

## Youth Social Capital and Sustainable Environmental Development in Bushehr

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### *Abstract*

The present article analyzes the effects of social capital and its indicators on the sustainable environmental development of Bushehr. The research method is survey and the statistical population is 18 to 39 years old in Bushehr. Data were analyzed using Pearson correlation coefficient, path analysis and regression analysis using SPSS software. The results showed that the average environmental sustainability was relatively high among young people. Environmental sustainability was low, 32.4% moderate and 37.7% high among 32.9% of young people. Explanatory findings showed that there is a positive and direct relationship between youth social capital and environmental sustainability. As a result, increasing the amount of social capital and its dimensions and components (cohesion, participation, trust and social relations is effective in environmental sustainability and people's attitudes towards the urban environment and environmental development of Bushehr.

**Keywords:** Environmental sustainability, Social capital, Trust, Participation, Bushehr.

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## 1. Introduction

The protection of the environment and ensuring its sustainability and comprehensive development is the most serious challenge facing the international community (Velaei, 2005, p. 34). Having a healthy environment or having sustainable environmental development is essential for any time and place. Achieving sustainable development in any country is related to the public awareness of that community, so education can be very effective in this regard. Environmental education believes that human beings can live in harmony with nature and in this regard can make conscious decisions that during these decisions to pay attention to future generations (Abbaspour et al., 2006, p. 97). The right to a healthy environment also means that human beings have a clean environment in which to grow and excel. Sustainable development and the right to a healthy environment pursue a single path and goal, and that is the formation of a channel for the present generation to enjoy economic and social development while respecting the interests of future generations and protecting the environment. Simultaneity of the two may cause executive challenges and in practice, by preferring this concept, it will weaken the human right (present and future generations) to have a healthy and balanced environment, the way out of which is to pay attention to the concept of intergenerational justice. And the use of green economy is (Ramezani Ghavamabadi and Shafiq Fard, 2016, p. 241).

Sustainable development is a process that, while focusing on economic growth, also emphasizes social justice and the sustainability of environmental resources. Before the Industrial Revolution, the relationship between man and the natural environment was balanced and dominated by a kind of sustainable development. But after the industrial revolution, due to human access to new techniques and tools, population growth and the idea of mass consumption, the balance between humans and the natural environment has been disturbed day by day to the detriment of the natural environment (Arghan and Shabani, 2017, p. 46). This imbalance is clearly visible in urban environments such as Bushehr.

Environmental education is the most fundamental method in environmental protection, the purpose of which is to find the most appropriate and best system

and method of presenting materials and activities and implementing a structure that promotes environmental awareness in the community. In this way, every individual in society, by respecting nature, considers himself responsible for the preservation and protection of the environment (Muharramnejad, Heidari, 2006, p. 68). Environmental awareness can be effective in providing quantitative and qualitative development and education of environmental culture (Amini Nasab, Jafarzadeh, 2009, p. 159). The importance of general environmental education in solving environmental problems and achieving sustainable development goals is so great that it has been addressed in the fourth economic, social and cultural development plan of the country in the form of public environmental education.

One of the factors affecting sustainable environmental development is the social capital and its dimensions. The more components of social capital such as trust, participation, relationship, awareness, cohesion, etc are among the citizens, the more they are committed to their city and the issues in it and can solve problems and improve the quality of urban life. According to Putnam, social capital is various aspects of social organization such as trust, norms and networks that can improve the efficiency of society by facilitating coordinated measures (Putnam, 2001, p. 285). Bourdieu also argues that social capital is the sum of real or potential resources that result from the enduring network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance and cognition within a group. A network in which each of its members enjoys the support of social capital and makes them worthy of credit (Field, 2006, p. 147). Social capital has indicators of social trust, social participation, social cohesion, and social network.

