



The spatial poverty trap
or
**The relevance of space as a
poverty factor**

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Objective

- To show the **key link** between **space, poverty & social exclusion** in **urban and rural** areas in **Mexico**.

▪ Strategy

- The global urbanization process
- Urbanization & inequality in MX & CA
- Poverty & social exclusion in cities & rural areas in Mexico

- Space is money: poor people pay more for access

- Space, poverty & inequality: **two examples (urban & rural)**
- Final comments

We live in an urban world...

- Since **2008**, for the first time in history, **more than half** of the world population **lives in cities**.
- More than **90%** of the **urban growth** takes place in **developing countries**.



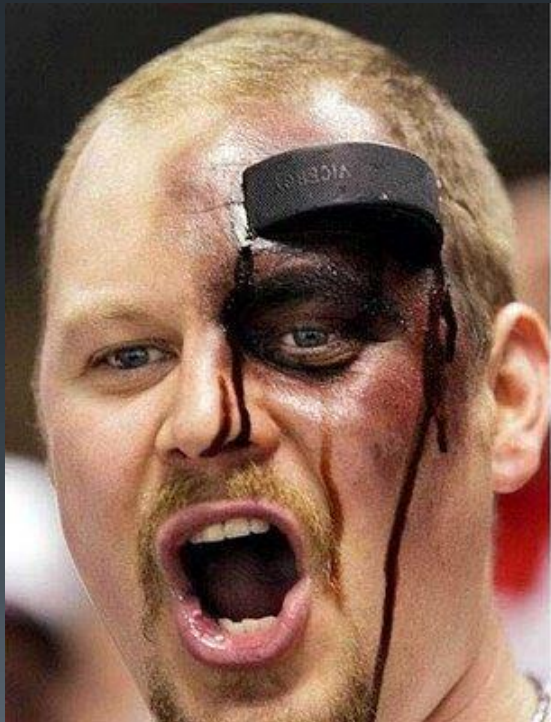
We live in and urban world...

- This growth means around new **70 million people** in cities **each year**.
- In **2030**, **80% of the world urban** population will be in **developing countries**.

