

# Research Paper: Analysis of Key Drivers Affecting Marginalization (Case Study: Central Part of Shahriar County in the Tehran Metropolitan Area, Iran)

Ashraf Sajadi<sup>1</sup>, Hasan Afrakhteh<sup>2\*</sup>, Vahid Riyahi<sup>3</sup>

1. PhD Student, Department of Human Geography, Faculty of Geographical Sciences, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran.

2. Professor, Department of Human Geography, Faculty of Geographical Sciences, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran.

3. Associate Professor, Department of Human Geography, Faculty of Geographical Sciences, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran.



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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** The present study was conducted to investigate and analyze the key drivers affecting marginalization in the central part of Shahriar County.

**Methods:** The objective is applied and has an interpretative and analytical nature, and in terms of method, it is in the qualitative research group. The grounded Theory and Delphi methods were used to analyze the information. Data was collected using documentary and library studies, and interviews, and questionnaires. The statistical population includes specialists (university professors, managers in relevant organizations), graduates of geography and rural planning, and elites in villages, and the sample size was determined to be 21 people based on purposive sampling.

**Results:** The results showed that 50 concepts and 16 semantic units (lack of knowledge and planning, weakness in national laws and policies, sectoral and one-dimensional management, focused approach in development, weakness in monitoring and evaluation, disregard for housing policy for low-income groups, immigration justifications, inflation, and unstable economic situation, economic justification of marginalization, inability of support systems, lack of planning perspective, lack of awareness and social education, lifestyle, change in social identity, lack of policy and appropriate platform for people's spontaneous mobilization and formations, and environmental and climatic conditions) were extracted from the interviews. Then, using the Delphi method, it was determined that experts agreed more with the semantic units proposed in the second stage than in the first stage, and the largest difference between the first and second stages was in the semantic unit of migration justifications with a difference of 0.015. Therefore, after identifying the semantic units, each was placed in the form of drivers (economic, structural, managerial and executive, environmental, institutional, and social-cultural).

**Conclusion:** The importance of knowing and being aware of the process of marginalization formation based on the experience of activists and experts in this field for policymakers, decision-makers, and economic managers in the matter of planning is such that it can be said that the best legislation is the mobilization of resources. Facilities, distribution of services, and facilities will not have the expected effectiveness and efficiency regardless of this discovery (the key drivers of marginalization in the study area).

## Keywords:

Drivers, Marginalization, Rural settlements, Shahriar County

## \* Corresponding Author:

Hasan Afrakhteh, PhD

Address: Department of Human Geography, Faculty of Geographical Sciences, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran.

Tel: +98 (912) 6437139

E-mail: [afrakhteh@khu.ac.ir](mailto:afrakhteh@khu.ac.ir)

## 1. Introduction

Slums are a physical manifestation of socio-economic inequality in a region (Sharma et al., 2020: 1918), and are considered one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century, as they are characterized by rapid population growth, environmental degradation, high levels of poverty in cities, and inadequate access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and waste collection (Bouwmeester & Hartmann, 2021: 1). Accordingly, slums are a global problem. Although the emergence of this problem is attributed to the cities of industrialized and Western countries, the majority of the world's slum population currently exists in cities in developing countries (Zanjani, 1992: 5). Iran, as a developing country, is no exception to this trend, and in the past three decades alone, urbanization has increased by 20 percent and reached 70 percent of the total adult population. Some of these immigrants, especially from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s, have settled in the suburbs of the metropolis (Torkman Niya et al., 2019: 24). Also, based on the results of the recent census (2016), out of the total number of 1,234 cities in the country, 538 cities have villages located within the city limits, which is equivalent to 43 percent of all cities in Iran. The total number of villages in Iran is 37,769, of which about 4,000 are located within the city limits of the country. This number is equivalent to 11 percent of all villages in the country, which is about 17 percent of the total rural population in the country and includes 3.4 million people from the country's rural population (Statistics Center of Iran, 2016). These 4,000 villages will become urban suburbs in the coming years and decades, assuming the current pattern of settlement in Iran (Bahmani et al., 2020: 129). Meanwhile, although marginalization is a global phenomenon, the reasons for its formation are diverse and numerous and differ from place to place (Nazarian, 2016: 116), and the morphology and structure of marginalization can also differ from place to place (Taubenböck & Kraff, 2015: 108).

