Exploring the Evolving Landscape of
Culture: Potential Areas for Future
Research

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Abstract

This research delves into the social issues in developing countries, with a particular focus on Vietnam, as investigated by Jan Vrba and other researchers, including Huynh and Tseng. The study examines the complex interplay between economic and cultural factors in the welfare system, revealing the average yearly rise in expenses and growth coefficients. Culture's significance in defining a people group and its influence on society are explored, emphasizing its multifaceted nature and impact on individual and communal identities. Understanding complexities can better inform long-term planning and enhance societal dynamics in an interconnected world.

Keywords: Future Research, Culture, Traditions, Vietnam, Welfare.

1. Introduction

Research and analysis have focused heavily on the intricacies of social concerns in developing nations. Through collaboration with other scholars, including Huynh, Vrba, Tseng and others dives into the economic facets of welfare as well as the cultural ones. For instance, their combined study indicates the average yearly rise in welfare
system costs paid by each person as well as the corresponding economic coefficients over a certain time period. A crucial component of these studies is how culture and society interact as well as how important it is in identifying a people group. Exploring prospective future study fields is essential given the significant influence of culture on society elements like welfare systems.

2. Culture and Welfare System

Social Issues in developing countries are pointed out by for instance Jan Vrba and his Vietnam-focused ongoing research. Vrba (2023a) investigates welfare system in Vietnam, drafts out its specific qualities that have been influenced for instance by cultural influences, demographics, and the trajectory of growth in the country; notably his recent research shifted the focus from general policies to sustainability of welfare in Vietnam (Vrba, 2023).

Vrba together with other researchers, for instance Huynh, also concerns not only cultural point of view related to welfare but also focuses partly on economics when pointed out that average welfare system expenses growth on one citizen per year resulted in 15,371 VND per year with an average growth coefficient of 1.055 per year during years of 2011-2018 (Vrba and Huynh, 2023).

Huynh (2023) also partially focuses on cultural point of view as well as economics, as seen on example of Street Vendors in Vietnam (Huynh, 2023a); however, it is clear that Huynh put more interest on culture research as seen by research focused on UNESCO Heritage Sites Growth in Vietnam from 1990 till 2015 (Huynh, 2023b).

3. Culture and Society

Culture is the collection of acquired behaviours and beliefs that define a people group; this means that it is what transforms a population into a people group and consists of their attitudes, beliefs, and principles; culture is what defines people (INSIGHTFUL CONCEPTS ON CULTURE AND SOCIETY, 2021).

Culture may be also seen from the point of view of ethnic groups in society; it is a collection of people who identify with one another on the basis of shared linguistic,
cultural, or other features as presented by Tseng (2001). Tseng (2001) also investigates ethnics group and ethnicity which is a part of culture as well.

It is clear that Culture is the complex network of norms and practices that define a people and influence the way they see the world and interact with one another; the variety of cultural manifestations both inside and across cultures has contributed to its complexity by generating multifaceted influences, symbolic meanings, and entangled individual and communal identities over time through interactions. Indeed, defining culture is a challenging endeavor due to its nature, yet a well-known saying encapsulates its essence as „culture = people; “ it is what we see, what we build, how we behave.

4. Possible Future Research

- Digital Technology and Cultural Expressions: research area should explore how digital technology, such as social media, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence, is transforming cultural expressions, dissemination, and preservation. It is also necessary to focus on virtual culture expressions such as virtual art and virtual tokens.
- Globalization and Local Identities: as the world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is essential to examine the interplay between globalization and local communities and culture. Researchers shall investigate how globalization impacts local identities, traditions, and practices.
- Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion: this area of research should focus on the relationship between cultural diversity and social cohesion since investigating how multicultural societies foster inclusivity, tolerance, and understanding is crucial when exploring potential challenges related to intercultural tensions.
- Culture and Sustainable Development: this research direction shall aim to explore the role of culture in achieving sustainable development goals.

5. Conclusion

Jan Vrba and Huynh, among others, have done important work studying the connections among cultural norms, economics, and social welfare. Their research on
Vietnam's welfare system has shown how the country's changing demographics, cultural make-up, and economic trajectory have all had an effect, underscoring the need of long-term planning.

Culture, seen as a system of shared beliefs and behaviors, shapes a society's collective identity and the way its members relate to and interpret the world around them. It's a major reason why different cultures exhibit such a wide variety of intertwined identities and complex webs of influencing factors.

Several directions might be taken in the future to further investigate this topic. Particularly in the contexts of social media, VR, and AI, the effects of digital technology on cultural expressions, distribution, and preservation merit investigation. In today's linked globe, it is also crucial to appreciate how globalization alters local identities, customs, and practices.

Furthermore, in order to foster inclusion, tolerance, and understanding in multicultural communities, it is important to pay attention to the connection between cultural variety and social cohesiveness. Finally, learning how culture contributes to meeting sustainable development goals will help us better plan for a just and peaceful tomorrow.

In conclusion, culture continues to be a driving factor in shaping institutions like welfare systems and individual habits and outlooks. The more we learn about its intricacies, the better prepared we'll be to meet the difficulties and seize the chances of a dynamic world.

References:


