



## Investigating the Impact of Socio-cultural Resilience Dimensions of Coastal Regions on Sustainable Tourism Development (Case Study: Coastal Regions of Bushehr)

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### Abstract

**Purpose-** Coastal regions are some of the most popular tourism destinations worldwide and tourism can be a promising tool for enhancing dimensions of social-cultural resilience. The more resilient a community is to sudden, unexpected, or chronic economic, political, social, and environmental (negative) events, the less vulnerable it is to these disruptions. This study aimed to investigate the impact of socio-cultural resilience dimensions of coastal regions on sustainable tourism development in coastal regions of Bushehr, Iran.

**Design/methodology/approach-** This study is applied in terms of its objective and is correlational-descriptive in nature. Based on the type of data collected and analyzed, it is a quantitative study. The target population comprised 1686 socio-cultural experts involved in tourism development in Bushehr City. A sample of 313 participants was selected using random sampling, based on Cochran's formula. The study utilized two questionnaires: a Sustainable Tourism Development questionnaire and a Socio-Cultural Resilience questionnaire. Smart Plus and SPSS software version 26, and parametric, and nonparametric statistical tests were used to analyze the findings.

**Findings-** The results showed a significant positive relationship between socio-cultural resilience in coastal regions and the level of tourism development in Bushehr Province. The regression coefficient for the impact of sociocultural resilience on tourism development as a dependent variable was 0.767. The regression coefficients for the cultural, environmental, economic, and social dimensions were 0.713, 0.839, 0.773, and 0.611, respectively. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) for sustainable tourism development was 0.589, indicating that 58.9% of the variance in sustainable tourism development in coastal areas can be explained by sociocultural resilience. The  $R^2$  values for the cultural, environmental, economic and social dimensions were 0.508 (50.8%), 0.703 (70.3%), 0.597 (59.7%) and 0.373 (37.3%), respectively.

**Practical implications-** The results of this study have significant implications for the development of public policies related to sustainable tourism. In conclusion, given the diverse tourism opportunities and potentials of Bushehr Province in coastal areas, especially in the field of water and coastal sports, tourism managers and planners as well as researchers and scientists must show the necessary commitment to the formation and development of this industry through proper planning and determining appropriate strategies. It concludes by presenting some policy-making guidelines for a tourism destination manager.

**Keywords-** Tourism, Social resilience, Cultural resilience, Sustainable development.

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## 1. Introduction

Today's world is characterized by rapid socio-economic changes and frequent natural hazards (Clar et al., 2021). Consequently, in the current century we are witnessing natural and sometimes man-made events that result in major crises and catastrophes in societies unprepared for their impacts. Recent disasters have shown that communities and individuals have become increasingly vulnerable and risks have escalated. However, risk reduction and vulnerability reduction are often overlooked until disasters occur (Pashnezhad Sielab et al., 2017). Furthermore, due to the complexity of urban environments, the global perspective of urban management has shifted towards improving resilience in response to risks and changes (Kapucu et al., 2024). In modern times, the concept of resilience has entered planning with different orientations (social, economic, spatial, managerial, etc.), although the focus remains on environmental issues. The main goal of resilience systems is to achieve peak performance even under pressure and stress (Barghi et al., 2017). A resilient city can continue to thrive and maintain its quality of life even during severe natural disasters without the need for significant external assistance. A resilient city is characterized by a stable network of physical systems and human communities (Eghbali et al., 2021). However, resilience is a multifaceted approach and discussions around this approach require consideration of various dimensions and influencing factors. According to Lv et al. (2024), the main dimensions that influence vulnerability and resilience include physical, social, political, economic, organizational and environmental components. The social dimension, a central aspect of resilience, reflects the ability of a resilient community to respond positively to changes and stressors arising from differences in social performance between communities. Furthermore, a resilient community can maintain its core functions despite existing tensions (Lv et al., 2024).

Overall, social resilience is part of the broader dimensions of resilience, and the social resilience approach addresses the sociological aspects of resilience in cities and provides a method for understanding dynamic systems interconnected through interactions between people and their environment (Ahmadvostakolaei et al., 2024). Urban

systems and their communities must be able to withstand stresses, events and disasters. Even after a crisis, they should be able to return to their original state in a relatively short period of time. Therefore, resilience theory is crucial for understanding the ability of communities to sustainably develop the tourism industry (Holladay & Powell, 2016). From this perspective, it is important to recognize that cities are primary tourist destinations and tourism has become one of the driving forces for urban development and revitalization. Consequently, tourist cities are often viewed as unique and subject to external disturbances due to the dominant role of tourism in their development (Morrison & Maxim, 2021). It is important to note that the concepts of resilience and sustainable development should not be viewed as synonyms. In terms of resilience, sustainability includes creating, testing, and maintaining adaptability as well as developing processes to sustain opportunities (Holladay & Powell, 2013). Redman claims that resilience highlights the quality of the system, while sustainable development focuses on the conditions; Thus, the resilience of a system or community becomes one of its overall sustainability components (Redman, 2014). Assessing tourism development based on the social resilience of tourist destinations can be considered as a key requirement for sustainable destination management. Such assessments require identifying the impact of social resilience components on sustainable tourism development (Holladay, 2018).

The city of Bushehr, as one of the southern Iran's major tourist destinations, has gained significant importance due to its unique coastal and tourism-oriented location. In recent years, the impact of this positioning has progressively increased, to the extent that the city's physical development in recent years has largely been driven by its tourism role and function. This has led to the expansion of numerous townships and human settlements within the city. Given the city's abundant tourism attractions and recent investments, there is a pressing need to move towards sustainable tourism development. However, due to the environmental hazards arising from tourism development, it is crucial to focus on enhancing social resilience in the city. Leveraging the benefits of social resilience is essential for stabilizing the sustainable development of tourism in the city of Bushehr. In line with this necessity, This study aims

to examine the social and cultural resilience concerning tourism development in the coastal areas of Bushehr Province. The objective is to evaluate the sustainability of tourism development in the social and cultural contexts of growth within the host communities of Bushehr's coastal regions.

