

# Evaluation Study on Youth-Friendly Cities of Hohhot

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**Abstract:** Youth and city development complement each other, and building a Youth-Friendly City is the key to the high-quality development of Hohhot. In 2022, the city of Hohhot was selected as a national pilot for the establishment of a youth-friendly city and paid attention to youth life, study, residence, and other issues. This paper constructs an indicator system in Hohhot of youth-friendly city with 15 secondary indicators and 35 tertiary indicators in 7 aspects: job opportunities and startups, public services, economic growth, recreation, quality of life, transportation, and population characteristics. It also puts forward 3 suggestions for building a youth-friendly city: supporting enterprise innovation and creating a high-level talent development center; focusing on youth needs and enhancing talent attraction; and using environmental advantages to improve the quality of life. The results of the research not only enriched the research content of Youth-Friendly City construction in Hohhot but also pointed out the weaknesses in the development. It is conducive to the future construction and development of the city.

**Keywords:** Youth-friendly City; Youth; Tertiary Indicator; Hohhot

## 1. Introduction

With the development of the times, youth have gradually become the main force of urban construction. The development of youth and the development of cities should complement and promote each other, jointly promoting the sustainable development of cities and building a new type of people-oriented urbanization. In June 2022, Hohhot City in Inner Mongolia was selected as a pilot city for the development of a national youth development-oriented city. Subsequently, Hohhot City responded to the national requirements based on the needs and

demands of the youth and put forward a series of relevant policies. To effectively deal with the issues of youth concern, such as appropriate learning, work and home, and to give full play to the innovative advantages of youth to make the city develop in a high-quality manner [1]. However, how to build a city where young people have a sense of belonging, happiness, and identity is still an issue that Hohhot needs to explore continuously. Based on the current situation of Hohhot, this study assesses the youth development-oriented city, explores the shortcomings and problems in the city's development, and then realizes the precise policy.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Research on the Foreign Progress

According to Youth Policy Press, in 2014, 65 percent of countries in the global statistical universe had a youth policy in place or in the process of drafting one, an increase of 24 countries over 2013. Moreover, youth policies have been introduced on all five continents in the past 15 months, indicating that the development of youth-developing cities has received increasing attention from countries around the world.

The research on youth-friendly cities has been carried out earlier in developed countries. Japan has been publishing a White Paper on Youth since 1956 and has been actively adjusting its youth policies to the different contexts of the times, economic conditions, and the needs and realities of young people. In 2010, Australia put forward the National Strategy for the Development of Youth, which plans to integrate youth planning into urban planning and encourage youth to achieve their own lives [2]. In 2013, the United Kingdom published the Positive for Youth, which proposed significant reforms for young people in education, health, housing, employment,

crime, and other issues [3]. In 2016, the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) helped college students to choose a city to settle down, analyzed the outstanding

advantages of different cities, and encouraged colleges to select a city according to their preferences and wishes [4].

**Table 1. Indicator System of Youth-Friendly City in Hohhot**

Target layer	Criterion layer	Indicator layer	Weight
Job opportunities and startups (0.2658)	Employment environment (0.1781)	Unemployment rate	0.1032
		Average annual wage	0.0543
		Number of business units	0.0205
	Innovation environment (0.8770)	Youth entrepreneurship subsidy	0.0425
		Youth Entrepreneur-ship Loan Amount	0.0313
		R&D expenditures as a share of GDP	0.0139
Public services (0.1286)	Cultural education (0.0643)	Kindergarten coverage	0.0422
	Medical service (0.0643)	Primary and secondary school coverage	0.0211
		Number of medical institutions	0.0330
		Number of beds in medical institutions	0.0222
Economic growth (0.1178)	Level of economic development (0.0389)	GDP per capita	0.0389
		Per capita expenditure on services	0.0379
	Employment income levels (0.0789)	Basic salary for recent graduates	0.0234
		Per capita disposable income	0.0176
Recreation (0.0590)	Dining and entertainment (0.0295)	Catering outlets coverage	0.0195
		Number of theatres	0.0056
		Shopping centre coverage	0.0044
	Heathy (0.0295)	Number of stadiums	0.0174
		Number of gyms	0.0049
		Number of cultural facilities	0.0072
quality of life (0.2433)	Cost of living (0.1217)	Average house price	0.0357
		Rental subsidy for recent graduates	0.0283
		Housing subsidy for recent graduates	0.0309
		Pressure on recent graduates to buy houses	0.0149
		Urban consumer price index	0.0119
	Ecological environment (0.0608)	Number of parks	0.0287
		Greening ratio of built-up areas	0.0074
		Number of days with good air quality	0.0247
	Quality of life (0.0608)	Population density in built-up areas	0.0608
Transportation (0.1032)	Accessibility (0.0691)	Public transport vehicles	0.0423
		road density	0.0268
	Operational efficiency of transport (0.0341)	Average speed in the morning and evening peaks	0.0341
Population characteristics (0.0824)	Talent level (0.0552)	Share of population with tertiary education	0.0552
	Youth population (0.0272)	Percentage of youth population	0.0272

## 2.1 Domestic on the Foreign Progress

Nowadays, there are fewer studies on youth-friendly cities in China, mainly focusing on policy interpretation, indicator construction and practice

exploration. The Haibao Declaration, jointly issued by young volunteers in 2012, proposed for the first time that "cities and youth need to develop together and promote each other." In April 2017, the Long-term Youth Development Plan (2016-2025)

proposed for the first time to make youth development an essential task in China, providing a policy basis for the construction of youth development-oriented cities in China. In May 2017, Shenzhen took the lead in proposing the construction of a youth-friendly city. After this various provinces actively responded to the national call and promulgated a series of policies. In May 2021, Hohhot issued two related policies, including more than 20 measures such as rental, purchase and start-up subsidies.

### 3. Construction of an Indicator System of Youth-Friendly City in Hohhot

#### 3.1 Research Area

Combining the development of Hohhot with youth development is the key to building a youth-friendly city. To ensure the consistency between youth development and urban planning direction, four districts in Hohhot with better economic conditions are chosen as the study area: Yuquan, Xincheng, Saihan and Huimin.

#### 3.2 Construction of Indicator System

Based on existing relevant policies and literature at domestic and abroad, and the connotation of the youth-friendly city, the evaluation index system of the youth-friendly city in Hohhot is constructed from seven aspects: job opportunities and startups, public service, economic growth, recreation, quality of life, transportation, and demographic characteristics, and the population characteristics of Hohhot city compare from different dimensions.<sup>[5-7]</sup>

The text uses the analytic hierarchy process, refers to the expert opinion, and constructs the judgment matrix of indicators at all indicators, through the calculation of the weight of each indicator, pass the consistency test, the value of CR is less than or equal to 0.1, which proves that the results have a high degree of consistency, results of the calculation of the weight are shown in Table 1.

#### 3.3 Sources of Data

To ensure the truth and accuracy of the data, the socio-economic data are obtained from the 2021 Hohhot Statistical Yearbook and Hohhot National Economic and Social Development Statistical Bulletin on the government website, and other related data are obtained from the POI data of the open platform of amap. Therefore, this paper will use the data from the

2021. The analysis of the data, we will derive the relatively weak aspects of building a youth-friendly city in Hohhot, to help the future construction of the urban.

