0,5321		Gabon	0,5883
	Zimbabwe	0,4933	II	Cameroon	0,4999		Angola	0,5680
	Kenya	0,4924		Namibia	0,4976		Zambia	0,5551
	Namibia	0,4862		Burkina Faso	0,4914		Cameroon	0,5360
III	Cote d'Ivoire	0,4750		Tanzania	0,4902		Namibia	0,5352
	Senegal	0,4562		Senegal	0,4859		Senegal	0,5301
	Cameroon	0,4498		Madagascar	0,4817		Tanzania	0,5299
	Madagascar	0,4487		Kenya	0,4776		Madagascar	0,5271
	Togo	0,4428		Nigeria	0,4714		Togo	0,5244
IV	Burkina Faso	0,4374	III	Zambia	0,4708		Congo, Dem. Rep.	0,5243
	Nigeria	0,4345		Mozambique	0,4689		Cote d'Ivoire	0,5171
	Niger	0,4321		Congo, Dem. Rep.	0,4667	II	Nigeria	0,5148
	Tanzania	0,4310		Niger	0,4666		Kenya	0,5144
	Zambia	0,4281		Uganda	0,4640		Zimbabwe	0,5103
	Mozambique	0,4231		Liberia	0,4640		Liberia	0,5083
	Guinea	0,4209		Togo	0,4612		Uganda	0,4975
	Liberia	0,4183		Cote d'Ivoire	0,4577		Guinea	0,4968
	Uganda	0,4162		Sudan	0,4487		Mozambique	0,4933
	Sudan	0,3959	IV	Mali	0,4323		Malawi	0,4783
	Congo, Dem. Rep.	0,3926		Guinea	0,4311		Niger	0,4654
	Malawi	0,3919		Zimbabwe	0,4288	III	Guinea-Bissau	0,4495
	Mali	0,3800		Malawi	0,4211		Mali	0,4459
	Guinea-Bissau	0,3546		Sierra Leone	0,4108		Sudan	0,4381
	Sierra Leone	0,3177		Guinea-Bissau	0,4049	IV	Sierra Leone	0,4128

Source: own study based on the World Bank data.worldbank.org/, 20.02.2023.

Development level vs. urbanization in OACPS countries

It is acknowledged that cities are the driving force behind the socio-economic development of countries. Furthermore, it has been posited that the expansion of urban populations is associated with the advancement of a nation (Angelopulo, 2021). To assess the relationship between the level of development in OACPS countries and urbanization, two indicators were used: the share of urban population in the total population and the share of urban population in agglomerations with more than one million inhabitants in the total population.

In the period of 1990-1999, a consistent correlation was observed between the values of the synthetic measure of the level of development in OACPS countries and the proportion of urban population in the total population, with Pearson's linear correlation coefficient being 0.51. Countries with high levels of development were 40-60% urbanized. There was no significant

difference between countries in Groups II, III, and IV. In Gabon, where the share of urban population was the highest (almost 80%), the country was ordered into Group II from 1990-1999.

