

The Role of Spatial Planning in Economic Défense with Emphasis on Population

Ismail Ahmadi Moghadam¹, Hamid Reza Tandro², Mohammad Zarin Pour³,
Vahid Fakhruddin⁴

Receipt Date: 2024/07/29

Date of Acceptance: 2024/10/11

Abstract

The goal of land use planning is to establish a logical relationship between population distribution and activities conducted within regions, enabling a holistic, comprehensive, and long-term approach to managing the relationship between humans and their activities. Utilizing the population factor in a country, through the full range of its actual and potential capacities, capabilities, and resources, can enhance deterrence against multifaceted threats while achieving and safeguarding national interests. In this context, the economy is a crucial component of power, influencing international and regional equations and significantly impacting population arrangements in land use planning. This research seeks to answer the question: What is the function of land use planning in economic defense with an emphasis on population? The type of research is applied-developmental, employing a descriptive-exploratory method, and is conducted qualitatively. In this study, documents and articles were reviewed, and expert opinions were gathered through interviews and focus group discussions. The results evaluate the factors of economic defense with a focus on population based on land use planning, both qualitatively and quantitatively, as well as economic factors in both national and transnational contexts. Based on the research findings, three practical and actionable recommendations for economic defense factors with an emphasis on population in land use planning have been proposed.

Keywords: Land use Planning, Economic Defense, Population

¹.Professor at Amin University of Police Sciences - shahid-Kavand@gmail.com

².Ph.D. Student in Strategic Defense Studies (Corresponding Author) - hamidreza.tandro@gmail.com

³.Ph.D. Student in Strategic Defense Studies, National Defense University

⁴.Ph.D. Student in Strategic Defense Studies, National Defense University-

Introduction

Land Use Planning is a targeted map and a smart program aimed at establishing a balance among three components: population, space, and activity environment, in accordance with national goals for progress, development, and the establishment of justice, while also considering defensive, security, and environmental considerations, among others. Generally, land use planning is referred to as spatial management; a management approach that strives to create a balance and coordination between individual and societal interests at various levels. It also aims to eliminate conflicts between the interests of individuals and the public good, directing them toward the overall interests of the Islamic community (Kalantari et al., 2022: 219).

Spatial planning and overall defense—of which economic defense is a crucial component—are two main pillars for development and security. On the one hand, the foundation and common ground of these two pillars is qualitative human resources. One of the components of spatial planning is the appropriate distribution of population and activities within the environment. Currently, spatial planning encompasses economic, social, cultural, and environmental organization aimed at achieving a better future.

According to the National Spatial Planning Document until 1424 (Islamic calendar), Iran is a territory based on a society with an ancient civilization, a prestigious Islamic-Iranian culture, national cohesion, harmony of cultures, divine human and territorial talents, and innovative technological breakthroughs that prominently showcase the realization of the Islamic-Iranian model of progress to the world.

One of the important aspects of spatial planning in Iran is the attention to future multifaceted threats. Accordingly, the approach to spatial planning is primarily development-oriented. Therefore, one of the crucial considerations for future spatial planning is the simultaneous development and security in planning projects with an economic-defensive approach. For example, the Abadan Oil Refinery, as the largest refinery in the country, was rendered inactive at the onset of the imposed war due to its unsuitable location at the zero border. Additionally, the vast southern coasts of the country, despite having suitable economic potential, are often uninhabited or have only a small population.

Creating the necessary conditions for economic activities and generating appropriate income encourages people to seek presence and engagement in significant economic areas. If this issue is not well-managed and adequately planned, it can lead to various problems in cultural, geographical, political, and other domains. Spatial planning with an emphasis on population can be considered a solution to these problems. The prerequisites for implementing spatial planning aimed at the long-term development of the country are based on the approved principles of the Spatial Planning Document, which include security and defense considerations, economic efficiency and productivity, unity and integrity of Iran's territory, protection of cultural heritage, facilitation and regulation of the country's internal and external economic relations, and alleviation of deprivation. In the economic-defensive approach, the strategic and vital role of population as a key component of development and spatial planning and defense holds a special significance. For this reason, researchers in this study aim to identify the function of spatial planning in economic defense with an emphasis on population. Considering that Iran has significant economic capacities and a vast geographical expanse, economic defense cannot be achieved without considering spatial planning. Therefore, neglecting the "function of spatial planning in economic defense with an emphasis on population" has negative consequences, such as a lack of attention to environmental issues and the necessity for optimal utilization of natural and economic resources through spatial planning, an imbalance in the organization of the population settlement system, and improvement of the hierarchical organization of urban and rural centers. Additionally, there is often insufficient attention to the nature and type of threats and the inappropriate distribution of population across the country, as well as neglecting defense-security principles and considerations. The integration of natural, economic, and population spaces with defense and other considerations is a necessity that must be addressed. Thus, in this research, we will focus on spatial planning with an emphasis on population, taking into account economic goals and capacities and how they are distributed to play a role in economic defense. On the other hand, the results of this research will examine the factors of economic defense with an emphasis on population in both national and transnational contexts within spatial planning, and we aim to find a suitable answer to the question: What is the function of spatial planning in economic defense with an emphasis on territorial population?