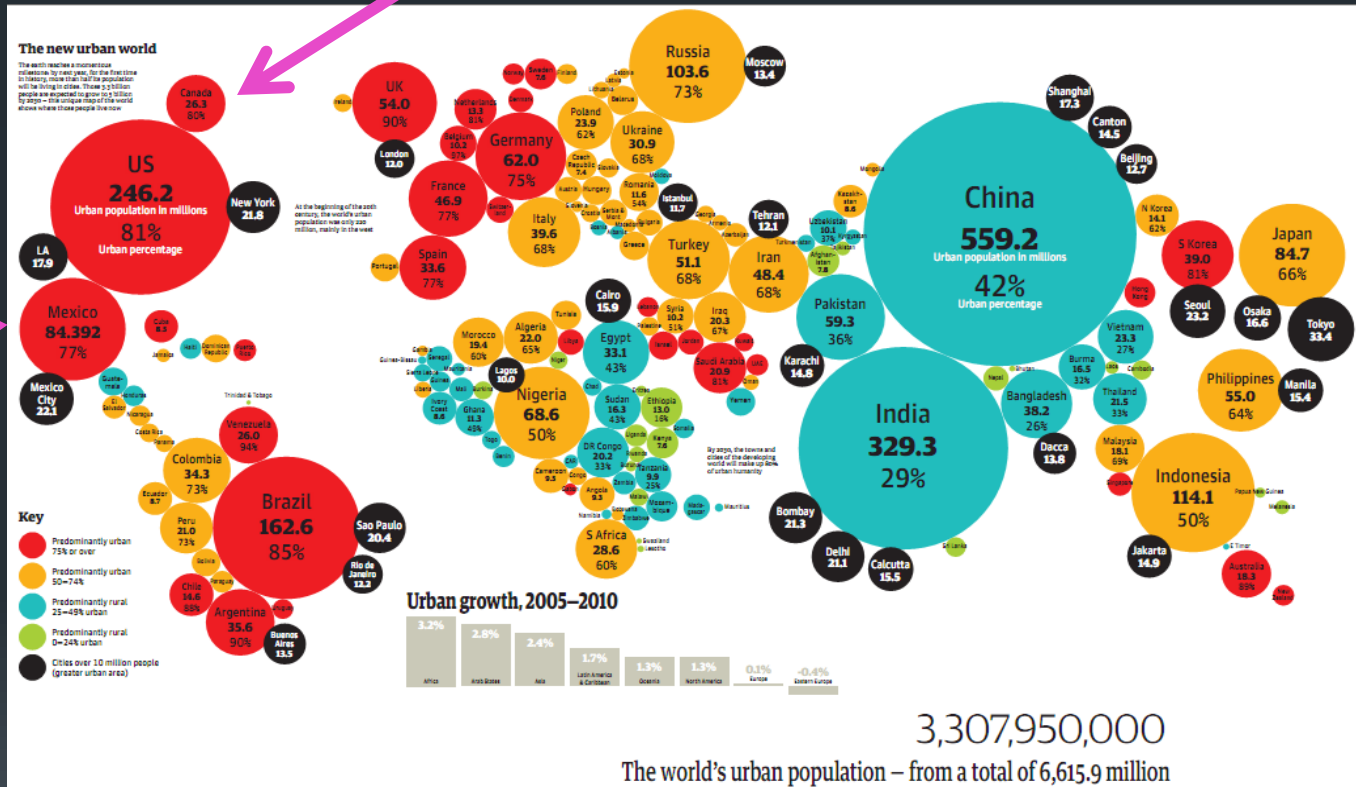


We will live in and urban world...

- In the **next 20 years** the **Homo Sapiens** («he intelligent man») will turn in the **Homo Sapiens Urbanus** almost in any region of our planet (UN-Habitat, 2008: VIII).



World Urban Population, 2007



Urban Population by country (Abs. & %)

Megacities

Tokyo 1: 36.67M



Bombay 5: 20.04M



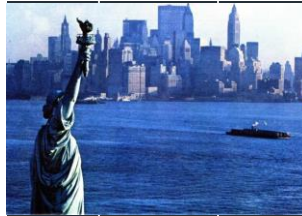
Calcutta 8: 15.55M



Delhi 2: 22.16M



New York 6: 19.43M



Dhaka 9: 14.65M



Sao Paulo 3: 20.26M



Shanghai 7: 16.58M



Karachi 10: 13.12M



Ciudad de México 4: 20.11M

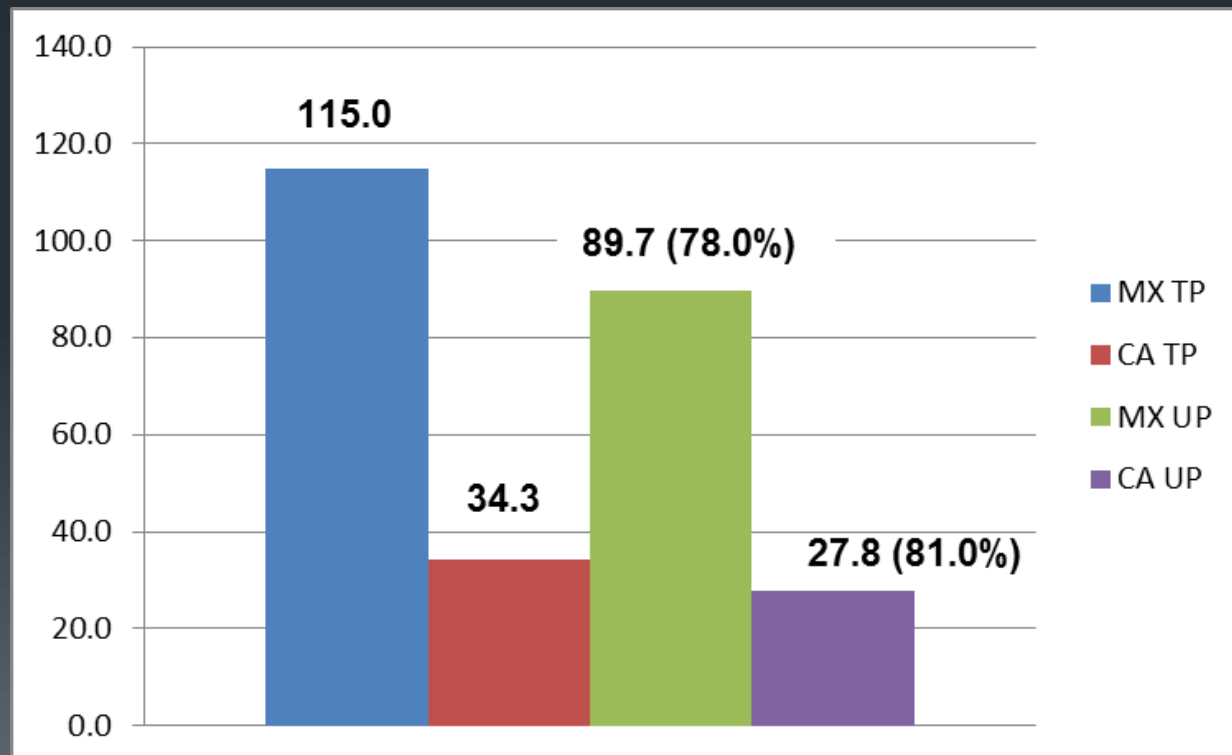


Urban Mexico & Canada...

