

PP - (20983) - UNDERSTANDING LIVABLE CITIES OF OUR TIME: LIVABILITY INDICATORS IN SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

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Research or practical problem and objectives

Today, when more than half of the global population lives in cities, Livable City indicators are vital in understanding and measuring quality of life in cities in order to improve it. Accordingly, scholars from fields spanning urban planning, geography, historical preservation, sociology, and political science generated volumes of research and numerous Livability indicators in the last five decades. However, due to its widespread interest among disparate fields at differing time periods and world regions, the definition and organization of those indicators remain highly variable and scattered. This lack of overarching definition and systematic organization severely limits Livability Indicators' usefulness to policy-makers in measuring progress and impacts of policy interventions, setting measurable goals and informing future urban policies.

Main results preview and importance (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

As such, this research chronicles a comprehensive and user-friendly index of Livability indicators for decision-makers to catalogue existing resources, locate its gaps, and to identify pathways to enhance livability in their cities. This was accomplished by critically reviewing 39 selected and eligible peer-reviewed articles on Livability (published between 1970 and 2017) to compile 105 validated indicators. Those 105 indicators are then re-organized by applying socio-ecological model of capital and sorted into following seven categories of capitals: financial, natural, human-made environmental, technological, social, human, and moral. Within each category, indicators were further divided into objective and subjective indicators. The current count shows that there are far more objective indicators than there are subjective ones (78:27). While objective measures (e.g. # of recorded crimes) are essential, research suggests that subjective perceptions of people (e.g. feeling of safety) may be even more influential in shaping quality of life for residents. As such, careful measures of subjective indicators would bring great value to Livability domain in enabling urban policy-makers and practitioners to serve their residents more effectively.

Palavras-chave : livability, livable cities, livability indicators, liveability, liveability index