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SOCIAL FACTORS INFLUENCING WOMEN'S SOCIAL SECURITY (A CASE STUDY OF QOM-IRAN)

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ABSTRACT
The present paper investigates the factors influencing women's social security in Qom City. As a survey research, this work employed a researcher-made questionnaire to gather required data. The statistical population included all 15-40 years old women living in Qom. Using multi-stage clustering sampling method, 326 people was selected as the statistical sample. The obtained data was analyzed using Pearson correlation coefficient, two-variable and multi-variable regression tests. Theoretically, Giddens' structuration theory was discussed. As the research findings revealed, women living in Qom have an average to low social security. Also, there is a significant relation between social security and the variables of economic-social status ($r = 0.529$). Social support ($r = 0.424$), religious adherence ($r = 0.291$), social control ($r = 0.220$), urban space design ($r = 0.182$), and communication medias ($r = 0.140$). According to regression test results, 33.3% of the dependent variable variance can be explained by the variables entered into the regression model and all the independent variables can also explain the dependent variable. Therefore, it is expected that social security of women living in Qom is promoted by understanding and immunizing social situations of women.

Keywords: Communication Media, Economic-Social Status, Religious Adherence, Social Control

INTRODUCTION
Up to the 1980s, security studies were regarded only regarding the physical survival of nation-government and military attack against it. Buzan was the first scholar questioned the classic relation between security and defense. As he asserted, security is not reduced only to national security but it should be generalized to new sections such as military, political, economic, environmental, and social (Buzan, 1999). But nowadays, investigating security and security feeling of various societies in their social life is one of the most important domains of security (Breakwell, 2007; Hogensen & Stuvoy, 2006; Beck, 2007).

Undoubtedly, security is the necessary condition for the revival of each political and social system and governments spend cost, time and wide facilities to supply those facilities (Giddens, 2002). Social security is related to those domains of privacy which is associated with other society individuals, organizations and government such that all community individuals face these domains during daily life (Moller, 2000). Social security, in fact, is like an actual outcome of a set of interactions and compatibility between different components of social system (Ahmadi & Esmaeili, 2010). Security is regarded as one of the basic needs and motivations of human such that lack of security leads to the disappearance of peace and calmness and the creation of stress (Kahe, 2005). The importance of security in society is so that Maslow introduces it in human needs hierarchy after physical needs as the second human need (Farhangi, 2010). Since women are important cultural and social conveyers, their social security is a general issue influencing whole the public space of community. Therefore, feeling of security in women can be effective to promote the pattern of social activities and create better participation in social areas (Rosewame, 2005). Also, given the increasing importance of women's role in development, their entrance into public domains (educational and occupational environment) has found a high importance. Accordingly, they highly face social damages and since women's social security is highly less than men, such an insecurity can strongly influence women's social activities and cause many limitations in their social roles. Therefore, the issue of women's social security becomes important more than before and

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investigating the factors of insecurity seems necessary. In this regard, the present study has attempted to investigate the factors related with women's social security in Qom City.

Literature

Reviewing the related literature can provide a clear image of the studied issue. In the following, there are some studies previously conducted by researchers.

Using a 380 people-sample (above 12 years old), Mokhtari *et al.,* (2012) investigated social and cultural factors influencing social security in Yasouj City. They concluded that the amount of Yasouj citizens' security feeling is not at a desirable level. They also found a significant relation between age, marital status, nationality, social-economic status, religious adherence, attitude towards police performance, and the amount of security feeling in Yasouj citizens. The variable of social trust has the highest portion (32%) in explaining social security. All independent variables also depend on the dependent variable.

Norouzi and Fouladi (2009) investigated social factors influencing social security among 15-29 years women of Tehran. According to the obtained results, the variables of feeling of security in living place, economic-social status and feeling of social discipline have a positive effect on women's social security while religious adherence has a negative and reverse effect on their social security.

