

Analysis the Role of Women's Participation in the Safety of Urban Spaces Using Strategic Planning Approach (A Case of Saqqez City, Iran)

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Abstract

Nowadays, the providing of women's safety in the presence of urban spaces in the third world cities is one of the most critical issues in the urban planning system. Then, one of the main concerns of urban policy makers and urban planners in these countries is making the safety urban spaces by attracting women's participation in the urban projects. In order to, the aim of this research is analysis the role of Kurdish women's participation in the safety of urban spaces using strategic approaches with the point of Saqqez city. To obtain this goal, it was used for descriptive- analytical studies, document and questionnaire in the frame of Delphi model and software analyzes. In order to, after holding the initial discussion sessions with 30 academic elites and executive's managers of the Saqqez city as research, statistical society, there were identified 16 variables in the frame of 6 general classifications. In continuation, the primary variables were defined in the Mic Mac and SMIC future study software's in the context of amidst cross impact methods. Then, it was asked from the statistical society to assess the variables in term of the direct, indirect and potential influence-dependence rates from the range 0 (null) to 3 (strong influence). The results showed that the obtained fill rate is equal to 93.35% with two data iteration, which it represents the highest level of variables influencing of each other. Also, by considering the results, we can understand that the WL5 variable with 34 total number of row scores had the most direct impact on other variables and WL3 with 21610 total number of column score had the highest rate of indirect impact on other variables. Finally, it will be presented the level of variable implementation by SMIC analyses.

Key Words: Strategic Approaches, Mic Mac analyses, Women's Safety, Urban Planning, Saqqez City.

1. Introduction

There is a growing literature that documents the vital role women play in the community, development and housing in general and in the sustainable urban development in particular (Bahramitash & Fanni, 2011). A main part of that literature considers the violence against women in the urban areas. The United Nations has defined violence against women very broadly to include such issues as interpersonal violence in the home, violence against women in public space, trafficking, violence in post-conflict situations and harmful gender-based practices. Therefore, a gender-sensitive and gender-equal public space proactively considers in its design the safety and comfort of all community members and fosters interaction between people of all genders. Gender-sensitive public space by their design enhances women's safety and feelings of security, through lighting, or access to public transportation. Other important areas of consideration involve

landscaping, visibility, signage, and proximity to other public spaces (UN 2006). In this between, the urban public spaces have an important role in the urban development programs. This is due to the effect of these spacing in reinforcing the cultural – social aspects of the city and as the result of the production of social capital. The main features of these spaces, gathering people with different cultures and with individual and social characteristics. It means that the city and its urban spaces are the places of use and showing groups and various sectors of society that each of them based on specific social and cultural features of each individual has different expectations from these spaces (Alamdari & Habib, 2012).

According to the world's women 2010 - trends and a statistics report, violence against women is a universal phenomenon and women are subjected to different forms of violence – physical, sexual, psychological and economic – both within and outside their homes (Cecile Rich, 2012). Based on UN Women, up to 70% of women will experience violence in their lifetime, and a woman abuser is usually known to her (UN Women, 2011). Women and girls face violence and the threat of violence at every stage of their lives, across all communities, cultures, and countries (United Nations Development Fund for Women, 2003) and in all spaces they inhabit – homes, workplaces, educational institutions, streets and public urban spaces. Women's fear of violence restricts their movement, limiting their use of public spaces and moved from their homes to the public or other private spaces (Women and The City II, 2013). In the view of Parson, two elements of the physical environment and the ultimate values have the most effect on the people's role in the establishing and maintaining of urban safety. In the way that the physical-organic environment provides environmental facilities for individuals (like these exist in any family and neighborhood: the existence of participatory organizations and barriers to development and participation) and the ultimate value will monitor the future (such as hope for the future and improvement of the condition). Thus the collaborative macro-level factors bound human reactions, but although the human is bound to social, economic and cultural conditions, he can alter these structures with his reactions (Crib, 2009; Tavasoli, 1994; Ritter's, 2008; Yazdanpanah, 2004; Khammar & Heydari, 2013).

