



The Impact of Environmental Security on Family Support for Children's Active Transportation

Forough Fereydoni ^a, Aliye Arasteh ^b, Sedigheh Khajeaflaton ^c,
Tina Soltan Ahmadi ^d, Fourough ShafaeianFard ^{e*}

^a Master Student of Sport Management, Farabi Campus University of Tehran, Qom, Iran. foroghi.forogh68@gmail.com

^b Education Teacher, Exceptional Children, Tehran, Iran. Aliyeh.arasteh2@gmail.com

^c Department of Physical Education, Farhangian University, Gorgan, Iran. s.khajeaflaton@ymail.com

^d Department of Physical Education, Gorgan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Gorgan, Iran.

Soltanahmadi.tina@gmail.com

^e M.A Student, Iran

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Abstract

The present study examines the impact of environmental security on Family Support for Children's Active Transportation. The method is the survey in terms of the data collection method. The population is the parents of students in Shiraz, District 6. These include male high school students. Five schools were identified after identifying the boys' secondary schools. 490 students were in these schools. Based on the convenience sampling method, 217 people were identified based on Morgan's table as a research sample. Therefore, 197 questionnaires were analyzed after distributing and collecting research questionnaires. The data collection tool was a questionnaire. The statistical method is the structural equation modeling with SPSS and PLS. The results show that environmental security significantly affects family support for Children's Active Transportation (effect = 0.856; $t = 35.84$). Increasing environmental security increases the Family Support for Children's Active Transportation.

Keywords: active transportation, environmental security, parents.

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1. Introduction

For all groups, including children, sports activities development is essential (Owen et al., 2021). Children's development of sports activities is always constrained by family support (Rodriguez et al., 2018). play a valuable role in societies today in all cultural, social, economic, infrastructural, and political dimensions due to the scope of the impact of sport on various fields (Honari et al., 2020). Dana et al. (2021) stated that it is essential to improve students' mental health using home-based interventions (dana et al., 2021).

Family support is one of the most critical issues in developing and improving children's sports. Today, the emphasis on child support systems enhancement is on families' agenda (Eime et al., 2013). At the same time, families are always concerned to encourage children to play sports; (Strandbu et al., 2020). environmental security is identified as one of the most important and necessary issues to improve sports activities (Stathi et al., 2012).

Although most research in the field of sports performance enhancement has focused on individual factors (Martin, Kelly, Boyle, Corlett &

* Corresponding Author: Forough.arc.eng@gmail.com

Reilly, 2016; Bouchard & Rankinen, 2001), the importance of some environmental and safety factors are also evident (Giles-Corti & Donovan, 2002; Pan et al., 2009). However, Foster & Giles-Corti (2008) stated that the simultaneous study of some personal, safety, and environmental aspects of some attitudes and behaviors related to exercise among individuals leads to extensive scientific evidence in this regard.

On the other hand, environmental factors affect the activities of individuals. The term environment is unlimited and includes all items outside a region and organization and consists of factors that directly or indirectly affect the organization. The environment can often be divided into smaller parts. Patterns and events in different parts of the environment have different dimensions and affect organizations and phenomena. The influence of environmental factors on social phenomena is undeniable because the environment is like the context in which social phenomena occur and influence and are influenced by environmental factors (Evenson, Sarmiento, Tawney, Macon & Ammerman, 2003). Environmental factors include some physical and social aspects that lead to a unique environment around us. The physical aspects of environmental factors include some aesthetic and location issues that create a good image of an environment or damage the image. The social aspects of the environment refer to interpersonal and intergroup communication and interactions. Environmental differences in physical and social aspects have led to a wide variety of environments around us today. This extent has made the environment an influential factor to play an essential and valuable role in improving and expanding some activities, including sports. Due to their extent and their significant role in various aspects of sports, environmental factors can accelerate the generalization of leisure activities (Saffari and Ghareh, 2016). The interaction between personal characteristics and environmental factors has made the perception of the environment around people following the facts and influenced by the personality aspects of individuals. This makes the environment safe or unsafe for people (Foster and Giles-Corti, 2008). Understanding a safe environment is one of the necessities of promoting sports, especially some public sports. The insecurity of a social environment leads to lost environment dynamism; in other words, the tendency to engage in public activities among individuals is reduced. On the other hand, proper design of the environment and following the characteristics of people makes them able to improve people's participation in various activities. Understanding the safety of an environment is an essential issue in any space

under study (Doyle, Kelly, Schlossberg, & Stockard, 2006).

