# Sustainable Development and Solidarity (Case Study of Iran Badminton Elites)\* Bahram Ghadimi<sup>1</sup>, Kaveh Khabiri<sup>2</sup>, Mohammadreza Pouria<sup>3</sup>

#### **Abstract**

Sustainable development meets the needs and aspirations of human beings, not just in one country and one region, but for all people around the world in the present time and in the future. From this perspective, sustainable development, as one of the most significant key goals of societies and governments today, has an exceptional place and importance in comprehensive, macro, growth, and development plans of countries and even at various levels discussed in conferences, organizations, and international institutions. The purpose of this study is to investigate the foundations of society on sustainable and cognitive development of solidarity from the perspective of the country's Badminton elites. The statistical number of elites in the qualitative section include 18 sports elites who were collected using interviews and theoretical saturation. In the quantity section, there are also sports elites in the field of Badminton which include athletes, coaches, supervisors, effective managers, etc., whose initial estimate was 242 persons, all of whom were included in the study. The statistical indicators of the questionnaire are the correlation or solidarity component related to sustainable development in the country's Badminton elite and explain 19.761% of the total variance and include 5 items. GFI, AGFI and NFI indicators show a precise suitable fit. Due to the fact that the values of these indicators are above 0.9, as a result, they indicate a practical fit of the model. The results exposed that solidarity for the presence of Badminton sports elites have a decisive role, which in turn, plays a central role in the selection and implementation of development plans, in favor of athletes and achieving sustainable growth and development.

Keywords: Solidarity, Badminton, Sustainable development, Sports elites

## Introduction

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The concept of sustainable development meets the needs and aspirations of human beings, not just in one country and one region, but all people around the world at the present time and in the future. From this perspective, sustainable development as one of the most important and key goals of societies and governments today, has a special place and importance in comprehensive and macro growth and development plans of countries and even at various levels discussed in conferences, organizations, and international institutions (Alavi 2017: 19). The pervasiveness and solidarity in sports, especially championship sports, and the importance of its place in the international relations, has attracted much attention from governments recently. On the other hand, various continental and world competitions, and above all, the Olympic Games, have become the arena of competition for the selected sports' juniors of nations, and through this, various sciences and technologies have been used in sports (Ben, 2018: 133). The success of countries in the international sports arenas, in addition to social and economic effects, is a symbol of stability and comprehensive classifications of these countries, and one of the reasons for the high investment of countries in championship and professional sports, stems from this matter (Javanmard 2012: 37). Examining the role of solidarity on the dimensions of sustainable development is not only important at the international level, it is clear that, in order to measure the impact of solidarity and its relationship with the dimensions of sustainable development, recognition of the existing dimensions, components and perspectives, seems to be necessary (Alavi 2017: 21-22). This issue is important from the point of view that spatial activities and relations, in accordance with its structural context, pave the way for socio-economic dynamics and transformation. In other words, the set of structures, both environmental-physical and socioeconomic, provides a suitable platform for the fruitful development, in this regard, if the orientation is based on purposeful planning and in line with the principles of sustainable development, Physical-spatial stability becomes possible (Saeedi 2017: 9). The premise is that human beings have different requirements and needs, while paying attention to their tastes and needs, they also pay attention to the differences with others (quoted from Mokoto, 2012). Solidarity is a bottom-up conern rather than being a top-down one, in other words, it looks at defining and re-reading differences rather than collecting similarities (Papanis, 2007). Therefore, all organizations in charge of strategic management and successful organizations, will be able to proceed from science and strategic management for development (Hosseinzadeh, 2016: 855). According to Putnam, what made the participation of all sections of people and their size in the production processes possible was the pervasive sense of salvation reinforced by the goodness of belonging to an integrated community. Significant improvements in economic life and government performance were made possible by norms and networks of civic participation. According to Simmel, the result of such conditions is the instability of relations and the decline of social trust. This idea of degrading the first social relations is still in the focus of sociologists (Nazari 2001: 29). According to him, solidarity as one of the important components in social capital is "networks, norms and trust that enable participants to interact more effectively with each other and pursue their common goals." (Putnam, 2001, 56) Putnam cites the results of several studies that suggests a link between solidarity as a key component of social relationships with personal health and well-being. On the other hand, the first unified explanation of the term was made by Pierre Bourdieu in 1972. Bourdieu defines this index as "the sum of potential and actual resources associated with membership in a group, which each member provides with support." Therefore, in Bourdieu's definition, the emphasis is on social networks. The term social

capital is also quite effective in solidarity. For this reason, in the 1990s, the concept of social capital was introduced by the World Bank (Davoodzadeh 2001: 59-53). Coleman also argues that social capital is not a single entity but a collection of diverse entities. In order to analyze it, Bourdieu first describes the various other types of capital, including economic capital, cultural capital, and symbolic capital, and then proposes that it is a network of individual and collective relations that each individual or group has. This definition causes, firstly, its conceptual spaces to be more limited and, secondly, to separate it from other types of capitals, especially cultural and symbolic capitals. (Ezkia, 2004)

