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# A Systematic Review on Urban Planning in Local Growth

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#### Abstract

**Purpose:** The objective of this review is to describe how urban planning intervenes in local development. **Theoretical framework:** Urban planning is the process of designing and managing the physical development of urban areas in accordance with the needs and objectives of cities. **Method/design/approach:** The methodology adopted was based on the PRISMA statement, 62 studies were chosen respecting the filtering and eligibility criteria; the inquiry of the urban planning variable was carried out in the WEB OF SCIENCE and SCOPUS data platforms, between the period from 2020 to 2023. **Results and conclusion:** The results obtained determine that urban planning is an important factor in local development, since it optimizes the quality of existence of its citizens, boosts economic development and guarantees environmental sustainability. It was concluded that urban planning is important for the reasonable growth of cities, since it implies the design and management of the physical development of urban areas, in accordance with the needs and objectives of the communities. **Research implications:** these challenges can binder the implementation of urban planning policies and may limit the ability of local governments to address the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by cities. It is therefore important to address these challenges in order to improve the capacity of municipalities to implement effective and sustainable urban planning policies. **Originality/value:** Urban planning optimizes the quality of existence of its citizens, promotes financial development and ensures environmental sustainability. It helps prevent the problem of vehicular traffic, environmental pollution and the misallocation of public services such as housing, transportation and drinking water.

Keywords: urban planning; local government; land use; mobility; urban equipment; environment.

#### Introduction

Urban planning is the process of designing and managing the physical development of urban areas according to the needs and goals of communities. This includes the creation and regulation of residential, commercial and industrial zoning. As well as, the layout and design of public infrastructure, the protection of green spaces and cultural heritage. Also traffic management and urban transport. The objective of urbanism is to generate more efficient, comfortable, sustainable and comfortable metropolises for citizens (Moreira-Villavicencio, 2022).

In Europe it varies from country to country. European local authorities are more interested in sustainable growth and the development of more livable cities (Gutiérrez-Chaparro, 2021).

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Measures taken in Europe to improve urban planning include the development of sustainable transport; such as the use of bicycles and electric scooters. Build quality affordable housing for social inclusion. Create green areas and parks in metropolises to optimize the quality of people's existence and fight climate change (Piza et al., 2019).

The important nations that stand out are the Netherlands, known for its focus on sustainable transport and the organization of public space. Cities like Amsterdam are known for their cycling infrastructure and innovative use of space (Sánchez et al., 2021). Denmark is another country noted for its focus on sustainable transport. The capital, Copenhagen, is considered one of the most suitable cities in the world due to its human-centered urban design (Shelton & Williams, 2023). Switzerland is known for its approach to landscape planning, which aims to integrate nature into cities. In addition, cities such as Zurich and Geneva are investing in sustainable transport projects and innovative urban development. Germany is known for its focus on long-term planning and sustainability, especially in cities like Berlin and Hamburg. In addition, German urban planning legislation requires citizens to participate in the decision-making process (Croese & Miyauchi, 2022).

These are just a few examples of European countries that have developed strong urban planning. Each country has its own urban design approach, but all have the common goal of creating more livable and sustainable cities for citizens (Anzola, 2023). In sum, European local authorities are striving to create more sustainable, inclusive and livable cities for their citizens and are taking steps towards more efficient and equitable urban planning (Grande et al., 2023).

In the Americas, local governments are responsible for formulating and implementing regional and local plans to regulate urban expansion and development (Novoa, 2022). In some countries, such as the United States and Canada, municipalities have broad powers to plan and manage the use of surface and the construction of buildings and homes. In other countries, such as Mexico and Brazil, urban planning is the responsibility of the federal government, although local governments also manage to have some influence (Wang et al., 2022). In any case, urban planning in America aims for local governments to create more sustainable, equitable, and livable cities by promoting affordable housing, efficient public transportation, preserving public space, and conserving cultural and natural property (Ariana, 2022).

