

OPEN PEER REVIEW

# Investigating the Relationship Between Language, Location, Cognition and Awareness, Social Cohesion, and Beliefs with Attitudes Toward Democracy in Iran

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

: In the introduction, while the historical context of democracy in Iran is well-articulated, it would be beneficial to clearly identify the specific research gap this study addresses. The statement "This research aims to fill the scientific gaps in the field of collective identity and attitudes toward democracy" could be followed by a more detailed explanation of what those gaps are.

The Cronbach's alpha values for the Collective Identity Questionnaire are provided, but it's not clear if these values meet the threshold for acceptable reliability across all dimensions. It would be helpful to mention the acceptable range of Cronbach's alpha and confirm whether the reported values fall within this range.

In the results section, demographic data is presented. However, the text does not explain how these demographic variables may influence the findings. Consider adding a discussion on how variables such as age and gender could affect attitudes toward democracy in the context of Bushehr.

The statement "The significance level of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for all research indices is greater than 0.05" indicates normality of data distribution. It would be beneficial to explain the implications of this finding in the context of the selected statistical tests, particularly why Pearson's correlation was appropriate.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The literature review section (e.g., "In the city of Bushehr...") could benefit from a more structured comparison with similar studies. Consider adding a paragraph that synthesizes how the findings from this study align or diverge from previous research, particularly in other regions of Iran.

The description of the Democracy Questionnaire's validation process mentions face and construct validity but lacks detail on the steps taken to ensure these validities. For example, provide more specific information about how the "exploratory factor analysis" and "confirmatory factor analysis" were conducted.

Table 2 presents correlation results, but the text could elaborate on the practical significance of these correlations. For example, the statement "Cognition and Awareness shows a strong positive correlation" should quantify what "strong" means in this context (e.g., is  $r = 0.556$  considered strong, and why?).

The explanation of the regression model (e.g., "The results in Table 7 show that the correlation coefficient...") could be enhanced by discussing the implications of the  $R^2$  value. Specifically, discuss what it means that collective identity components predict 34.3% of the variance in attitudes toward democracy.

The conclusion discusses the concept of democracy as an "ideal" that is never fully realized, but this philosophical statement is not clearly tied back to the study's empirical findings. It would be helpful to directly relate this conclusion to the specific results of your study.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.