Sustainable urban development is a development that meets the needs of the people of the city, but also ensures its survival and durability, and at the same time water, soil and air; that is, the three elements that are essential for human life should not be contaminated and unused. Sustainable urban development; That is, the conditions in which today's urban dwellers and tomorrow's citizens can live in complete peace and security and enjoy a long and at the same time constructive life while being healthy (Salehifard, 2004, p. 147). One of the dimensions of sustainable urban development is the dimension of

environmental sustainability. Environmental sustainability refers to progress and development in various economic and social dimensions that are accompanied by the preservation and promotion of renewable and non-renewable natural resources for the next generation (Jepson, 2001, p. 491).

Today, environmental issues have deep social implications and human behavior towards the environment under the influence of modernity and its processes has become a critical behavior (Kalantari et al., 2016, p. 2). Damage to the environment is often invisible and it takes time for its various destructive and deadly effects to appear on human health and nature, so it is often "tomorrow is too late" to take action to prevent damage to the environment. Come (Dabirsiyaghi, 2004, p. 13). The characteristics of urban communities today have caused the instability of humans and the environment (natural environment and artificial environment) (Mofidi and Shayan, 2007, p. 15).

One of the current issues in the world is the protection of the environment. Environmental catastrophe not only robs people of peace and security but also threatens human existence, therefore, in scientific and political circles, the environmental debate is the loudest and most serious debate of the day (Velaei, 2005, p. 24). Environmentalists believe that today environmental crises are threatening human life to such an extent that they have endangered human life and other organisms on the planet. Opportunity research (2005), Islamzadeh (2003), Dabirsiyaghi (2004), Kalantari et al., (2016), Tomeh (2001), show that environmental anomalies in society are significant. In Bushehr, air pollution, environmental degradation, excessive use of chemical toxins, noise pollution, etc. are some of these environmental issues. The relatively rapid growth of the urban population in Bushehr, as well as the insufficient level of awareness of the community can play a role in creating urban environmental issues. Therefore, the present article seeks to answer the question: what is the relationship between social capital and its components and sustainable environmental development in Bushehr?

## **2. Review of Literature**

Various researches show the relationship between the components of social capital and most of its components and indicators with the sustainable

development of urban environment. Salehi Amiri et al., (2012), Mousavi et al., (2012), Khoshfar et al., (2013), Nawabakhsh and Wismeh (2015), Osborne et al., (2016), Chou et al., (2019), Zhang et al. (2021), Effendi and Morsitama (2018), Mobla et al. (2007) and Simon et al., (2018), Atshan et al., (2020), Esfandiari Mohni and Sargolzaei Javan (2017) and Zareian (2017) show that have a positive relationship between social capital and sustainable urban development. Darvishi et al. (2016) in an article analyzed the sustainable urban development based on the characteristics of social capital and public trust (Case study: District 2 of Tehran). Social capital and public trust affect sustainable urban development. Indices of social capital affect sustainable urban development. Indices of public trust affect sustainable urban development. As a result, in sustainable urban development, the two components of social capital and public trust were considered.

Azad et al., (2019) in an article entitled the study of the relationship between social capital and sustainable urban development among the urban population over 20 years of age in Mazandaran province using the theories of Putnam, Fukuyama, Misra, Einstein and Driskel and also using the method The survey concluded that the status of the Social Capital Index and the Sustainable Urban Development Index are below average. Findings showed that social capital and all its variables have a strong and significant direct relationship and impact on sustainable urban development and as the amount of social capital increases, it leads to the improvement and promotion of dimensions and components of sustainable urban development.

Safar Alizadeh et al., (2017) showed that there is a positive and significant relationship between social capital and sustainable urban development in the metropolis of Ahvaz. In other words, high social capital among the citizens of Ahvaz is a means to increase sustainable urban development and the structural dimensions of the city, including the economy, society, institutions, space and environment. Arghan and Shabani (2017) in the article from urban growth to sustainable urban development and study of the environmental dimension of Tehran metropolis believe that Tehran today faces many environmental problems such as air pollution, soil pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, etc. that every year it inflicts great human and financial losses on the people

and the government. The amount of environmental pollution in the south, southwest and southeast is higher than other parts of Tehran. Therefore, any plan and program for this city must be accompanied by a systemic vision and the principles of sustainable development.