The most important causes of the formation of marginalization in Iran are the concentration of capital, power, and facilities in large cities, the inefficiency of the planning system in Iran, the lack of attention to spatial justice and heterogeneous regional development, the increase in land prices and the lack of attention to participatory planning (Lahmian, 2017: 126). Therefore, the Tehran metropolis accounts for 23% of the country's marginalization. This phenomenon has intensified in this metropolis, simultaneously with land reforms the industrialization of agriculture, and the increase in the urban population.

In this regard, the migration of a large population to the cities around Tehran with low technical skills and education on the one hand and the lack of supervision over physical development, on the other hand, has caused the unbalanced development of Tehran and the formation of marginal and impoverished areas with a physical and social disconnection of these areas from other areas of the city, and this mode of residence has increased at an increasing rate. The employment of marginalized people in informal and fake jobs, the existence of unauthorized constructions, the inability of municipalities to provide appropriate services in these areas, environmental pollution, the undesirable cultural, economic, social and political effects of these areas on the entire city system, the increase in crime and deviations in these areas, are all among the destructive and harmful effects of marginalization, both on the residents of that area and on other people living in Tehran, and consequently the subsequent consequences, legal issues and land acquisition methods, problems with the young age composition of these settlements, cultural and religious diversity and management problems and the imposition of economic, social, physical and environmental pressures on the city of Tehran. On the other hand, today's world is undergoing changes, transformations, emerging challenges, and developments in the fields of communications, technology, and technology, which with the process of globalization, the speed of these changes is increasing and uncertainty is forming. Marginalization around Tehran is no exception to this rule, and in recent years, with the changing global and domestic conditions at the national, regional, and local levels, it has become a complex phenomenon that is beyond description and explanation. If in the mid-1950s, marginalization was seen as a symbol of absolute poverty and social injustice, with titles such as shantytowns or squatters and their causes were structural, now it seems that a combination of formal and informal life is seen in these areas. Today, the process of marginalization has changed and a flexible pattern from formal to informal forms can be observed alongside its increasing expansion (Mehdizadeh, 2000: 27). This change in the process and the way marginalization spreads itself necessitates the recognition of the key drivers of marginalization and efficient and effective planning in the rural areas around Tehran.

In this regard, Shahriar County and its central part have become one of the places of poverty and marginalization due to its proximity to the metropolises of Tehran and Karaj. The population of this county nearly doubled during the 1966-1976 decade and more than doubled during the next three decades. Thus, the population in this city has increased more than 26 times in the last 40 years

(1976-2016), which indicates an increase in the population of the city with an average annual growth rate of more than 8.5%. Since the poor cannot afford to pay the housing costs in the affluent neighborhoods of Shahriar County, they move to settle in the marginal areas (villages in the central part). As a result, poverty zones have appeared in the form of marginalization in this county. Accordingly, this study has been tried to investigate and identify the key drivers affecting the marginalization of the central part of Shahriar County with the help of the opinions of the identification workers and local experts who have been somehow related to the phenomenon of marginalization in different dimensions of implementation and planning. On this basis, the present study seeks to answer the following main question:

- What are the effective drivers of the marginalization of villages in the central part of Shahriar County?

## 2. Literature Review

Torkman Niya et al. (2019), in a study entitled, Systematic evaluation of the factors of formation and expansion of informal settlements in the Mashhad metropolis, reached these results: economic, social, physical and management subsystems are not separate from each other, and are interconnected. In the meantime, all subsystems form cause and effect cycles that themselves strengthen and intensify the cycles of other subsystems. Ultimately, these cycles, along with macro indicators that stimulate informal settlement and management negligence, lead to the emergence of social variables (increased immigration, settlement growth rate, etc.). The expansion of informal settlement.

