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[Chich-Ping Hu](#) *

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Article

Quantifying Quality of Life in a Community Context and Policy Implication—An Application of MIMIC Model

Chieh-Ping Hu

Department of Urban Planning and Disaster Management, Ming Chuan University, TaoYuan City, Taiwan;
chphu@mail.mcu.edu.tw

Abstract: This article obtains data through questionnaire survey, and then uses the Multiple Indicators Multiple Causes (MIMIC) Model to establish the Taoyuan City's quality of life quantifying framework in a city-level community context. Statistical test results show that the reliability of overall model is high and is suitable for policy analysis. There are thirteen variables in the structural model that significantly affect the quality of life as well as eleven indicators in the measurement model that can significantly measure the quality of life. Then, half of the observations are substituted back to calculate the quality of life. Via ArcGis operation, it finds that the quality of life of Longtan District is the best as well as Dayuan District is the worst one. LISA cluster of quality of life illustrates hot spots areas are distributed in Longtan, Daxi, and Pingzhen Districts.

Keywords: quality of life; community context; policy implication; MIMIC model; ArcGis

1. Introduction

In addition to the workplace, the community in the city is the center of personal life. The most important thing for individuals in the community is the quality of life. The quality of life will not only affect the willingness of individuals to live, but also affect the value of the community. The quality of life is an individual's subjective evaluation of the community. The evaluation targets include various services provided by the community, such as: garbage disposal and removal, childcare, elderly care, convenient transportation, fire prevention, air quality improvement, and environmental maintenance. Personal subjective feelings will be affected by objective factors of individuals and communities [1–16].

No contents of quality of life can be defined from a single item. This article uses the MIMIC (Multiple Indicator Multiple Causes Model) model to establish a quality of life evaluation model. This model includes a latent variable that is the quality of life whose level is affected by objective factors, and the quality of life can be measured by personal subjective evaluation [17–19]. Taoyuan City in Taiwan is selected as the research scope of this article, and the data have been obtained through questionnaire surveys on the internet and social media. Quality of life in the MIMIC model is considered as the latent variable $Q^* = f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u})$, a function of the observable causal variable vector \mathbf{x} , where \mathbf{u} is the random error vector. The quality of life Q^* can be measured by the observable variable y and represented as $y = g(Q^*, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{v})$, where \mathbf{v} is the random error vector.

The first economist to introduce hedonic pricing of methodology to measure quality of life in cities is Rosen [20]. Rosen (1974) [20] compared quality of life US cities with data on wages. Previous researches on quality of life can be divided into two developments, one is measurement and the other is determinants.

This article refers to the structural equations of [21–23] to construct structure equation model for the measurement and investigation of the determinants of quality of life for Taoyuan City, Taiwan. The questionnaire survey is designed to ask respondents: (1) the objective attributes of housing, community, and neighborhood, (2) the subjective satisfaction on housing, community, and neighborhood, (3) individual attributes. The information obtained from the questionnaire survey are used as research variables to estimate the coefficients of the variables in the MIMIC model. The

individual evaluation on quality of life is forecasted based on the results, which is aggregated to district quality of life as the ranking outcome. Finally, local indicator of spatial autocorrelation and spatial lag regression model are applied to investigate the spatial autocorrelation and spatial effects of quality of life.

The remainder of this article is organized as follows. “Measurement on quality of life and related literature” section highlights recent trends in measurement on quality of life and a brief overview of theories and empirical research on quality of life. The “Current quality of life” section provides current situation on quality of life in Taoyuan City, Taiwan. Data of this article is discussed in “Sampling design” and “Questionnaire design” sections, and an outline of the methodology applied, and the empirical models estimated are provided in “Methodological Approach” section. Results are illustrated in “Results” section. Finally, concluding remarks are provided in “Conclusion” section.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Relative Research

Marans and Kweon [24] used Detroit Area Study 2001 (DAS2001) to collect structured questionnaire survey data in Detroit, USA, and used the US census and secondary data to transform the respondents' community and real environment information. The quality of urban life is reflected in three levels: (1) personal home, (2) the neighborhood where the home is located, and (3) the city to which the neighborhood belongs. The approach of Marans and Kweon's research is to regard the quality of urban life as a potential variable, and take the satisfaction degree of personal residence, neighborhood community, and urban variables as predictive variables to establish a structural equation model of quality of life. MacCrea et al. [25] proposed a structural model of quality of life integrating subjective and objective aspects. The quality of life in the model is a potential subjective variable, which can be measured by the subjective satisfaction of communities, cities, and regions. Quality of life is affected by the underlying subjective perception of accessibility and crowding. The influencing variable of the potential subjective perception of accessibility is the objective accessibility index, the influencing variables of the potential subjective perception of congestion are the objective density and the housing cost. The six subjective and objective latent variables can be measured by the observable variables of schools, markets, sports grounds, hospitals, spatial distance, pollution, and crowding. Quality of life is an unobservable latent variable that belongs to the social science study. Social science research typically validates social discourses by quantifying probability estimates. The simplest way is to obtain quantitative data through survey or census. The researchers then used these data to analyze the birth rate, the proportion of households with pianos, income, and the proportion of schoolchildren who possessed marijuana, etc., and applied statistical test to examine the research hypotheses. In contrast, researchers must analyze the tendency of potential variables such as individual will and attitudes through the causal and effect framework, including the analysis of aggressiveness, deprivation, alienation, quality of life, sense of community, corporate reputation, morality, and happiness meanings that cannot be estimated directly. Latent variables must be evaluated in terms of potential linkages to other observed observable variables [26–32]. Mulligan et al. [33] believe that the quality of life is an individual's sense of satisfaction with the surrounding physical environment and human conditions, including geographical places of different scales and subjective feelings of different residents and manufacturers. Social science mostly starts with the measurement and evaluation of quality of life, analyzing the impact of quality of life on residents' behavior [34–37]. Quality of life is important not only because it affects the behavior of residents, but also because it represents the satisfaction and happiness of residents, ie improved well-being. Quality of life at the metropolitan level has research and policy implications: (1) is the basis for public action needs [38,39], (2) directly affects the urban livability, providing policy decision makers political performance evaluation [40], (3) induces individual residential choice [41–43], (4) implies regional migration, district economic growth, and sustainability [44]. Residents migrate across cities because of differences in the quality of life among them [45–48]. The difference in employment opportunities in space is mostly due to gaps in quality of life [49–51] and differences in competitiveness among