Urban space is a context where human activities and behaviors are formed, and human beings' social and cultural relations occur. This space changes according to different conditions (Muller, 2018). One of the crucial needs of today's spaces is strengthening safety. Safety has a broad meaning and includes various psychological, economic, and social dimensions. In general, safety can be defined as freedom from fear and intimidation and non-violation of human rights. Security and safety have been proposed as one of the most influential factors in urban settlements' economic, social, and cultural development. As a result, the security of urban spaces is considered one of the necessities in urban design and planning (Anifowose & Ilias, 2015).

One of the sports activities is active transportation. Active transportation is one of the transportation systems closely related to sports activities. In other words, the use of active transportation requires incentive systems in this regard (Jones et al., 2019). There are many reasons why individuals are motivated to participate in sports. For athletes to participate in and keep up the exercise, investigating the participation motivation is necessary (Dana, 2020).

The development of sports motivation as one of the critical issues can play a fundamental role in advancing social and health goals and policies. Today, many researchers have designed and implemented various approaches to developing sports (Te Velde et al., 2018).

Nowadays, sport and physical activity have become a social phenomenon to be studied in two local and global scopes (Niknezhad et al., 2016).

One of the everyday activities in active transportation is cycling (Yeh et al., 2021). Cycling provides safe, secure, and cost-effective transportation for the whole family. Regular exercise increases the attention span, reduces mood disorder and anxiety in children, develops children's social skills, and creates valuable social networks in groups and with the presence of other children (Sharifian et al., 2016). In general, cycling has social, environmental, energy, personal and economic benefits by reducing motor vehicles (Emadi et al., 2014). Another everyday activity in active transportation is Walking, a critical issue for health, physical and mental benefits (Steinbach, Green, Datta & Edwards, 2011). Therefore, active transportation is understood as an essential issue. Given the importance of commitment to the next generation, Active transportation is one of the standard methods in developing commitment to the next generation. Commitment to the next generation is definite and necessary (Honari et al., 2021), and the development of active transportation is an essential and critical strategy

in this regard (Oxley, 2015). The importance of family support for sports activities, mainly the Children's Active Transportation, has led to an understanding of environmental security functions. Therefore, this study investigates the impact of environmental security on the Family Support for Children's Active Transportation. Therefore, the main question is whether environmental security affects the Family Support for Children's Active Transportation?

2. Method

The study is descriptive and applied in terms of purpose, and the field method is used. The method is the survey in terms of data collection. The population was the parents of students in District 6 of Shiraz. These include 5 male high school students. Five schools were identified after identifying the boys' secondary schools. 490 students were in these schools. Based on the convenience sampling method, 217 people were identified based on Morgan's table as a research sample. Therefore, 197 questionnaires were analyzed after distributing and collecting research questionnaires.

Data collection tools to assess environmental security included a Foster & Giles-Corti's 5-item questionnaire (2008), and a researcher-made 8-

item questionnaire was used to examine family support for children's active transportation. In this study, after calculating Cronbach's alpha, the reliability of the variables was 0.79 for the environmental security variable and 0.82 for the family support for the Children's Active Transportation variable. Also, concerning the final questionnaire for distribution, content validity was obtained using a survey of 10 sports experts; Therefore, the content validity of the research tools was confirmed. Divergent and convergent validity were also examined and confirmed in the present study; Therefore, the questionnaire has good reliability and validity.

Partial least squares structural equation modeling approach has been used. According to the distribution of the research sample and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistical method, the distribution is not normal, so there are preconditions for variance-based software, and it is necessary to use PLS software. The whole process of analysis was performed in SPSS 20 and PLS 2.

