

ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at investigating effect of Information and Communication Technology on urbanization. Urbanization is complex process, where conventional rural push and urban pull factors proved insufficient to explain the phenomenon of urbanization. Therefore, bringing ICT into analysis of urbanization is necessary. This research is using data for South Asian countries of approximately two decades of 2000 to 2019, proxy of urban population as percentage of total population shows urbanization and ICT variables is Information Development Index which is combination of four variables Fixed Telephone Line, Fixed Broadband Subscription, Mobile-Cellular Telephone Subscription and Individual Using Internet. By deploying Mean Grouped (MG), Common Correlated Effects Mean Group (CCEMG) and Augmented Mean Group (AMG) empirical techniques on extracted data, positive and significant relationship has been found between urbanization and ICT, which shows that along with other push and pull factors ICT is playing vital role in rampant urbanization in South Asian region. Dumitrescu-Hurlin and Panel Granger Causality tests are also demonstrating bi-causal relationship between ICT and urbanization. Governments of South Asian region should follow proper urban management owing impact of ICT on urbanization in consideration.