

Review Article

Sustainable development and reduced crime in urban environment

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is one of the ideal aspects of governments to provide favorable quality of life for residents, since it solves the problem of unemployment, reduces poverty rate, increases income, and establishes social justice. It also paves the way to increase participation in management of the country. Additionally, it increases the security and reduces crime rate in urban areas. In other words, there is mutual relationship between sustainable development and reduced crime rates. If we look at this issue with a system perspective, sustainable development, as a holistic system, includes a set of subsystems. In general, it leads to increased security in the urban environment and reduced crime rate, reflecting the theory that sustainable development is a tool to control crime in urban environments and increase life quality of citizens. In fact, sustainable development is a balanced development in which sustainable economic development, sustainable social development, and sustainable environmental development help us to achieve objectives. The aim of this study is to investigate the relationship between sustainable development and reduced urban crime, and provide urban security so that sustainable security and reduced crime rate to be achieved in urban environments by providing applied and practical solutions in this regard.

Keywords: sustainable development, sustainable security, reduced crime, Delphi method

INTRODUCTION

Security and crime rate in urban environments are one of the factors measured on development of countries, since sustainable development is linked with components such as economic, social, and environmental sustainability and each sustainability aspect is incorporated with factors such as employment, unemployment, poverty, income, and social justice, and the role of each of these factors is undeniable in level of development and crime rate. With increasing urbanization and overpopulation, many countries face with poverty, unemployment, and informal settlements and marginalization in big cities, that each of these components plays role in increasing crime. Therefore, by identifying these factors and balanced development to achieve economic development, increased crime can be prevented. In addition, security and economic boom can be achieved by reducing Gini coefficient so that development desired by

researcher can be achieved and urban environments not to face with more security challenges resulted from crime.

Hypothesis:

There is relationship between development and crime.

Poverty and unemployment reduction lead to reduced crime rate in urban environments.

Questions of study:

- What factors increase crime?
- How balanced and sustainable development are effective in reducing crime in urban environments?

Background of study:

Considering the subject of this study, some studies have been conducted, including:

- Planning and preparing strategies to increase security of Mashhad pilgrims and tourists

-Security instability in big cities, Piran, 2014. In this study, the problems of housing, social problems and informal settlements have been introduced as instability factors.

Review of literature

What is development?

Development: the term “development” literary means leaving the wrapping. It means expansion.

In modernization theory, wrapping is traditional society and culture and values related to it that societies should leave this traditional stage for modernization.

Michael Todaro considers development as multi-dimensional processthat requires fundamental changes in the social structure – view of peopleand national institutions, and accelerating the economic growth and reducing inequality as well as eradicating the absolute poverty (Todaro, Volume I, 1987, 135).

“Development” literally means gradual growth in the course of progress, being powerful and even being larger (Oxford dictionary, 2001).

Brokfield in defining the development says that we should define development in terms of progress and advancing toward welfare objectivessuch as reduced poverty, unemployment and inequality.

In general, development is a movement leading to reorganization and different orientation to socio-economic system.In addition to improving production and income, development involves fundamental changes in institutional, administrative, and social perspectives structures as well as the general views of people. In many cases, it also includes habits and customs and beliefs of the people. In his conclusion, Mr. Mustafa Azkia defines development as reduced poverty, unemployment, inequality, more urbanization, better communication, creating a social system based on justice and increased public participation in politics.

The development is multi-dimensional process that involves fundamental changes in the social structure, attitudes, public beliefs, national institutions, and accelerating economic growth, reducing inequalities and eradicating absolute poverty. In other words, development means

continuous improvement of society and social order toward a better life.

In sustainable development, harmonizing and coordinating social and economic layers ensure the sustainable development of any country.

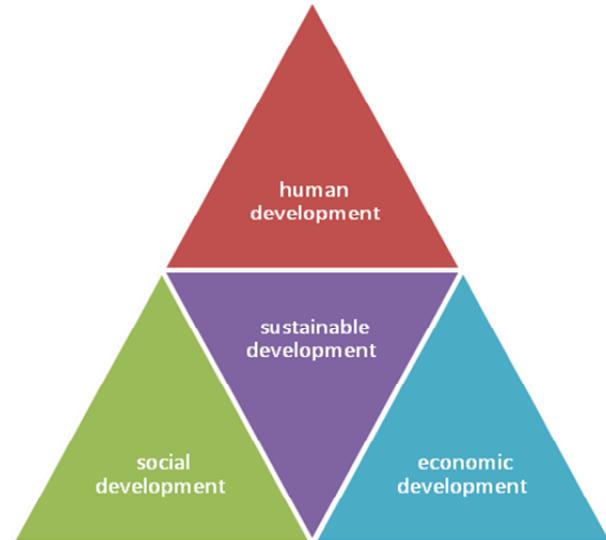


Figure 1: dimensions of sustainable development

Dimensions of sustainable development: author of study

In figure 1, sustainable development is center of human development, social development, and economic development. It indicates that without considering dimensions of sustainable development, it is impossible to achieve sustainable development and coordinating economic development, human development, and social development lead to sustainable development. This is effective in reducing crime in urban environment.

METHODOLOGY

The research method is descriptive - analytical and Delphi method and Delphi consensus were used in Excel from Likert scale (from 1 to 5). Accordingly, qualitative questions were converted to quantitative questions, and they were analyzed. It should be noted that research questions were qualitative and they are based on (A: totally agree B: Agree C:No idea D:Strongly disagree E: Disagree). They were converted to numerical and quantitative questions (1 to 5).

