






# Identification of Water Crisis Management Policy Indicators in the Country Based on the Interpretive Structural Modeling (ISM) Approach

Seyed Hasan. Mahdavifar<sup>1</sup>, Baharak. Shirzad Kebria<sup>2</sup>, Fatemeh. Hamidifar<sup>2\*</sup>, Abbas. Khorshidi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PhD Student, Department of Educational Management and Higher Education, Central Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran  
<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Management and Higher Education, Central Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran  
<sup>3</sup> Professor, Department of Educational management, Islamshahr Branch, Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: fhamidifar3@yahoo.com

## Editor

Mohammed Abdul Imran Khan  
Department of Financial  
Management and Economics,  
Dhofar University, Oman  
mimran@du.edu.om

## Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Susan Jafari  
Professor, Management Department, Tehran University, Tehran, Iran.  
Email: sjafari22@mun.ca  
**Reviewer 2:** Nilofar Nouhi  
Department of Management, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario,  
Canada  
Email: rhgholizadeh@um.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The methodology section provides an overview of the ISM approach but lacks detailed explanations of the steps involved and how decisions were made at each step. For clarity, please provide a more detailed description of the ISM process and how it was specifically applied in this study.

The results section lists numerous factors identified as important but does not delve deeply into the significance of each or their interrelations. A more detailed analysis of key factors, perhaps through a few illustrative examples, would enrich the discussion and provide clearer insights into their roles and interactions within the context of water crisis management.

While the paper mentions limitations and future directions briefly, expanding this section to include a discussion on the implications of these limitations for practice and future research would be beneficial. For instance, how might the identified indicators be operationalized in policy-making? What are the potential challenges?

Ensure that all references are correctly formatted and consistent throughout the paper. Additionally, consider updating the literature review with the most recent studies to strengthen the paper's relevance and contextual background.

There are a few instances of typographical and grammatical errors that need correction. A thorough proofreading pass would help improve the paper's readability and professional presentation.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The literature review currently provides a baseline understanding of the water crisis and the importance of policy-making. However, it would benefit from a more comprehensive analysis of previous works specifically related to ISM in water crisis management. Highlighting gaps that your study aims to fill can better position your research within the existing body of knowledge.

The methodology section should be significantly expanded to include justification for the choice of ISM over other models, detailed descriptions of each step in the ISM process, criteria for participant selection, and measures taken to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings. Including a more thorough explanation of the MICMAC analysis and how it complements the ISM findings would also be valuable.

The findings section lists numerous indicators but falls short in analyzing their implications for policy-making and water crisis management. A deeper, more nuanced discussion on how these indicators interact and the potential impact of prioritizing certain indicators over others in policy development is necessary.

The paper would greatly benefit from a comparative analysis with other countries or regions that have successfully implemented policies based on similar indicators. This comparison could offer practical insights and lessons learned that could be applicable to the context of your study.

The conclusion provides general recommendations, but these could be significantly expanded to offer detailed, actionable policy recommendations. How can the findings of this study be translated into specific policy actions? What are the potential barriers to implementation, and how might they be overcome?

The limitations section should be more comprehensive, discussing the potential biases introduced by the ISM approach and the selection of experts. How might these limitations affect the generalizability of the findings? Additionally, future research directions should be outlined more specifically, suggesting how subsequent studies could build on your findings to further refine water crisis management policies.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the new document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.