ASSESSING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL COST OF SOCIAL DISORDER:
FEELING OF SAFETY, VICTIMIZATION BY VIOLENCE AND
SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study examines how social disorder affects satisfaction with life, highlighting the mediating role of violence victimization and feeling of safety.

Methodology: A cross-sectional quantitative design was employed, collecting data from 427 participants through surveys. Variables were analyzed using structural equations in PLS-SEM.

Results: This study demonstrates how social disorder reduce feeling of safety and increases violence victimization, negatively impacting satisfaction with life. It reveals a positive correlation between Feeling of safety and satisfaction with life, and a negative correlation between violence victimization and satisfaction with life. It also confirms that social disorder indirectly affects satisfaction with life by reducing Feeling of safety and increasing victimization, showing mediating effects.

Conclusions: The findings reveal that social disorder, characterized by urban environments marked by abandonment and neglect, significantly contributes to a decreased feeling of security among residents, which in turn negatively affects their satisfaction with life. Furthermore, violence victimization was identified as acting as a critical mediator in this relationship, exacerbating the negative impact of social disorder on satisfaction with life.

Contribution: The study provides empirical evidence that proactive management and maintenance of the urban environment is essential not only to improve feeling of safety but also to mitigate violence victimization. By proactively addressing urban challenges, we can create safer and more welcoming spaces that promote collective well-being and strengthen the social fabric of our cities.

Keywords: Social disorder, satisfaction with life, violence victimization and feeling of safety.

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RESUMO

Objetivo: Este estudo analisa a forma como a desordem social afecta a satisfação com a vida, destacando o papel mediador da vitimização por violência e dos sentimentos de segurança.

Metodologia: Foi empregue um desenho quantitativo transversal, recolhendo dados de 427 participantes através de inquéritos. As variáveis foram analisadas através de equações estruturais em PLS-SEM.

Resultados: Este estudo demonstra como a desordem social reduz os sentimentos de segurança e aumenta a vitimização por violência, afectando negativamente a satisfação com a vida. Revela uma correlação positiva entre a perceção de segurança e a satisfação com a vida, e uma correlação negativa entre a vitimização por violência e a satisfação com a vida. Além disso, confirma que a desordem social afecta indiretamente a satisfação com a vida ao reduzir a segurança percebida e ao aumentar a vitimização, mostrando efeitos mediadores.

Conclusões: Os resultados revelam que a desordem social, caracterizada por ambientes urbanos marcados por negligência e abandono, contribui significativamente para uma diminuição do sentimento de segurança entre os residentes, o que, por sua vez, afecta negativamente a sua satisfação com a vida. Para além disso, a vitimização por violência foi identificada como um mediador crítico nesta relação, exacerbando o impacto negativo da desordem social na satisfação com a vida.

Contribuição: O estudo indica que a gestão proactiva e a manutenção do ambiente urbano são essenciais não só para atenuar a vitimização, mas também para aumentar a qualidade de vida e a satisfação geral da comunidade.

Palavras-chave: desordem social, satisfação com a vida, vitimização por violência e sentimento de segurança.

disminución en la sensación de seguridad entre los habitantes, lo que a su vez afecta negativamente su satisfacción con la vida. Además, la victimización por la violencia se ha identificado como un mediador crítico en esta relación, exacerbando el impacto negativo del desorden social en la satisfacción con la vida.

Contribución: El estudio aporta evidencia empírica de que la gestión proactiva y el mantenimiento del entorno urbano son esenciales no solo para mejorar la sensación de seguridad, sino también para mitigar la victimización por la violencia. Al abordar de manera proactiva los desafíos urbanos, podemos crear espacios más seguros y acogedores que promuevan el bienestar colectivo y fortalezcan el tejido social de nuestras ciudades.

Palabras clave: desorden social, satisfacción con la vida, victimización a la violencia y sensación de seguridad.

