



Sociological explanation of the use of information technology and the feeling of social security among young people in Tabriz

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ABSTRACT

Background and Aim: Throughout human life, security is considered one of the main human needs and its importance has increased in the modern era to such an extent that according to some experts, the special and unique work of governments in today's modern world is to establish Security is due to the importance of security and the feeling of security, the present research has investigated the level of feeling of social security and the recognition of the most important factors related to it. **Methods:** This research was conducted by survey method and using questionnaire technique. The statistical population of the research is all young people aged 20-35 living in Tabriz city, and the sample size was calculated using Cochran's formula of 400 people. They were selected by multi-stage cluster sampling method. **Results:** The data analysis indicated that, if communication and information technology is used correctly, it can be used as an empowerment tool for the development of more comprehensive social security. The correlation coefficient between the amount of use of information technology with the social security feeling variable is equal to (0.115) and its significance level is (0.021), which indicates that there is a significant and direct relationship between the two variables. Among the dimensions of feeling of social security, the lowest feeling of security is related to the dimension of moral security and the highest feeling of security is related to the dimension of personal security. **Conclusion:** The findings indicated that there was a significant and direct relationship between the amount of information technology use and the feeling of social security.



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Introduction

One of the primary and basic human needs for a good life and to achieve perfection and happiness is to have security in its various dimensions and types so that in its light he can find peace and walk on the path of happiness and development (Kamran & Ibadati Nazarlou, 2010). Security has different definitions; In this way, according to some, it is defined as "a space without any danger and harm" (Anjarr, 2009). It also considers security to mean being loved, accepted and friendly (Janicka, 2015). According to the definition in the Cambridge dictionary, security is the protection of a person, building, organization or country against threats such as crime or attacks from foreign countries (Cambridge, 2021). Security practically covers all aspects of human life. Talking about personal, national, social, air, road, food security, etc., shows the pervasiveness of security in all aspects of individual life (Jahangiri & Evan, 2013). Security is one of the basic human needs and motivations, so that with its deterioration, the peace of mind of a person is lost and anxiety and restlessness take its place, and the fulfillment of many human needs depends on providing security; So that Abraham Maslow also places the feeling of security in the hierarchy of needs immediately after satisfying the basic needs. Therefore, guaranteeing security is necessary and necessary, because human life depends on it, and disruption of its mechanism will cause insecurity and distress in human condition and endanger his mental health (Raisi et al., 2013).

Bozan believes that: security can be approached both objectively (there is a real threat) and subjectively (there is a perceived threat), and nothing guarantees that the two are in the same line (Saleh, 2010). Although security is an important issue, many sociologists describe the feeling of security as more important and necessary than the existence of security (Mubaraki & Sultanzadeh, 2019). The subjective dimension of security, or the feeling of security, has gained undeniable importance, and from the point of view of many experts, the feeling of security is more important than the existence of security (Rasuli, 2021). The use of information and communication technology solutions is necessary for the successful implementation of social policies, including the reform of social security and the strategic design and management of social security

programs (International Social Security Institute, 2012). The key to sustainable economic development lies in increasing the input of production factors and increasing production efficiency. Neoclassical and new economic growth theories believe that scientific and technological innovation and revolution can improve production efficiency and promote social progress and economic development in conditions where there are limited production factors (Pang et al., 2022). Various areas of social policies such as health, education, social care, social security, etc. have been affected by technological innovations, which will be increasingly affected by its further developments in the future. Several studies have been conducted on the impact of technological innovations on society (Van Hoven, 2012; Gujin et al., 2018) and the economy (Curzio et al., 2012; Berger-Helmchen, 2013; Maleki, 2018); They show the tremendous impact of technology in these fields.

The most clearly and visibly impactful technological advances seem to be those that directly affect the ways in which humans communicate (Parasaccia et al., 2023). In fact, information and communication technology plays a very important role in all aspects of national life (politics, economy, social and cultural development, etc.) of today's societies. Information and communication technology, the speed of life, even the ways we do business because of it; It changes the way we access information and services, communicate with each other, and entertain ourselves. Information and communication technology strengthens and supports the global economy. Also, it is related to human rights and in the best case, it supports freedom of expression and the right to use information, based on Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Bilgin, 2003). Therefore, today, modern information technologies have had significant effects on the position and performance of many societies, organizations and individuals, which, in parallel with the tremendous progress that has been made in this field, tie the fate of societies, organizations and individuals to these modern technologies every day more than in the past. (Mohammadi, 2020). From an organizational point of view, regardless of the philosophy of the existence of technology in any organization, due to the high importance of tasks, it is necessary to pay attention to the knowledge of

people, and what is considered is the use of up-to-date and new technologies with the aim of increasing the capabilities of human resources (Damghanian et al., 2013).

