OBSTACLES TO SUSTAINABLE SECURITY IN THE KURDISTAN REGION USING THE FUZZY DELPHI

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the obstacles to achieving sustainable security in the Kurdistan region. The statistical analysis of data was performed through EXCEL software. Based on the studies' content analysis, nine obstacles to the Kurdistan region's sustainable security were finally identified to enter Delphi. The fuzzy Delphi method was used to screen and ensure the importance of the identified indicators and select the final indicators. Experts' opinions were used to assess the importance of the indicators. In this study, fuzzy triangular numbers were used to fuzzy experts' views. The first-round results showed that all indicators gained more than 7, and as a result, remained in the evaluation. Based on the second-round results, it was found that the difference of all measures was less than 0.5, and thus Delphi was ended. The DEMATEL results showed that the sum of elements (D) indicated the extent to which that factor influenced other factors in the system. Accordingly, C2 had the greatest impact. The sum of column elements (R) for each factor indicated how that factor was affected by other system factors. Thus, C7 was heavily influenced by other system factors. Based on the horizontal vector (D + R), C2 had the most interaction with other criteria.

INTRODUCTION

Introduce the Problem

Sustainable security plays a key role in stabilizing the sovereignty and people's sustainability and the development and progress of nations. Sustainable security is a multifaceted concept that complicates its emergence and deployment, especially in multi-ethnic communities such as the Kurdistan Region, and may often be fraught with different obstacles. Therefore, having a continuous and stable security model seems to be necessary to remove obstacles. Ethnic pluralism and diversity may create threats or opportunities for the central government that pose challenges at the ideological, legal, or agency level of the dominant government or ideology. It may also pose threats such as divergence and separatism. Recognizing the patterns and specific works of factors affecting sustainable security and their management and engineering plays a significant role in turning threats into opportunities (Pirali & Seadat, 2013).

The meaning of security is freedom from danger and threat and absence of fear towards external factors. Security is the rejection of threatening opportunities and threats, which is not limited to the fields of economy, culture, and politics, but includes all aspects and social affairs. Security is the natural right of every person and the first condition for the continuation of life and coexistence, and just as the need for food, housing, etc. is necessary for human life, security is also a general and necessary good, and as stated in Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Sarukhani & Hashemnejad, 2011). The need for security is raised immediately after the basic and physiological needs, and in other words, the most important need is after the primary needs are met. Humans have always sought to protect themselves against threats, dangers and damages in different ways, but in new societies and due to the expansion of social institutions and social life becoming more complex, security has different types and types, and in other words, it can be said that security in It has penetrated all environmental, economic, political, social and cultural dimensions (Khademi, 2008) Also, the sense of security and the high security factor are indicators of development and the state of Basaman, which, as one of the most important indicators of social welfare, overshadows other indicators of this category. Growth and development have always been provided in the shadow of

minimum security, and the search for security has always been one of the most important motivations and needs of humans, which is considered the most important need of all local, national and regional communities. The feeling of security is the subjective aspect of this category and it can be said that it has all aspects of security in it. This concept is one of the important and influential concepts in social welfare issues; This means that prosperity without a sense of security has no meaning, but due to its high degree of sensitivity and importance and its impact on the lives of all people, it has not been addressed as it deserves, and this is while establishing security and its feeling can be a powerful potential. To grow and excel from the individual to the transnational level, and of course, the opposite is also true. In the conditions of lack of security, the spread of social damage and the increase in crime are considered as signs of its weakness and indicate the decline of social security.

