



ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Explaining and Analyzing the Impact of Smart Living on Urban Security Development in the City of Semnan

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article History: Received: 2025/07/26 Revised: 2025/08/23 Accepted: 2025/09/12 Keywords: Smart Living, Urban Security Development City of Semnan	BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES: With rapid population growth and increasing urban complexities, there is a need for innovative and practical solutions. In this context, smart living can play a fundamental role in improving urban security. This study aims to explain and analyze the impact of smart living on the development of urban security in the city of Semnan. METHODS: The research method is descriptive-analytical and statistical, conducted through a mixed approach (quantitative and qualitative). Quantitative data were collected using a standardized questionnaire from a sample of 384 citizens, and qualitative data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with 30 urban and security experts. For data analysis, SPSS and AMOS software were used for the quantitative section, and thematic analysis along with the SOAR technique were employed for the qualitative section. FINDINGS: Statistical analysis using Pearson's correlation coefficient shows a positive relationship between smart living and urban security in Semnan, with a correlation value of $r=0.30$ and a significance level of 0.000, indicating that this relationship is statistically very significant and reliable. CONCLUSION: Ultimately, it can be concluded that increasing smart living indicators—including the use of modern technologies, advanced security systems, and smart urban services—leads to improved living conditions, enhanced social interactions, strengthened sense of solidarity and responsibility within the community, and ultimately, the enhancement of urban security.
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INTRODUCTION

The smart city is not entirely a new concept; however, in recent years, with the growing emphasis on utilizing information and communication technologies (ICT) it has gained significant popularity, to create and integrate urban infrastructure and enhance service delivery to citizens. Various initiatives aimed at smartening cities have emerged as models to address local challenges and mitigate common urban issues, transforming cities into better places for living and achieving well-being especially when urban planners and engineers strive toward realizing a sustainable and green city ([Rasouli et al, 2022](#)).

Despite the increasing attention, many scholars studying smart cities have primarily focused on theoretical frameworks, rarely engaging with the practical dimensions of the concept. As a result, numerous commentators remain confused between the theoretical visions of smart cities and their core practical components ([Rajabi et al, 2024](#)). Consequently, most existing studies depict an idealistic and visionary image of smart cities, often elaborating on concepts such as smart transportation, smart mobility, smart environment, smart energy, and smart security ([Rajabi Jurshari et al., 2023](#)). The principles of the smart city originated from three main groups. The first group consisted of non-governmental environmentalists who were alarmed by urban sprawl and demanded the preservation of open lands. They aimed to persuade the media, the general public, and government officials to widely adopt the principles of smart growth.

The second group included urban planners and local government officials who believed that smart cities could avoid costly road construction and extensive infrastructure development in remote areas. They argued that building higher-density housing would reduce infrastructure costs and preserve land. The third group smart city promoters consisted

of innovative private-sector developers in real estate who sought to obtain permits from local governments for new projects. They used the idea of the smart city to justify their plans for large-scale, mixed-use developments with higher densities than surrounding areas and to promote diverse housing options within a single project.

The American Planning Association defines smart cities as the planning, design, development, and revitalization of communities aimed at enhancing places, preserving natural and cultural resources, and ensuring equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of development ([Da Silva et al., 2024](#)).

In recent years, the smart city theory has emerged to address the growing problems faced by urban areas worldwide. In 2007, for the first time in human history, the global urban population surpassed the rural population. It is estimated that by 2050, more than 70% of the world's population will live in cities ([Giannaros et al., 2023](#)).

Between 1950 and 2010, 3.1 billion people were added to small urban centers, more than double the increase seen in medium-sized cities (632 million) and large cities (570 million). Urban areas continue to act as magnets for migrants, drawn by the perception of better employment opportunities. This has led to complex issues such as urban congestion, increased demand for limited natural resources, energy, water, sanitation, and essential public services including education and healthcare ([Azizi et al, 2024](#)). In recent years, the trend of smart urbanization has rapidly accelerated across the globe. The collection of massive data sets in various domains such as traffic, air pollution, transport, parking, crime, fire, disease, and treatment has helped in solving many challenges faced by megacity residents. The growth of cloud computing has significantly reduced data storage costs, while advances in machine learning have enhanced analytical tools. The

Internet of Things (IoT) is expanding rapidly, enabling the development of low-cost sensors. As such, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) offer many potential solutions to the problems threatening cities. They also contribute to making cities more environmentally friendly and economically sustainable. However, the full potential of ICT in addressing urban environmental issues has not yet been fully realized (Mohseni and Nosrati Payani, 2019). The significant ambiguities and uncertainties in understanding how smart city indicators influence both actual urban security and the perceived sense of security among citizens. Challenges related to the implementation of smart technologies, including high costs and the need for appropriate infrastructure, are among the most pressing concerns—especially in developing countries and smaller cities like Semnan.