- **Urban Population:**

- **78%** of total population (**112 million people**).
- **87.4** million people live in cities.

Total & Urban Population MX & CA, 2012





Why do people live in cities?

Cities: the greatest invent in history

**The most efficient
spatial organization
of activities**

**Access to goods &
servicies**

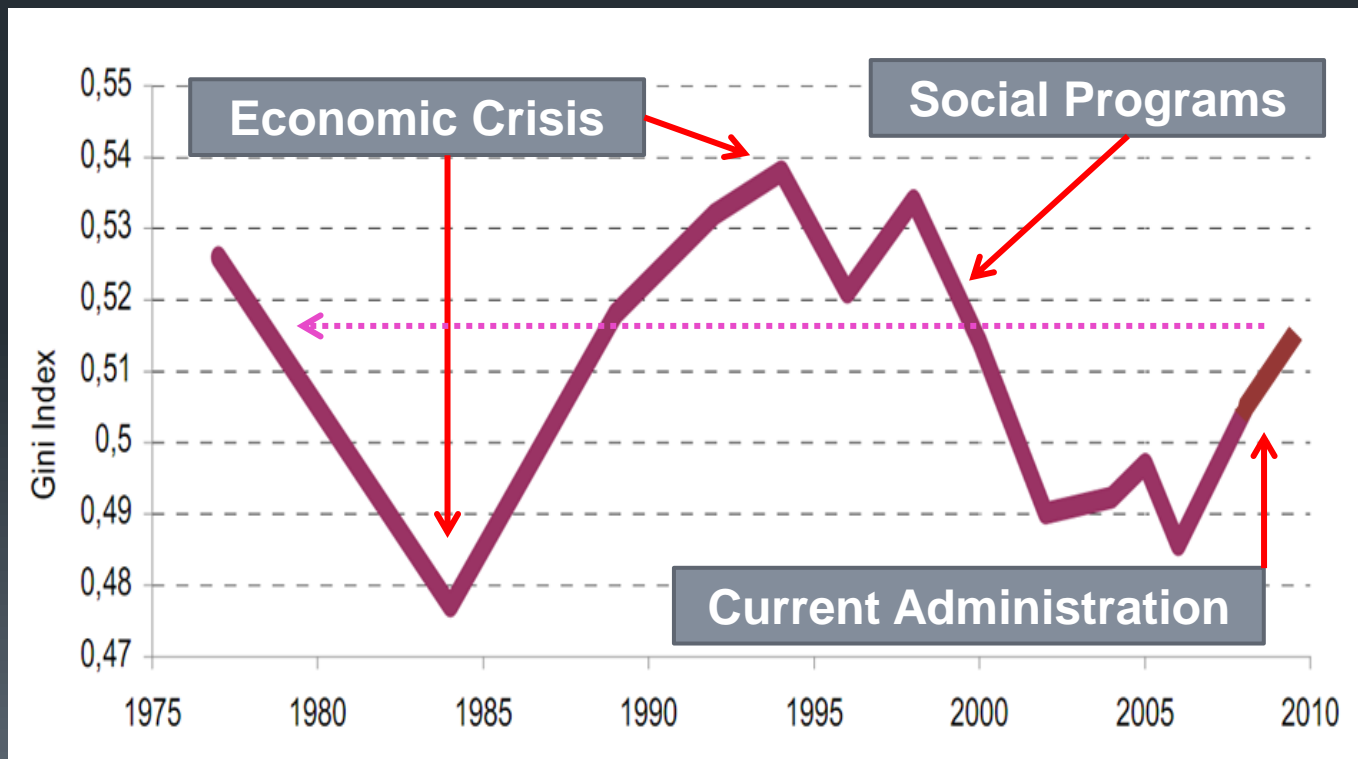
**More opportunities
of development**

**Freedom & income
particularly for
women**



However...