On the other hand, what is certain is that providing security and creating a sense of security in the society will not be possible only by the government, but people as active actors in the social arena have a significant role in achieving this. Therefore, in order to achieve prosperity, which is one of the most important goals and demands of any society, it is necessary to address the issue of security as one of the main indicators of prosperity and development. The feeling of security is influenced by several factors, one of which is the category of social trust (Movahed et al., 2012). The necessity of forming social bonds of people and as a result of that relationships between people, expresses an important component called social trust among people. Trust is a central concept in the classical theories of sociology, as well as the main axis of modern theories of social capital and the field of interactions and social relations. In fact, the concept of trust has a special place in the perspective of sociological experts. Trust can be the most important paradigm of order and the focus of sociologists' thoughts; considered Durkheim and Tonis. At the same time, trust is the basis of interactions and social relations and the focus of the concept of social capital. Granwater believes that when agreements are reached within the larger framework of personal relationships and social networks, trust is created and the motivation to violate regulations fades (Natiqpour & Firozabadi, 2005). Trust can be considered the most important component of social order. For this reason, Eisenstadt rightly notes that the most important issue of social order for the founders is trust and solidarity; That is, without cohesion and a kind of trust, the sustainability of social order is impossible (Chalabi & Mobaraki, 2005). In fact, trust allows people to easily communicate with each other and it is because of this facilitation of action that trust is mentioned as one of the most important dimensions of social capital (Preston & Colman, 2000). There are many evidences showing the reduction of social trust in all dimensions and emotional and special-oriented bias in the relations of activists at all levels in Iranian society (Chalabi & Mobaraki, 2005). The research that was conducted on the values and attitudes of Iranians in 2013 by the National Plans Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance shows that in general there is mistrust among people in the society. For example, "in relation to the prevalence of hypocrisy among the people, the most responses were high and very high, respectively 37.4% and 29.4% respectively (Ghaffari, 2004). Also, the results of this research in 2013 indicate that the level of people's trust to those who do not know, that is, the generalized trust is equal to 14.2%, which is very low are considered important indicators, therefore, the low level of this type of trust in any society is considered one of the main obstacles to development and progress. Lack of attention to such work may cause the weakness of citizenship culture and national identity in the future and face the society with more serious challenges. And delay the development movement of the country (Natiqpour & Firozabadi, 2005).

Security and its effects on other major aspects of society, including economics, culture, science, and technology, are not hidden from anyone (Naderi et al., 2010). Undoubtedly, in societies with high security, the cornerstone of major economic and cultural activities can be established; however, society's economic and cultural foundations will collapse without security. Although various academic papers and works have discussed security in general, the comprehensiveness of the fuzzy Delphi research method regarding meta-analysis and modeling of qualitative issues and updating security research clarifies the need for this research is the difference between this study and previous studies. Researchers' efforts to find a multifaceted model of factors affecting the Kurdistan region's security have failed. Examining the internal and regional conditions and the causes and obstacles to sustainable security in the Kurdistan Region, this article seeks to answer these two questions: (1) what are the obstacles to sustainable security in the Kurdistan Region? And (2) what are the interrelationships between these factors? The necessity of any research is defined based on its spatial and temporal requirements. The Kurdistan Region's characteristics, including its location in the crossroads of three countries, history, war, etc., have doubled the need to consider sustainable security issues. Therefore, the Kurdistan Region is inherently one of the most threatened areas due to its location in an insecure strategic environment and challenging security environment. This region needs vigilant and rational land management based on modern scientific analyses and explanations, which depend on land planning, considering its human and natural requirements. Therefore, considering the Kurdistan region's situation and its neighboring countries, most of which are weak and unstable, it is necessary to pay attention to sustainable security and explain its obstacles.

Importance of the Problem
The Iraqi Kurdistan region consists of the five provinces of Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Erbil, Mosul, and Duhok, and the Kurds now make up 15-20% of the country's population (Akhwan Kazemi, 2013). The region now called Iraqi Kurdistan is one of the main, densely populated, and strategic regions established under the Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916), following an agreement between France and Britain to divide the Ottoman Empire and form a new state called Iraq. The issue of Iraqi Kurdistan and its accession to Iraq in Britain's Lausanne Treaty was changed differently. Following King Faisal's request for Kurdish annexation to Iraq and the success of Kemal Atatürk, the British decided to agree to Kurdish annexation to Iraq to avoid a possible conflict with Turkey over Mosul and Kirkuk. After the above developments and initial successes, the Iraqi Kurdistan Region tried to organize its actions and prepare for the formation of an independent state in the exceptional atmosphere created by the weakness of the central government and its conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

(ISIS), the insensitivity of regional actors, and the support of trans-regional actors at the national and regional levels (Jannati, 2017).

The Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government is rapidly building and developing its political, administrative, and legal The Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government, centered in Erbil, is an autonomous region located in the northern part of Iraq. This region shares land borders with Turkey from the north, Iran from the east, and Syria from the west. The region whose population is based on the last Estimates are around 6,200,000 people.

Kurds, who comprise about 19 to 25 percent of the total population of Iraq, constitute the majority of the Iraqi Kurdistan region. According to unofficial statistics, Turkmens are ranked second in terms of population, and after them, ethnic groups such as Yazidis, Christians, including Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Suranis make up the population structure of Iraqi Kurdistan (Hafez, 2013).

During the Baath regime of Iraq, Saddam's government destroyed about four thousand Kurdish villages following an operation called Anfal in order to create a buffer zone on its northern borders with Iran from 1983 until the end of the eight-year war in 1988 and forced the residents of these areas to deported to other parts of Iraq, during this inhumane and painful process, about 180 thousand Kurds lost their lives. One of the most painful of these operations was the chemical attack on Halabja, which can be considered as a full-scale genocide. The people of Kurdistan were reminded by the Iraqi Baath government that this chemical attack killed nearly 5,000 people and wounded nearly 7,000 to 10,000 civilians. Hundreds of them died years after the attack due to the consequences, diseases and defects of the body at birth. An incident that still remains the largest direct chemical attack on an urban area in history (Jafari et al., 2018).

Given the geostrategic and geopolitical position of Iraqi Kurdistan, this region could have multiple implications for Iraq, peripheral states, and the Middle East policy of trans-regional powers. Therefore, this study seeks to address sustainable security in the Kurdistan region from a different perspective.

Research Objectives
- Identifying barriers to sustainable security in the Iraqi Kurdistan region
- Explaining the relationship between the obstacles to sustainable security in the Iraqi Kurdistan region

METHODS AND MATERIALS
The research method is an exploratory sequential mixed methods design. In this design, the first qualitative data are collected and analyzed, and then in the second phase, quantitative data are collected and analyzed. A measurement tool is usually developed through qualitative research. Therefore, by collecting and analyzing qualitative data, the main aspects of the phenomenon under study are determined. These aspects are considered as the desired dimensions for the development of data collection tools.

RESULTS
Statistics and Data Analysis
Data analysis consists of three main operations: (1) describing and preparing the data needed to test the hypotheses, (2) analyzing the relationships between the variables, and (3) comparing the observed results with the expected results of the hypotheses. In this process, data is refined both conceptually and empirically, and various statistical techniques play a significant role in inferences and generalizations.

Fuzzy Delphi Technique
Based on the studies' content analysis, finally, nine obstacles to the Kurdistan region's sustainable security were identified to enter Delphi. The fuzzy Delphi method is used to screen and ensure the importance of the identified criteria and select the final criteria. Experts' opinions are used to assess the importance of criteria. Although experts use their mental competencies and abilities to make comparisons, the traditional process of quantifying people's opinions does not fully reflect the human thinking style. In other words, the use of fuzzy sets is more compatible with linguistic and sometimes ambiguous human expressions. Therefore, it is better to make long-term predictions and real-world decisions using fuzzy sets (fuzzy numbers) (Kahraman, 2008). In this study, fuzzy triangular numbers are also used for the fuzzification of experts' views. Experts' views on the importance of each criterion are collected with a nine-degree fuzzy scale.