cities [52]. Similarly, population migration within a city is due to the fact that neighboring communities have different quality of life levels [45,46]. In order to understand the quality of life in different regions, indicators must be used to represent the level of well-being of the region, and even the temporal change trend of the level of well-being must be monitored to provide policy recommendations for public intervention. Once well-being changes, it must be analyzed why it improved or worsened. The analysis must include an assessment of the feasibility of public interventions that seek to improve. Cummins [53] believed that research on quality of life can be divided into two types: (1) objective research: analyze and report with secondary data including different spatial scales published by the government, usually combined with social index research (2) subjective research: use questionnaires to collect classified or personal primary data to analyze personal evaluation or behavioral responses to the quality of life. Marans and Stimson (2011) proposed the comparison of subjective and objective indicators of quality of life. The indicators are divided into three types: objective indicators, subjective indicators, and behavioral indicators.

Reports have presented evidence that geographic place is closely related to quality of life [54–57]. They established the system of objective and subjective indicators. The quality of life in the geographical space is the subjective feeling of each member and varies from person to person. Subjective feelings are different because they have different attributes, including past experience, and cognition and evaluation. Murans [40] constructed the satisfaction framework of neighborhood communities. For policymakers, the most effective way to improve life satisfaction is to determine the degree of satisfaction under objective conditions. Research agrees that satisfaction is the degree of well-being that represents the quality of life. Sun Yuzhen [58] used Taiwanese data to evaluate the quality of life of counties and cities by the Hedonic Price method and principal component analysis. The assessment of the former was divided into actual housing prices and implicit housing prices, the actual housing prices were the actual unit prices of housing in residential areas in each county and city. The implicit housing prices were the unit prices estimated by the Hedonic Price method. The latter used 12 variables to perform principal component analysis to extract three principal components and then convert the three principal components to obtain component scores and weights to calculate the quality of life of counties and cities. Liao Shurong [59] used five capital-oriented variables in eight townships in Taiwan to calculate the quality of life after calculating the weight and point value respectively. The five capitals are environment, society, economy, knowledge and culture capital. Environmental capital is divided into four criteria of rural safety, rural scenery, environmental quality, and leisure space; social capital is divided into six criteria of social organization, social reciprocal relationship, trust mechanism, interpersonal network relationship, common values, and social support; economic capital is divided into three criteria of work opportunities, industrial tourism benefits, and residents' income; intellectual capital is divided into four criteria of event organization, education and training, network system, and educational book equipment; cultural capital is divided into three criteria of historical culture, cultural participation, and unique cultural events. Khamis et al [60] used questionnaires to collect sample data from 248 college students, and used structural equation model to analyze factors that affect quality of life. The questionnaire was designed to ask respondents about their satisfaction with research, society, and equipment. The results showed that research and equipment significantly affected quality of life, while social items did not. Engel et al. [61] used 364 Canadian samples to analyze the relationship between personal unhealthiness and health-related quality of life, well-being ability, and social well-being with the path model. It was found that the personal unhealthiness with the highest degree of negative impacted on health-related quality of life.

Urban vulnerability is the possibility of a city being prone to disasters when it faces disasters or pressures. It is a negative description and can be the vulnerability of the city, population, infrastructure, and economy [62,63]. McDonald [64] believes that residential attributes and locations will widely affect the quality of life. Quality of life includes not only material level of well-being, but also factors such as health, safety, education, social connections, and the environment. There is a complex relationship between housing prices and quality of life. The high housing price means the high cost of providing the housing and the high quality of life for the families in its location. In

addition to the housing price is the value of its own characteristics reflected in the market, the amenity and dis-amenity, the quality of public facilities and the tax burden paid to the local government will also affect the value of the housing. Tian et al. [65] used the Difference in Difference Model to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on housing prices and found that the epidemic negatively impacted on housing prices. However, the more resilient cities are to the COVID-19 outbreak, the faster housing prices will recover. Barreca et al. [66] believed that urban vulnerability refers to the degree to which a city is exposed to disaster risk, and resilience refers to the ability of the city to return to its original state after a disaster occurs. In the case of Turin, the spatial regression model was used to analyze the impact on housing prices from vulnerability indicators, and the results showed that vulnerability would significantly negatively affect housing prices.

