

# Identifying the Environmental Factors Contributing to the Occurrence of Crime and Anomic Behavior (Case Study: Urban Deteriorated Spaces of Borazjan City)

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**ABSTRACT:** Cities, as the focused centers for human residence and settlement, are faced with various issues and problems. The high rate of crime and anomic behavior are characteristics of today's major cities. Fear of crime and anomic behavior is perceived as the most important reasons leading to a decline in the use of public spaces in cities by its residents. According to the mutual relation between environment and behavior, clearly, different characteristics of urban spaces can both significantly increase or decrease the rate of crime in a city. The purpose of this paper is to identify the physical factors and parameters which underlie crime and anomic behavior in Borazjan urban deteriorated spaces. The aim of this research is to identify, and therefore, help eliminate these effective environmental factors and reach higher level of safety and regularity in public spaces of deteriorated areas of Borazjan city. According to the results of this research, the most effective factors that give rise to crime in public spaces are physical disturbance, functional disorders and confusion of meaning and identity.

**Key words:** Social deviance, Crime, Anomie, Violence, Borazjan city

## INTRODUCTION

The explosion of cities development has given rise to a plethora of the problems for human beings and the most important of which is the imbalance of the relation between human and urban spaces. Expansion of the cities on one hand and the lack of space on the other hand have led to the over density of the population and activities within the modern cities. The complexity and overpopulation have far-reaching consequences including increased social irregularities. In this process, the metropolitans and cities of Iran have also faced an unprecedented hike in the various social deviance, crime, violence and anomic behavior. It should be noted that the extent and type of the crimes and social deviances vary in different urban districts. Given their special physical structure, type of activity and features of the residents, some areas are more prone to the crimes. Meanwhile, urban deteriorated spaces are among the areas more likely to nurture manifold crimes and deviations due to their relatively high social,

cultural, economic, physical and functional irregularities.

The urban deteriorated spaces of Borazjan face serious challenges in providing safety for its residents. The appearance of the crimes and irregularity in this area, in addition to creating a sense of uncertainty and skepticism, has imposed mental, physical and financial strain on the community, city managers, government and justice in general. On one hand, such problems have generated a sense of insecurity, anxiety, terror, distress and reduced quality of life among the dwellers, and on the other hand, they have compromised the functional quality, hospitality of the space, and ultimately the health of the city.

Due to the fact that all social irregularities and evils categorized under the umbrella terms of "crime", no matter how they being committed, take place into a particular spatial context, the present study attempts to investigate the environmental characteristics that prepare and affect the appearance of various social crimes and deviations within Borazjan urban deteriorated spaces.

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Regarding these factors in urban policy making, planning and design processes, the crimes can be prevented and environmental opportunities for committing the crimes and other deviances in the area may be restricted.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

People face a variety of threats in the urban environment: crime, terrorism, fast-moving vehicles, air pollution, water contamination, and so forth. In some places, the threat of natural disasters is an everyday fear to be faced in the design of buildings and settlements. In most Western societies, although many natural threats are now adequately managed, other human threats- real or imagined- are seemingly on increase. One of the most crucial threats to the sense of security of people is the fear of being harassed by crime, violence and non-civil behavior (Carmona, et al., 2003).

Based on the aforementioned statement, identifying criminal and anomic behaviors reasons and restricting the opportunities to commit such behavior in public spaces is particularly important. In this paper, before examining the effect of physical features of the urban areas on the appearance of crime and other anomic behaviors and in an attempt to avoid eclectic concepts, the basic definitions of the various types of abnormal behaviors are briefly reviewed.

### **Aberration or Social Deviance**

From a sociological perspective, aberration or social deviance is attributed to any abnormal behavior. In other words, it includes any social aberration or any individual or social act that is beyond the moral framework of target society and general codes of ethics which the agents act in, either formally or informally, since they face legal restrictions and moral obscurity. In consequence, the deviators tend to conceal their deviance from the eye of the legal observers, public morality and social order (Abdollahi, 2002).