Zanjani (2011) analyzed the factors influencing women's security in society. They concluded that social class, employment and job position of women are effective in their feeling of security.

Weaver (2010) revealed that in the United States, social security is related with feeling of security in women and those women who are protected by their husband and children have more security and peace. As they reported, these women follow up their daily works with more joy and liveliness.

In Brasilia, Dias *et al.,* (2007) evaluated the role of space decoration to create certain behaviors in users. As they revealed, social and spatial factors influence the decrease of security and the increase of crime with respect to their effect on environmental components and spatial recognition of open urban environments.

In a study performed in Australia, it was found that women generally afraid of going out at night, lonely waiting in bus station, using parking lots in city center especially at night, driving at night, open spaces, underpasses, and dead-end alleys, and so forth (Bell, 1998).

Theoretical Principles

Since the studied issue involves various and wide dimensions, various theories form the theoretical principles of the research, including urban spaces theory, social control theory, liberal feminism theory, religious adherence approach, and agenda setting.

In his social control theory, Hobbes indicates that human seek for their benefits only and ignore human values to achieve their benefits. Therefore, human control and establishing social discipline become important. In this regard, there is a need of a strong government or an external control instrument (police) to maintain social security (Eftekhari, 2002).

In liberal feminism theory, it is believed that all human are equal and have the same social rights. The goal of liberal feminism theory is to make equality between men and women in all social area. Hence, using social, economic and legal facilities, equal social and economic opportunities should be provided for men and women (Ritzer, 2000). In other words, feeling of security in women will be increased by improving social and economic status.

Social support theory indicates that when individuals have more support by their family members, friends and surroundings, they will easily pass unsecure and stressful situations (Sarafino, 1998).

Dorkim believes that religion causes social correlation and compatibility between individuals and society. He asserts that religion has an outstanding role to create unity and solving social problems (Tavasoli, 2001).

Freud and Reisman also believe that human have internal control system prohibiting them from illegal works. Religion is one of these factors. If individuals have strong religious adherence, they lees tend to do illegal deeds and internally control themselves (Rafi, 2008).

In urban space approach, it is believed that "spaces" influence human behavior and can regulate their actions. Wood was the first person who referred to the relation between crime and physical environment

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(Taherkhani, 2002). So, insecure spaces such as destructions and abandoned places that have not adequate light and view or are less exposed to public traffic provide the opportunity to committee crime and can considerably decrease sense of social security (Haghighatian, 2014).

According to agenda setting proposed by Mc Combs and Shaw, Medias form people's thought regarding certain issues by presenting and dissipating their own desired news. They impose their own preferences on people and determine their mental orientation by their news content (Severin & Tankard, 2007).

Theoretical Framework

Given that each of the mentioned theories investigates only one aspect of the studied subject, they cannot well explain the considered issue. Therefore, it seems that the theory of Giddens can better present a clear image of the present research scope.

According to Structuration Theory proposed by Giddens, structures are a set of steady patterns which are guided always with rules and resources. Based on the concept of duality of structure, mutual actions are produced using rules and norms and rules and resources are reconstructed in the same interaction (Ritzer, 2000). Rules and resources are mediator; that is, agents use them to create, foster and change relations in time and place. According to Giddens, people follow those rules embedded in structure (Tucker, 1998). Actually, rules are methods or techniques which are implicitly known and considered appropriate for action by agents (Turner, 2003). There are two types of rules including normative rules or creating rights and tasks in a scope turned into legitimacy tools since it causes all things seems ok and interpretative rules or creating designs and storages in a scope used for significant symbolic systems. The second component of structuration theory refers to resources which can be both material resources such as mass media and sources of authority such as social support (Giddens, 1998). Resources are strongly related to social rules; resources are control tools and divided into two types including resources of authority or organizational capacity to control and guide interaction patterns in a scope and/or applying features, tools and material commodities to control and guide interaction patterns in a scope (Turner, 2003). According to the theory of Giddens regarding social security, it can be stated that individuals should have feeling of internal security beyond their actions. They appeal rule and resources to achieve such a feeling in community (Mokhtari *et al.,* 2012). Totally, relying on structuration theory, some variables such as social support, economic-social status, urban space, and using communication media are considered as resources (allocative) and the variable of social control (police) are regarded as normative rules and religious adherence is considered as interpretive rules.