## 2. Research Theoretical Literature

Nowadays, tourism development has attracted great attention in various countries from economic, sociocultural and political perspectives (Movahedi & Amiri, 2023). Sustainable development is the ideal goal for the tourism industry and many other industries in the 21st century. This approach focuses on preserving environmental integrity and diversity, meeting basic human needs, conserving resources for future generations and reducing inequality (Streimikiene et al., 2021). Therefore, it emphasizes a long-term perspective and a balance between the individuals of the current generation and between humans and other organisms. If sustainable development is one of the main goals of this era in the tourism industry, then measuring the performance and impact of its economic, socio-cultural and environmental aspects in tourism destinations is crucial (Baloch et al., 2023).

With the rise of tourism and global economic change, tourism and urban development have become intertwined (Dai et al., 2019). Tourism is a complex economic activity that has infiltrated all aspects of human life. This industry is the fastest growing industry in the world with many economic, social and environmental benefits (Moridsadat et al., 2021).

For effective planning, it is crucial to understand how tourism works from a social, economic, institutional and environmental perspective. Man-made crises (Holladay & Powell, 2013) and natural disasters (Kim & Marcouiller, 2015) can impact tourism destinations in unforeseen ways, from local to global levels. Unexpected shocks can destabilize any type of system, from economic to political to tourism. Efforts are underway to understand, maintain, and improve the resilience of these systems to mitigate the acute and chronic changes that may impact these systems. Managing systems – such as a tourism system – for shocks is called resilience thinking. Resilience thinking includes system qualities such as persistence, adaptability and changeability, i.e. h. the dynamics that increase the ability of a system to remain relatively stable or within critical thresholds (Folke et al., 2010). Resilience is the ability of a system to absorb disturbances and learn and adapt

during turbulent times to grow and become more dynamic (Holling, 1973). Sustainability is generally defined as the ability of a system to be adaptable and support opportunity and innovation (Holling & Gunderson, 2002). The combination of adaptability and innovation increases a system's overall ability to absorb internal (e.g., social inequality, political unrest) and external (e.g., global economic changes, hurricanes) shocks. In this original ecological meaning, resilience focuses on the persistence of populations or communities at the ecosystem level and refers to both the total area and the elevation of the lowest point of a population's area of attraction (Hahn & Nykvist, 2017).

This problem has been known in our country for a long time. Conversely, there are perspectives that suggest barriers to tourism development due to the country's socio-cultural and political conditions (Dias et al., 2024). Therefore, tourism is culturally significant. In the short term, it promotes greater unity and connection between ethnicities, religions and different cultures. As a result, the importance of the “cultural element” in this industry is increasing day by day. Tourism increases communities' awareness of each other's way of life, brings cultures closer together, and thus enables a faster growth of cultural and social tourism, which is most closely linked to the cultural element, than the overall growth of tourism worldwide (Alamineh et al., 2023).

The growth of tourism activities in coastal regions in recent decades has had a profound impact on the economic, social and environmental foundations, posing serious challenges to the development processes in these regions. In addition to the primarily economic benefits, the growth of tourism activities in these regions also imposes a number of social, environmental and cultural costs. Studies show that the trend of developing tourist activities in coastal regions has led to a deterioration of tourism resources and negative impacts on the physical, social and cultural dimensions of host communities, moving away from the principles of sustainable tourism development (Krittayaruangroj et al., 2023). In other words, due to the lack of strategic planning and specific models and strategies, the trend of scattered development has led to an unregulated form in the region, resulting in inappropriate and scattered land use changes and the degradation of local landscapes. The role of tourism is changing from a driving force to a destructive factor in the urban development process (Kim & Kang, 2020; Nuissl &

Siedentop, 2021). This situation contradicts the principles of sustainable tourism development and serves as evidence of the unsustainability of development in the studied area, indicating an undesirable development trend and a decline in destination quality, as well as a decline in future markets. Therefore, it is important to identify existing capabilities and limitations in order to develop models and strategies that maximize benefits while ensuring their sustainability in various aspects (Haghlesan & Arbabi Bostan Abad, 2023).

Zalaghi et al. (2022) showed in their study entitled "Proposing a Structural Equation Model for the Feasibility of Rural Tourism Development (Case Study: Gaikan Village in Aligudarz County)" that the main attractions and tourism opportunities of Gaikan Village are divided into four main categories: cultural and religious attractions, use of organic products, rural welfare facilities and services and natural attractions. In addition, the main limitations and obstacles to the development of tourism in this village are: lack of adequate investments, avoidance of the use of agricultural products and related industries, ignorance of locals about the benefits of tourism, lack of amenities and the generation of environmental pollution. The latter is significantly related to tourism development (Zalaghi et al., 2022). A study conducted by Alizadeh and Mahmoudi beram (2023) in the field of tourism development entitled "Identification, Classification, and Prioritization of Social Resilience Criteria and Indicators in Iran". This study identified and categorized seven groups of criteria: social, managerial, physical, economic, cultural, psychological, spiritual and environmental criteria, which included 16 main criteria, 42 sub-criteria and 379 indicators. The majority of the indicators belonged to the social and management criteria groups (Alizadeh & Mahmoudi beram, 2023). Zarrabi et al. (2021) in their article "Evaluation of Sustainable Urban Development with Emphasis on the Resilience Approach in Informal Settlements of Sanandaj" reported a resilience score of 3.11, indicating a lack of resilience within the informal settlements (Zarrabi et al., 2021). Hosseini et al. (2020) in their article "Analysis of Social Resilience Based on Social Capital Indicators in Tehran" identified eight factors that contribute to social resilience from a social capital perspective: shared values and beliefs, sense of place, awareness building, participatory engagement, social-