2.2. Current Quality of Life

Since Taoyuan was restructured and upgraded to the municipality directly under the central government policy in 2014, social welfare and public construction expenditures have been greatly increased compared with the level of Taipei City and New Taipei City. Moreover, price to income ratio makes it more livable than the two cities. It not only attracts the immigrants from surrounding areas, but also draws the working population of Taipei City and New Taipei City to move in and live. Steady population growth and multiple new industrial parks provide the city with a stable tax base and job opportunities, but the environmental amenities and liabilities brought about by economic development have become severe challenges for urban growth. Citizens must endure and bear the external costs brought about by various production activities¹. Rivers and coastlines are polluted by heavy metal wastes. Illegal factories on agricultural land have even affected irrigation water sources. Taoyuan City has become the top three most polluted agricultural land in Taiwan. Besides, it suffers from congestion, noise, air pollution, and man-made disasters caused by the close development between industries and housing. Improve the quality of life is a top priority to be cornerstone of urban development.²

2.3. Sampling Design

This article adopts the stratified random sampling method to draw samples from thirteen districts of Taoyuan City. The period of questionnaire survey ranged from November 2020 to March 2021. Questionnaire was designed with Google forms and data was obtained through social media and on-site surveys. A total of 1215 observations were drawn according to the 2020 districted proportion of population. The significance level is 5% ($Z_{0.025} = 1.96$), and the sampling error is 3%. The sample size required at least $n \geq (1.96^2 \times 0.5^2) / (0.03^2) = 1067$ observations (n is the sample size; Table 1). Table 1 shows the distribution of the observations of the thirteen administrative districts. Chi-square statistics that used to test null hypothesis H_0 : The sampling proportion of each district is the same as the population proportion of each district in 2020 shows to fall in the acceptance area ($p > 0.05$). The decision to accept null hypothesis that these two distributions are consistent shows that the analyzed sample is representative.

¹ The negative externalities caused by production activities include Jili chemical pollution, Gaoyin chemical pollution, RCA pollution, Ximeipi pollution, CNPC oil refinery, Kwun Tong natural gas receiving station.

² Please refer to "Taoyuan City, 2021, Taoyuan City Land Plan".

Table 1. Sampling design of questionnaire survey on urban quality of life in Taoyuan City.

District	Population		Sample	
	total population	%	total observations	%
Taoyuan	434243	20.22	271	22.30
Jungli	396453	18.46	248	20.41
Daxi	94102	4.38	60	4.94
Yangmei	163959	7.63	78	6.42
Luzhu	158802	7.39	72	5.93
Dayuan	87158	4.06	56	4.61
Guishan	152817	7.12	72	5.93
Bade	192922	8.98	120	9.88
Longtan	120201	5.60	60	4.94
Pingzhen	221587	10.32	118	9.71
Xinwu	48772	2.27	24	1.98
Guanyin	65555	3.05	30	2.47
Fuxing	11192	0.52	6	0.49
total	2147763	100.00	1215	100.00
χ^2	p=0.08			

2.4. Questionnaire Design

The main purpose of questionnaire design is to collect three patterns of data. The first is to collect objective data through the questions related to the residence, community, and neighborhood that the respondents answer. The second is to collect the satisfaction of the respondents with various public facilities and services. The last is to collect respondent's personal attribute information.

2.5. Method

Based on the MIMIC Model proposed by [18], the structural equation model of quality of life is established. It contains two econometric models: structure equation and measurement equation. The structure equation is as follows.

$$Q^* = \alpha' \mathbf{x} + \varepsilon \quad (1)$$

where Q^* is a latent variable representing quality of life, and $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)'$ is an observed variable vector of k individual attributes. $\alpha' = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k)'$ is the estimated coefficient vector of k explanatory variables, and ε is the error term. The measurement equation is as follows.

$$\mathbf{y} = \beta Q^* + \mathbf{u} \quad (2)$$

where $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m)'$ is a vector of observed variable, which is composed of m indicator variables, and $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m)'$ is an estimated coefficient vector of quality of life Q^* , $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m)'$ is the error term. Assume that all error terms are independent of each other and normal distributions with the mean equal to zero: $E(\varepsilon \mathbf{u}') = \mathbf{0}'$, $E(\varepsilon^2) = \sigma_\varepsilon^2$, $E(\mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}') = \theta^2$ (θ is the standard deviation of \mathbf{u}). In this article, maximum likelihood method is used to estimate the parameters in equation (1) and (2). With estimated coefficient of equation (1), the spatial lag regression equation of quality of life can be established as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} Q^* &= \vartheta W \hat{Q} + v \\ v &= \rho W v + \epsilon \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where τ , ϑ , and ρ are parameters, W is $n \times n$ matrix of space weight distance, \hat{Q} is $n \times 1$ matrix of quality of life, and v and ϵ are $n \times 1$ matrix of error terms. Spatial weights play an important role in the spatial regression model, which differs from the ordinary least squares method. The spatial weight W is used to indicate spatial spillover effects, which include (1) the spillover effect of quality of life $\vartheta W \hat{Q}$, and (2) the spillover effect of the error term of autoregression. There are two ways to calculate W . (1) The spillover effect is only distributed in adjacent districts, that is, "Contiguity" in Stata, (2) The spillover effect is proportional to the reciprocal of the spatial distance between districts.

3. Results

This article refers to the variables used in the relevant literature under the condition of the information provided from government for the framework of database and modelling to formulate quantifying quality of life [16,62–67]. There are twenty-four observed variables and one latent variable in this model. (Figure 1).