Urban Planning and planning education are becoming increasingly sensitive to gender perspectives in response to the past tendency to exclude the experiences of women in urban space when defining, interpreting and acting upon planning issues. Tertiary Planning courses have now included subjects such as Gender and planning aiming to explore, examine, analyses and challenge conventional planning thought and practice from the perspective of gender (Ferretti, 1997). Then, critics have highlighted the failure of social theory and began investigating the structural differences of gender and gender inequality. This fight was made not only just in further symbolic composition and

materialistic interior of space and family atmosphere, but also was required for the claims based on that presence in public space (Alamdari & Habib, 2012). On this basis, Planning and designing safe public spaces for women and girls means creating public spaces with features that enhance women's safety and feelings of safety and detract from the features that cause women's insecurity and feelings of insecurity (Kiani & Heydari, 2011). While planning and designing safe public spaces for women, planners, designers and architects place special focus on lighting, landscaping, visibility, motorized traffic, pedestrian traffic, urban furniture, potential hiding spots, signage, security personnel, proximity to other public spaces, proximity to emergency services, and access to public transportation. Each of these areas is given particular consideration from the perspective of the women and girls who use public spaces (International Plan, 2010).

Also, safety planning and design involve more than just the concrete, physical features of a space, although interventions at this level may occur first in a safe city for women program (Werkerle, 2000). It is a necessarily participatory process whereby community members (especially women) work together to create spaces that accommodate strong social relations. In order to be successful, planners and designers must pay attention to how people express themselves in, and interact with, public space (Weingartner, 2010; Rahnama & Heydari, 2013; Kyung-Hwan, 2002). In continuous as Jacob believes, the presence of people in urban spaces will have issues such as safety and social security as its followings. Reliance on public oversight in urban space designing, creating a special focus, increasing intensity and mixing, and utilization of the space and the proper skeletal organization, all of the sustainable and qualitative aspects of public realms. Public spaces must be open to all classes, age and gender groups and social minorities at all hours of the day. They must be safe and easy transportation must be provided (Khammar & et al., 2011). According to Golmoradi's research in the University of Kermanshah (2011), the rise of urban insecurity attracted many socialists' attention. He concludes that factors such as rate of cultural promotion ($r=0/17$), the rate of urban authenticity, the rate of participation in subjective and objective dimension have a positive and significant correlation with the decrease of insecurity (Golmoradi, 2011). As a result of most land use and zoning decisions, different types of spaces with different uses are kept far apart from each other (Tavakoli & Heydari, 2012). This approach is based on the belief that spaces work more efficiently if they are divided into separate areas for recreation, work, and housing. Unfortunately, this kind of spatial separation has compounded the traditional division between the public and the private spheres. The separation of public and private spheres is problematic because it can limit women's abilities to move between different spaces in the city (Pant, 2013). For example, for women who are responsible for domestic tasks in the private sphere, including care-giving for children and/or elderly

relatives, buying and/or growing food, maintaining the family home, and doing all number of errands and juggling resources, it can be virtually impossible to also squeeze in a trip to a separate part of the city for recreational activities. As a consequence, women simply may not be able to enjoy leisure time in spaces designated for recreation (Gopalakrishnan, 1997). In another example, women may have to decline an employment opportunity if it is located in a public area that is far away from their other daytime responsibilities in the private realm (e.g. Family-related chores, care-taking roles). Conversely, women may opt or be obliged to take a job (e.g. Due to poverty, to make a living) even if it is inconveniently located, and are thus forced to take long journeys early in the morning and late at night through areas where they feel insecure and their safety is at risk (Xang & et al, 2013). In order to, the aim of this research is analysis the role of Kurdish women's participation in the safety of urban spaces using strategic approaches with the point of Saqqez city.

2. Study Area

The Kurds and their Iranian ancestors have lived in Saqqez and its surrounding area since about 1000 BC. By the mid-seventh century BC the Scythians reached their zenith in western Asia under Bartatua, and the Saqqez region was their political center. During the pre-Islamic era Saqqez and its surrounding area made up a small country, Sagapeni, believed to be related to the ancient Iranian Sakas (Scythians) from which the city's name derives (Wikipedia, 2016). Accordingly, there are the numerous Iranian cities in the border areas and in this between, Saqqez is one of the most important regional settlement in the Kurdistan province of Iran. Also, Saqqez city is located between 46°13'-46°16' eastern longitude and 36°11'-36°15' northern latitude within the north-west of Kurdistan province in northwest of Iran and covers of approximately 1474.8 ha. At the 2006 census, the city's population was 135037, whereas its current population is about 145000. Building area was 618.26 ha. The average elevation of the city is about 1496 m above mean sea level. Saqqez is characterized as a mountainous area which is located within Zagros Mountains ranges from southeast to north-west. This area comprises about 15.5% of Kurdistan province. The difference of height between the highest elevation point (Chehel-Cheshme Mountain, 3173 m and Symone-Rood basin, 1150 m above mean sea level) is about 2023 m. Saqqez River emanates from western mountains (Khan valley) and continues its path across the city toward northeast. Fig. 2 shows location of study area in Kurdistan province, Iran (Rahimi, 2012). Also, it has a 987 Km² common border with Iraq country. The western border of Iran was specified by the border commission according to the Goldsmith Plan in September 1871 (Taheri, 1977).