Theoretical Foundations (Historical Background):

In the National Spatial Planning Document (approved by the Supreme Council of Spatial Planning on 2021), the main and long-term orientation of spatial development is presented with consideration of capabilities, opportunities, and limitations in facing challenges to achieve the desired spatial development goals as a territorial strategy. A diverse, endogenous, exogenous, and value-creating economy based on human capital, innovative technology, and regional advantages is identified as one of the key objectives in realizing the vision of spatial development. Additionally, enhancing the dynamism, health, skills, and motivation of human capital, along with maintaining a youthful population, includes sub-goals such as: increasing the fertility rate to exceed the replacement level, training capable, creative, responsible human resources with a spirit of collective participation based on a jihadist culture, and improving education, research, and labor productivity to increase the contribution of human resources in producing national wealth in line with regional specialties, capacities, and advantages.

In reviewing and studying the research conducted that are related to the topic of this investigation, the following points were identified:

In his dissertation titled "Providing a Strategic Model for Spatial Planning Based on the Discourse of Imam Khomeini (may God have mercy on him), Leadership, the Constitution, Experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Utilizing Successful Human Experiences," Hojjatollah Nasir pour (2017) concluded that sustainable security is integral to the implementation of spatial planning. This approach relies on the higher-level documents of the system, adherence to the principles and components of the doctrines and general policies of the system, and consideration of the 20-year outlook document. The outcomes include characteristics such as spatial justice, sustainable development, the internal stability of the system, spatial organization, and the realization of the intellectual outcome of trust in achieving goals among the populace. Furthermore, it promotes a balanced atmosphere at the national level, creating and developing resilience and spatial security as the ideal goal of spatial planning.

Gholamreza Jalali (2011), in his dissertation titled "Designing a Spatial Planning Model for the Northwest Region with the Application of Passive Defense Principles to Achieve National Development," concluded several key findings. These include:

- The effectiveness of passive defense in shaping a spatial planning model aimed at achieving secure and sustainable development in the country.
- The impact of geographical factors in the development of a spatial planning model for secure and sustainable development.
- The influence of spatial and non-spatial variables in formulating a spatial planning model for secure and sustainable development.
- The significance of external threats in passive defense for the development of a spatial planning model aimed at secure and sustainable development.
- The importance of geopolitical factors in passive defense for creating a spatial planning model that contributes to secure and sustainable development in the country.

In the thesis of the first group of students from the Defense Policy and Military Thought course at the National Defense University (2011), titled "Formulating Defensive-Security Strategies for the Spatial Planning of the Makran Coasts," several key findings were reported. These include:

- The desirable defensive-security status of spatial planning for the coastal areas of the Makran Sea, influenced by the country's development outlook, based on eight principles.
- An assessment of the existing strengths and weaknesses in the coastal territories of the Makran Sea, with 16 strengths and 8 weaknesses identified.

Fariba Zamani (2010), in her article titled "The Importance of Demography in Spatial Planning (with an Emphasis on Studying Provincial Migrations)," reached several conclusions. These include:

- The random distribution of opportunities, facilities, and resources across regions, leading to intensified developmental inequalities at both regional and sustainable development levels.
- The neglect of the spatial planning document and the lack of a spatial planning framework based on territorial planning or regional division of labor among areas.
- This oversight results in a disregard for available resources, opportunities, and capacities, creating limitations and constraints without considering the regional needs in political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions.

Saber Rahbari and Zahra Khodaei, in their article (2020) titled "Land Use Challenges and Obstacles in Iran," reached several conclusions. They noted that spatial planning serves as the foundation for comprehensive development plans and is a connector between economic, social, and spatial planning, or their collective framework in the form of integrated planning at the national and regional levels. Addressing imbalances and leveraging territorial capabilities, or in other words, achieving spatial development, has been one of the primary concerns of the country's planning system. Therefore, spatial planning can be regarded as an optimal organization of space aimed at achieving balanced national development goals and strategies.

Additionally, alongside the examination and study of domestic research, reviewing some foreign studies will be effective for exploring the concepts and topics presented.

Martin McGuire (1995), in his study titled "International Security and Defense Economics," concluded that defense economics is the result of a multidimensional arrangement of discussions that each country must consider when preparing for its national security. In formulating a country's defense document, matters related to defense economics must be taken into account. Although previous studies are related to this research and share similarities in the topics of spatial planning and economic defense, they have not examined the variables of this subject, and none have identified the factors of economic defense with an emphasis on demographics. This research not only identifies the factors of economic defense with a focus on demographics but also addresses a strategic model at a macro level regarding the spatial defense planning of the Islamic Republic of Iran against economic threats. The innovation of this study includes establishing a connection between spatial planning and economic defense, as well as identifying the factors of economic defense with an emphasis on population.

Conceptual Definitions:

Spatial Planning: According to the Larousse Dictionary, spatial planning is defined as the optimal geographical distribution of economic activities, considering natural and human resources.

Land Use Planning: The land use planning program places a specific emphasis on the spatial (locational, geographical) perspective in national development planning. It aims to distribute and allocate population and

construction activities, implement welfare programs for individuals and communities, and make optimal use of natural resources and human labor to maintain and sustain economic and social elements across the territory (Planning and Budget Organization, 1984: Volume 1, Pages 3-7).

