



The Role of Cultural Capital in Enhancing Women's Social Security in DarrehShahr City

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Abstract

Background and Objective: Social security is a multidimensional and complex concept that directly affects the development and advancement of any society. Undoubtedly, no factor is more important in advancing the process of progress, development, and evolution of societies, as well as in the flourishing of individual and collective talents, than creating and strengthening a sense of security and ensuring peace in the social context. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between cultural capital and the sense of social security among women living in Darehshahr.

Methodology: The present research method is quantitative and survey-type. The data collection tool was a questionnaire that was administered to a sample of 365 women aged 19 and older using cluster sampling. Data analysis was performed using SPSS and Smart PLS software.

Findings and Conclusion: The findings showed that the average sense of social security among middle-aged women is on the decline. Also, cultural capital and its dimensions (embodied, objectified, and institutional) have a significant and positive relationship with the sense of social security. Based on the findings, the feeling of social security has a significant difference with marital status, employment, and level of education, but no significant relationship was observed with the age variable. Finally, the results of structural equation analysis showed that independent variables were able to explain 24% of the changes in women's sense of social security. It is recommended that policymakers and local administrators strengthen women's cultural capital by developing educational, cultural, and social participation opportunities to enhance their sense of security.

Keywords: Sense of social security, cultural capital, objectified, embodied, institutional, women, DarrehShahr.

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Social security is a multidimensional and complex concept that directly affects the development and advancement of any society. Undoubtedly, no factor is more important in advancing the process of progress, development, and evolution of societies, as well as in the flourishing of individual and collective talents, than creating and strengthening a sense of security and ensuring peace in the social context. In other words, social development, the emergence of creativity, and the carrying out of constructive activities will not be realized in the absence of a sense of security. Therefore, some experts believe that paying attention to the sense of social security even surpasses the existence of social security itself in terms of importance, because the sense of security provides a psychological foundation for active participation and social dynamism. In the current century, unfavorable urban environments have caused many problems for the security of citizens and social harms have increased, resulting in people feeling insecure. Also, the feeling of social security in urban space is considered one of the most important indicators of desirable quality of life for citizens. But the sense of social security refers to the level of peace and confidence an individual has in their daily life, which is created by being away from potential threats and dangers. In the present study, the feeling of social security is examined in four dimensions: physical, economic, occupational, and emotional security.

Today, a sense of social security is of great importance to all members of society; however, when this issue is linked to the category of gender, its importance increases significantly. This becomes more prominent for several reasons, including the personality and physiological characteristics of women, as well as their key role as educators of the future generation.

The city of Darrehshahr, located in Ilam Province, is known as the largest ancient city in the western part of Iran and one of the historical poles of this province. This city hosts a significant number of tourists every year from all over Iran and sometimes from abroad. In addition to tourism, agriculture is also one of the main pillars of the economy of Darrehshahr County, and a variety of crops and horticultural products are grown in this area. Therefore, a sense of security in this city is of great importance in attracting investors in the fields of agriculture and tourism.

Given the lack of previous research on women's sense of social security in Dareh Shahr and the importance of the issue, the present study was designed to investigate the level of women's sense of social security in Dareh Shahr and whether there is a significant relationship between having cultural capital and feeling of social security among women.

Methodology

The present study was conducted with a quantitative approach, cross-sectional in terms of time, and using a survey method and questionnaire tool. The statistical population of the present study is all women aged 19 and older living in Darreh Shahr city, whose total number is 7,475, based on population estimates from the General Population and Housing Census of the Statistical Center of Iran (2016). According to the Cochran formula, the sample size was determined to be 365 people. In the present study, cluster sampling method was used to select the sample. The instrument used in the present study was a questionnaire.

To analyze the data at the descriptive level, column percentage, mean, standard deviation, range of changes, minimum score, and maximum score were used. At the inferential level, Pearson correlation coefficient, independent t-test, and one-way analysis of variance tests were used using SPSS statistical software to test the hypotheses. Also, Smart PLS software was used to perform structural equation analysis.

There are various methods to obtain the validity of a questionnaire, and in this study, content validity was used. In the present study, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to determine reliability.

Results and Discussion:

The present study aimed to investigate the relationship between cultural capital and the sense of social security of women in Darehshahr. The findings showed that the level of social security of women in this city is at a low to moderate level; a topic that is consistent with some domestic studies such as Arabi and Atashi (2022) and Ravanshad et al. (2022) and highlights the need for more serious attention to the issue of social security. The results also showed that cultural capital and its dimensions (embodied, objectified, and institutional) play a significant role in explaining women's sense of social security. This finding is consistent with the results of studies by Ganji Jameh-Shorani et al. (2020), Abu Onyemisi (2024), and Shiong et al. (2024). Also, according to Bourdieu's theory, it can be said that cultural capital not only affects people's lifestyle and perception of the social environment, but can also shape their sense of social security.

Differences in feelings of social security were also observed based on demographic characteristics such as marital status, education level, and employment, while age alone did not have a significant effect, indicating the importance of individual and structural factors in this area. This finding is consistent with the research of Arabi and Atashi (2022), Ravanshad et al. (2022), Soleimani Far (2021), and Kumar KC (2020). In addition, based on Mittar's theory, it can be explained that the feeling of social security is a multidimensional phenomenon and depends on demographic, informational, spatial, technological, and organizational variables. Finally, the results of structural equation modeling (PLS) showed that the independent variables of the study were able to explain 24% of the variance of the dependent variable (sense of social security).

Conclusion

In general, it can be said that the results of the present study can play an important role in increasing the accuracy of diagnosing social issues and help identify the most important individual and collective concerns. The results of the present study provide a valuable basis for designing and implementing effective strategies to improve the quality of life and strengthen the sense of social security, especially among women.

Declarations

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Authors' Contribution

Authors contributed equally to the conceptualization and writing of the article. All of the authors approved the content of the manuscript and agreed on all aspects of the work declaration of competing interest none.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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