3. Findings

Figures 1 and 2 show the measurement model and t value

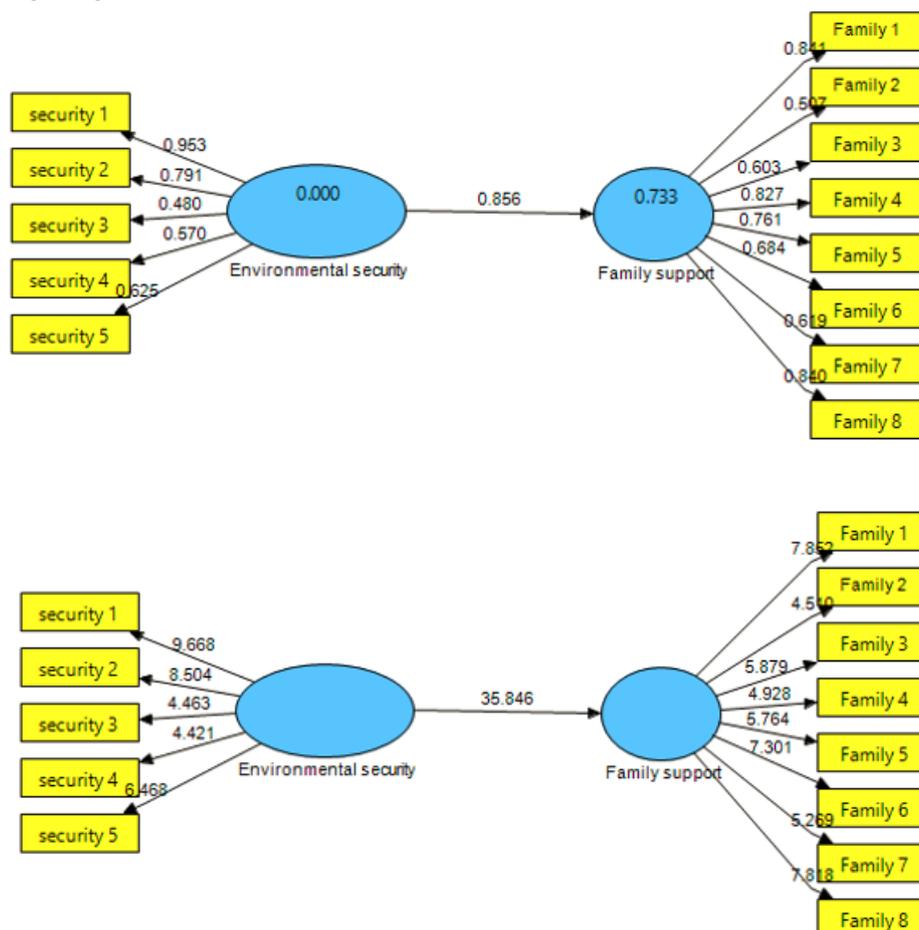


Figure 2: t values of the research model

The results showed that environmental security significantly affects family support for Children's Active Transportation (effect = 0.856; t = 35.84). Increasing environmental security increases the Family Support for Children's Active Transportation. Table 1 shows a summary of the results of the research model.

Table 1: the research model Information

Relationship	effect	T
family support for Children's Active Transportation	0.856	35.846

Table 2 shows the model fit indices.

Table 2: research model fit indices

	Environmental security	Family support
Composite reliability	0.91	0.93
Convergent validity	0.64	0.61
R ²	-	0.73
Overall fit	-	0.66

According to the selected indices, the model has a good fit.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

Children's Active Transportation is one of the crucial issues in interdisciplinary fields such as sports, urban, and lifestyle. Because Children's Active Transportation behaviors are vital and on the other hand, their mobility is faced with unique restrictions such as parental restrictions, compulsory school attendance, and inability to drive a motor vehicle before late adolescence, this study aims to examine the effect of environmental security on the Family Support Children's Active Transportation. The results showed that environmental security significantly affects the Family Support for Children's Active Transportation. Increasing environmental security increases the Family Support for Children's Active Transportation. This issue is addressed in various studies. Kwiatkowski (2018) examines urban cycling as an indicator of socio-economic innovation and sustainable transport and found that sustainable urban transport is significant, as stated in strategic documents, and reduces the adverse effects of human pressure.

Buehler and Pucher (2012) evaluated cycling to work in 90 large US cities using the statistical method of correlation and regression and found cities with a high degree of cycling safety, low bicycle ownership, more student, less dispersion, and higher fuel prices have more levels of cycling.

They also found that the number of hot and cold days and public transport support did not significantly affect the level of cycling in large cities. Jing et al. (2010), in an online study since 2006, examined the intention to travel by bicycle in six cities in the western United States. They found that the social and physical environments are essential in balancing recreational cycling with transportation cycling. Pucher et al. (2011) stated that several measures related to infrastructure, parking-related factors, integration of cycling routes with the public transportation system, programs, and legal interventions increase cycling. Plasencia-Lozano (2021) examines a new urban cycling infrastructure in Spain and found that the impact of the built infrastructure is positive for the citizens in terms of new users, new potential users, and the overall picture of cycling.

Stathi et al. (2012) found that safety is the most crucial infrastructure for improving and expanding outdoor sports activities. Foster and Giles-Corti (2008) also found that walking in urban areas requires improved safety. Perceived environment safety mentally prepares people to carry out active transportation. Due to the importance of safety on the quality and continuity of sports activities, safety promotion in urban spaces prepare people ready to perform outdoor sports activities and to do their sports activities without any fear or apprehension. In other words, families support their children's active transportation, given the environmental security by creating a proper mental sense among individuals. This shows that Children's Active Transportation needs Family Support by upgrading security systems. According to the results, it is suggested to improve sports-related behaviors, including active transportation, by securing urban spaces and promoting the security of sports spaces.

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