



## Analysis of Subjective Indicators of Quality of Life in Urban Areas of Iran (Case Study: Sonqor City)

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**ABSTRACT:** This descriptive-analytical study attempted to investigate the quality of life in urban areas of Iran. Sonqor City of Kermanshah Province was selected as a case. Field and documentary data collection methods were used. To collect the field data, researcher-designed questionnaires were used, of which the validity was confirmed by expert judgment and the reliability was confirmed using Cronbach's alpha (0.893). The population comprised all the residents of Sonqor City (n=46181). Using Cochran formula, 382 individuals were selected as sample and questionnaires were randomly distributed among them. Results demonstrated that among the 9 aspects of quality of life investigated in Sonqor City, satisfaction with the three aspects of housing, transportation and education, which have coefficients of variation of 0.319, 0.331, and 0.412 respectively, are the most important aspects. Moreover, general results of quality of life of Sonqor residents revealed that 75 percent of the respondents had very low and low, 22.5 percent have medium, and only 2.9 percent had high and very high quality of life. The mean of general level of quality of life being 2.07 indicates the low general level of quality of life in Sonqor City.

**Keywords:-** quality of life, urban areas, aspects of quality of life, Sonqor.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The starting point of the development of human communities is the formation of a correct understanding of people's needs and then the investigation of the achievements of development. Measurement of quality of life offers an appropriate means for achieving such an understanding, for study of quality of life establishes a link between local authorities and citizens for constructive interaction leading to interpretation of and discussion on key issues affecting people's lives. Results of studies on quality of life can be used to identify again previous political strategies and to design future planning policies, and, as a result, to achieve the objectives of development plans (Lee, 2008: 1207; Ahmadvand et al., 2012: 106). Thus, planning for development of quality of life as a basic principle has always received attention from planer and managers of development (Ghalibaf et al., 2011: 34). Moreover, to study of quality of life and to identify factors affecting it can help to identify problematic areas, causes of people's dissatisfaction, people's priorities in their lives, impacts of socio-demographic factors on quality of life; and to investigate and evaluate the efficiency of policies and strategies with respect to quality of life. Researchers have pointed out that local social participation in quality of life studies can be a crucial support for making policies and setting long-term goals (Schmitt, 2002: 4; Santos and Martins, 2007: 413). Considering the issues discussed and knowledge of the importance of quality of life in the development of societies, researchers have attempted to investigate the quality of life among the residents of Sonqor city. Besides shedding light on the general condition of quality of life of the residents of this City, this inquiry also identifies strong and weak points and paves the way for future planning by planers and authorities so as to enhance quality of life and its indicators in the City.

## **II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The To organize the city environment and improve the quality of urban life in different aspects of city environment, a number of studies have been conducted including the study of transportation and quality of life by E.L. Spinney et al. (2009), land use and quality of life by Preuss and Vemuri (2004) and various other studies conducted in the field of quality of life and urban environment organization.

Studies of quality of life encompass both objective and subjective aspects, although many studies have been conducted along each of these objective and subjective aspects. For example, within the framework of subjective aspects, there are studies by Foo (2000) who used 5-point Likert scale (from strongly disagree to strongly agree) and the study by Breteron et al. (2008) who used the 7 point Likert scale. Furthermore, Lee (2008) believes that to measure the quality of life, this method must be used directly so that people impart their opinions regarding the quality of life. Ibrahim and Chung (2003) believe that subjective aspects are much more appropriate than objective ones for planning and policy-making, because subjective aspects elicit acceptable feedback.