The results of the study by Ghorbani et al. (2017), aimed at analyzing the impact of socio-economic factors on the formation and expansion of informal settlements in the Mashhad metropolis, showed that economic factors such as poverty and low income, drought, agricultural stagnation, unemployment, low land prices in marginal areas, inflation, the increasing trend in living costs, low construction costs, and social and cultural factors such as immigration, rapid population growth, and the religious attractiveness of Mashhad, low job skills and expertise, and low education and awareness levels are the most important factors in the formation of informal settlements in the study area.

Regarding the causes of the formation of informal settlements in Zahedan, Sheibani Moghaddam et al. (2019) showed that migration, scarcity and high cost of land

and housing are among the main causes of the formation of the phenomenon of informal settlements in Zahedan.

Imanpour et al. (2022), in a study entitled, Identification and Analysis of Key Drivers Affecting Informal Settlement in Bojnourd City, reached these results: 26 main factors affect informal settlement in Bojnourd, of which 7 factors (population growth, continued migration to cities, access to important centers, the existence of neighborhood advantages for low-income immigrants such as cheap land, the existence of a main road, unemployment, and weak urban management) were proposed as key drivers affecting informal settlement in Bojnourd.

Furthermore, Rezaei et al. (2023), entitled, Identification of Effective Drivers in Urban Regeneration of Informal Settlements with a Futures Research Approach in Zahedan City, reached these results: Out of 10 indicators, seven indicators were from the management-institutional and legal variable group, two indicators were from the socio-cultural variable group, and one indicator was from the environmental and physical variable group. As a result, the most important variable in Urban regeneration in Zahedan is a managerial, institutional, and legal variable.

Parvinzad et al. (2023) reached these results, among the drivers studied, economic sector variables had the greatest impact on the formation and expansion of informal settlements in the area.

In foreign studies, Mellor and Nel (2020) showed that climate change, drought and poverty are the main causes of the emergence of informal settlements in Ethiopia and South Africa. Also, Baye et al. (2020) reached these results, income inequality, increasing urban land rental prices and paying insignificant compensation to farmers during land expropriation are the main economic factors for the growth of informal settlements. Then, in a study titled "Deprivation Zones" for Mapping Slums, Informal Settlements, and Other Disadvantaged Areas in Low- and Middle-Income Countries to Improve Urban Planning and Policy, Abascal et al. (2022) conceptualized the Deprivation Zones Framework, urban deprivation at three different scales, including household scale, district scale, and area connectivity scale. This includes nine domains, (1) socioeconomic status, (2) housing domains, (3) social hazards and assets, (4) physical hazards and assets, (5) unplanned urbanization, (6) pollution (at the district scale), (7) infrastructure, (8) facilities and services, and (9) urban governance. McTavish et al. (2023) identified deprived "slum" neighborhoods in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area of Ghana using census and re-

mote sensing data. The results showed that housing and environmental conditions were relatively heterogeneous at the “slum” level, but some characteristics were common, including higher population density, lower altitude and abundance of vegetation, and less access to indoor piped water and sanitation.

In this regard, researchers have used several terms to describe the lifestyle of the slum dwellers, including: slum dwellers (Eldering & Knorth, 2007), homelessness (Baumann & Grigsby, 1988), shacks of hope and shacks of despair (Stokes, 1962), informal settlements (UN Habitat, 2003), marginalized (Perlman, 2010), informal settlements (Piran, 2008), which we used the term slum dwellers in this study (Leonard, 1984: 181), which is one of the complex urban phenomena that mainly arises as a result of economic and social processes in cities.

The spatial causes of the formation of marginalization can be examined at different levels:

**Macro-level:** Spatial inequalities at the national level have resulted from the functions of the peripheral capitalist system and the mercantile economy and are mainly related to the country’s decision-makers. The adoption of national policies in recent decades has caused a deep divide and created an unprecedented difference between the poor and the rich so that a population of about sixty million people is in the group of the have-nots and less than 10 million people are in the group of the assets of society. Economic injustices in society have led to the creation of unequal spaces at the national, regional, and micro levels, including cities (Kamandari & Rezaei, 2014).

**Intermediate level:** Unequal distribution of national income under the pretext of the natural capabilities of different regions for investment and implementation of regional development plans has led to inequalities between and within regions.

At the meso level, there are also issues such as migration and urbanization, which mainly refer to the issue of attraction and repulsion between cities and villages at the regional level (Aldrich & Ranvinder, 1995: 23).