### **Crime**

According to the cultural-legal definition, a crime is defined as a positive or negative act which is against the social discipline of people in the society, for which legal consequences or punishments are determined. Thus, crime is either the commitment or avoiding of an act for which a penalty is determined by the law (Nourbaha, 1999).

The sociological definition of crime refers to any type of behavior that fails to conform to the norms or rules of any group or society (Durkheim, 1964).

Crime and fear of crime are two of the main aspects that can influence, in a negative way, society and the life of urban citizens (Saraiva & Pinho, 2011).

It should be noted that crime and deviance are two distinct concepts, and despite some overlapping and proximity in social theories, they do not share a unified definition. In fact, crimes are those aberrations and deviances that incur punishment legally, and their criminal nature is in the eye of

the law (Bounds, 2004).

### **Anomie and Anomic Behavior**

Anomic theory is another theory which aims to define crime occurrence and social deviance. Anomy is one of the few uniquely sociological concepts (Parsons, 1968). Yet, it continues to be shrouded in conceptual difficulty (Shoham & Grahame, 1982).

The concept of anomy has been defined in sociological terms as a condition of normlessness or the suspension of rules and behavioral guidelines which creates a moral vacuum (Coser, 1964).

The concept of anomie, or anomia, has existed since 1600s; however it has been more widely used since the work of a French theorist, Emile Durkheim, resurrected the term in the late 1800s. Durkheim used the concept to study the social satisfaction problems in the French republic where he had witnessed a marked increase in suicide. He theorized that "an abrupt and unforeseen growth or diminution of an individual's power and wealth tended to produce anomie (Ibid). Additionally, during periods of sudden depression, sudden prosperity, or rapid technological change, the regulatory functions of the collective order tend to break down (Cloward, 1959).

Robert Merton (1983), another sociologist formulated his theory using Durkheim in arguing that societies differed in the relative emphasis they placed on cultural goals and the legitimate means governing goal achievement. Cultural goals are those that are deemed "worth striving for" when societies place equal emphasis on goals and means, individuals achieve satisfaction both from goal achievement and following institutional means for achieving goals. When societies have an imbalanced emphasis on goals and means, anomie is resulted. Anomie is rampant when societies emphasize certain common goals for success, such as monetary provide equal access for everyone to achieve that goal. Anomie increases the probability of committing crime, in particular instrumental crimes (Bernard, 1987).

### **Violence**

Violence is an extremely diffuse and complex phenomenon. Defining it is not an exact science but a matter of judgment. Notions of what is acceptable and unacceptable in terms of behavior and what constitutes harm, are culturally influenced and constantly under review as values and social norms evolve (World Health Organization, 2002). Violence, as usually defines, involves intentional injury of a serious nature by one entity against another (Gottesman & Maxwell Brown, 1999). The legal culture, defines violence as "the illegal, unsuitable and harassing act of using power". By this definition, one example of violence is the illegal obligation against liberty, and public rights. Violent crimes are those which by nature have an extremely severe physical aspect, such as murder, rape, beating (Motamedi Mehr, 2000).

## The City as Context: Social Deviation, Crimes and Anomic Behaviors

The concept of cities and crime has been studied together and alongside each other, ever since sociology gained an independent scientific identity. In their study, Park and Burgess focused on the prevalence of social deviations and problems in the urban life in Chicago, and put emphasis on the influence of language, ethnicity, immigration, residential districts, and population density in this realm. Park argues that urban spaces suppresses the motivation and instinct of those residing in them and causes social deviations. The physical structure of the city, profoundly affects the cultural- social patterns in the urban life (Ahmadi, 2005).

In addition, cities as places where the density of human population is the highest on the Earth, is considered by itself a complicated phenomenon. Correspondingly, the urban society is a mass best characterized by diversity and opposing interests. A non-thorough approach towards these opposing interests can lead to anarchy and chaos. On the other hand, these interests can't be left unattended, because then everyone will start to act the way it is most to his benefit, without taking the other's interest into consideration (Lloyd, 1997) and this can lay the foundation for anomic behavior.