Objective aspects of quality of life show the conditions of external life such as education, housing and the like (Das, 2008). Research conducted in this connection includes studies by Li and Wang (2007) and Apparicio et al. (2008). Other data obtained from other sources are related to the condition of housing, income, education or household characteristics. It should be noted that the quality of life cannot be measured merely with the use of objective aspects; rather, it should be measure by using a combination of objective and subjective aspects. These is no consensus among researchers regarding to what degree these two variables are related to each other. Turksever and Atalik (2001) point out that to measure quality of life using the two objective and subjective aspects is necessary for understanding the quality of life. Such similar approaches can be seen in the studies by Rogerson et al. (2009), Marans (2003), Kamp et al. (2003), and Li and Wang (2007). However, some studies, such as Das (2008) and McCrea et al. (2006) point out that there is a tenuous relationship between objective and subjective aspects and quality of life. AN example of this consistency can be seen in the study by Brereton et al. (2008) which shows that there is a high correlation between physical-spatial aspects as group of objective aspects in Ireland and subjective characteristics. In contrast, McCrea et al. (2006) demonstrated that there was a tenuous relationship between the two aforementioned characteristics. Yet the results of a number of studies which employed various indicators to measure quality of life in Iran are indicative of low quality of life in urban areas. These studies include Jajromi and Kalteh (2006) which attempted to evaluate the condition of indices of quality of life of Gonbad-e Qabus citizens using 25 indicators in the three groups of urban facilities and services, urban problems and housing facilities. The demonstrated that the accessibility to urban and housing facilities and services was in an appropriate condition, but there were considerable urban problems in many urban areas. The results also indicated great inequality in enjoyment of quality of life indicators in various areas of the city of Gondan-e Qabus. In a study aiming at investigating the quality of life in Yaftabad neighborhood of the city of Tehran, Qalibaf et al. (2011) demonstrated that the quality of life in the study area was not desirable in terms of environmental, economic and social factors, and transportation and communications were in a mediocre condition. Results of the study by Salmani et al. (2012) which attempted to measure the quality of life in Hashemi neighborhood of Region 10 of the city of Tehran demonstrated that the quality of life in the study area was at a low level. Qorbani et al. (2013) analyzed the spatial distribution of quality of life in the neighborhoods of the city of Chalus, demonstrating that citizens of this city are partially satisfied with the indicators of quality of life, and quality of life is at medium and fairly good levels. Their results also showed that in the majority of neighborhoods, the greatest dissatisfaction was associated with the two indicators of transportation and service accessibility, and the greatest satisfaction of the citizens was associated with social cohesion. In a study attempting to measure the quality of life in Darvazeh Shemiran neighborhood of Region 12 of the city of Tehran, Soleimani et al. (2013) concluded that quality of life in this neighborhood is at a low level. Their results also demonstrated that the greatest dissatisfaction of the citizens is associated with the neighborhood's environment and the lowest dissatisfaction was associated with accessibility.

## **III. METHODOLOGY**

This study is a descriptive-analytical inquiry. Part of data was gathered through field studies and using questionnaires and interviews and other required data such as the theoretical framework, documents and censuses were obtained using library studies. The population comprised all the residents of Sonqor City (n=46181). To determine the sample size, Cochran sampling with a significance level of 95 percent ( $p & q = 0.5$ ) and error margin ( $d=0.05$ ) was used, whereby 382 individuals were selected as sample. To determine the reliability of the instruments, a preliminary study using 30 questionnaires was conducted in Javanrud City.

Cronbach's alpha was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaires, and the coefficient obtained (0.893) was indicative of the appropriate reliability of the questionnaires. Also, the validity of the questionnaires was verified by expert judgment. With regard to the data collection instruments, it is worth

noting that the questionnaires (using the 5-point Likert scale from very low (point 1) to very high (point 5)) were designed by the researcher and comprised two main sections. The first part encompasses the personal characteristics of the participants such as age, gender, marital status, education, and occupation, and the second section incorporates various aspects of quality of life (including the nine aspects of satisfaction with economic status, housing, environment, recreation, healthcare, education, transportation, infrastructure, and security). 37 items were used to investigate each of the aspects. Finally, the collected data were processed using SPSS software. Considering the research objective and theoretical background of quality of life, in order to measure the quality of life in Sonqor City, the researchers followed the studies by Das (2008) and McCrea et al. (2006) and used subjective indicators in the nine aspects of satisfaction with economic status, housing, environment, recreation, healthcare, education, transportation, infrastructure, and security (Table 1).

