

Social Security Perception and Corruption Perception in Vietnam

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Abstract: The perception of social security and corruption significantly impacts governance and societal development, particularly in transitional economies like Vietnam. This study explores the intricate relationship between these perceptions and demographic factors within Vietnamese society. Using survey data from the World Values Survey Association (WVSA), key variables such as age, education level, income, and attitudes toward gender roles were analyzed to understand their influence on security and corruption perceptions. Through statistical methods including chi-square independence tests and regression analysis, this study investigates how different demographic characteristics relate to these perceptions. The data reveals a significant correlation between perceptions of security and corruption, with certain demographic groups, such as highly educated individuals, showing heightened concerns about both. The findings suggest that improving education and addressing income inequality could reduce corruption perceptions while enhancing security. These insights provide valuable directions for policymakers aiming to foster a safer and more transparent society in Vietnam.

Keywords: Security and corruption, Vietnamese society, Legal framework, Bribery.

1. Introduction

In today's global political and social landscape, the perception of security and corruption has garnered significant attention from national governments and international think tanks [1]. Understanding the intricate relationship between these two critical factors and their interplay with demographic characteristics is paramount for policymaking and social development. These concepts play a pivotal role in comprehending the psychological state and societal dynamics of citizens. To delve deeper into this issue, this paper conducted a survey, collecting representative datasets from various countries to analyze the correlation between feelings of security and subjective corruption and how they relate to demographic characteristics. This study leverages survey data from the World Values Survey Association (WVSA) focusing on Vietnamese society to explore perceptions of social security and corruption. The survey encompasses key aspects of Vietnamese society, including age distribution, education levels, income situations, security perceptions, corruption perceptions, and social attitudes. Through descriptive statistical analysis and visualization of these variables, we aim to gain a profound understanding of the structure and dynamics of Vietnamese society. This research provides insights into Vietnamese society, emphasizing the importance of addressing demographic challenges, promoting security, and combating corruption.

2. Data Description

Based on the organization and overview of the results of the questionnaire, a total of seven relevant factors were selected. The characteristics of each factor were organized, as shown in Table 1, including X003R2 (representing the age distribution of the respondents), Q277R/Q278 (reflecting the educational level of the respondents. Q277R is a general categorical variable representing the “low”, “medium”, and “high” levels of educational attainment) , Q277R/Q278 (representing the “low”, “medium”, and “high” levels of educational attainment). Q277R is a general categorical variable representing “low”, “medium”, and “high” educational attainment). Q278 provides specific categorizations of educational attainment, including “no education,” “elementary school,” “middle school,” “high school,” “college,” “high school,” “high school,” and “university.”, “university”, etc.), Q288 (representing respondents' income), Q54P (describing respondents' perceptions of security, especially carrying cash for security reasons), Q112/Q114 (reflecting respondents' perceptions of corruption. Q112 focuses on respondents' overall perception of corruption in the country. Q114, on the other hand, delves into which groups (e.g., government agencies or business executives) respondents believe are more likely to be involved in corruption), and Q35P /Q106 (representing societal attitudes toward gender roles and economic inequality. Q35P is a perception of women earning more than their husbands, and Q106 explores attitudes toward income inequality).

Table 1: Summary of Variables.

Number	Description	Type
Demographic Features		
X003R2	Age Distribution	Categorical
Q278	Education Level	Categorical
Q288	Income Situation	Categorical
Q35P	Opinion on Women Earning More	Categorical
Q106	Attitude towards Income Inequality	Categorical
Perceptions of Security		
Q54P	Frequency of Not Carrying Cash for Safety	Categorical
Perceptions of Corruption		
Q112	Overall Perception of National Corruption	Categorical

3. Result

3.1. The Relationship between Perceptions of Safety and Perceptions of Corruption in a Country

To investigate the relationship between perceptions of safety (e.g., reluctance to carry large amounts of cash due to safety concerns, represented by variable Q54P) and subjective perceptions of corruption in a country (represented by variable Q112), statistical methods are employed. Given that both variables are categorical, suitable methods include the Chi-Square test for independence and the construction of contingency tables to observe frequency distributions (Table 2).

Table 2: Contingency Table of Safety Perception vs. Corruption Perception.