Table 1. Nine-degree fuzzy scale for evaluating criteria

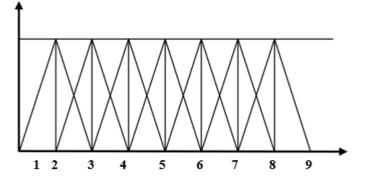| Fuzzy Number Scale	Linguistic Variable	Crisp Equivalent
(1٬1٬1)	Very Insignificant	1
(1٬2٬3)	Very Insignificant To Insignificant	2
(2٬3٬4)	Insignificant	3
(3٬4٬5)	Insignificant To Moderate Significance	4
(4٬5٬6)	Moderate Significance	5
(5٬6٬7)	Moderate Significance To Significant	6
(6٬7٬8)	Significant	7
(7٬8٬9)	Significant To Very Significant	8
(9٬9٬9)	Very Significant	9

Figure 1. Evaluation of criteria using fuzzy triangular numbers

The First Round of the Delphi Technique

Ten experts' views on each criterion are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The fuzzification of expert panel's views on each criterion

		1			2			....			10		
		L	M	U	L	M	U	L	M	U	L	M	U
Lack of civil liberties	C1	7	8	9	7	8	9	7	8	9	9	9	9
Political instability	C2	9	9	9	7	8	9	7	8	9	9	9	9
The role of regional actors	C3	7	8	9	7	8	9	7	8	9	9	9	9
Lack of sustainable development infrastructure	C4	9	9	9	7	8	9	7	8	9	9	9	9
Foreign terrorism	C5	7	8	9	7	8	9	7	8	9	9	9	9
The growth of extremist currents	C6	7	8	9	7	8	9	7	8	9	9	9	9
Lack of popular support for macro policies	C7	7	8	9	7	8	9	7	8	9	9	9	9

1) Round I

The fuzzy mean and defuzzified output of the criteria' values are given in Table 4-5. In this study, a threshold value of 7 is considered. A defuzzified value greater than 7 is acceptable, and any criterion less than seven is rejected (Wu & Fang, 2011: 751).

Table 3. The fuzzy mean and fuzzy screening of the criteria (round I)

R1	L	M	U	Crisp	Result
Lack of civil liberties	6.563	7.504	8.428	7.498	Accepted
Political instability	6.73	7.593	8.428	7.584	Accepted
The role of regional actors	6.563	7.504	8.428	7.498	Accepted
Lack of sustainable development infrastructure	7.054	7.815	8.642	7.837	Accepted
Foreign terrorism	6.563	7.504	8.428	7.498	Accepted
The growth of extremist currents	6.96	7.815	8.642	7.806	Accepted
Lack of popular support for macro policies	6.941	7.865	8.777	7.861	Accepted

All criteria less than seven will be removed. The results showed that all criteria gained more than seven and thus remained in the evaluation.

2) Round II

The fuzzy Delphi analysis continued for the criteria remaining in the second round. The defuzzification results of the elements in the second round are reported in Table 4.

Table 4. The fuzzy mean and fuzzy screening of the criteria (round II)

R2	L	M	U	Crisp	Result
Lack of civil liberties	6.73	7.593	8.428	7.584	Accepted
Political instability	6.96	7.815	8.642	7.806	Accepted
The role of regional actors	6.787	7.723	8.642	7.718	Accepted
Lack of sustainable development infrastructure	7.054	7.815	8.642	7.837	Accepted
Foreign terrorism	6.563	.504	8.428	7.498	Accepted
The growth of extremist currents	6.96	.815	8.642	7.806	Accepted
Lack of popular support for macro policies	6.941	.865	8.777	7.861	Accepted

Comparison of Delphi technique rounds
In the second round, no items were removed. In general, one approach to the end of Delphi is to compare the average scores of the first round and second round items. If the difference between the two stages is less than the low threshold (0.5), then the polling process will be stopped (Cheng & Lin, 2002).