New social disorder theories stress the role of the expanded urban processes on the development of social disorder. In these theories, the larger cities with greater population lack the necessary capacity to exercise supervision and informal control (Sampson & Groves, 1989). Accordingly, due to the weakened local friendship ties, increased anomie and reduced local participation, urbanization relies heavily on formal monitoring and controlling systems. Several studies have shown that growing urban population increases the crime rate, suggesting a significant correlation between the urban population and crime rate. As such, the social disorder theory maintains that expanded urbanization will increase the social disorder, something which ultimately leads to the increased crime and deviances within the society

In fact, parallel to the population hike, the society gradually loses its control over its members, thus no longer being able to curb the conflicting tendencies. A comparison between small and large cities would provide some insight into this matter. In small and closed environments, the minimum deviation is disclosed, eliciting disparage and suppression. In large cities and where public supervision is somewhat loose, however, individuals can do what they want without any restriction. The extent of people's liberty from public supervision depends on the expansion and density of the population, and the more widespread and dense the population; the less will be the public supervision over the individual behaviors due to the dispersion in a wider area.

Another factor affecting the development of social abnormalities is the changing social life. While in small or rural areas the structure of social life is based on kinship and extended families, in large cities this structure is torn apart and the social

life finds a more individual-based orientation, something that would result in reduced public monitoring over the individuals. Under such structure, there is no longer any close family, tribal or kinship monitoring, and even if in existence, the wide geographical area of the city helps individuals unchain themselves from such inhibition. Thus, cities are able to change the extent of control and supervision over the life of people in a society and create a new structure of social life through two main factors i.e. population and the modified structure of the social life. This multiplies the potential for the prevalence of deviances and social deviances in the society (Durkheim, 1964).

Based on the discussion, it can be assumed that there is direct relationship between increased urbanization and expanded social deviances, at least in some temporal and spatial periods. That is, the development of the cities is a good predictor of greater social crises in the future. The experience shows that expanded urbanization generates a plethora of the crimes and deviances, making urban crimes one of the main concerns of the people in the cities (Stucky, 2005).

In addition, Security is a core feature of the sustainable development (Raco, 2007) and lack of security decreases the quality of life of citizens.

## Characteristics of Urban Crimes and Violence

Urban crimes are also a part of social deviations that follow urbanization and exacerbation of its problems, inflicting serious damages on the society. Urban violence is a type of violence that deals with the city as a physical and a conceptual being, in a direct relation. Therefore, not all types of violence that occur in the city can be called urban violence. Crime and violence in the city can be characterized by the following traits: Trait 1: Statistically speaking, the prevalence of the occurrence of violence in urban spaces is much more than rural areas and villages.

Trait 2: In comparison with rural areas, a higher percentage of crime and violence in the cities happen against women and children. The occurrence of crime and violence, in this case, increases with alcohol and drug abuse in cities.

Trait 3: Basically, a phenomenon called "street violence" exists in the streets (Fokouhi, 2011).

## Effective Factors Contributing to Crime and Anomic Behavior

According to legal culture, although it is not difficult to define crime, the analysis of crime requires understanding certain points without which comprehending the simple definition of crime will not be easy. These issues are personal cognition, society cognition and the law cognition (Nourbaha, 1999).

Generally, in the study of crime and anomic behavior, it is of utmost importance to investigate the different personal and psychological characteristics of both the convict and the victim and the different aspects of the environment in which the crime has been committed, including social, economic,

cultural, legal, environmental and other aspects. Furthermore, in geographical investigations of crime and anomic behavior, it is important to pay attention to certain key factors including the law, the convict, the victim (person or object), the location and time at which the crime is committed (Brown, 2000). In this paper, from all the mentioned key factors, the role of "location" will be investigated from the aspects of urban design, planning and management.