In Iran, the issue of urban security and the application of smart technologies is gradually taking shape. However, there are still challenges such as lack of coordination between institutions, financial constraints, and insufficient training in the use of modern technologies. These issues have hindered the achievement of meaningful improvements in urban security and highlight the need for further research and exploration. Major cities in Iran face numerous issues—traffic congestion, pollution, overpopulation, class disparity, and a shortage of service spaces—all of which underscore the urgency of smart urban planning in line with global requirements and standards. In recent years, smart technologies have brought extensive transformations in all aspects of human life and are considered a foundation for the growth and development of various other sectors. This has led many countries to adopt these technologies to enhance capacity and reduce challenges, recognizing that a nation's future is increasingly tied to its willingness to embrace

digital technologies. In fact, virtual spaces are helping optimize the use of physical urban infrastructure, with cyberspace complementing physical urban environments. In Iran, initial efforts in the domain of smart cities began in 2005 (e-government) with the development of a national e-government strategy document by the Presidential ICT Center. Further steps were taken in 2009 by the High Council for Information to create a comprehensive e-government plan, followed by the creation of an e-government service roadmap (Piri *et al.*, 2024).

To resolve such conflicts, cities inevitably require a form of growth that aligns with sustainable development in human settlements and the wise management of land. This type of growth demands careful planning to address the problems resulting from population expansion and the consequent irregular and unregulated expansion of residential areas (Niknia and Abbasi, 2018).

In this context, along with the development of urbanization and the socio-economic transformations of cities, shortcomings have emerged—many of which manifest in severe forms. The rapid growth of cities and their transformation into densely populated megacities has led to a wide range of urban issues, including housing shortages, informal settlements, urban crime, violence and unrest, drug addiction and trafficking, urban poverty, migration, environmental pollution, street harassment, unemployment and informal labor, destruction of public property, urban threats and insecurity, begging, child labor and homelessness, violations of citizen rights, divorce, and challenges in urban transportation (Mohseni and Nosrati Payani, 2019).

One of the most critical problems facing developing countries is the new trend of urbanization and its spatial, economic, and political consequences. These countries, in their transition from rural and nomadic

lifestyles to urban living, often experience structural crises and disruptions in the formation of their urban networks. Many of them adopt economic growth models and centralized governance (in the field of politics and economy), resulting in forming urban growth on the area. Over time, this leads to the “primate city phenomenon”, in which a single dominant city disproportionately shapes the country’s urban and spatial organization ultimately bringing urban security issues to the forefront (Palomo-Navarro and Navío-Marco, 2018).

The city of Semnan, with its unique geographical and social characteristics, faces specific challenges related to urban security. Issues such as social disorders, traffic congestion, and inadequate infrastructure have a direct impact on the city’s security landscape. Examining Semnan’s security situation and its relationship with smart city indicators can help identify both strengths and weaknesses in this domain. Semnan’s location—marked by cultural diversity due to internal migration, proximity to both eastern provinces and Tehran, and various physical, social, and economic factors—has created uneven patterns of security across the city. The resulting complexity has led to a rise in security-related needs, making urban safety a growing concern. This challenge poses social, cultural, psychological, economic, and political risks, burdening society with substantial tangible and intangible costs. Accordingly, the present study aims to analyze the model of urban security development using smart city dimensions in Semnan. Among the key issues facing the city are the lack of intelligent systems, inefficient use of existing data, and weaknesses in monitoring and resource management. Moreover, limited collaboration among institutions remains a significant challenge. These problems have prevented the full realization of urban security and have created an urgent need for practical and

effective solutions to improve current conditions.

There are also research gaps in this field, such as the lack of comprehensive and systematic studies on the relationship between smart city components and urban security in Semnan. Additionally, the scarcity of accurate and documented data limits the ability to perform meaningful analyses. These deficiencies highlight the need for new, in-depth research to help improve the security landscape of the city.

Ehteshamfar, Karkeh-Abadi, and Kamyabi (2024) conducted a study titled "Exploring the Relationship Between Smart City Drivers and Sustainable Urban Security in Semnan." This research examined the connection between the dimensions of a smart city and sustainable urban security in Semnan. The findings revealed that different smart city dimensions have varying impacts on urban security. Specifically, “smart citizens,” “smart environment,” and “smart mobility” had the most significant positive effects, while “smart governance” and “smart dynamism” required improvement. Moreover, the study found that 58% of the variance in urban security could be explained by smart city dimensions, and that the level of urban security in Semnan was below expectations.

Gharibi, Gharaei, *et al.* (2024) presented a paper titled "A Strategic Framework for Data Security Governance of the Internet of Things in Smart Cities." This study explored strategies for governing IoT data security in smart cities and aimed to answer the question: “What are the effective governance strategies for IoT data security?” It highlighted challenges such as data security, privacy, and data quality, which hinder the realization of smart city goals. Through document analysis and expert opinions, the study developed and prioritized strategies that support the effective implementation of IoT data governance,

helping to overcome barriers to data utilization.

[Gharibi, Gharaei, et al.](#) (2023) also conducted a study entitled "Application Domains of IoT Data Security Governance in Smart Cities". Their findings showed that smart cities are highly dependent on technology and data, which introduces security challenges such as cyber threats and data privacy concerns. To address these, data security governance is essential for maintaining the safety and efficiency of data in smart cities. The study identified four main domains and 17 subdomains of IoT data security governance, analyzing the influential factors and stakeholder interactions involved.

[Hardy et al.](#) (2025) published a paper titled "Smart Urban Governance and Interoperability: Enhancing Human Security in Yogyakarta and Makassar, Indonesia". The study emphasized a shift in smart city development from purely technological progress toward addressing urban vulnerabilities. It proposed a strategy for cities like Yogyakarta and Makassar that integrates local policy frameworks with global standards to promote responsive and equitable urban governance. This approach helped identify and manage social and economic challenges, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for residents.