It is a fundamental tool for municipalities to effectively manage the growth and development of cities. This means developing plans and policies to guide land use, build infrastructure and public services, preserve cultural and natural heritage, and other important aspects of sustainable urban growth (Bernal et al., 2022). It is an important instrument for municipalities, since it allows an adequate management of the territory and an efficient use of available resources. This can help prevent traffic clogging, environmental pollution, and misallocation of utilities such as housing, transportation, and drinking water (Duquino, 2022).

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In addition, it contributes to the financial and social development of a city, as it can encourage investment in infrastructure, the development of commercial zones and job creation. In short, it is important because it allows local governments to manage the growth and development of cities and population, guaranteeing a better future for future generations (Padrón, 2022). It involves the development of strategies and measures for the development and management of urban areas, with the aim of optimizing the quality of existence of the population and promoting an efficient and sustainable use of the territory. This includes the definition of policies and regulations on land use, transport, housing, public services, environment and cultural heritage (Gañán et al., 2022).

Urban planning can also involve the participation of different actors and the definition of longterm objectives and targets guiding urban growth and development in a sustainable and equitable manner. Local governments are responsible for implementing these policies and plans, ensuring that established regulations and standards are respected and that the needs and requests of local populations are taken into account. In addition, they have the responsibility to include the inhabitants in the urban planning process, guaranteeing participation and transparency (Duque, 2022).

It is a process that seeks to manage and order the urban territory to optimize the quality of existence of the inhabitants who reside in a city. Through urban planning, problems such as vehicular obstruction, lack of green space, lack of housing, environmental pollution, among others, can be prevented. By planning the city properly, friendly public spaces can be created, reduce the distance between the workplace and home, improve mobility, and reduce the emission of polluting gases, thus contributing to environmental sustainability and the well-being of the population (Valcárcel, 2020).

Local governments are responsible for implementing policies and plans in urban planning. It is a fundamental task of the municipalities because they are responsible for managing land use, guaranteeing access to essential infrastructures such as sanitation, drinking water and promoting the financial and social growth of their localities. They work in collaboration with local communities, non-governmental organizations, businesses and other key actors to develop policies and plans that respond to the needs and demands of their citizens (Rodrigo et al., 2021).

The study presents urban planning as a fundamental process for the sustainable growth of cities. It involves the design and management of the physical development of urban areas, according to the needs and objectives of the communities. This includes the creation and regulation of residential, commercial and industrial zoning, the layout and design of public infrastructure, the protection of green spaces and cultural heritage, traffic management and urban mobility.

In addition, it is highlighted that urban planning in relation to local development, optimizes the quality of existence of the population, promoting economic growth and guaranteeing

environmental sustainability. In summary, the study presents urban planning as an important process for the reasonable growth of cities, involving the design and management of the physical development of urban areas, and highlights the importance of urban design in the context of local development.

The aim of this review is to describe how urban planning intervenes in local growth.

# METHODOLOGY

We used systematic reviews to collect and classify data. based on the PRISMA statement. Descriptive qualitative research was used. We considered studies disseminated between 2020 and 2023 on urban planning in the context of local governments.

We use the SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE databases that are used in most review research. The descriptors in English were used: "urban planning", "local government", "land use", "mobility", "urban facilities" and "environment". In Spanish; "urban planning", "local government", "land use", "mobility", "urban equipment", "environment" and "accessibility". These words were joined in different ways using the AND and OR boleamos in order to increase the search.

The inclusion criteria were studies carried out during the years indicated 2020 to 2023, of indexed journals with the highest number of publications on the title of this research in the public sector; The exclusion criteria were based on articles published outside the established years and outside the scope of state management.

A total of 1,870 articles were identified, of which 1040 correspond to SCOPUS and 830 to WEB OF SCIENCE. Of the total of 1,870 articles found, 930 articles were excluded by the search criteria and 60 articles for being duplicates, being selected 880 articles. Of these selected articles, 650 were excluded at the abstract and title level, leaving 230 full-text writings to be evaluated, of which 168 articles excluded for omitting the inclusion criteria were extracted. There are 62 articles left for the systematic review.