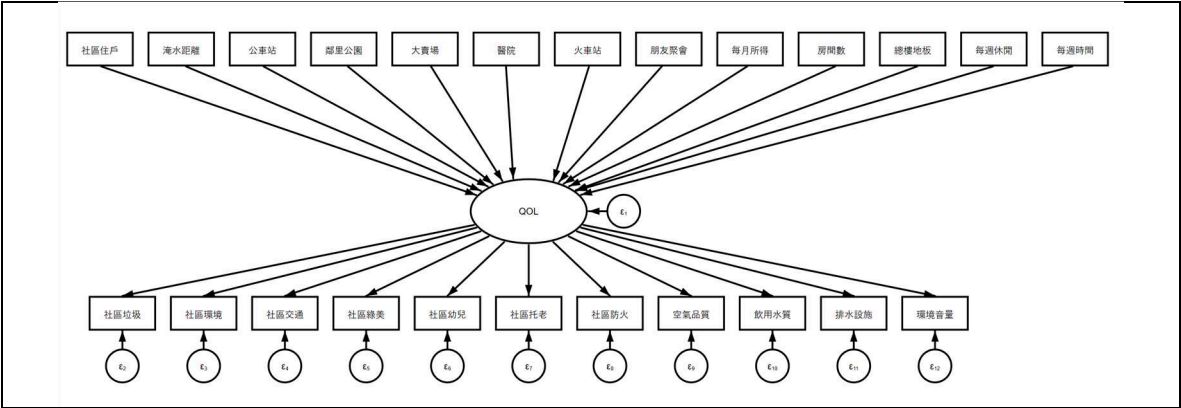


Figure 1. MIMIC Model with a latent variable of quality of life.

Figure 1 illustrates framework of MIMIC model including thirteen observed independent variables and eleven observed dependent variables. Quality of life that is a latent variable is determined by objective factors as well as determines the levels of subjective indicators.

The variables in the model were drawn from the questionnaire survey (Table 2). A total of 1215 respondents from 13 districts were drawn at the end of 2020 as an analysis sample. The questionnaire collected the respondents' subjective evaluation of various services in the community and the objective indicators of individuals and houses. In order to construct the MIMIC model of quality of life, these observed variables and latent variable are used to establish a system of simultaneous equations to indicate the cause- effect path of quality of life. Table 2 shows the descriptive statistics of research variables for the micro model.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of variables of MIMIC Model in Taoyuan City.

Variable	Definition	Measurement Units	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimu m	Maximu m
household	number of persons in a household	persons/househol d	4.0099	1.5741	1	9
roof age	house roof age	year	20.6626	12.6267	0	66

children	number of persons under 7 years of age in a household	person	0.2214	0.5793	0	4
elderly	number of persons over 65 years of age in a household	person	0.4527	0.7164	0	2
community size	number of households in the community	household	204.4543	81.2031	0	230
waste disposal	satisfaction with completion of the waste disposal of the community (ranged from 1 to 10)	-	7.5045	2.0484	1	10
environment maintain	satisfaction with clean and well-maintained environment (ranged from 1 to 10)	-	7.5794	1.7933	1	10
traffic order	satisfaction with the traffic order of the community (ranged from 1 to 10)	-	7.2551	1.8544	1	10
community landscape	satisfaction with completion of the landscaping	-	7.1687	2.0303	1	10

	in the community (ranged from 1 to 10)					
children care	satisfaction with completion of care for children in community (ranged from 1 to 10).	-	5.8691	2.5507	1	10
elderly care	satisfaction with completion of community care for the elderly (ranged from 1 to 10).	-	5.1391	2.4254	1	10
fire prevention	satisfaction with completion of community fire prevention (ranged from 1 to 10).	-	5.8255	2.2163	1	10
flooding distance	distance from nearby flooding place	meter	6470.1	466324.7	1	10000
bus stop distance	distance from the nearest bus stop	meter	3423.68 7	8564.754	1	12000
neighborhoo d park distance	distance from neighborhoo d park around the community	meter	667.973 5	1734.612	1.8	3000
wholesale distance	distance from the nearest	kilometer	3.7717	3.1406	0.5	5

	wholesale center					
hospital distance	distance from the nearest hospital	kilometer	0.2017	2.3885	0.05	40
railway distance	distance from railway station	kilometer	7.8666	7.1159	1	50
gathering and meals	number of monthly gatherings and meals with friends and relatives	times	2.5457	2.1318	0	9
earnings	monthly labor earnings	NT\$	37291.07	38794.47	15000	85000
bedrooms	number of bedrooms	room	3.5177	1.2782	1	9
floor area	floor area of the dwelling	ping	56.0488	94.9527	2	900
leisure hours	leisure hours per week	hour	17.6576	21.2102	0	168
freely hours	number of hours that are available for use freely per week	hour	22.0959	24.3322	0	168
air quality	satisfaction with completion of well-equipped for air quality (ranged from 1 to 10)	-	6.5177	1.9054	1	10
drinking water	satisfaction with completion of drinking water quality maintains	-	6.7638	1.9066	2	10

	(ranged from 1 to 10)					
drainage facilities	satisfaction with completion of well-equipped drainage facilities	-	6.9860	1.6933	2	10
	(ranged from 1 to 10).					
environment al noise	satisfaction with completion of environment al noises decreases	-	6.3704	2.0972	1	10
	(ranged from 1 to 10)					
sex	0 for male; 1 for female	-	0.5465	0.4980	0	1
age	individual's age	year	36.5103	14.4094	15	71
education	maximum number of years of education	year	15.9103	4.8298	1	21

Note: The data were collected from questionnaire survey and arranged by this study.

4. Discussion

4.1. MIMIC Model Estimation

4.1.1. Structural and Measurement Model

Structural equation model is the most used technique to analyze the causality among variables. In this article, 1215 samples of residents in 13 administrative districts of Taoyuan City are drawn according to stratified random sampling by means of questionnaire survey. 608 observations in this sample are used to the estimation of the model, and the remaining 607 observations are used to predict the score of quality of life. Quality of life with the characteristics of multi-indicator and multi-cause is suitable to be investigated by MIMIC Model. Figure 2 illustrates quality of life is a latent dependent variable in the structural model and a latent independent variable in the measurement model. In this model, there are 13 observed independent variables that affects the quality of life that can be measured by 11 observed dependent indicators.