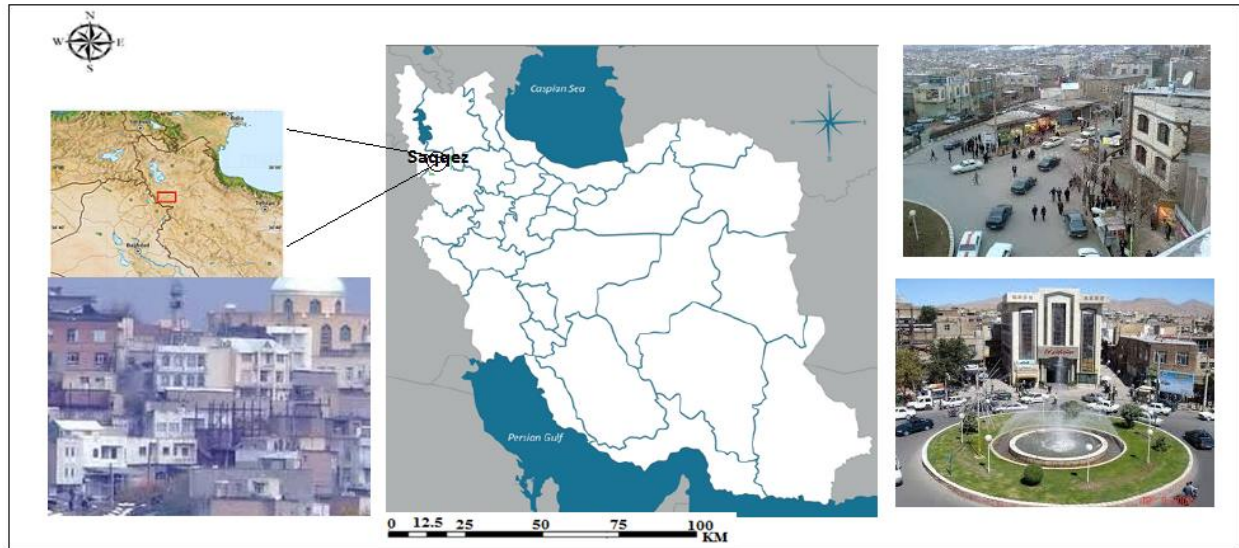


Fig.1. A view of study area and city.

3. Material and Methods

To obtain the research subject, it was used for descriptive- analytical studies, document and questionnaire in the frame of Delphi model and software analyzes. In order to, after holding the initial discussion sessions with 30 academic elites and executive's managers the Saqqez city as research statistical society, there were identified 16 variables in the frame of 6 general classifications. In continuation, the primary variables were defined in the Mic Mac and SMIC future study software's in the context of cross impact matrix and the amidst cross impact methods. Then, it was asked from the statistical society to assess the variables in term of the direct, indirect and potential influence- dependence rates by giving scores 0 to P values (0=Null, 1=Weak, 2=Average, 3=Strong, P=Potential effect). Finally, key variables were entered into the amidst cross impact method in the frame of scenario planning software. Here the expert can only describe the hypothesis realization probability on a scale from 1 to 5 (weak probability of high probability respectively), hence avoiding any lack of precision on the expert's part.

4. Findings and Results

4.1. Identify the primary indicators and cross impact matrix

Classification the effective women's safety indicators of Saqqez city was performed in the framework of a matrix with $n \times n$ size. For this purpose, 6 main categories of variables (table 1) along with the 16 subcommittees' variables were identified as the primary variables after the holding meetings with the academic and executive's elites. Then, by entering the variables into the mic mac software, it was attempting to define each of the variables according to their subsidiaries and identity.

In the next step, it was asked for the experts to give scores to the variables based on the influence and effectiveness rate of variables on each other. Therefore, as it was stated in the methodology section, given the concessions to the variables from 0 to 3 and P (0=Null, 1=Weak, 2=Average, 3=Strong, P=Potential effect). Then, we have obtained to a cross impact matrix as figure (2).

