

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Most Latin American countries have reached a very high level of urbanisation, differing from less than half of the population in Belize, Honduras and El Salvador by more than 90 percent in Uruguay, Venezuela and Argentina<sup>1</sup> (ECLAC, 2006). In part the high rate of urbanisation is due to the natural growth of the Latin American metropolitan cities, in part due to rural-urban migration. Though the relative share of the population growth of the cities due to migration has fallen, it remains a relevant portion of the total growth of these cities.

The population growth of the Latin American cities has put strain on the cities' resources. Combined with large differences in the access to these resources and high income inequality (e.g. CIA, 2006), population growth has led to the existence of well-off neighbourhoods, entire poor suburbs constructed with corrugated iron sheets and everything in-between. Different cities show different characteristics (especially concerning the city centre), but the existence of slum areas is widespread in the Latin American metropolitan areas. About 32% of the urban population of Latin American and the Caribbean are slum dwellers (UN-Habitat, 2003b).

It is obvious that access to basic services for the urban poor is inadequate in most, if not all developing countries. Though access to infrastructure services such as water, sanitation, transport and telecommunications has increased considerably over the last two decades in Latin America as a whole (Calderón and Servén, 2004), it is still not omnipresent and poor urban regions are disproportionately affected. Moreover, the quality of infrastructure services is generally poor in urban areas, and the informational requirements to make an appropriate choice are much higher than in rural areas. (Fay, 2005)

Given these considerations, the objective of this research is to:

*“Analyze the impact of contemporary migration of the urban and rural poor on the quantity and quality of urban infrastructure services in Trujillo, Peru.”*

The corresponding normative objective of this research is to:

*“Give recommendations to NGOs and local authorities to improve the delivery of infrastructure services to the urban poor in Trujillo, Peru.”*

## 1.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research question has been formulated:

*“What is the impact of contemporary migration of the urban and rural poor on the quantity and quality of urban infrastructure services in the newly settled areas of Trujillo, Peru?”*

This question is broken down in five sub question:

1. *“What is the size and direction of the migrations flows in the metropolitan area of Trujillo?”*

The migration flows in Trujillo are quantified. The focus of this research is on incoming migrants. Their actual number and location of settlement are put in perspective by analysing developments and the natural growth of the metropolitan area.

2. *“What are the characteristics of the migrants and their settlements in the poor urban areas?”*

The characteristics of the settlers and the urban poor provide insights to the variety of those living in the urban area. From this, relations between these characteristics and the delivery of infrastructure services can be found. Furthermore, their reasons for migrating and types of settlement in specific poor urban areas are determined to understand the process of settlement.

3. *“Which infrastructure services and in what quantities and qualities are delivered within the poor urban areas of Trujillo?”*

The actual status concerning the delivery (or lack of) of the services is evaluated. Detailed information is collected on the different qualitative aspects of the delivery in the various fields concerning infrastructure services.

4. *“How does the process of obtaining by and delivering infrastructure services to the urban poor take place?”*

The process of the delivery of infrastructure services is relevant to the understanding of the successes and failures of improving the situation of the settlers. The obtaining of infrastructure focuses on how the urban poor gain access to these services. This part of the research thus deals with the different actors involved in the process of service delivery: the actual behaviour of the migrants, the role of private institutions, public institutions and non-profit organisations.

5. *“What links exist between migration, migrants’ characteristics, infrastructure services and the process of delivery of these services?”*

The links between the four elements described in the former questions are studied to understand not just the elements, but their interactions as well. This includes a quantitative analysis, combined with insights in the qualitative aspects of these linkages.