institutional networks for Crisis management, intimacy and responsibility, social trust and institutional trust building (Hosseini et al., 2020). Naylor et al. (2021) in their article "Emic Perspectives of Community Resilience and Coastal Tourism Development" highlighted the rapidly changing, institutionally complex and culturally diverse nature of coastal communities and emphasized their vulnerability to anthropogenic changes (Naylor et al., 2021). Yustiana et al. (2021), in their article "An Analytical Study of the Impact of Coastal Reclamation on National Resilience", described coastal reclamation as an attempt to create new land in coastal areas, pursued by providing essential factors from ecological, economic and socio-cultural perspectives. The role of each aspect in the national resilience system resulting from reclamation is analyzed (Yustiana et al., 2021). Gunaratne and Kremer (2021), in their article "The Long-Term Impact of Socio-Cultural Resilience of the 2004 Tsunami on Sri Lankan Survivors," argued that resilience in collectivist cultures is strongly influenced by social factors and provided insights into the offerings of life resilience groups. Concepts related to information dissemination as well as relevant cultural definitions and theories are discussed (Gunaratne & Kremer, 2021).

Based on existing research in tourism, it is evident that many countries recognize sports tourism as a significant industry within their national economies. Furthermore, considering the collective perspectives and research on tourism, it can be asserted that current trends in tourism development and growth within the country suggest promising potential for domestic ecotourism initiatives, particularly within coastal and aquatic regions. Given Iran's extensive coastline exceeding 2000 kilometers and its diverse, four-season climate, especially in coastal areas, the country is well-positioned to benefit from this potential. Therefore, rigorous research is necessary to scientifically identify existing obstacles to tourism expansion and development, facilitating the implementation of effective solutions to address these challenges.

The development of tourism in coastal areas, particularly in Bushehr Province, which is well suited for such growth, requires assessment of resilience from various economic, social, cultural and environmental perspectives. Initially, environmental concerns attracted the most attention; However, today all three dimensions are viewed as equally



important. The management and development of tourism in coastal regions can only be successful if the connection between the social and cultural aspects of resilience is recognized. To fill this research gap, this study aimed to investigate the impact of socio-cultural resilience dimensions of coastal regions on sustainable tourism development in coastal regions of Bushehr, Iran.

### 3. Research Methodology

#### 3.1. Geographical Scope of the Research

Būshehr, a coastal region in southwestern Iran, borders the Persian Gulf to the west and is bounded by the Hormozgān and Fārs regions to the southeast and east and by Khūzestān to the northwest. Inland, the region is part of the Zagros Mountains and

consists of highland fingers within a plateau (Britannica, 2020). The Shāpūr River drains the region and serves as an inland waterway from the Persian Gulf coast at Būshehr, the region's capital. Rainfall in the region is low and sporadic. Agriculture is the main occupation; Crops include wheat, barley, date palms, mangoes and citrus fruits. The industry produces woven fabrics, milled rice and flour, building materials and processed foods. The region is home to numerous oil and natural gas fields and there are natural gas pipelines from the interior to the coastal town of Kangān. Kharg Island is located in the Persian Gulf 34 miles (55 km) northwest of the city of Būshehr and is a major crude oil terminal (Britannica, 2020).



Figure 1. The geographical location of Coastal Regions of Bushehr

#### 3.2. Methodology

The research is applied in terms of its objective and is correlational-descriptive in nature. Based on the type of data collected and analyzed, it is a quantitative study. The target population comprised 1686 socio-cultural experts involved in tourism development in Bushehr City. A sample of 313 participants was selected using random sampling, based on Cochran's formula. The study utilized two questionnaires: a Sustainable Tourism Development questionnaire and a Socio-Cultural Resilience questionnaire.

**3.2.1. The Sustainable Tourism Development questionnaire**, developed and validated Choi and Sirakaya (2006), consists of 20 closed-ended items using a five-point Likert scale across four dimensions: cultural, environmental, economic, and social (Choi & Sirakaya, 2006). In the study

conducted by Gholami (2003) the reliability was reported to be 0.63 (Zamani et al., 2011).

**3.2.2. The Socio-Cultural Resilience for Coastal Tourism questionnaire**, developed by sociologists, comprises 80 closed-ended items using a five-point Likert scale. It assesses social resilience through four dimensions: Social Self-Regulation (items 1-10), Social Empowerment (items 11-20), Social Emotion (items 21-30), and Social Responsibility (items 31-40). Cultural resilience is measured through four dimensions: Cultural Diversity (items 41-50), Local Dialect (items 51-60), Ethnic and Racial Diversity (items 61-70), and Religious Diversity (items 71-80). The reliability of the test was reported as 0.67 and 0.69 in studies conducted by Nikdel (2006) and Arabzadeh (2008), respectively (Zamani et al., 2011). The validity and reliability of this questionnaire were also tested.

## 4. Research Findings

### 4.1. Demographic Characteristics

The results showed that of the 313 participants in the present study, 214 were men (68.4%) and 99 were women (31.6%). Therefore, it can be seen that the majority of participants were men. Additionally, 176 participants were married (56.2%) and 137 were single (43.8%). Therefore, based on [Table 1](#), it can be said that most of the study participants were married. In addition, it was found that 9 respondents were 25 years or younger (2.9%), 35 participants were in the age group of 25 to 35 years (11.2%), 90 participants were in the age group of 35 to 45 years (28.8%). 118 participants were in the age group 45–55 years, while 61% (191 participants) were 55 years or older. According to the descriptive results, most of the respondents were in the 45-55 age group. Most participants had a master's degree, 138 (44.1%),

followed by 96 participants (30.7%) with a bachelor's degree. Based on data analysis, more than 74% of respondents had either a bachelor's or master's degree. It was also found that 71 respondents (22.7%) had studied in fields related to tourism, 49 respondents (15.7%) in economics, 49 respondents (15.7%) in environmental and natural sciences and 74 respondents (23.6%) in humanities and cultural studies, 20 respondents (6.4%) in medical and paramedical fields, 11 respondents (3.5%) in art and painting and finally 32 respondents (10.2%) in other areas. According to the descriptive results, the majority of respondents have a degree in humanities and cultural studies, closely followed by those with tourism-related disciplines. [Table \(1\)](#) summarizes the demographic characteristics, categories, frequencies, and percentages of the respondents in the study.

