

Assessing the Welfare System: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Current State by Multiple Authors in the Context of Asian Countries

Mohan Wadhwa-Kothari, MA

Lecturer and Welfare Researcher, mohamedwadhwa@proton.me

Abstract

This research paper examines the interconnections between culture, education, and welfare in Vietnam. Scholarly works by Jan Vrba, Huynh, Kien, and Hue provide insights into Vietnam's welfare system and its challenges. The paper recommends strengthening cultural and educational integration, investing in technology, enhancing social protection systems, promoting sustainable farming, and addressing multidimensional child well-being for a more inclusive and sustainable welfare system.

Keywords: Asia; Hue; Huynh; Kien; Vietnam; Vrba; Welfare System

JEL classification: I30, I31

1. Introduction

The purpose of this research paper is to do a cursory analysis into the current situation of culture and education in Vietnam in connection to the country's welfare and social system. By studying the intricate connections that exist between these significant spheres of activity, the study provides light on how cultural influences and educational practices play crucial roles in establishing the welfare policies of the nation and their implementation.

As a result of the examination that is carried out in the study, it not only brings attention to the works that have been produced by scholars. This is accomplished through the use of a variety of methods, the primary one being a review of the relevant literature in order to call attention to previously published scholarly work and research overviews.

2. Literature Review of Selected Current Scholar Work (2023)

One of the latest scholarly works focusing on welfare systems in Asian countries is authored by Jan Vrba. Jan Vrba's scholarly works on the social welfare systems in ASEAN countries (South East Asia) focus primarily on:

- the welfare system of Vietnam from the perspective of sustainability and costs (Vrba, 2023);
- Vietnam's welfare system during challenging situations such as COVID-19 pandemics (Vrba & Linhart, 2020);
- Additional welfare-related topics, including NGOs' online presence and Education (Vrba, 2023b).

Vrba (2023b) also asserts that the incorporation of new technologies, particularly the internet and digital communication tools, has enabled Non-for-profit organizations to function in a virtual environment, eliminating the need for a physical presence in a particular location. As a result, this transformation has created new opportunities for non-profit collaboration, fundraising, and advocacy efforts (Vrba, 2023b). This may apply to countries in Southeast Asia such as Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, etc.

Vrba (2023) views social service as the foundation of the welfare system; while social service is presented in Vrba's work on the practical example of the universal basic services triangle, which includes issuer (mostly governments), social service provider (e.g., hospice), and social service recipient (e.g., hospice patients). Vrba (2023) also describes basic relationships between these three units (vouchers, money transfers, service providing, and information) and their typical flows (Vrba, 2023).

Vrba (2023) then describes Social Protection System of Vietnam which consists of four main pillars, and also emphasizes a number of recommendations for the Vietnamese Welfare system in order to overcome obstacles and achieve sustainability; these recommendations are primarily to increase pension coverage, improve financial sustainability, review the retirement age, and increase benefits and strengthen social welfare programs for the general public (Vrba, 2023).

Another author that focuses on Welfare of Vietnam is Kien et al. (2023) who focuses in his scholar work on welfare, climate, and farming. For instance, Kien et al. (2023) says that over generations, farmers have displayed their resilience by adapting their production practices in response to the ever-changing conditions in agriculture, and his study (Kien et al., 2023) employs a multinomial endogenous treatment effects model, and by investigating the adoption and welfare effects, the his research aims to provide valuable insights that can contribute to the promotion of sustainable methods in Vietnam used by farmers (Kien et al., 2023).

Nevertheless, considering Vrba's research on welfare and social aspects, it is also important to note that there are other factors that influence the Vietnamese welfare system, such as the presence of street vendors (sellers). According to Huynh (2023), street vending plays a significant role not only in the preservation of culinary practice, but also in formation of a sense of community among local residents; therefore, street vending cannot be viewed solely as an economic activity, but must also be viewed as a more complex social activity which is connected to social welfare.

