

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Comparative Analysis of the Impact of Urban Development Policies on Social Cohesion and Public Trust in the Cities of Isfahan and Bushehr

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

A more operational definition of “social cohesion” and “public trust” would help clarify how they are measured and distinguished empirically. You might also differentiate between bonding and bridging social capital here.

The description of Bushehr’s development is informative but should include more on demographic, economic, and political conditions to support the contrast with Isfahan.

The link between transportation and institutional trust is underdeveloped. Consider citing works that directly explore transportation governance as a proxy for public trust beyond mobility.

The rationale behind the sample size and its statistical power is not explained. Include a justification (e.g., confidence level, effect size assumptions) to support methodological rigor.

Please provide example items for each subscale (e.g., one item each for belonging, participation, institutional trust). Also, mention whether this instrument was previously validated or developed anew.

Clarify how this secondary data was used—was it for descriptive statistics, variable construction, or only contextual explanation?

Specify whether regression models controlled for demographic variables (e.g., age, gender, education), and whether interaction terms were tested (e.g., city × policy type).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

This hypothesis appears exploratory but is tested as confirmatory. Clarify whether hypotheses were pre-registered or derived post hoc.

This finding is repeated almost verbatim from the abstract and findings. Consider using this space to reflect on unexpected or nuanced results instead.

Explore reasons for the weak effect. Could this be due to accessibility, awareness, or unequal distribution of cultural facilities?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.