### **The Relation between Physical Environment and Crime Occurrence**

Scholars have proposed two sets of factors, i.e. internal or individual and external or environmental to explain the origins of crimes and delinquencies. In this classification, the environment has been used in the general sense of the word, namely the natural and artificial spaces. Given the common definition of the geography as the study of human, environment and their interactions, the valuable position of the applied research in the geography to identify the crime and examine the relationship and the role of environmental and spatial factors in the emergence of social abnormalities will be evident.

### **The Essence of the Relation between Environment and Behavior**

We as human beings, behave in many different ways during our daily life. In fact, we are behaving in one certain way at every moment in time. Our behavior is our communication pathway and our reaction to the environment around us. In effect, it is the practical outcome of what is flowing in our mind.

According to what was mentioned above, two factors dramatically impact the type and ways of behavior: the "environment" - information we get from it - and "the person" - considering all his characteristics. In fact, the basis of our behavior roots in the combination of both the person and the surrounding environment; therefore our behavior is the result of the interaction of our needs, motivations, environmental capacities, concepts, mental image, and last but not least, the way we define the environment around us. Consequently, it is vivid that our activities can take different forms under the influence of these main factors: environmental and personal (Pakzad & Bozorg, 2013).

About the extent to which the environment influences human behavior, three main outlooks can be defined as follows:

**Environment as a determining factor:** According to this outlook, the environment plays a determining role in human's perception and sensation. Moreover, every stimulus provokes a specific response, as if the awareness and personal will-power of the person in giving that response are overshadowed by the effect of the stimulus.

**Environment as a Fostering factor:** Based on this outlook, the physical environment brings with itself a set of opportunities and restrictions in the way people are to behave. Nevertheless, the environment does not determine the behavior, and people behave in certain ways under the influence of other factors.

In other words, environment is not considered as the sole determinant of behavior, but it merely provides opportunities for some behaviors to surface and restricts others.

**Environment as a contributing factor:** According to this outlook, as people can behave in different ways in a certain environment, the design and physical characteristics of the environment can contribute to the occurrence of certain behaviors. Thus the environment increases the chances for the occurrence of a certain behavior, yet it doesn't play a determining role (Rezazadeh, 2001).

In general, all social abnormalities and deviances opposed to the values of a society, which are known as "crime" or "offense", irrespective of how they are being committed, take place in a temporal and spatial context.

On the whole, to describe the effect of the man-made environment on the occurrence of anomic behavior, the relation between human's environment and their behavior can be assumed as the relation between a container and its content. (Eliei, 1971)

Offenders often operate in a rational fashion, they prefer to commit crimes that require the least effort, provide the highest benefits, and pose the lowest risks. Researchers have applied this rational offender perspective to a range of crimes (Clarke, 1983; Clarke & Cornish, 1985). This view suggests that crimes are most likely to occur when potential offenders come into contact with a suitable crime target where the changes of detection by others are thought to be low or the criminal, if detected, will be able to exit without being identified or apprehended. In short, the crime site lacks a natural guardian (Taylor & Harrell, 1996).

The current study was carried out as an "analytical" study based on surveys carried out on the residents, administrators as managers in the city as well as anyone else who used the urban spaces. The literature on this topic was reviewed using libraries and observation and field study techniques were used to gather more data about the subject of the study. The overall model and process in this study is as follows:

Identifying the contributing factors on the prevalence of crime in urban spaces by going through relevant literature and articles on the subject;

Conducting in-depth interviews with the experts and administrators in the district;

Conducting different focus groups with the residents of the districts with deteriorated texture in the city of Borazjan as participants;

Concluding the factors identified from the 3 methods mentioned above and preparing a questionnaire;

Conducting a survey on this topic from the residents of the district using the questionnaire with Likert scale;

Preparing a thorough list of indexes concluded from all the above mentioned steps;

Grouping and finalizing the factors using "factor-analysis"

In the current study, first the relevant literature and texts have been reviewed on the topic and a primary list of physical factors

contributing to the occurrence of crime and anomic behavior has been developed. Then, an in-depth interview with the experts and managers with the responsibility to administrate the urban spaces was conducted, and using the Delphy method, the factors which all the interviews agreed upon were identified. In the next step, the residents of the district were encouraged to freely express their opinion regarding the influential factors on the prevalence of crime and anomic behavior in the district, in openly conducted focus groups. Eventually, all the identified factors from the previous stages were used to prepare a questionnaire with Likert scale. Then the residents were surveyed on the topic using the questionnaires. The extent of the statistical population in this study (residents with the age of 15 and above in the district) was 15365. The sample size was determined 105, using the Cochran formula. In this study, Cluster sampling was applied.