A systematic evaluation of natural, social, economic, cultural, and other factors is intended to find ways to encourage and assist stakeholders in selecting suitable options to enhance and sustain territorial capacity to meet community needs. In other words, balanced and coordinated distribution of all economic and social activities across the territory, relative to its capabilities and natural and human resources, is referred to as land use planning (Sarafi, 2000: 94).

Land use planning is defined as creating a balance between three elements: humans, space, and activities. In relation to humans, the concept of "management" is discussed; concerning space, the term "climate" is relevant; and regarding activities, the concept of "program and planning" is highlighted. Thus, the concept of land use planning integrates the three sciences of management and economics, geography, and sociology (Vahidi, 1994: 76).

Overall Defense: Overall defense refers to the preparation and utilization of all human resources, material, and spiritual assets to prevent and confront any type of threat and aggression from external and internal adversaries (Shams Dolatabadi et al., 2018: 78)

Economic Defense: Economic defense encompasses the establishment of a strong foundation to resist external shocks. This type of defense entails the development of programs to address contingencies and the stockpiling of resources to support the economy during crises (Dari Nogoarani, 2008: 25).

Economic defense refers to the preparation and utilization of all human, material, economic, and spiritual resources to implement appropriate strategies aimed at preventing and confronting any type of economic threat from external adversaries, as well as achieving dignity and power in the political arena (Farzandi, 2021)¹.

In the Holy Quran, it is emphasized: "And prepare against them whatever you are able of power and of steeds of war by which you may terrify the enemy of Allah and your enemy" (Quran, Al-Anfal 60). Based

¹. <https://sнду.ac.ir/maktab/fa/news/3926>)

on this, any capability that can be harnessed must be prepared for deterrence and confrontation against enemy aggression to ensure security. Undoubtedly, economic strength and power are among the primary and significant aspects of this comprehensive capability.

Population: Population refers to all individuals who continuously reside in a specific geographical unit (such as a country, province, district, city, or village) in the form of households and families (Taghavi, 2009: 3).

Population Statistics and Analysis

The population of a country is updated based on official statistics at any given time and can be considered one of the crucial components of social, economic, and cultural development and planning. Therefore, population analysis involves studying the communities and populations of each region to understand and analyze the challenges and opportunities that can inform appropriate planning for the development and progress of societies.

At the national level, population refers to "all individuals who are territorially subject to a country." The mobility and movement of populations to improve living conditions, as well as the impact of these movements on the economic, social, and demographic structures of both sending and receiving regions, are key factors in population change and the primary external factor affecting the number and composition of the population.

The term "demography" refers to the study of the size, composition, structure, growth, and development of human populations. In other words, demography can be defined as the study of the structure and movement of human populations and the interrelations between demographic phenomena and economic, social, and biological factors. Demography examines human populations from both quantitative and qualitative perspectives.

Theoretical Framework

Based on various definitions and concepts of development, there are diverse interpretations of spatial planning in its economic, social, and geographical dimensions. As defined by Jean-Paul Lacaze, spatial planning aims to achieve the most optimal distribution of the population through the best arrangement of social and economic activities across the territory. Population variables, as influential factors in national development and the defensive power of a country, hold significance from both quantitative and qualitative perspectives. The economic factor is evaluated within both national and transnational contexts.

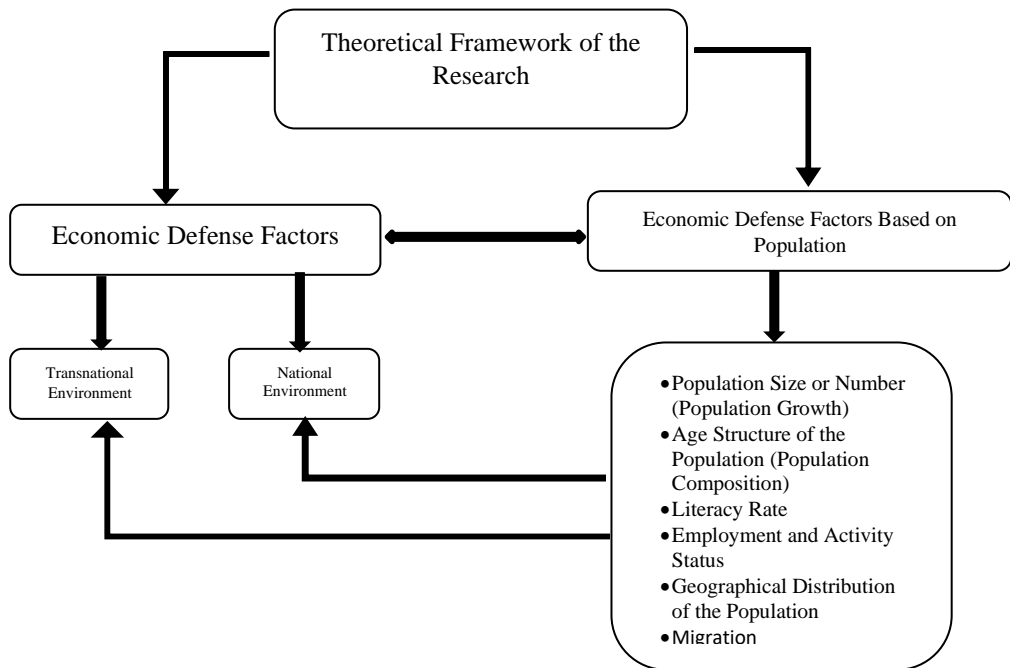


Figure1: Theoretical Framework

Environmental Context:

1-Population Size or Number (Population Growth):

The population of a country can significantly impact its power. While populous countries cannot be definitively categorized as powerful, a large population plays a crucial role in a country's authority across various domains, including economic activities. A larger population fosters self-confidence domestically and instills fear and respect externally (Roshandel, 1995, p. 71).

