

A Sustainable Social Development Model Based On Cultural Barriers

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ABSTRACT

Numerous studies have been conducted on effective, sustainable development, but they may not benefit local communities. Recognizing the potential for spatial development within a city and its various sectors, it is evident that specific barriers, particularly cultural ones, must be addressed. This study seeks to create a socially stable development model for Beshagard City by tackling the cultural challenges present in the community. The research utilizes a mixed methodology incorporating both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study population consists of students living in urban and rural areas of the city. Following Morgan's Table for sample size determination, a maximum of 384 participants were chosen for the quantitative segment of the study. Additionally, qualitative data was gathered through interviews with 20 individuals, including professors, urban development sustainability experts (10 individuals), and representatives from cultural heritage organizations (10 individuals). Data was analyzed using SPSS and Lisrel software in a Windows environment, encompassing descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. Descriptive statistics were utilized to examine data levels and rankings among the student population. Moreover, a structural equation model was used to devise an appropriate development model for achieving social stability. Data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel, SPSS, and Lisrel software. The research findings reveal that cultural factors significantly impact the underdevelopment of Beshagard City, as evidenced by the t-test results, with a calculated t-value (8.09) exceeding the standardized t-value of 1.96 at a 95% significance level. The importance of culture in sustainable development and the promotion of social justice cannot be emphasized enough. The research clearly shows that culture is a key factor in the progress of any community. Ignoring or underestimating this

essential element can lead to the downfall of all development efforts.



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1. Introduction

A sustainable social development model must tackle cultural barriers that hinder collaboration between universities and industries (Campuzano et al., 2023; O'Dwyer et al., 2023; Rossoni et al., 2024). By recognizing each party's distinct social, cultural, and economic roles, the model can foster mutual understanding and trust, which is essential for effective partnerships. This approach emphasizes the importance of establishing common language and communication channels to bridge cultural divides, facilitating knowledge transfer and innovation (Amini et al., 2022; Hu et al., 2024; Khaliji & Jafarpour Ghalehtemouri, 2024a). Additionally, the model should incorporate strategies to nurture relational social capital, such as promoting face-to-face interactions and professional networks, to enhance collaboration and create shared value. Public participation has become a critical component of sustainable development, particularly locally (Abulibdeh et al., 2024; De Guimarães et al., 2020; Kiss et al., 2022; Shulla et al., 2020). Recognizing the potential for spatial development within a city and its various sectors highlights the need to address specific barriers, particularly cultural ones. Examining the interaction between different industries, such as agriculture and services, is crucial, which may not always align naturally and may require intervention (Kojouri et al., 2023; Puskás et al., 2021). Furthermore, understanding the city's conditions and capacities and identifying bottlenecks in program implementation at the district level is paramount. In today's context, acknowledging the area's weaknesses and strengths is essential as it guides the development plan and programs (Dmytryshyn et al., 2021). To achieve this, various economic, social, cultural, and health indicators must be appropriately evaluated to determine the city's position. Moreover, efforts should focus on overcoming challenges and addressing shortcomings to ensure sustainable economic prosperity, social well-being, and regional balance (Cosgrove & Loucks, 2015; Tayebbeh et al., 2023).

Sustainable development is a concept that arises from the recognition of the negative consequences on the environment, biology, and society resulting from one-sided economic development approaches and the industrial revolution. It has emerged as a holistic and balanced approach to growth and development, aiming to avoid past mistakes (Shamai & Jafarpour Ghalehtemouri, 2024). Sustainable development envisions a future where human societies can satisfy their needs while preserving the integrity, beauty, and stability of vital systems (Kamran Jafarpour Ghalehtemouri et al., 2024; Movahed & Gahlehtemouri, 2019). It seeks to provide solutions to structural, social, and economic issues to prevent the depletion of natural resources, destruction of biological systems, pollution, climate change, population growth, injustice, and the deterioration of present and future quality of life (Hariram et al., 2023; Bisht et al., 2022). Sustainable development involves the responsible use of resources, the direction of investments, technological advancements, and institutional changes to align with the needs of the present and future generations (Ali et al., 2023; Yadav et al., 2023). Since the 1990s, it has emphasized the interconnectedness of human development with the environment and the well-being of future generations (Ghalehtemouri et al., 2021; Hung, 2023). The ultimate goal of sustainable human development is to enhance human capabilities and improve the overall situation while addressing the social and cultural deficiencies prevalent in advanced societies. It should be the driving force behind balanced, appropriate, and harmonious economic, social, and cultural development, particularly in developing countries (Feijóo et al., 2020; Kamran, 2020).

