

Literature Review of Urban People's Living Standard through Historical Dynasties in Vietnam: Bibliometrics Method and Lessons from History

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ABSTRACT: This research explores the evolution of urban living standards in Vietnam across historical dynasties, employing a bibliometric method to analyze existing scholarly literature. The study spans from the ancient periods, influenced by Chinese culture and governance, through medieval dynasties like the Đinh, Lê, and Lý, to the colonial era under French Indochina and modern developments post-1954. Key aspects such as housing, infrastructure, economy, health, and education are examined to discern patterns and influences on urban life. Lessons drawn from history inform contemporary urban planning, highlighting the importance of governance, economic diversification, and cultural integration in shaping sustainable urban environments.

KEYWORDS: Urban living standards, Vietnam, historical dynasties, bibliometrics, housing, infrastructure, economy, health, education, governance.

1. INTRODUCTION

Urban living standards are the quality of life experienced by urban residents, encompassing factors such as housing conditions, access to basic services (e.g., water, sanitation), education, healthcare, and overall socio-economic well-being within an urban context. Historical dynasties in Vietnam are successive ruling families or periods of centralized governance in Vietnam's history, each characterized by distinct socio-political structures, economic policies, and cultural developments influencing urbanization and living standards. Lessons from historical insights derived from historical events, policies, and practices that inform contemporary understanding and decision-making in areas such as urban planning, socio-economic development, and governance strategies. Socio-economic development refers to the process of improving the economic, social, and cultural well-being of individuals and communities, often measured by indicators such as income levels, employment rates, educational attainment, and access to essential services, which can vary significantly across historical periods and dynasties in Vietnam.

These definitions provide foundational concepts for exploring how urban living standards evolved across different historical dynasties in Vietnam, utilizing bibliometrics to analyze scholarly literature and derive lessons from historical trends for contemporary socio-economic development. The urban living standards in Vietnam have undergone significant transformations throughout various historical dynasties. These changes have been influenced by a multitude of factors, including governance, economic policies, cultural developments, and external influences. Understanding the evolution of urban living conditions provides valuable insights into the socio-economic and cultural dynamics that have shaped contemporary Vietnamese society. This literature review aims to systematically examine the existing body of knowledge on urban living standards in Vietnam through historical dynasties, employing a bibliometric approach to identify key trends and lessons from history. The study covers several major periods in Vietnamese history, including the ancient period (Hồng Bàng Dynasty to Chinese Domination), the medieval period (Đinh, Lê, and Lý Dynasties), Trần Dynasty, Lê Dynasty, Nguyễn Dynasty, the colonial period under French Indochina, and the post-colonial and modern period. Each period is characterized by distinct socio-economic and cultural contexts that have influenced urban living standards in unique ways. By synthesizing findings from various scholarly sources, this review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how urban living standards have evolved in Vietnam. The analysis focuses on key aspects such as housing, infrastructure, economy, health, and education, highlighting the factors that have contributed to improvements or declines in living conditions. Through this historical lens, the study seeks to draw lessons that can inform contemporary urban planning and policy-making, ensuring sustainable and equitable development for future generations.

2. METHODOLOGY: BIBLIOMETRICS METHOD

Bibliometrics is a quantitative research method used to analyze patterns in scholarly literature, including publication trends, citation networks, and thematic content, to understand the development of knowledge within a specific field or topic area. Bibliometrics involves the statistical analysis of written publications, such as books and articles. This method identifies patterns, trends, and quantitative insights from large volumes of academic literature. For this review, a comprehensive search of databases like Google

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Scholar, JSTOR, and specific Vietnamese academic repositories was conducted using keywords related to Vietnamese urban history, living standards, and historical dynasties.

Table 1: The urban living standards in dynasty

Period/Dynasty	Key Features	Urban Living Standards	Influencing Factors	References
Ancient Period (Hồng Bàng Dynasty to Chinese Domination)	Early urban settlements influenced by Chinese culture	Basic infrastructure, rudimentary living standards	Chinese administrative and cultural influence	Vuong (2016), Taylor (1983)
Medieval Period (Đinh, Lê, and Lý Dynasties)	Development of Thăng Long (Hanoi)	Improved infrastructure, agriculture, and trade	Strong governance, economic growth	Kiernan (2017), Whitmore (1984)
Trần Dynasty (1225-1400)	Urban expansion, cultural flourishing	Improved living conditions, impact of military conflicts	Mongol invasions, cultural advancements	Hall (1981), Marr (1971)
Lê Dynasty (1428-1789)	Economic prosperity, urban crafts, and trade hubs	Higher living standards due to specialized crafts and trade	Effective governance, economic diversification	Lieberman (2003), Woodside (1971)
Nguyễn Dynasty (1802-1945)	Modernization efforts, centralization	Enhanced infrastructure, colonial impact	Western influence, infrastructure development	Osborne (2004), Marr (1981)
Colonial Period (French Indochina, 1887-1954)	Transformation in urban infrastructure	Improved public health and education, social inequalities	Colonial policies, exploitation	Brocheux & Hémary (2009), Jennings (2011)
Post-Colonial and Modern Period (1954-present)	Rapid urbanization, Đổi Mới economic reforms	Significant improvements, issues of urban poverty and housing	Economic reforms, globalization	Gainsborough (2010), Koh (2006)

Source: Author collected

3. RESULTS

We have four keywords as follows with the bibliometrics method. **Publication Trends:** There has been a notable increase in publications related to Vietnamese urban history and living standards since the 1980s, reflecting growing academic interest. **Thematic Focus:** Major themes include urban planning, economic policies, colonial impact, and socio-cultural changes. **Geographical Focus:** Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City are the most studied urban centers, with less focus on other regions. **Methodological Approaches:** Predominantly historical analysis, with recent works incorporating quantitative methods and socio-economic modeling.

From the table and analysis, we give the lessons from history. **First, policy and governance:** Effective governance and policy reforms, as seen during the Lê and Nguyễn dynasties, are crucial for urban development. Modern policies should focus on inclusive growth, addressing urban poverty, and ensuring equitable access to resources. **Second, economic diversification:** historical periods of economic prosperity were often linked to diversified urban economies, contemporary urban planning should encourage diversification to enhance resilience. **Third, infrastructure development:** investment in infrastructure, from ancient water systems to modern transportation networks, has consistently improved living standards and sustainable and smart infrastructure is key for future urban development. **Fourth, cultural integration:** cultural and educational advancements have historically contributed to higher living standards, and promoting cultural heritage and education can drive urban innovation and community well-being.

4. CONCLUSION

This detailed research outlines the evolution of urban living standards in Vietnam from ancient periods through various dynasties to modern times. Each period reflects how governance, economic policies, external influences, and socio-cultural changes have shaped urban living conditions. The references provided offer a solid foundation for further exploration and understanding of Vietnam's urban history.

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