**Table 1. Aspects and components used to investigate quality of life in Sonqor City**

| <b>Indicator</b>   | <b>Components</b>   | <b>Indicator</b>      | <b>Components</b>   |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Economy</b>     | 1. Satisfaction with monthly income; 2. Satisfaction with one's occupational status (in terms of permanence of career); 3. Satisfaction with one's purchasing power for providing family needs; 4. Satisfaction with finding a suitable job in the City.  | <b>Educational</b>    | 1. Satisfaction with the quality of educational schools (Teaching method and appropriate treatment); 2. Satisfaction with the quality of buildings and infrastructures (materials and age of buildings); 3. Satisfaction with accessibility to educational centers within appropriate time; 4. Satisfaction with the number of teachers and classes.  |
| <b>Housing</b>     | 1. Satisfaction with one's house (in terms of size, foundation area, and number of rooms); 2. Satisfaction with the ease of provision of affordable housing; 3. Satisfaction with housing facilities (light, heating and cooling system); 4. Satisfaction with quality of residential unit (in terms of strong materials).          | <b>Healthcare</b>     | Satisfaction with accessibility (in terms of distance) to healthcare services; 2. Satisfaction with medical centers in terms of the number of physicians and beds; 3. Satisfaction with the presence of specialists and experienced physicians; 4. Satisfaction with medical centers (in terms of timely treatment and provision of medical services).  |
| <b>Environment</b> | 1. Satisfaction with the cleanliness of environment and streets; 2. Satisfaction with the condition of the city's sewage system and sewage disposal; 3. Satisfaction with the condition of garbage collection; 4. Satisfaction with the condition of air pollution; 5. Satisfaction with the condition of the city's air pollution. | <b>Transportation</b> | 1. Satisfaction with the ability to go to other areas of the city by spending the least possible time; 2. Satisfaction with the place of choice of alternative means of transportation (bus, bicycle, etc.); 3. Satisfaction with the city's public transportation; 4. Satisfaction with appropriate accessibility to bus stops   |
| <b>Recreation</b>  | 1. Satisfaction with recreational facilities (parks, green space, etc.); 2. Satisfaction with spaces for recreational activities for all family members; 3. Satisfaction with the city's sports spaces for the youths to spend their leisure time.  | <b>Infrastructure</b> | 1. Satisfaction with the quality of drinking water (health and permanence); 2. Satisfaction with telecommunication systems (telephone and the Internet); 3. Satisfaction with the gas distribution system; 4. Satisfaction with the electric power distribution system (its appropriateness and permanence); 5. Satisfaction with the quality of road communication network (streets and allies). |
| <b>Security</b>    | 1. Satisfaction with the availability of relief, rescue, and fire services; 2. Satisfaction with the police's timeliness and services; 3. Satisfaction with security when walking and spending time out at night; 4. Satisfaction with safe relations with neighbors and avoiding quarrel with them.                                |                       |   |

#### IV. FINDINGS

##### Investigation of the condition of aspects of quality of life among residents of Sonqor City:- Satisfaction with the economic factor

As can be seen in Table 2, with respect to the residents' satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the economic factor, the factors of satisfaction with occupational status and finding jobs in the city had the greatest on the economic aspect, of which the most important reasons is appropriate occupational conditions in Sonqor City thanks to the presence of appropriate infrastructures for employment (The unemployment rate among the residents of this City is lower than 10 percent).

**Table 2. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of economic factors from the Perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items   | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|---|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| I am satisfied with my monthly income                                   | 24.1     | 15.2 | 41.9   | 12.6 | 6.3       | 2.62 | 1.16               | 0.442                    |
| I am satisfied with my occupational status (in terms of permanence)     | 16.8     | 26.4 | 35.3   | 14.9 | 6.5       | 2.68 | 1.11               | 0.414                    |
| I am satisfied with my purchasing power for providing my family's needs | 36.9     | 25.7 | 24.6   | 9.2  | 3.7       | 2.17 | 1.13               | 0.52                     |
| I am satisfied with the condition of finding a new job in my city       | 22.3     | 15.2 | 33.8   | 23.3 | 5.5       | 2.74 | 1.2                | 0.437                    |

##### Satisfaction with housing

Results displayed in Table 3 show that among the investigated factors, affordable housing with a coefficient of variation of 0.527 was the most important factor in satisfaction with housing from the viewpoint of Sonqor citizens. One of the main reasons of this fact can be associated with the presence of housing at different prices, and, as a result, suiting any taste (considering the financial capability of housing applicants) in different urban areas.

**Table 3. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the housing aspect from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items  | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|--|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Satisfaction with size, area, and number of rooms    | 63.1     | 16.5 | 14.4   | 3.9  | 2.1       | 1.65 | 1                  | 0.606                    |
| Provision of affordable housing                      | 35.9     | 25.7 | 26.2   | 6.8  | 5.5       | 2.2  | 1.16               | 0.527                    |
| Lighting facilities, and heating and cooling systems | 24.3     | 29.1 | 28.8   | 11.5 | 5.8       | 2.7  | 1.69               | 0.625                    |
| Quality of building in terms of materials            | 39       | 25.1 | 38.8   | 7.6  | 4.5       | 2.13 | 1.14               | 0.535                    |

##### Satisfaction with the environment

With respect to satisfaction with the quality of environment in Sonqor City (table 4), it can be argued that the factors of garbage collection and swage and sewage disposal system (having coefficients of variation of 0.414 and 0.456 respectively) had the greatest importance in satisfaction with this aspect. This can be mainly attributed to timely garbage collection and satisfaction with the related personnel, appropriate wastewater disposal system, especially in the city.