Over the past five decades, there has been a noticeable change in the development patterns prevalent in the Third World, closely tied to population dynamics and the persistent issue of poverty (Obodo, 2017; Pradilla et al., 2022). Unfortunately, many societies in this region still face challenges related to poverty and limited welfare opportunities, leading to significant social inequalities. Understanding the various dimensions of social inequality and the evolving cognitive processes within these societies (Rahimzadeh & Ghalehtemouri, 2024). Gaining a clear understanding of performance levels and the genuine interests of these communities is crucial for designing effective development patterns. Entrepreneurship has been crucial in several countries in this region (Dooley & Alagaraja, 2002; Malizia et al., 2020). Despite significant efforts to create and implement development patterns, some countries continue to see an increase in poverty levels and a rise in the number of impoverished individuals. This raises questions about why the intended development patterns have not been as successful as expected and, in some cases, have even led to higher poverty levels. When it comes to community development, culture is often overlooked, seen as a byproduct of economic conditions rather than a powerful force (Ghalehtemouri et al., 2021; Westoby et al., 2021).

However, culture is the common thread that binds communities, giving them unique identities and character. Recognizing and respecting cultural differences while collaborating with other nations and tailoring solutions to local contexts is crucial (Pérez-Rodríguez et al., 2023). Additionally, supporting cultural diversity, primarily through preserving cultural heritage, brings tangible economic benefits (Ghalehtemouri et al., 2021). Preserving historic landmarks or repurposing them revitalizes cities, attracts new businesses, and stimulates job creation. Cultural asset preservation also plays a key role in promoting sustainable tourism, which has the potential to alleviate poverty in urban and rural areas (Shamaei & Ghalehtemouri, 2024; Sobaih & Naguib, 2022). Culture adds a transformative element to development processes, ensuring their long-term sustainability. Neglecting the impact of local culture on community development is a significant oversight. The culture of a community profoundly influences its beliefs and actions, offering unique opportunities for locally driven economic and development initiatives (Scheyvens et al., 2020; Watt et al., 2021). Historical events, shaped by current population needs, attitudes, and interests, are integral to this cultural tapestry. Therefore, community development practitioners must prioritize culture to enhance local well-being. By incorporating cultural values, traditions, and related variables, development initiatives can become more efficient and effective (Khaliji & Jafarpour Ghalehtemouri, 2024).

The city's economy, society, and culture development is significantly influenced by the tourism industry and its attractions. The positive and meaningful impact of tourism and tourist attractions on the city's economic, social, and cultural development is evident from the results (Soares et al., 2021). In light of these findings, it becomes imperative to implement effective policies to enhance development across social, environmental, and economic dimensions. Rural tourism, characterized by traveling to rural areas to experience natural beauty, the charm of rural regions, and agricultural diversity, has emerged as a novel approach that promotes rural revitalization and urbanization while driving economic development across various sectors (Hassan et al., 2022; Rogerson & Rogerson, 2021). Many rural areas boast abundant resources well-suited for implementing tourism development initiatives. These regions inherently support the rural tourism experience, a pivotal component of the tourism industry. The psychological aspect of the rural tourism experience suggests that tourists embark on such journeys for leisure, moving beyond the confines of their daily lives. This experience allows them to temporarily escape the ordinary and immerse themselves in an idealized world, thus fulfilling their imagined desires (Crompton, 1979; Meriläinen & Ruotsalainen, 2023). Uneven development, a concept deeply intertwined with environmental sustainability, is a critical concern for regions facing the challenges of climate change and socio-economic disparities.

This review examines two distinct but related studies, shedding light on the dynamics of uneven development and its implications for environmental sustainability (Almulhim & Cobbinah, 2023; Mondejar et al., 2021).

The first study investigates the environmental sustainability of Tehran province, employing a rigorous analytical approach. The study identifies key indicators contributing to the province's low sustainability score through a combination of data normalization and spatial analysis using GIS and Shannon Entropy. Notably, issues related to exploiting natural energy sources and water resources emerge as critical factors. This finding underscores the relevance of environmental sustainability in an urban context, highlighting how uneven development within a region can manifest through disparities in resource use and conservation (Yousefi et al., 2022). In contrast, the second study delves into the impact of environmental hazards and spatial injustice on coastal communities, exemplified by Tambak Lorok in Central Java. Groundwater depletion and sea-level rise have rendered this coastal urban area vulnerable to frequent flooding, exposing the spatial inequalities in vulnerability (Nurhidayah et al., 2022). Interviews with residents and experts reveal that people with low incomes are disproportionately affected by environmental hazards, as they lack the means to adapt effectively. This disparity in vulnerability and impact underscores the concept of spatial injustice, whereby the spatial distribution of resources and hazards results in unequal outcomes for marginalized communities in the Global South. In both studies, the uneven development patterns and environmental vulnerabilities underscore the urgency of addressing spatial injustice. They emphasize the need for comprehensive regional planning, equitable resource allocation, and policies that promote sustainability and resilience. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between spatial justice, environmental sustainability, and the impacts of environmental hazards, offering valuable insights for policymakers and urban planners worldwide.