**Table 1. The demographic characteristics of participants**

Demographic Characteristic	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	214	68.4
	Female	99	31.6
Marital Status	Married	176	56.2
	Single	137	43.8
Age Group	25 years and under	9	2.9
	25-35 years	35	11.2
	35-45 years	90	28.8
	45-55 years	118	37.7
	55 years and older	61	19.5
Education Level	Bachelor's Degree	96	30.7
	Master's Degree	138	44.1
	Other (e.g., PhD)	-	-
Field of Study	Tourism-related Fields	71	22.7
	Economics	49	15.7
	Environmental & Natural Resources	49	15.7
	Humanities and Cultural Sciences	74	23.6
	Medical and Paramedical Fields	20	2.2
	Arts and Painting	11	3.5
	Other Fields	11	10.2

To compare the means of the variables, an independent one-sample t-test was used. The results are shown in [Table \(2\)](#).

**Table 2. One- sample t-test results**

Variable	T	Degree of freedom	Significant level	Deviation from the mean	Mean difference	The difference is at a significance level of 95%	
						down	up
Socio-cultural resilience	122.73	312	0	1.0864	132.624	130.487	134.762
Social resilience	100.264	312	0	1.394	139.741	137	142.48
Social self-regulation	82.377	312	0	1.699	139.949	136.61	143.29
Social excitement	79.616	312	0	1.834	146.032	142.42	149.64
Social competence	64.805	312	0	2.109	136.703	132.55	140.85
Social responsibility	49.472	312	0	2.755	136.281	130.86	141.7
Cultural resilience	83.132	312	0	1.51	125.508	122.54	128.48
Cultural diversity	65.617	312	0	2.024	132.818	128.84	136.8
Variation of local dialect	44.244	312	0	2.715	120.128	114.79	125.47
Ethnic and racial diversity	58.398	312	0	2.133	124.55	120.35	128.75
Diversity of religion	57.029	312	0	2.184	124.537	120.24	128.83
Sustainable development of tourism in coastal areas	92.675	312	0	1.459	135.182	132.31	138.05
Cultural dimension	87.889	312	0	1.617	142.096	138.91	145.28
Environmental dimension	61.274	312	0	2.177	133.406	129.12	137.69
Economic dimension	65.169	312	0	2.033	132.511	128.51	136.51
Social dimension	57.408	312	0	2.312	132.716	128.17	137.26

The results section presents the sample mean, sample standard deviation, and standard error of the mean. The [table \(2\)](#) also displays the calculated t-value, degrees of freedom, and significance level. The most important point in this table is the significance level, which is less than 0.05, indicating that there is a statistically significant difference with 95%

confidence between the actual and assumed mean. It can be concluded that the mean values of the research variables differ significantly from each other. In [Table \(3\)](#), the model measurement is examined and confirmed using the values of factor loadings, composite reliability, Cronbach's alpha, and convergent and discriminant validity.

**Table 3. Composite reliability value, Cronbach's and homogenous reliability and average variance of the model**

Variable	Cronbach's alpha	homogeneous reliability (coefficient rho)	Composite reliability	Average Variance Extracted( ( AVE
Sustainable development of tourism	0.887	0.906	0.907	0.561
Social dimension	0.926	0.932	0.938	0.605
Economic dimension	0.865	0.897	0.885	0.545
Environmental dimension	0.913	0.919	0.929	0.570
Cultural dimension	0.847	0.878	0.876	0.527
Social resilience	0.916	0.940	0.923	0.602
Cultural resilience	0.912	0.937	0.916	0.586
Cultural diversity	0.897	0.916	0.916	0.529
Ethnic and racial diversity	0.917	0.931	0.931	0.579

Religious diversity	0.912	0.942	0.928	0.573
Variation of local dialect	0.961	0.645	0.960	0.709
Social competence	0.932	0.945	0.944	0.629
Social self-regulation	0.835	0.845	0.870	0.606
Social responsibility	0.966	0.967	0.971	0.769
Social excitement	0.917	0.947	0.930	0.574

Composite reliability or convergent validity occurs when the composite reliability is greater than 0.7. In addition, the composite reliability must be greater than the average variance extracted (AVE). In this case, all conditions for convergent validity are met. The coefficient of congeneric reliability (rho) is also used to measure the internal consistency of constructs. According to Chin (1998), the Rho coefficient is considered more reliable than

Cronbach's alpha (Chin, 1998). The value of the Rho coefficient should be greater than 0.7. In addition, the values of Cronbach's alpha should also exceed 0.7 and the average variance extracted should be greater than 0.5 to be validated. According to Table (3), all of these coefficients for the research variables are at an acceptable level relative to the minimum requirements.

**Table 4. S tatistical T value, F<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and Q<sup>2</sup> to express the structure of the model**

Variable	t statistic	F2	R <sup>2</sup>		Q2
			R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	
Social resilience	9.612	5.859	0.995	0.995	0.296
Socio-cultural resilience of coastal areas	28.408	1.432	0.939	0.939	0.136
Sustainable development of tourism	---	1.432	0.588	0.589	0.088
Social dimension	---	0.596	0.373	0.371	0.248
Economic dimension	---	1.480	0.596	0.597	0.224
Environmental dimension	---	2.371	0.702	0.703	0.373
Cultural dimension	---	1.033	0.507	0.508	0.195
Cultural resilience	5.608	2.496	0.978	0.979	0.275
Cultural diversity	8.003	2.322	--	--	0.069
Ethnic and racial diversity	12.342	3.301	--	--	0.073
Religious diversity	9.861	2.442	--	--	0.086
Variation of local dialect	7.725	4.181	--	--	0.097
Social competence	15.08	17.807	--	--	0.074
Social self-regulation	10.609	7.704	--	--	0.257
Social responsibility	34.219	36.602	--	--	0.426
Social excitement	9.329	10.041	--	--	0.004