According to Bourdieu, the density and durability of communication are both important. In the basic view, the selection of factors that strengthen social solidarity and public participation at the theoretical and practical level of science, understanding, empathy and a kind of friendship and its threatening factors are suspicions, slanders, carnal desires and other mental illnesses. The continuity and stability of the political, social and cultural life of any society depends on the cohesion and unity of the members of that society. Zubairi et al. (2014) in a study that examined the effect of social cohesion components such as solidarity on economic development (inter-country study with panel data approach) stated that their goal is to combine the two concepts of economy and society and find the roots of economic developments. They referred to components of social cohesion, such as solidarity, as a situation in which the components of society are interconnected in such a way as to form a significant and effective whole. The point of the present study indicates the positive and significant effect of social cohesion components such as solidarity on per capita production growth, technical innovations, the effectiveness of government institutions, the quality of development policies and ultimately political and social stability. In another study, Javanmard et al. (2014) studied the sociological function of sport on components of social cohesion such as correlation or solidarity in Iran in the eighties and stated that the results of statistical tests by Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficient between components of social cohesion such as correlation or solidarity with the independent variable of understanding and agreement with 0.785 had the highest correlation coefficient and liveliness and vitality with 0.295 had the lowest correlation coefficient. The results obtained from multiple regression with respect to the value of F test and its significance at a level of confidence above 95% indicate that the regression equation and its results can be analyzed. Farahmand et al. (2015) evaluated and comparatively studied the components of social cohesion such as solidarity between Azari and Kurdish ethnicities. There is a significant relationship between education, job, income and age. The results of independent t-test also confirm that the Azari ethnic group has a higher degree of social cohesion compared to the Kurdish ethnic group. Hosseinzadeh et al. (2016) evaluated the effects of social and economic issues on components of social cohesion such as solidarity of nomads and stated that there is a significant direct relationship between the amount of annual income and a noteworthy inverse relationship with the number of livestock. Ghadimi et al. (2017) studied the socio-cultural effects of sports development in Iran with emphasis on sports and stated that they have connected the relationship between sports and some cultural phenomena and social issues in Iranian society. The result indicated that the attraction of ethnic groups in the national society through sports and the participation of women in public spheres of society is one of its identity-building functions. This sport is a place for the manifestation and emergence of behaviors and possible violence that are not normally allowed. Some sports, such as football, are cheap, simple, exciting, and fun. Accordingly, and according to the

existing approach and documentation, the purpose of this study is to investigate the sociological foundations of sustainable development and solidarity in the view of the country's Badminton elites.

## **Research Hypothesis**

Hypothesis 1: There is a significant relationship between sustainable development and solidarity in the view of the country's Badminton elites.

Hypothesis 0: There is not a significant relationship between sustainable development and solidarity in the view of the country's Badminton elites.

# Methodology

Some researchers are trying to create a kind of convergence and integration of two combined methods of qualitative and quantitative approaches in social science research. Research with combined methods is based on paradigm convergence and combining some ontological, epistemological and methodological principles of the dominant quantitative and qualitative paradigms in the social sciences, so the emergence of a new paradigm, has been beyond their theoretical and methodological controversies. In the new research method, the scope of each research is limited to three dimensions of time, space and subject, therefore there is the necessary focus on the subject and the researcher can find the answers to the chosen questions. According to the aforementioned matters, the temporal, spatial and thematic realm of this research are: the temporal realm includes the year 1398, the spatial realm of this research includes all elite Badminton athletes of the country, and the thematic realm of this research is related to presenting a model to explain the components of social cohesion related to the sustainable development of the country's Badminton elites. The statistical population in the qualitative section was 20 sports elites who were collected using interviews and theoretical saturation. In a small part of the field, there were sports elites in the field of Badminton, which include athletes, coaches, supervisors, effective managers, etc., whose initial estimate was 242 people, all of whom were included in the study. Since the interview tool can better inform the participants about their experience in their own language (Pourkiani, 2017), in this study, in-depth interview was used as the main tool for data collection. In this regard, the researcher conducted all the interviews. This data collection tool allowed direct contact with the interviewee and could be used to deepen the assessment of perceptions, attitudes, interests and aspirations of the subjects. Interviewing, on the other hand, was a tool that allows the subject to examine complex topics, follow up on answers or find the causes, and ensure that the subject understands the question. To determine the validity, the tools of determining the face validity and content and structure were used. The questionnaire, based on the text of interviews with qualified individuals, was approved by several professors and experts before distribution. In this research, statistical methods of structural equation modeling and confirmatory factor analysis have been used simultaneously to test the model assumptions and evaluate the model's weight with data collected from the statistical population of the research.