	1: WL1	2: WL2	3: WL3	4: WL4	5: WL5	6: CC1	7: CC2	8: CC3	9: SR1	10: SR2	11: WS1	12: WS2	13: WS3	14: UF1	15: SJ1	16: SJ2
1: WL1	0	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
2: WL2	3	0	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
3: WL3	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
4: WL4	3	2	2	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
5: WL5	2	2	3	2	0	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2
6: CC1	2	2	3	2	2	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
7: CC2	2	1	2	1	2	1	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	1
8: CC3	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
9: SR1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
10: SR2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	0	2	2	1	1	1	1
11: WS1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
12: WS2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1
13: WS3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	0	1	2	1
14: UF1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	2	1
15: SJ1	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	1
16: SJ2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0

Fig.2. CIM on Kurdish Women's Participation in the Safety of Urban Spaces.

Source: Findings, 2017.

With relied to the findings, we can say that the obtained fill rate is equal to 93.35% with two data iteration, which it represents the high level of variables influencing of each other. This situation shows the efficiency of the research tool and the verification of collected data by distributing the questionnaires in a very desirable level.

Table (1) primary matrix features

INDICATOR	VALUE
Matrix size	16
Number of iterations	2
Number of zeros	17
Number of ones	85
Number of twos	132
Number of threes	22
Number of P	0
Total	239
Fill rate	93.35938%

Source: Findings, 2017.

4.2. Direct influence- dependency analysis

In continuous, we have obtained to CIM and based on the table (1), since the 239 calculated values in the framework of the cross-impact matrix by the elites, 132 cases with the highest statistical volume had the moderate impact on other variables (2: moderate impact). Also, 85 numbers have the weakest impact; 22, 17 and 0 cases, ordinary had the strong, null and potential impact on the other variables.

In continuous, in the context of table (2), there are provided the categorized variables in the belongings to variables number and abbreviation of each variable.

Table (2)

Direct values of women's safety variables in the study area

N°	Variables	Brief Abbreviation	Total Number of Rows	Total Number of Column
1	Without function Land use	WL1	31	28
2	Child protection Land Use	WL2	33	26
3	Public Land uses & woman's	WL3	27	32
4	Private Land Uses & woman's	WL4	29	27
5	Open & Pleasure Land use	WL5	34	27
6	Space people Absorption	CC1	31	24
7	Space identity	CC2	20	28
8	Cultural condition & in urban area	CC3	20	31
9	Cultural teachings & WP	SR1	32	29
10	Space safety & Religious Potential	SR2	28	25
11	space immunization & urban elements	WS1	17	25
12	Immunization in urban movement	WS2	20	23
13	Sexual immunization in the urban spaces	WS3	22	21
14	Accessibility of urban immunity facilities	UF1	21	22
15	Justice in the accessibility to women's facilities	SJ1	24	23
16	Justice in distribution of urban facilities by considering sexuality needs	SJ2	26	24
Total	---	WL1	415	415

Source: Findings, 2017.

According to tables (1) and (2) and by considering the analysis results of research, we can understand that there are different practical important kinds of variables in women's safety in the study area system. By considering the fig (1) and Tables (1) to (2), we can understand that the WS1 (space immunization & urban elements) had the lowest influencing coefficient from other variables. Also, WS3 (Sexual immunization in the urban spaces) with the 21 column rate had the lowest direct dependency on the other variables. According to calculated column rates the public land uses and woman's (WL3), Cultural condition & in urban area (CC3), Cultural teachings and woman's Participatory (SR1) with 32, 31 and 29 had the most direct dependency to other research variables. Therefore, with relied on the findings, Open & Pleasure Land use index (WL5) with 34 scores and woman's Participatory (SR1) with 32 scores had the most direct impact on other variables. In the figure (6), the distribution of research variables in the diagram page were done according to variables status in the analyses and the planar identity of some other variables.