Cultural barriers can restrict social change by preserving traditions, customs, and old ways of life. They can also negatively impact information-seeking by restricting access to information sources and causing negative emotions (Zhao et al., 2024). Some cultural barriers include ethnocentrism, stereotyping, psychological barriers, language barriers, geographical distance, and conflicting values (Arseneault & Roulin, 2024). Social and cultural factors can influence a population group's feelings, attitudes, values, beliefs, and interactions. These factors include social classes, religious norms, wealth distribution, language, business and health practices, social values, and attitudes toward work (Mantello et al., 2023). Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. Some barriers to social development include caste, class, gender, and the region to which a person belongs. Culture can influence development from the moment we are born (Rahman & Pingali, 2024). For example, culture can affect how children build values, language, belief systems, and an understanding of themselves as individuals and as members of society. Different cultures may have different communication styles and norms, such as the use of direct versus indirect communication or the use of nonverbal cues. This can affect how individuals interact and understand each other (Brandão et al., 2023).

In the realm of regional development, it is crucial to explore the potential opportunities within a specific area. One area of interest is the spatial development within cities, where significant progress can be achieved (Carter et al., 2015; Diemer et al., 2022; Ibraeva et al., 2020; Kalogianni et al., 2020). However, it is important to acknowledge that different sectors, such as industry, agriculture, and services, may sometimes align differently. This discrepancy requires a thorough examination to avoid potential difficulties. A comprehensive assessment of the city's conditions, capabilities, and identification of potential bottlenecks at the district level is essential (Araújo et al., 2021; Higgins et al., 2023). This understanding allows for identifying weaknesses and strengths in various areas, a crucial aspect of planning. A well-structured presentation plan and a robust program are necessary to facilitate this process. This

plan should encompass various economic, social, cultural, and sanitary indicators to assess the region's position accurately.

Additionally, strategies should be outlined to address challenges and prevent failures, ultimately enhancing overall well-being and achieving economic prosperity, social harmony, and regional balance. This holistic approach is key to effective regional development. In our initial research phase, our main goal is to comprehensively understand the economic, social, and cultural dynamics in Beshagard city, explicitly focusing on the accessibility of essential services. The city's residents need more comprehensive data and targeted interventions in these areas. Our research strategy aims to compile a comprehensive report that illuminates the city's current conditions, identifying underlying causes and influential factors hindering its progress. This research has the potential to provide valuable insights for the city's decision-makers, from local authorities to the national level, in formulating and implementing effective development strategies. Our ultimate aim is for this research to catalyze the city's advancement by addressing cultural factors and contributing to its stability and economic prosperity. Through our dedicated research efforts, we seek to promote balanced and sustainable development at a national level, fostering social progress and equitable access to opportunities. Therefore, this research's central question is understanding the cultural influences shaping Beshagard City's development trajectory.

2. Research Methodology

2.1. Research Design

Combining quantitative and qualitative data integration provides a more comprehensive understanding of the research issue. Quantitative data offers statistical insights and allows for generalization across a larger sample, while qualitative data delves into participants' perspectives, attitudes, and experiences. By merging these two approaches, the Analysis becomes more thorough, enhancing the relevance of the findings to real-world situations. This study employs a comprehensive methodology incorporating qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques within a descriptive framework. It utilizes quantitative research methods in a field-based cross-sectional design, with the primary data collection instrument being a structured questionnaire survey. The research design is a mixed-methods approach, specifically a sequential explanatory design, where quantitative data is collected first through surveys, followed by qualitative data through interviews to provide further explanation and depth to the quantitative results. The combination of a field-based cross-sectional design and a mixed-methods approach enhances the validity of the results by triangulating data from various sources.

2.2. Rationale for Selecting Students as a Sample

The research focuses on students as a sample because they offer unique perspectives on the studied topic. The individuals selected for this study, including students, were chosen based on their accessibility, representation of a younger demographic, and relevance to the research questions. The selected students have the potential to provide insights that align with the broader research goals. The research population consists of students from urban and rural areas of the city, with a sample size of up to 384 participants determined using Morgan Tables 1 and 2. In addition to quantitative data, qualitative insights are gathered through interviews with 20 individuals, including experts, professors specializing in urban sustainability and social development, and representatives from cultural heritage organizations. This mixed-methods approach enables the research to effectively address its research questions (Ferretti & Grosso, 2019; Pencarelli et al., 2016).