## 4. Empirical Results and Analysis

### 4.1 Analysis of Differences in Indicator Weights

The weights of the indicators are obtained through an analytic hierarchy process, and the results show that there are significant differences between the indicators, with Job opportunities and startups (0.2568) and quality of life (0.2433) in the first place, followed by public services (0.1286), economic growth (0.1178) and transportation (0.1032), and lastly, recreation (0.0590) and population characteristics (0.0824). Generally speaking, the youth group is more concerned about job opportunities and startups, the pressure of life and urban construction, but less concerned about recreation programs, traffic conditions and demographic composition, which suggests that cities should take into account the specific needs of the youth group in terms of employment and the economy, and integrate youth development with urban planning, and strengthen entrepreneurial treatment, employment conditions and urban ecological construction. In terms of job opportunities and startups, youth are more concerned about the unemployment rate (0.1032) and the average annual wage (0.0543), probably because the economy is recovering after the end of COVID-19, while the youth group is beginning to pursue relatively stable jobs with higher wages, and the employment environment and wage conditions have become their first choice. Secondly, in terms of quality of life, average house price (0.0357) and population density in built-up areas (0.0608) are more valued by the youth, and the survey learned that most of the youths prefer to live in cities with low pressure on house prices and moderate population density, indicating that the youth group aspires to a pleasant and easy life. In summary, it shows that young people are more in pursuit of a good employment environment, quality living atmosphere, perfect service facilities and high-quality economic development.

### 4.2 Analysis of Evaluation Results

As shown in Table 2, the construction of the

youth-friendly city in Hohhot is unbalanced, with significant differences in the scores of each part. The top two being job opportunities and startups (0.2921) and quality of life (0.1648), which development and construction are complete; the third, fourth, and fifth are economic development (0.1321), public service (0.1265), and transportation (0.1122), the difference between them is not huge; population characteristics (0.1031) and recreation (0.1044) are in the last two, there is more room for improvement in the subsequent development. The maximum and minimal differences in the scores of the indicators are in job opportunities and startup and recreation.

First, Hohhot scored outstandingly in job opportunities and startups, which is the first place in the evaluation results. Overall, Hohhot is in a good situation in the job opportunities and startups, with balanced growth in all aspects, and a high policy impact. That has enabled Hohhot to increase employment opportunities, have a stable employment environment, and increase support for youth entrepreneurship programs. However, the gap between the number of business units and the proportion of R&D expenditure to GDP and other indicators is obvious. Secondly, in quality of life, the main advantage of Hohhot is the population density in built-up areas and balanced development. However, the average house price, the urban consumer price index and the greening ratio of built-up areas are significantly lower. Although there is Daqingshan nearby, the city fails to take advantage of its green ecosystems. In economic growth, Hohhot has a good economy and high per capita GDP. According to the data analysis, in recent years the per capita GDP of Hohhot has been rising, and the main component is the services sector. However, the basic salary for recent graduates is low, which may affect the construction of the youth-friendly city.

Public services are ranked in the middle, and the overall level of development is moderate. The level of education has met the city's needs. However, medical services are lacking in terms of the number of medical institutions, the number of beds in medical institutions, and the number of elderly care institutions. In transportation, Hohhot has buses and metros, which are convenient and cover the four urban areas. There are enough public transport

vehicles to meet the traveling needs, but traffic congestion has always been a concern for the youth, a problem to be solved by urban construction. Hohhot has an advantageous population characteristic, with a high number of people with tertiary education and more young people, which may be related to the high number of universities in Hohhot. The recreation in Hohhot is low, but it can meet the daily needs of residents, students, and others. Because the youth does not have high recreational requirements, adding recreation to the future of urban planning.

### 5. Countermeasures and Suggestions

From the above evaluation results, Hohhot has advantages in geographical location and ecological environment, but there are still deficiencies in urban construction and development. In addition, Hohhot has more outstanding achievements in employment, economy, education, and other aspects, which shows that it already has a basis for development, that is feasible to build a youth-friendly city. This study combines the above analyses, putting forward the following recommendations for the characteristics of urban development in Hohhot.

First, supporting enterprise innovation and creating a high-level talent development center. Hohhot has a long history of transforming the city's functions during development. The construction of youth-friendly cities should have characteristics, economy, history and culture to create a unique city. It can establish talent centers to attract high-level talents, develop high technology and create an innovation and entrepreneurship base. Connect university graduates with enterprises, promote enterprise innovation, set up innovation and entrepreneurship parks, increase subsidies, support the opening of scientific research departments, and train technical talents. Increase investment in research funds to encourage and reward youth innovation and create a favorable environment for entrepreneurship.