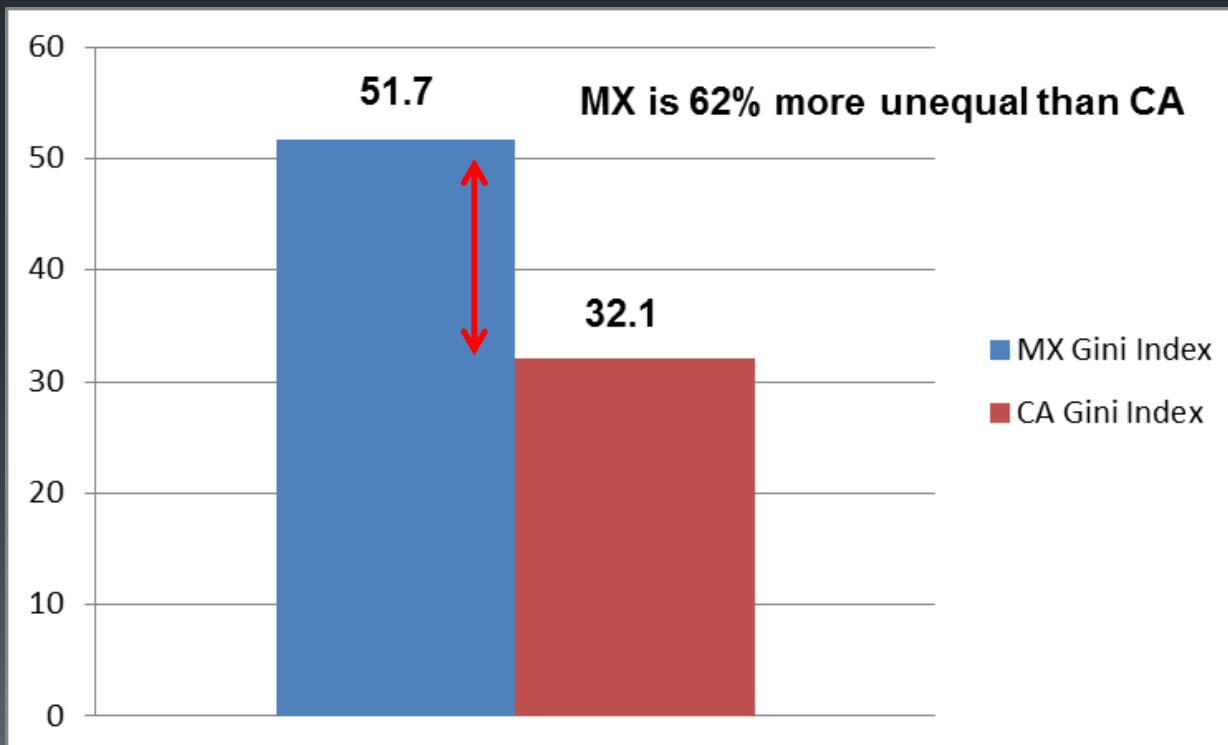
- Many cities show very high **economic & social inequality**.
- For example: **Mexican cities...**
- Gini Index: **0 = Perfect Equality; 1 = Perfect Inequality**



Inequality...

