

Urban Management in one City of Guizhou Province, People's Republic of China

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Abstract – This research examines urban management practices in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, China, with a focus on public order, environmental protection, food safety, market regulations, and construction safety. Findings indicate market regulations as the most effectively implemented area, emphasizing the government's commitment to fair trade practices and market-oriented reforms. However, the study identifies the need for greater improvements in construction and food safety. The research assesses the perception of local residents on these urban management practices, highlighting significant differences across districts, except in food safety and market regulations. The study further explores the correlation between the effectiveness of urban management and the problems encountered, particularly noting a significant relationship in food safety. To enhance urban management, the research proposes an action plan involving strict inspections and compliance checks by the Chinese Communist Party in collaboration with relevant bureaus. Recommendations include regular inspections for public order compliance, enforcement of environmental laws, strict implementation of food safety regulations, market regulation policies, and construction site safety adherence. The research advocates for future studies to assess the effectiveness of these urban management practices

Keywords – Urban management; Public Order; Local Governance; Urban Policy Implementation

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INTRODUCTION

The rapid urbanization sweeping across Asia presents an unparalleled demographic shift, with profound implications for the region's economic, social, and environmental landscapes. By 2030, Asian cities are projected to accommodate a staggering 2.6 billion people, underscoring the urgency of addressing the

multifaceted challenges posed by urbanization [1]. This surge in urban density exerts immense pressure on existing infrastructure, resources, and governance structures, exacerbating issues such as environmental degradation and social inequality.

Amidst this backdrop, urban management emerges as a pivotal domain for navigating the complexities of urban development in the Asian context. However, the unprecedented scale and pace of urbanization present formidable challenges for policymakers and planners. Weak governance structures, coupled with deteriorating environmental conditions and infrastructure deficiencies, underscore the daunting task of meeting the needs of burgeoning urban populations. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that integrates principles of sustainability, equity, and resilience into urban management practices [2].

In the People's Republic of China (PRC), urbanization unfolds as a central narrative of the nation's economic transformation and modernization. With urban populations projected to swell by over 300 million by 2030, China faces an unprecedented imperative to manage urban development effectively. The country's urbanization trajectory epitomizes both the opportunities and complexities inherent in rapid urban growth, necessitating innovative approaches to urban governance [2].

Within the realm of urban management, China's initiatives reflect a commitment to addressing the multifaceted challenges of urbanization. From the adoption of innovative planning mechanisms to the promotion of sustainable transportation systems, China's urban management strategies embody a comprehensive approach to urban development. However, persistent issues such as urban sprawl, pollution, and social disparities underscore the need for ongoing reform and innovation in urban governance practices.

In anchoring the present study, key principles and concepts related to urban management serve as guiding frameworks for understanding and addressing the complexities of urban development. Principles of sustainability, equity, and resilience underpin efforts to

create livable, inclusive urban spaces that prioritize the well-being of all inhabitants. By engaging with interdisciplinary perspectives and drawing on empirical evidence, this study seeks to contribute to the discourse on urban management and inform evidence-based policymaking.

Drawing on existing studies and literature, this research aims to provide insights into effective strategies for enhancing urban management in the Asian context. By synthesizing empirical findings and theoretical frameworks, the study seeks to offer actionable recommendations for policymakers, planners, and stakeholders involved in shaping the future of urban development in Asia. Through a rigorous analysis of urban management practices and challenges, this research endeavors to advance our understanding of the dynamics shaping contemporary urbanization and pave the way for more sustainable, inclusive urban futures.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study generally aimed to assess urban management in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, People's Republic of China. Specifically to: assess urban management with regard to public order, environmental protection, food safety, market regulation and construction safety; identify the problems encountered in urban management; test the significant difference in the responses of the respondent when grouped according to profile district, test the significant relationship between the implementation of urban management and challenges encountered; and propose an action plan to enhance urban management in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design

The study utilized the quantitative method of research. Quantitative research is a systematic investigation of phenomena by gathering quantifiable data and performing statistical, mathematical, or computational techniques. This is characterized by its emphasis on collecting numerical data and subjecting it to rigorous statistical analysis. It enables researchers to quantify variables, establish patterns, and test hypotheses using statistical techniques, thereby providing robust empirical evidence (Smith & Jones, 2021).