[Oliha et al.](#) (2024) authored the article "Securing the Smart City: A Review of Cybersecurity Challenges and Strategies." The research highlighted how the emergence of smart cities—driven by rapid urbanization and technological advancement—exposes urban systems to significant cybersecurity threats. The integration of various technologies into city infrastructure, particularly IoT devices with weak security protocols, increases vulnerability to cyberattacks, such as data breaches and sabotage. Consequently, data integrity and confidentiality have become major concerns. To mitigate these risks, the authors

recommended a range of strategies, including multilayered approaches, integrate technical solutions, regulatory frameworks, and stakeholder collaboration. Measures such as encryption, intrusion detection systems, and robust access controls were suggested. The study also emphasized the importance of cooperation between government agencies, private sector partners, and universities for data sharing and collective defense against cyber threats. Ultimately, securing smart cities requires coordinated efforts to address the challenges posed by interconnected technologies, aiming to create a safe and resilient environment for all citizens.

Today, more people live in urban areas than at any other time in human history. The trend of urbanization is irreversible ([Motevalli et al., 2023](#)). It is estimated that by 2025, the urban population worldwide will double, reaching over 5 billion people more than 90% of this growth will occur in developing countries. This rapid increase has resulted in numerous problems such as population concentration, pollution, informal settlements, housing shortages, rural-to-urban migration, and other related issues. Urban growth, as a quantitative phenomenon, manifests itself in two forms: an increase in city population and the physical expansion of urban areas. However, neglecting urban infrastructure and public services has led to significant shortages and pressures on existing facilities ([Rajabi Jurshari et al., 2023](#)).

These changes have significantly impacted the spatial structure of cities, resulting in unbalanced and disorganized physical development ([Pour Ahmad et al., 2018](#)). Consequently, urban planning experts have been motivated to propose ideal models and forms for stable and sustainable cities ([Mahdizadeh, 2019](#)) to correct the adverse effects of irrational urban sprawl. As a result, the smart city has emerged as an effective solution to many contemporary urban problems. Essentially, the smart city strategy

supports urban activities through virtual environments and offers practical approaches to current urban challenges. Access to smart technologies plays a crucial role in improving and enhancing the quality of life for urban citizens (Ajali, 2024b).

Information Security Management in Smart Cities

A smart city operates through interconnected infrastructures that must be safeguarded. It represents a complex environment of interlinked systems, where threats to critical infrastructure can have devastating consequences on national security, the economy, and the well-being of citizens. Therefore, information security and privacy must be assessed on a much broader and more advanced scale (Chen et al., 2018: 2051).

The role of information security management in organizational governance includes defining best practices, tools for efficient cost management, improving staff behavior, strengthening business controls, and establishing accountability. Establishing a robust information security management system requires the involvement of top-level management. Sharing information and insights about incidents is essential not only for business success but also to ensure alignment with organizational goals. While smart programs are expected to be widely available in smart cities, concerns about information security are also anticipated to increase. Data protection issues pose not only a threat to privacy but also compromise the usability of digital services (Cheng et al., 2018).

Smart Mobility

Among the various components of a smart city, smart mobility is particularly relevant to the current research, which focuses on intelligent urban transportation systems. Smart mobility refers to providing public access to advanced technologies and incorporating them into daily urban life. The availability and quality of Information and Communication

Technology (ICT) infrastructure are vital for the functionality of a smart city. A smart city relies on a network of intelligent computing technologies embedded within essential infrastructure and services. These technologies involve a new generation of integrated hardware, software, and communication networks that provide real-time situational awareness, advanced traffic and weather analytics, and decision-making support. ICT serves as a key driver of smart city development (Dede et al., 2019).

Objectives of the Smart City

A smart city is often defined by its objectives, which generally aim to enhance efficiency, sustainability, equity, and livability. The smart city concept primarily views the city as a system composed of multiple interdependent subsystems. The performance of these subsystems, when coordinated intelligently, enables the city to behave in a unified and smart manner. As a complex system, the smart city encompasses diverse, unpredictable interrelations between its components (Ziari et al, 2023).

The goal of smart city models is to manage this complexity effectively especially by addressing the negative consequences of global urbanization—and to improve the quality of urban life. Overall, the smart city is a multidimensional concept with multiple objectives. In the literature, various perspectives exist: some scholars focus on achieving better policy outcomes in terms of wealth, health, and sustainability, while others emphasize enhancing citizen participation and open forms of collaboration (Ziari et al, 2022).

The former concentrates on the content of government actions, while the latter emphasizes governance processes. Ultimately, the goals of smart cities depend on what urban populations consider important (Nikpour et al., 2019).