## **Findings**

In this section, first, to identify the correlation or solidarity dimension and its relationship with sustainable development in badminton elites, interviews are conducted with experts who are proficient in the subject of the article, and then with the approval of the mentioned people, using the basics, theoretically the research was evaluated by examining the items in the quantitative section. Descriptive statistics on respondents' demographics show that out of a total of 242 participants, 173 were male and 69 were female. The range of age variations of the participants is as follows:

D	imensions	Abundance	Frequency	
	20 to 25 years	29	12	
Age	26 to 30 years	61	25,2	
	31 to 35 years	110	45,5	
	35 years and up	42	17,4	

Table (1) Demographic characteristics of the age range of the statistical sample

For the descriptive statistics of variables, we refer to the specific questions of the questionnaire, which are extracted using Likert scale scoring, and finally, descriptive statistics for each variable are presented below.

Indicator	Solidarity
Number	242
Average	3.5891
Standard deviation	0.58397
Elongation	-0.510
Skewness	-0.061

Table (2) Descriptive statistics for the main research variable

The skewness index is used to measure the symmetry or asymmetry of a distribution. In the fifth row, table (3) is presented for the correlation or solidarity variable. The skewness coefficient is in the acceptable and normal range. For this variable, the skewness of the observations is to the right. According to the results obtained from the questionnaires, the skewness coefficient for the correlation or solidarity variable is in an acceptable range, in other words, it can be said that the data distribution is similar to the normal distribution. The coefficient of protrusion is an indicator that shows the degree of protrusion or height of a distribution relative to the normal distribution, which is zero in the case of the normal distribution of elongation, and if the elongation of a distribution is greater than normal, i.e., its dispersion is less than normal, the numerical elongation coefficient is positive.

Conversely, if the elongation of a distribution is less than normal or its scatter is greater than normal, the numerical elongation coefficient will be negative. The projection coefficient of the observations in all variables follows the normal distribution.

Table (4) Descriptive statistics for the correlation or solidarity variable in the research

	Z	Significance	Result
Solidarity	0.99	0.354	normal distribution

Considering significance level in Table (4), which is higher than 0.05 and the value of Kolmogorov Smirnov for the correlation component or solidarity related to the sustainable development of the country's Badminton elites indicate that the component data had a normal distribution. After conducting interviews with experts and specialists, four indicators were explored according to the theoretical foundations and research backgrounds, now afterwards for statistical explanation and inference of these dimensions using confirmatory factor analysis using LISREL software were conducted. According to the information in exploratory factor analysis, the analysis of the eight items of the initial questionnaire used the principal element of analysis method with vertical rotation and the Varimax technique and the value of the reliability index based on Cronbach's alpha coefficient KMO is equal to 0.799 so because the index is close to one. The selected samples are sufficient for analysis. Bartlett test is significant at the level of 0.001. That indicates the appropriateness of the correlation matrix or solidarity for factor analysis of data. In addition, nine main factors were identified by exploratory factor analysis and vertical rotation. The criteria for considering the burden of each factor in each study is different; some researchers use a cut-off point of at least 0.30 and others a cut-off point of at most 0.55 (Kazemnejad et al., 2011). In the present study, by removing the items whose factor load was less than 0.5, a total of 5 count items and 3 items were deleted.