Respondents of the Study

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research. Quantitative research is a systematic investigation of phenomena by gathering quantifiable data and performing statistical, mathematical, or computational techniques. This is characterized by its emphasis on collecting numerical data and subjecting it to rigorous statistical analysis. It enables researchers to quantify variables, establish patterns, and test hypotheses using statistical techniques, thereby providing robust empirical evidence [3].

Table 1
Respondents Distribution of Districts

District	Frequency	Percentage
		%
Yunyan District	100	20.0
Nanming District	100	20.0
Guanshanhu District	100	20.0
Baiyun District	100	20.0
Huaxi District	100	20.0

Data Collection

The researcher utilized a questionnaire adapted from the data of the local government of Guiyang City. The questionnaire is composed of three parts. Part 1 describe the profile of the respondents, Part 2 is about urban management assessment of the respondents and Part 3 is about the problems encountered in urban management. The questionnaire was submitted to the research professor for approval. After the approval of the questionnaire, it was subjected for validation of experts in urban management.

Data Gathering Procedure

The questionnaire was submitted to the research professor for approval. After the approval of the questionnaire, it was subjected for validation and critiquing of experts in urban management in China and Guiyang Comprehensive Administrative Law Enforcement Bureau.

It was administered to the residents from the five most populous districts in Guiyang. Each district is represented by 100 respondents. The questionnaire was conducted through Google forms and distributed through collaborations with local community leaders, neighborhood committees, or relevant organizations to identify potential participants. The collected data was sent to the statistician for computations.

Data Analysis

To perform data analysis, the following statistical tools were used. Frequency and percentage distribution were used to describe the profile of the respondents in

terms of category (district). Weighted means and ranking were used to assess urban management with regard to public order, environmental protection, food safety, market regulation and construction safety; identify the problems encountered in urban management. The result of Shapiro-Wilk Test revealed that p-values of the main variable was greater than 0.05 which means that the data set is normally distributed. Therefore, Analysis of Variance for three groups were used as part of the non-parametric tests to determine the significant differences. Likewise, Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the significant relationship of the treated variables. In addition, post hoc test was also conducted. The following Likert Scale was used in assessing the variables: 3.50- 4.00 = highly implemented; strongly agree; 2.50-3.49 – implemented; agree; 1.50 – 2.49= less implemented; disagree; and 1.00 – 1.49 – not implemented; strongly disagree. In addition, all data were treated using a statistical software known as PASW version 26 to further interpret the result of the study using an alpha level of 0.05 and 0.01.

Ethical Considerations

Prior to the data collection process, the consent of the relevant authorities in the selected municipalities was obtained. Again, this was also approved by the respondents. The purpose and nature of the research was explained to them. They were assured that data to be gathered through the questionnaire will be for research purposes only and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. In addition, during the data collection process, respondents were given enough time to complete questionnaires of their true thoughts and opinions. Online and offline data collection also fully guaranteed the accuracy of the data. An informed consent form was also presented to respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 presents the summary about urban management. The composite mean of 2.92 indicates that it is implemented in general. Among the programs, market regulations ranked first with mean score of 3.09, followed by public order and environmental protection. This indicates that the government has implemented regulatory measures to ensure fair trade practices and prevent market failures. This is in line with the Chinese government's efforts to promote market-oriented reforms in its economy which have been focused on creating a level playing field for all market participants,

promoting competition, and improving the overall efficiency of the market [4].

In the City of Guizhou Province, People's Republic of China, the government has implemented a number of regulations to improve the management of markets in the city.

