

Identifying the Environmental Factors Contributing to the Occurrence of Crime and Anomic Behavior (Case Study: Urban Deteriorated Spaces of Borazjan City)

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ABSTRACT: Cities, as the focused centers for human residence and settlement, are faced with various issues. Anomic behavior is perceived as the most important reasons leading to a decline in the use of public spaces in cities by its residents. According to the mutual relation between environment and behavior, clearly, different characteristics identify the physical factors and parameters which underlie crime and anomic behavior in Borazjan urban deteriorated spaces. The aim of this research is to identify, and therefore, help eliminate these effective environmental factors and reach higher level of safety and regularity in public spaces of deteriorated areas of Borazjan city. According to the results of this research, the most effective factors that give rise to crime in public spaces are physical disturbance, functional disorders and confusion of meaning and identity.

Key words: Social deviance, Crime, Anomie, Violence, Borazjan city

INTRODUCTION

The explosion of cities development has given rise to a plethora of the problems for human beings and the most important of which is the imbalance of the relation between human and urban spaces. Expansion of the cities on one hand and the lack of space on the other hand have led to the over density of the population and activities within the modern cities. These conditions have led to various social, cultural, economic, physical and functional irregularities. In this process, the metropolitans and cities of Iran have also faced an unprecedented hike in the various social deviance, crime, violence and anomic behavior. It should be noted that the extent and type of the crimes and social deviances vary in different urban districts. Given their special physical structure, type of activity and features of the residents, some areas are more prone to the crimes. Meanwhile, urban deteriorated spaces are among the areas more likely to nurture manifold crimes and deviations due to their relatively high social,

cultural, economic, physical and functional irregularities.

The urban deteriorated spaces of Borazjan face serious challenges in providing safety for its residents. The appearance of the crimes and irregularity in this area, in addition to creating a sense of uncertainty and skepticism, has imposed serious challenges on the residents, government and justice in general. On one hand, such problems have generated a sense of insecurity, anxiety, terror, distress and reduced quality of life among the dwellers, and on the other hand, they have compromised the functional quality, hospitality of the space, and ultimately the health of the city.

Due to the fact that all social irregularities and evils categorized under the umbrella terms of "crime", no matter how they being committed, take place into a particular spatial context, the present study attempts to investigate the environmental characteristics that prepare and affect the appearance of various social crimes and deviations within Borazjan urban deteriorated spaces.

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Regarding these factors in urban policy making, planning and design processes, the crimes can be prevented and environmental opportunities for committing the crimes and other deviances in the area may be restricted.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

People face a variety of threats in the urban environment: air pollution, noise, contamination, and so forth. In some places, the threat of natural disasters is an everyday fear to be faced in the design of buildings and settlements. In most Western societies, although many natural threats are now adequately managed, the threat of crime has increased. One of the most crucial threats to the sense of security of people is the fear of being harassed by crime. This paper examines the reasons for criminal and anomic behaviors and restricting the opportunities to commit such behavior in public spaces is particularly important. In this paper, before examining the effect of physical features of the urban areas on the appearance of crime and other anomic behaviors and in an attempt to avoid them, the social and cultural functions of the collective order tend to break down (Abdollahi, 2002).

Aberration or Social Deviance

Social deviation is attributed to any abnormal behavior. In other words, it includes any social aberration or any individual or social act that is beyond the moral framework of target society and general codes of ethics which the agents act in, either formally or informally, since they face legal restrictions and moral obscurity. In consequence, the deviators tend to conceal their deviance from the eye of the legal observers, public morality and social order (Abdollahi, 2002).

Crime

Crime is defined as a social discipline of people in the society, for which legal consequences or punishments are determined. Thus, crime is either the commitment or avoiding of an act for which a penalty is determined by the law (Nourbaha, 1999).

Crime and fear of crime are two of the main aspects that can be examined in urban design. Crime is a social act that is beyond the moral framework of target society and general codes of ethics which the agents act in, either formally or informally, since they face legal restrictions and moral obscurity. In consequence, the deviators tend to conceal their deviance from the eye of the legal observers, public morality and social order (Abdollahi, 2002).