Table 1 Respondent's gender

Gender	Man	Woman	Total
Number	248	136	384
Percentage	%64	%36	%100

Table 2 Respondent's place of living

Place of living	Urban	Rural	Total
Number	218	166	384
Percentage	%57	%43	%100

Table 3 displays the demographic breakdown of the statistical sample based on age. According to the table, 68 individuals, or 18 percent of the sample, fall within the 21 to 30 age range. Additionally, 101 individuals, representing 26 percent of the sample, are in the 31 to 40 age range. Furthermore, 129 individuals, accounting for 34 percent of the sample, are in the 41 to 50 age range, while 86 individuals, making up 22 percent of the sample, are in the 51 to 60 age range.

Table 3 Respondent age group

Age	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	Total
Numbers	68	101	129	86	384
Percent	%18	%26	%34	%22	%100

The sample distribution by education level in Table 4 indicated that 134 individuals, or 35 percent, held a diploma, while 48 individuals, or 22 percent, had a post-diploma degree. Additionally, 98 individuals, or 25 percent, had a bachelor's degree, and 68 individuals, or 18 percent, had a master's degree or higher.

Table 4 Respondent education status

Education	Diploma and below	Associate degree	Bachelor	Masters	Total
Number	134	84	98	68	384
Percent	%35	%22	%25	%18	%100

2.3. Application of Methods and Data Analysis

The research methodology involves a series of steps and software applications to analyze the collected data thoroughly. Data collection primarily consists of using questionnaires to gather information from participants, resulting in both qualitative and quantitative data (Russel et al., 2020). The collected data is then imported into LISREL for Windows, a tool for Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) and related analyses. The analysis includes descriptive and inferential statistics (Venturini & Mehmetoglu, 2019). Descriptive statistics help summarize the dataset, while inferential statistics aid in drawing conclusions and making inferences about the research questions. Various statistical techniques, such as t-tests and descriptive indicators, are used to assess the data accurately (Guetterman, 2019). The study focuses on developing a model for sustainable development, utilizing structural equation modeling techniques to examine relationships among variables. Statistical software

applications like Excel, SPSS, and Lisrel are used for data preprocessing, initial Analysis, inferential statistics, and structural equation modeling. This comprehensive approach ensures a thorough examination of the research data, contributing to achieving the research objectives.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Results

3.1.1. Cultural Indicators

Thematic Classification of Cultural Indicators

This section's sub-themes identified within cultural indicators have been systematically organized into selected themes based on their semantic commonalities. The sub-themes relating to cultural indicators encompass 30 diverse themes, which have been condensed and categorized into four overarching themes: 1) cultural justice (5 Criteria): This category delves into cultural equity, fairness, and justice within a society. It explores issues of cultural representation, inclusivity, and access to cultural resources; 2) government policy and strategy (12 Criteria): Here, the focus is on governmental initiatives, policies, and strategies concerning culture. It encompasses criteria related to cultural preservation, promotion, and the role of government in shaping cultural dynamics; 3) Indigenous and local culture indicators (7 Criteria): This criterion revolves around Indigenous and local cultures. It includes indicators that assess the vitality, sustainability, and representation of these unique cultural identities; 4) religion and religious tendencies (5 Criteria): This category explores cultural indicators related to religion and religious practices. It delves into the influence of religion on culture, religious diversity, and its impact on societal norms and values.

By classifying these sub-criteria into selected criteria, this research aims to provide a structured framework for a comprehensive analysis of cultural indicators, offering insights into various dimensions of culture within the studied context (Table 5).

Table 5 Selected criteria S of cultural indicators

The main indicator	Sub criteria	Selected topics
Cultural indicators	Satisfaction with the quality-of-service access	Cultural justice
	Having cultural centers	
	Having a suitable health per capita	
	Satisfaction with the level of access to services	
	Environmental degradation index	
	Indiscriminate development of construction	Government policy and strategy
	Different forms of environmental pollutants	
	Green space per capita	
	Density percentage of buildings	
	Growth percentage of residential units	
	Proper development of communication channels	
	The amount of urban marginalization	
	Stable and appropriate employment	
	Infrastructural Potentials	
	Air quality	
Development strategy and perspective		
Infant mortality rate		

Joy in life	Indigenous and local culture
Life satisfaction	
Interpersonal tendencies and cooperation	
Population density percentage	
The number of sports centers and sports culture	
The amount of violence and street fights	
Percentage of court cases	
Optimal energy consumption	
objective dimension Religion (reduction or lack of mass)	Religion and religious tendencies
Internalized personal and social security	
The percentage of theft and robbery	
Preservation of religious beliefs and values	
Performing religious rituals and activities	

3.1.2. Cultural Criteria

This section presents descriptive indices of cultural criteria s obtained in the form of mean, standard deviation, reliability coefficient, and minimum and maximum answers (Table 6).

