**Class, Caste, and Production of City Space in India**

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**Abstract**

In this paper, we show how space is produced through social cleavages like class and caste by

focusing on the Indian context. Existing publicly available sources of secondary data impose

severe limitations on any attempt to meaningfully incorporate space into analyses of Indian

cities. We therefore rely on a spatially representative sample survey that we designed and

administered in the cities of Hyderabad and Mumbai. This survey overcomes some of the

limitations of existing publicly available data on Indian cities. We develop a class-analytic

framework that groups inhabitants of cities into different classes and that incorporates some

prominent features of cities in the developing world, most notably, informality. We also

document different notions of city space based upon residence, work, and commuting. We

conduct an inequality decomposition analysis to show that class,caste, and space explain a substantial proportion of income inequality. While urban inequalitiesare stark and rising, we show that spatial co-existence of various groups (e.g. castes, classes,formal and informal production) is also pronounced. We believe that this is an interesting insightand call this co-existence “Grayness”. Using an index that we developed, we show that Graynessis much greater for Indian cities as compared to American cities. Rather than being just a facet ofcities, we show that Grayness has positive implications for development. We provide someexplanations for our findings on Grayness, and also argue that neoliberalism is eroding it.

**Preliminary. Please do not cite. Comments are welcome.**