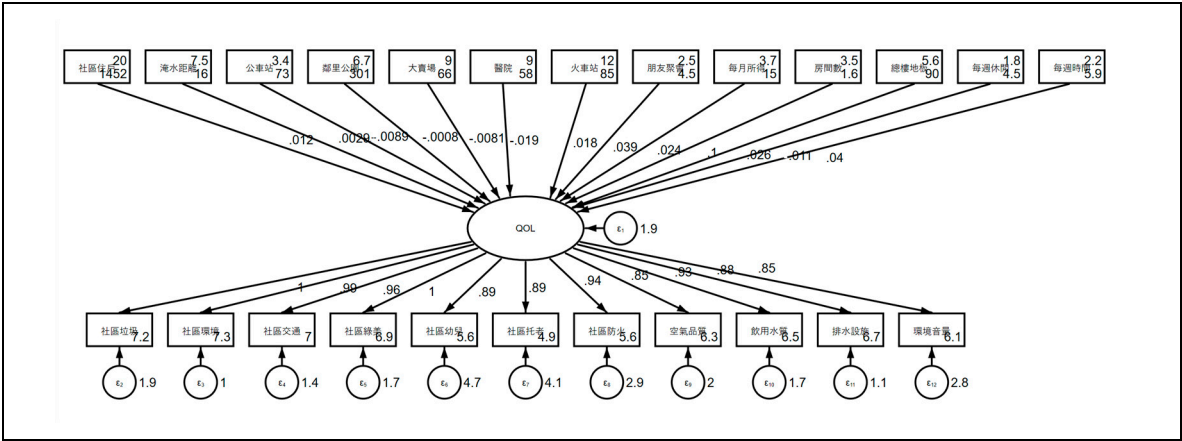


Figure 2. Estimation on MIMIC Model of quality of life for Taoyuan City.

4.1.2. Goodness of Fit

The results of structural model that describes factors affecting quality of life is shown in Table 3. Table 3 shows that the log likelihood index under the maximum likelihood estimation method is -83139.637, and the relative statistics are as follows, $\chi^2 = 249.36$ 、 $df = 218$ 、 $\chi^2/df = 1.14$ 、 $SRMR=0.064$ 、 $RMSEA=0.041$ 、 $CD=0.595$ 、 $CFI=0.952$ 、 $TLI=0.937$. It is proved not to reject 「 H_0 : The fitted model is as good as the saturated model」 of likelihood-ratio test ($\chi^2 = 249.36 < \chi^2_{0.05,218} = 253.44$). All other statistics meet the conditions of $\chi^2/df < 3$, SRMR close to 0, RMSEA<0.05, CD, CFI, TLI close to 1, which means that the goodness of fit is good³.

Table 3. Estimation of Structural Model in MIMIC Model of quality of life for Taoyuan City.

Structural model	Coefficient	Standard error
<i>QOL^a</i>		
community size	0.0118***	0.0012
flooding distance	0.0029*	0.0015
bus stop distance	-0.0089*	0.0049
neighborhood park distance	-0.0008**	0.0004
wholesale distance	-0.0081*	0.0043
hospital distance	-0.0185***	0.0070
railway distance	0.0185***	0.0056
gathering and meals	0.0388*	0.0202
earnings	0.0243**	0.0114
bedrooms	0.1004***	0.0335
floor area	0.0261***	0.0045
leisure hours	0.0108**	0.0055
freely hours	0.0400*	0.0205
log likelihood	-83139.637	
χ^2	249.36	
df	218	

³ This article uses Stata 16 to operate MIMIC Model. The relevant indicators provided by this model are as follows. Standardized Root Mean Squared Residual (SRMR); Root Mean Squared Error of Approximation(RMSEA); Coefficient of Determination(CD); Comparative Fit Index(CFI); Tucker-Lewis Index(TLI).

$\frac{\chi^2}{df}$	1.14
SRMR	0.044
RMSEA	0.041
CD	0.595
CFI	0.952
TLI	0.937

^a: It represents the latent variable of Quality of life. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

The results are shown as follows. “Community size” is positively correlated with community relationship which is positively correlated with quality of life. It can be found that “community size” is positively correlated with quality of life. “Flooding distance” is negatively correlated with life risk which is negatively correlated with quality of life. It can be inferred that the relationship between “flooding distance” and quality of life is positively correlated. “Bus stop distance” is negatively correlated with accessibility which is positively correlated with quality of life. It is found a negatively correlation between “bus stop distance” and quality of life. “Neighborhood distance” is negatively correlated with leisure accessibility which is positively correlated with quality of life. It can be inferred that “neighborhood distance” is negatively correlated with quality of life. “Wholesale distance” is positively correlated with shopping accessibility which is positively correlated with quality of life. It is found that “wholesale distance” is negatively correlated with quality of life. “Hospital distance” is negatively correlated with accessibility to medical care which is positively correlated with quality of life. It is inferred that “hospital distance” is negatively correlated with quality of life. “Railway distance” is negatively correlated with noisy external costs which are negatively correlated with quality of life. It can be found that “railway distance” is positively correlated with quality of life. “Gathering and meals” is positively correlated with social network which is positively correlated with quality of life. It is inferred that “gathering and meals” is positively correlated with quality of life. “Earnings” is positively correlated with consumption availability which is positively correlated with quality of life. It can be inferred that “earnings” is positively correlated with quality of life. “Bedrooms” is negatively corelated with crowdedness which is negatively corelated with quality of life. It can be found that “bedrooms” is positively correlated with quality of life. “Floor area” is negatively correlated with space crowding which is negatively correlated with quality of life. It is inferred that “floor area” is positively correlated with quality of life. “Leisure hours” is positively correlated with life pleasure which is positively correlated with quality of life. It can be inferred that “leisure hours” is positively correlated with quality of life. “Freely hours” is positively correlated with available time for use which is positively correlated with quality of life. It can be inferred that “freely hours” is positively correlated with quality of life. It concludes that estimated model is consistent with the influence on quality of life from these independent variables in the reports of literatures.

