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Social inclusion for sustainability: Insights from the study “Criteria for sustainable urban communities and cities in Vietnam”

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#### Abstract

Social inclusion has been identified as being integral to the achievement of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. It is essential for marginalised and vulnerable groups, who often suffer the most but have the least resources to cope with adversities, and whose issues affect the whole community. This is a matter of urgency for urban Vietnam, where huge social disparities have developed and persisted amidst rapid urbanisation and other underlying social, political and economic changes, which together have fuelled the current sustainability crisis there. To enable changes towards more social inclusion and sustainability, there is a need to understand people’s thoughts and behaviours on social inclusion. This article will critically examine responses to social-inclusion-related questions in a survey designed and conducted by this author and other researchers to gain insights from urban residents’ viewpoints on this important subject. The survey was part of the study “Criteria for sustainable urban communities and cities in Vietnam” in 2021. The article shows that participation is low for marginalised and vulnerable groups, while mainstream groups have better, but far from satisfactory, participation. There is a low level of social-inclusion awareness and actions. This calls for more efforts to make marginalised and vulnerable groups visible and their voices heard and considered.

Keywords: Social inclusion, sustainability, vulnerable groups, marginalised groups, Vietnam

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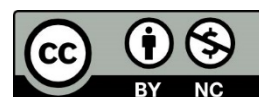
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