

**CHINA'S RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION (II):
PERI-URBANISATION AND THE
RURAL LEFT-BEHINDS**

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Executive Summary

1. China's rapid urbanisation in the last decades has created problems of peri-urbanisation and rural left-behinds as a result of the massive flow of rural labour from rural to urban regions.
2. Of China's nearly 700 million urban residents, about 230 million hold "peri-urbanisation" status, that is, they live and work in urban regions but do not enjoy the same welfare privileges as the local urban residents.
3. Meanwhile, the outflow of typically strong male workers from rural areas has caused a disequilibrium in sex ratios, and an overconcentration of the elderly and young in the countryside.
4. Compared with the urban areas, there is an overall lack of economic opportunities and inadequate provision of public goods in the rural areas, especially that of education and elderly care.
5. Rural development is also hindered by a lack of infrastructure for agricultural productivity as individual peasant household typically has limited resources to cope with risks such as natural disasters.
6. The issue of rural left-behinds calls for heightened effort in rural construction, especially agricultural development and social welfare for the peasants.
7. A survey indicates that rural residents prefer to stay in rural regions if there is sufficient provision of public goods like health care, education and old age care.
8. The government could thus look at improving infrastructure and public good provision in the rural regions instead of concentrating resources in the cities.