- **Gini Index:**
 - **MX has a historical inequality problem.**

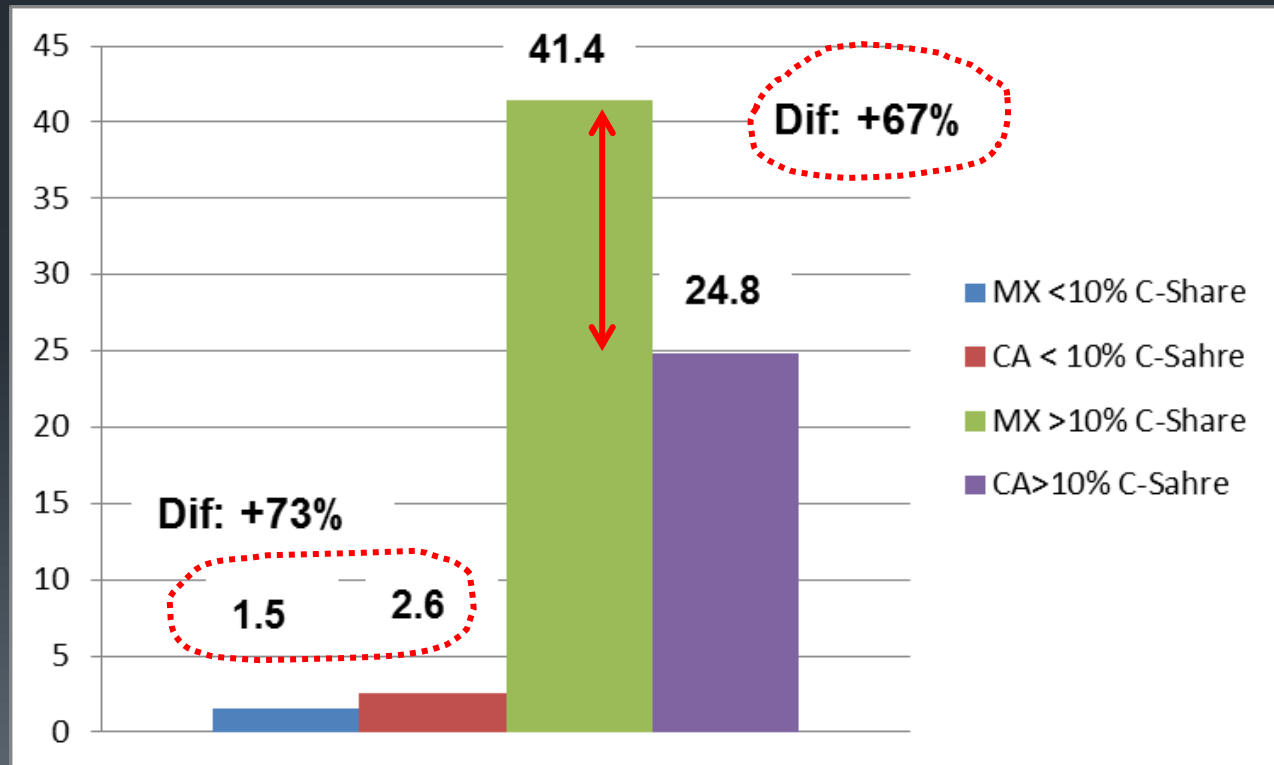
Inequality in MX & CA, 2012



Inequality...

- Household Income **Lowest** and **Highest 10%** by **Consumption Share:**

10% Poorest and Richest Households Consumption in MX & CA, 2010



Inequality...

- What this means:

Poorest CA Consumption:



Poorest MX Consumption:



The national consumption share of the poorest Mexicans is 27% of the poorest Canadians

Inequality...

- **What with the richest?:**

Richest **MX** Consumption:



Richest **CA** Consumption:



The national consumption share of the richest Canadians is 60% of the richest Mexicans

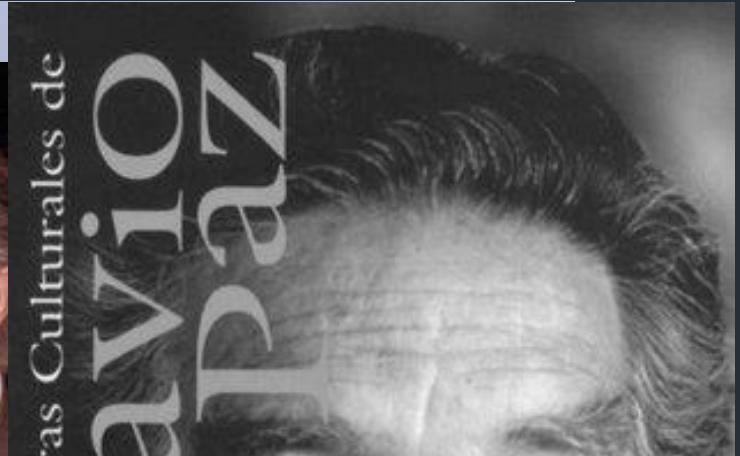
Inequality...

This is Mexico....



Inequality...

Also...This is Mexico....



Mexico: One of the most unequal countries in the world





Poverty...

**Is an urban or a rural
problem?**

Some words on Poverty..

- **Extreme Poverty:**

- People who is unable to get the **minimum amount** of calories per day (***a minimum food basket***):
desnutrition