As shown in Table (4), the t-statistic values for all variables are greater than 1.96 and significant at the 0.05 level. Among the variables, social resilience in

particular has the greatest influence. In addition, the Q<sup>2</sup> statistic indicates the predictive power of the model with respect to endogenous constructs. Models



with acceptable structural fit should have the ability to predict the endogenous variables of the model. That is, if the relationships between constructs in a model are correctly defined, the constructs have sufficient influence on each other and thus accurately confirm the hypotheses. Henseler et al. (2016) identified three values of 0.02, 0.15, and 0.35 as indicators of low, medium, and strong predictive

power, respectively (Henseler et al., 2016). Predictive power for all variables ranged from moderate to strong, indicating appropriate predictive accuracy for these constructs. The highest predictive power in the model for sustainable tourism development in coastal areas is attributed to the social responsibility component of social resilience.

**Table 5. The goodness of fit criteria of the research model**

Variables	acceptable range	observed value	the result
SRMR	< 0.08 (Hu & Bentler, 1999)	0.049	proper fit
d-ULS	< 0.95 (Henseler et al., 2015)	0.465	proper fit
d-G1	< 0.95 (Henseler et al., 2015)	0.596	proper fit
d-G2	< 0.95 (Henseler et al., 2015)	0.439	proper fit
Chi-square	> 1.96 (Hu & Bentler, 1999)	2754.5231	proper fit
NFI	> 0.25 (Bonett & Bentler, 1999)	0.594	proper fit

Table (5) shows the fit indices of the research model. Based on the obtained values, the collected data for measuring latent variables shows sufficient adequacy and fit. Consequently, the results derived from the research model estimation are reliable and trustworthy. Model fit assessment is critical in structural equation modeling because it indicates how well the theoretical model matches the empirical

data. To assess the quality of the model, various fit indices such as RMSEA, CFI and NFI are commonly used. If the values obtained from these indices are within acceptable ranges, it can be concluded that the research model has sufficient validity and reliability, making it a credible tool for data analysis.

**Table 6. The regression coefficient of the model 's independent variable**

Description	Coefficient	T Statistic	significant level
Socio-cultural resilience -> sustainable development of tourism	0.767	28.408	0.000
Social resilience -> sustainable development of tourism	0.677	9.612	0.000
Cultural resilience -> sustainable development of tourism	0.442	5.608	0.000

The results in Table (6) showed that the independent variable of sociocultural resilience has an impact on the dependent variable of sustainable tourism development. In addition, the components associated with this variable, including social resilience and cultural resilience, each influence the level of tourism development through their respective components. The direction of this impact, as indicated by the

positive regression coefficients in the developed model, is constructive and direct. This means that improvements in social and cultural resilience in regions will lead to an increase and improvement in sustainable tourism development in the four proposed dimensions: cultural, environmental, economic and social.

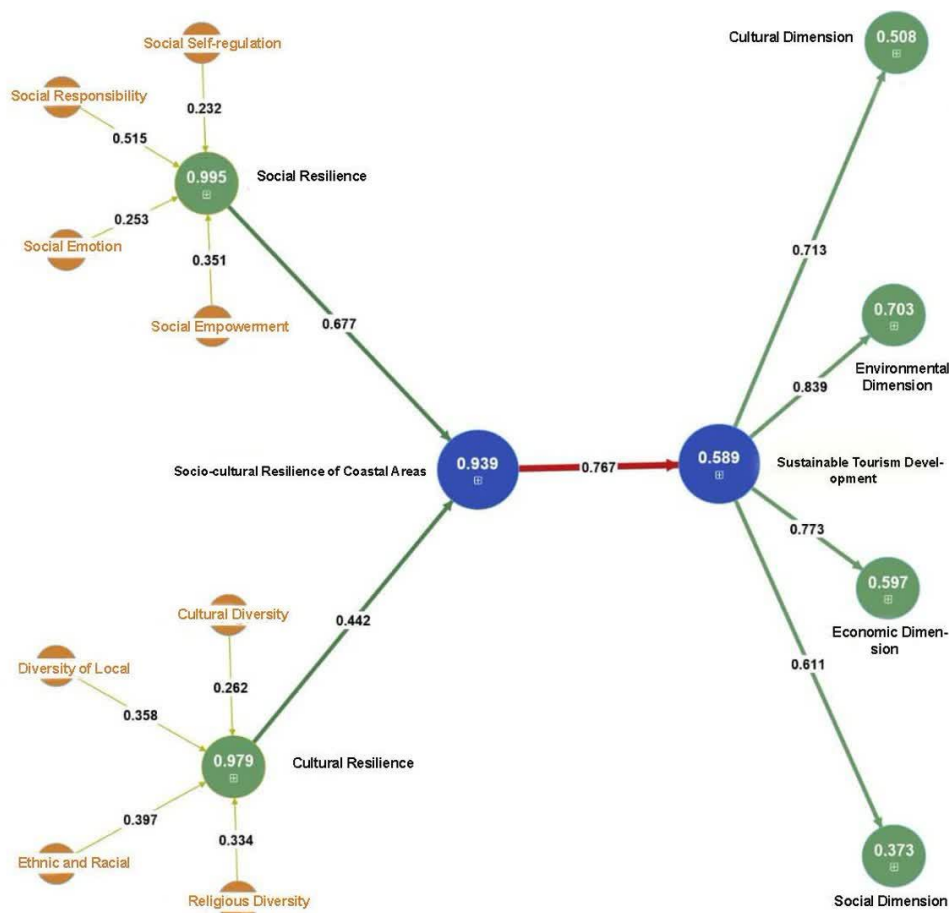


Figure 2. Standard Regression Coefficients of the Research Model

Based on the fitted model, the standardized regression coefficient for the impact of socio-cultural resilience in coastal areas on tourism development, as the dependent variable, is 0.767. The regression coefficients for its components, including the cultural, environmental, economic, and social dimensions, were calculated as 0.713, 0.839, 0.773, and 0.611, respectively. These coefficients were also assessed in relation to the components of social and cultural resilience. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) for the variable of sustainable tourism development is 0.589, meaning that socio-cultural resilience, through its defined components, explains 58.9% of the changes in sustainable tourism