1 INTRODUCTION

Violence and social disorder represent significant challenges to the well-being and safety of communities worldwide, undermining perceptions of safety and increasing victimization, highlighting the need to address these issues urgently (Baysal, 2023; Fohring, 2020). From the perspectives of social psychology and criminology, we seek to understand these dynamics in order to develop effective interventions and public policies, thus contributing to the construction of peaceful communities and promoting general well-being, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (Martínez-Ferrer et al., 2016). Previous research highlights the importance of social cohesion and community resilience in mitigating violence and fostering safety, evidencing how social support and cohesion are essential to overcome adversities and advance towards the fulfillment of the SDGs (Cacioppo et al., 2011; Moustakas, 2023; Sampson et al., 1997). This study explores the interaction between psychosocial variables such as perception of violence, feeling of safety, satisfaction with life, and victimization through structural equation analysis, thus providing empirical evidence for the design of effective public policies that promote a safer and more cohesive society.

1.1 SOCIAL DISORDER AND VICTIMIZATION BY VIOLENCE

Social disorder encapsulates a spectrum of conditions that evidence a decline in social control and the disintegration of community cohesive norms, as described by (Elsayed, 2021). These conditions encompass both physical aspects - manifested in the presence of graffiti, garbage accumulation and deteriorated buildings - and social aspects,
reflected in disruptive behaviors including public drug use, prostitution and confrontations in public spaces (Ramírez Rodríguez et al., 2016). In parallel, violence victimization is understood as the harm or suffering inflicted on individuals through violent acts, which can range from physical aggression to violent robbery or harassment, a variability of actions that underscore the seriousness and breadth of this phenomenon (Blom et al., 2023).

In this framework, it is recognized that social disorder not only acts as a direct catalyst for violence, but also contributes to the erosion of social control mechanisms and community cohesion, thus undermining the collective capacity to counter victimization (Danielsson, 2021). In the approach introduced by Kelling & Wilson (1982), it articulates how visible disorder in a community signals an absence of social control, potentially inciting criminal and violent behavior. This theoretical framework suggests that neglect of physical and social disorder in a community is not only problematic in its own right, but can also escalate into crimes of greater severity, including violence (Lanfear et al., 2020).

**Hipótesis 1:** Existe una relación directa y positiva entre el Desorden Social y la Victimización por Violencia.

### 1.2 SOCIAL DISORDER AND FEELING OF SECURITY

The feeling of security, defined as the subjective perception of individuals about their own vulnerability to possible threats or harm, is influenced by an amalgam of factors ranging from personal experiences to the observation of particular characteristics of the physical and social environment (Onyeneke & Karam, 2022; Valencia Londoño et al., 2023). This aspect is fundamental for well-being and quality of life, as it determines the interaction of people with their environment and their community participation.

It is understood that social disorder, manifested both in physical signs of neglect and antisocial behaviors, exerts a significant influence on how individuals perceive safety in their community (Marici et al., 2023). Thus, understanding these dynamics is crucial to formulating strategies that promote safe and cohesive urban environments (Razia & Abu Bakar Ah, 2023). The visibility of disorder communicates a lack of social and regulatory control, raising the perception of risk among those who inhabit or visit a community (Elrafie et al., 2023). This situation is manifested through physical and social
elements that denote environmental deterioration, such as waste accumulation and vandalism, as well as visible antisocial behaviors, such as substance use in public places and acts of street violence, pointing to a clear dysfunction in social control and regulation (Abed & Aljibarat, 2023).

The perception of insufficient control not only reveals that the regulations established to preserve order and social harmony are inadequate or disregarded, but also reflects a decline in the capacity of the authorities and the community itself to safeguard the safety and well-being of its members (Gutiérrez-Sastre et al., 2024). As a consequence, both residents and visitors may see their perception of vulnerability and risk to potential threats increased, negatively affecting their quality of life and psychological well-being, and generating lasting impacts on the social cohesion and economic development of the community (Kupferberg & Hasler, 2023; Liu & Mair, 2023).

**Hypothesis 2:** The relationship between social disorder and feeling of Safety is directly and negatively proportional.

### 1.3 FEELING OF SECURITY AND SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

Feeling of security and satisfaction with life constitute fundamental pillars in the understanding of psychological and sociological well-being, reflecting critical aspects of the fabric of human experience. A feeling of security encompasses multiple dimensions, including protection from physical threats, financial stability, emotional balance, and social support, and is essential to a person's optimal functioning on a day-to-day basis. This concept profoundly affects the ability to establish meaningful relationships and make sound decisions, where a high level of perceived security engenders confidence and serenity, while its deficit can lead to states of anxiety and fear (Das et al., 2020; Spadaro et al., 2020).