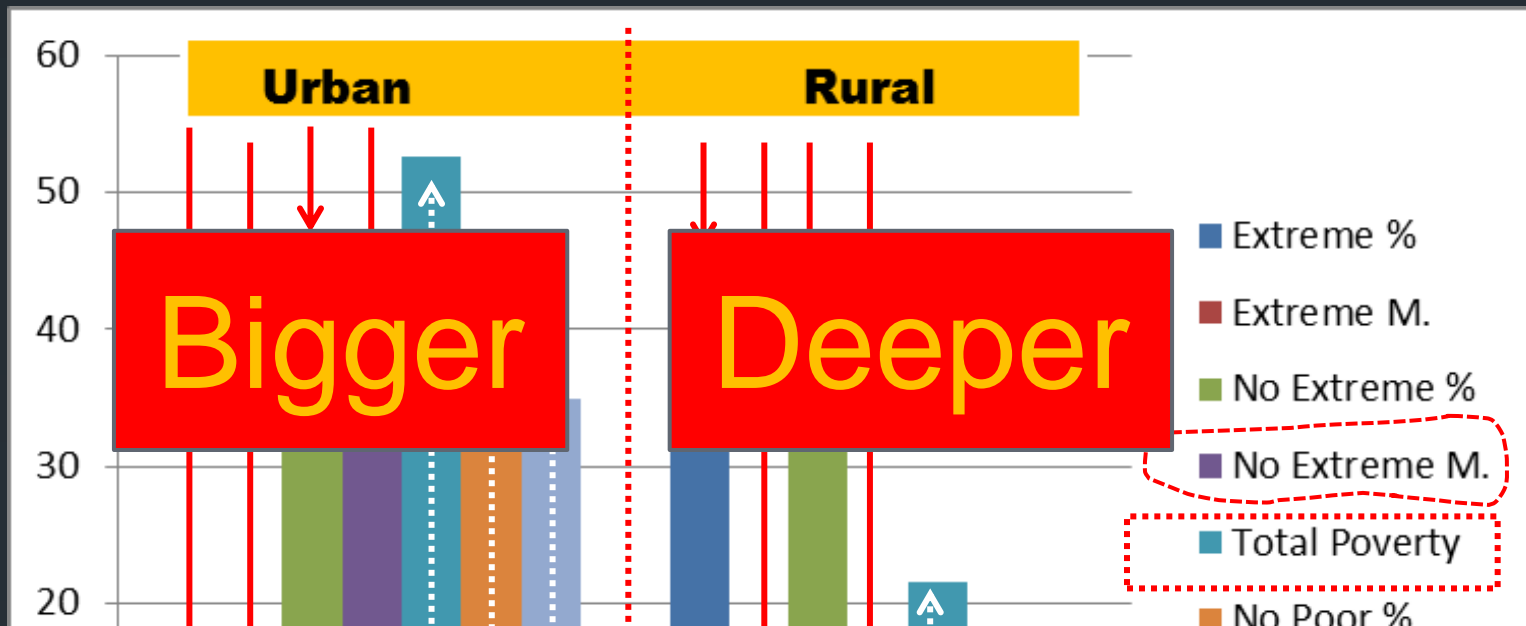
- **No-Extreme Poverty:**

- People who is able to get the minimum amount of calories per day (***a minimum food basket***).

- But:

Have no access at least to one of the following services: **a.** Education; **b.** Health; **c.** Social Programs; **d.** Clean water, Electricity, Sewer systems.

Poverty..



Mexico needs at least two basic types of public policies against poverty

Urban Rural	Population (Total)	Poor Population						No-Poor Population	
		Extreme		No-Extreme		Total		No-Poor (%)	No-Poor Abs. M.
		(%)	Abs. M.	(%)	Abs. M.	(%)	Abs. M.		
Urban	87.4	13.6	11.9	46.5	40.6	60.1	52.5	39.9	34.9
Rural	24.6	45.4	11.2	42.2	10.4	87.6	21.5	12.4	3.1
Total	112.0	59.0	23.1	88.7	51.0	147.7	74.1	33.8	37.9

Poverty & Social Exclusion...

- Poor = **no access** to development opportunities



Time is money

- If Time is Money...





Space is money?

- **How much is the transportation to:**
 - School?
 - Health unit?
 - Market?
 - Supermarket?
 - University?
- **Job?...**

Yes, space is money...

- If a person saves or spends an **additional** half an hour daily in transportation to his / her job...
- How much **\$save\$ / \$spend\$** per year?

Let's think about it...

- Imagine a person that **saves half an hour per trip** to his/her job:
- **(0.5 hour per trip)** X (2 trips per day: two ways) X (300 days per year) = **300 hours!!!**
- 300 x 10.0 dollars per hour = **\$3,000 !!!!!**
- 300 x 100.0 dollars per hour = **\$30,000 !!!!!**
- 300 x 300.0 dollars per hour (a doctor, a lawyer...) =
\$ 90,000 !!!!!

It is expensive defeating space...

■ Transport costs in terms of:

- Money
- Time
- Energy
- Risk
- Stress
- Etc...



Poor people pay more to beat space

- Transportation cost is **too high** in **urban & rural Mexico**.
- Poor people **pay more** because **they have no accessible** (available at an affordable cost) **opportunities of development** (i.e. health, education, food, JOBS)

Poverty & Social Exclusion & Space...

- **Why poor people do not live closer to the opportunities of development?**
- **Because: «Where they can live, there are no jobs and where they can work there are no affordable houses»**
- **So...**

The poor people's choice in Mexican big cities...

Living where there is **no jobs**

Or...

Working where there is **no housing.**

So...

- **Poor people** can be **even poorer** or **less poor** just because **the place** where they live

or

- Just because the **spatial location** of the **development opportunities**

The «Poverty Spatial Trap»



- When people **cannot defeat space** or when is **too expensive** beat it....
- They are in the **«Poverty Spatial Trap»**
- Let's see **some examples:**