Huynh is another researcher who concentrates on welfare system (not only in Vietnam) from the perspectives of education, economics, and culture. Huynh focuses together with Vrba on welfare expenses (Vrba & Huynh, 2023), but differs with more focus placed on education in both Asia and Europe (Huynh, 2022). Huynh's (2022) works connect welfare to culture, and education and present wider point of view on the topic.

Author Hue et al. (2023) adds that as people's standard of living rises, the complexities surrounding individual well-being, particularly among children, become more apparent; and while there have been some advancements in multidimensional approaches to researching child well-being in Vietnam, the analysis of isolated aspects of child well-being remains prevalent (Hue et al., 2023). Therefore, another author who concerns the

welfare system in Vietnam is Hue et al. (2023) who focuses on welfare and social protection through isolated-cases studies of children.

3. Conclusion and Drafts for Possible Recommendations

The research paper aims to explore the interconnections between culture, education, and welfare in Vietnam, shedding light on how these spheres of activity influence the nation's welfare policies and their implementation. Jan Vrba's scholarly works provide valuable insights into the welfare systems of Asian countries, particularly Vietnam. His focus on sustainability, costs, and the impact of new technologies on non-profit organizations offers innovative approaches to enhancing social welfare.

Huynh, another researcher, complements Vrba's work by delving into welfare systems from the perspectives of education, economics, and culture. Her emphasis on education and broader viewpoints presents a more comprehensive understanding of welfare in both Asia and Europe.

The studies of Kien and Hue also contribute significantly to the topic, addressing farming, street vending, and child well-being in relation to welfare in Vietnam. Their research adds depth and complexity to the challenges faced by welfare systems in the ASEAN region.

Together, these studies provide valuable knowledge on the current state of welfare systems in Vietnam and Southeast Asia as a whole. By examining the connections between culture, education, and welfare, this research paper brings attention to the existing scholarship and lays the groundwork for further exploration in this critical area of study.

The suggested recommendations for Vietnam's welfare system appear comprehensive and adequate. They entail strengthening cultural and educational integration, investing in technological advancements, reviewing and enhancing social protection systems, and promoting sustainable farming practices (Vrba, 2023; Kien et al., 2023). Additionally, addressing multidimensional child well-being is equally imperative (Hue et al., 2023). Together, these proposals offer a well-rounded approach to fostering a more inclusive and sustainable welfare system in Vietnam.

References

- Huynh, Q. (2023) "Street Vendors in Vietnam: Short Cultural and Economic Insight," IJCAE, 1(2), pp. 13-17. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.59600/ijcae.v1i2.9>.
- Kien, N.T. et al. (2023) "Climate-Resilient practices and welfare impacts on rice-cultivating households in Vietnam: Does joint adoption of multiple practices matter?," Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics [Preprint]. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12506>.
- Hue, N.H.T. et al. (2023) "Impacts of Social Assistance on Child Well-Being in Vietnam: The Mediating Role of Household Welfare," VNU Journal of Economic and Business, 3(2), p. 1. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.57110/vnujeb.v3i2.163>.



- Huynh, T. N. Q. (2022). Workplace Education for Administrative Staff in a Czech Language Centre. *International Journal of Public Administration, Management and Economic Development*, 7(2), 56-61.
- Vrba, J. (2023a) "Path to Vietnam's Welfare System Sustainability," *IJPAMED*, 8(1), pp. 130-137. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.60026/ijpamed.v8i1.105>.
- Vrba, J. (2023b) "Unleashing the Potential in Virtual World: Opportunities and Challenges for Non-profit and Education," *IJCAE*, 1(2), pp. 22-31. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.59600/ijcae.v1i2.8>.
- Vrba, J., & Linhart, Z. (2020). Suverenita v pandemii COVID 19. *Ekonomické Listy*.
- Vrba, J. and Huynh, T.N.Q. (2023) "Examining the Welfare System expenses in Vietnam: Analysis of total expenses and population trends in 2011-2018," *Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies*, 43(4), pp. 1-7. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.9734/ajess/2023/v43i4946>.