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

The results showed a significant positive relationship between socio-cultural resilience in coastal regions and the level of tourism development in Bushehr Province. The regression coefficient for the impact of sociocultural resilience on tourism development as a dependent variable was 0.767. The regression

development in coastal regions. The impact on the various dimensions of development, including cultural, environmental, economic, and social, was calculated as 0.508, 0.703, 0.597, and 0.373, respectively, corresponding to 50.8%, 70.3%, 59.7%, and 37.3%. In other words, these variables, with the specified coefficients of determination, are influenced by the independent variable (socio-cultural resilience), and the environmental dimension is the most affected aspect of sustainable tourism development in the coastal areas of Bushehr. To assess significance, the t-statistic was compared with the value of 1.96. Since the t-statistic exceeds this value, the relationship is considered significant.

coefficients for the cultural, environmental, economic and social dimensions were 0.713, 0.839, 0.773 and 0.611, respectively. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) for sustainable tourism development was 0.589, indicating that 58.9% of the variance in sustainable tourism development in coastal areas can be explained by sociocultural resilience. The  $R^2$  values for the cultural,

environmental, economic and social dimensions were 0.508 (50.8%), 0.703 (70.3%), 0.597 (59.7%) and 0.373 (37.3%), respectively. The environmental dimension showed the strongest association with sustainable tourism development in the coastal regions of Bushehr. The positive regression coefficients in the model indicate a constructive and direct relationship, suggesting that improvements in sociocultural resilience have a positive impact on sustainable tourism development in all four dimensions (cultural, environmental, economic and social). Therefore, the hypothesis that sociocultural resilience in coastal areas significantly influences tourism development in Bushehr Province was supported with a confidence level of 95%.

The results obtained are consistent with the findings of the studies by [Movahedi and Amiri, \(2023\)](#); [Zalaghi et al. \(2022\)](#); [Alizadeh and Mahmoudi beram \(2023\)](#); [Zarabi et al. \(2021\)](#); [Hosseini et al. \(2020\)](#); [Naylor et al. \(2021\)](#); and [Yustiana et al. \(2021\)](#). Additionally, [Movahedi and Amiri \(2023\)](#) stated that the development of tourism requires a certain level of social, political, and cultural components to serve as a successful tool for sustainable development and to maintain the sustainability of communities. Based on the literature review and the examination of various theorists' studies, a combination of factors constituting social components was considered, wherein there exists a mutual dependency among these key factors, each influencing the others in specific ways. In this research, the relationship between these factors and sustainable tourism development was articulated within a conceptual model. The findings derived from the validated model indicated a significant relationship between the latent variables under study (socio-cultural resilience and sustainable tourism development in regions). In fact, it can be stated that the components of social and cultural resilience influence residents' attitudes and their level of support for sustainable tourism development. To explain the results of this hypothesis, it can be stated that tourism is one of the main sectors that gained great attention in various countries in the late 20th century, making it one of the largest industries in the world. The importance of this sector requires comprehensive and up-to-date studies, with a particular focus on examining the impact of socio-cultural resilience in line with current global needs. Sociocultural resilience expands the possibilities of the individual. Resilience is one of the foundations of development and serves not only as a

factor for the growth of various sectors, including tourism and sustainable development, but also as a means to achieve a more fulfilling life in spiritual, ethical, emotional and intellectual terms. The level of tourism development in different regions varies depending on the level of socio-cultural resilience. This deviation has several reasons. One of these reasons is the great interest of planners and policy makers in highlighting the cultural aspects of their cities through multicultural measures. This is the main reason for proposing tourism development strategies in this context as no government can develop its cultural manifestations without such measures. In fact, a country's cultural policy approach acts as a comprehensive framework that includes other indicators of socio-cultural resilience. Since, Bushehr Province, has beautiful beaches, significant natural potential and numerous cultural and tourist attractions, it has a high capacity for economic activities. As Bushehr Province is able to create favorable conditions for enthusiasts, it has suitable capacity to host various water and beach competitions. Therefore, it can be considered an important hub of the tourism industry in general and sports tourism in particular. Due to the psychological need of modern man for recreation in various natural areas, especially sports practiced on the sea coasts, a well-planned approach can utilize the talents of different regions of the province, taking into account different conditions. This can promote economic goals and job creation while creating a suitable environment for tourists and improving infrastructure. With the increase in natural resources, the status of coastal tourism is also on the rise, and the availability of suitable natural resources can attract tourists and develop sports tourism in the Bushehr Province. Through proper and targeted planning, optimal use of these God-given natural resources can be achieved.

This study acknowledges several limitations. Internal limitations include the localized scope within Bushehr Province, which hinders the generalizability of the results; possible inaccuracies due to incomplete or inaccurate responses to the questionnaire; Difficulties in accessing specific individuals for questionnaire administration; and difficulties in ensuring organizational collaboration in sales. Furthermore, the sample is limited to tourism professionals, including experts, managers and representatives of heritage and tourism organizations as well as active tourism groups within the province,

which limits the representativeness of the results. External limitations include the lack of comparable research at home and abroad, which limits contextual understanding. Difficulties in accessing the target group within the study area; participant reluctance and lack of familiarity with key research concepts; the use of diverse, non-standardized questionnaires; and the influence of respondents' varying levels of experience, knowledge, accuracy and motivation on their answers. These limitations should be taken into account when interpreting the study results.