It should be noted that crime and deviance are two distinct concepts, and despite some overlapping and proximity in fact, crimes are those aberrations and deviances that incur punishment legally, and their criminal nature is in the eye of

the law (Bounds, 2004).

Anomie and Anomic Behavior

Anomie is one of the few uniquely sociological concepts (Parsons, 1968). Yet, it is a condition of normlessness or the suspension of rules and behavioral guidelines which creates a moral vacuum (Coser, 1964). The concept of anomie, or anomia, has existed since 1600s; however it has been more widely used since the work of Emile Durkheim in the late 1800s. Durkheim used the concept to study the

he had witnessed a marked increase in suicide. He theorized that "an abrupt and unforeseen growth or diminution of an individual's power and wealth tended to produce anomie (Ibid). Additionally, during periods of sudden depression, sudden prosperity, or rapid technological change, the

Robert Merton (1936), another sociologist formulated his theory using Durkheim in arguing that societies differed in emphasis they placed on cultural goals and the legitimate means governing goal achievement. Cultural goals are those that are deemed "worth striving for" when societies place equal emphasis on goals and means, individuals achieve satisfaction both from goal achievement and following institutional means for achieving goals. When societies have an imbalanced emphasis on goals and means, anomie is resulted. Anomie is rampant when societies emphasize certain common goals for success, such as monetary provide equal access for everyone to achieve that goal. Anomie increases the probability of committing crime, in particular

instrumental crimes (Bernard, 1987).

Violence

Violence is an extremely diffuse and complex phenomenon. Notions of what is acceptable and unacceptable in terms of

under review as values and social norms evolves (World Health Organization, 2002). Violence, as usually defined, is the use of force against a person or property. An example of violence is the illegal obligation against liberty, and rights. Violent crimes are those which by nature have an extremely severe physical aspect, such as murder, rape, beating (Motamedi Mehr, 2000).

The City as Context: Social Deviation, Crimes and Anomic Behaviors

The concept of cities and crime has been studied together and alongside each other, ever since sociology gained an focus on the prevalence of social deviations and problems in of language, ethnicity, immigration, residential districts, and population density in this realm. Park argues that urban spaces suppresses the motivation and instinct of those residing in them and causes social deviations. The physical structure of the city, In addition, cities as places where the density of human population is the highest on the Earth, is considered by itself a complicated phenomenon. Correspondingly, the urban society is a mass best characterized by diversity and opposing interests. lead to anarchy and chaos. On the other hand, these interests can't be left unattended, because then everyone will start to foundation for anomic behavior.

New social disorder theories stress the role of the expanded urban processes on the development of social disorder. In these theories, the larger cities with greater population lack the necessary capacity to exercise supervision and informal control local friendship ties, increased anomie and reduced local participation, urbanization relies heavily on formal monitoring and controlling systems. Several studies have shown that growing urban population increases the crime rate, suggesting crime rate. As such, the social disorder theory maintains that expanded urbanization will increase the social disorder, something which ultimately leads to the increased crime and deviances within the society

In fact, parallel to the population hike, the society gradually loses its control over its members, thus no longer being able to and large cities would provide some insight into this matter. In small and closed environments, the minimum deviation is disclosed, eliciting disparage and suppression. In large cities and where public supervision is somewhat loose, however, individuals can do what they want without any restriction. The extent of people's liberty from public supervision depends on the expansion and density of the population, and the more widespread and dense the population; the less will be the public supervision over the individual behaviors due to the dispersion in a wider area.

Another factor affecting the development of social abnormalities is the changing social life. While in small or rural areas the structure of social life is based on kinship and extended families, in large cities this structure is torn apart and the social

would result in reduced public monitoring over the individuals. Under such structure, there is no longer any close family, tribal or kinship monitoring, and even if in existence, the geographical area of the city helps individuals unchain themselves from such inhibition. Thus, cities are able to change the extent of control and supervision over the life of people in a society and create a new structure of social life through the social life. This multiplies the potential for the prevalence of deviances and social deviances in the society (Durkheim, Based on the discussion, it can be assumed that there is direct relationship between increased urbanization and expanded social deviances, at least in some temporal and spatial periods. That is, the development of the cities is a good predictor of greater social crises in the future. The experience shows that expanded urbanization generates a plethora of the crimes and deviances, making urban crimes one of the main concerns of Security is a core feature of the sustainable development (Raco, 2007) and lack of security decreases the quality of life of citizens.