Table (5) Statistical indicators of the Badminton Elites Correlation or Solidarity Component Questionnaire related to sustainable development

		The	Density	
Operating index	special	percentage of	percentage of	
Operating index	amount	explained	explained	
		variance	variance	
Solidarity of the				
country's Badminton	8.751	19.761	19.761	
elites				

To analyze the factors, the principal component analysis method has been used. The statistical indicators of the Solidarity Components Questionnaire related to sustainable development in the country's Badminton elites in Table (5) show that this factor has values higher than one. So, in the solidarity component of the country's Badminton elites: the component explains 19.761% of the total variance and includes 5 items. Confirmatory factor analysis of the latent correlation or solidarity variable related to the sustainable development of Badminton in the country shows that the following information about solidarity is included.

<u>Findings of correlation or solidarity of the country's Badminton elites:</u> Figure (1) shows the model for measuring latent variables (correlation or solidarity dimension of the country's Badminton elites) in the standard estimation mode. The factor loads of the model in the standard estimation mode show the effect of each of the variables or items in explaining the variance of the scores of the variable or the main factor. In other words, the factor load indicates the degree of correlation or solidity of each observer variable (questionnaire's question) with the latent variable (factors).

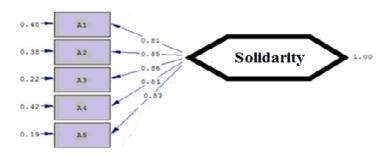


Figure (1). The model of measuring the latent variable after the correlation or solidarity of the country's Badminton elites in the standard estimation mode

According to Figure (1), the factor loads of each of the research questions can be observed. For example, the factor loads of the questions are 0.81, 0.85, 0.86, 0.81 and 0.87, respectively. In other words:

- The first question explains 81% of the variance of the variable indicators of solidarity of the country's Badminton elites. The value of 0.48 is also the amount of error (the amount of variance that cannot be explained by this question).
- The second question explains 85% of the variance of the variable correlation or solidarity indices of the country's Badminton elites. The value of 0.38 is also the amount of error (the amount of variance that cannot be explained by this question).
- The third question explains 86% of the variance of the variable correlation or solidarity indices of the country's Badminton elites. The value of 0.22 is also the amount of error (the amount of variance that cannot be explained by this question).
- The fourth question explains: 81% of the variance of the correlation or solidarity indices of the country's Badminton elites. The value of 0.42 is also the amount of error (the amount of variance that cannot be explained by this question).
- The fifth question explains 87% of the variance of the variable correlation or solidarity indices of the country's Badminton elites. The value of 0.19 is also the amount of error (the amount of variance that cannot be explained by this question).

It is clear that the lower the error rate, the higher the coefficients of determination (and the greater the correlation or solidarity between the question and the relevant factor). The value of the coefficient of numerical determination is between 0 and 1, which means the closer to 1,

the greater the value of variance explanation. As the factor loads show, the amount of all factor loads is higher than 0.5, which indicates convergent validity.

Figure (2) shows the significance of the obtained coefficients and parameters. The model of measuring the latent variables (correlation or solidarity dimension of the country's Badminton elites) shows that all the obtained coefficients are significant. Significance test values greater than 1.96 or less than 1.96 indicate the significance of the relationship. The basis for confirming or rejecting hypotheses (significance of relationships) is to examine the model in the case of significance coefficients. At the 0.05 error level and the two-way test (normal default) the critical values of the numbers are 1.96 and -1.96.

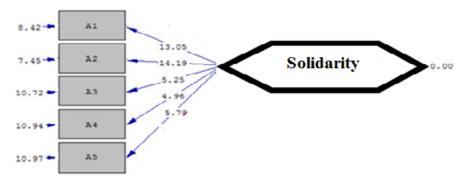


Figure (2) Model of measurements of endogenous latent variables in the case of significant coefficients

If the significance coefficients are greater than 1.96 or less than -1.96, zero hypothesis is rejected and number one hypothesis, i.e., the existence of a significant correlation, is confirmed.

Table (6) Statistics related to confirmatory factor analysis coefficients of solidarity indices of the country's Badminton elites

	Estimate	S.E.	Standardized Estimate	C.R.	Р
question A5 >	.599	4.883	.87	5.79	0.000
question A4>	.524	5.782	.81	4.96	0.000
question A3>	.638	4.491	.86	5.25	0.000
question A2>	.778	6.683	.85	14.19	0.000
question A1>	.792	6.662	.81	13.05	0.000

Table (7) Fitness indicators of the structural model on the solidarity dimension of the country's badminton elites

Indicator	Df	$X^2$	X <sup>2</sup> /df	RMSEA	NFI	AGFI	CFI	IFI	GFI	IFI
Quantity	26	69.83	2.65	0.061	0.91	0.90	0.92	0.90	0.92	0.90

Interpretation of the chi-square ratio to degree of freedom (X2 / df) which is the result of dividing chi-square index by degree of freedom equals to 2.65, which is acceptable in comparison with the critical value of 5 indices. The root mean square index of estimation error (RMSEA) in this model is equal to 0.061, which the allowable limit of RMSEA is 0.08. GFI, AGFI and NFI indices are equal to 0.90, 0.92 and 0.91, respectively, which indicates a decent fit. Due to the fact that the values of these indicators are above 0.9, as a result, they indicate a good fit of the model.