According to the "Cornucopian" perspective, population growth leads to the development of societal resources, ultimately increasing per capita resources. This development arises from the potential that a larger population generally results in greater specialization, more effective division of labor, and the expansion of economic surplus (Braden and Shely, 2004, p. 102).

2. Age Structure of the Population (Population Composition):

One way to assess the level of development in countries is by examining their age and gender structure. Typically, the age structure is analyzed in three groups: those under 15 years, those between 15 and 64 years, and those aged 65 and older. Undoubtedly, the average age of the population between 15 and 64 years yields the best productivity for a country.

A significant portion of a country's economic activities is carried out by this age group. Therefore, any country with a larger number of individuals in this age range is likely to perform more successfully. In other words, having a high number of individuals within the 15 to 64 age groups contributes significantly to the nation's power production (Hafez-Nia, 2006, p. 55).

3. Literacy Rate

The higher the level of skills and expertise among individuals, the greater the aspirations they will pursue, making them potential sources of national power. The presence of skilled and competent individuals in the economy significantly contributes to the growth and advancement of the country.

4. Employment and Activity Status

Employment in major economic sectors, including agriculture, industry, and services, plays a crucial role in the progress and economic development of the country.

5. Geographical Distribution of the Population

Many experts believe that a higher concentration of the population in the interior regions of a country, as opposed to border areas, is an optimal distribution. Such a pattern fosters a sense of social cohesion among the government and minimizes interactions with residents of foreign countries. In fact, when the population is densely concentrated, it is easier to integrate, whereas dispersed populations are more vulnerable to regionalism. However, this issue is rarely straightforward (Dreisdell, 1995, p. 87).

6. Migration

Migration, as a transformative phenomenon, can generate tensions at both national and international levels. This is particularly evident when migrants are perceived as a resident population deprived of employment and benefits (Muir, 2000, p. 87). Over the past five centuries, mass

migrations have played a significant role in colonization, industrialization, the emergence of national governments, and the development of the global capitalist market.

From this perspective, migration impacts a country's national power by inducing changes in economic conditions and influencing demographic, economic, social, political, and cultural behaviors in both sending and receiving regions. Migration often results from regional imbalances at various levels (Javan, 2006, p. 12).

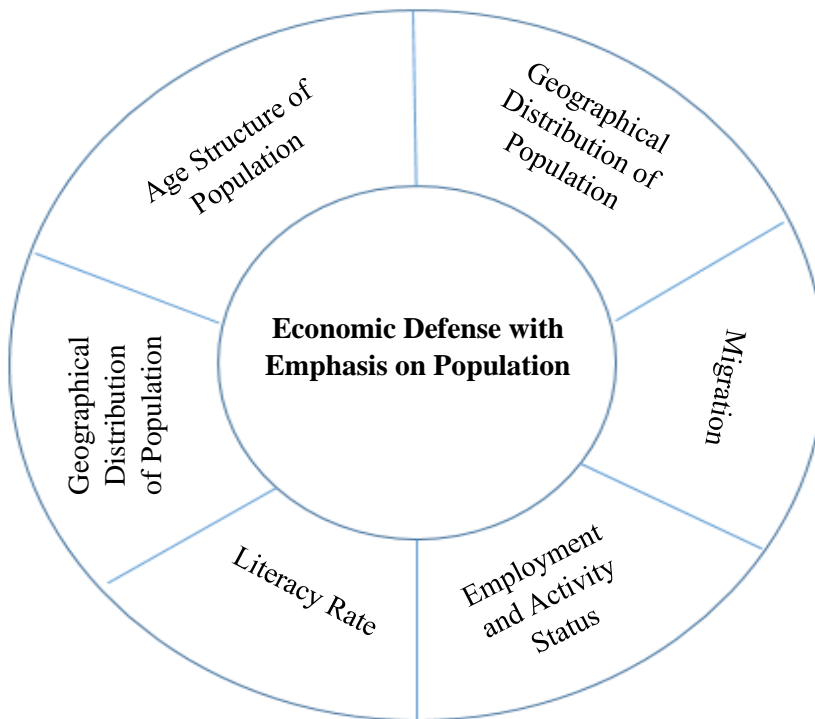


Figure 2: Factors of Economic Defense with Emphasis on Population

Research Methodology

This research is applied-developmental in nature and descriptive-exploratory in its essence. It was conducted based on library and field methods, as well as the study of documents and records, and specialized interviews with experts in the fields of spatial planning and economics. The analysis method used in this qualitative study involved reviewing documents and articles, along with gathering opinions and insights from experts and scholars through semi-structured interviews. Indicators for

each component were identified, and ultimately, all main and sub-questions were analyzed and interpreted. The results were enriched and condensed within a focal group.