Hajizadeh Meymandi and Falak al-Din (2017) showed that there is a significant relationship between awareness, lifestyle, use of social networks, social and cultural capital with responsible environmental behaviors. Nabavi and Mokhtari Hashi (2018) showed that there is a direct relationship between cultural capital of families and environmental behavior. Shokrgazar et al., (2016) have studied the role of social capital in sustainable environmental development in a case study of Khorramabad. The results show that among the four dimensions of social capital and five dimensions of sustainable environmental development, the correlation observed between the dimensions of cohesion and participation has been very small. But the observed relationship between the other dimensions of the social capital index and sustainable environmental development is a positive (direct) correlation. That is, increasing satisfaction from one dimension is consistent with increasing satisfaction in other dimensions. The correlation between the dimensions of cohesion and awareness, participation and dynamism and compatibility is significant. Also, the correlation between social capital and sustainable environmental development is significant at 99% confidence level. The results also show that the current situation of Khorramabad neighborhoods in terms of environmental sustainable development index, except for one variable, other variables are in unstable conditions, and also in terms of social capital index, variables of trust and participation in sustainable status and social cohesion and solidarity variables. And social awareness is in a state of instability, which indicates that this index is not in a very good position compared to the index of sustainable environmental development.

Raisi and Bijani (2016) studied the strategies of sustainable environmental development to deal with pollution from natural resources. Having a healthy and clean environment is very important for everyone. One of the most important problems of the present age is the concerns arising from the effects of pollution of natural resources and its transmission to humans and the

environment. The purpose of this article is to introduce solutions to deal with environmental pollution and the development of a healthy and sustainable environment. The research method of this study was one of the types of documentary research in a review method. Organic agriculture, biological control, crop rotation, improvement of technologies, raising awareness and level of knowledge of farmers and the use of modern and appropriate irrigation in agriculture in the sustainability and development of environmental agriculture are the most important findings of this study. Nasrollahi and Eslami (2013) show that social capital has a positive and significant effect on the environment and there is a direct and strong relationship between the components of social capital and environmental health. Findings of Salehi Amiri et al., (2012) indicate the positive, direct and significant effect of social capital variable on the dimensions of sustainable development variable 88% on the economic dimension of sustainable development and 71% on the social and environmental dimension of sustainable development and finally 70 % On the political dimension of sustainable development. As a result, in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development, proposals such as creating a culture to protect the environment, preparing a cultural annex, raising the level of public participation and trust in regulators and policy makers were presented.

Atshan et al., (2020) concluded that social participation, social trust, and strong relationships influence urban environmental behaviors. Policies and practices that increase social trust can lead to more responsible environmental behaviors and promote urban sustainability. Stindel & Jancker (2016) presented a study entitled "Study of the relationship between social capital and sustainable urban development (Case study: three cities of Berlin, Hamburg and Cologne) using the survey method. The results showed that the social capital index and both cognitive dimensions and its structure and all its variables (including variables of trust and public norms, participation and cohesion) have a strong and significant impact on sustainable urban development, and in total has been able to explain 39% of its variance.

Chen et al., (2014) in an article entitled sustainable futures for Leiden Village: A Model for Promoting Social Capital and Improving the quality of life in urban neighborhoods to raise public awareness and involve residents in

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sustainable housing and neighborhood development they did. Development activities include identifying neighborhood development priorities, assessing neighborhood health, providing technical equipment, and on-the-job training for local residents in renovating new homes and new construction, as well as mapping using GIS for Neighborhood development and economic growth.