Table 1: Examples of Smart Cities and Their Goals

city	Goals
Smart Amsterdam	Focus on carbon reduction, energy efficiency, and behavior change
Smart Malmö	Focus on improving climate conditions, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20%
Smart Malta City (Malta)	Becoming an industrial city with advanced information and communication technology, developing skills and training employees in technology
Smart Masdar City	Becoming a green smart city, sustainable development, affordable economic growth, providing high quality of life and an innovative business environment
Plan IT Valley, Portugal	Aiming to build the greenest city in the world from the ground up and a practical model for the new generation of cities with low carbon dioxide emissions, cost savings in construction, and higher quality
Smart Singapore	Developing urban infrastructure, becoming a smart island with advanced information infrastructure worldwide, computers connected in almost every home, office, school, and factory, enhancing quality of life and economic growth
Smart Curitiba	Achieving sustainable development and metropolitan integration in Curitiba, addressing the rapidly increasing demand to improve urban services due to population and economic growth
Smart Sundgo	Achieving an intelligent, green, and self-sufficient urban living space that is environmentally friendly, with energy saving as its key feature

Source: [Anand and Navío-Marco, 2018](#)

The ultimate goal of a smart city is to provide intelligent services across all vital capabilities of the city. A look at smart city projects worldwide reveals various goals, differences, and similarities as follows:

1. Carbon reduction.
2. Achieving energy efficiency.
3. The impact of information and communication technology on the development of specific industries (in multimedia or knowledge-based industries).
4. Achieving a higher quality living environment for residents.
5. Developing green spaces within the city.
6. Developing accessible advanced information infrastructures.
7. Achieving economic growth and quality of life simultaneously.
8. Developing sustainable communities.
9. Ensuring social harmony among different resident groups.
10. The evolution of the city as a living laboratory for continuous and ongoing improvement ([Dasht Lali et al., 2020](#)).

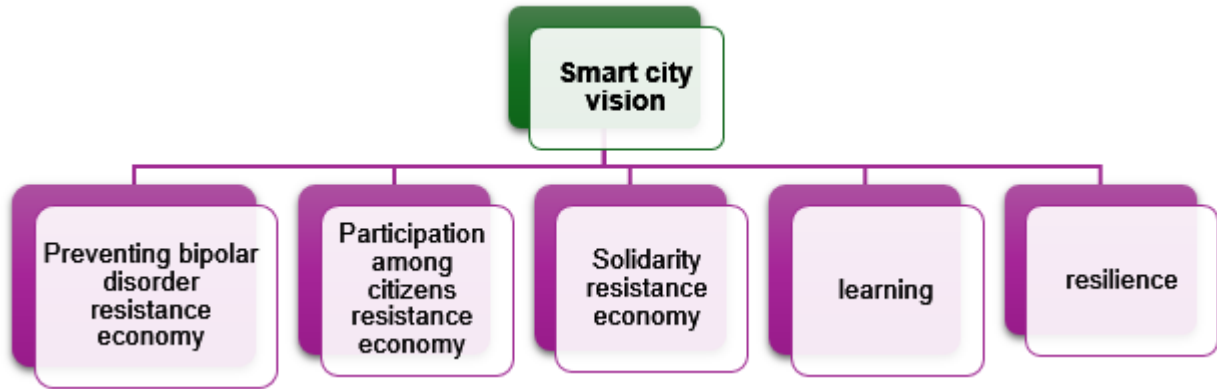


Figure 1: Smart City Vision

Source: Authors' studies, 2025

Table 2: Key Success Factors of Smart Cities

Success Factors	Description
Vision	Studies show that participation is one of the important goals of successful smart city programs to prevent polarization between high- and low-income areas.
People	Global case studies inspire city managers and show that in many successful projects, the role of people as a key element must be considered. Citizens should be empowered through active participation to create a sense of ownership and commitment. Fostering a participatory environment and encouraging public sector businesses, as well as increasing the role of citizens, is highly important
Process	Establishing a central office that acts as a liaison for innovative smart city ideas and projects. Considering stakeholders is essential to coordinate ideas, shareholders, and stakeholders. Local-level coordination is also important to ensure integrated solutions across a set of projects. For example, many municipalities are willing to provide information about public services as open data. This allows individuals and companies to use existing data to create useful resources for the public (e.g., real-time traffic information). Participation in networks to share knowledge and experience is a crucial issue in cities, leading to project improvement, learning from others, and laying the foundation for future collaborations

Source: Kim et al., 2018

Table 3: Urban Security Indicators in Smart Cities

Indicator	Measure	Source
Smart People	Gaining citizens' trust from officials	Harvey, 2020; Florida, 2022; Sorkin, 2022
	Citizens' creative spirit	
	Encouraging public participation	
	Environmental protection associations	
	Providing educational services to citizens	
Smart Economy	Access to information technology and economic affairs	Harvey, 2020
	Increasing job opportunities	
	Preventing rural-to-urban migration	
	Online shopping and urban economic growth	
Smart Environment	Amount of innovative ideas produced	Sorkin, 2022; Barik et al., 2024
	Protection and maintenance of the environment	
	Environmental preservation through proper management	
	Industrialization and increased migration of non-locals	
Smart Governance	Recycling culture and citizens' consumption	Ghasemi et al., 2024; Florida, 2022
	Programs to utilize city capacities	
	E-government policies	
Smart Dynamism	Electronic government facilities	
	Smart governance and e-government policies	
	Citizens' access to electronic services	