Given the specialized nature of the research topic and the limited availability of experts, specialists, and professionals in the fields of spatial planning, economy, and demographics within the armed forces, governmental institutions, and academic centers, the expert community for interviews was defined with the following characteristics:

- Experience in strategic positions and high-level roles.
- Holding a master's degree or higher, with research and teaching experience exceeding ten years.
- Conducting studies in the area of spatial planning and comprehensive defense (expert community).
- Having thorough familiarity with strategic topics related to warfare and threats.

Data Analysis and Research Findings

In this study, in order to accurately elucidate the causes and significant factors affecting the functions of spatial planning in economic defense with an emphasis on population, in addition to reviewing the literature and examining scientific documents, a sample size from the expert community in the fields of spatial planning and economics was selected. Their viewpoints were gathered using relevant research questions and subjected to statistical analysis (both descriptive and inferential).

The analysis method employed in this qualitative research involved studying documents and articles, as well as collecting the opinions of experts and scholars through interviews. The indicators of each component were identified, and ultimately, all primary and secondary questions were analyzed and interpreted.

Data Analysis and Research Findings

Following the identification of factors derived from library studies and interviews with experts, expert sessions were conducted with specialists in military and economic fields. By examining the identified factors from both library studies and expert interviews, the recognized factors were merged. Ultimately, six factors related to economic defense based on population were determined, with 21 factors identified in the national context and 26 factors in the transnational context, totaling 47 factors as detailed below. The significance of each factor was assessed based on the

frequency and repetition of responses from interviewees through expert workshops.

In this context, the factors of economic defense based on population, in order of importance and priority, are: the number or size of the population (population growth), the age structure of the population (population composition), the geographical distribution of the population, the status of employment and activity, the literacy rate, and migration.

Extracted Economic Factors

Moreover, the economic factors derived from the literature review and interviews with experts in the national context, ranked by importance and priority, include: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Product (GNP), Inflation rate in the country, Unemployment rate, National income, Price index of goods and services, Industrial production levels, Percentage of the population living below the poverty line, Utilization of a resilient economy, Trade balance status, Government debt to the production sector, Levels of imports and exports, Foreign investment levels, Current account status, Trade balance levels, Income tax rates, Import tax rates, Public expenditures and costs, Government budget levels, Interest rates, Currency value status.

Economic Factors Identified from Library Studies and Expert Interviews

The economic factors derived from library studies and expert interviews in the national context, in order of importance and priority, are as follows: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Product (GNP), inflation rate, unemployment rate, national income, consumer price index, industrial production, percentage of the population below the poverty line, utilization of a resilient economy, trade balance status, government debt to the production sector, levels of imports and exports, foreign investment levels, current account status, trade balance, income tax rates, import tax rates, public expenditures, government budget, interest rates, and currency value status.

Economic Factors Identified in the International Context

The economic factors extracted from library studies and expert interviews in the international context, in order of importance and priority, include: foreign trade volume, regional and international investment levels, global trade balance status, global economic growth rate, foreign investment levels, number of free trade zones and border markets, transit rights status, cost of living in other countries, global inflation rates, global

balance of payments status, global energy accessibility, global education levels, global quality of life, status of global stock markets, quantity and quality of consumer products, global commodity price trends, consumer price index in other countries, producer price index in other countries, global housing start index, global interest rates, currency strength index, global production activities, regional and international income and wage levels, global misery index, and global trade balance status.

Interpretation of the Factors Affecting Economic Defense Based on Population

Based on the conducted analysis and the opinions of experts, the influential factors on the dimension of economic defense based on population are interpreted as follows:

1. The impact of the factor "number or size of the population (population growth)" as a component of population-based economic defense is 98%.
2. The impact of the age structure of the population (population composition) as a component of population-based economic defense is 92%.
3. The impact of the geographical distribution of the population as a component of population-based economic defense is 86%.
4. The impact of the status of activity and employment as a component of population-based economic defense is 82%.
5. The impact of literacy levels as a component of population-based economic defense is 64%.
6. The impact of migration as a component of population-based economic defense is 62%.

Analysis of Economic Factors Influencing Defense:

Based on the conducted analysis and expert opinions, the factors influencing the economic dimension are interpreted as follows:

1. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is an indicator of a country's economic health, with an influence rate of 86% on economic defense in the national environment.
2. The Gross National Product (GNP) represents the total value of goods and services produced by an economic system worldwide in a given year, with an influence rate of 88% on economic defense in the national environment.

3. The inflation rate within the country significantly affects economic growth, exerting a 94% influence on economic defense in the national environment.
4. The unemployment rate reflects individuals' ability (or inability) to find jobs and their participation in the overall production of an economy, with an influence rate of 84% on economic defense in the national environment.
5. The national income is one of the most crucial factors affecting the country's economy, with a 96% influence on economic defense in the national environment.
6. The consumer price index indicates changes in the quantity of goods and services produced by relevant economic sectors, with a 92% influence on economic defense in the national environment.
7. The industrial production rate is the most important tool for measuring inflation in the country's economy, with a 94% influence on economic defense in the national environment.
8. The percentage of the population living below the poverty line indicates the extent of poverty within a country, with a 96% influence on economic defense in the national environment.
9. The adoption of a resilient economy can be a determinant of the country's growth and prosperity, with a 100% influence on economic defense in the national environment.
10. The trade balance is one of the indicators reflecting the ratio of exports to imports, with a 92% influence on economic defense in the national environment.
11. The "level of government debt to the production sector" reflects the government's weakness in supporting producers, with an impact factor of 82% on economic defense in the national environment.
12. The "level of imports and exports" plays a significant role in enhancing economic growth, with an impact factor of 96% on economic defense in the national environment.
13. The "level of foreign investment" increases regional and international economic interactions, with an impact factor of 92% on economic defense in the national environment.
14. The "current account status" is a significant factor in the economy, with an impact factor of 88% on economic defense in the national environment.
15. The "balance of trade" is effective in establishing trade equilibrium, with an impact factor of 86% on economic defense in the national environment.