In parallel, satisfaction with life is conceived as a person's overall judgment of his or her existence, based on his or her personal criteria and the extent to which his or her desires, expectations and needs are fulfilled. This construct encompasses various facets of life, including health, family and social relationships, career and living environment, playing a crucial role in subjective well-being (Alvarez Machuca et al., 2021; López-Ortega et al., 2016; Voukelatou et al., 2021). Security, being a foundation for peace of mind and well-being, establishes the conditions under which individuals can thrive,
explore and achieve their goals. In an environment perceived as safe, people feel empowered to focus on personal fulfillment and the pursuit of happiness, which, in turn, fosters greater satisfaction with life. Conversely, in contexts where security is perceived as deficient, psychological well-being is compromised, limiting the ability to fully enjoy life and negatively affecting satisfaction with life.

**Hypothesis 3:** There is a significant positive relationship between feelings of security and satisfaction with life.

### 1.4 VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION AND SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

Violence victimization and satisfaction for life are concepts that, although they address distinct dimensions of human experience, may be interrelated in the analysis of people's well-being and quality of life. Muratore (2014) describes violence victimization as the experience of being subjected to violent acts, including those of a physical, sexual, and psychological nature, which may be perpetrated by a variety of aggressors, from intimate partners to strangers. This experience not only has devastating physical and mental health consequences, such as injuries, post-traumatic stress disorders, anxiety, and depression, but also erodes the perception of safety and trust in others and in society (Manjarres de Ávila & Baca Mejía, 2019; Orozco-Ramírez et al., 2020).

The proposed hypothesis suggests a significant negative correlation between the experience of victimization by violence and satisfaction with life. This relationship underlies the understanding that victimization by violence not only implies a direct and adverse impact on the individual's physical and mental health, but also profoundly affects subjective perceptions of well-being and quality of life.

**Hypothesis 4:** Experience of violence victimization is negatively correlated with satisfaction for life.

### 1.5 SOCIAL DISORDER, FEELINGS OF SAFETY AND SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

Social Disorder, that web of chaos and neglect that characterizes certain urban environments, has the power to significantly undermine our feeling of Safety. This phenomenon, manifested through streets marked by abandonment and insecurity,
introduces an atmosphere of uncertainty that subtly enters our consciousness, causing a feeling of vulnerability even in the most familiar spaces of our daily lives (Zabala-Sandoval & López-Parra, 2021). Walther (2023) points out that this unsettling perception of being constantly exposed to dangers, whether real or imagined, acts as a curtain that distorts our view of the world. This veil of insecurity, far from being a mere passing annoyance, profoundly impacts how we feel about our surroundings and, by extension, our overall quality of life (Schmidt, 2022). The erosion of a feeling of security, although subtle, becomes a pervasive shadow that influences our daily interactions and, ultimately, our satisfaction with life.

**Hypothesis 5**: Social disorder is associated with satisfaction for life through its effect on the feeling of security.

1.6 SOCIAL DISORDER, VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION AND SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

Beyond the simple presence of litter in the streets or graffiti-stained walls, Social Disorder engenders a much more complex and disturbing reality. This chaos, which may seem superficial at first glance, becomes a breeding ground for a much more sinister threat: a marked increase in the risk of victimization by acts of violence (García-Castro & Calvo Porras, 2020). In urban areas worn down by neglect, community policing, that invisible network that traditionally protects the community, is compromised. This decrease in collective care facilitates an environment where transgressors feel they can act with impunity, believing that their actions will not face consequences (Vázquez & Ortiz, 2021). The consequences of being a victim of violence extend far beyond immediate physical harm or psychological trauma but the effect can be long-lasting, eroding quality of life and happiness in a profound way (Orrego et al., 2020; Triana Sánchez, 2021). When violence infiltrates our lives through the fissures created by social disorder, its impact extends beyond the individuals directly affected. Fear and distrust spread throughout the community, altering our daily existence. What was once considered safe and familiar is now viewed with caution and suspicion, changing not only our interaction with our environment but also our satisfaction with life.