**Micro level:** The persistence of socio-economic and spatial inequalities at the national and regional levels eventually manifests itself at the urban level (because cities are formed through the geographical concentration of social surplus product) (Harvey, 1996: 230), and the income from it is distributed unequally among different strata of the cities. Such a process has various spatial

reflections, creates unequal spaces and neighborhoods. In the meantime, decision-makers can play a role in intensifying or moderating spatial conflict and the relative establishment of social justice among residents of various neighborhoods. However, urban planners usually pay attention to the official parts of the city and in most cases, they have left the marginalized areas to oblivion and neglect (Imani Jajarami, 2002: 45). The perspectives that have been put forward with the aim of identifying the reasons for the formation of slums include: ecological, liberal and radical. The basis of analysis in the ecological school is that processes such as construction and reconstruction, succession and various residences and their continuity, reallocation of space and land to industrial and commercial activities and other activities, as well as processes of marginalization and poverty under the influence of market mechanisms and spatial organization, are always ongoing in the city and accordingly the city is always in constant dynamics (Madanipour, 2000). The most important theorist of this approach is Kleinard (Wirth, Burgess). Kleinard considered migration from rural to urban areas, changes in the use of urban land, changes in the rental situation, easier access to work, housing shortages, and other such factors to be the main reasons for the formation of slums. At the opposite end is the liberal school. The most important representatives of the liberal approach are Rostow, Turner, Abrams, and Lewis. Lewis emphasizes the culture of poverty. Rostow emphasizes the five stages of development, while Abrams emphasizes the high price of land in the city (Bahmani et al., 2020). It is also worth mentioning that one of the theories related to the emergence of slums is dependency. According to this theory, inequalities between villages and cities are justified based on the spatial structure of the center-periphery. Since “in different places, development in specific regions and certain countries is associated with the deformation of development in other regions. Therefore, development and lack of development form an alliance”. “Based on the center-periphery model, large cities and centers of economic activity (mainly industrial-commercial) are presented as the center and the peripheral rural areas as the periphery. These unequal relations are expanded in many cases by adopting specific economic-commercial guidelines that benefit the center and ultimately lead to migration and the flow of more and more capital from the peripheral areas to the center”. Therefore, considering the above, the lack of population persistence in rural areas and the accumulation of capital in cities can be justified. This relationship results from the dominance of the capitalist system and the formation of marginalized areas. According to this theory, the way out of these

conditions “is dependent on government intervention to break the bonds of global dependence and subsequently increase self-reliance and inward-looking growth, which is expected to reduce the country’s regional disorders”.

### 3. Methodology

The present study is applied in terms of its purpose and has an interpretive and analytical nature, and is in the qualitative research group in terms of its method. To analyze the information, the grounded theory and Delphi methods were used. The data collection method was also in two ways: documentary and library studies, and interviews and questionnaires. In line with the research goal of identifying the key drivers affecting marginalization, the grounded theory method will be used, and the Delphi method was used to determine the level of agreement of experts on each of the identified drivers. The statistical population includes specialists (university professors, managers in relevant organizations), graduates of geography and rural planning, and council members and village heads, and the sample size was determined to be 21 people based on purposeful sampling.

#### Location of the Study Area

Shahriar County is located approximately 16 km west of Tehran and 18 km south of Karaj, in the western part of Tehran province. It shares borders with Malard and Andisheh to the northwest, Baghestan and Qods to the west and northeast, Ferdowsie and Sabashahr to the south and southeast, and Vahidiyeh to the southwest (Figure 1). The county is renowned for its diverse and abundant fruit orchards and a refreshing climate, earning it the nickname “the green jewel” and “the lung of Tehran province.” This county has diverse and abundant fruit orchards and a refreshing and pleasant climate, and due to the presence of trees and green space, it has been called the green jewel and the lung of Tehran province.