Now we have to answer this question: what the degree of appropriateness of the proposed model is, including the solidarity of the country's Badminton elites based on common and integrated values. To answer this question, one-sample t-test was used, the results of which are in Table (14).

Community average=3							
Dimensions Average The standard deviation T df Sig							
Solidarity of the							
country's	3, 6981	0, 4473	14, 540	241	0,001		

Table (14) Results of a single-sample t-test to determine the degree of fit of the proposed model

As shown in Table (14), the t-statistic calculated in the model shows that the values obtained with a degree of freedom of 241 and an alpha of 0.05 greater than the critical value of t are critical. Therefore, the zero hypothesis that there is no difference between the observed means and the mean of community (3) is rejected and it is found that there is a significant difference between the observed means and the mean of community (3) and consequently, the sustainable development of the country's Badminton elites is highly regarded by experts and has been approved with 95% confidence. Also, according to the results of one-sample t-test, it can be said that the key correlation or solidarity factor related to the sustainable development of the country's Badminton elites has a positive and significant effect.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

badminton elite

The aim of this study is to identify the sociological foundations of solidarity related to the sustainable development of the country's Badminton elites. Therefore, among the most important obstacles in the component of solidarity in social cohesion, are economic barriers and sociological infrastructure (Hosseinzadeh, 2016: 851). The pervasiveness of sports, especially championship sports, and the importance of its place in international relations, has attracted much attention from governments to the phenomenon of sustainable development of sports elites. Today, development in various dimensions is on the agenda of all countries in the world. Development of a country is a general concept that makes sense with development in different areas. Sustainable development means combining economic, political, social and environmental goals to maximize the well-being of current human beings without harming the ability of the next generation to meet their needs (Javanmard 2021: 39-40). Putnam's view is what made possible the participation of all sections of the people and their savings in the

productive processes was a pervasive sense of salvation reinforced by a noble sense of belonging to an integrated community.

Significant improvements in economic life and government performance were made possible by norms and networks of civic participation, the results of which are quite tangible in the present study. According to Simmel, processes such as increasing division of labor, excessive rationality, and the like have led to boredom and caution in social relations in metropolitan areas. According to Simmel, the result of such conditions is the instability of relations and the decline of social trust. The idea of degrading the first social relations is still in the focus of sociologists. Contemporary sociologists have paid special attention to the quantity and quality of relations and objects of integration in society (Nazari 2011: 29). The rapid growth of communication technologies, especially in the field of mass media, has led to the identification of new roles for them every day. Communication is one of the most important elements of human's social life (Hosseinzadeh, 2016: 853). Mir Lotfi (2015) studied social cohesion and the component of solidarity in maintaining security and stated that the continuity and stability of the political, social and cultural life of any society depends on the cohesion and unity of its members. Iran is an ethnically diverse country. Distinctive characteristics of ethnic groups in Iran are more focused on linguistic and religious components. Among the indicators of integration and cohesion affecting security, the indicators of respect for parents and elders to each other, empathy, cooperation in the work season, with significant level of zero percent, have the highest rank. Hosseini (2016) stated that increasing social cohesion, through continuous relationships and participation in associations and collective organizations leads to its strengthening and development. On the other hand, according to Hani Fan, social capital includes assets that exist in people's daily lives, such as good understanding, camaraderie and friendship, feelings of empathy and social relations between individuals and families that form a social unit. One of the most important obstacles to reform in developing and less developed countries is that these countries face major social constraints in implementing reforms. These constraints - which Estrelli calls "room for maneuver" - are created by the degree of social cohesion in a country.

The component of solidarity in the country's Badminton elites as one of the dimensions of social cohesion and "space for maneuver" determines the quality of institutions, which in turn plays an important role in the selection and implementation of development plans in favor of the deprived class and achieving its sustainable growth and development. Finally, it was found that the use of solidarity components in the field of championship sports will be a potential way to achieve sustainable development.

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