## RESULT

In SCOPUS 52% (32 articles) was found and in WOS OF SCIENCE 48% (30 articles) were found. 81% (50 studies) were qualitative research and 19% (12 studies) were quantitative. Only 21% (13 articles) used a scientific theory to support their study and 79% (49 articles) used the qualitative and quantitative approach. 32% (20 studies) correspond to V1 urban planning. 31% (19 studies) correspond to D1 land use. 22% (14 studies) correspond to D2 mobility. 10% (6 studies) corresponds to D3 urban equipment and 5% (03 studies) corresponds to D4 environment.

The results indicate that most of the research included in the review focused on urban development and land use, followed by mobility, urban equipment and the environment. In addition, most 1013 remittancesreview.com

studies were qualitative and only a minority used scientific theories to support their studies. Overall, the results suggest that urban development is an important element in local development, as it can optimize the quality of people's lives, promote economic growth and ensure environmental sustainability. However, it also highlights the challenges faced by local governments in implementing urban planning policies, including the ability to optimize the empowerment of urban planners, foster assistance and unity among participating actors, and address financial and resource challenges.

As for the authors who employed a scientific theory to support their research, we have Boulton et al. (2021) uses urban planning theories and social studies, to better understand how governmental factors interact and affect the municipal provision of urban green spaces. Similarly, Correia & Roseland (2022) uses economic theory to analyze the negative externalities of urban development and propose sustainable solutions. It focuses on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of negative external influences such as: air pollution, water pollution, traffic congestion, habitat loss and social exclusion.

Hanhörster & Ramos Lobato (2021) draws on bureaucracy theory, referring to how frontline workers, such as civil servants, interpret and apply government policies in their daily work. Study dimensions include organizational culture, official guidelines, and day-to-day activities. Similarly, Heinrich et al. (2022) uses cognitive theories of knowledge and civic epistemology considers the most appropriate to define knowledge and offer greater analytical capacity in urban planning.

Similarly, Mélix & Christmann (2022) uses communication theory, visual representation theory and social imaginary theory. To explore how digital visualizations can contribute to the creation of shared imaginaries about future urban spaces. The dimensions it uses are visual design, spatial knowledge and rendering production. Similarly, Orozco Ramos (2022) uses urban theory to focus on analyzing power relations and social inequalities in the urban context.

Patias et al. (2021) employ the theory of urban structure, which holds that the form and design of cities have a specific impact on their sustainability and quality of life. Sustainable urban development theory, which focuses on how urban policies can improve the environmental, social and economic sustainability of cities. And smart growth theory, which promotes urban growth to reduce the negative environmental impacts of urban sprawl. It employs the dimensions environment, economy, society and infrastructure.

Huang et al. (2022) uses the theory of landscape ecology, studies the similarities, patterns and ecological processes in the landscape. The theory of landscape planning, which focuses on the organization and management of the landscape to achieve social, financial and environmental objectives.

Lam et al. (2023) employ the theory of thermal load, which refers to the amount of heat the human

body can tolerate before injury or illness occurs. The theory of physiological response, which refers to how the human body responds to changes in hyperthermia and air humidity. The local climate zone theory, which refers to the classification of urban environments based on their physical characteristics, such as vegetation and the sky view factor.

Mishra et al. (2023) uses the theory of restoration of attention, exposure to nature can help restore attention and reduce stress. Nature therapy theory suggests that exposure to nature can have positive consequences on well-being and health. The theory of environmental perception suggests that the sensation of urban places can influence the behavior of individuals.

Reichenbach & Fleischer (2023) draws on the theory of institutionalization and the roles of public transport professionals in the transition to a sustainable transport system. To analyse the transition to a sustainable transport system. Similarly, Rocha et al. (2023) uses repeated action theory and behavioral planning theory to explain how social and environmental factors can influence individuals' traversal behavior.