Research Hypotheses

1. There is a relation between social support and social security in individuals.
2. There is a relation between social control (police) and social security in individuals.
3. There is a relation between social-economic status and social security in individuals.
4. There is a relation between religious adherence and social security in individuals.
5. There is a relation between urban space design and social security in individuals.
6. There is a relation between using communication Medias and social security in individuals.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methodology

The present project was a survey research. The statistical population included all 15-40 years old women living in Qom. Using multi-stage clustering sampling method, 326 people were selected as the statistical sample. To this end, some regions of Qom City were randomly selected and in each region, one block was randomly chosen. In each block, some houses and in each house, one 15-40 years old woman was selected using random simple sampling method. In the study, the required data was gathered using a Likert Scaled based researcher-made questionnaire. The validity of the employed questionnaire was evaluated using content and face validity though polling university professors' opinions. To evaluate the reliability of the questionnaire, Cronbach's alpha was used ($\alpha = 70\%$). To analyze the obtained data, descriptive statistics such as mean and inferential statistics such as Pearson correlation coefficient, two-variable and multi-variable regression test were applied.

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Operational Definition of Variables

Social security: social security refers to the lack of fear from threatening or lack of fear from threatening rights and legal freedoms (Nabavi *et al.,* 2010). Some items of the Likert Scale-based items are as follow:

I can stay at home without any concern.

The rules existing in our community can supply the security of citizens.

To measure this variable, 10 items were used and its reliability was computed 0.79.

Social support: it refers to the support of family members, friends and acquaintances in problematic and stressful situations. The measurement level of this variable is also ordinal. To measure this variable, various questions have been used:

I always count on my family members' moral support.

When I am upset, I speak with my friends and I never regret.

To measure this variable, 6 items were used and its reliability was computed 0.82.

Social-economic status: it refers to the place of people showing their rank embedded them in different social classes based on the amount of their desired qualities (Coen, 2006). To measure economic-social status of individuals, some variables such as employment status, income, father and mother's education and job, ownership status, and residential region. The reliability of this item was computed 0.72.

Social control: as an external control instrument, the presence of police is effective to decrease crime and increase social security, including accessibility, permanent presence in public environments and satisfaction of performance (Nabavi *et al.,* 2010). To what extent are you calm in the place in which police is present?

We have no fear and concern by observing police.

To measure this variable, 5 items were used and its reliability was computed 0.88.

Religious adherence: it means practical and mental commitment to religious beliefs such that these commitments influence social and unreligious life of individuals (Anvari, 1995). The measurement level of this variable is also ordinal. To measure this variable, various questions have been used:

How often do you participate in religious ceremonies?

I feel calm when I go to religious places.

I observe lawful and unlawful in my routine works.

To measure this variable, 9 items were used and its reliability was computed 0.86.

Urban space design: it refers to safety of urban environment such as walkways, parks, etc. The measurement level of this variable is also ordinal. To measure this variable, various questions have been used:

I pass through pedestrian bridge without any concern.

To what extent do you feel secure in empty and dark streets?

To measure this variable, 4 items were used and its reliability was computed 0.82.

Communication media: it refers to communicative mediums used by women to gain information about social security. The measurement level of this variable is also ordinal. To measure this variable, various questions have been used:

To what extent are you informed of newspapers published regarding women?

To what extent do you use internet to communicate with your friends?

To measure this variable, 4 items were used and its reliability was computed 0.72.