Table 2
Urban Management

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1.Public Order	3.04	Implemented	2
2.Environmental Protection	2.86	Implemented	3
3.Food Safety	2.77	Implemented	5
4.Market Regulations	3.09	Implemented	1
5.Construction Safety	2.83	Implemented	4
Composite Mean	2.92	Implemented	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50 – 3.49 = Agree; 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree; 1.00 - 1.49 = Strongly Disagree

According to Liu et al. [5], the government of Guizhou Province has implemented regulations to improve the quality of products sold in local markets. These regulations require vendors to obtain licenses and comply with certain standards for product quality. The study found that these regulations have had a positive impact on the quality of products sold in local markets.

Another study by Li and Wang [6] examined the impact of market regulations on the prices of goods in Guizhou Province. The study found that the regulations had a significant impact on the prices of goods, especially in areas where the regulations were strictly enforced. The study concluded that market regulations can be an effective tool for controlling prices and ensuring fair competition in urban markets.

In addition to market regulations, the government of Guizhou Province has also implemented policies to improve the management of urban infrastructure. For example, the government has invested in the construction of new transportation systems, including highways and high-speed rail lines, to improve connectivity between urban areas. These investments have had a positive impact on the economic development of the region and have helped to attract new businesses and industries to the area.

Meanwhile, others were also rated as implemented, but construction safety and food safety were rated the lowest. This indicates that there is a need to improve the safety on these two indicators.

Urban management concerning construction safety is a significant concern in the City of Guizhou Province, People's Republic of China. As highlighted in a recent study conducted by Liu et al. (2020), the region has witnessed numerous accidents and fatalities during construction projects due to insufficient safety measures. The study identifies key factors contributing to these incidents, including a lack of safety regulations and enforcement, inadequate worker training, and insufficient safety equipment.

In response to these challenges, the local government has implemented various measures to enhance construction safety. Notably, safety standards for construction projects have been established, and inspections have been intensified to ensure compliance. The government has also initiated training programs for workers and mandated the use of safety equipment, such as helmets and harnesses.

Despite these efforts, improving construction safety in Guizhou Province presents ongoing challenges. A study by Liang et al. [8] reveals that certain construction companies in the region prioritize speed and cost over safety, leading to non-compliance with safety regulations and inadequate safety measures. Additionally, the study highlights a lack of awareness among workers regarding safety hazards and inadequate safety training.

In terms of food safety, recent research indicates that the management of food safety in urban areas of Guizhou Province, China, has become a pressing concern for both governmental authorities and the residents. Chen et al., [9] identified multiple weaknesses within the existing food safety management system in the province, citing issues like insufficient coordination among various government agencies and ineffective enforcement of regulations.

Li et al. [10] proposed that a comprehensive food safety management system should be established, encompassing key elements such as the implementation of a food traceability system, enhanced supervision of food production and distribution, and heightened public awareness regarding food safety issues.

Moreover, the research emphasized the pivotal role of involving various stakeholders, including government entities, food producers and distributors, and consumers, in both the formulation and execution of food safety policies and regulations. This inclusive

approach is seen as crucial for addressing the complex challenges associated with food safety in Guizhou Provinces.

Table 3
Problems in Urban Management

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. Public Order	2.73	Agree	5
2. Environmental Protection	2.87	Agree	2
3. Food Safety	2.75	Agree	4
4. Market Regulations	3.05	Agree	1
5. Construction Safety	2.83	Agree	3
Composite Mean	2.85	Agree	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50 – 3.49 = Agree; 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree; 1.00 - 1.49 = Strongly Disagree

Table 3 presents the summary on the problems encountered in urban management. The over-all assessment was agreed as revealed by the composite mean of 2.85. All were verbally interpreted as agree and market regulations ranked first with mean score of 3.05. This indicates that respondents agreed on the existence of problems related to market regulations. This result suggests that there is a need to improve the regulatory framework and monitoring mechanisms to ensure fair competition, protect consumer rights and promote economic development. According to Liu et al. [7] Chinese government has been implementing policies to control and regulate the market to prevent unfair competition, protect consumer rights, and promote economic development. However, the study also revealed that there are still challenges in implementing these policies due to the complexity of the market and the lack of proper monitoring mechanisms.