	New electronic facilities	Florida, 2022; Sorkin, 2022; Da Silva et al., 2024
	Necessary and sufficient training in electronic services for citizens	
	New technologies	
	Access to healthcare facilities via apps	
	Existence of smart buildings	
Smart Living	Use of electronic services for food ordering, hotel booking, etc.	Harvey, 2020; Sorkin, 2022; Khan et al., 2024
	Reduction in physical activities	
	Changes in housing, health, safety, and welfare facilities	
	Use of internet-based taxis (like Snapp, Tap30) and courier motorcycles	
Smart(transportation) Mobility	Online booking and purchasing of train or airplane tickets	Chandra et al., 2019; Florida, 2022; Sorkin, 2022
	Use of location tracking apps	
	Intelligent road camera	
	Internet speed	
	Access to welfare facilities such as taxis, buses, supermarkets, parks, gyms, and sports fields	
	Suitability of city facilities to population capacities	
	Urban traffic density	
	Effects of urban design on citizens' psychology	
	Management of natural disasters like floods, storms by emergency forces	
	Level of occupational activities and entrepreneurship	
Urban Security	Level of urban security	Sampson and Raudenbush, 2025;
	Satisfaction with urban health services	
	Influx of non-native migrants and foreign nationals	
	Economic investment in the city	
	Awareness of the smart city concept	
	Perceived safety of living in the city	
	Attention to gender-specific capacities in city facilities like parks, public restrooms, gyms	
	Level of noise and environmental pollution	
	Welfare facilities available for the elderly	

The city of Semnan is the capital of both Semnan Province and Semnan County. Located in northeastern Iran, Semnan serves as the administrative center of the province. The city is situated at a latitude of 35.5785°N and a longitude of 53.3931°E. Semnan lies on the slopes of the Alborz Mountains and near the Dasht-e Kavir desert, providing it with a strategic position for access to other parts of the country. The city is located at an elevation of 1,460 meters above sea level and has a general north-to-south slope. Semnan is positioned in a vast plain known as the Semnan Plain, which lies at the edge of the

salt desert and on the southern slopes of the Alborz Mountain range. One of the important natural features of the city is the Gol Rudbar River, which passes along its eastern boundary. The city is bordered to the north by the cities of Mahdishahr and Shahmirzad, to the west by Sorkheh, and to the east by Damghan. The distance from Semnan to Tehran is approximately 216 kilometers, and it is connected to the national railway network via the Tehran-Mashhad railway line. In addition to the mentioned transport routes, Semnan is connected to the northern cities of the Alborz Mountain range through the Firuzkooh road.

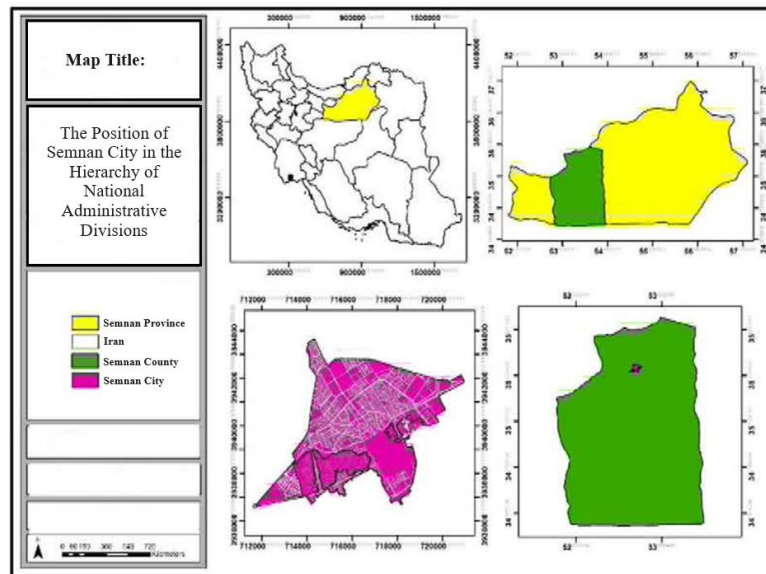


Fig 2: Position of Semnan City in the Hierarchy of National Administrative Divisions
Source: Semnan Municipality (Prepared by the authors, 2025)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research is descriptive-analytical and conducted using a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative methods. In the quantitative phase, data were collected through a standardized questionnaire from a sample of 384 citizens of Semnan city, selected by simple random sampling based on Morgan's table. Concurrently, qualitative data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with 30 experts in urban planning and security, who were purposively and conveniently sampled to enhance the depth and richness of the analysis. For quantitative data analysis, statistical software SPSS was used for descriptive and inferential analyses, and AMOS was employed for structural equation modeling. In the qualitative phase, thematic analysis combined with the SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) technique was applied to extract key concepts and provide strategic recommendations. This methodological combination enables a comprehensive and multifaceted examination of the impact of smart living on urban security development, ensuring the validity and reliability of the findings from different perspectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Spatial explanation of urban security involves examining and analyzing the distribution and accessibility of security within urban spaces. It seeks to identify spatial and social patterns that influence the sense of security and quality of life in the community. In the city of Semnan, this explanation can include analyzing high-risk and safe areas, identifying active security institutions and their impact on citizens' sense of security, as well as studying how citizens interact with public spaces. Moreover, spatial explanation of urban security includes investigating factors that affect safety in public spaces. These factors may include urban space design, street lighting, the presence of CCTV cameras, and the presence of law enforcement or social institutions. For example, designing spaces that increase visibility and surveillance can strengthen the sense of security among citizens. Additionally, the existence of social spaces that facilitate positive interactions can help reduce crime and enhance a sense of responsibility within the community. Ultimately, the spatial explanation of urban security in Semnan should pay attention to the needs and demands of its citizens. Conducting

surveys and educational workshops can gather valuable information regarding security concerns and citizen expectations. This data can lead to improved security policies and better public space design, contributing to the development of a smarter and safer city. Consequently, spatial explanation of urban security, as an interactive and dynamic process, can help improve the quality of life and sense of security in Semnan. Examining the relationship between smart living and urban security in Semnan reveals the positive and reciprocal impacts of these two elements on citizens' quality of life and the community's sense of security. Smart living refers to the use of modern technologies and digital tools in daily life, which can enhance efficiency, convenience, and safety in all aspects of living. Through smart systems such as smart homes, advanced security systems, and city service applications, citizens can interact more easily and effectively with their environment. These

interactions can lead to a reduction in risks and security threats and improve the overall feeling of safety in the community.