A low correlation was observed between the level of development and the proportion of agglomeration population in the total population. In 1990-1999, there was a correlation of 0.31. Regardless of the development group, the population of agglomerations over one million inhabitants was not exceeding 30% in most countries.
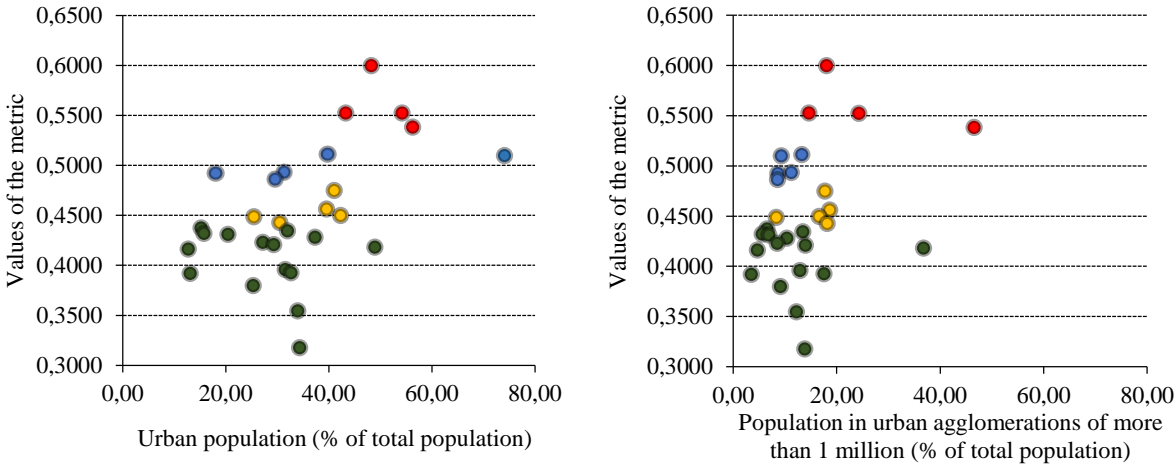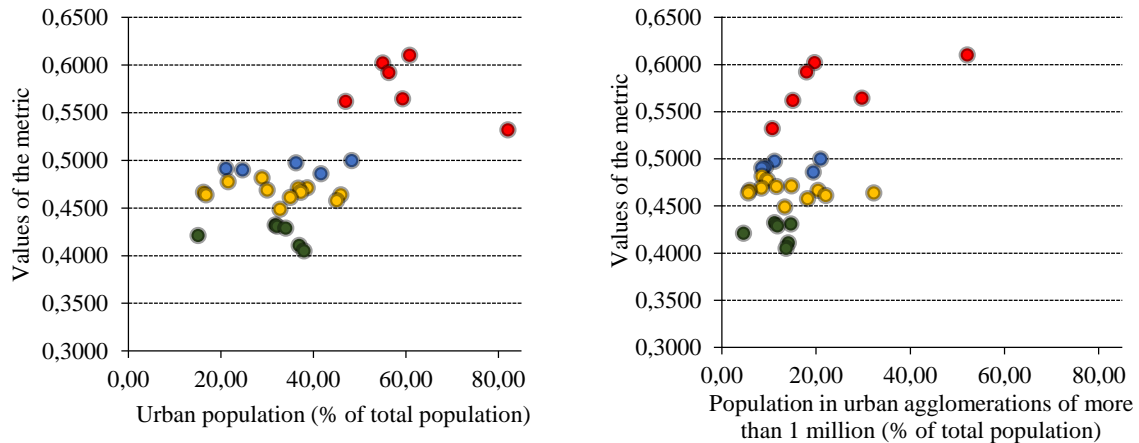

Legend: group I – color red, group II – color blue, group III – color yellow, group IV – color green.

Figure 3. Development level versus urbanization rate and urbanization rate in cities with more than one million inhabitants in 1990-1999 in selected OACPS countries.

Source: own study based on the World Bank data.worldbank.org/, 20.02.2023.

During the period of 2000-2009, it was observed that there was a significant increase in the correlation between the proportion of urban population and the classification for the development group. The Pearson's correlation coefficient was 0.63. This relationship is evident in the group of countries with a high level of development (group I). These countries experienced an increase in the percentage of urban population. Furthermore, a higher rate of urbanization was observed in some of the OACPS countries with a medium-high or medium-low urbanization rate (groups II and III).

The relationship between the level of development and the share of population in agglomerations with more than one million inhabitants was also increased. The correlation coefficient was 0.51. The percentage of population in agglomerations remained relatively constant during the period of 1990-1999, with the majority of countries achieving a population density of less than 20%.
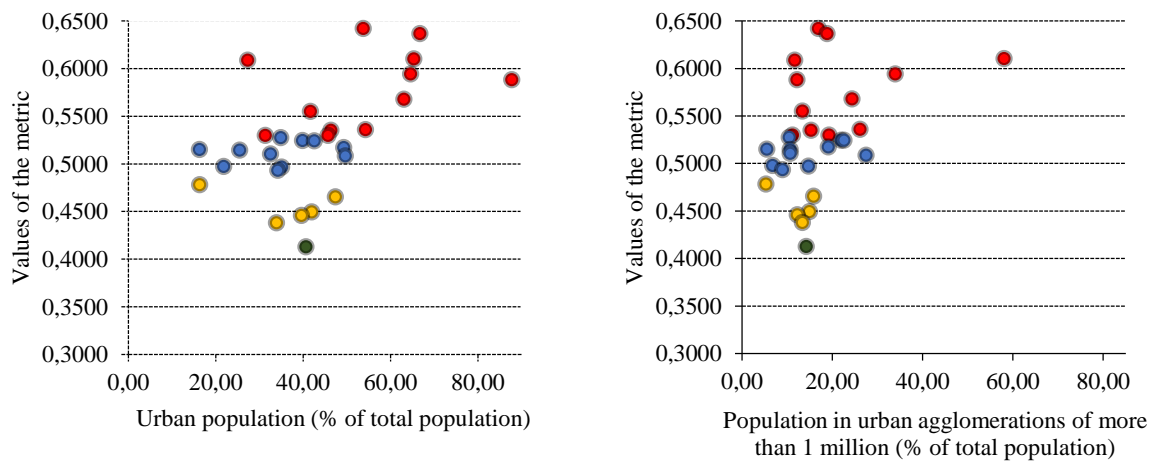
Legend: group I – color red, group II – color blue, group III – color yellow, group IV – color green.