Safety/Corruption	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Never	24	6	10	13	85	80	133	151	65	139
Rarely	2	1	1	7	29	45	53	62	27	48
Sometimes	6	1	1	1	28	16	29	35	12	68
Often	2	1	2	0	3	3	1	3	0	7

Initially, a contingency table was constructed to observe the distribution of security across different levels of corruption. Then, a Chi-Square test is conducted to determine if a statistically significant association exists between these two variables. The results of the Chi-Square test are shown in Table 4. The Chi-square statistic is 68.61263 with a P-value of approximately 1.765271×10^{-5} (Table 3). Given that the P-value is significantly less than 0.05 (the usual level of significance), there is a statistically significant association between perceptions of safety and corruption.

Table 3: Results of the Chi-Square Test.

Pearson's Chi-squared test	Value
Data	Contingency table
X-squared	68.613
Degrees of Freedom (df)	27
p-value	1.765e-05

The contingency table reveals the distribution of safety perceptions at varying levels of perceived corruption. It is observed that as perceptions of corruption increase, the proportion of respondents who 'Never' carry large amounts of cash due to safety concerns also changes. This suggests that people's perception of safety may be influenced by their perception of the prevalence of corruption.

This finding could reflect a broader phenomenon that individuals in societies with higher perceived levels of corruption may be more worried about their safety and property. Such an association offers critical insights into the interplay between societal trust, perceptions of safety, and governance quality.

3.2. Association Between Demographic Characteristics and Perceptions of Safety and Subjective Perceptions of Corruption

In order to study the association between demographic characteristics and sense of security and people's subjective perception of corruption and to fit the outcome variables using linear regression model and count regression model, where demographic characteristics and sense of security are used as explanatory variables and people's subjective perception of corruption is used as the outcome variable.

The demographic characteristics variables need to be defined first, including age (X003R2), education (Q278), income status (Q288), and attitudes toward the gender income gap (Q35P) and economic gap (Q106). Perception of security (Q54P) will serve as another explanatory variable, while perception of corruption (Q112) will serve as the outcome variable.

3.3. The Relationship Between Demographic Characteristics and Perceived Corruption and People's Sense of Security

This study explores the relationship between demographic characteristics and perceived corruption (explanatory variable) and people's sense of security (outcome variable). Due to the limited number

of samples with a security perception score of 4, this portion of the samples was excluded from the statistical analysis.

3.3.1. Model Selection

Table 4: Model Comparison Based on Fit Criteria.

Model	logLik	AIC	BIC	Deviance	df.residual	nobs
Linear	-1016.660	2117.319	2320.891	478.1253	900	941
Negative Binomial	-1225.582	2535.165	2738.737	280.3102	900	941
Poisson	-1225.577	2533.154	2731.878	280.3156	900	941

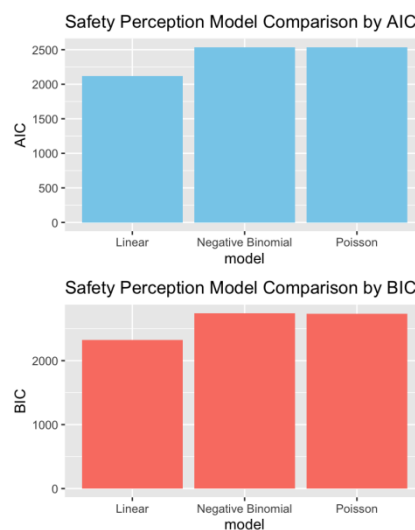


Figure 1: AIC and BIC.

Based on Figure 1 and Table 4, it can be observed that the linear model exhibits lower values for both the AIC and BIC criteria compared to the other two models, while the difference between Negative Binomial Regression and Poisson Regression is minimal. Additionally, a similar conclusion can be drawn from the negative log-likelihood criterion.

3.3.2. Correlation Analysis

In the linear model, positive coefficients associated with education level variables (Q2781, Q2782, Q2783) suggest that higher education may lead to a greater frequency of avoiding carrying large amounts of cash due to safety concerns. Conversely, the negative coefficient for income level (Q2888) implies that higher income may result in less avoidance of carrying cash due to safety concerns, possibly because higher-income individuals perceive lower risks or have better security measures. Additionally, the negative coefficient for the variable Q35P2 suggests that those with more open attitudes toward women earning more than their husbands are less likely to avoid carrying large amounts of cash for safety reasons.