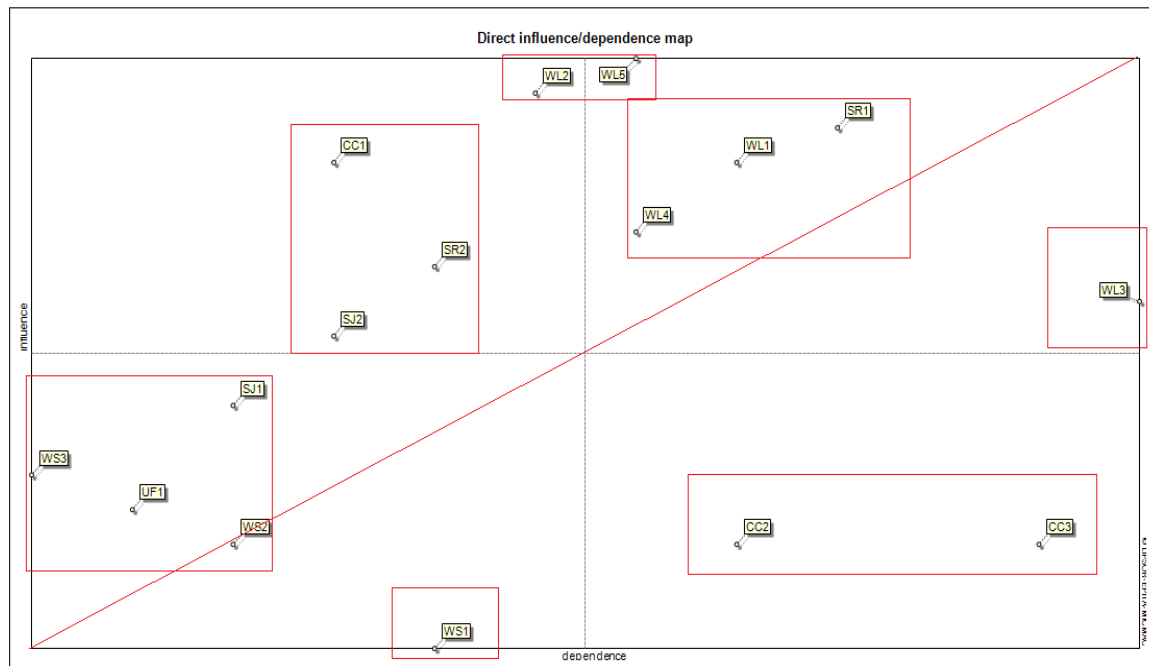


Fig.3. distribution of variables according to direct influence- dependency & their planar identity.
Source: Findings, 2017.

By attention to the findings of figure (3), we can obtain to figure (4) as below.