The measurement model is to investigate the relationship between quality of life indicators with latent variable (Table 4). Table 4 shows that the coefficients of all independent variables are significantly different from zero at significant level of 10%, and they are all greater than zero, which is consistent with the results reported in the literature. The LR test results accept H_0 : the model is consistent with the saturated model, indicating that the model fits well. The impact of independent variables on quality of life is organized as follows. Respondents’ satisfaction with community public services is positively correlated with quality of life, including subjective evaluations of “waste disposal”, “environmental maintain”, “traffic order”, and “community landscape”. Respondents’ satisfaction with community care system is positively correlated with quality of life, including “children care” and “elderly care”. Respondents’ subjective evaluation of disaster prevention and control in the community is positively correlated with quality of life, including “fire prevention”, “air quality”, “drinking water”, “drainage facilities”, and “environmental noise”. It concludes personal subjective evaluation positively correlates with quality of life.

Table 4. Estimation of Measurement Model in MIMIC Model of quality of life for Taoyuan City.

Measurement model	OIM	
	coefficient	standard error
waste disposal		
QOL	1	
constant	7.2313***	0.1948
environment maintain		
QOL	0.9922***	0.0337
constant	7.3083***	0.1912
traffic order		
QOL	0.9620***	0.0357
constant	6.9923***	0.1862
community landscape		
QOL	1.0415***	0.0392
constant	6.8841***	0.2019
children care		
QOL	0.8947***	0.0506
constant	5.6247***	0.1818
elderly care		
QOL	0.8881***	0.0486
constant	4.8964***	0.1791
fire prevention		
QOL	0.9380***	0.0439
constant	5.5692***	0.1855
air quality		
QOL	0.8478***	0.0382
constant	6.2861***	0.1668
drinking water		
QOL	0.9327***	0.0381
constant	6.5089***	0.1817
drainage facilities		
QOL	0.8816***	0.0334
constant	6.7451***	0.1708
environmental noise		
QOL	0.8518***	0.0416
constant	6.1376***	0.1694
Var (e. QOL)	1.9088	
Var (e. waste disposal)	1.9459	
Var (e. environment maintain)	1.0019	
Var (e. traffic order)	1.3573	
Var (e. community landscape)	1.6821	

Var (e. children care)	4.7022
Var (e. elderly care)	4.1062
Var (e. fire prevention)	2.9312
Var (e. air quality)	2.0130
Var (e. drinking water)	1.6779
Var (e. drainage facilities)	1.1189
Var (e. environmental noise)	2.7646
LR test of model vs. saturated: $\chi^2 = 3119.62 > \chi^2_{(0.05,350)} = 394.6$	
*** Indicate $p < 0.01$, ** Indicate $p < 0.05$, * Indicate $p < 0.1$	

The remaining 607 observations are drawn to the estimated results of the structural model to predict the quality of life (Figure 3 and Table 5). Figure 3 illustrates that the darker the district is, the higher score in quality of life will be. By using ArcGis cluster analysis, quality of life distribution is divided into five clusters. The first cluster is the combination with the best quality of life including only Longtan District. The next highest quality of life cluster includes Guanyin and Daxi Districts. The median cluster in quality of life embodies Yangmei, Pingzhen, Zhongli, Bade, and Fuxing Districts subsequently. The second poorest quality of life cluster includes Taoyuan, Guishan, Luzhu, and Xinwu Districts. The poorest cluster in quality of life contains only Dayuan District. Overall, the quality of life in South Taoyuan is better than that in North Taoyuan. Table 5 shows the descriptive statistics of quality of life for the thirteen districts. The district with the highest quality of life is Longtan District, followed by Daxi District and Guanyin District. The lowest district in quality of life is Dayuan District followed by Luzhu District and Xinwu District. Taoyuan District and Zhongli District are the core areas of Taoyuan City, and the quality of life are at the moderate level, ranking 9 and 4 respectively. The 13 observed exogenous variables include residential, community, and neighborhood environmental factors, all of which contain spatial implications. A large number of residents in the community implies that the living conditions are superior to those of others and the community environment is better, which highlights the advantages of the location and the better quality of life. It reflects the corresponding locational characteristics of the adjacent area, which will further affect the quality of life in adjacent area (Figure 4). Figure 4 illustrates that the hot areas with better quality of life are distributed in Longtan, Daxi, and Pingzhen Districts, while the cold areas are distributed in Luzhu District⁴.

⁴ Local Moran's I Statistics is the calculation method of global spatial autocorrelation statistics by applying Moran's I to obtain regional autocorrelation statistics. Set the spatial autocorrelation statistics of the region as the X coordinate, and the spatial autocorrelation statistics of the adjacent regions as the Y coordinate. This coordinate system is divided into four quadrants. The first quadrant represents that the distribution of statistical variables in the region and adjacent regions has a central tendency, which is a hot zone. The third quadrant represents that the distribution of statistical variables between the region and the adjacent regions has a tendency to disperse, which is a cold region. The second and the fourth quadrants indicate that the regions or adjacent regions have opposite distribution trends of the statistical variable, one of which is concentrated while the other adjacent region is dispersed, or vice versa.