## **1.3 SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE**

Though migration into the urban centres contributes only to part of the total population growth, it is an important aspect that has not been sufficiently examined. Not only are the characteristics of the migrants unclear, but also their origin is poorly covered in literature<sup>2</sup>. Some scholars claim that rural-urban migration is overly covered, and that more research is needed on medium-sized and smaller urban centres (Lindert and Verkoren, 1997). However, rural-urban migration might be under-estimated due to misreporting by respondents, because of status or identification issues (Bilsborrow, 1998). Furthermore, the answer to the first research sub-question might provide information useful for the presumably important role of those urban centres. Finally,

seasonalmigration seems to be poorly covered in the existing literature, especially in conjunction with the delivery of infrastructure services.

There is a lack of statistics on internal migration in developing countries in general. This is especially the case for the inter-census periods. Therefore, the determinants and consequences of internal migration as well as its links with the development of the urban area and human living conditions are not completely understood. Such data should be collected via specialised migration surveys (Bilsborrow, 1998), as has been done in this research project.

Independent research can provide valuable insights into the strategies of the urban poor obtaining infrastructure services. This is desirable, since the institutes carrying out the bulk of the research have a major stake in policy and decision-making. Thereby, an information bias can occur in their research and data collection, and scientifically relevant findings might be overlooked.

Finally, this research focuses on the use of infrastructure services by migrants and the urban poor and the way stakeholders deal with the delivery of these services. The knowledge and strategies of those settling in poor urban areas are taken into account. The lack of inclusion of the stakes of the urban poor in the decision making process might be a major reason for the inadequate obtaining of services. New research to understand these processes is vital as the interaction underlying the delivery of infrastructure services have changed due to privatisation. Currently, research on the impact of the liberalisation of utilities in Latin America is being carried out on a large scale, mainly by large international agencies such as the Inter American Development Bank (IADB) and The World Bank. Their focus is mainly at the national level and on the functioning of the macro economy. Insights into the strategies adopted by the urban poor in the era of privatisation are yet to be developed. This research examines the strategies adopted by both users and suppliers, and thereby bridges the gap between various areas of research on migration, social interactions and infrastructure delivery.

This research is expected to contribute to the above, and to provide insights to the strategies adopted by the different parties. The outcome of this research is expected to give an overview of the existing situation in Peru, with specific focus on Trujillo and findings at neighbourhood level. This research fills a large existing gap in the literature on the linkages between migration and infrastructure service delivery. The current situation regarding the urban poor will thereby be understood better, which in turn will help improve the effectiveness of future policies and interventions to be implemented.

## **1.4 SOCIAL RELEVANCE**

The urban poor in developing countries are living under harsh conditions. They lack basic services or receive poor quality services of fresh water, basic sanitation and electricity. Such services are especially lacking in the poor urban areas, where there is urban growth and a relatively large migration inflow. The way the urban poor deal with the difficulty of obtaining services can be expected to be partly case-specific, so that in-dept information such as that provided by this research can lead to immediate implementation by local institutions and contribute to improvements in the situation of these urban poor.

The poor provision of infrastructure services has a negative impact on the economy of the city, region or country. Not only does the lack of basic infrastructure services lead to an unhealthy working population and thereby low levels of productivity, it can also mean that the required economies of scale are not met, and that provision becomes an expensive undertaking for companies and governments. The lack of access to telecommunication services has a negative impact on the functioning of the market, as it leads to imperfect information.

The processes of privatisation of infrastructure services have only recently been undertaken in many developing countries. Experiences with governments withdrawing or changing their role are nowadays occurring widely. The need for policy makers to have some kind of best-practice is therefore apparent. This research on Peru and Trujillo will provide some of the necessary information desired by policy makers dealing with this issue. The information from this thesis will not only be valuable for those dealing with Latin America, but can provide suggestions and information useful in other developing regions as well.

Ultimately, the social relevance of this project depends on the actual implementation of the results. I expect it to have a positive impact on the situation in Trujillo and possibly other growing Peruvian cities. The research is carried out independent of NGOs and government, at the University Privada Antenor Orrego. This university operates in close collaboration with local agencies and the public authorities. Furthermore, the final document of the thesis will be made publicly available at the library of the Eindhoven University of Technology and on-line.