The results for the Poisson and Negative Binomial models are less significant, as none of the coefficients have p-values less than 0.05. This indicates that in the Poisson model, demographic characteristics and corruption perception may not have a statistically significant impact on safety

concerns. This could be due to greater variance in coefficient estimates in the Poisson model, indicating higher uncertainty in the results.

4. Discussion

4.1. Issues

Financial corruption poses significant risks to Vietnam's economic and social fabric. The prevalence of bribery, abuse of power, and money laundering are critical issues that undermine trust in government institutions and hinder economic development. Among these, bribery is common in various sectors, including public services and business. And abuse of power is another prevalent form of corruption, in which government officials exploit their positions for personal gain, leading to unfair advantages and a lack of transparency. As well, money laundering is a severe concern, with illicit funds being channeled through various financial systems, making it difficult to track and control illegal activities. When comparing Vietnam with other Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia and Thailand, both similarities and differences in the landscape of financial corruption are revealed [2]. In Indonesia, corruption is also widespread, with high-profile cases involving government officials and business executives. However, the country's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) has been relatively successful in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases, which has somewhat mitigated the risks [3]. In contrast, Thailand faces challenges with systemic corruption, where even anti-corruption agencies have been accused of being influenced by political interests [4]. The economic and social impacts of financial corruption in these countries are profound. In Vietnam, corruption leads to inefficient allocation of resources which stifles entrepreneurial opportunities and reduces foreign investment at the same time [5]. Socially, it exacerbates inequality and erodes public trust in government institutions [5]. Similarly, in Indonesia and Thailand, corruption has impeded the pace of economic growth and development in the country and contributed to social discontent and instability [6].

4.2. Suggestion

Addressing financial corruption requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses both preventive and punitive measures. In Vietnam, enhancing legal frameworks and improving administrative transparency are crucial steps. Additionally, promoting transparency through digital governance and open data initiatives can reduce opportunities for corruption [7]. Comparatively, Indonesia's success with the KPK demonstrates the importance of possessing a robust and independent anti-corruption agency [8]. Vietnam can benefit from establishing a similar body with strong investigative powers and autonomy from political influence. Thailand's efforts to implement stringent anti-corruption education and public awareness campaigns can also serve as a model for Vietnam.

Policy development also needs to focus on improving the capacity of law enforcement agencies to effectively detect and prosecute corruption, including through the provision of adequate training, resources and technology to track financial transactions and uncover illegal activities [9]. In addition, cooperation with international organizations and neighbouring countries can enhance information-sharing and collective efforts to combat cross-border financial crime [10].

However, the implementation of these measures will certainly face multiple constraints in their development and implementation, such as resistance from relevant interest groups [11]. Ensuring the independence of anti-corruption bodies and the protection of whistleblowers is therefore crucial to overcoming these challenges. In addition, the implementation of anti-corruption strategies requires continuous monitoring and evaluation, which helps to adapt policies to changing realities [12].

5. Conclusion

This paper has provided policy makers with numerous ideas about corruption and security perceptions. Firstly, on the importance of education, the study found that in some cases, there is a correlation between the level of education and corruption and security perceptions. Policymakers should therefore consider investing in education in order to increase perceptions of security while decreasing perceptions of corruption by increasing the level of education of the public. Education not only improves perceptions, but also leads to a better understanding of corruption and security risks. Second, attitudes on income inequality correlate with perceptions of corruption suggesting that governments should address income inequality. Measures to reduce social and economic disparities can increase public trust in government and improve perceptions of corruption. In addition, in terms of perceptions of security, policymakers should prioritize public safety, even though research proves that there is no significant link between perceptions of security and perceptions of corruption. Improving and maintaining the stability of society through enhanced public safety and police protection This can simultaneously further enhance people's sense of security. Finally, on age and gender factors, although this paper analyzes that age and attitudes towards women earning more than their husbands do not seem to be related to corruption and a sense of security. However, policymakers should still consider the needs of different age and gender groups and formulate policies that address the specific concerns and needs of different groups of people in order to ensure that policies are effective and fair.

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