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Institutions and Economies
Volume 10, Issue 4, 14 September 2018, Pages 69-89

Ranking the challenges of the urban community in Malaysia (Article)

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Abstract

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The urban community in Malaysia is facing rapid urbanisation and have been the beneficiary of urban development policies. The key purpose of these policies has been to enhance and improve the well-being of the urban community. However, given the diverse nature of urban planning, literature has highlighted the possibility of a mismatch between policy directions and the outcomes desired by society. The aim of this study is therefore, to determine whether urban policy measures currently implemented in Malaysia are in sync with the needs of society. This study applied the relative importance index (RII) method to understand the challenges faced by urban residents in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Malacca and Penang. The results revealed five challenges which are of concern to the urban community: prevalence of crime, rising cost of living, lack of employment opportunities, air pollution and traffic congestion. The findings indicate Government policies are addressing these concerns. However, for a more effective outcome, the study recommends designing urban policies in consultation with civil society. © 2018, Faculty of Economics and Administration. All rights reserved.

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Prominence percentile: 99.502

Author keywords

Malaysia | Quality of urban life | Relative importance index | Standard of living | Urban planning

ISSN: 22321640
Source Type: Journal
Original language: English

Document Type: Article
Publisher: Faculty of Economics and Administration

References (52)

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