To promote sustainable tourism in Bushehr Province, this study recommends a multi-pronged approach. It is crucial to prioritize social resilience by involving the community in tourism planning, establishing local working groups and promoting trust building between communities. In addition, the revitalization of local cultural heritage, including the registration of intangible cultural assets such as rituals and artistic expressions, as well as the organization of ethnic events can enrich the socio-cultural fabric and attract tourists. In parallel with these socio-cultural initiatives, expanding economic infrastructure and improving livelihoods will improve community well-

being and support tourism initiatives. In practice, leveraging Bushehr's geographical advantages by promoting its natural areas and coastal attractions, developing tourism infrastructure including accommodation and leisure facilities, and highlighting the potential for health-oriented tourism such as sun and sand therapy can significantly boost the province's tourism industry. If these recommendations are implemented strategically, they can create a sustainable and thriving tourism sector in Bushehr.

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### Authors' contributions

The authors equally contributed to the preparation of this article.

### Conflict of interest

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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## بررسی تاثیر ابعاد تاب آوری اجتماعی - فرهنگی مناطق ساحلی بر توسعه پایدار گردشگری (مطالعه موردی: مناطق ساحلی بوشهر)

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### چکیده مبسوط

#### ۱. مقدمه

امروزه توسعه گردشگری در کشورهای مختلف چه به لحاظ اقتصادی و چه از جنبه های فرهنگی-اجتماعی و سیاسی مورد توجه همگان قرار گرفته است. توسعه گردشگری در مناطق ساحلی بخصوص در استان بوشهر که مستعد توسعه گردشگری در مناطق ساحلی می-باشد نیاز به ارزیابی تاب آوری از جنبه های مختلف اقتصادی، اجتماعی فرهنگی و زیست محیطی می باشد. در ابتدا علایق زیست محیطی بیشترین توجه را جلب کرده بود اما امروزه هر سه بعد از ارزش یکسانی برخوردارند. مدیریت گردشگری و توسعه آن در مناطق ساحلی در صورتی می تواند موفقیت آمیز باشد که ارتباط بین این دو بعد تاب آوری اجتماعی و فرهنگی شناسایی شود. در این مطالعه سعی بر آن است تا به بررسی تاب آوری بعد اجتماعی فرهنگی توسعه گردشگری در مناطق ساحلی استان بوشهر پرداخته شود. هدف از این بررسی محک پایداری یا ناپایداری توسعه گردشگری در زمینه های اجتماعی-فرهنگی رشد و توسعه گردشگری در جامعه میزبان مناطق ساحلی استان بوشهر است. به عبارتی هدف پاسخگویی به این سؤالات است که آیا تاب آوری اجتماعی-فرهنگی مناطق ساحلی بر توسعه گردشگری استان بوشهر تأثیر دارد؟ آیا خودتنظیمی اجتماعی هیجان اجتماعی، توانمندی اجتماعی و مسئولیت پذیری اجتماعی به عنوان مؤلفه تاب آوری اجتماعی بر توسعه گردشگری استان بوشهر تأثیر دارد؟ آیا تنوع فرهنگی، گویش مردم محلی، قومیت و نژاد و تنوع مذهب به عنوان مؤلفه تاب آوری فرهنگی بر توسعه گردشگری استان بوشهر تأثیر دارد؟

#### ۲. مبانی نظری تحقیق

رشد فعالیت های گردشگری در مناطق ساحلی در دهه های اخیر با تأثیرگذاری عمیق بر بنیان های اقتصادی، اجتماعی و

زیست محیطی، فرایند توسعه در حوزه مناطق ساحلی شهر بوشهر (محدوده مورد مطالعه این تحقیق)، را با چالش های جدی روبرو ساخته است. به طوری که در کنار منافع عمدتاً اقتصادی مجموعه ای از هزینه های اجتماعی و زیست محیطی و فرهنگی ناشی از رشد فعالیت های گردشگری در حوزه های گردشگری شهرستان نمایان شده است. یافته های اولیه نشان می دهد روند توسعه فعالیت های گردشگری در حوزه مورد مطالعه با تخریب منابع گردشگری و اثرات منفی بر ابعاد کالبدی، اجتماعی و فرهنگی جامعه میزبان گذاشته و از اصول توسعه پایدار گردشگری فاصله گرفته است. به عبارت دیگر به خاطر عدم برنامه راهبردی و نداشتن الگو و استراتژی خاص، روند ساخت و سازهای پراکنده فرم لجام گسیخته ای به منطقه داده که باعث تغییرات کاربری اراضی به صورت غیراصولی و پراکنده و تخریب چشم اندازهای منطقه شده است، نقش گردشگری به عنوان عامل محرک در حال تبدیل شدن به عامل مخرب در روند توسعه شهری شده است. این امر در تضاد با اصول توسعه پایدار گردشگری، به عنوان شاهدهی بر روند ناپایداری توسعه حوزه مورد مطالعه، روند نامطلوب توسعه و افول کیفیت مقصد و آفت بازارهای آتی آن را گوشزد می کند. بنابراین لازم است تا با شناخت توانمندی ها و محدودیت های موجود الگوها و استراتژی هایی تدوین گردد تا بتوان بیشترین بهره را از آن ها برد در عین حال که پایداری آن ها در جوانب مختلف نیز تضمین گردد.

#### ۳. روش تحقیق

پژوهش از نظر هدف کاربردی، و از لحاظ ماهیت تحقیق همبستگی-توصیفی می باشد. بر اساس نوع داده هایی که جمع آوری و تحلیل شد، تحقیقی کمی است. جامعه آماری تحقیق مذکور کلیه خبرگان اجتماعی-فرهنگی فعال در زمینه توسعه گردشگری (شهر بوشهر) به تعداد ۱۶۸۶ نفر بود که با توجه به فرمول کوکران ۳۱۳ نفر برای نمونه به روش تصادفی انتخاب شدند. در روش تحقیق از

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ساحلی بر سطح توسعه گردشگری استان بوشهر تأثیر معناداری دارد با سطح اطمینان ۰.۹۵ مورد تأیید قرار گرفت.