On the other hand, urban security is one of the main pillars of sustainable development and attracting investment in urban societies. Smart living can increase social interactions and citizen participation, thereby strengthening solidarity and responsibility within the community. This, in turn, can reduce feelings of insecurity and improve the quality of life in Semnan. Overall, providing appropriate infrastructure for smart living not only helps enhance urban security but can also be considered an effective strategy for sustainable development and increasing citizen satisfaction in the city. To explore the relationship between the two variables smart living and urban security in Semnan the Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The statistical results are presented in [Table 4](#).

Table 4: Examining the Relationship Between Smart Living and Urban Security in Semnan City

Variable Type	Variable Name	Sample Size	Correlation Coefficient (r)	P-value
Independent Variable	Smart Living	384	0/30	**0/00
Dependent Variable	Urban Security of Semnan			

Source: Research Findings, 2025

As observed in Table 4, there is a positive and direct relationship between smart living and urban security in Semnan city. The correlation coefficient indicates a weak correlation between the two variables ($r = 0.30$). It can be stated that the smarter living or, in other words, the more changes in the lifestyle of Semnan's citizens (social welfare, improved quality of life, etc.), the more direct impact it will have on urban security in Semnan, and urban security will increase accordingly. The significance level of the Pearson correlation test is ($P = 0.000$), which indicates that the observed relationship is real and statistically significant. Therefore, hypothesis H1, which

posits a significant relationship between smart living and urban security in Semnan, is confirmed, and the null hypothesis (H_0) is confidently rejected. Table 4 examines the relationship between smart living and urban security in Semnan. In this table, the independent variable "smart living" was investigated with a sample size of 386. The results show that the correlation between smart living and urban security is $r = 0.30$. This value indicates a positive and meaningful relationship between the two variables, such that as smart living increases in the community, the sense of security among citizens also improves.

The P-value of 0.000 indicates that the observed correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level. This means the findings of this study can serve as a basis for urban planning and the development of security policies. Specifically, smart living—which includes the use of modern technologies, advanced security systems, and optimized urban services—can help reduce crime occurrence and increase citizens’ sense of security. Moreover, the positive relationship between smart living and urban security suggests that improving quality of life through smart technologies can strengthen social cohesion and responsibility regarding security issues. In other words, with increased awareness and participation of

citizens in using smart tools, feelings of security and social satisfaction will also rise. This can serve as a successful model for other cities in the country.

Finally, this study emphasizes that attention to the development of smart living should be considered a priority in urban policy-making. Improving technological infrastructure, education, and cultural awareness among citizens can lead to an increased sense of security and a reduction in social problems. Thus, the combination of smart living and urban security in Semnan city can be regarded as an effective strategy for sustainable development and improving the quality of life of its residents.

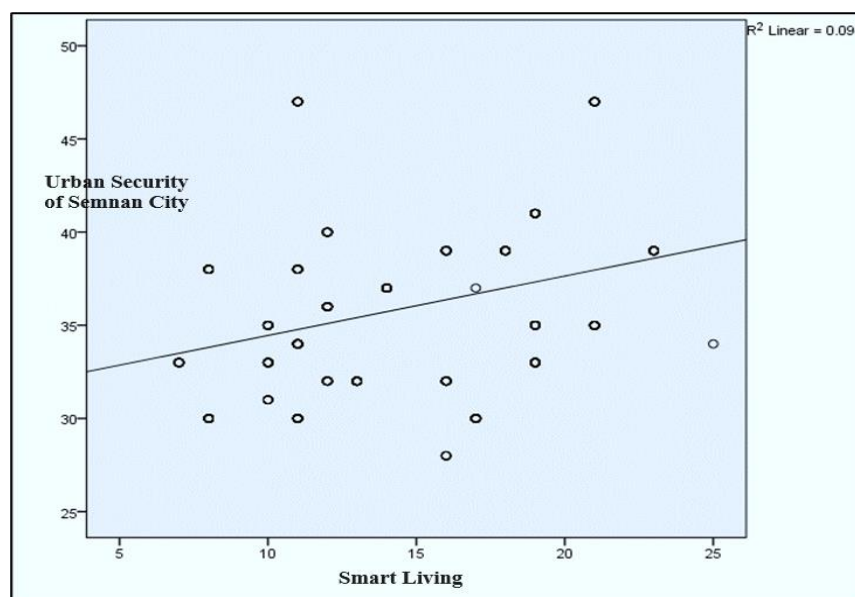


Fig 3: Scatter plot of the correlation between the two variables—smart living and urban security in Semnan city
Source: Research Findings, 2025

This section examines the impact of smart living on the development of urban security in Semnan city. Smart living refers to the use of modern technologies in daily life, improving quality of life, and facilitating access to various services. This concept includes the application of intelligent systems in different areas such as housing, transportation, healthcare, and education. Considering that smart living can lead to improved living conditions for citizens

and enhance the quality of public services, it is expected that these improvements will have a positive effect on urban security.