**Hypothesis 6**: Social disorder increases the risk of violence victimization, which in turn reduces individuals' satisfaction for life.
2 METHODS

The study used a cross-sectional quantitative methodology to examine interactions between psychosocial variables such as social disorder, feeling of safety, satisfaction with life, and victimization. Data were collected at a specific point in time, reflecting the current state of these variables. Using structural equations, hypotheses were analyzed and direct relationships between variables were explored.

2.1 PARTICIPANTS

In the study, the participants comprised a total sample of 427 participants. The age distribution shows that most of the participants (59.48%) are between 18 and 34 years old, 34.19% are between 35 and 54 years old and only 6.32% are 55 years old or older. In terms of gender, 58.55% are men and 41.45% are women. Geographically, the participants are mainly distributed in Zarumilla (68.62%), followed by Tumbes (29.27%) and a minority in Contralmirante Villar (2.11%). Regarding education, the most common levels are secondary and technical, both with 38.17%, followed by primary (10.30%), high school (7.73%), undergraduate (4.68%) and graduate (0.94%). In terms of marital status, most of the participants are single (47.31%), followed by cohabiting (29.04%), married (17.80%), divorced (3.28%) and widowed (2.58%). Finally, in terms of employment, the majority are employed (73.30%), while unemployment and itinerant work account for approximately 12% each, and only a small percentage are retired (1.64%).

2.2 MEASURES

To measure the feeling of safety, the Simpson et al. (2014) instrument was adapted, which includes 3 questions on the feeling of safety. A 4-point Likert scale was used, from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree". Social disorder was assessed using a Spanish version of the Fox et al. (2010) instrument, consisting of 6 questions and a 3-point Likert scale, ranging from "no problem" to "a big problem".

To determine the incidence of being a victim of crime, a specific instrument was created to inquire about experiences of theft, physical and sexual violence, threats and
extortion, with 6 questions on a 3-point Likert scale, from "not at all" to "very much". Satisfaction with life was measured using the Diener et al. (1985) instrument, translated and validated in Spanish by (Mikulic et al., 2019). This consists of 5 questions on a 4-point Likert scale, from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree".

2.3 PROCEDURE

The application of the surveys was conducted in crowded areas of selected districts, such as markets and squares. The team respectfully requested the collaboration of passersby, stressing the relevance of their participation for the study. Participants were assured of the confidentiality of their data in accordance with research ethics and data protection regulations, emphasizing the exclusive academic and research use of the information collected, without revealing identifiable data.

After obtaining informed consent, the surveys were administered and were designed to be brief and to minimize interruption of participants' activities. Trained interviewers assisted the participants with any doubts or queries during the process.

In the present study, the PLS-SEM methodology was applied with SmartPLS version 4 to analyze the data. During measurement modeling, it was ensured that the factor loadings exceeded the threshold of 0.7, and that the composite reliability and AVE of the constructs exceeded the values of 0.7 and 0.5, respectively, thus establishing the reliability and convergent validity of the constructs (Hu & Bentler, 1999). In the structural modeling phase, path coefficients were evaluated by bootstrapping with 5000 subsamples, considering significant those with t-statistics greater than 1.96 and p-value less than 0.05 (Hair et al., 2021). The model fit was examined through the R², where values greater than 0.1 were sought for an acceptable fit, and values greater than 0.25 and 0.5 for moderate and substantial fits. Finally, discriminant validity was tested with HTMT values lower than 0.85 and the absence of collinearity was verified with VIF values lower than 3 (Hair et al., 2021).
3 RESULTS

3.1 MEASUREMENT MODEL

In the present study, an analysis of the factor structure of the latent variables related to social perception and security was carried out using structural equation modeling. This analysis included the evaluation of the reliability and convergent validity of each construct measured through various items. The results are summarized in Table 1, which presents the factor loadings, Cronbach's Alpha coefficient, composite reliability (C.R.) and average variance extracted (AVE) for each construct.