Due to its proximity to Tehran, Shahriar serves as a significant population overflow area and faces challenges related to excessive immigration and high population growth. The county comprises one district, seven cities, six rural districts, and 30 Villages. The cities include Shahriar, Andisheh, Baghestan, Ferdowsieh, Vahidieh, Sabashahr, Shahedshahr, Amirieh. Then the rural districts were presented as follows:

Hesar Zirak Rural District includes 8 villages: Hesar Zirak, Razmareh, Ramin, Wastar, Yousef Abad Sairfi, Ebrahim Abad, Kordzar, Nosrat Abad; Razkan Rural District includes 11 villages: Asad Abad, Eskman, Alvard, Dehshad Bala (Dehshad Castle), Dehshad Payin, Dinar Abad, Razkan, Razi Abad Bala, Razi Abad Payin, Qara Tepe; Moyez Rural District includes 2 villages: Qala Baha and Baba Selman; Joqin Rural District includes 13 villages: Beke, Asil Abad, Tarpaq Tepe, Rangarz, Hesar, Saqrchin, Qajar, Qajar Abad, Farart, Qeshlaq Mehrchin, Qala Naw, Kordamir, Yabarak; Ghaem Abad Rural District includes 1 village: Mahmoud Abad Khalj Abad; Saeed Abad Rural District includes 4 villages: Saeed Abad, Mahdieh, Badamak, Varamink.

### 4. Findings

In the present study, information related to the key drivers affecting the marginalization of villages in the central part of Shahriar was collected through interviews. General and open-ended questions were posed to the interviewees, and after each interview, the researcher conducted analysis and open coding. Initially, initial codes were identified, and by eliminating similar codes, conceptual codes were determined. Finally, after reviewing and classifying these conceptual codes, categories were established. A total of 50 concepts and 16 semantic units were identified (Table 1).

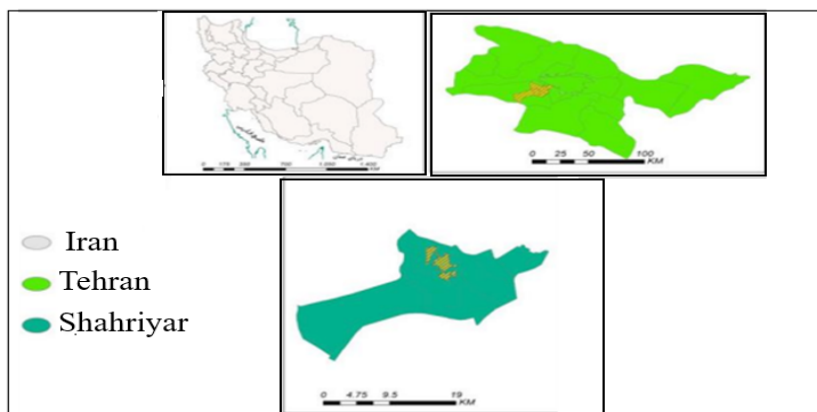


Figure 1. Location of rural districts and villages in Shahriar County

**Table 1.** Concepts and semantic units

Row	Semantic unit	Concepts
1	Lack of knowledge and planning	Lack of a clear definition and common understanding of the concept of marginalization and its identification indicators
		Lack of necessary statistics and information on the latest identified situation of marginalization in the metropolis and its suburbs
2	Weaknesses in national laws and policies	The dominance of the approach of ignoring marginalized areas in urban plans instead of promoting approaches such as land, services, housing, renovation, and empowerment.
		Lack of appropriate and aggravating criteria for the creation of marginal settlements
		Ignoring low-income groups in development programs and plans
		Insufficient attention to the prevention and organization of marginalized areas in organizational plans
3	Partial and one-dimensional management	Lack of a population monitoring system
		Weakness regarding waves of marginalization in the future and present
		Lack of a flexible, agile, and dynamic structure of relevant organizations to prevent marginalization
		Lack of necessary coherence and coordination between relevant organizations
		Prolonged decision-making processes regarding marginalization due to inter-sectoral conflicts
4	Focused approach to development	Inability of middle managers to intervene
		Sectoral and one-dimensional approach of relevant organizations
		Lack of a unified view among managers of relevant organizations
		The dominance of a centralized approach in development plans
5	Weakness in monitoring and evaluation	Having a top-down approach
		Weakness in evaluating policies and laws related to the growth of slums
6	Neglect of housing policy for low-income groups	Weakness in monitoring executive bodies
		Weakness of specific sectoral programs to meet the shelter needs of low-income groups in appropriate geographical distribution in Tehran and Karaj
		Failure to provide adequate and suitable residential space for low-income groups in physical plans and imposing standards beyond their ability to afford
		The existence of illegitimate power groups and open land traders
		Negligence and inability to supervise and control construction
7	Immigration justifications	Lack of government support and guidance for self-help housing construction
		Facilities and opportunities in the metropolis
		People migrate for a better life and work.
8	Inflation and economic instability	Lack of adequate and appropriate services in surrounding villages
		High prices of land and housing
		High rent price
		Financial weakness of residents
		The inability of local residents to break the cycle of poverty in which they are trapped.
9	The economic justification for marginalization	The gap between the deprived and the privileged classes
		Construction costs
		Increasing economic opportunities in metropolitan areas
10	Inability of support systems	Agricultural recession
		Unemployment increases
11	There was no planning.	Inability to utilize local capabilities
		Failure to recognize the province's economic, social, environmental, etc. capacities at the national level
		Lack of a national and trans-urban perspective along with proper performance of components at different levels
		Failure to consider the population by distributing facilities and...