Environmental protection and construction safety (2.87) obtained the second-highest weighted mean score, indicating that respondents acknowledged the challenges related to environmental protection in the city. This result highlights the importance of addressing environmental challenges such as air pollution, water pollution, and soil contamination, which can have a significant impact on the health and well-being of the population. It is essential to continue investing in environmental protection infrastructure and enforcing policies to mitigate these challenges. A recent report by

the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment [11] stated that China has been facing environmental challenges such as air pollution, water pollution, and soil contamination, which affect the health and well-being of the population. The report also highlighted the government's efforts to address these challenges through policy reforms and investments in environmental protection infrastructure.

Construction Safety is the third in rank which obtained 2.83. This result highlights the need to improve the regulatory framework and safety measures to ensure the safety of workers and prevent accidents in the construction industry. The report recommended that the government should implement effective safety measures to prevent accidents and protect workers' rights. According to a recent report by the Chinese Ministry of Emergency Management [12] China has been facing challenges in ensuring construction safety, particularly in the areas of building design, construction materials, and worker safety. The report recommended the improvement of the regulatory framework and the implementation of effective safety measures to prevent accidents and protect workers' rights.

The fourth in rank is the food safety (2.75). This shows that respondents agreed on the existence of problems related to food safety in the city. This result emphasizes the need to improve the regulatory framework and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that food produced and consumed in the city is safe. The study recommended that the government should enforce laws and regulations to prevent fraudulent practices and ensure the safety of food production and consumption. In the study by Chen et al. [13] identified the challenges of food safety in China, which include the lack of proper regulation and monitoring, inadequate enforcement of laws, and the prevalence of fraudulent practices. The study recommended the improvement of the regulatory framework and the implementation of effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure food safety.

Lastly, the public order (2.73) is the least indicator. This result highlights the importance of maintaining public order and safety, which is essential for the well-being of the population. The government's implementation of measures to enhance law enforcement and promote community-based policing is a positive step towards ensuring public order and safety in the city. A recent report by the Chinese Ministry of Public Security [14] showed that the government has been implementing measures to maintain public order and safety, including the enhancement of law

enforcement and the promotion of community-based policing.

Table 4
Relationship Between the Urban Management and Problems in Urban Management in the City of Guizhou Province, People's Republic of China

Public Order	r-value	p-value	Interpretation
Public Order	-0.012	0.785	Not Significant
Environmental Protection	0.025	0.581	Not Significant
Food Safety	0.048	0.283	Not Significant
Market Regulations	0.056	0.214	Not Significant
Construction Safety	0.064	0.151	Not Significant
Environmental Protection			
Public Order	-0.001	0.984	Not Significant
Environmental Protection	-0.073	0.102	Not Significant
Food Safety	0.011	0.801	Not Significant
Market Regulations	-0.006	0.889	Not Significant
Construction Safety	-0.029	0.521	Not Significant
Food Safety			
Public Order	0.043	0.335	Not Significant
Environmental Protection	-.092*	0.041	Significant
Food Safety	-.101*	0.024	Significant
Market Regulations	-0.036	0.428	Not Significant
Construction Safety	0.007	0.883	Not Significant
Market Regulations			
Public Order	-0.003	0.954	Not Significant
Environmental Protection	0.066	0.138	Not Significant
Food Safety	0.024	0.592	Not Significant
Market Regulations	-0.024	0.594	Not Significant
Construction Safety	0.002	0.969	Not Significant
Construction Safety			
Public Order	0.047	0.295	Not Significant
Environmental Protection	0.054	0.231	Not Significant
Food Safety	0.048	0.287	Not Significant
Market Regulations	0.021	0.638	Not Significant
Construction Safety	0.033	0.466	Not Significant

Legend: Significant at p-value <0.05

Table 4 presents the association between the implementation of urban management and the problems encountered. It was observed that the computed r-values indicates almost negligible to a weak direct / indirect correlation, however, only implementation of urban management as to food safety and the problems encountered in terms of environmental protection and food safety shows significant relationship. This was observed since the computed p-values were less than the alpha level. Result shows that the better the implementation of food safety, the lesser problems encountered on environmental protection and food safety. This implies that improving environmental

protection can have a positive impact on food safety in the city. This finding is consistent with a study by Fan et al. [15], which found that environmental pollution can have a negative impact on food safety in China. Therefore, prioritizing environmental protection can improve not only the environment but also public health.