Despite all the positive points of technological progress, this technology is also associated with negative social consequences, such as the exclusion of a large part of the world's population from the benefits of digitalization, which is basically due to their low income, which cannot afford high-quality access. Therefore, a large demand gap has been created; It causes other problems, such as the spread of fake news and cyber attacks, the increasing risk to privacy and security of personal data, and thus endangering public and social security, the widespread production of electronic waste, etc., has also worsened. Therefore, the increase in inequality in many countries and the deprivation of vulnerable population groups sometimes makes it more difficult to build social and political systems that are able to properly guide the development of new technologies (Digital Institute of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021).

Also, in this research, where the sense of social security has been investigated according to the amount of information technology use of people, this issue has been referred to from different angles. Throughout human life, security has been considered one of the main human needs, and its importance has increased in the modern era to such an extent that, according to some experts, the establishment of security is the special and irreplaceable task of governments in today's modern world. Having no fear in life and the existence of life and financial security, honor and social dignity, protection of freedom and legitimate individual and social rights, creating general satisfaction and, in a word, the absence of threats. In discussing the development process, security is one of the basic indicators (Novidnia, 2009). Especially in future cities where the structure, work and social activities are transformed. Today, the term security covers a wide range of concepts from physical and financial security to mental and psychological security and feeling secure about the future; Concepts that gradually gain significant importance in people's lives and develop with the progress of societies and have double importance in interaction with other aspects of social development (Taziki, 2013).

The adoption and integration of digital and advanced technologies (such as 5G Internet, Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, artificial intelligence, big data analysis and robotics) means that we are moving towards a digitalized economy and society; A world where traditional economies with their organizational, production and governance systems are produced, overlapped or merged with the digital economy and with their innovative features in terms of business models, creating more complex ecosystems (Digital Institute of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018). Therefore, although technological innovations have been solutions to human needs, they may have the transformative power to become new engines to advance economic growth and social improvement. However, the impact of technological change on society is not always beneficial. There is an increasing concern that technological innovations may create problems as much as solve them (Lee & Pichad, 2018).

The findings of Maubai et al.'s (2016) research on the sense of security of citizens and tourists in seven European countries indicated that theft is one of the most important factors in reducing the sense of security. Also, the results indicated that access to appropriate health services, money exchange facilities and other information centers are among the most important factors that strengthen the sense of security. The results of Mustafa et al.'s (2017) research on the safety and security of cities and their impact on life in Egypt indicated that insecurity directly and indirectly affects the shape of cities. The results of the research of Spadaro et al. (2020) regarding the effects of trust on increasing the feeling of social security indicated that increasing the level of trust is effective in increasing the level of feeling of security.

The basic questions that the current research seeks to answer are whether the use of information technology affects people's sense of security. Is the feeling of social security the same among the users of information technology? And how can the feeling of security be increased?

Method

The current research is practical from the point of view of the goal; Because the results of its findings can be used to solve the identified problems, and from the point of view of nature and method, it is a descriptive-survey of the

correlation type; Because it tries to obtain the required information from the current state of the statistical sample by using the questionnaire. One of its most important advantages is the ability to generalize the results. The required data were collected from the youth of Tabriz by directly referring to selected samples of people and using two separate standard questionnaires by Gennaro et al. (2007) and researcher-made. In the construction and setting of the researcher-made questionnaire, in addition to the proposed theories, directed interviews with the target population were also used and the questionnaire was prepared. The statistical population of the current research consists of all young people of Tabriz city, in this research, Cochran's formula was used to estimate the sample size, and 400 people were selected by stratified random sampling method according to the sample size. At the end, after collecting the data and calculating the descriptive statistics of the collected information, the data has been analyzed by calculating the correlation coefficient.

Materials

1. Social Security Questionnaire. In this study, in order to collect part of the data required for the research, a survey was conducted using a researcher-made questionnaire to explain the social security of the youth of Tabriz. Therefore, the dependent variable considered in this research has been measured with the nine dimensions of life security, financial security, intellectual security, collective security, law enforcement security, cyber security, moral security, cultural security and legal security. These dimensions were formulated according to previous studies, existing theories and also the new considerations of the researcher, which were designed in the form of closed-ended questions. A 5-level Likert scale was used in formulating the questions of the questionnaire and collecting the relevant answers. At first, face validity was used to secure the validity of the research tool and determine its validity. Therefore, for this purpose, by presenting the questions to 4 experts, the validity of the prepared questionnaire was confirmed by the experts. Further, in order to determine the reliability of the questionnaire questions, Cronbach's alpha test was carried out to determine the internal consistency of the items from a statistical point of view. For this purpose, in the first step after the experimental