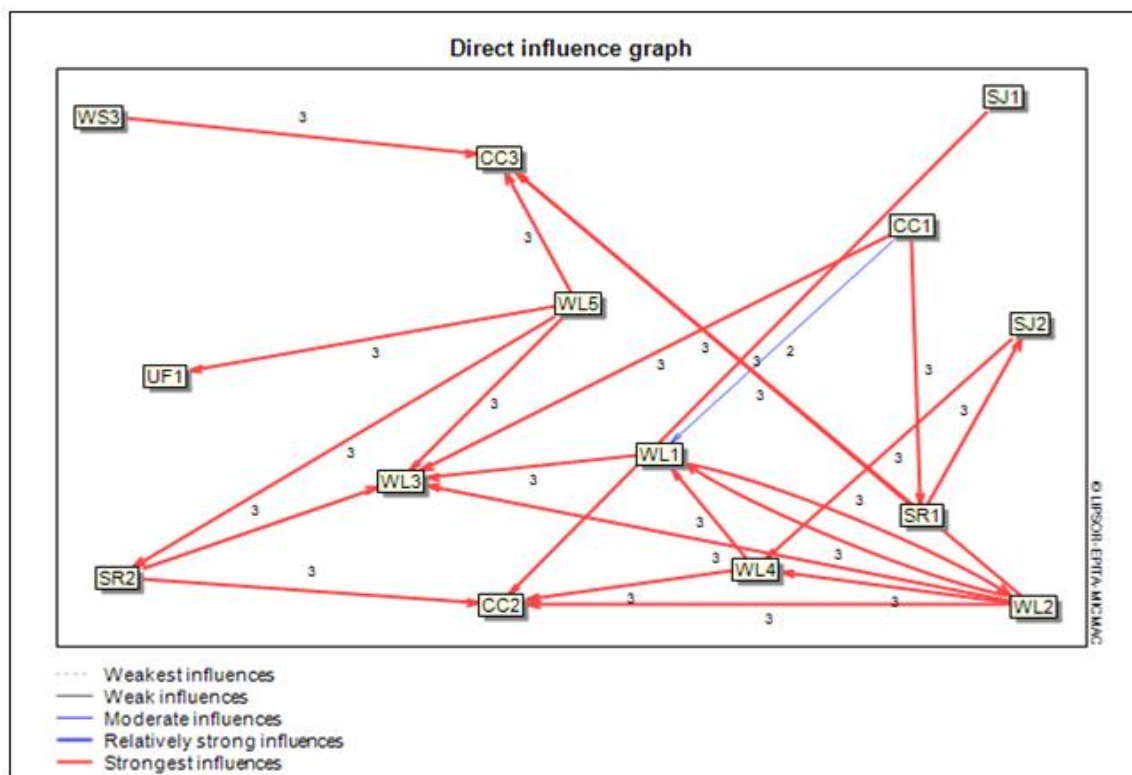


Fig.4. distribution of variables according to direct influence- dependency.
Source: Findings, 2017.

4.3. Indirect influence- dependency analysis

In continuous, to assess the indirect influence-dependency rate, we will be stable after a multiplication of degree 3, 4 or 5. Therefore, the instability situation of the Saqqez women's safety was confirmed at a high level through the obtained data from the analysis of the indirect variables influences on each other's.

Table (3)

Indirect values of women's safety variables in the study area

N°	Variables	Brief Abbreviation	Total Number of Rows	Total Number of Column
1	Without function Land use	WL1	21060	18981
2	Child protection Land Use	WL2	22134	17744
3	Public Land uses & woman's	WL3	18659	21610
4	Private Land Uses & woman's	WL4	19761	18212
5	Open & Pleasure Land use	WL5	22475	18446
6	Space people Absorption	CC1	20967	16465
7	Space identity	CC2	14188	19007
8	Cultural condition in urban area	CC3	13708	20922
9	Cultural teachings & WP	SR1	21247	19506
10	Space safety & Religious Potential	SR2	19038	17143
11	space immunization & urban elements	WS1	11905	16944
12	Immunization in urban movement	WS2	14092	15451
13	Sexual immunization in the urban spaces	WS3	14684	14564
14	Accessibility of urban immunity facilities	UF1	14637	15272
15	Justice in the accessibility to women's facilities	SJ1	16032	15655
16	Justice in distribution of urban facilities by considering sexuality needs	SJ2	17939	16604
Total	---	WL1	415	415

Source: Findings, 2017.

Such a way that, the variable distribution is more in the around of diagonal lines in the northeast sector and the southeast part of the diagram. Thus, the most variables of this section have a planar identity. Such variables at the same time are very influential and impressionable. So, it is caused by the exacerbating or damping effects of variations due to their instability nature. We can understand that, the variety of open and pleasure land use (WL5), child protection land use (WL2), cultural teachings and woman's participatory (SR1), without function land use (WL1) and space people absorption (CC1) with the 22245, 22134, 21247, 21060 and 21247 row points have the highest indirect impact on the other variables respectively. Meanwhile, the indexes of public land use and woman's (WL3), Cultural condition & in urban area (CC3), cultural teachings and woman's participatory (SR1) and space identity (CC2) with the 21610, 20922, 19506 and 19007 column points have the highest indirect dependency rather other variant.