Table 5. The distance between the crisp value of the first round and the second round

Criteria	The result of the round I	The result of the round II	Difference	Result
Lack of civil liberties	7.498	7.584	0.086	Accepted
Political instability	7.584	7.806	0.222	Accepted
The role of regional actors	7.498	7.718	0.22	Accepted
Lack of sustainable development infrastructure	7.837	7.837	0	Accepted
Foreign terrorism	7.498	7.498	0	Accepted
The growth of extremist currents	7.806	7.806	0	Accepted
Lack of popular support for macro policies	7.861	7.861	0	Accepted

The results in Table 5 show that the difference of all measures is less than 0.5, so the Delphi process is terminated.

Fuzzy DEMATEL
DEMATEL is one of the multi-criteria decision-making techniques aiming to evaluate research factors in terms of causal relationships. The steps of the fuzzy DEMATEL technique are given below (Yeh & Huang, 2014).

Step 1: Determine the direct relation matrix (D)
In this step, respondents were asked to show the effect of criterion i on criterion j using Table 1.
According to Formula (2-1), their arithmetic mean is obtained for considering all experts' opinions.

Table 6. Average experts' views

H	C1			C2			C3			C4			C5			C6			C7		
	L	M	U	L	M	U	L	M	U	L	M	U	L	M	U	L	M	U	L	M	U
C1	.2667	.3667	.4667	.0000	.0000	.0000	.1000	.1000	.1000	.4000	.5000	.6000	.3333	.4333	.5333	4.000	.5000	6.000	6.000	.7000	.8000
C2	.2667	.1667	.2000	.4000	.5000	.6000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.2677	.3667	.4667	.2000	.3000	.4000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.1667	.7000	.8000
C3	.1333	.5000	.6000	.4000	.5000	.6000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.2667	.3677	.4667	.2000	.3000	.4000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.1677	.2333	.3000
C4	.4000	.5000	.1000	.4000	.5000	.6000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.6000	.7000	.8000	.2000	.3000	.4000
C5	.1000	.1000	.1000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.2000	.3000	4.000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.6000	.7000	.8000
C6	.4000	.5000	.6000	.6000	.7000	.8000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.1000	.1000	.1000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.000	.0000	.0000	.2000	.3000	.4000
C7	.2667	.3667	.4006	.4000	.5000	.6000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.4000	.5000	.6000	.2000	.3000	.4000	.0000	.0000	.0000

Step 2: Normalize the direct relation matrix
According to Equation (2-2), we normalize the mean matrix and call it the H matrix. Equations (2.8) and (2.9) are used to normalize the obtained matrix.

Table 7. The defuzzified values

DF	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
C1	0.326	0.482	0.327	0.360	0.404	0.502	0.453
C2	0.457	0.489	0.334	0.476	0.518	0.590	0.645
C3	0.359	0.509	0.226	0.368	0.388	0.435	0.423
C4	0.482	0.627	0.384	0.340	0.480	0.643	0.542
C5	0.351	0.478	0.325	0.361	0.322	0.444	0.555
C6	0.441	0.602	0.338	0.334	0.428	0.390	0.487
C7	0.388	0.568	0.352	0.395	0.492	0.491	0.417

Step 3: Network Relations Map (NRM)

The threshold value must be calculated to determine the network relations map (NRM). In this way, it is possible to ignore minor relations and draw a network of significant relations. Only relations whose values in the matrix T are greater than the threshold value will be displayed in NRM. For determining the value of the relationship threshold, it is enough to obtain the average defuzzified values of the matrix T. After the threshold is set, all values less than the threshold become zero, i.e., that causal relationship is not considered.