Takada and Marutani (2014) showed that there is a strong and significant relationship between social capital and environmental quality and sustainable urban development. Among the variables of social capital, the strongest relationship was social participation and among the dimensions of social participation itself, the strongest relationship was participation in formal groups. Marlin et al., (2012) identified the variables of both trust and social participation as having a significant effect on urban sustainability. The effect of social trust variable has been more than social participation on urban sustainability. Among the dimensions of social trust, the most impact was the dimensions of political, institutional, generalized and interpersonal trust, respectively, and among the dimensions of social participation, the effect of formal dimension was more than informal dimension on urban sustainability. Summarizing the research background showed that sustainable environmental development is affected by various factors that in this study the effect of social capital dimensions on it in Bushehr is discussed.

In recent years, people's attitudes toward society and the environment have changed. Among social theorists, some have referred to the subject of nature and the environment, and the discussion of these people eventually led to the formation of social theory and later sociology of the environment. Environmental sociology mainly deals with the scientific study of the relationship between modern society and environmental crises and issues, and as a branch of sociology, it has studied the various forms of interaction between human society and the environment. Among these, it is more focused on the social dimensions around natural and man-made environments (Froutan Kia and Nawah, 2017, p. 81). Social capital affects the development of environmental sustainability. According to Putnam, social capital, various aspects of social organizations such as trust, norms and networks that can



improve the efficiency of society by creating and facilitating coordinated facilities (Rabbani, 2006, p. 18).

Bourdieu's research suggests that he examined social capital from two perspectives: group participation and social communication (Bourdieu, 1985, pp. 248-249). According to Bourdieu, Marx meant capital only as economic capital, but we also have other aspects of capital, which include: economic capital, social capital, cultural capital and charismatic capital (Fekouhi, 2002, p. 1). Social capital is a means of accessing economic and cultural resources through social communication. Bourdieu emphasizes the individual's participation in social networks, which gives him access to the group's resources and facilities. In his view, social capital is a kind of social product that arises from social interaction (Social Issues of Iran, 2004: 300). Social capital for Bourdieu is situations and relationships in groups and social networks that increase access to opportunities, information of material resources and social status for individuals (Bourdieu, 2001, p. 31).

Fukuyama believes that social capital arises from the relationship between individuals. The relationships that form between people in a community, if strong enough, can lead to social capital. Social capital is something that exists in these relationships and individuals and society use it to advance their goals (Sharipour, 2004: 301). The most important sources of social capital from Fukuyama's point of view are: family and social norms (Fukuyama, 2006, pp. 97-106). Georg Tomme believes that the ultimate goal of environmental education and ethics is to reinforce the ideal environmental behavior. There is an interrelationship between the environment and cultural development. If the development has a cultural dimension, it is better to protect the environment, and if the environment is protected, this action will strengthen the cultural identity. Thus, the ultimate goal is to make development synonymous with culture (Tomeh, 2001, p.13).

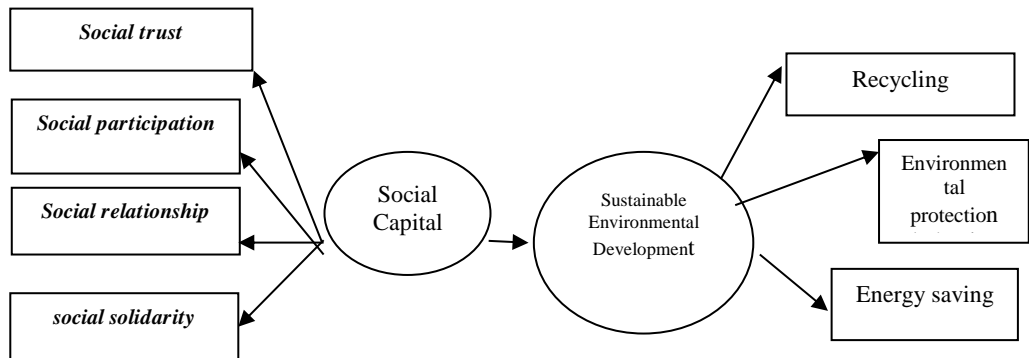
The theory of sustainable urban development is the result of discussions of environmentalists on environmental issues, especially urban, which was presented following the theory of sustainable development to protect environmental resources. In this theory, the issue of preserving resources for the present and the future through the optimal use of land and the least waste to