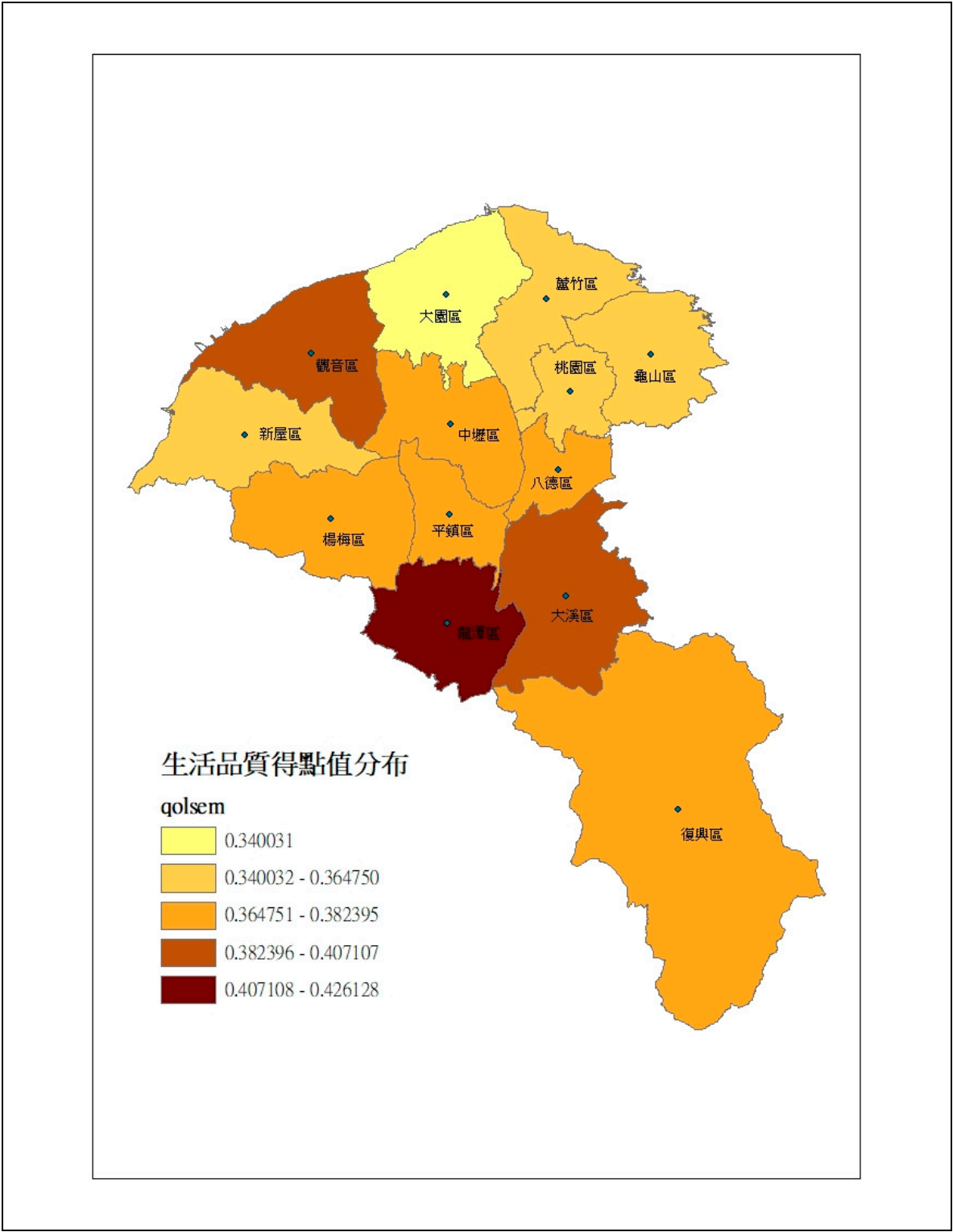


Figure 3. Quality of life scores forecasted distribution in MIMIC Model for Taoyuan City.

Table 5. Descriptive statistics of quality of life of MIMIC Model for Taoyuan City.

District	Mean	Standard Deviation	Range	
			Minimum	Maximum
Taoyuan	0.2916	0.0335	-0.5834	2.2817
Daxi	0.2640	0.0434	-0.4334	0.9837
Zhongli	0.3212	0.0380	-0.5193	2.1784
Yangmei	0.1881	0.0701	-0.4925	2.7502

Luzhu	0.3145	0.0623	-0.3760	1.8642
Dayuan	0.1681	0.0362	-0.2752	0.5793
Guishan	0.2775	0.0838	-0.4909	2.7476
Bade	0.1949	0.0491	-0.7167	2.1784
Longtan	0.4474	0.0908	-0.3399	2.0119
Pingzhen	0.2429	0.0636	-0.4683	2.7476
Xinwu	0.5075	0.1496	-0.0405	2.3023
Guanyin	-0.0161	0.0598	-0.3417	0.5362
Fuxing	0.0298	0.0292	-0.0356	0.0952

Source: Arranged by this study.