Figure 4. Development level versus urbanization rate and urbanization rate in cities with more than one million inhabitants in 2000-2009 in selected OACPS countries.

Source: own study based on the World Bank data.worldbank.org/, 20.02.2023.

In the period 2010-2019, a decrease in the correlation between the level of development and the urbanization indicators in question was observed compared to 2000-2009. Between the level of development in OACPS countries and the percentage of urban population in these countries was 0.52, while the difference between the percentage of population in agglomerations with more than one million inhabitants was 0.41. In 2010-2019, a decrease in the average growth rate of urban population in the total population was observed, which was 11.8% lower in comparison to the period of 2000-2009.

Legend: group I – color red, group II – color blue, group III – color yellow, group IV – color green.

Figure 5. Development level versus urbanization rate and urbanization rate in cities with more than one million inhabitants in 2010-2019 in selected OACPS countries

Source: own study based on the World Bank data.worldbank.org/ [accessed: 20.02.2023].

The linkage assessment observed that the level of development in the OACPS countries studied is not significantly influenced by urban agglomerations versus all cities. It is also important to note that the improvement in development did not occur simultaneously with urban

population growth. It can be emphasized that a decrease in the rate of urban population growth was accompanied by a decrease in the rate of development.

4. Conclusion

The countries of the OACPS are a group of countries that exhibit a wide range of socio-economic characteristics. Based on the synthetic measure of socioeconomic development created in the study, four typological groups were identified. Improvements in the level of development were observed in the OACPS countries. It can be ascertained that the advancement was of a recurrent nature, i.e., the analyzed nations altered the level of development by a particular group over successive periods. Nonetheless, it is imperative to bear in mind that despite the elevated values of the assessment, the countries analyzed remain among the impoverished regions of the globe. As stated by Muhammad Awais Baloch et al. (2020), it is projected that by 2030, sub-Saharan African nations will not be capable of alleviating poverty, as 45% of the countries still face a problem of extreme poverty among their populace.

The results of the analysis by Li et al. (2021) on sustainable development in African countries are partially consistent with the results of the research conducted. The OACPS countries were ranked high in the sustainability of development in African countries, with a high ranking in Group I and Group II.

The group of countries with high or medium-high levels of development (Group I or II) encompassed resource-rich nations with high HDI values, such as South Africa, Botswana, and Gabon, as reported by the World Bank. In contrast, nations with low levels of development were also characterized by low HDI values. According to the international statistics conducted by the United Nations, they are categorized as the world's poorest (LDC) countries, such as Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. They often have a high share of agriculture in GDP and a high share of agricultural employment.

An assessment of the relationship between the level of development in OACPS countries and urbanization indicators revealed a medium association between the value of the synthetic measure and the share of urban population. A smaller association was observed between the constructed measure and the percentage of urban population in agglomerations with a population of over 1 million. Ngouanet et al. (2016) arrived at similar conclusions, stating that Africa is experiencing a dynamic migration of population from rural to urban areas. However, due to the large diversity of countries, the process may take on a distinct shape in each country, and a higher level of development may not necessarily imply a society's increased urbanization.

It should be noted that in the studies of other authors, the correlation became apparent between economic development and the degree of urbanization of countries (Henderson 2003; 2005; Annez and Buckley 2009). This is a rationale for continuing the research, however this time setting aside the social aspect, which may have introduced variations in the results obtained.

Acknowledgements

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