After the residents were surveyed on the topic, a list of all the factors, including the factors gathered from the previous steps, was arranged. Then, using factor analysis, a final list of all the effective environmental factors contributing to the prevalence of crime in public spaces of the deteriorated areas of Borazjan city was developed. The “Factor Analysis” method is a multivariate analysis in which factors are not addressed as dependent and independent, but instead they are considered correlated. In other words, all variables are dependent towards one another and therefore it is tried to classify the variables in several categories.

### Introducing of Case Study

Borazjan is the center of the Dashtestan County and it is the second biggest city of the Boushehr province after Boushehr city.

The district which will be investigated in this paper is urban deteriorated area of Borazjan city. The area of this district is

201 hectares.

Based on the data provided by the Iran’s Census Bureau, the population of deteriorated area was 20204 in 2006. Given the physical erosion, the lack of adequate roadway access, facilities, services and urban infrastructure, this area is quite vulnerable, lacking the spatial, environmental and economic values compared to other parts of the city. This district is the main trading center of Borazjan city. Retailing makes up most of the business activities in this district. A sizable portion of this area constitutes ruins and unused lands. The physical condition of the buildings in this district is rather not appropriate and a great majority of the buildings are either ruined or are non-retainable. The reason why this area was chosen to be studied was the problems and flaws in this area that has made it a district with a high prevalence of crime occurrence and anomic behavior in the city.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As discussed earlier in this study, based on parameters derived from the review of relevant literature, in-depth interviews with experts and officials as well as focus groups formed with the contribution of the local residents, the framework of the researcher-built questionnaire was designed. The questionnaire consisted of 12 sections on a 5-point Likert scale (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, neutral), with the respective scores (5, 4, 3, 2, and 1) assigned for each item. For assessing the reliability of this questionnaire Cronbach's alpha has been applied. Cronbach's alpha has been invented by Cronbach and is one of the most Prevalent methods for measuring the reliability of questionnaires. The meaning of reliability is that if features are measured by the same tools and under the same conditions at different times, results should almost be similar.

Table 1 shows that according to the results of Cranach’s alpha

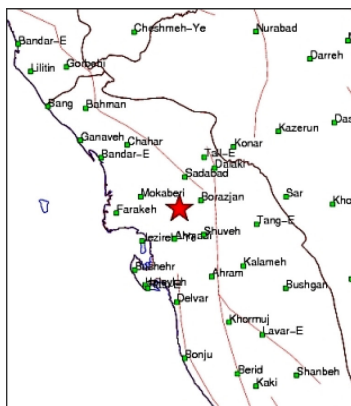


Fig. 1: Location of Borazjan city in Boushehr province  
(Source: Bagh\_e\_Andisheh consulting engineers Co.)

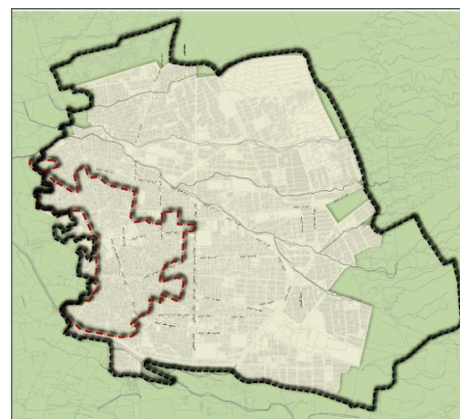


Fig. 2: Location of deteriorated area in Borazjan city  
(Source: Bagh\_e\_Andisheh consulting engineers Co.)