Moreover, smart living can help increase the sense of security among citizens. By utilizing smart technologies, citizens gain access to up-to-date information and services, which can reduce feelings of insecurity and social anxieties. For example, smart security systems such as surveillance cameras and monitoring

sensors can assist in crime detection and prevention. These technologies can help citizens be more vigilant against security threats and consequently experience a greater sense of safety.

Finally, this can help identify challenges and opportunities in implementing smart living in Semnan city. Although the positive impact of smart living on urban security is clearly observable, a more detailed examination of the

factors influencing this relationship is necessary. Factors such as the level of technology acceptance among citizens, the quality of urban infrastructure, and cooperation among government institutions can affect this impact. Therefore, this hypothesis can serve as a foundation for future analyses and the development of practical solutions aimed at improving urban security in Semnan.

Table 5: Relationship Between Smart Living and Urban Security

Test Description	Values
Pearson Correlation Coefficient	0.30
Significance Level (P-value)	0.000
Sample Size	384

Source: Research Findings, 2025

Table 5 examines the relationship between smart living and urban security in Semnan city, and the results indicate a positive and significant association between these two variables. The Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.30, indicating a moderate relationship between smart living and the state of urban security. This result means that with an increase in smart living features, urban security is positively influenced. In other words, improvements in living conditions and the use of modern technologies can help strengthen the sense of security and reduce crime in the community.

The significance level of the test is 0.000, which indicates a statistically significant relationship between smart living and urban security. This value is much lower than the conventional significance level of 0.05, allowing us to confirm the research hypothesis regarding the significant impact of smart living on urban security. These findings show that smart living acts not only as a factor for improving quality of life but also as an effective factor in enhancing urban security.

The sample size in this test is 384, which represents a considerable number. This sample size enables researchers to generalize the

results to the overall population of Semnan. Furthermore, it indicates the reliability and power of the test, contributing to increased accuracy of the results. Given this sample size, the analyses can be conducted with greater confidence, and the findings can be considered reliable.

In conclusion, based on the results obtained, it can be stated that smart living has a significant impact on the development of urban security in Semnan. These findings suggest that improving quality of life through the use of smart technologies and optimized services can contribute to strengthening urban security. Therefore, it is necessary for governmental institutions and urban planners to pay special attention to enhancing and developing smart living to help improve security conditions in Semnan.

CONCLUSION

This section focuses on analyzing the theoretical findings of the study, explaining the relationship between various dimensions of the smart city theory and urban security in Semnan. The results obtained from the collected data and statistical analyses clearly demonstrate both the positive and negative

impacts of different smart city dimensions on urban security. Given the importance of urban security as a fundamental pillar of citizens' quality of life, the findings of this study can contribute to identifying influential factors and proposing practical strategies for improving security conditions in Semnan. In the following, each research hypothesis and its corresponding analysis will be examined in detail to provide a comprehensive overview of existing patterns in this field.

The study by [Ehteshami-Far, Karkeh-Abadi, and Kamyabi](#) (2024) on the relationship between smart city drivers and sustainable urban security in Semnan emphasizes the positive impact of various smart city dimensions on urban security. Their findings align closely with those of the present research. Both studies indicate that key factors such as smart people, smart economy, and smart environment significantly contribute to enhancing urban security. This consistency in results highlights the importance of leveraging modern technologies and citizen participation to improve security conditions. However, the present study may place greater emphasis on specific challenges and local needs in implementing these dimensions—an aspect less addressed in the study by Ehteshami-Far and colleagues.

The research by [Gharibi, Gharaei et al.](#) (2024) investigates data security governance in the Internet of Things (IoT) within smart cities and underscores the importance of data security and modern technologies in creating safe urban environments. The findings of their study are also aligned with those of the current research, as both emphasize the impact of smart technologies on urban security and show that effective implementation of these technologies can help improve safety conditions. However, Gharibi and colleagues focus more on technical aspects and data security, while the present study explores social dimensions and citizen participation in

urban security. This difference offers a more comprehensive understanding of the existing challenges in urban security.

The study by [Gharibi, Gharaei et al.](#) (2023) investigates the application domains of data security governance in the Internet of Things (IoT) within smart cities, emphasizing the importance of data management and information security in building safe infrastructure. The findings of their study align with those of the present research, as both highlight the role of smart technologies in enhancing urban security and demonstrate that effective implementation of these technologies can improve security conditions. However, while Gharibi et al. focus more on the technical aspects of data governance, the current study pays greater attention to the social dimensions and citizen participation in improving urban security. This contrast can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in urban security. The research conducted by [Hardy et al.](#) (2025) explores the concept of smart urban governance and interoperability to enhance human security in the cities of Yogyakarta and Makassar, Indonesia. Their study emphasizes the importance of collaboration between government institutions and society in improving security conditions. The findings of this research are consistent with the present study, as both highlight the role of smart governance and cooperation in enhancing urban security, showing that effective interaction between institutions and citizens can help strengthen the sense of security and reduce security threats. However, Hardy et al. primarily focus on governance and inter-institutional collaboration, while the present study emphasizes spatial analysis and the social dimensions of urban security in Semnan—providing a different but complementary perspective on urban security challenges and opportunities.