Table 1. Concepts and semantic units

Row	Semantic unit	Concepts
12	Lack of awareness and social education	Lack of necessary awareness about the consequences of marginalization Reducing the power of local residents to use the law and legal facilities to escape from undesirable conditions or drowning in the problems of marginalization
13	Lifestyle	Lifestyle in machine life and technology Gaining pleasure and happiness in physical comfort and some of the pleasures found in cities Intolerance of small-town lifestyle
14	Change in social identity	The freezing of urban life from the perspective of residents The search for identity and individuality among young people, and escape from the constant humiliation of urban dwellers and the media.
15	Lack of appropriate policies and platforms for spontaneous mobilization and formations	Lack of support from organizations and urban management for the formation of associations, organizations, and non-governmental social and development institutions to provide the minimum living needs of poor people.
16	Environmental and climatic conditions	Water tensions Increasing drought Environmental crisis

Reference: Research findings, 2024



According to Table 1, 16 semantic units (lack of knowledge and planning, weakness in national laws and policies, sectoral and one-dimensional management, focused approach in development, weakness in monitoring and evaluation, disregard for housing policy for low-income groups, immigration justifications, inflation and unstable economic situation, economic justification of marginalization, inability of support systems, lack of planning perspective, lack of awareness and social edu-

cation, lifestyle, change in social identity, lack of policy and appropriate platform for people’s spontaneous mobilization and formations, and environmental and climatic conditions) were extracted from the interviews. Each of the semantic units then reflected in a questionnaire assess the respondents’ level of agreement with each unit. The Delphi method was employed in three stages to analyze this agreement (Table 2).

Table 2. Average expert opinions from the first and second stage survey on the proposed semantic units

Semantic units	Crisp amount in the first stage	The amount of crisp in the second stage	Crisp amount difference
Lack of knowledge and planning	0.564	0.578	0.014
Weaknesses in national laws and policies	0.560	0.570	0.010
Partial and one-dimensional management	0.563	0.569	0.006
Focused approach in development	0.571	0.581	0.010
Weakness in monitoring and evaluation	0.580	0.594	0.014
Neglect of housing policy for low-income groups	0.554	0.561	0.007
Immigration justifications	0.573	0.588	0.015
Inflation and economic instability	0.559	0.570	0.011
Economic justification for marginalization	0.572	0.580	0.008
Inability of support systems	0.565	0.576	0.011
There was no planning.	0.556	0.560	0.004
Lack of awareness and social education	0.560	0.569	0.009
Lifestyle	0.571	0.577	0.006
Change in social identity	0.558	0.564	0.006
Lack of appropriate policies and platforms for people’s spontaneous mobilization and formations	0.563	0.570	0.007
Environmental and climatic conditions	0.550	0.554	0.004

