





Sociological Analysis of the Relationship Between Urban Quality of Life and Social Security and Social Belonging Among Women in the Urban Community of Arak

Zahra. Bayati¹, Jila. Mashhadi^{2*}, Maryam. Yarmohammadousky², Faranak. Seyyedi³

¹ Ph. D Student., Dep of Sociology, Arak Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran

² Assistant Prof., Dep of Sociology, Arak Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran



³ Associate Prof., Dep of Sociology, Arak Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: Jilamashhadi@yahoo.com

Editor

Hussein OMAR Alkhozah^{id}
Professor, Department of Sociology,
Al-Balqa' Applied University, Salt,
Jordan
huss1960@bau.edu.com

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Mohsen Kachooei 
Assistant Professor of Health Psychology, Department of Psychology, Humanities
Faculty, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran. kachooei.m@usc.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Nadereh Saadati 
Department of Couple and Family therapy, Alliant International University,
California, United States of America. mdaneshpour@alliant.edu

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the section discussing the role of social security and social belonging, you refer to several studies. For instance, "Women's sense of social insecurity is higher than that of men." It would be helpful to provide a clearer rationale for why women experience this disparity, perhaps incorporating feminist theory or empirical research.

The stepwise regression results in Table 4 are explained as "Economic security has the largest share among the dimensions." However, the discussion on why economic security stands out over other factors, such as social trust, is not sufficiently explored. Consider expanding on these findings.

The article would benefit from comparing your findings on urban quality of life in Arak with similar studies from other cities, especially to see if Arak represents a broader trend or an outlier in terms of women's urban experiences.

You frequently reference social security and social belonging but don't integrate these variables into a clear theoretical framework. Consider referencing specific social theories that could ground your argument, such as Putnam's theory of social capital.

The statement "The correlation between the latent variable of social belonging and social trust was 0.991" suggests a very high correlation. Could you discuss whether this high correlation implies multicollinearity and how you addressed it statistically?

You use grounded theory to develop the conceptual model of urban quality of life. Can you explain why grounded theory is the most appropriate approach for this topic, and whether alternative qualitative methods might have been considered?

The discussion of "social security and social belonging can predict up to 22% of urban quality of life" is somewhat confusing. A more straightforward explanation of what this 22% represents in practical terms would strengthen the clarity for readers.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the Methods and Materials section, you state, "The sample size was increased to 420 to account for non-responses." However, it is unclear how the final sample was chosen or whether it adequately represents the target population in terms of demographic factors (e.g., age, occupation). Consider including more detail on the sampling strategy.

The article mentions "urban quality of life" without thoroughly defining it in practical or measurable terms. Could you offer a more operational definition, particularly in terms of the variables measured, such as health, economic security, or environmental factors?

The statement "This study posits that there is a relationship between urban quality of life and social belonging" would benefit from more precise formulation of your hypothesis. For example, you could specify whether you expect a positive, negative, or curvilinear relationship based on theoretical reasoning or prior studies.

In Table 1 (Summary of Qualitative Data Analysis), it is unclear how you operationalized the dimensions, such as "social environment quality." Could you provide further clarification on how these categories were defined and the specific items used in the questionnaire to assess them?

In Table 2, you show composite reliability values, but it is not immediately clear what threshold values you are using to determine reliability (you mention 0.70). Providing references for the reliability thresholds and a more detailed discussion of their implications for your study would be useful.

You state, "Public security and extreme individualism had the least impact on the model." It would be helpful to expand on why these variables had a lower impact and whether this aligns with existing literature.

You mention limitations regarding the geographic focus of Arak. However, you could also discuss the potential impact of self-report biases in your questionnaire data, given that respondents might underreport certain types of insecurity.

In your results, "social trust was one of the strongest predictors of urban quality of life." However, the theoretical foundations of this finding are underexplored. Expanding on how social trust affects urban quality of life, using supporting literature, would strengthen this point.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.