distribution of the questionnaire among 35 people, it was observed that the coefficients of total alpha and Cronbach's alpha of some items were weak; Therefore, in order not to damage the content validity of the scale, after modifying the text of the mentioned items and even removing some items, the modified questionnaires were distributed again; And after collecting them, while observing the improvement of the individual alpha coefficients of each item as well as the Cronbach's alpha of the entire questionnaire, in the last step, the final questionnaire was distributed among all members of the sample; After completing the questionnaires, the calculated total Cronbach's alpha was 0.794, which was significant at the 0.001 level, which showed the appropriateness of the designed questions. At this stage, confirmatory factor analysis and factor loading values of each construct were used to measure construct validity. Its results are considered for each of the nine dimensions and calculated for social security along with Cronbach's alpha values, all of which are significant at the one and five percent level. Factor loadings of all items are higher than 0.4. Therefore, in general, we will not need to delete or modify any of the questions. Considering that the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the measured items in each of the investigated dimensions is higher than 0.7, it can be concluded that the reliability of the questionnaire is also at a good level and is approved. For all the nine dimensions considered for social security, options with a 5-point Likert scale and a rank level have been considered and finally, by converting to a distance level, they have been examined in the final analysis.

2. Information technology usage technology (Genaro et al., 2007): In this study, the use of information technology was measured by measuring the use of short messages, multimedia messages, the Internet, and social networks. For this purpose, the scale designed by Genaro et al. (2007) based on ten psychological indicators from the manual for diagnosis and classification of mental disorders was used. This questionnaire has 23 items based on a six-point Likert response format (1-never, 2-almost never, 3-sometimes, 4-often, 5-almost always, 6-always). This scale does not have subscales and subfactors. They reported the reliability of this scale using the internal

consistency method on male and female Spanish students, $\alpha = 0.87$. Subjects with scores above 75 are identified as excessive users and those below 25 as low users (Gol Mohammadian & Yasminejad, 2012). However, in this study, two new items related to new virtual space platforms were added to the items of the English version, as well as changing the options from a six-point Likert scale to a five-point scale; Then, according to the answers provided, this variable has been converted into an interval level and used in the final analysis. The results of the structural validity test using confirmatory factor analysis showed that the factor loading of all items is greater than 0.4 and the alpha coefficient for the entire questionnaire is 0.818, which is satisfactory and significant at the 0.001 level.

Implementation

Table 1. Descriptive statistics related to the social security feeling variable and its dimensions

Components	N	Range	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Variance	Skewness	Kurtosis
Safety of life	400	33	20	53	33/43	4/815	23/188	0/407	0/582
Financial Security	400	20	5	25	15/355	3/70246	13/708	-0/021	-0/417
Thinking security	400	21	6	27	16/58	3/451	11/909	-0/383	0/426
Collective security	400	60	3	63	9/93	3/728	13/897	7/124	102/120
Police security	400	12	3	15	10/22	2/692	7/245	-0/419	-0/242
Moral security	400	8	2	10	6/44	1/913	3/661	-0/133	-0/549
Cultural security	400	11	4	15	9/59	1/968	3/877	-0/118	0/002
Legal security	400	12	3	15	7/63	2/788	7/773	0/341	-0/659
Social Security	400	93	66	159	109/1675	11/0005	121/012	0/171	1/559

As seen in Table 2, the lowest rate of using information technology was 39 and the highest rate was 121. The variable mean of the use of information technology is equal to 62/87, which indicates the high use of information technology by the respondents. The standard deviation and variance were (17.485) and (305.715),

According to the explanations given in the research tool, after collecting the data, using SPSS software, the required information was extracted and after categorizing the information, the hypotheses were tested by calculating the Pearson correlation coefficient.

Results

In this study, among the dimensions of feeling of social security, the lowest feeling of security is related to the dimension of moral security and the highest feeling of security is related to the dimension of personal security. The mean feeling of social security of women is equal to (86/07) and the mean feeling of social security of men is equal to (109/26). Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics related to the social security feeling variable and its dimensions.

respectively. The amount of skewness was -0.552, which is a negative skewness, which means that the curve went to the left and most of the data was on the right side, and the peak of the data was on the right side. This means that the use of information technology is higher than the mean.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics related to the variable of information technology usage

Components	N	Range	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Variance	Skewness	Kurtosis
IT usage	400	82	39	121	62/87	17/485	305/715	-0/552	-0/150

The results of Pearson's correlation coefficient test between the variable of information technology use and the feeling of social security and its dimensions are shown in Table 3. The results show that the intensity of correlation between the amount of information technology

use with the dimensions of financial security and collective security is very weak and direct, the intensity of correlation between the amount of information technology use with the dimensions of intellectual security and police security and legal security is very weak and

inverse; However, none of the relationships were significant.