non-renewable resources is raised. In his writings on environmental issues, Anthony Giddens emphasizes the social theory of urban and artificial environments. This is because the effects of urbanization also have implications for how the natural environment is formed, understood, and acted upon. Giddens's explanation of urbanization should be generalized to his attention to artificial space to include how urbanization can remove the natural environment from the scene and create the feeling that humans are not dependent on the natural world (Muharram Nejad and Tehrani, 2010, p. 13). Anthony Giddens considers environmental policies to be developments that tend toward the moralization of social order, institutions, and relationships, and this point is very valuable to him.

Sherry Ernshtein believes that sustainable urban development is achieved when urban planning models are designed based on social capital and real citizen participation (Ernshtein, 1969, p. 112). Ernshtein believes that participation is essentially interpreted as the distribution of power. Accordingly, participation without redistribution of power is an absurd and frustrating process for those deprived of power (Davis et al, 2012, p. 9). Ernshtein believes that urban sustainability occurs, solving environmental, socio-economic and physical problems in a state of real participation, distribution of power, trust, dialogue, cooperation, citizenship and oversight, and activating the bases for the production of social capital (Ernshtein, 1969, p. 327).

David Driskell also believed that sustainable urban development in its various dimensions is the result of participation and quantity and quality of citizens' social capital and the level of trust, social mobilization, responsibility, transparency and participation of people in decision-making and decision-making (Driskell, 2008, p. 71). He believes that social capital and citizen participation in urban development planning are based on the following three principles: a) Development should be for the benefit of local residents. b) People living in the planned area have the most accurate information about that area. c) The people who get the most influence from decisions have a greater share of participation in decision-making.

Scott Davidson also believes in the profound effects of social capital and its components such as trust, participation, cohesion and awareness on urban development and the effectiveness of urban planning and management. According to him, the success and efficiency of urban management and development plans and projects is not possible without encouraging and gaining the trust and participation of citizens and strengthening the components of social capital (Soun, 2003, p. 375).



**Figure 1. Model of social capital and sustainable environmental development**

### 3. Methodology

The research method is survey. Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect information. The statistical population includes young people aged 18 to 39 in Bushehr. The sample size was 384 people and were selected by multi-stage cluster sampling method. Pearson correlation coefficient and regression and path analysis were used to test the relationships of variables. The questionnaire has a formal validity and the measurement tool has the necessary reliability. The alpha value of environmental sustainability is 0.773 and social capital is 0.892, which indicates the reliability of the items of measurement of all research variables. In the variables of environmental sustainability and social capital, the value of Kolmogorov-Smirnov test is equal to 0.1327 and 0.730 and its significance level is 0.059 and 0.661. Therefore, their normality is confirmed in terms of this test.

Environmental sustainability refers to progress and development in various economic and social dimensions that are accompanied by the preservation and

promotion of renewable and non-renewable natural resources for the next generation (Jepson, 2001, p. 491). To measure environmental sustainability from three dimensions, energy saving, recycling and environmental protection behavior such as conservation and expansion of green space and parks, urban sanitation, collection and disposal of municipal waste and sewage, drinking water quality and Urban air, noise pollution, urban tranquility, etc. were used. Indicators of social trust, social participation, social cohesion, and social relations network were used to measure social capital.

#### 4. Findings

Descriptive findings show that among about 12% of young people, the amount of social capital is very low. About 21.3% are low, about 30% are moderate, about 23.7% are high, and about 13% have very high social capital. The results showed that the average of environmental sustainability was relatively high among individuals. Environmental sustainability was between 32.9% low, 29.4% medium and 37.7% high.