Second, focusing on youth needs and enhancing talent attraction. Attracting and retaining talent is the key to building a youth-friendly city. This is a mismatch between spending and income levels in Hohhot. There should be greater awareness of the policy to ensure that young people have subsidies.

Simplified process and application time to help ease the economic pressure on recent graduates. Increasing its efforts to disseminate the policy and ensure that subsidies are accessible to youth groups. To ease the pressure on young talent to study. Young people can work and live well, reducing time in traffic jams, the provision of affordable housing, and other policies should be implemented as soon as possible, to increase the sense of belonging of young talent in the city.

Third, using environmental advantages to improve the quality of life. Hohhot is close to the Daqingshan, which is a natural green barrier. We can be used to build an urban green environment, create a green cultural belt, and build high-quality public space. Complete the infrastructure in the living circle, fulfill the basic amenities in the living circle, build or reconstruct sports, cultural, and other venues, and satisfy the needs of residents in their lives.

**Table 2. Score of Youth-Friendly City in Hohhot**

Target layer	Criterion layer	Indicator layer	Score
Job opportunities and startups (0.2921)	Employment environment (0.1899)	Unemployment rate	0.1269
		Average annual wage	0.0482
		Number of business units	0.0148
	Innovation environment (0.1021)	Youth entrepreneur-ship subsidy	0.0539
		Youth Entrepreneur-ship Loan Amount	0.0396
		R&D expenditures as a share of GDP	0.0086
Public services (0.1265)	Cultural education (0.0708)	Kindergarten coverage	0.0427
		Primary and secondary school coverage	0.0281
	Medical service (0.0557)	Number of medical institutions	0.0213
		Number of beds in medical institutions	0.0281
		Number of elderly care institutions	0.0063
Economic growth (0.1321)	Level of economic development (0.0493)	GDP per capita	0.0493
	Employment income levels (0.0828)	Per capita expenditure on services	0.0481
		Basic salary for recent graduates	0.0124
		Per capita disposable income	0.0223
Recreation (0.0679)	Dining and entertainment (0.0330)	Catering outlets coverage	0.0248
		Number of theatres	0.0063
		Shopping centre coverage	0.0040
	Heathy (0.0329)	Number of stadiums	0.0220
		Number of gyms	0.0058
		Number of cultural facilities	0.0051
quality of life (0.1648)	Cost of living (0.0599)	Average house price	0.0032
		Rental subsidy for recent graduates	0.0197
		Housing subsidy for recent graduates	0.0157
		Pressure on recent graduates to buy houses	0.0130
		Urban consumer price index	0.0083
	Ecological environment (0.0456)	Number of parks	0.0197
		Greening ratio of built-up areas	0.0075
		Number of days with good air quality	0.0185
	Quality of life (0.0593)	Population density in built-up areas	0.0593
	Transportation (0.1122)	Accessibility (0.0456)	Public transport vehicles
Road density			0.0340
Operational efficiency of transport (0.0246)		Average speed in the morning and evening peaks	0.0246
Population	Talent level	Share of population with tertiary education	0.0700

characteristics (0.1044)	(0.0700) Youth population (0.0345)	Percentage of youth population	0.0345
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## 6. Conclusions

This paper is based on the requirements of the state and Hohhot for the construction of a youth-friendly city. Combining the contents of the domestic and foreign indicator systems and the situation of urban development in Hohhot. This paper constructs an indicator system in Hohhot of the youth-friendly city in seven aspects: job opportunities and startups, public services, economic growth, recreation, quality of life, transportation, and population characteristics. Take four districts in Hohhot as research areas for empirical study. The results show that the construction of the youth-friendly city in Hohhot is unbalanced. We find job opportunities and startups and quality of life, in which development and construction are complete. Economic development, public service and transportation, the difference between them is not huge. Population characteristics and recreation are less developed. The results of the evaluation can help Hohhot to identify the shortages and advantages of each part in the city development planning and guide the construction of the youth-friendly city.

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