



## Assessing the levels of livability in informal settlements (Case study: Falahat neighborhood, Urmia city)

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Research Article

### Extended Abstract

**Objective:** Informal settlements face many problems due to lack of proper planning, as they suffer from low service per capita and do not have space to spend their free time. The issue of informal settlements, or in other words, low-income and marginalized as one of the acute problems of urban management, if not addressed and empowered as islands of harm by redistributing social harms to other urban areas can lead to various problems and harms. Today, due to the high costs of constructing the required local uses, it is possible to use the livability approach to identify and prioritize the problems of these neighborhoods and take steps to solve them by using social capital within the neighborhood. Due to the lack of material and spiritual capital of urban management to improve the situation of low-income settlements and the multiplicity of these settlements and their problems, the main purpose of this study was to assess people's mental perception of living needs and overall living standards in low-income Falahat neighborhood. In order to provide empowerment solutions based on the status of livability indicators and the opinion of neighborhood residents in this low-income urban space.

**Methods:** The research method is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive-analytical in nature, which has been collected in the form of documents and field surveys. Data collection tools include observation, questionnaire and interview. Livability criteria in this study include social, economic and physical and environmental. The statistical population of this study is the residents of Falahat neighborhood of Urmia, which according to the health care center statistics in 1397, has a population of 15,000 people. The Cochran's formula was used for sampling and the sample size is 374, which was randomly distributed. Data analysis was performed quantitatively through statistical methods (one-sample t-test and Friedman test). SPSS statistical software was used to analyze the data. The validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by experts and the reliability of the questionnaire was confirmed by Cronbach's alpha test with a value of 0.732. Finally, based on the opinion of the residents of the neighborhood and the ranking of the livability components in this neighborhood, empowerment solutions have been presented.

**Results:** Findings show that in the social dimension of the three indicators of medical and health considerations and care, personal and social security and participation and solidarity, in the economic dimension of the index of consumer goods and in the physical and environmental dimensions of the facilities and services of infrastructure, pollution and environmental health, Landscape, green space and wasteland have a moderate level of livability. Also according to the results of the Friedman test, social,

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economic, physical and environmental dimensions have the same ranking. This indicates the average level of livability in Falahat neighborhood from the point of view of neighborhood residents.

**Conclusion:** The results of the research show that the livability of Falahat neighborhood in Urmia is at a moderate level according to the three dimensions of social, economic and physical and environmental. The results show that the viability of Falahat neighborhood in Urmia is moderate according to three dimensions of social, economic and physical and environmental, which requires the adoption of empowerment strategies in relation to the two indicators of public education and individual and social security in the social dimension, The employment and income index is in the economic dimension and the three indicators are infrastructure facilities and services, pollution and environmental health, and the perspective is in the physical and environmental dimensions.

**Keywords:** Livability, Quality of Life, Sustainable Development, Informal Settlements, Urmia.

*Received:* November 16, 2020    *Reviewed:* July 21, 2021    *Accepted:* September 01, 2021    *Published online:* September 23, 2021

**Citation:** Mousavi, M.N., Bayramzadeh, N., Omidvarfar, S., Kamel Nia, R (2021). *Assessing the Levels of livability in Informal Settlements (Case Study: Falahat Neighborhood-Urmia)*. Journal of Urban Social Geography, 8(2), 203-222. (In Persian)

DOI: [10.22103/JUSG.2021.2053](https://doi.org/10.22103/JUSG.2021.2053)

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