



Future research on parameters affecting security and sustainable development in the border city of Kamyaran

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Abstract

Background and Objective: Border regions face serious security and development challenges. Rapid global changes have exposed these regions to new threats and opportunities. For this reason, foresight regarding these regions is of great importance. In this regard, the present study, with a futures approach, has analyzed the key role of parameters affecting security and sustainable development in the border city of Kamyaran.

Methodology: This research is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive-analytical in terms of method. Data collection tools are in the form of library sources and documents and survey (questionnaire). The research area is the city of Kamyaran. The statistical sample of this research is 40 experts in the field of urban planning and sociology.

Findings and Results: The Delphi method and the cross-effects matrix (Micmac) were used to analyze the data. The research findings showed that out of 27 parameters affecting security and sustainable development in border cities, 19 parameters were identified as key and influential, and these variables have the most and least impact on the future of security and sustainable development in the border city of Kamyaran. and finally, the results showed that in terms of direct impact, the parameters of terrorist threats, unemployment rate, and crime rate are in the first to third positions with scores of 71, 66, and 65, respectively, and the parameters that have an indirect impact on security and sustainable development in the border city of Kamyaran are terrorist threats, crime rate, and unemployment rate with scores of 160,403, 151,603, and 147,612, respectively. The general results of this research showed that the border city of Kamyaran is in a critical situation in terms of security and sustainable development. However, the findings of this study can serve as a valuable guide for decision-makers, planners, and investors to take appropriate measures to create a brighter future for this city.

Keywords: Sustainable security, sustainable development, futures studies, MICMAC, Kamyaran city.

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Introduction:

In today's world, security is recognized as the most basic need for the survival and progress of societies, and without it, achieving general welfare and development is not possible. Regional inequalities and unbalanced development are considered a serious threat to the stability of countries, because deprivation in some regions leads to dissatisfaction, social and ethnic unrest, and ultimately weakens national cohesion. Therefore, security and development are two completely intertwined concepts, one cannot be achieved without the other. Development is a multidimensional process that requires fundamental changes in social and economic structures, while security is a subjective and discursive concept that is tied to the perception of threats by elites and the public. The connection between these two concepts is evident at all local, national and global levels; so that in developing countries, establishing the right ratio between security priorities and development programs has become one of the main concerns of thinkers and policymakers in order to prevent managerial deadlocks.

Border regions play a vital role in a country's foreign policy, good neighborliness, and international standing due to their strategic location. Border security not only guarantees national authority, but also serves as the main foundation for land planning and development in economic and cultural dimensions. Given global geopolitical developments, the imbalance of development in these regions due to weak infrastructure and inappropriate distribution of facilities limits border potential and doubles security sensitivities. Finally, cities like Kamyaran, which have a border location, face complex challenges in the field of security and sustainable development. To optimally manage these challenges and take advantage of the economic opportunities of the border, it is essential to adopt a futures research approach. By identifying key drivers and analyzing uncertainties, this strategic tool helps managers make informed decisions by predicting future scenarios to improve the quality of life of citizens, attract investment, and ensure the sustainability of the city for future generations.

Methodology:

This research, using a descriptive-analytical method and focusing on the border city of Kamyaran, seeks to identify and prioritize key drivers in the two areas of security and sustainable development. In the first phase, through documentary studies and the Delphi technique with the participation of 40 academic and executive experts who were selected through snowball sampling, a list of indicators was developed in the form of five main parameters: economic, social, political, environmental, and security, and the reliability of the measurement tool was confirmed with a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of more than 0.7. In the analytical part, the researchers analyzed the complex network of cause-and-effect relationships between variables such as per capita income, smuggling, border security, and political stability using the MicMac software and the cross-effects matrix method in order to identify strategic drivers for future-oriented policymaking and optimal urban interventions by measuring the impact and influence of each component based on a five-point spectrum.

Results and Discussion:

In this study, the Micmac software and the cross-effects matrix were used to analyze the complex network of factors affecting the security and sustainable development of the border city of Kamyaran. By identifying 27 key indicators and forming a relationship matrix, it was determined that the system under study has a filling rate of 40.83%, which indicates a high impact of the variables on each other. Based on the scatterplot analysis, the system variables were divided into different groups; including "influential" variables such as social

participation and climate change, which are the main drivers of the system, and "bi-faceted" variables such as unemployment, poverty, and terrorist threats, which, due to their complex nature, simultaneously affect and are affected by other factors. This analysis showed that the Kamyaran border system is an unstable and complex system due to the distribution of variables around the diagonal axis, and its management requires continuous monitoring of cause-and-effect relationships. In the final ranking section, 19 strategic parameters were identified as key drivers of the city's future status, among which "terrorist threats", "unemployment rate" and "crime rate" have the greatest direct and indirect impact on the entire security and sustainable development system, respectively. An important point in the research findings is the key role of economic indicators such as unemployment and per capita income, which are all in the area of bimodal variables and emphasize the need for policymakers to focus on improving livelihoods to ensure security. In contrast, variables such as "border security" and "ethnic conflicts" were in the category of influenced variables, indicating that their situation is more of a consequence and a reaction to changes in other economic, political and social areas than a driver.

Conclusion:

Achieving a desirable future for the border city of Kamyaran depends on utilizing a foresight approach that paints a clear picture of security and sustainable development by accurately identifying opportunities and challenges. In this study, using the Delphi technique and literature analysis, 27 sub-parameters were initially identified in the form of 5 main categories, and 19 factors were ultimately determined as key and strategic drivers. These drivers include a variety of components, including participation and social justice, political stability, reducing administrative corruption, per capita income, infrastructure development, and combating threats such as smuggling and terrorism. Micmac software analyses, with a fill index of 83.40 percent, indicate the high correlation and influence of these trends on each other; so that out of 608 identified relationships, 240 relationships had the highest numerical value (strong influence), which indicates the complexity and importance of integrated management of these factors for achieving development goals. The research findings show that Kamyaran faces multiple challenges such as economic inequalities, limited livelihood diversity, and environmental threats from climate change, which, if not managed, can lead to insecurity and halt the development cycle. To overcome this worrying situation, the research emphasizes the need to develop long-term operational plans and attract maximum participation from the public and the private sector. Suggested solutions include strengthening border security and combating smuggling, developing educational and welfare infrastructure, diversifying the local economy to create jobs, and making financial matters transparent to combat corruption. Finally, predicting future trends allows policymakers to prioritize interventions and protect natural resources and biodiversity, providing a sustainable and secure environment for future generations in this border region.

Declarations

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