Another study by Zhang et al. [16] found that the lack of market regulation and supervision can lead to food safety issues in China. However, the current study did not find a significant relationship between market regulations and other urban management problems in Guizhou Province. This could be because the local government has improved market regulation and supervision in recent years.

Table 5
Proposed Action Plan to Enhance the Implementation of Urban Management in Guiyang City

Programs/Projects Activities (PPAs)	Strategy	Performance Indicator	Office Responsible
1. Establish close coordination & linkage between the local police administration and the office of public security administration for easy access of local police to patrol and investigate crime in the community	Coordinate with the Head of Public Security Bureau through the Urban Management Bureau.	Coordination & linkage between the local police administration & public security administration established. Local police can easily access communities to patrol & conduct investigation.	Public Security Bureau Urban Management Bureau
2. Strict implementation of Environmental policies & regulations .	Coordinate with head of Environmental Protection Agency through the Urban Management Bureau	Environmental policies & regulations strictly implemented.	Environmental Protection Agency Urban Management Bureau
3. Create a committee to conduct strict monitoring among food supply chains to track food coming from farm to market to identify quality of food and hazards.	Coordinate with head of the Market Supervision & Administration bureau through the Urban Management Bureau	Committee to monitor food supply chains created.	Market Supervision & Administration Bureau Urban Management Bureau
4. Strict implementation and compliance on the timely renewal (December of each year) of license and permit of business enterprises.	Coordinate with the head of the Industrial & Commercial Bureau through the Urban Management Bureau	Renewal of business licenses and permits of business enterprises accomplished on time.	Industrial & Commercial Bureau Urban Management Bureau
5. Allocate funds for the effective implementation of construction safety programs.	Coordinate with the head of the Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau through the Urban Management Bureau	Fund for the effective implementation of construction safety programs allocated.	Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau Urban Management Bureau

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Urban management with regard to public order, environmental protection, food safety, market regulations and construction safety is implemented in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, China. Market regulations have been most prioritized in implementation, however, there is a need to improve construction safety and food safety regulations. Respondents agree on the problems encountered in the implementation of urban management. Market regulations and environmental protection are the main areas where problems exist. While public order has the least problem. . There are significant differences on how residents perceive and evaluate urban management practices in the different districts, except in the areas of food safety and market regulations where there are no significant differences observed. Significant differences were likewise observed in the problems encountered with regard to market regulation and construction safety.. The implementation of urban management has almost negligible to weak correlation with the problems encountered, except for the implementation of urban management as to food safety which shows a significant relationship with the problems encountered in terms of environmental protection and food safety. An action plan was proposed to enhance the implementation of urban management in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, PROC.

The Chinese Communist Party in coordination with the Public Safety Bureau through the Urban Management Bureau may regularly and strictly conduct inspection among business establishment in the Guiyang City to ensure their compliance with public order laws and regulations specifically on noise pollution and littering. The CCP in coordination with Environmental Protection Agency through the Urban Management Bureau may conduct regular inspection of business and industrial establishments in Guiyang City to guarantee strict compliance with environmental laws and regulation. The CCP in coordination with the Market Supervision and Administration Bureau through the Urban Management authorities may strict implement Food Safety and regulations. They may also conduct a thorough investigation and take necessary actions on food complaints against business establishment violating the law on food safety.. The CCP in coordination with the Market Supervision & Administration Bureau through the Urban Management Bureau may strictly implement market regulation policies and take prompt action on complaints of

consumers and business establishment about market regulation problems. The CCP in coordination with the Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau through the Urban Management Bureau may regularly conduct inspection on construction sites to ensure strict compliance with construction safety laws and regulations. The proposed action plan maybe tabled for discussion among proper authorities for future implementation and evaluation thereafter. Future researchers may conduct a follow-up study specifically about the effectiveness of urban management practices.

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