Zhang et al. (2023) employ the theory of attention restoration, which proposes that natural and green environments can provide a restorative experience that reduces mental fatigue and improves memory. Accessibility theory, which suggests that accessibility to certain urban facilities and spaces, such as catering facilities, cultural facilities, recreational facilities, and green spaces, benefits cognitive health in older adults. Cognitive activity theory, which suggests that participation in cognitively stimulating activities may improve cognitive health in older adults.

In this sense, the findings establish that urban planning is a process that involves the implementation of policies and strategies to guide urban development. Including the provision of public services, the management of urban growth, environmental care and the development of social and economic welfare (Dondo et al., 2021). It faces significant challenges in shaping vertical neighborhoods sustainably and equitably. Although tools and strategies are available, there is a need to strengthen cooperation and coordination among responsible stakeholders in the urban planning process. In addition, improvements are needed in the capacity of urban planners to address the social and environmental implications of urban development (Adams et al., 2023).

It is important for achieving more sustainable growth and addressing the problems associated with urban development. It involves decision-making and the implementation of procedures and techniques to guide the physical and social development of cities and neighborhoods. It is critical to addressing social and economic inequalities in urban development. Seeking to achieve transformative change to foster financial development, social inclusion, and environmental protection (Easthope et al., 2022). This process requires, among other things, the support and trust of the public. However, there is a crisis of confidence in urban planning due to its bureaucratic nature, its inability to understand and work for citizens and its bias towards business interests. It is

important to address this trust gap to encourage greater citizen participation in urban planning (Åström, 2020).

It aims to achieve sustainable and equitable development, addressing the needs of housing, transportation, public services and green spaces, among other aspects (Jin, 2022). It focuses specifically on urban densification and the creation of vertical neighborhoods, it must be an integrated and collaborative transformation that involves multiple actors and stakeholders committed to achieve reasonable and equitable growth (Johnson et al., 2022). Establishing an urban policy and a basic coefficient of use for the city, as well as indicating in which areas extensions could be made in the parameters of density or area covered. It is a process by which rules and regulations for land use are established and building rights are managed in a city (Cerrada Morato, 2022).

As for its dimensions *Land use, Mobility, Urban equipment and Environment.* The findings establish that these dimensions address issues such as land use, public services, transportation, housing, infrastructure and the environment that helps improve the quality of life of people in cities and contributes to urban sustainability Zhou et al. (2023). Therefore, it is important to evaluate and address aspects such as the use of urban space, the ability of people to move within the city, the quality of urban services and facilities, such as parks, schools, hospitals and cultural centers; as well as environmental quality and social inclusion in accessibility assessments at the city level (Wilson & Tewdwr-Jones, 2022).

In such a way, the analysis shows us that urban planning influences local development. Optimizing the quality of existence of its inhabitants, promoting economic growth and ensuring environmental sustainability.

## DISCUSSION

According to the objective of the research: how urban planning influences local growth. It is determined that it is an important instrument for the municipalities, since it allows an adequate management of the territory and an efficient use of the available resources. Design and manage the physical development of an urban area in need of its needs and goals of the locality. It involves the development of policies and strategies to guide urban development. Focusing on a range of issues, including the provision of public services, managing urban growth, caring for the environment and boosting social and economic well-being.

It is a fundamental tool to address issues related to the use of urban space, the ability of people to move within the city, the improvement of services and social inclusion. In addition, it is a fundamental process for the sustainable development of metropolises, which addresses a wide range of arguments and allows an adequate management of the territory and an effective use of available capital. According to Mladenovič et al. (2022) it is a process that seeks to achieve

transformative change to foster financial development, social inclusion and environmental care in a reasonable way. In the same way, Mualam & Sotto, (2020) points out that it is essential to address issues related to the use of urban space, the ability of people to move within the city, the improvement of services and social inclusion.