16. The "income tax rate" contributes to increasing national revenue and reducing dependence on oil revenues, with an impact factor of 96% on economic defense in the national environment.
17. The "import tax rate" is among the important factors in the economic dimension, with an impact factor of 94% on economic defense in the national environment.
18. The "level of public expenditures and expenses" is an important factor in the economic dimension, with an impact factor of 86% on economic defense in the national environment.
19. The "government budget" determines the allocation of funds across various sectors of the country, with an impact factor of 98% on economic defense in the national environment.
20. The "interest rate" is an important factor in the economic dimension, with an impact factor of 86% on economic defense in the national environment.
21. The factor of "currency value" significantly influences the exchange of goods and services in an economy, with an impact factor of 94% on national economic defense.
22. The factor of "foreign trade" represents the level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with an influence of 78% on economic defense in a transnational context.
23. The factor of "regional and international investment" contributes to economic growth, with an impact factor of 74% on economic defense in a transnational context.
24. The factor of "global trade balance" measures the difference between imports and exports over a specified period, with an influence of 74% on economic defense in a transnational context.
25. The factor of "global economic growth" can enhance the welfare of citizens, with an impact factor of 84% on economic defense in a transnational context.
26. The factor of "foreign investment index" indicates the level of a country's interactions with other nations, with an influence of 82% on economic defense in a transnational context.
27. The factor of "number of free trade zones and border markets" promotes economic development in underprivileged areas, with an impact factor of 80% on economic defense in a transnational context.
28. The influence of the factor of "transit rights" is 78% on economic defense in a transnational context.

29. The factor of "cost of living in other countries" increases government revenue, with an impact factor of 76% on economic defense in a transnational context.
30. The factor of "global inflation rate" reflects changes in inflation rates across different countries and regions, with an influence of 78% on economic defense in a transnational context.
31. The factor of "global balance of payments" represents a country's balance of payments with other nations, with an impact factor of 70% on economic defense in a transnational context.
32. The influence of the factor of "global access to energy" is 78% on economic defense in a transnational context.
33. The factor of "global education levels" serves as a tool for assessing energy access in countries and identifying their strengths and weaknesses. Its impact on economic defense in the transnational environment is 82%.
34. The factor of "global quality of life" significantly affects economic defense, with an impact of 84% in the transnational context.
35. The factor of "global stock market conditions" has been developed to evaluate educational status worldwide. Its influence on economic defense in the transnational environment is 84%.
36. The factor of "quantity and quality of consumer goods" reflects the type of demand among the population, with an impact of 78% on economic defense in the transnational environment.
37. The factor of "global commodity price changes" is a critical economic indicator, affecting economic defense with a 76% influence in the transnational realm.
38. The factor of "consumer price index in other countries" plays a crucial role in monetary and fiscal policies, impacting economic defense by 84% in the transnational environment.
39. The factor of "consumer expenditure index in other countries" is classified as a significant indicator, with an impact of 82% on economic defense in the transnational environment.
40. The factor of "producer price index in other countries" measures the final prices of goods in both intermediate and raw forms, influencing economic defense by 84% in the transnational context.
41. The factor of "global housing starts index" is used to estimate the number of residential units under construction within a month. Its impact on economic defense is 92% in the transnational environment.

42. When the "global interest rate" increases, borrowers tend to be less inclined to take out loans, with an influence of 88% on economic defense in the transnational environment.
43. The factor of "currency strength index" enables countries to sell their products at lower prices domestically while exporting them at higher prices. Its impact on economic defense is 96% in the transnational context.
44. The factor of "global production activity" indicates the health of the economy when there is an increase in demand for durable goods, affecting economic defense with a 94% influence in the transnational environment.
45. The factor of regional and international income and wages contributes to increasing income within a country, with an impact of 82% on economic defense in the national environment.
46. The global misery index has a direct effect on population growth rates as well as on land use planning, with an impact of 90% on economic defense in the national environment.
47. The status of the global trade balance reflects the difference between the value of a country's exports and imports over a specific period. Its impact on economic defense in the national environment is 94%.