Table 6 Selected criteria s of cultural indicators

Selected topics	Code	Sub criteria	Average	The standard deviation	Reliability coefficient	Min	Max
Cultural justice	Q31	Satisfaction with the quality of service access	18/3	0.763	0.785	1	4
	Q32	Having cultural centers	3/38	0.814	0.781	1	4
	Q33	Having a suitable health per capita	12/3	0.697	0.769	1	4
	Q34	Satisfaction with the level of access to services	10/3	0.724	0.782	1	4
	Q35	Environmental degradation index	04/3	0.812	0.753	1	4
Government policy and strategy	Q36	Indiscriminate development of construction	69/3	0.593	0.762	1	5
	Q37	Different forms of environmental pollutants	73/3	0.687	0.759	1	5
	Q38	Green space per capita	52/3	0.728	0.772	1	5
	Q39	Density percentage of buildings	68/3	0.581	0.749	1	5
	Q40	Growth percentage of residential units	83/3	0.664	0.750	1	5
	Q41	Proper development of communication channels	82/3	0.743	0.763	1	5
	Q42	The amount of urban marginalization	71/3	0.824	0.762	1	5
	Q43	Stable and appropriate employment	60/3	0.697	0.785	1	5

	Q44	Infrastructural potentials	52/3	0.814	0.782	1	5	
	Q45	Air quality	46/3	0.579	0.783	1	5	
	Q46	Development strategy and perspective	56/3	0.682	0.785	1	5	
	Q47	Infant mortality rate	3/32	0.772	0.795	1	5	
Indigenous and local culture	Q48	Joy in life	69/3	0.589	0.791	1	5	
	Q49	Life satisfaction	69/3	0.882	0.786	1	5	
	Q50	Population density percentage	73/3	0.760	0.777	1	5	
	Q51	Interpersonal tendencies and cooperation	57/3	0.609	0.783	1	5	
	Q52	The number of sports centers and sports culture	61/3	0.762	0.790	1	5	
	Q53	The amount of violence and street fights	3/37	0.597	0.791	1	4	
	Q54	Percentage of court cases	50/3	0.834	0.788	1	5	
	Q55	Optimal energy consumption	49/3	0.574	0.783	1	5	
	Religion and religious tendencies	Q56	objective dimension Religion(reduction or lack of mass)	41/3	0.638	0.785	1	5
		Q57	Internalized personal and social security	56/3	0.591	0.785	1	5
Q58		The percentage of theft and robbery	47/3	0.629	0.782	1	5	
Q59		Preservation of religious beliefs and values	53/3	0.607	0.790	1	5	
Q60		Performing religious rituals and activities	3/37	0.669	0.779	1	4	

3.1.3. Analysis of hypotheses

The culture of native people has been effective in the underdevelopment of Beshagard city.

A sample t-test was used to check this research hypothesis. The results obtained for this hypothesis are shown in Table 7.

Table 7 Descriptive Statistics of The T-Test of Indigenous People's Culture

Variable	Number	Average	Standard deviation	Mean standard deviation
Indigenous culture	384	379/3	0.8541	03817/0

The results from Table 8 indicate that, based on a statistical sample of 384 individuals, the average culture of the native people in Beshagard city is higher than the theoretical average, as perceived by the respondents. The standard deviation value also reveals a greater dispersion of responses among the research items compared to the average.

Table 8 Inferential statistics of a sample of native people's culture

Test point: 3							
Result Test	95% confidence interval of differences		Average of differences	The significance level two way	Degrees of freedom	T-test	Variable
	upper line	low limit					
Confirmation H1	0.3841	0.2574	0.3792	000.	383	198/8	Indigenous culture

In the subsequent analysis, the t-test results are examined to determine the significance of the obtained average. The t-test output reveals that the calculated t-value (8.19) exceeds the standardized t-value of 1.96, placing it within the region associated with Hypothesis H1. Thus, it can be asserted that the research's assumption is validated at a significant level of 95%. This implies that the indigenous people's culture has impacted the underdevelopment of Beshagard city.