Findings

Descriptive Statistics

As shown in Table 1, most of the sample is 25-30 years old (33.1%); the lowest frequency is related to the age range of 15-25 (39 people, 12%); 51% of the sample was married, 35% was single and 8.9% was widow; the highest education frequency pertains to bachelor (166 people, 50.9%) and the lowest frequency was related to below diploma (39 people, 12.6%). Among the respondents, the highest income (46%) belongs to 100-200 dollars and the lowest income (8.9%) belongs to above 266 dollars. 52.5% of the respondents are student, 20.6% are employer and 27% is unemployed.

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Table 1: Distribution frequency of the respondents based on demographic characteristics

Variable		Frequency	Percentage
Age range	15-20	39	12.0
	20-25	59	18.1
	25-30	108	33.1
	30-35	70	21.5
	35-40	50	15.3
	Total	326	100.0
Marital status	Married	183	56.1
	Single	114	35.0
	Widow	29	8.9
	Total	326	100.0
Education	Below diploma	39	8.9
	Diploma	65	100.0
	Bachelor	166	12.0
	Master and above	56	19.9
	Total	326	50.9
Employment	Employed	67	20.6
	Unemployed	88	27.0
	Student	171	52.5
	Total	326	100.0
Income	Below 100 dollars	19	28.8
	100-166 dollars	30	46.0
	166-266 dollars	11	16.3
	Above 266 dollars	7	8.9
	Total	67	100.0

According to Table 2, the highest frequency of social security of Qom women is at average level (40.2%) and low level (32.5%). The mean obtained for the dependent variable is 2.56 which is between average and low.

Table 2: The amount of women's social security in Qom

Social security	Very low	Low	Average	High	Very high	Mean
	14.7	32.5	40.2	7.1	5.5	2.56

Table 3: Frequency and mean of the independent variables

Independent variables	Very low	Low	Average	High	Very high	Mean
Social support	22.7	17.8	46.6	9.2	3.7	2.53
Social control	25.5	16.6	53.7	3.4	.9	2.37
Economic-social status	9.5	28.5	39.0	16.0	7.1	2.13
Urban space design	42.3	30.4	25.5	1.8	0	1.88
Religious adherence	0.9	7.1	25.8	37.4	28.8	3.86
Communication media	22.4	40.8	34.4	2.5	0	2.16

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Table 3 shows that the highest frequency in the variable of social support is at average level (46.6%) and very low level (22.7%). In the variable of social control, the highest frequency is at average level (53.7%) and very low level (25.5%). Most of women living in Qom have an average to low economic-social status (39%). Most of women living in Qom consider urban space unsecure and 42.3% of them consider the security of Qom very low and 30.4% considers it low. Most of women living in Qom have a high religious adherence (37.4% high and 28.8% very high). The highest amount of using communication media such as internet, newspaper, etc. is at low (40.8%) to average level (34.4%).

According to Table 4, it can be found that there is a significant positive relation between social support and social security. That is, higher social support leads to the increase of social security; but, its intensity is average. There is also a weak and direct relation between social control and social security, indicating the confirmation of the hypothesis of the relation between these two variables. Moreover, a direct and significant relation can be seen between economic-social status and social security.

In other words, higher economic-social status increases social security indicating the confirmation of the hypothesis. Additionally, there is a direct and weak relation between urban space design and social security; therefore, the relation between these two variables is confirmed.

There is also a direct and weak relation between religious adherence and social security. It has been again found that there is a direct and significant relation between communication media and social security. In other words, the increase of using communication media leads to the increase of social security. So, the hypothesis is confirmed.

Totally, there is a significant relation between the dependent variable and all the independent variables. Therefore, all the research hypotheses are confirmed.

To identify the effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable (social security), two-variable and multi-variable regression tests are used.

