

The Impact of Local Governance Models on National Unity and Cohesion After the Victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Iran’s political history indicates that local-popular institutions and their underlying ideology have not held a prominent place” requires citation support. Consider referencing specific historical or constitutional studies to substantiate this claim.

The explanation of the table’s factors and structure is missing. Introduce the table by briefly describing what the reader should learn from the comparison and how it links to the core research questions.

The phrase “Local government is neither an opponent of nor a passive agent...” is conceptually important but would benefit from clearer phrasing. Consider rewording to: “Local government complements central authority by enabling localized service delivery while remaining under national oversight.”

The presentation of Figure 1 is helpful, but the figure itself is not embedded in a journal-appropriate format. Ensure figures are captioned properly and referenced within the paragraph (e.g., “As shown in Figure 1...”).

The fluctuation in trust is mentioned, but no clear temporal phases are defined. It would strengthen the section to specify at least two periods of high vs. low trust and relate them to particular events or reforms.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The discussion on “governance networks” would benefit from clearer differentiation between formal and informal governance actors. Consider specifying examples in the Iranian context.

The sentence “Despite the intrinsic connection...” is strong but speculative. To strengthen it, mention at least one prior study (even if limited) that attempted to explore this connection in Iran.

While this source is valuable, the paragraph quoting his recommendations reads more like a report summary. Consider synthesizing Anderson’s findings and then relating them explicitly to the Iranian context.

The list of World Bank’s governance indicators is introduced but not linked clearly to the Iranian context. Consider adding a short comparative note explaining whether these indicators were used in your evaluation or how Iran diverges from them.

The sentence “Most experts (24 out of 31) agreed with this conclusion...” lacks a methodologically clear description of who the experts are. Include more information about their selection criteria, background, and relevance to the topic.

The phrasing “while cultural cohesion was relatively strong during this period, it was not without its challenges” is vague. Provide at least one concrete example of a challenge that emerged.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.