**Table 4. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the environmental aspect from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items  | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|--|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Quality of environment of streets  | 49.2     | 24.3 | 17.5   | 3.7  | 5.2       | 1.91 | 1.13               | 0.591                    |
| Sewage and sewage disposal system  | 20.2     | 22.8 | 31.7   | 13.6 | 11.8      | 2.74 | 1.25               | 0.456                    |
| Garbage collection   | 15.4     | 17.8 | 31.4   | 22.5 | 12.8      | 2.99 | 1.24               | 0.414                    |
| Satisfaction with the city's air condition (in terms of presence of polluters) | 79.1     | 8.9  | 5.5    | 2.4  | 4.2       | 1.44 | 1                  | 0.694                    |
| Satisfaction with the city's air condition (in terms of noise polluters)       | 75.4     | 11.8 | 7.1    | 1.8  | 3.9       | 1.47 | 0.98               | 0.666                    |

### Satisfaction with recreational facilities

Results displayed in Table (5) which show the rate of satisfaction of citizens of Sonqor City with the recreation aspect indicate that the factor availability of sports spaces for people to spend their leisure time (with a coefficient of variation of 0.476) has the greatest importance in the satisfaction with this aspect. Existence of a number of multi-purpose sport complexes and sport clubs in the city as well as small sport spaces in the neighborhoods can be regarded as one of the main reasons for the greater effect of this factor in comparison to others.

**Table 5. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the recreation aspect from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items  | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|--|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Easy access to recreational facilities such as parks, green spaces, etc. | 63.1     | 14.1 | 12.8   | 4.7  | 5.2       | 1.75 | 1.16               | 0.662                    |
| Ease of performing recreational activities for all family members        | 47.4     | 18.6 | 22.5   | 5    | 6         | 2.14 | 1.87               | 0.873                    |
| Availability of sport spaces for people to spend their leisure time      | 24.1     | 18.8 | 25.1   | 21.7 | 1.2       | 2.75 | 1.31               | 0.476                    |

### Satisfaction with healthcare services

As can be seen in Table 6, among the factors investigated regarding satisfaction with healthcare services, the two factors of timely treatment and offering healthcare services, and satisfaction with experienced specialists (having coefficients of variation of 0.351 and 0.482 respectively) were the most important factors. Optimal location of urgency centers in Sonqor City and presence of committed specialists, despite their small number, can be one of the reasons for the above factor.

**Table 6. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the healthcare aspect from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items   | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|---|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Access (in terms of distance) to healthcare services                          | 63.6     | 16   | 8.4    | 8.4  | 3.7       | 1.73 | 1.14               | 0.658                    |
| Efficiency of the medical staff and availability of sufficient number of beds | 38.7     | 27.5 | 19.6   | 9.9  | 4.2       | 2.13 | 1.15               | 0.539                    |
| Satisfaction with experienced specialists                                     | 26.7     | 17.8 | 31.9   | 14.7 | 8.9       | 2.61 | 1.26               | 0.482                    |
| Timely treatment offering of healthcare                                       | 11       | 5.8  | 38.2   | 25.9 | 19.1      | 3.36 | 1.18               | 0.351                    |

### Satisfaction with educational services

Results displayed in Table 7 show that teaching method and appropriate treatment of clients in the education sector with a coefficient of variation of 0.322 has the greatest importance in satisfaction with the quality of educational services. Presence of experienced teachers and authorities with appropriate behavior and interactions in educational centers of Sonqor City can be one of the causes of the aforementioned factor.