The intensity of the correlation between the use of information technology with the dimensions of life safety, moral safety and cultural safety is very weak, very weak; The type of relationship between the use of information technology and life safety, moral safety and cultural safety has been direct and significant. This means that with the increase in the use of information technology, the amount of life security and the

amount of cultural security also increases and vice versa.

Finally, the correlation coefficient between the amount of information technology use with the social security feeling variable is equal to (0.115) and its significance level is (0.021); It means that there is a significant and direct relationship between two variables. This means that with the increase in the use of information technology, the feeling of social security also increases and vice versa.

Table 3. The results of the Pearson correlation coefficient test between the IT usage and the feeling of social security

Independent variable	Pearson	Feeling of social security and its dimensions								
		Life security	Financial security	Thinking security	Collective security	Police security	Moral security	Cultural security	Legal security	Total
IT usage	N	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
	R	0/218**	0/020	-0/076	0/012	-0/087	0/110*	0/237**	-0/028	0/115*
	p	0/000	0/696	0/127	0/810	0/083	0/027	0/000	0/578	0/021

Conclusion

This research was conducted in order to investigate the effect of the use of information technology on the sense of social security of young people in Tabriz. 400 people were selected as a sample from the statistical population. In the theoretical part, we used the ideas of thinkers of different schools in the field of social security and expressed our meaning from the concepts presented. In the most key definition, the feeling of security was defined as the lack of fear of human values being attacked and the absence of fear and fear regarding legitimate rights and freedoms.

According to the results, there is a degree of use of information technology with a sense of social security. The Pearson correlation coefficient between the amount of information technology use and the social security feeling variable indicates that there is a significant and direct relationship between the two variables. This means that with the increase in the use of information technology, the feeling of social security also increases and vice versa. The intensity of the correlation between the use of information technology and the dimension of life security is very strong; The intensity of the correlation between the amount of information

technology use and the dimension of moral security is very strong; The intensity of the correlation between the amount of information technology use and the dimension of cultural security is very strong; The type of relationship between the use of information technology and life safety, moral safety and cultural safety has been direct and significant. This means that with the increase in the use of information technology, the amount of life security and the amount of cultural security also increases and vice versa.

This means that the correct use of information technology not only does not pose a serious threat; It also increases the feeling of social security. This finding is consistent with the results of Soltanijad et al.'s (2013) research, who believe that information technology has not posed a serious threat to national security.

But this finding does not confirm the opinion of Bozan and Weaver because according to the opinion of Bari Bozan and Al Weaver, social security is basically related to the traditional patterns of language, culture, religious and ethnic identity and customs, these values are often threatened inside the country; However, today, due to the globalization of information and communication technology, we see that this

process has intensified. That is, cross-border actors have fueled these ethnic, religious, and cultural differences and differences through modern means of communication, and since, in addition to the traditional threat that was mainly of a military nature, economic, environmental, and political, social, and cultural threats have expanded. We are witnessing internal disintegration, extreme tendency towards other than self and self-view in people, which has spread as a result of cultural globalization and causes loss of trust and security. Therefore, as a result of the development of modern information technology, such as mobile phones with the ability to send SMS, multimedia messages and connect to the Internet and virtual spaces such as Viber, Instagram Line, Tango and WeChat, diverse and numerous sources of information have been independently and freely available to people. This causes people to communicate across borders, and after that we have seen the formation of a new basis of identity, which may have weakened the religious, national and indigenous identity and culture and caused the spread of Western culture and irreligiousness; Therefore, it weakens social security, especially cultural and identity security. In the end, according to the obtained information, some suggestions can be made:

- The use of information technology is effective in increasing people's sense of security; Therefore, the responsible institutions should try to improve the quality and speed of the Internet.
- Media literacy should be taught to people so that people with good thinking and media literacy can distinguish between good and bad media literacy.
- In this research, it was found that the young men of Tabriz had a high sense of social security compared to the young women of Tabriz, so the relevant institutions such as the police, the social deputy of Naja, should improve the sense of social security of young people and especially women of Tabriz city with their actions.

Conflict of Interest

According to the authors, this article has no financial sponsor or conflict of interest.

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