Reference: Research findings, 2024



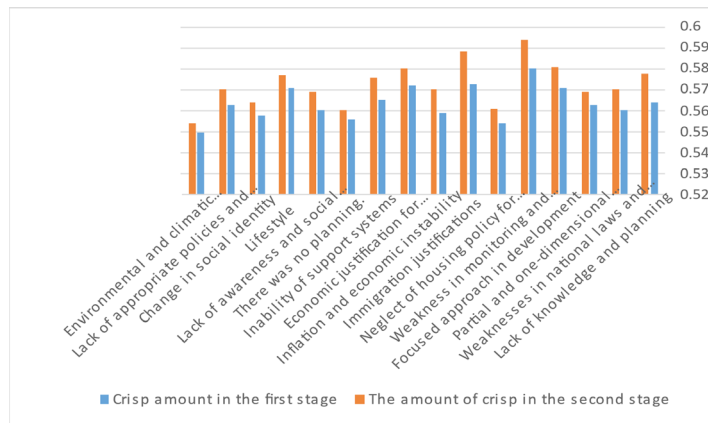


Figure 2. Amount of experts' opinions regarding semantic units. Reference: Research findings, 2024

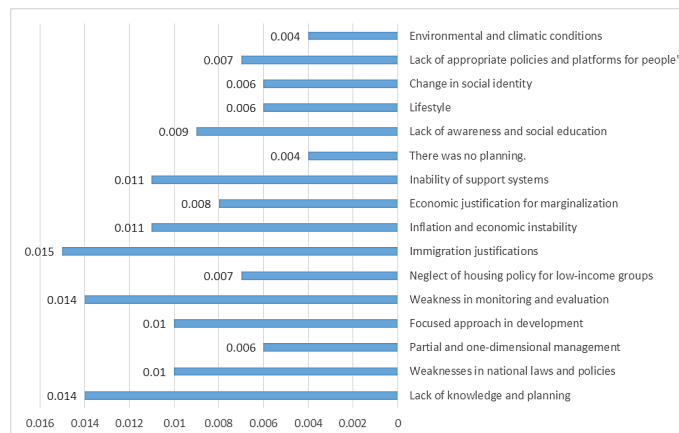


Figure 3. Percentage of disagreement between experts' opinions regarding semantic units. Reference: Research findings, 2024



According to the results of the Delphi method in Table 2 and Figure 2, experts agreed more on the semantic units proposed in the second stage than in the first stage. Additionally, as shown in Figure 3, the highest level of difference between the first and second stages with a difference of 0.015 is in the semantic unit of immigration justifications. Therefore, after identifying the semantic units, each of them was categorized (Table 3).

Based on Table 3, the following categories were identified along with their respective semantic units:

- Structural Drivers: 4 semantic units
- Managerial and Executive Drivers: 3 semantic units
- Socio-Cultural Drivers: 4 semantic units
- Economic Drivers: 2 semantic units
- Environmental Drivers: 1 semantic unit
- Institutional Drivers: 2 semantic units

Consequently, Figure 4 was developed as a paradigmatic model illustrating the effective drivers contributing to the marginalization of villages in the central part of Shahriar.

### 5. Discussion

The present study aimed to investigate and identify the effective drivers of marginalization in the villages of central Shahriar. Based on the results obtained, 50 concepts and 16 semantic units were categorized into six final drivers:

#### Structural Drivers:

A primary driver of marginalization in Shahriar's villages is structural, encompassing:

- Lack of Knowledge and Planning: Insufficient understanding and strategic planning contribute to the development of marginalized areas.

- Weakness in National Laws and Policies: Inadequate legal frameworks and policies fail to address the needs of marginalized communities.
- Disregard for Housing Policies for Low-Income Groups: Neglecting housing policies for low-income groups exacerbates marginalization.
- Lack of a Planning Perspective: The absence of a comprehensive planning perspective hinders effective development and integration of marginalized areas.

These structural issues align with findings from Sheibani Moghadam et al. (2019) and ImanPour et al. (2022), who noted that inadequate planning and policy frameworks contribute to the marginalization of rural areas in Iran.

**Management and Executive Drivers:**

Another significant driver is management and executive shortcomings, including:

- Sectoral and One-Dimensional Management: A fragmented approach to management leads to ineffective solutions for marginalized communities.
- Focused Approach to Development: Overemphasis on specific development areas neglects the holistic needs of marginalized regions.
- Weakness in Monitoring and Evaluation: Inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms prevent the assessment of development programs' effectiveness.