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Characteristics of Urban Crimes and Violence

Urban crimes are also a part of social deviations that follow serious damages on the society. Urban violence is a type of violence that deals with the city as a physical and a conceptual being, in a direct relation. Therefore, not all types of violence that occur in the city can be called urban violence. Crime and violence in the city can be characterized by the following traits: statistically speaking, the prevalence of the occurrence of violence in urban spaces is much more than rural areas and villages.

Trait 2: In comparison with rural areas, a higher percentage of crime and violence in the cities happen against women and children. The occurrence of crime and violence, in this case, increases with alcohol and drug abuse in cities.

Trait 3: Basically, a phenomenon called "street violence" exists

Effective Factors Contributing to Crime and Anomic Behavior

crime, the analysis of crime requires understanding certain crime will not be easy. These issues are personal cognition, society cognition and the law cognition (Nourbaha, 1999). Generally, in the study of crime and anomic behavior, it is of utmost importance to investigate the different personal and psychological characteristics of both the convict and the victim and the different aspects of the environment in which the crime has been committed, including social, economic,

Environment as a determining factor

in geographical investigations of crime and anomic behavior, it is important to pay attention to certain key factors including the law, the convict, the victim (person or object), the location and time at which the crime is committed (Brown, 2000). In this paper, from all the mentioned key factors, the role of "location" will be investigated from the aspects of urban design, planning and management.

The Relation between Physical Environment and Crime Occurrence

Scholars have proposed two sets of factors, i.e. internal or individual and external or environmental to explain the environment has been used in the general sense of the word, and their interactions, the valuable position of the applied research in the geography to identify the crime and examine the relationship and the role of environmental and spatial factors in the emergence of social abnormalities will be evident.

The Essence of the Relation between Environment and Behavior

We as human beings, behave in many different ways during our daily life. In fact, we are behaving in one certain way at every moment in time. Our behavior is our communication pathway and our reaction to the environment around us. In effect, it is

According to what was mentioned above, two factors dramatically impact the type and ways of behavior: the – considering all his characteristics. In fact, the basis of our behavior roots in the combination of both the person and the surrounding environment; therefore our behavior is the result of the interaction of our needs, motivations, environmental capacities, concepts, mental image, and last but not least, the

is vivid that our activities can take different forms under the effect of the stimulus. The effect of the stimulus of the person in giving that response are overshadowed by the effect of the stimulus.

Environment as a determining factor: According to this outlook, the environment plays a determining role in human's perception and sensation. Moreover, every stimulus provokes a response of the person in giving that response are overshadowed by the effect of the stimulus.

Environment as a Fostering factor: Based on this outlook, the physical environment brings with itself a set of opportunities and restrictions in the way people are to behave. Nevertheless, the environment does not determine the behavior, and people

In other words, environment is not considered as the sole determinant of behavior, but it merely provides opportunities for some behaviors to surface and restricts others.

Environment as a contributing factor: According to this outlook, as people can behave in different ways in a certain environment, the design and physical characteristics of the environment can contribute to the occurrence of certain behaviors. Thus the environment increases the chances for the occurrence of a certain behavior, yet it doesn't play a determining role (Rezazadeh, 2001).

In general, all social abnormalities and deviances opposed to the values of a society, which are known as "crime" or "offense", irrespective of how they are being committed, take place in a temporal and spatial context.

On the occurrence of anomic behavior, the relation between human's environment and their behavior can be assumed as the relation between a container and its content. (Eliei, 1971)

Offenders often operate in a rational fashion, they prefer to commit crimes that require the least effort, provide the highest this rational offender perspective to a range of crimes (Clarke, 1985) are most likely to occur when potential offenders come into contact with a suitable crime target where the changes of detection by others are thought to be low or the criminal, apprehended. In short, the crime site lacks a natural guardian

The current study was carried out as an "analytical" study based on surveys carried out on the residents, administrators as managers in the city as well as anyone else who used the urban spaces. The literature on this topic was reviewed using libraries more data about the subject of the study. The overall model and process in this study is as follows:

1- Identifying the contributing factors on the prevalence of crime in urban spaces by going through relevant literature and articles

2- Interviewing the residents, administrators and managers in the district;

3- Conducting different focus groups with the residents of the districts with deteriorated texture in the city of Borazjan as participants;

4- Preparing a questionnaire;

5- Conducting a survey on this topic from the residents of the district using the questionnaire with likert scale;

6- Preparing a thorough list of indexes concluded from all the above mentioned steps;

7- Analyzing the data collected from the survey and interviewed on the topic and a primary list of physical factors

contributing to the occurrence of crime and anomic behavior experts and managers with the responsibility to administrate the urban spaces was conducted, and using the Delphy method, In the next step, the residents of the district were encouraged factors on the prevalence of crime and anomic behavior in the district, in openly conducted focus groups. Eventually, all the surveyed on the topic using the questionnaires. The extent of the statistical population in this study (residents with the age Cluster sampling was applied.

After the residents were surveyed on the topic, a list of all the factors, including the factors gathered from the previous of all the effective environmental factors contributing to the prevalence of crime in public spaces of the deteriorated areas is a multivariate analysis in which factors are not addressed as dependent and independent, but instead they are considered correlated. In other words, all variables are dependent towards one another and therefore it is tried to classify the variables in several categories.

Introducing of Case Study

Borazjan is the center of the Dashtestan County and it is the second biggest city of the Boushehr province after Boushehr city.

The district which will be investigated in this paper is urban deteriorated area of Borazjan city. The area of this district is

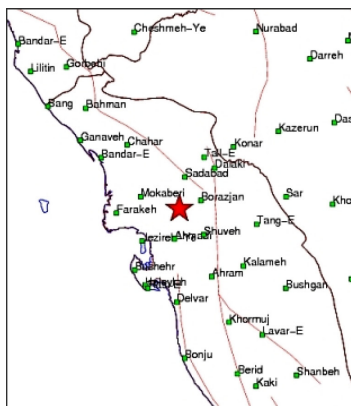
201 hectares.

The data provided by the Iran's Census Bureau, the population of deteriorated area was 20204 in 2006. Given the physical erosion, the lack of adequate roadway access, services and urban infrastructure, this area is quite vulnerable, lacking the spatial, environmental and economic compared to other parts of the city. This district is the main trading center of Borazjan city. Retailing makes up most of the business activities in this district. A sizable area constitutes ruins and unused lands. The condition of the buildings in this district is rather not appropriate and a great majority of the buildings are either ruined it a district with a high prevalence of crime occurrence and anomic behavior in the city.

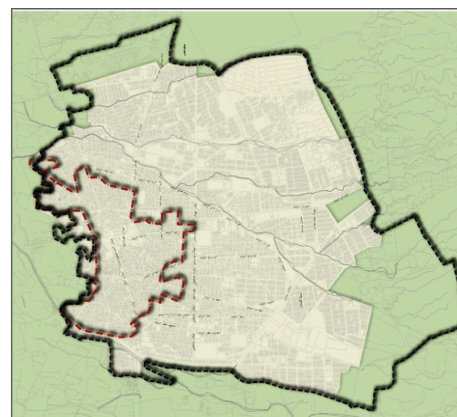
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Conducted earlier in this study, based on parameters derived Contribution of the local residents, the framework of the agree , agree , disagree , strongly disagree , neutral) , with the alpha has been applied. Cronbach's alpha has been invented by Cronbach and is one of the most Prevalent methods for measuring the reliability of questionnaires. The meaning of reliability is that if features are measured by the same tools and under the same conditions at different times, results should almost be similar.

Table 1 shows that according to the results of Cranach's alpha



Boushehr province
(Source: Bagh_e_Andisheh consulting engineers Co.)



(Source: Bagh_e_Andisheh consulting engineers Co.)



JIDQGEK\VDORURVRQQGHWHURUDWHGDUHDVRI%RUDMDQ

WHY RQHQQLWFKWRWK

research questionnaire is 0.740.