Fig. 3 and 4: Physical erosion in deteriorated areas of Borazjan

the coefficient of internal consistency of questions of this research questionnaire is 0.740.

Cranach's alpha is a figure between 0 and 1, and the closer Alpha is to 1, the more coherent our questionnaire is, with a minimum of 0.7 considered as acceptable. Therefore the 0.74 figure claims that the questionnaire used in this study is reliable and coherent.

The criterion for the validity and reliability of the questionnaire items following the analysis of the data obtained from the case study indicated the efficacy of this tool and its acceptability in terms of the psychometric properties.

Factor analysis was used to summarize the results of the questionnaire. This statistical method has vast application in different branches of science. This technique is formed by combining several statistical techniques and it aims to simplify a complex group of data. This technique can reduce many dependent variables to several factors which have spatial

autocorrelation.

In general, the steps for conducting the factor analysis are:

Indicator selection;

Designing a data matrix;

Factor extraction;

Factor rotation;

Interpretation and labeling the factors.

The final step in the factor analysis process is labeling the factors, which is, in a way, the most important stage of the process. The reason being there is no certain rule to it and we can't certainly say what different variables related to a particular factor has in common.

The steps and results of factor analysis have been shown below. First, to assess the adequacy of the model, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) index and Bartlett Test of Sphericity were used. The results of the tests are shown in Table 2.

The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling

Table 1: Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
q1	34.95	59.652	0.394	0.721
q2	35.35	57.893	0.418	0.717
q3	34.92	60.648	0.323	0.729
q4	35.94	55.441	0.457	0.711
q5	35.27	58.523	0.443	0.715
q6	36.07	57.796	0.393	0.721
q7	36.17	61.494	0.225	0.743
q8	35.8	56.435	0.437	0.714
q9	35.46	54.469	0.568	0.696
q10	34.57	62.111	0.287	0.733
q11	34.34	62.572	0.294	0.732
q12	36.21	62.941	0.227	0.739

adequacy is an index for comparing the magnitude of the observed correlation coefficients to the magnitude of the partial correlation coefficients and the Bartlett Test of Sphericity is used to test the hypothesis the correlation matrix is an identity matrix.

The closer the KMO measure to 1 indicate a sizeable sampling adequacy (0.8 and higher are great, 0.7 is acceptable, 0.6 is mediocre, less than 0.5 is unacceptable).

As seen in Table 2, the value of KMO (0.769) and level of significant of Bartlett's test of sphericity ( $p > 0.0.1$ ) confirms the adequacy of the model.

Table 3 demonstrates the values of common factor loadings between the extracted factors and studied variables, in which the values less than 0.15 specify the variables to be removed. As noted Table 3, the values of this feature for all items show common factor loadings for the studied variables.

Table 5 shows the special values, factor variance and cumulative share of the items. According to Table 5, the prediction power

Table2: Results of KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	0.769
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity Approx. Chi-Square	490.547
df	66
Sig.	0

Table3: Communalities, Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

	Initial	Extraction
q1	1.000	0.483
q2	1.000	0.54
q3	1.000	0.404
q4	1.000	0.58
q5	1.000	0.502
q6	1.000	0.506
q7	1.000	0.574
q8	1.000	0.595
q9	1.000	0.576
q10	1.000	0.584
q11	1.000	0.635
q12	1.000	0.394

Table 4: Total Variance Explained, Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	3.21	26.73	26.73	3.21	26.73	26.73	2.60	21.64	21.64
2	2.16	17.98	44.71	2.16	17.98	44.71	2.11	17.55	39.19
3	1.01	8.391	53.11	1.01	8.39	53.11	1.67	13.92	53.11
4	0.92	7.65	60.75						
5	0.79	6.62	67.37						
6	0.74	6.15	73.526						
7	0.70	5.80	79.322						
8	0.64	5.37	84.692						
9	0.55	4.57	89.263						
10	0.48	3.98	93.241						
11	0.44	3.71	96.951						
12	0.37	3.05	100						