Table 3. Extracted categories

Row	Category	Semantic unit
1	Structural Drivers	Lack of knowledge and planning Weaknesses in national laws and policies Neglect of housing policy for low-income groups There was no planning.
2	Management and executive leadership	Partial and one-dimensional management Focused approach to development Weakness in monitoring and evaluation
3	Social and cultural Drivers	Immigration justifications Lack of awareness and social education Lifestyle Change in social identity
4	Economic Drivers	Inflation and economic instability Economic justification for marginalization
5	Environmental Drivers	Environmental and climatic conditions
6	Institutional Drivers	Inability of support systems Lack of appropriate policies and platforms for people's spontaneous mobilization and formations

Reference: Research findings, 2024

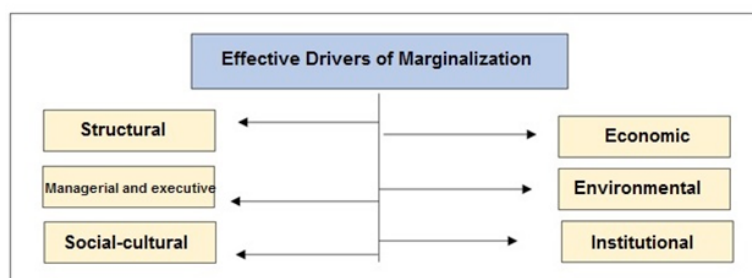


Figure 4. Paradigmatic model of effective drivers in the marginalization of villages in the central part of Shahr-iar. Reference: research findings, 2024



These issues are consistent with observations that inter-sectoral conflicts and lack of coordination among organizations impede effective management in addressing marginalization.

#### **Socio-Cultural Drivers:**

Socio-cultural factors also play a crucial role, such as:

- **Lifestyle Changes:** Migration leads to lifestyle changes that may not align with the realities of urban living, contributing to marginalization.
- **Change in Social Identity:** The shift in social identity due to migration can result in feelings of alienation and exclusion.

These factors highlight the complex interplay between migration, identity, and marginalization in rural areas.

#### **Economic Drivers:**

Economic factors influencing marginalization include:

- **Inflation and Unstable Economic Situation:** Economic instability exacerbates the challenges faced by marginalized communities.
- **Economic Justification of Marginalization:** Economic policies that inadvertently justify or perpetuate marginalization contribute to its persistence.

These economic challenges are consistent with studies indicating that economic instability and policies can drive rural populations toward urban areas, leading to marginalization.

#### **Environmental Drivers:**

Environmental factors, such as:

- **Environmental and Climatic Conditions:** Adverse environmental conditions can push rural populations to migrate, contributing to urban marginalization.

These environmental challenges are significant drivers of rural-urban migration and subsequent marginalization.

#### **Institutional Drivers:**

Institutional factors include:

- **Lack of Policy and Appropriate Platform for People's Spontaneous Mobilization and Formations:** The absence of supportive policies and platforms for community mobilization hinders collective action against marginalization.

The findings of this study align with those of [Sheibani Moghadam et al. \(2019\)](#), and [ImanPour et al. \(2022\)](#). Currently, the increasing desire of residents from nearby and distant cities and villages surrounding Tehran is escalating rapidly, as they can no longer tolerate the lifestyle in smaller cities. Consequently, due to factors such as high land prices, housing costs, rent, and financial constraints, they prefer to settle in suburban villages, aiming to enjoy the technological advancements of Tehran, often without adequate awareness of the consequences of marginalization. Inflation exacerbates the issue of marginalization in these villages. Low-income groups from central villages of Shahriar migrate to Tehran and Karaj in search of better job opportunities, driven by agricultural decline, unemployment in their original areas, water scarcity, increased drought, and environmental crises. Unaware that inflation continues to subject them to economic pressures in these metropolitan areas, they are eventually compelled to move to rural regions. This pattern is consistent with the studies of [Ghorbani et al. \(2017\)](#) and [Parvinzad et al. \(2023\)](#).

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#### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

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