The constructs analyzed include social disorder, feeling of safety, satisfaction for life and victimization by violence. The factor loadings of the items associated with each construct reflect significant contributions to their respective latent variables, indicating adequate convergent validity. For example, the items related to Social Disorder, such as the presence of people loitering around with nothing to do and drinking alcohol in public places, presented factor loadings ranging from 0.538 to 0.860.

Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for the constructs ranged from 0.807 to 0.914, evidencing excellent internal reliability. Similarly, the composite reliability for all constructs exceeded the recommended threshold of 0.7, suggesting high internal consistency. The mean variance extracted for each construct exceeded the minimum acceptable value of 0.5 in most cases, supporting the convergent validity of the measurements.

This analysis demonstrates that the constructs measured possess satisfactory reliability and convergent validity, which supports their use for assessing perceptions of social disorder, violence, safety, and satisfaction with life within the context studied.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables latentes</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Carga factorial</th>
<th>Alpha</th>
<th>C.R.</th>
<th>AVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social disorder (SD)</td>
<td>SD1</td>
<td>0.794</td>
<td>0.807</td>
<td>0.860</td>
<td>0.514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SD2</td>
<td>0.845</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SD3</td>
<td>0.833</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SD4</td>
<td>0.620</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SD5</td>
<td>0.599</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SD6</td>
<td>0.548</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 MODELO ESTRUCTURAL

Figure 1

*Testing the structural model*

![Diagram](attachment:image.png)

Note: The p-value is shown in the figure in parentheses ( ).
Table 2

*Heterotrait-monotrait discriminant validity (HTMT)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DS</th>
<th>FS</th>
<th>SL</th>
<th>VV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.236</td>
<td>0.128</td>
<td>0.215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>0.236</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.296</td>
<td>0.121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL</td>
<td>0.128</td>
<td>0.296</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VV</td>
<td>0.215</td>
<td>0.121</td>
<td>0.143</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: SD = Social disorder, FS = feeling of safety, SL= satisfaction with life, VV = victimization by violence.

Table 2 presents the discriminant validity analysis of the constructs studied using the heterotrait-monotrait ratio (HTMT) as a criterion. This analysis is essential to confirm that the constructs are, in fact, distinct from each other, which is a prerequisite for the validity of any measurement model based on constructs. HTMT values below 0.85 (or below 0.90, depending on construct similarity) indicate adequate discriminant validity between pairs of constructs (Henseler et al., 2015). The results indicate that all pairs of constructs satisfy the HTMT criterion established to confirm discriminant validity, given that all associations register values below the 0.3 threshold. This demonstrates that the model possesses the ability to clearly distinguish between the different constructs analyzed.

Table 3

*Collinearity test Internal model*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>FS</th>
<th>SL</th>
<th>VV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: SD = Social disorder, FS = feeling of safety, SL= satisfaction with life, VV = victimization by violence.

Table 3 reports the results of the collinearity test performed to evaluate the internal model of our study. This test is to determine whether there is an excessive linear relationship between the predictors (constructs), which could affect the reliability of the model parameter estimates. The variance inflation factor (VIF) was used as an indicator to measure the degree of collinearity between the constructs.

The VIF values obtained for each of the constructs in relation to each other are presented as follows: Social disorder, feeling of safety, satisfaction for life and victimization by violence. A VIF value of 1 indicates that there is no collinearity between
the construct in question and the others. In the assessment, the social disorder constructs show a VIF of 1.000 with respect to the others, indicating no multicollinearity.

The results suggest minimal collinearity between these constructs and the others included in the model, as all values are significantly below the commonly accepted critical threshold of 5.0 or even the more conservative 3.0. This indicates that multicollinearity does not compromise the integrity of the internal model.

Table 4 analyzed several hypotheses to explore the relationships between social disorder, feeling of safety, victimization by violence, and satisfaction with life. The results obtained are consistent and provide empirical evidence in support of all the hypotheses put forward.

Hypothesis H1, which proposes a negative relationship between Social Disorder (SD) and the feeling of Safety, was supported with an original sample value (O) of -0.228, a sample mean (M) of -0.236, and a standard deviation (STDEV) of 0.045. Statistical significance was confirmed with a t-statistic of 5.103 and a p-value of 0.000.