UDQDKV\DOSKDV\DJUHEHWZHHQ\DQGDQGWKH\ORMLH
Alpha is to 1, the more coherent our questionnaire is, with a minimum of 0.7 considered as acceptable. Therefore the 0.74

JUHODPVWKDW\WKHTHVWRQQDUHMHGQW\KMMWGW\MUHODRURWDWRQ
and coherent. The criterion for the validity and reliability of the questionnaire items following the analysis of the data obtained from the case

VWVGQGDWHGWKH\HIDR\WK\WRRODQGW\VDHSM\DEQWQSS
terms of the psychometric properties. JDRU\DQDOW\ZDV\MHG\WR\PPDUH\WKH\UHVOWV\PHVW\H
questionnaire. This statistical method has vast application in different branches of science. This technique is formed by combining several statistical techniques and it aims to simplify a complex group of data. This technique can reduce many dependent variables to several factors which have spatial

autocorrelation.

In general, the steps for conducting the factor analysis are:

Indicator selection;

Designing a data matrix;

JDRUHWUDWRQ□

JUHODRURWDWRQ□

Interpretation and labeling the factors.

7KH\QDOW\WHS\Q\WKH\IDWRU\DQDOW\MSURHVVM\ODEHOQJ\WK

factors, which is, in a way, the most important stage of the process. The reason being there is no certain rule to it and we can't certainly say what different variables related to a particular factor has in common.

The steps and results of factor analysis have been shown below.

JUVV\WRDVM\HV\WK\HDGHTD\RI\WK\HPRGHOD\MHUOH\HUZONQ□

(KMO) index and Bartlett Test of Sphericity were used. The results of the tests are shown in Table 2.

7KH□\DMHUOH\HUZONQ□\02□\PHDVUH□RI□\MDPSOQJ□

7DEOHJ\WHPZRWD\O6W\DW\W\W

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected ,WHPZRWD\O\K Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
q1	□	□	0.394	0.721
q2	□	□	0.418	0.717
q3	34.92	60.648	0.323	0.729
q4	□	□	□	0.711
T□	□	□	0.443	□
q6	36.07	□	0.393	0.721
q7	36.17	61.494	□	0.743
q8	□	□	0.437	0.714
q9	□	□	□	0.696
q10	□	62.111	0.287	0.733
q11	34.34	□	0.294	0.732
q12	36.21	62.941	0.227	0.739

adequacy is an index for comparing the magnitude of the REVHUYHGRUUHODWRQRHHQWVWRWKHPDJQWGHRIWVWDE and higher are great, 0.7 is acceptable, 0.6 is RUIHODWRQRHHQWVVDQGWKH%DUWOHWWZHVMRPRKHUWVWVKDQMQDHSWDEOH□ used to test the hypothesis the correlation matrix is an identity matrix.

The closer the KMO measure to 1 indicate a sizeable sampling and higher are great, 0.7 is acceptable, 0.6 is

As seen in Table 2, the value of KMO (0.769) and level of VJQDQWRV%DUWOHWWVWVHVWRIMSKHUWVSRQUPVWKH□ adequacy of the model.

Table 3 demonstrates the values of common factor loadings between the extracted factors and studied variables, in which WKHYDOHVVOHVWVKDQMSHWVWKHYDUDEOHVWREHUHPRYG□ As noted Table 3, the values of this feature for all items show common factor loadings for the studied variables.