Nikolić et al. (2021) states that an urban policy is an indicator that serves to establish in which areas extensions in population density parameters could be made. In the same way, Popoola & Magidimisha (2020) points out that it is a process that involves decision-making and the implementation of policies and strategies to guide the physical and social development of cities. For Ruszczyk (2021) indicates that it must be more inclusive and consider a wide range of urban elements to found more appropriate and sustainable cities. In that same context, Sadler et al. (2020) states that their goal is to optimize the quality of existence of their citizens by ensuring efficient land use, equitable distribution of public services and adequate protection of the environment.

In terms of specific dimensions, the study highlights that urban planning deals with capacities to address the environmental, financial and social challenges faced by cities and improve the quality of life of inhabitants.

Regarding *dimension one: Land* use, for Song et al. (2021) points out that urban plans should be elaborated by local governments, by ensuring adequate land use. Similarly, Tianming et al. (2021) states that urban planning addresses issues such as land use, infrastructure and the environment. Similarly, Wilson & Tewdwr-Jones (2022); Torres-Meraz & Iracheta (2022); Udeaja et al. (2020) point out that the use of urban space, the ability of people to move within the city, the quality of urban services and facilities should be considered.

Similarly, Wu et al. (2022); Yavuz (2021) indicate that the goal is to improve the quality of life of urban residents by ensuring efficient land use, equitable distribution of public services and adequate protection of the environment. Similarly, Berchoux et al. (2023); Cegielska et al. (2022); DeLoyde & Mabee (2023) state that it involves the consideration of environmental and ecological factors in making provisions on the expansion and development of urban surfaces. Such as, Eilola et al. (2023); Haghani et al. (2023); Hu et al. (2023) argue that social inclusion should be promoted by creating more affordable and safe urban environments for citizens, regardless of age, gender, race or socioeconomic status.

Similarly, Huang et al. (2022); Lousada et al. (2022); Lu et al. (2023) point out that the organization and management of surface employment in urban areas should improve the quality of life of residents, protect the environment and promote the development of urban areas, including the promotion of walkable neighborhoods, when implementing urban policies to improve population density in existing urban areas. Finally, Patel & Suthar (2022); Torres-Lima et al. (2022); Lam et al. (2023) consider it an important issue in the design and management of urban spaces, highlights the

importance of linking local populations in urban planning processes and of developing adaptive governance strategies to address urban planning challenges.

As for *dimension two: Mobility*, it refers to the ability of inhabitants to move within the city, whether on foot, in minor, public or private vehicles. For Wesely & Allen (2019); Song et al. (2022) mention that the ability of people to move within the city is a primary mechanism that intervenes in the quality of urban existence. Sustainable urban transport procedures can have a positive impact on the use of urban space by encouraging more reasonable forms of transport.

Likewise, Alipour & Dia, 2023); Benton et al. (2023); Berrio & Barrero (2023) determine that the importance of promoting walking as an active mobility option in cities improves residents' quality of life, social inclusion and environmental quality. By creating safer and more inclusive urban environments for all road users. Thus, Bertini et al. (2023); Distefano et al. (2023); Glock & Gerlach (2023) point out that urban development focuses on creating sustainable and livable urban environments that optimize residents' quality of existence, reducing traffic congestion and promoting reasonable healthier modes of transport. Decreasing dependence on the car and improving urban sustainability.

Likewise, Kotval-K et al. (2023); Reichenbach & Fleischer (2023); Rocha et al. (2023) state that the development towards sustainable transport management is a fundamental element to optimize the environmental quality of the city and social inclusion. By promoting sustainable modes of transport to improve mobility in urban areas. Similarly, Wang et al. (2023); Sunitiyoso et al. (2023); Zhang et al. (2023) describe that urban planning proposes sustainable urban design approaches to encourage walking and cycling in cities and for residents to have access to essential public services within walking distance of their homes.

As for *dimension three*: Urban equipment, it refers to the presence and quality of urban services and facilities, such as parks, schools, hospitals, cultural centers, among others. According to Zhou et al. (2023); Mishra et al. (2023) point out that infrastructure planning is an effective instrument to improve the quality and use of urban spaces by including the provision of public services, such as transport, green spaces and social services. Similarly, Ribeiro et al. (2023); Rui & Othengrafen (2023) argue that it contributes to the creation of urban parks that promote sport, social inclusion and community engagement. By improving the environmental quality of the city.