#### ۵. بحث و نتیجه گیری

با توجه به اینکه ایران و بخصوص استان بوشهر دارای سواحل زیبا و پتانسیل‌های طبیعی و جاذبه‌های سیاحتی و فرهنگی بسیار و از طرفی برخورداری از ظرفیت بالای فعالیت‌های اقتصادی به‌عنوان استانی توانمند در آماده‌سازی شرایطی مطلوب برای علاقه‌مندان است و با توجه به اینکه از ظرفیت و قابلیت مناسبی برای برگزاری انواع مسابقات آبی و ساحلی برخوردار می‌باشد، می‌تواند به‌عنوان قطبی مهم در صنعت توریسم به معنای عام و توریسم ورزشی در معنای خاص آن تلقی گردد و به‌واسطه نیاز روحی روانی انسان امروزی به تفریح در مناطق مختلف طبیعی و بخصوص ورزش‌هایی که در سواحل دریا صورت می‌گیرد، با یک برنامه‌ریزی حساب شده ضمن بهره‌گیری از استعداد مناطق مختلف استان و لحاظ کردن شرایط مختلف می‌توان در پیشبرد اهداف اقتصادی و اشتغال‌زایی گام برداشت و هم محیط مناسبی برای گردشگران به وجود آورد و همچنین بهبود زیرساخت‌ها را فراهم کند. با توجه به افزایش منابع طبیعی، وضعیت ساحل نوردی نیز افزایش می‌یابد و برخورداری از منابع طبیعی مناسب می‌تواند باعث جذب گردشگر و توسعه گردشگری ورزشی در استان شود. فضاهای ساحلی و دریایی موجود در استان، مناظر طبیعی و پوشش گیاهی خاص در بعضی از نقاط سواحل در سطح استان، وجود جانوران باقابلیت زندگی در مناطق ساحلی و حتی خشکی استان، شرایط آب‌وهوایی مناسب که در فصل زمستان دارای دمای مناسب، چشم‌اندازهای طبیعی در جزایر استان و حتی آسمان شب در سواحل به جهت رصد ستارگان همه از جاذبه‌های متنوع و جزء لاینفک منابع طبیعی این اقلیم ساحلی می‌باشند. می‌توان با برنامه‌ریزی درست و هدفمند باعث استفاده بهینه از این منابع طبیعی خدادادی شد.

**کلیدواژه‌ها:** گردشگری، تاب‌آوری اجتماعی، تاب‌آوری فرهنگی، توسعه پایدار.

#### تشکر و قدردانی

پژوهش حاضر برگرفته از رساله دکتری نویسنده اول (ایرج محبی‌زاده)، گروه علوم اجتماعی، دانشگاه آزاد اسلامی واحد بوشهر، بوشهر، ایران است.

پرسشنامه توسعه پایدار گردشگری و پرسشنامه تاب‌آوری اجتماعی - فرهنگی استفاده شد. پرسشنامه توسعه پایدار گردشگری توسط چوبی و همکاران (۲۰۰۶) در قالب ۲۰ گویه بسته پاسخ بر اساس طیف پنج‌درجه‌ای لیکرت در چهار بعد فرهنگی، زیست‌محیطی، اقتصادی و اجتماعی طراحی و اعتبار یابی شده است و پرسشنامه تاب‌آوری اجتماعی-فرهنگی مناطق ساحلی برای گردشگری توسط محققین مختلف حوزه جامعه‌شناسی در قالب ۸۰ گویه بسته پاسخ بر اساس طیف پنج‌درجه‌ای لیکرت در ابعاد خودتنظیمی اجتماعی استفاده شد که روایی و پایایی آن نیز مورد آزمون قرار گرفت. برای بررسی روابط علی بین متغیرها به‌صورت منسجم کوشش‌های زیادی در دهه اخیر صورت گرفته است. یکی از این روش‌ها برای انجام تحلیل عاملی تأییدی، معادلات ساختاری یا تحلیل چند متغیری با متغیرهای مکنون است.

#### ۴. یافته‌های تحقیق

نتایج یافته‌ها نشان داد که تأثیر تاب‌آوری اجتماعی-فرهنگی مناطق ساحلی بر توسعه گردشگری به‌عنوان متغیر وابسته برابر با ۰/۷۶۷ است. همچنین ضریب رگرسیونی بعد فرهنگی، بعد زیست‌محیطی، بعد اقتصادی و بعد اجتماعی به ترتیب برابر با ۰/۷۱۳، ۰/۸۳۹، ۰/۷۷۳ و ۰/۶۱۱ محاسبه شد. مقدار ضریب تعیین ( $R^2$ ) برای متغیر توسعه پایدار گردشگری ۰/۵۸۹ می‌باشد که بیان‌گر آن است که میزان ۵۸/۹ درصد از تغییرات توسعه پایدار گردشگری در مناطق ساحلی توسط تاب‌آوری اجتماعی-فرهنگی تبیین می‌شود و این مقدار برای بعد فرهنگی، زیست‌محیطی، اقتصادی و اجتماعی نیز به ترتیب برابر با ۰/۵۰۸، ۰/۷۰۳، ۰/۵۹۷ و ۰/۳۷۳ محاسبه شده است که به ترتیب برابر با ۵۰/۸ درصد، ۷۰/۳ درصد، ۵۹/۷ درصد و ۳۷/۳ درصد می‌باشد. بیشترین بعد تأثیرپذیر توسعه پایدار گردشگری در مناطق ساحلی بوشهر مربوط به بعد زیست‌محیطی بوده است و جهت این اثربخشی با توجه به علامت مثبت ضرایب رگرسیونی در مدل ایجاد شده، از نوع سازنده و مستقیم می‌باشد، بدین معنی که با بهبود وضعیت تاب‌آوری اجتماعی و فرهنگی در مناطق میزان توسعه پایدار گردشگری در چهار بعد مطرح شده شامل ابعاد فرهنگی، زیست‌محیطی، اقتصادی و اجتماعی افزایش و بهبود خواهد یافت. پس درنهایت این فرضیه که تاب‌آوری اجتماعی-فرهنگی مناطق

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