Table 4: The results of Pearson correlation test

Independent variables	Pearson coefficient value	Sig.
Social support	0.424	0.000
Social control	0.220	0.000
Economic-social status	0.529	0.000
Urban space design	0.182	0.000
Religious adherence	0.291	0.000
Communication media	0.140	0.000

As the results obtained from two-variable regression test revealed, the variables of social support, economic-social situation, social control, religious adherence, urban space design, and communication media predict social security as much 0.424, 0.220, 0.182, 0.291, 0.140, and 0.529, respectively. In all variables, regression coefficient has been obtained less than 0.05, indicating that the null hypothesis is rejected and the main hypothesis is confirmed.

As the findings revealed, three variables of economic-social status, social support and religious adherence remain as the most important variables in regression equation. In the first stage, the variable of economic-social status has the highest correlation with social security. This variable, in fact, explains 28% of the variance of social security. Therefore, it is the most effective variable in social security. In this equation, beta value is 0.417, indicating that an increase of one unit in economic-social status adds 0.417 to social security. In the second stage, social support has the highest effect on social security such that by entering this variable to regression equation, R^2 has reached to 0.322. Accordingly, the value of 0.40 has been increased. The value of beta shows that an increase of one unit in social support adds 0.172 to social security. In fact, there is a significant positive relation between social support and social security such that the increase of social support leads to the increase of social security. In the third stage, religious adherence has the highest effect on social security. By entering this variable to regression equation, R^2 has reached to 0.333.

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Table 5: Regression test result for the effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable (social security)

Independent variable	Non-standardized beta	Standard error	Beta	T	Sig.
Constant value	14.571	2.568		5.673	.000
Social support	.669	.080	.424	8.391	.000
Social control	.408	.101	.220	4.048	.000
Urban space design	.425	.128	.182	3.321	.001
Religious adherence	.272	.050	.291	5.447	.000
Communication media	.315	.124	.140	2.544	.011
Economic-social status	1.516	.136	.529	11.183	.000

Table 6: The variables entered in regression equation to explain variance of social security of women

Variable	Beta	T	Sig.	R	R2
Economic-social status	.417	8.094	.000	.529(a)	.280
Social support	.172	2.999	.000	.568(b)	.322
Religious adherence	.122	2.301	.001	.577(c)	.333

The value of beta shows that an increase of one unit in social support adds 0.122 to social security. As shown in Table 6, this model can explains 33.3% of the variance of social security through these three variables. Other variables which could not explain the variance of social security in Qom City were excluded from the equation.

CONCLUSION
The purpose of the present study was to investigate the factors influencing women's social security in Qom City. To this end, a 326-people sample was investigated. Theoretically, structuration theory of Giddens was discussed as the theoretical framework and the research variables were defined. Based on the theoretical framework, 6 hypotheses were propounded. In the findings, in addition to describe the population, two-variable and multi-variable regression tests were used. As the research findings revealed, women's social security in an average to low level in Qom. Also, there is a significant relation between social security and economic-social status (consistent with the finding obtained by Nabavi *et al.*), social support (consistent with the finding obtained by Ahmadi and Kaldi), religious adherence (consistent with the finding obtained by Norouzi and Foulad), social control (consistent with the finding obtained by Mokhtari *et al.,*), urban space design (consistent with the finding obtained by Goli), and communication media (consistent with the finding obtained by Khorasani and Esmaeili). Further, based on the regression analysis results, it can be said that 33.3% of the variance of social security can be explained by the variables entered into the regression model.
Given that the current community of Iran has dynamic conditions, desired criteria of women have been changed and lack of attention to changing needs of women endangers their position. In this regard, Enloe indicates an appropriate method of solving the problem of women's insecurity in checking social, cultural, legal, and economic policies of social system, especially governmental policies. This approach indicates that applying physical forces carrying security cannot foster feeling of security in women. In this

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regard, promoting security level of women involves understanding and immunizing women's social positions such as improving women's social supports through family members, friends and social associations, improving social and economic status of women through increasing education, especially the rate of women's employment, improving the structure of urban space and making it safe for women, fostering women's religious beliefs through families, communication media, religious-cultural association, and promoting the level of communication media programs to increase women's social security in community.

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