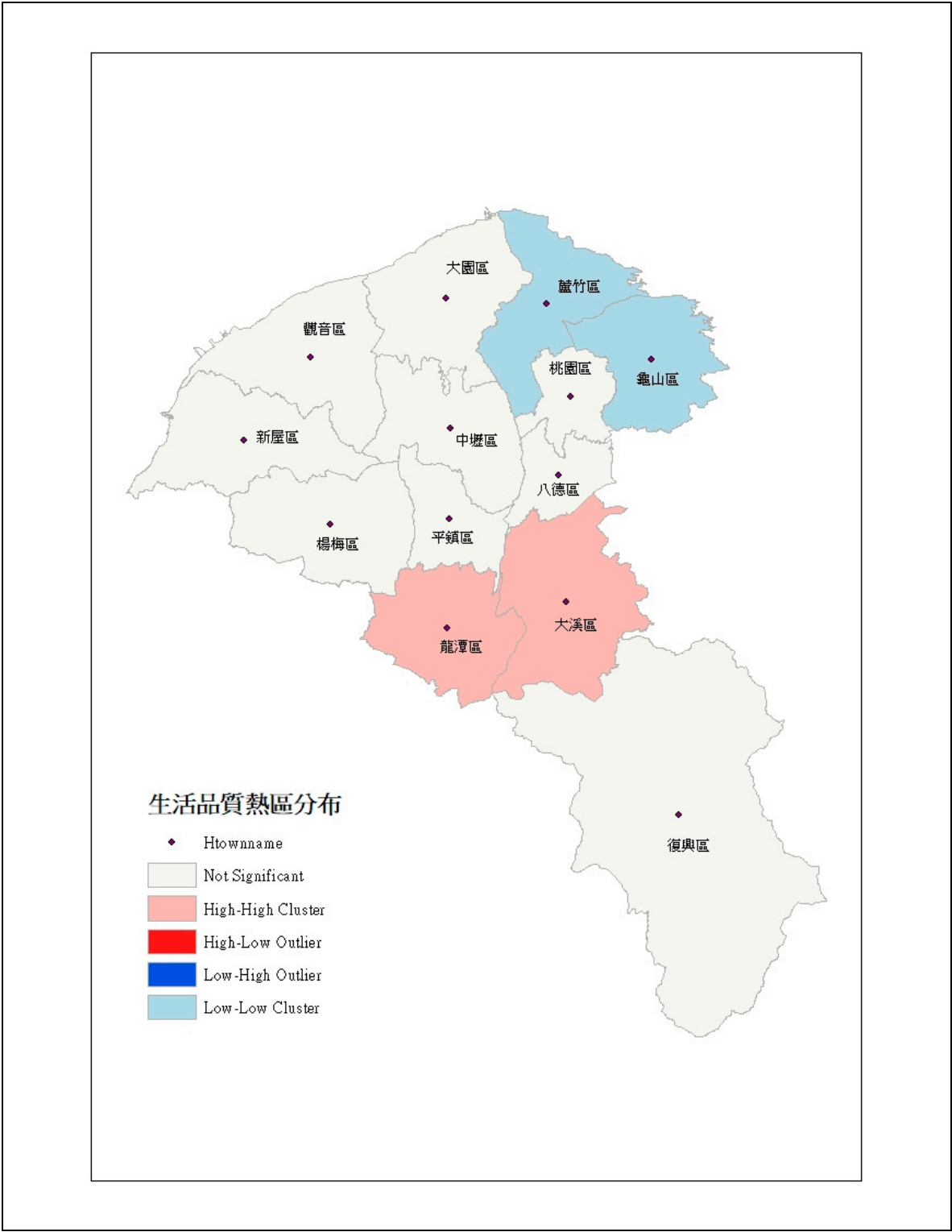


Figure 4. LISA clusters of quality of life for Taoyuan City.

4.2. Spatial Regression Model

The spatial effects of quality of life can be analyzed through the Spatial Regression Model (Table 6). Table 6 shows that R^2 is 0.67, which represents that the goodness of fit of the model is high. The quality of life in adjacent districts will significantly positively affect the quality of life with a tendency to concentrate in space.

Table 6. Spatial Regression Model of quality of life for Taoyuan City.

	coefficient	Standard error
<i>QOL</i> ^d		
constant ^a	0.2071*	0.0790
W		
QOL	0.2070**	0.0870
e. QOL ^b	0.7913***	0.2268
Var (e. QOL) ^c	0.0146	0.0062
Log likelihood	8.2356	
Pseudo <i>R</i> ²	0.6716	

Note: W stands for space weighted matrix, *** stands for $p < 0.01$, ** stands for $p < 0.05$, * stands for $p < 0.1$.
^a: The Stata16 software executor could draw constant terms to be added to the estimation formula, the difference between the two is whether it passes the origin or not. In this study, constant terms were selected for estimation.
^b: It is the error term of the spatial regression equation. ^c: The number of variants assigned to the error term of the spatial regression equation. ^d: Indicate the average of housing price of each district.

5. Conclusions

The goal of urban development is to improve the quality of life, but each decision-maker of cities has a different interpretation of the quality of life. Therefore, the improvement of the quality of urban life varies from person to person, let alone whether the urban development achieves the set goals. A city that is pursuing abstract ideals builds its future success on an unstable foundation, which is a very dangerous bet. The multiple indicators multiple causes model does not try to define the quality of life, nor does it have to identify the meaning of the quality of life. Cooperate with the influencing factors and alternative indicators to blur the quality of life. In this way, the results of the model estimation can clearly grasp the causal path of the quality of life. Looking back at the existing data can quantify the quality of life for comparison and ranking.

Further suggestions are as follows. Improve the accessibility of the city as well as provide training for the unemployed to return to work. Build disaster prevention strategies and even resilient design and planning structures. Establish a good social network system to catch everyone who needs assistance as well as do a good job in community management systems to connect every resident. Formulate appropriate housing policies to improve the quality of living as well as enable everyone to live in a private and uncrowded space. Maintain communication and interaction between everyone. Quality of life can then be improved under the guarantee of policies.

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