The study by [Oliha et al. \(2024\)](#) examines the cyber challenges and strategies related to securing smart cities, emphasizing the importance of managing cyber threats as a key factor in creating safe urban environments. Their findings are also aligned with the present research, as both acknowledge the role of smart technologies in enhancing urban security and stress the need to address security challenges, especially in the cyber domain. However, while Oliha and colleagues concentrate more on technical and cybersecurity aspects, the present study focuses more on the social and spatial dimensions of urban security in Semnan. This difference can contribute to a more holistic understanding of the existing challenges and opportunities in urban security.

The study by [Sahu et al. \(2024\)](#) develops a deep transfer learning model for analyzing green space security in smart cities, highlighting the importance of advanced technologies in assessing and improving safety conditions in green urban areas. The findings of their study are consistent with the current research, as both emphasize the role of modern technologies in enhancing urban security and show that detailed data analysis can help identify risks and improve security in urban environments. However, Sahoo and colleagues place greater emphasis on technical and data modeling aspects, while the current study focuses more on the social and spatial dimensions of urban security in Semnan. This distinction contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in this area.

The results indicate the positive effects of modern technologies and digital infrastructure on urban security and the quality of life of residents. The main themes include modern technologies and digital infrastructure, social participation and public awareness, challenges and obstacles, and the enhancement of quality of life. The findings show that smart

surveillance systems and mobile applications can enhance the sense of security, while education and public awareness campaigns related to these technologies—as well as effective interaction between residents and governmental institutions—can improve public awareness and build social trust. However, challenges such as limited financial resources and a lack of knowledge about new technologies remain issues that need to be addressed. Ultimately, the results suggest that the implementation of smart technologies can lead to improved public services and increased resident satisfaction with urban life.

The findings related to the identification of key and sub-themes concerning urban security reveal various dimensions of perceived safety and the challenges present in this domain. According to the data, the sense of security in both public and private spaces depends on factors such as adequate street lighting, police presence, and the installation of security systems. Moreover, the quality of policing services and the use of smart technologies—such as surveillance cameras—are identified as key contributors to enhanced security. Social participation and public education also play a vital role in raising awareness and fostering collaboration between government bodies and citizens. However, challenges such as financial constraints, lack of citizen awareness about their rights and personal security measures, and a lack of trust in law enforcement agencies hinder improvements in urban safety. These findings demonstrate that enhancing urban security requires attention to social, educational, and infrastructural dimensions.

The analysis of urban security and smart city indicators in Semnan highlights the various dimensions affecting urban safety and citizens' quality of life. These indicators include smart people, smart economy, smart environment, smart governance, and smart mobility, each of which contains specific criteria and metrics for evaluating security conditions and improving

living standards. For instance, gaining public trust, access to information technologies, and environmental protection measures are identified as key aspects in this context. Furthermore, the sense of security in both public and private spaces, the quality of policing services, and public education regarding rights and crime prevention are other important components that have a direct impact on quality of life and urban safety. Overall, these findings help identify and analyze the fundamental components that can contribute to improved security and living conditions in the city of Semnan.

Recommendations

1. Comparative Analysis of Cities

- Comparative studies of smart cities: Examine and compare the various approaches used in smart cities to enhance security and identify best practices and techniques.
- Analysis of security impacts on quality of life: Investigate the relationship between urban security indicators and citizens' quality of life across different cities.

2. Modeling and Simulation

- Spatial modeling of urban security: Develop spatial models to analyze crime distribution and identify vulnerable areas using GIS data and machine learning algorithms.
- Simulation of security scenarios: Create simulators to assess the impact of changes in urban infrastructure and smart technologies on urban security.

3. Research on Emerging Technologies

- Study of new technologies in urban security: Research the impact of technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and artificial intelligence on improving urban security.
- Big data analysis: Explore how big data can be used to predict and manage security threats.

4. Social and Cultural Impacts

- Analysis of social impacts on security: Study the role of culture, community, and social interactions in enhancing or diminishing urban security.
- Study of citizen behavior: Investigate how citizens behave in response to security threats and the role of education and awareness in shaping these behaviors.

5. Evaluation of Policies and Programs

- Evaluation of existing security policies: Assess the effectiveness of current urban security policies and programs and provide suggestions for improvement.
- Cost-benefit analysis of security technologies: Conduct an economic evaluation of the implementation of new urban security technologies and analyze their return on investment.

6. Community Participation

- Research on citizen participation: Examine how citizen involvement can contribute to urban security and its impact on the perception of safety.
- Design of participatory programs: Develop initiatives that enable citizens to take part in security-related urban decision-making.

7. Research on Public Space Design

- Impact of public space design on security: Study how the design of public spaces influences citizens' sense of safety and behavior.
- Application of CPTED principles: Investigate how Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles can be implemented in public spaces.

These recommendations can assist researchers in exploring various dimensions of urban security using smart city indicators and contribute to the development of effective strategies for enhancing the safety and well-being of urban environments.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Abbas Aghaei Azad, as the corresponding author, supervised the research and finalized

the manuscript. Azita Rajabi designed the methodology and analyzed the data. Golnaz Eslami assisted in data collection and literature review. Espad Rezaei contributed to figures, tables, and final editing.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this manuscript. In addition, the ethical issues, including plagiarism, informed consent, misconduct, data fabrication and/or falsification, double publication and/or submission, and redundancy have been completely observed by the authors.

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The author(s) declare that no AI tools or services were not used or not highly applied during the preparation of this work.

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