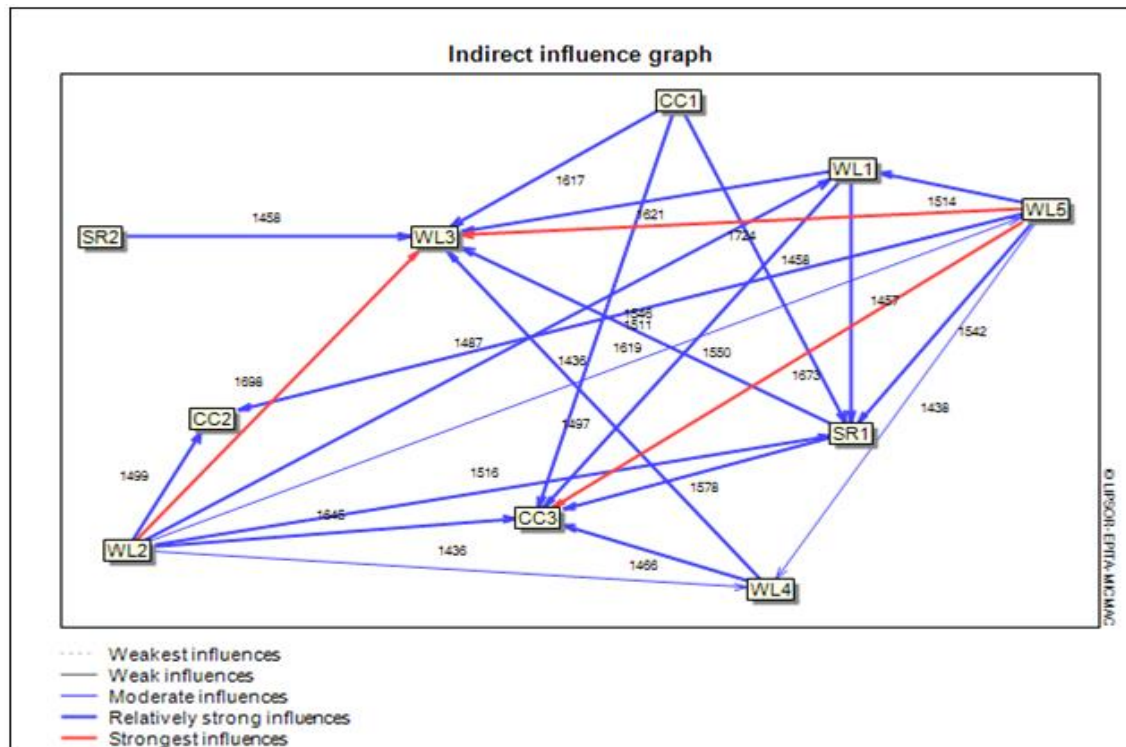


Fig.5. distribution of variables according to direct influence- dependency.
Source: Findings, 2017.

4.4. Indirect and direct potential influence- dependency analysis

According to the research findings, we can say that the variables of open & pleasure land use (WL5), child protection land use (WL2) and cultural teachings and woman's participatory (SR1) with the 34, 33 and 32 sorted values had the highest level of direct potential influences on the other variables. Also, these rates for the indirect influences are consists of 22475, 22134 and 21060 ordinary to the open & pleasure land use (WL5), child protection land use (WL2) and the without function land use (WL1) factors.

Table (4) Indirect and direct potential influence- dependency in the study area

N°	Variables	Brief Abbreviation	Total Number of Rows	Total Number of Column
1	Without function Land use	WL1	31	28
2	Child protection Land Use	WL2	33	26
3	Public Land uses & woman's	WL3	27	32
4	Private Land Uses & woman's	WL4	29	27
5	Open & Pleasure Land use	WL5	34	27
6	Space people Absorption	CC1	31	24
7	Space identity	CC2	20	28
8	Cultural condition & in urban area	CC3	20	31
9	Cultural teachings & WP	SR1	32	29
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14	Accessibility of urban immunity facilities	UF1	21	22
15	Justice in the accessibility to women's facilities	SJ1	24	23
16	Justice in distribution of urban facilities by considering sexuality needs	SJ2	26	24

Total	---	WL1	415	415
Indirect potential influence- dependency				
1	Without function Land use	WL1	21060	18981
2	Child protection Land Use	WL2	22134	17744
3	Public Land uses & woman's	WL3	18659	21610
4	Private Land Uses & woman's	WL4	19761	18212
5	Open & Pleasure Land use	WL5	22475	18446
6	Space people Absorption	CC1	20967	16465
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14	Accessibility of urban immunity facilities	UF1	14637	15272
15	Justice in the accessibility to women's facilities	SJ1	16032	15655
16	Justice in distribution of urban facilities by considering sexuality needs	SJ2	17939	16604
Total	---	WL1	415	415

Source: Findings, 2017.

Then, we can present the key driving forces of women's safety in the public urban spaces of Saqqez city as the table (5).

Table (5) The Key affecting variables of women's safety in the public urban spaces of Saqqez city

Key direct influencing factors	Brief Abbreviation	Key indirect influencing factors	Brief Abbreviation
Public Land uses & woman's	WL3	Child protection Land Use	WL2
Cultural condition & in urban area	CC3	Open & Pleasure Land use	WL5
Cultural teachings & WP	SR1	Cultural teachings & WP	SR1
Open & Pleasure Land use	WL5	Without function Land use	WL1

Source: Findings, 2017.

By entering the key forces of urban environment in the study area to the amidst cross impact methods in the frame of SMIC software, we can define the key forces into four assumptions of consistent scenario (CS), middle scenario (MS), weal scenario (WS) and inconsistent scenario (IS).