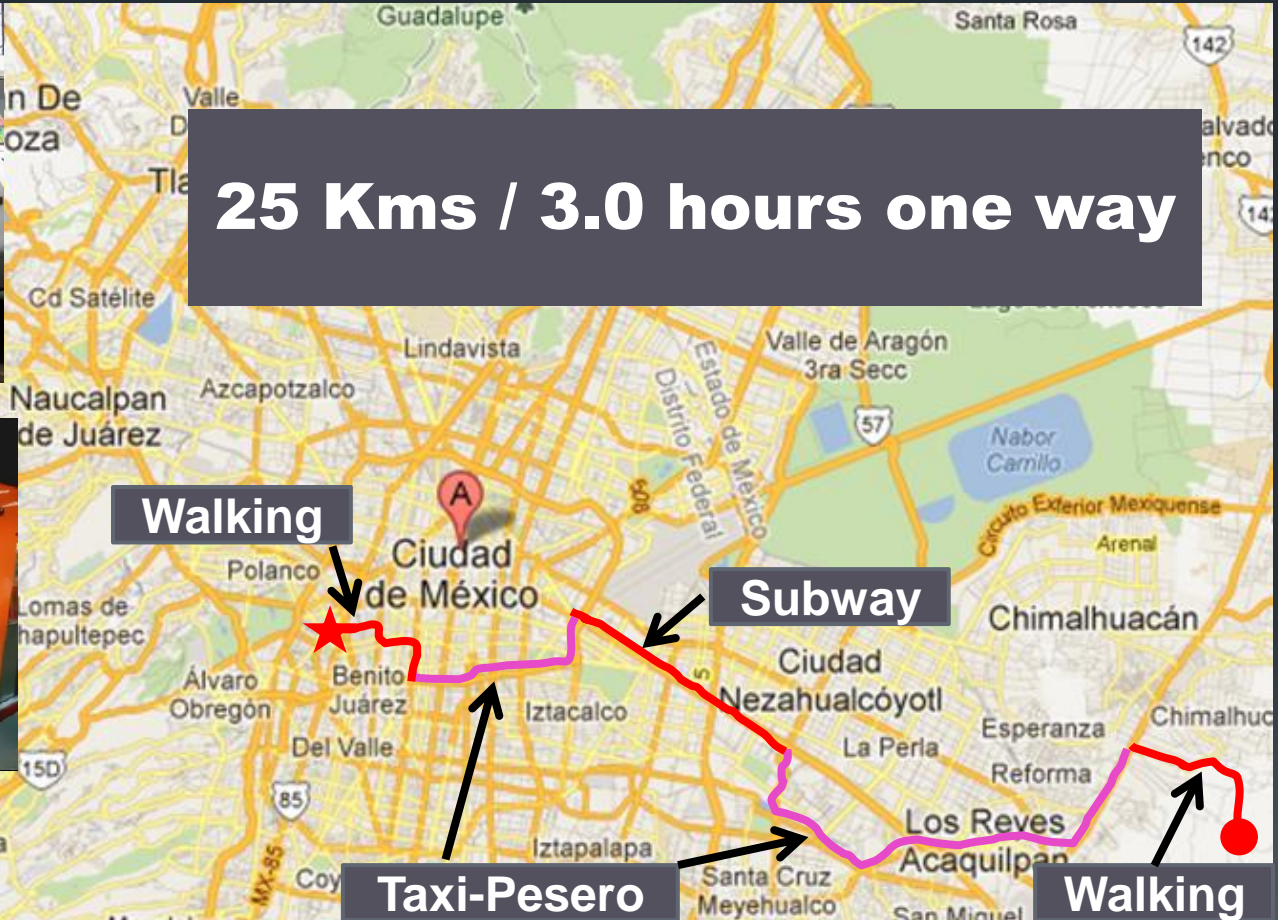
Amandas´ s Case

- Amanda (**32 years old**) is a **single mother** with **three children**.
- Lives in Chimalhuacán on **the periphery** of the **MZMC**.
- She **works** as a maid in a **nice neighborhood**.
- Her **salary** is **quite good**: around **21.0 CA dollars** per day. The **minimum salary** is **4.3** CA dollars per day.

Amandas´ s Case

- However: her **job** is **very far away** from **home**.
- She says **the hard part of her work** is **arriving** to work, no the **work itself**.
- She **wonders how long she is resisting** the long work trips.
- **Let´ s see...**

Amanda's Case



The Story of Maria

- Maria is **2 years old**, have **six siblings** and his family is **very poor**.
- She lives in a **very poor small rural settlement** (San Simon), located **90 km.** from Toluca (the capital city of the state).
- San Simón is isolated, **has no** clean water... neither sanitary facilities.
- Maria has **two or three diarrhea episodes per month (fever included)**, but this time her situation looks **serious**.

The Story of Maria



- There is **a rural health unit 6.0 km.** from Maria's home but her mother (analphabetic) does not trust on the **young medicine student** in charge. Besides, **usually** he has not enough medicines.
- Maria's mother **needs money** to take Maria to the hospital in Toluca (which **she thinks is very good**), so she **delays** the trip until raising enough funds (i.e. **family loans**). The situation of Maria is more serious as time goes by...
- Medical services at Toluca Hospital are **free**: so, the money she needs is for paying **transportation** mainly.