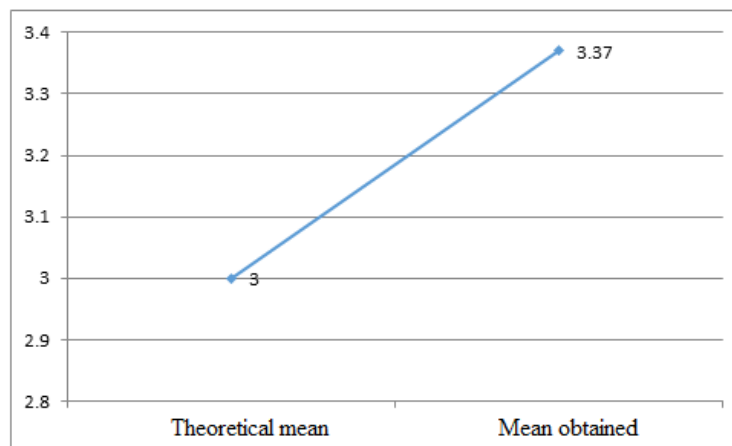


Figure 1 The Average State of Indigenous Peoples' Culture

The religion of native people has been practical in the underdevelopment of Beshagard city

A sample t-test was used to check this research hypothesis. The results obtained for this hypothesis are shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Descriptive statistics of the t-test of the religion of the Indigenous people

Variable	Number	Average	Standard deviation	Mean standard deviation
Religion of Indigenous peoples	384	721/2	0.8257	02914/0

The results from Table 10 indicate that, based on a statistical sample of 384 individuals, the average religion of the Indigenous people in Beshagard city is lower than the theoretical average, as perceived by the respondents. The standard deviation value also reveals a greater dispersion of responses among the research items compared to the average.

Table 10 Inferential statistics of a sample of Indigenous people's religion

Test point: 3							
Result Test	95% confidence interval of differences		Average difference of s	The significance level two way	Degree of freedom	T-test	Variable
	upper line	low limit					
confirmationH1	0.2894	0.2641	0.2793	001.	383	6/58	Religion of Indigenous peoples

In the subsequent analysis, the t-test results are examined to determine the significance of the obtained average. The t-test output reveals that the calculated t-value (6.58) exceeds the standardized t-value of 1.96, placing it within the region associated with Hypothesis H0. Thus, it can be asserted that, at a significant level of 95%, the research's assumption is rejected, indicating that the religion of the native people has not had an impact on the underdevelopment of Beshagard city.

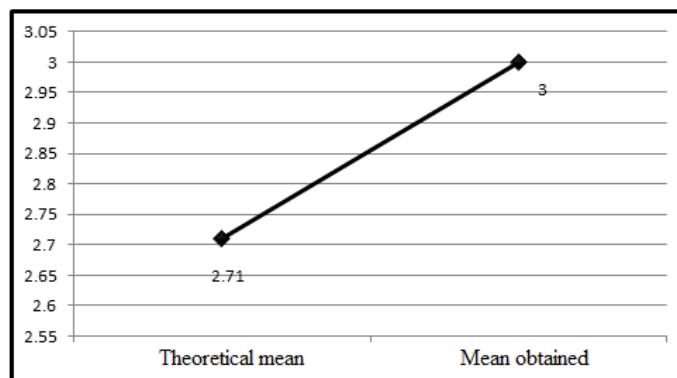


Figure 2 Average State of Religion of Indigenous Peoples

Politics The government's policies and macro strategies towards disadvantaged areas, especially Beshagard City, have been effective in the underdevelopment of Beshagard City

A sample t-test was used to check this research hypothesis. The results obtained for this hypothesis are shown in Table 11.

Table 11 Descriptive statistics of the policy t-test and macro strategies of the government

Mean deviation	standard deviation	standard deviation	average	Number	Variable
0.03879		0.8774	519/3	384	Politics and macro strategies of the government

The results from Table 12 indicate that, based on a statistical sample of 384 individuals, the average perception of the Beshagard city government's macro strategies, as rated by the respondents, is higher than the theoretical average. The standard deviation value also reveals a greater dispersion of responses among the research items compared to the average.

Table 12 Inferential statistics of a sample policy and macro strategies of the government

Test point: 3							
Result Test	95% confidence interval of differences		Average of differences	The significance level two way	Degrees of freedom	T-test	Variable
	upper line	low limit					
Confirmation H1	0.5347	0.5007	0.5192	000.	383	87/10	Politics and macro strategies of the government

In the following, in order to check the significance of the obtained average, the results of the t-test are referred to as The output of the t-test is shown shows that the calculated t value (10/87) is greater than the standardized t value of 1.96 and in the region H1 are placed, and may It can be said that at a significance level of 95%, the assumption of the research is confirmed, and this means that politics The government's policies and macro strategies towards disadvantaged areas, especially Beshagard city, have been effective on the underdevelopment of Beshagard city.