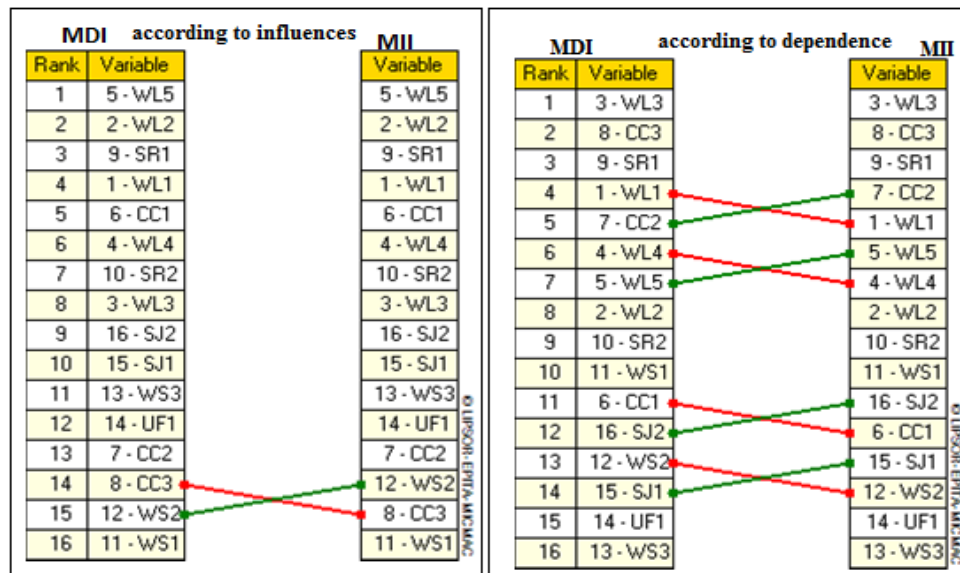


Fig.6. Indirect and direct potential influence- dependency.

Source: Findings, 2017.

According to the overall approach of the research, it can be stated that after the identifying of variables and assess the relationship between them by the executive and academic elites, 16 final variables were evaluated in the framework of the natural step approach key assumptions. Finally, 4 variables were selected as the key influencing and affecting forces as the table (5). In the meantime, due to the proximity of some research indices to each other, we have used of these parameters in the context of a supplementary variable to the scenario planning process. Also, to complete the requirements of scenario providing, some indices were added to the previous list and they were applied in the process of favorable, tragedy and middle scenarios providing. Therefore, by considering the courses of strategic planning (5-10 years as the short term, 10- 20 years as the medium term and upper than 30 years as the long term), this research has considered the 15 year study period to explain the Role of Kurdish Women's Participation in the Safety of Urban Spaces Using Strategic Approaches.

Table (6) The Research Scenarios

Key Elements	Favorable scenario	Tragedy scenario	Middle scenario
Public Land use	Increasing the urban land uses safety to the women's	Lake the utilizing of safe urban land uses	Continuation of present situation
Cultural conditions	Utilization of cultural capacities	Incomplete Utilization of cultural capacities	Lake the utilizing of cultural capacities
Space identity	Increasing attention to the indigenous and local identity	Low attention to the indigenous and local identity	Continuation of present situation

Source: Findings, 2017.

5. Conclusion

According to the presented results and background, the reliability of research tool was measured through formation the discussion meetings, developing the key assumptions and refine the questionnaire basis on the elite's views. Therefore, it can be understood easily from the findings as part of the research that the safety of urban spaces in the Saqqez city is faced with huge volatility, so that the continuation of current status will lead to the formation of disaster scenario and in the best situation, if the current process continues the urban safety will be accompanied by widespread destruction. We can understand that the WS1 (space immunization & urban elements) had the lowest influencing coefficient from other variables. Also, WS3 (Sexual immunization in the urban spaces) with the 21 column rate had the lowest direct dependency on the other variables. According to calculated column rates the public land uses and woman's (WL3), Cultural condition & in urban area (CC3), Cultural teachings and woman's Participatory (SR1) with 32, 31 and 29 had the most direct dependency to other research variables. Therefore, with relied on the findings, Open & Pleasure Land use index (WL5) with 34 scores and woman's Participatory (SR1) with 32 scores had the most direct

impact on other variables. Meanwhile, the indexes of public land use and woman's (WL3), Cultural condition & in urban area (CC3), cultural teachings and woman's participatory (SR1) and space identity (CC2) with the 21610, 20922, 19506 and 19007 column points have the highest indirect dependency rather other variant.

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