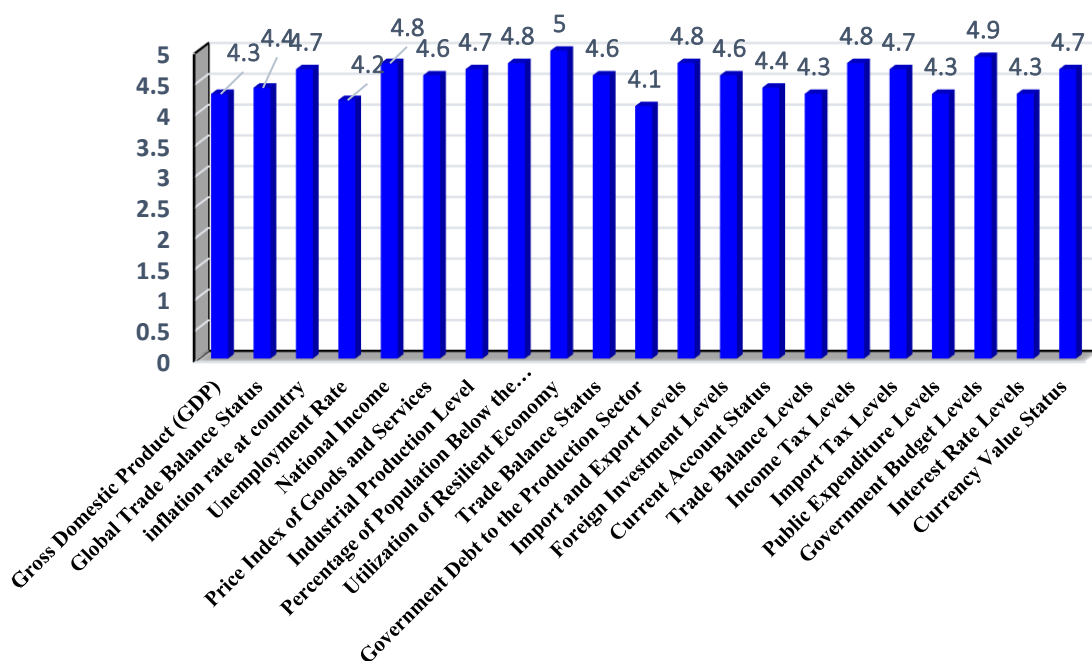


Chart 1: Significance Coefficient of Economic Factors in the National Environment

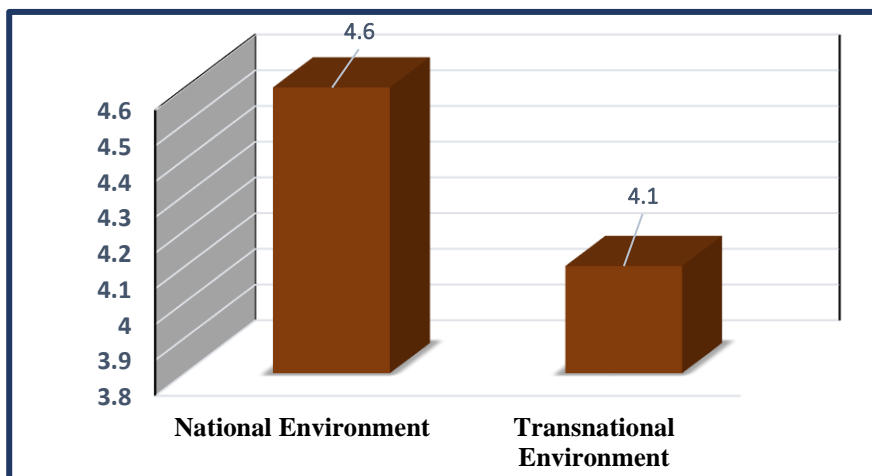


Figure 2: Importance Coefficient of Economic Factors in the Transnational Environment

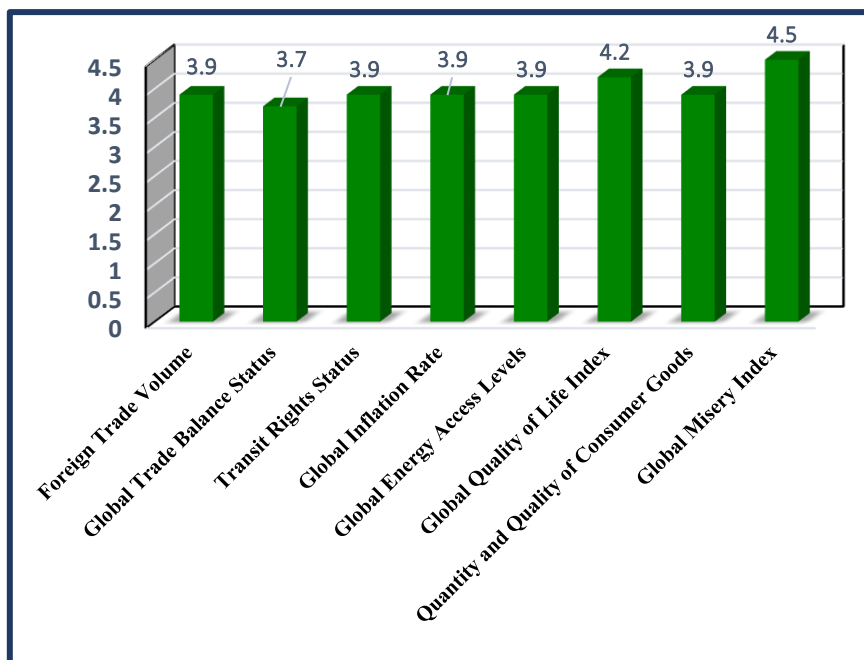


Figure 3: Comparison of Average Importance Coefficient of Economic Factors in National and Transnational Environments

Conclusion and Recommendations

A. Conclusion

Considering the extensive dimensions and components of economic defense, this research has focused on identifying economic defense factors in both national and transnational environments.