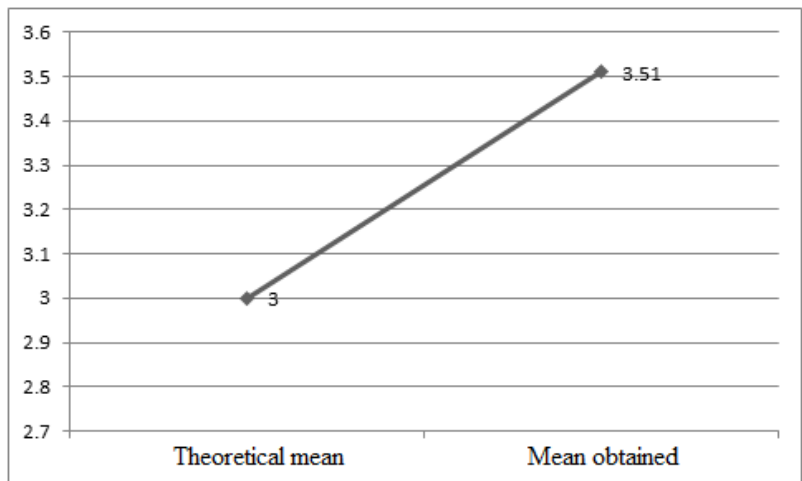


Figure 3 State of Average Policy and Macro Strategies of The Government

Social Factors Have Been Effective on The Underdevelopment of Beshagard City

A sample t-test was used to check this research hypothesis. The results obtained for this hypothesis are shown in Table 13.

Table 13 Descriptive statistics of T-test of cultural factors

Mean standard deviation	standard deviation	average	Number	Variable
0.0287	0.5687	384/3	384	Cultural factors

The results in Table 14 indicate that, based on a statistical sample of 384 individuals, the average cultural factors in Beshagard city, as perceived by the respondents, are higher than the

theoretical average. The standard deviation value also suggests a more excellent dispersion of responses among the research items compared to the average.

Table 14 Inferential statistics of a sample of cultural factors

Test point: 3							
Result Test	95% confidence interval of differences		Average of differences	The significance level two way	Degrees of freedom	T-test	Variable
	upper line	low limit					
confirmationH1	0.3892	0.3819	0.3842	000.	383	25/8	cultural factors

In the subsequent analysis, the t-test results are examined to determine the significance of the obtained average. The t-test output reveals that the calculated t-value (25.8) significantly exceeds the standardized t-value of 1.96, placing it within the region associated with Hypothesis H1. Therefore, at a significance level of 95%, the research's assumption is confirmed, indicating that cultural factors have indeed been effective in contributing to the underdevelopment of Beshagard city.

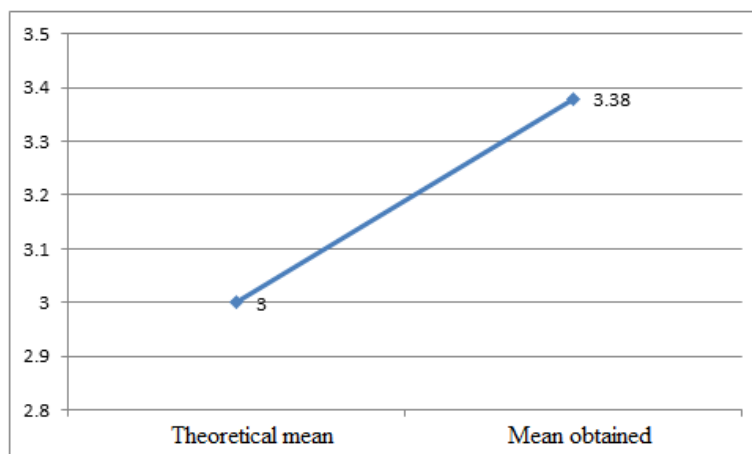


Figure 4 Average Status of Cultural Factors

3.2. Discussion

The development of production and trade capacities is vital, focusing on expanding in a socially and justice-oriented manner. Establishing communication platforms within society to exchange information is vital for overcoming obstacles and enhancing the business environment to support social progress. Culture plays a significant role in sustainable development and pursuing social justice, as evidenced by its pivotal role in societal advancement. Neglecting this aspect could lead to the failure of development efforts. Achieving social justice is a key component of multifaceted development objectives for any nation, necessitating a paradigm shift in methods and approaches. Cultivating and strengthening culture is essential for promoting social development and fostering a culture of progress that drives widespread prosperity. Recognizing the influence of various cultural backgrounds and beliefs on future development competition is important.