**Table 1. Distribution of the environmental sustainability and social capital**

| Variables                    |   | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very High | Sum |
|------------------------------|---|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|-----|
| social solidarity            | N | 36       | 71   | 117    | 98   | 62        | 384 |
|                              | % | 9.3      | 18.5 | 30.5   | 25.5 | 16.2      | 100 |
| social Relations             | N | 52       | 88   | 129    | 66   | 49        | 384 |
|                              | % | 13.5     | 22.9 | 33.6   | 17.2 | 12.7      | 100 |
| social participation         | N | 51       | 91   | 118    | 87   | 37        | 384 |
|                              | % | 13.3     | 23.7 | 30.7   | 22.6 | 9.6       | 100 |
| social trust                 | N | 52       | 84   | 111    | 89   | 48        | 384 |
|                              | % | 13.5     | 21.9 | 28.9   | 23.2 | 12.5      | 100 |
| Social capital               | N | 46       | 82   | 115    | 91   | 50        | 384 |
|                              | % | 12       | 21.3 | 30     | 23.7 | 13        | 100 |
| Environmental sustainability | N | 42       | 84   | 113    | 100  | 45        | 384 |
|                              | % | 11       | 21.9 | 29.4   | 26   | 11.7      | 100 |

The basic hypothesis is that there is a significant relationship between social capital and environmental sustainability in Bushehr. The level of measurement of variables is small and is normally distributed in the community. As a result, Pearson correlation coefficient was used to investigate the relationship between variables. There is a positive and direct relationship between youth social capital and environmental sustainability. Pearson correlation coefficient

between the amount of citizens' social capital and sustainable urban development is 0.237 and its significance level is zero. This positive correlation is significant with a probability of more than 99%.

**Table 2: Pearson correlation coefficient between social capital and environmental sustainability**

| Dependent Variables               | Index | Social capital | social participation | social trust | social solidarity | Social Relations |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| environmental sustainability      | r     | 0.237 **       | 0.084                | 0.145 **     | 0.353 **          | 0.184 **         |
|                                   | sig   | 0.000          | 0.099                | 0.004        | 0.000             | 0.000            |
| Energy saving                     | r     | 0.261 **       | 0.127 *              | 0.106 *      | 0.423 **          | 0.148 **         |
|                                   | sig   | 0.000          | 0.012                | 0.039        | 0.000             | 0.004            |
| Environmental protection behavior | r     | 0.282 **       | 0.140 **             | 0.164 **     | 0.372 **          | 0.121 *          |
|                                   | sig   | 0.000          | 0.006                | 0.001        | 0.000             | 0.017            |
| Recycling                         | r     | 0.155 **       | 0.045                | 0.089        | 0.256 **          | 0.292 **         |
|                                   | sig   | 0.002          | 0.377                | 0.083        | 0.000             | 0.000            |

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

The variable of environmental sustainability has three dimensions that their relationship with the independent variable of social capital is positive and significant. The environmental protection dimension has the highest correlation coefficient with the social capital variable and Pearson correlation coefficient between them is equal to 0.282. Also, the dimension of recycling has the lowest correlation (0.155) with social capital among the dimensions of environmental sustainability. The results showed that there is a positive, direct and significant correlation between the two variables. The more social capital, the higher the degree of environmental sustainability, and conversely, the less social capital, the lower the degree of environmental sustainability.

Using regression analysis, the effect of social capital dimensions on the environmental sustainability of Bushehr was determined. The results showed that the value of multiple correlation coefficient is equal to 0.375 which indicates a weak correlation coefficient. The coefficient of determination is 0.141, which indicates that the social capital variable and its dimensions explain and predict 22.6% of the variance and changes in environmental sustainability. The values of regression coefficients show that the variables of

social cohesion and social relations are significant at the level of more than 99 and 95%. The highest beta value belonged to the variables of social cohesion and social relations. Therefore, these two variables have a greater effect on environmental sustainability.