1. **Population Factor:** The most crucial element in economic defense is the population.
2. **Spatial Planning:** Spatial planning aims to establish a logical relationship between population distribution and activities across the territory, taking into account the spatial characteristics of different regions in the country.
3. **Planning and Development:** Spatial planning, through the examination of the general characteristics and features of the community space and the recovery of capabilities in various regions, offers solutions for creating an appropriate distribution of development models and establishing desired social, cultural, and defense-related activities within society.
4. **Research Findings:** Based on the overlap of the research literature and interviews conducted, the economic defense factors identified by experts in this study comprise 21 factors in the national environment and 26 factors in the transnational environment, totaling 47 factors.

B. Recommendations

1. **Formation of a Special Committee:** In collaboration with the Intelligence Departments and the Resistance Economic Headquarters of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, as well as the Civil Defense Organization and other military and non-military sectors, a special committee should be established within the National Security Council. This committee should employ an appropriate mechanism for policy-making, strategic guidance, coordination, and task distribution to implement the following recommendations.
2. **Utilization of Research Findings:** The Civil Defense Organization, as the authority on non-military defense, should incorporate the identified factors from this study into the country's non-military defense strategies.
3. **Implementation of Economic Strategies:** The Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran should utilize the findings of this research regarding impactful indicators in economic defense to implement resilient and endogenous knowledge-based economies across various sectors of the country.

References

Persian References

1. Braden, Kathleen and Ferd, Shelley (2004). *Comprehensive Geopolitics*, translated by Alireza Farshchi and Hamid Reza Rahnama, Tehran: Higher Military University Publications.
2. Bakhtiari, Iraj (2016). "*The Impact of Economic Defense Components on Comprehensive Defense with Emphasis on the Guidelines (Strategies) of the Supreme Leader's Declarations*" Defensive Strategy Journal, 14th year, No. 54.
3. Taghavi, Nematollah (2021). *Sociology and Social Sciences*, Aydin Publications.
4. Jalali, Gholamreza (2010). "*Designing a Spatial Planning Model for the Northwest Region with the Application of Non-Military Defense Principles for National Development*", National Defense University, Security Faculty.
5. Javan, Jafar (2006). *Population Geography of Iran*, Mashhad: Jihad University.
6. Hafeznia, M.R. (2006). *Principles and Concepts of Geopolitics*, Mashhad: Papli Publications.
7. Drysdale, A. and Blake, J.H. (1995). Political Geography of the Middle East and North Africa, translated by Doreh.
8. Dehnoorgorani, Hossein et al. (2019). "*Designing Economic Defense Strategies Derived from the Guidelines and Declarations of the Supreme Leader*", Strategic Defense Journal, 17th year, No. 76, Summer 2019.
9. Roshendel, J. (1999). *National Security and the International System*, Tehran: Samt Publications.
10. Rahbari, Saber and Khodai, Zahra (2020). "*Obstacles and Challenges of Iran's Territorial Defense*", presented at the First International Conference on Architecture, Construction, Environment, and Agriculture.
11. Zamani, Fariba (2009). "*The Importance of Demography in Spatial Planning (with Emphasis on Provincial Migration Studies)* ", Population Journal, No. 69/70.
12. Group Research Thesis of First Defense Policy and Military Thought Students (2010). "*Developing Defensive-Security Strategies for Spatial Planning of the Makran Coasts*", National Defense Faculty.
13. Organization of Planning and Budget (1984). Basic Spatial Planning Studies of Islamic Iran, Tehran: Regional Planning Office, two volumes (four parts).

14. Organization of Planning and Budget, National Spatial Planning Document 2025-2021, approved by the Supreme Council of Spatial Planning on 11/12/2020.
15. Shams Dolatabadi, Seyed Mahmoud and Edrisian, Mohammad (2018). "Developing Comprehensive Defense Strategies in the Cultural Domain," Strategic Defense Studies Journal, 16th year, No. 74, Winter 2018.
16. Sarafi, Mozaffar (2000). ***Foundations of Regional Development Planning*** Publications of the Planning and Budget Organization.
17. Kalantari, Fathollah et al. (2022). "Typology of Spatial Planning in the Northern Provinces of the Country," Strategic Defense Studies Journal, 20th year, No. 88, Summer 2022.
18. Nasirpour, Hojjatollah (2016). ***Proposing a Strategic Spatial Planning Model Based on the Discourse of Imam Khomeini and Leadership, Constitutional Law, Experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Successful Human Experiences*** National Defense University, Defense Faculty.
19. Vahidi, Paridokht (1994). ***Spatial Planning: A Guide for Higher Education Planning*** Research and Planning in Higher Education Journal, 2nd year, Series 7 and 8.
20. "An Introduction to the Defensive-Security Thought of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran." <https://sndu.ac.ir/maktab/fa/news/3926>.

English References

1. Muir Richrd (2000), ***new introduction to political geography***, translated from English to persion by: dorreh mirheydar and seyed yahya safavi, geographical organization, Tehran.