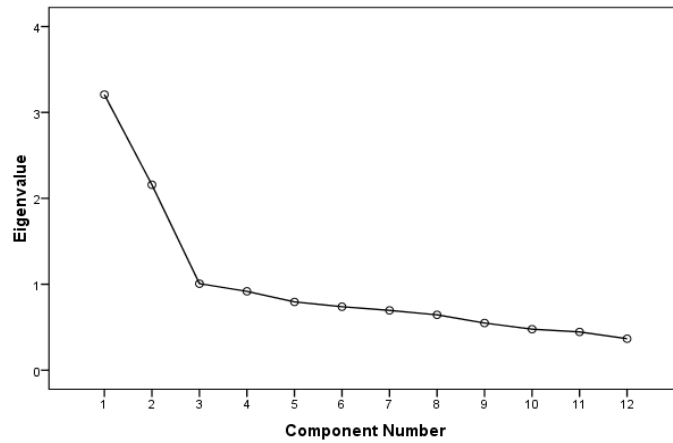


Fig. 5: Scree Plot

of this model based on the aggregate proportion of factor variance is equal to 53.106%.

Fig. 5 shows the special values for different factors. According to this diagram, i.e. the factors in the initial part and the steep slope of the diagram, factor analysis suggests three factors to be extracted.

Looking closely at “Rotated Factor Matrix” (Table 5), the first factor has a high and significant relation with the following 5 variables of area grading, Inaccessibility of area, lighting, street network quality and physical quality of buildings. In the result this factor can be named, “physical anarchy of the space”.

Due to the relation between second factors and the other

Table 5: Rotated Component Matrix<sup>1</sup>, Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis, Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

		Component		
		1	2	3
q1	Grading of the area	0.593		0.361
q2	Lack of legibility			0.694
q3	Inaccessibility of area	0.613		
q4	Disrepute of space			0.716
q5	Quality of street network	0.644		
q6	Unsuitable allocation of space		0.674	
q7	Activities incoherent with the residential function		0.72	
q8	The existence of lands and buildings with no particular function (Abandoned buildings & arid lands)		0.755	
q9	Density in masculine activities		0.647	
q10	Physical quality of buildings	0.751		
q11	Lighting	0.788		
q12	Indefinite spaces (Lack of identity)			0.526



4 variables of “activities in coherent with the residential function”, “density in masculine activities”, “the existence of lands and buildings with no particular function (abandoned buildings & arid lands)” and “unsuitable allocation of space”, it can be named “functional anarchy of the space”.

The third factor is related to 4 variables including: “false reputation of the space”, “indefinite spaces”, lack of legibility “lack of identity”. Therefore this factor can be named “the definition and identity anarchy of the space”.

## CONCLUSION

According to what mentioned in this paper, the fear of crime is one of the most important factors threatening security of citizens.

Crime, and especially the fear of crime, affects the mental and physical wellbeing of victims, causing behavioral alterations, with serious consequences for the whole community. It is also the main contributor to the decline of quality of life in most of the urban areas. Considering the crucial importance of sense of security and immunity of people in urban spaces, in this study we tried to identify the contributing factors which affect the occurrence of crime and anomic behavior in urban deteriorated spaces of Borazjan city. In this regard, we have deployed an interactive approach by surveying the residents, administrators and civil managers of the region to compliment the data we had collected from our own observations and field investigations. After conducting a survey from the residents and administrators in the region, a thorough list of variables was prepared which was then summarized and categorized using factor analysis. In the factor analysis method, variables which show high correlation are classified in one group and form one single factor. Finally, it was deduced that the three factors of “physical anarchy of the space”, “functional anarchy of the space” and “the definition and identity anarchy of the space”, are the most important factors which contribute to the occurrence of crime and anomic behavior in the deteriorated areas of Borazjan city.

## ENDNOTES

1. Rotation converged in 5 iterations

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