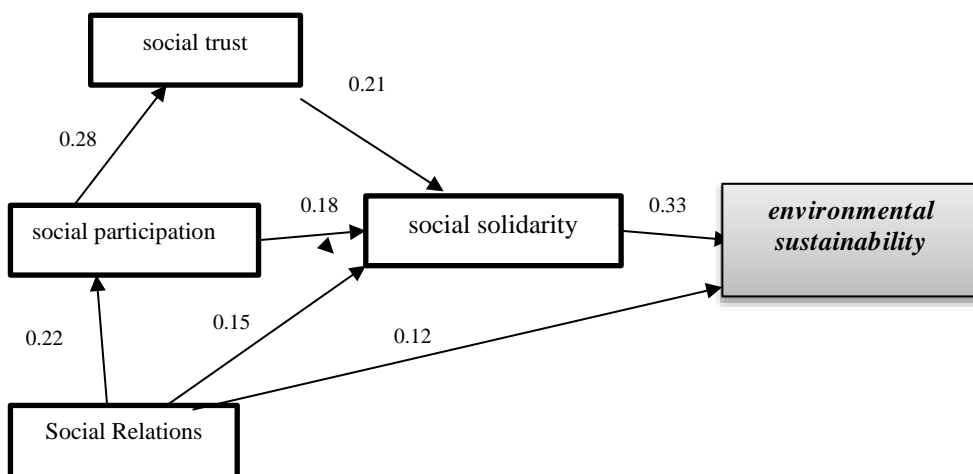
**Table 3. Regression coefficients of environmental sustainability**

| Variables            | b                    | Std. Error        | Beta                 | T      | Sig      | Tolerance  | VIF   |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------|----------|------------|-------|
| Constant             | 13.30                | 1.453             |                      | 9.154  | 0.000    |            |       |
| Social Relations     | 0.054                | 0.023             | 0.119                | 2.398  | 0.017    | 0.926      | 1.079 |
| social trust         | 0.018                | 0.018             | 0.052                | 1.023  | 0.307    | 0.870      | 1.149 |
| social participation | -0.018               | 0.020             | -0.048               | -0.921 | 0.358    | 0.851      | 1.176 |
| social solidarity    | 0.186                | 0.029             | 0.326                | 6.354  | 0.000    | 0.860      | 1.163 |
| <b>R</b>             | <b>R<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>Std. Error</b> | <b>Durbin-watson</b> |        | <b>F</b> | <b>sig</b> |       |
| 0.375                | 0.141                | 3.48              | 1.57                 |        | 15.49    | 0.000      |       |

According to the results of path analysis, the highest direct impact have the variables of social cohesion and social relations, respectively, and the highest indirect effect has the variable of social participation and the highest total impact of social cohesion on the degree of environmental sustainability.

**Table 4: Direct, Indirect and Total Effects of Independent Variables on Environmental Sustainability**

| Variables            | Direct | Indirect | Sum  |
|----------------------|--------|----------|------|
| Social Relations     | 0.12   | 0.07     | 0.19 |
| social trust         | -      | 0.07     | 0.07 |
| social participation | -      | 0.08     | 0.08 |
| social solidarity    | 0.33   | -        | 0.33 |



**Figure 2. Path analysis model of environmental sustainability**

## 5. Conclusion

Environment and environmental sustainability is one of the important indicators of sustainable development of a society. In this article, the effect of youth social capital on the level of environmental sustainability in Bushehr as one of the most important dimensions of sustainable urban development was studied. The important finding is that a significant relationship can be observed between the components of social capital such as social trust, social cohesion, social relations network and social participation with the degree of environmental sustainability of Bushehr. According to Ulrich Beck, knowledge and awareness are very important in disseminating and expressing them. Therefore, the environmental dangers must be clearly stated and the people must be informed, as well as taught how to take steps to protect the environment. Any society that wants people to take steps towards the approved behaviors of that community must be nurtured and, by gaining knowledge, increase their awareness and then expect people to take steps towards the values of that community, as long as people have destructive results and They do not have enough awareness of their harmful environment or they are not given the necessary training to protect the city's environment, so how can they be expected to keep pace with this.