**Table 7. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the education aspect from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items  | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|--|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Teaching method and appropriate treatment                | 6.5      | 12.6 | 33     | 31.7 | 16.2      | 3.38 | 1.09               | 0.322                    |
| School buildings and classes; building materials and age | 35.3     | 12.8 | 13     | 12   | 6.3       | 2.78 | 1.27               | 0.456                    |
| Appropriate access                                       | 24.1     | 18.8 | 15.1   | 21.7 | 10.2      | 2.75 | 1.31               | 0.476                    |
| Number of teachers and number of classes                 | 36.6     | 17.8 | 23     | 16   | 6.5       | 2.38 | 1.29               | 0.452                    |

### Satisfaction with urban transportation

As can be seen in table 8, among the 4 investigated factors, the factor of quick access to other city areas with a coefficient of variation of 0.370 had the greatest importance in the satisfaction of Sonqor citizens with urban transportation. An active taxi transportation system, numerous travel agencies, etc. could be some of the causes of the aforementioned factor.



**Table 8. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the transportation aspect from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items   | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|---|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Satisfaction with the city's public transportation                                  | 13.9     | 19.1 | 19.1   | 17.3 | 30.6      | 3.32 | 1.43               | 0.430                    |
| Ease of choice of alternative means of transportation such as buses, bicycles, etc. | 13.1     | 16.8 | 34.3   | 24.3 | 11.5      | 3.04 | 1.18               | 0.388                    |
| Appropriate accessibility to bus stops  | 30.6     | 22.5 | 30.9   | 10.5 | 5.5       | 2.43 | 1.28               | 0.526                    |
| Quick accessibility to other city areas   | 10.2     | 13.4 | 24.9   | 26.4 | 25.1      | 3.43 | 1.27               | 0.370                    |

### Satisfaction with infrastructure

As can be seen in Table 9, among the components of the infrastructure aspect, satisfaction with two the factors of electric power distribution and telecommunication networks (telephone and the Internet) having coefficients of variation of 0.41 and 0.469 have the greatest importance in satisfaction with the infrastructure aspect. Seldom cases of power outage at homes and workshops, efficient rendering of telecommunication services particularly the Internet are among the main causes of the greater impact of these two factors in comparison to other factors with regard to satisfaction with the infrastructures of Sonqor City.

**Table 9. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the infrastructure aspect from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items  | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|--|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Drinking water (its health and permanence)                       | 23.3     | 16.2 | 26.4   | 18.1 | 16        | 2.87 | 1.37               | 0.477                    |
| Telecommunication networks (telephone and the Internet)          | 35.6     | 23.3 | 35.3   | 4.2  | 1.6       | 2.13 | 1                  | 0.469                    |
| Efficient gas distribution                                       | 47.9     | 33.5 | 14.4   | 2.6  | 1.6       | 1.76 | 0.90               | 0.511                    |
| electric power distribution (its efficiency and permanence)      | 24.3     | 23.3 | 42.9   | 7.9  | 1.6       | 2.39 | 0.98               | 0.41                     |
| Road communication network (streets, allies, and other pathways) | 56.5     | 24.1 | 12.3   | 5.8  | 1.3       | 1.71 | 0.97               | 0.567                    |

### Satisfaction with security

With regard to satisfaction with security from the perspective of Sonqor citizens, results of Table 10 show that the two factors of rendering of services by and timely presence of the police, and existence of security when walking and spending time out at night with coefficients of variation of 0.511 and 0.522 had the greatest importance. Existence of police stations as well as all out and full-time presence of the police, particularly at night, in the city neighborhoods is one of the most important reasons of this fact.

**Table 10. Satisfaction with quality of life in terms of the security aspect from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Items   | Very low | Low  | Medium | High | Very high | Mean | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|---|----------|------|--------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Rendering of relief, rescue and fire services                           | 38.2     | 24.9 | 25.4   | 7.3  | 4.2       | 2.14 | 1.13               | 0.528                    |
| Rendering of services and timely presence of the police                 | 34.8     | 24.9 | 24.3   | 12.6 | 3.4       | 2.25 | 1.15               | 0.511                    |
| Existence of security when walking and spending time out at night       | 24.1     | 28.8 | 20.9   | 6    | 2.1       | 1.97 | 1.03               | 0.522                    |
| Having safe relationships with neighbors and avoiding quarrel with them | 41.1     | 23   | 14.9   | 12   | 8.9       | 2.25 | 1.33               | 0.591                    |

### Satisfaction with the 9 aspects of quality of life and its general level among Sonqor citizens

After investigating the level of satisfaction with the factor of quality of life in Sonqor City (37 factors), the level of participants' satisfaction with the nine factors of quality of life and their general satisfaction with quality was measured (Table 11). Results displayed in the above table show that among the nine factors of quality of life, satisfaction with the three aspects of housing, transportation, and education, having coefficients of variation of 0.319, 0.331, and 0.412 respectively, had the greatest importance from the point of view of Sonqor citizens. And, for that matter, satisfaction with the three aspects of recreation, environment and security

having coefficients of variation of 0.529, 0.522, and 0.509 respectively had the lowest importance. Results regarding the general level of quality of life of Sonqor citizens show that 74.7 percent of the respondents consider the quality of life to be low and very low, 22.5 percent consider it to be medium, and only 2.9 percent consider it to be high and very high. The mean level of quality of life (2.07 percent) is testimony to the low level of quality of life in Sonqor City.