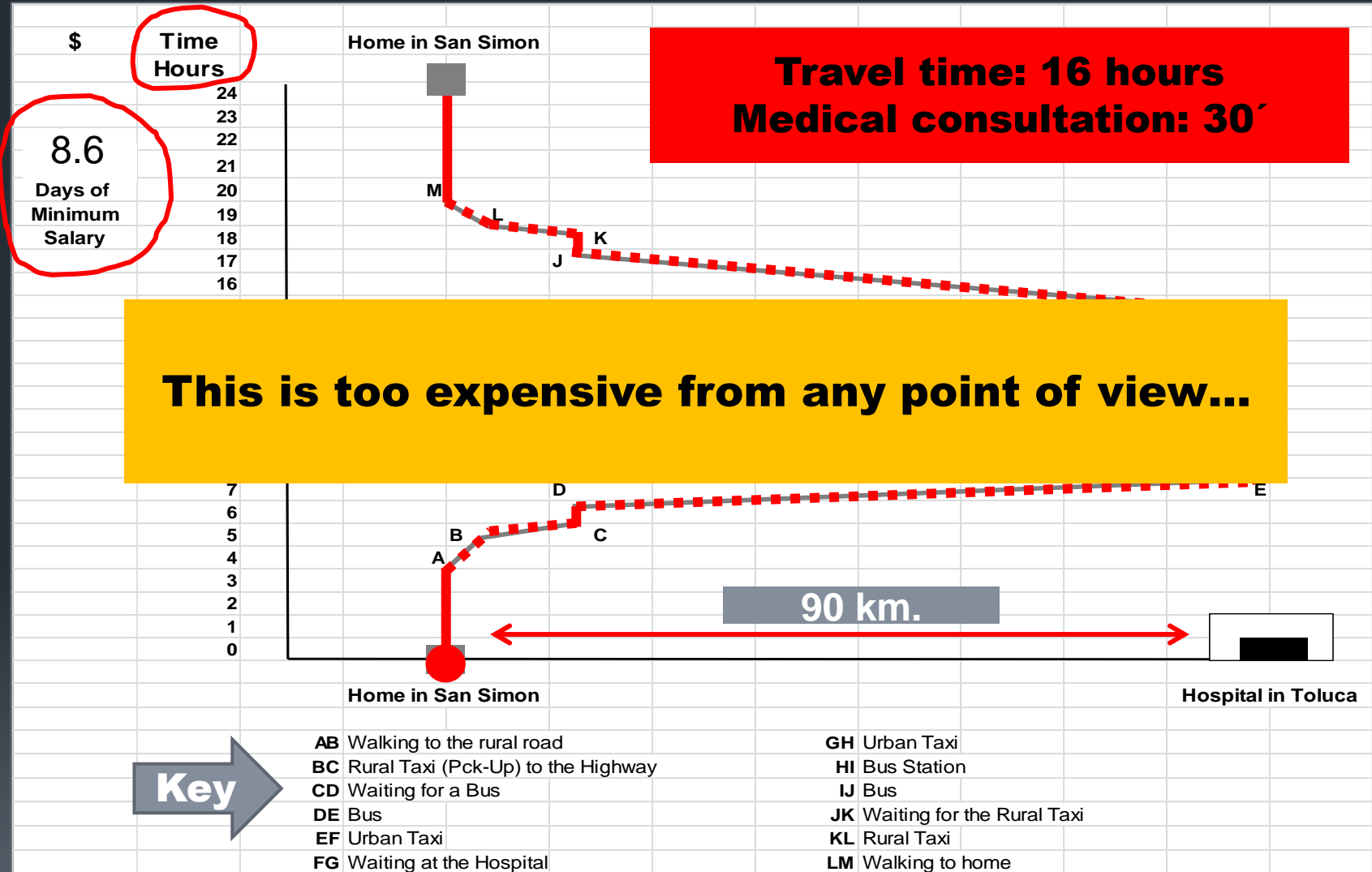
The Story of Maria

- Maria's health is **deteriorating quickly**.
- Maria's mother ask her mother in law to **accompany her to help with Maria** (this **increases travel cost**: transportation, food, groceries...).
- The trip begins at **4 in the morning** (no sunlight, San Simon is cold) and **ends around 8 by night**.
- **Remember:** Maria is sick (diarrhea, fever, crying...)

The Story of Maria

- They have to arrive **as early as possible to get a «ficha» (a ticket)** for a consultation.
- **If** the «fichas» **finish before they arrive** to the hospital they will have **to pass the night** in the hospital shelter (**this means more money and more time**).
- **Let´s see what happened with Maria during her trip to hospital...**

The Story of Maria



Final Comments

- **Poverty & inequality** are **huge** in Mexico
- **Bigger** in **urban areas**
- **Deeper** in **rural settlements**
- **Poverty** has a **key spatial component**
- Poor people **spends more to beat space**
- They **live where there are no jobs, they work where there is not housing** (affordable)
- When poor people **cannot beat space** or beat it is **too expensive**, they are in the «**Spatial Poverty Trap**»
- Poor people **can be more or less poor just because location & spatial planning.**

MERCY!