Table 8. Pattern of causal relationships

C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
2.854	3.508	2.707	3.500	2.838	3.019	3.103
2.806	3.755	2.285	2.633	3.033	3.495	3.521
5.660	7.263	4.992	6.133	5.871	6.515	6.624
0.049	-0.246	0.422	0.866	-0.196	-0.476	-0.419

In Table 8, the sum of each row's elements (D) indicates the influence of that factor on other system factors. Therefore, C2 is the most influential factor. The sum of the column (R) elements for each factor indicates the degree to which that factor is affected by other system factors. Therefore, C7 is highly influenced by other factors. The horizontal vector (D + R) indicates how the factor is influential or influenced by the system. In other words, the higher the D + R, the more it interacts with other factors in the system. Accordingly, C2 has the most interaction with other studied criteria. The vertical vector (D - R) indicates the influence of each factor. In general, if D - R is positive, it is considered a causal variable, and if it is negative, it is considered an effect variable.
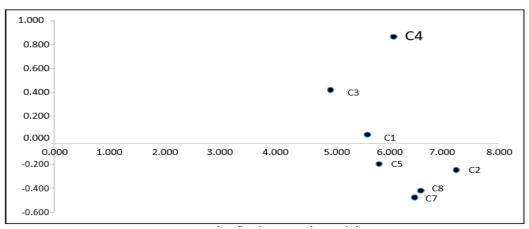

Figure 2. The final research model

DISCUSSION

The sense of security is basically a subjective-objective category and is directly related to people's mentality and perception of vulnerability and threats. Also, the role of security on individual and social life is much more complicated than previously expected, because it has wide dimensions and many hidden and obvious angles. The feeling of insecurity is more important than the insecurity itself; For example, a crime may have only a few victims, if the same incident causes fear and insecurity among a large number of people (Babakhani, 2010).

As societies develop and become more sophisticated, the community members' demands also increase. Therefore, the government must meet people's demands in proportion to the increase in their demands to achieve sustainable security. The extent to which people's demands are met is effective in creating security or insecurity (Khojasteh Nejad et al., 2017). It should be noted that the Kurdistan Region is in a highly evolving security environment in the Middle East and is competing with regional powers. Kurdistan Region needs sustainable security to play its active role in the current challenging environment. Continuous progress and sustainable security complement each other, and each paves the way for the development of the other.

Currently, the existence of security challenges in the region is undeniable, and various efforts and policies have failed to build sustainable security in the region. However, they have even led to the spread of disputes and challenges within the region and increased instability (Zakeri-Hamane et al., 2012). The formation of sustainable security in the Kurdistan region is associated with various obstacles, including intra-regional and extra-regional barriers. At the regional level, the main obstacles to the sustainable security are the dominance of various disputes and conflicts between regional actors, including territorial and border disputes and political and ideological disputes in the patterns of friendship and enmity in the Kurdistan region, as well as the conflicting interests of the three actors influencing the region, i.e., Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

Sustainability perspective makes the basic contribution to the security issues analysis through systemic linking of

economic, social and environmental spheres into a long-term, dynamic perspective. It also represents a paradigm shift in examining security concerns of a state and beyond. Sustainability, as a set of principles or practices may be applied on different levels, from tactical to strategic, where the latter is also the most important. I am confident that the research will be beneficial for decision makers, strategists and long term planners as they have to take in consideration the broadest picture possible in determining ends, ways (concepts) and means (capabilities) that will enable adequate response to the threats and challenges for the security of a state.

CONCLUSIONS

One of the most important common concerns of all countries is to establish stable order and security in the border areas. Therefore, in order to establish stable order and security in these areas, the levels of development of border settlements should be analyzed so that managers can make the right decisions in this field, because underdevelopment and spatial imbalance in most border areas cause insecurity and It becomes difficult to establish stable security in these areas and they provide a lot of life and financial costs to the government. If the development of these areas is not paid attention to, insecurity may be transferred from the border and marginal areas to the center of the country and the national security of the country will face many challenges. One of the tools that can be widely used in planning for the integrated development of different regions of the country is the classification of regions in terms of their development or lack of development, for this purpose it is necessary to use different indicators in each sector, in other words One of the necessary and basic measures for regional development and reducing inequalities is the study of regional economic, social and cultural inequalities and the identification and position of regions relative to each other in terms of development. According to the results of the current study it is suggested that this research be done in other border cities. Also it is suggested to study the relationship between the feeling of security and motivation to progress. It is suggested to study the relationship between the feeling of security and the type of leadership.

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