7DEOHVKRZVWKHVSHDOYDOHVIDWRUYDUDQHDQGPQDWYH VKDUHRIWKHWHPVRUGQJWV7DEOHVKHSHUHGWRQSRZHU□

Table2: Results of KMO and Bartlett's Test

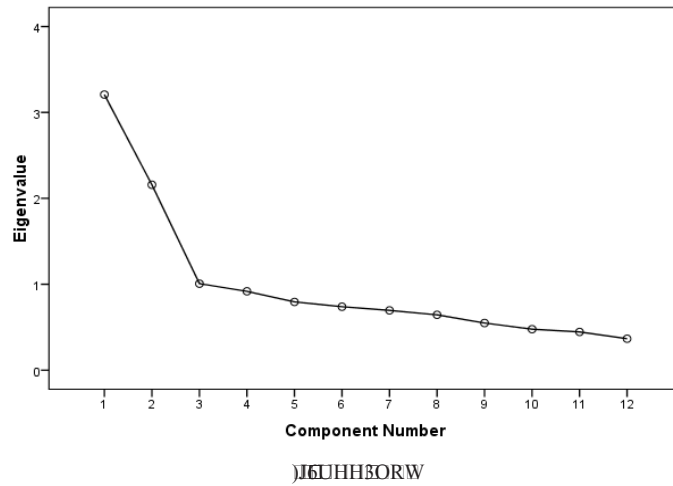
□	0.769
□	□
df	66
Sig.	0

Table3: Communalities, Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

	Initial	Extraction
q1	1.000	0.483
q2	1.000	□
q3	1.000	0.404
q4	1.000	□
□	1.000	□
q6	1.000	□
q7	1.000	□
q8	1.000	□
q9	1.000	□
q10	1.000	□
q11	1.000	□
q12	1.000	0.394

Table 4: Total Variance Explained, Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared RDGQJW			RWDWRQ6PVRIT6TUDUHGRIDGQJW		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	3.21	26.73	26.73	3.21	26.73	26.73	2.60	21.64	21.64
2	2.16	17.98	44.71	2.16	17.98	44.71	2.11	□	39.19
3	1.01	8.391	□	1.01	8.39	□	1.67	13.92	□
4	0.92	□	□						
□	0.79	6.62	67.37						
6	0.74	□	□						
7	0.70	□	79.322						
8	0.64	□	84.692						
9	□	□	89.263						
10	0.48	3.98	93.241						
11	0.44	3.71	□						
12	0.37	□	100						



of this model based on the aggregate proportion of factor YDUDQHMTDOWR□
)JKRZVWKHMVSHDOYDOHVIRUGIIHUHQWIDWRUMRUGQJ variables of area grading, Inaccessibility of area, lighting, street network quality and physical quality of buildings. In the result to this diagram, i.e. the factors in the initial part and the steep slope of the diagram, factor analysis suggests three factors to be extracted.

RRNQJORVHOVDWRBWDWHG)DWRUODWUWDEOHWKHUVV□
 IDWRUKDVDKJKDQGMIQDQWUHODWRQZWKWKHIROORZQJ□
 this factor can be named, “physical anarchy of the space”.
 Due to the relation between second factors and the other

WDEOHRWDWHGRPSRQHQQWODW,IE Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis, Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

		Component		
		1	2	3
q1	Grading of the area	□		0.361
q2	DNRIOHJEOW□			0.694
q3	Inaccessibility of area	0.613		
q4	Disrepute of space			0.716
T□	Quality of street network	0.644		
q6	Unsuitable allocation of space		0.674	
q7	Activities incoherent with the residential function		0.72	
q8	The existence of lands and buildings with no particular function (Abandoned EGGQJVDUGODQGV□		□	
q9	Density in masculine activities		0.647	
q10	Physical quality of buildings	□		
q11	JKWQJ□	0.788		
q12	QGHQWHMSDHVDNRIGHQWW\□			□

4 variables of “activities in coherent with the residential function”, “density in masculine activities”, “the existence of lands and buildings with no particular function (abandoned

it can be named “functional anarchy of the space”.
The third factor is related to 4 variables including: “false
“lack of identity”. Therefore this factor can be named “the

CONCLUSION

According to what mentioned in this paper, the fear of crime is one of the most important factors threatening security of citizens.

Crime, and especially the fear of crime, affects the mental and physical wellbeing of victims, causing behavioral alterations, with serious consequences for the whole community. It is also the main contributor to the decline of quality of life in most of the urban areas. Considering the crucial importance of sense of security and immunity of people in urban spaces, in this study we tried to identify the contributing factors which affect the occurrence of crime and anomic behavior in urban deteriorated spaces of Borazjan city. In this regard, we have deployed an interactive approach by surveying the residents, administrators and civil managers of the region to compliment investigations. After conducting a survey from the residents and administrators in the region, a thorough list of variables was prepared which was then summarized and categorized using factor analysis. In the factor analysis method, variables factors of “physical anarchy of the space”, “functional anarchy space”, are the most important factors which contribute to the occurrence of crime and anomic behavior in the deteriorated areas of Borazjan city.

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