The population of study, expert consensus using Delphi method:

Opinions of 8 experts were used with the following educational degrees

Table 1: Educational degree of Delphi consensus experts, separately

PhD	Master	bachelor
3	4	1

Source: author of study

Delphi method:

-Delphi method is a method to reach a consensus in research through sending and receiving questionnaire and response.

Anonymity of participants and not disclosing the participants' identity is one of the requirements in Delphi method.

Delphi method is a combined method for preparation of information for planning and decision-making.

Delphi method is based on dialectical approach, presenting thesis (creating idea and thesis) and anti-thesis (opposing view and idea) and finally synthesis (new consensus and agreement) in which synthesis becomes a new thesis again.

Using opinions and views of 8 experts through open-ended questions considering the subject of study, consensus was achieved by creating structural questions in the four stages.

Table 2: computational table of relationship between crime and factors in urban environments

	Indicator 1	Indicator 2	Indicator 3	Indicator 4
Expert 1	5	5	5	5
Expert 2	5	5	5	4
Expert 3	5	5	4	4
Expert 4	5	5	4	3
Expert 5	5	5	4	3
Expert 6	5	4	3	3
Expert 7	4	4	3	3
Expert 8	4	4	3	2
Answer mean of experts	4/75	4/62	4/45	3/37
Consensus percentage	95	92/4	89	67/4

Source: findings of study obtained by author

Indicator 1: the relationship between reduced crime and employment with consensus of 95%

Indicator 2: the relationship between crime and marginalization with consensus of 92.4%

Indicator 3: the relationship between crime and urban planning with consensus of 89%

Indicator 4: the relationship between crime and cultural poverty with consensus of 67.4%

All these indicators were accepted by Delphi consensus.

It should be reminded that in the experts' consensus method, percentages 51 to 100 are accepted by Delphi method, while percentages lower than 51 are rejected.

Based on results and experts consensus, it can be concluded that the relationship between crime and employment in reducing the crime rate was accepted as the main role (the first score) by Delphi method, followed by relationship between crime and marginalization (the second score), relationship between crime and urban planning (the third score), and relationship between crime and cultural poverty (the forth score)

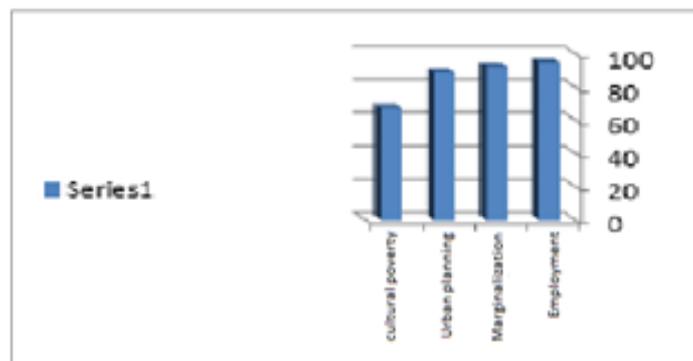


Chart 1: relationship between crime and factors in urban environments

Source: results of study

Table 2: mean of experts' answer is as follows

Indicators	Relationship between crime and employment	Relationship between crime and marginalization	Relationship between crime and urban development	Relationship between crime and cultural poverty
mean of experts' answer	4/75	4/62	4/45	3/37

Source: results of study

The mean of experts' response is based on 1-5 and according to Likert scale.

CONCLUSION

-poverty and unemployment are harmful for economic sustainable development playing role in increased crime in urban environment due to lack of employment. Accordingly, reduced Gini coefficient and creating employment and increasing level of income can lead to reduced crime.

-Lack of participation and lack of governmental institutions are other security threats and crime in urban environments due to the lack of social development, lower public culture and cultural poverty.

- Lack of using potentials of urban planning, unit neighborhoods and annoying users beside educational users, development of marginalization, lack of using lighting in parks, and creating fear ecology are effective in increasing the crime in urban spaces and they are considered as barriers of sustainable development.

-Wastes and lack of garbage collection in some urban environments have paved the way for presence of addicted people and crimes, that are considered as barriers of sustainable development.

- Marginalization due to rural immigrations, seasonal and cyclical unemployment, destroyed houses, and informal settlements cause crime in urban environments and they are the most important factors of lack of sustainable development.

Using all potentials of development dimensions such as balanced development are effective in reducing crime in urban environments.

Solutions and recommendations

-Using all potentials to create employment in order to reduce poverty and employment which

are main factors of crime in urban environments, and planning should be provided in this regard to achieve sustainable development.

- Movement toward industrialization to achieve sustainable development

-Removing the urban appearance and landscape from different poverty and richness perspectives such as marginalization which represents lack of social justice in the urban environment and crime factors in urban environments.

- Maximum use of public participation in order to ensure social justice that lead to crime reduction and paves the way for sustainable development.

-The use of neighborhood police to control crime rate in neighborhoods

-Change in use of contaminated environments to reduce urban crime

-Night lighting to eliminate dark space and fear ecology in parks and dark spaces

-The use of technology and the installation of cameras and control of contaminated environments in tangible and non-tangible ways

-The use of vertical development instead of horizontal development, since vertical development is anti-development and it requires many police and human resources to control city

-Paying attention to urban planning architecture to prevent destruction of urban environments where crimes take place

-Paying attention to education and eradicating cultural poverty to achieve sustainable development.

-Establishing security in urban environments leads to investment and employment, and opportunities for the development.

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