Previous studies have often overlooked the significance of the cultural and social aspects of sustainable development, focusing primarily on environmental conservation and population

control (Abulibdeh et al., 2024b; Biermann et al., 2022; Dantas et al., 2021; Kaul et al., 2022; Khosla et al., 2020; Shulla et al., 2021). This narrow focus has led to a limited understanding of sustainable development, neglecting resource use and management's political, social, cultural, and economic dimensions. This oversight needs to consider the complexities of local contexts and the rights of communities impacted by resource policies. Many studies have also taken a neo-Malthusian perspective, attributing environmental issues solely to population growth without addressing the underlying social and economic factors influencing resource access and usage. Cultural and social factors are crucial in sustainable development as they promote inclusivity, diversity appreciation, and community involvement, all essential for creating resilient and equitable societies. By recognizing and valuing cultural differences, sustainable development initiatives can incorporate ethical and moral principles that enhance social cohesion and well-being. Involving local communities in decision-making ensures that development plans are tailored to specific contexts and effectively address the needs of marginalized populations, leading to more sustainable and prosperous outcomes.

The importance of Islamic values and cultural norms in promoting community development should be considered. A key factor driving progress is the spirit of diligence, dedication, and spirituality. In countries where underdevelopment is prevalent, it is often due to a need for more societal contributions and collective efforts. However, when a culture that values religious principles prevails, with a collective conscience driven by the pursuit of divine satisfaction, we see increased efficiency within society. Religion and other factors such as economics and sociocultural norms significantly influence the development trajectory. The impact of religion on development is undeniable. Governments play a vital role in shaping development strategies in this context, drawing on historical and empirical evidence from developed and developing nations. Governments should focus on facilitating economic activities, building necessary infrastructure, and expanding development opportunities that promote social justice. This includes improving communication platforms to share important developmental information within society. Governments should also work to eliminate barriers to development and create a conducive business environment that supports societal progress. Their role in shaping social development is crucial and should be guided by evidence and best practices worldwide. Governments should position themselves as facilitators of progress, striving to create an environment fostering social development and pursuing social justice.

4. Conclusion

Bashagard is considered one of the most vulnerable areas in Iran, facing significant challenges such as poverty resulting from socio-economic issues. This poverty is a major obstacle to the area's development and decision-making processes. The high poverty rate in Bashagerd has led to a decline in economic and social rights, a common issue in developing countries and hinders human and economic development. Despite Iran being a wealthy country, mismanagement by certain leaders has resulted in disparities in development across different regions. This study focuses on the cultural barriers to development and their connection to economic poverty, which hinders people's ability to make the necessary investments in infrastructure. Addressing these social and cultural barriers through economic policies is essential for promoting more inclusive and equitable economic development. The literature on sustainability emphasizes the need for community-wide transformation towards a shared vision of sustainability, requiring a deep and systemic understanding from community members and government stakeholders to minimize negative environmental impacts.

Overcoming cultural barriers will ultimately lead to more sustainable and impactful social development outcomes. Cultural barriers in university-industry collaboration present significant challenges that impede productive partnerships. Conflicts in motivations, communication styles, and expectations can result in misunderstandings and conflicting objectives. Trust issues may emerge from cultural differences, making establishing lasting relationships and sharing confidential information challenging.

Additionally, conflicting timeframes can lead to frustration, as academic research typically follows a long-term trajectory while industry projects require quick results. Power imbalances may create unequal interactions, with one party dominating the collaboration, and organizational resistance to change can complicate partnership dynamics, hindering the adoption of practices crucial for successful collaboration. It is increasingly evident that the success of sustainable development initiatives relies on broad public support and engagement.

Transforming underdeveloped societies like Bashagard should focus on developing new capacities to enhance socially sustainable development through cultural development. This research demonstrates the importance of cultural issues in development despite the limited attention given to them in the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations. The lack of cultural emphasis has hindered effective sustainable development in various regions, including Bashagard. The ongoing discourse on culture in sustainable development and cultural policy has been prevalent since the mid-twentieth century. These perspectives on sustainability and sustainable development, underpinned by robust theoretical and conceptual foundations, are essential for safeguarding the cultural dimension of sustainable development, promoting awareness of the efficacy of sustainability actions, and encouraging greater participation. Therefore, the challenge for cultural policy is to steer actions toward sustainable development by aligning with these coexisting and interconnected strategic pathways.

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