The results showed that there is a positive and direct relationship between youth social capital and environmental sustainability. Pearson correlation coefficient between the amount of citizens' social capital and sustainable urban development is 0.237. The variable of environmental sustainability has three dimensions that their relationship with the independent variable of social capital is positive and significant. The environmental protection dimension has the highest correlation coefficient with the social capital variable and Pearson correlation coefficient between them is equal to 0.282. Also, the dimension of recycling has the lowest correlation (0.155) with social capital among the dimensions of environmental sustainability. The results showed that there is a positive, direct and significant correlation between the two variables. The larger the social capital network, the greater the degree of environmental sustainability, and conversely, the less social capital, the greater the degree of environmental sustainability.

According to Fukuyama (2006) in urban society, effective and trusting interactions between citizens and urban management organizations have caused part of the costs to be spent on infrastructure and provide the basis for sustainable urban development. According to Putnam (2001) Social capital resources such as trust, norms of reciprocity and networks are self-reinforcing and self-enhancing. According to Putnam, the reproductive feature of social capital leads to social interaction with a high level of cooperation, trust, reciprocity. , Civic participation and social welfare.

Khoshfar et al. (2009) showed that social capital has a positive and strong correlation with responsible behaviors towards the environment. This strong relationship between the level of social capital of individuals (institutional trust, public trust, social participation, social security and civic membership) with their responsible behaviors towards the environment suggests that the norms of trust and participation as well as the sense of security over individuals' social action They have a great impact on the natural environment around them. Marzban et al., (2017) showed that there was a statistically significant relationship between environmental awareness and behavior so that the level of environmental awareness and behavior of women was higher. Despite having a relatively good awareness and attitude towards the



environment, the majority of people have performed poorly in terms of environmental behavior. Therefore, having environmental awareness can not be a guarantee to perform environmental behavior, but in the meantime, there is a need for social conditions and structures that encourage and facilitate the performance of environmental behaviors. Safa et al. (2017) showed that there was a positive and significant relationship between the variables of attitude, social norms and perceived behavioral control with the intention to perform environmental protection behaviors and also social intent and norms with the environmental protection behavior of villagers. Salehi and Emamgholi (2016) believe that in order to stimulate pro-environmental behaviors, it is necessary to better understand individual and collective norms that affect the individual's willingness to act in an pro-environmental manner.

Research results of Arghan and Shabani (2017), Hajizadeh Meymandi and Falak-ud-Din (2017), Nabavi and Mokhtari Hashi (2018), Shokrgzar and others (2016), Raisi and Bijani (2016), Nasrallah and Islami (2013), Salehi Amiri et al. (2012), Atshan et al. (2020), Steindel and Yanker (2016), Takada and Marutani (2014), Ahadnejad Roshani et al. (2014), Chen et al. (2014), Marlin et al. (2012), Balayamoun Lutz (2011), Atshan (2020), Darvishi et al. (2020), Azad et al. (2019) and Safar Alizadeh et al. (2019), Kavsiannejad (2019) and Babaei et al. (2013) in Social capital in particular is in line with the results of this study. The results of this study also confirm the theoretical framework of the research (Fukuyama, Putnam, Giddens and Driskel and Sherry Einshtein) on the relationship and impact of social capital and its components on sustainable urban development. They believed that a network of civic participation and cohesive and trusting interactions would pave the way for sustainable urban development. The results confirmed the significant relationship between social capital and environmental sustainability. As a result, raising the level of social capital and its dimensions and components can be effective in environmental sustainability and people's attitudes toward the urban environment and environmental development.

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