For Spyrou et al. (2023); Sunita et al. (2023) notes that incorporating green areas helps reduce air temperature in densely built urban areas. By providing an improvement in environmental quality, mitigating the negative consequences of urbanization and improving social cohesion.

As for *dimension four*: Environment, it refers to the environmental quality of the city, including the importance of air, water, waste management, management of green areas and protection of natural areas. For Acheampong et al. (2023) states that the environmental quality of the city is associated

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with the need to reduce the use of the car to reduce exposures and optimize air quality. Similarly, Aldossary et al. (2023) point out that it is necessary to protect the ecosystem in urban areas from the effects of population expansion. Finally, (Roy et al., 2022) adds that a suitable landfill site for urban waste in metropolitan areas should be considered, such that vacant land outside urban areas is the ideal place for urban waste disposal.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The study highlights the importance of urban planning in local development. It is fundamental for the sustainable development of cities, as it involves the design and management of the physical development of urban areas, according to the needs and objectives of communities. Improve the quality of life of the inhabitants, promote economic growth and ensure environmental sustainability. It helps prevent traffic congestion, environmental pollution and misallocation of public services such as housing, transport and drinking water.

In addition, it fosters job creation and economic development by promoting investment in infrastructure and public services. It is therefore an important factor in local development, as it can improve the quality of life of the inhabitants, promoting economic growth and ensuring environmental sustainability. Being a fundamental tool for municipalities to effectively manage the growth and development of their cities.

It involves the implementation of policies and strategies to guide urban development. It concentrates on a range of issues, including the provision of public services, the management of urban growth, the protection of the environment and the promotion of social and economic welfare. In addition, it highlights that it is a fundamental tool for municipalities to effectively manage the growth and development of their cities. This means developing plans and policies to guide land use, build infrastructure and public services, preserve cultural heritage and other important aspects of sustainable urban development. It is an important instrument for municipalities, since it allows an adequate management of the territory and an efficient use of available resources. This can help prevent traffic congestion, environmental pollution, and misallocation of utilities such as housing, transportation, and drinking water.

It presents four dimensions of urban planning and they are: (a) urban planning and land use, refers to the development and management of land use in urban areas, including zoning, population concentration and distribution of financial activities. (b) Mobility, refers to the planning and management of transport in urban areas, including the design of transport networks, pedestrian mobility, cycling and traffic management. (c) Urban equipment, refers to the planning and administration of public services and infrastructure in urban areas, including the provision of water, energy, sanitation and telecommunications. (d) Environment, refers to the environmental quality of the city, including air quality, water quality, waste management, management of green spaces

and protection of natural areas. These dimensions are important because they address different aspects of urban planning and can be useful in identifying areas for improvement in urban management.

The study highlights that local governments face several challenges in implementing urban planning policies. These challenges include: The lack of capacity of urban planners to address the social and environmental implications of urban development. The lack of collaboration and relationship between the people involved in the urban planning process, including citizens, civil collectivity and the private sector. The lack of citizen participation in urban development. The lack of economic resources faced by municipalities in the elaboration of urban planning policies. Overall, these challenges can hinder the implementation of urban planning policies and may limit the ability of local governments to address these challenges in order to improve the capacity of municipalities to implement effective and sustainable urban planning policies.

The authors provide some recommendations to address the challenges faced by local governments in implementing urban planning policies. These recommendations include: Strengthen the capacity of urban planners to address the social and environmental implications of urban development. Foster collaboration and relationship between the people involved in the urban planning process, including citizens, the civil community and the private sector. Consider the perspective of citizens in urban planning and promote citizen participation. Use scientific theories to support studies and improve the quality of research in the field of urban planning. Address the financial and resource challenges faced by municipalities in urban development policymaking.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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