**Table 11. Satisfaction with the nine aspects of quality of life and its overall level from the perspective of citizens of Sonqor City**

| Main aspects of quality of life | Very low    | Low         | Medium      | High       | Very high  | Mean        | Standard deviation | Coefficient of variation |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Economy                         | 22          | 33.8        | 26.7        | 13.1       | 4.5        | 2.44        | 1.1.3              | 0.452                    |
| Housing                         | 96.6        | 2.9         | 0           | 0          | 0.5        | 1.04        | 0.332              | 0.319                    |
| Environment                     | 46.6        | 39.3        | 8.9         | 2.6        | 2.6        | 1.75        | 0.914              | 0.522                    |
| Recreation                      | 42.7        | 27.2        | 23.8        | 2.9        | 3.4        | 1.97        | 1.043              | 0.529                    |
| Health                          | 24.3        | 35.6        | 28.3        | 9.2        | 2.6        | 2.30        | 1.019              | 0.433                    |
| Education                       | 58.6        | 38.5        | 2.4         | 0          | 0.5        | 1.45        | 0.598              | 0.412                    |
| Transportation                  | 7.6         | 19.9        | 38.2        | 28.5       | 5.8        | 3.04        | 1.009              | 0.331                    |
| Infrastructure                  | 27.7        | 41.4        | 24.3        | 5          | 1.6        | 2.11        | 0.922              | 0.436                    |
| Security                        | 43.7        | 29.8        | 21.2        | 3.7        | 1.6        | 1.89        | 0.963              | 0.509                    |
| <b>General quality</b>          | <b>22.3</b> | <b>52.4</b> | <b>22.5</b> | <b>1.3</b> | <b>1.6</b> | <b>2.07</b> | <b>0.798</b>       | <b>0.385</b>             |

## V. CONCLUSION

Today, the quality of urban life, as one of the basic issues, has attracted the attention of scholars of urban science. There are various definitions for quality of life in different sources. It can be defined as desired objective environmental conditions and positive individual evaluation of these conditions. However, the scale of method of investigation of quality of life does not follow a certain law. Different scientific disciplines such as medicine, sociology, urban planning, geography, etc. each studies quality of life based on its own specialty. Determination of the type of indicators, analysis procedure, the method used, study scale, and generally all study aspects in the investigations of quality of life are related to the main objective of this study and the specialty of the researcher.

This study attempted to investigate the quality of life in Sonqor City. For this purpose, 37 factors subsumed under 9 main aspects (i.e. satisfaction with economic status, housing, environment, recreation, healthcare, education, transportation, infrastructure, and security conditions) were used. Results demonstrated that the ranking of the nine investigated factors in terms of importance and effectiveness is as follows: housing (coefficient of variation 0.319), transportation (coefficient of variation 0.331), education (coefficient of variation 0.412), infrastructures (coefficient of variation 0.436), Healthcare (coefficient of variation 0.443), Economic status (coefficient of variation 0.452), security (coefficient of variation 0.509), environment (coefficient of variation 0.552), and recreation (coefficient of variation 0.529). Moreover, the results of the investigation of the general level of quality of life demonstrated that approximately 75 percent of the participants were at low or very low levels of quality of life. The results of this study are consistent with the results of the studies by Soleimani et al. (2013), and Soleimani et al. (2012), indicating low quality of life in urban neighborhoods. In contrast, the results are inconsistent with the findings made by Qorbani et al. (2013) which indicate desired conditions of quality of life in the city of Chalus. To enhance the quality of life in Sonqor City, considering the low quality of life in this City, the authorities and planners must take all the aspects into consideration. Hence, it is recommended that the necessary measures be taken into consideration with regard to the nine aspects, because negligence of these aspects can lay the foundation for numerous challenges and crises in the city.

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