Hypothesis H2, which examines the positive effect of Social Disorder on violence victimization, was also supported, showing an O value of 0.186, an M of 0.192, and an STDEV of 0.042. The relationship was significant, with a t-statistic of 4.382 and a p-value of 0.000.

As for hypothesis H3, which suggests a positive relationship between the feeling of Security (SEG) and satisfaction for life, strong empirical support was found, with an O value of 0.300, an M of 0.305, and an STDEV of 0.047. This hypothesis was confirmed with a t-statistic of 6.421 and a p-value of 0.000.

Hypothesis H4, investigating the negative impact of violence victimization on satisfaction for life, was supported with an O-value of -0.140, an M of -0.144, and an STDEV of 0.058. The relationship was statistically significant with a t-statistic of 2.407 and a p-value of 0.016.

Mediating hypotheses H5 and H6, which explore the indirect effects of social disorder on satisfaction with life through feeling of safety and violence victimization, respectively, were also supported. H5 showed an O-value of -0.069, an M of -0.071 and an STDEV of 0.016, with a t-statistic of 4.252 and a p-value of 0.000. On the other hand, H6 presented an O-value of -0.026, an M of -0.027 and an STDEV of 0.012, with a t-statistic of 2.235 and a p-value of 0.025.
Table 4

Resultados del modelo estructural

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>Original Sample Mean (O)</th>
<th>Sample Mean (M)</th>
<th>Standard deviation (STDEV)</th>
<th>T statistics (O/STDEV)</th>
<th>p values</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1</td>
<td>SD -&gt; FS</td>
<td>-0.228</td>
<td>-0.236</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>5.103</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2</td>
<td>SD -&gt; VV</td>
<td>0.186</td>
<td>0.192</td>
<td>0.042</td>
<td>4.382</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3</td>
<td>FS -&gt; SL</td>
<td>0.300</td>
<td>0.305</td>
<td>0.047</td>
<td>6.421</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H4</td>
<td>VV -&gt; SL</td>
<td>-0.140</td>
<td>-0.144</td>
<td>0.058</td>
<td>2.407</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H5</td>
<td>SD -&gt; FS -&gt; SL</td>
<td>-0.069</td>
<td>-0.071</td>
<td>0.016</td>
<td>4.252</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H6</td>
<td>SD -&gt; VV -&gt; SL</td>
<td>-0.026</td>
<td>-0.027</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>2.235</td>
<td>0.025</td>
<td>Supported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 presents the explanatory power ($R^2$) of the endogenous variables of the study model, which is essential to understand the predictive capacity of the model with respect to the variables of feeling of security, satisfaction for life, and victimization by violence.

The feeling of safety variable, shows an $R^2$-square of 0.052 and an adjusted $R^2$-square of 0.051, indicating that the model can explain 5.2% of the variability in individuals' feeling of safety. Although this may seem modest, it is significant in contexts where multiple factors influence the perception of security.

Table 5

Explanatory power $R^2$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endogenous variable</th>
<th>$R^2$</th>
<th>$R^2$ adjusted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL</td>
<td>0.106</td>
<td>0.105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VV</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.034</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As for satisfaction for life, the model exhibits greater explanatory power, with an $R^2$-square of 0.106 and an adjusted $R^2$-square of 0.105. This means that the model manages to explain approximately 10.6% of the variation in people's satisfaction with life. This result underscores the influence of the variables considered in the study on individuals' satisfaction with life, although it also suggests the existence of other significant factors not included in the model.

Finally, the Violence Victimization variable (VIC) has an $R^2$-square of 0.035 and an adjusted $R^2$-square of 0.034, indicating that the model is able to explain 3.5% of the variability in violence victimization. Although this percentage is the lowest among the variables studied, it reflects the complexity and multitude of factors that can contribute to the victimization experience.
4 DISCUSIÓN

The findings demonstrate that social disorder has a significant negative relationship with the feeling of security. It was determined that the increase in social disorder decreases the feeling of security ($\beta = -0.230$, $p < 0.001$), evidenced by a T-statistic of 5.500. Factors such as the presence of people without any activity or drinking alcohol in public places are what is most frequently seen in the region and this causes the population to feel unsafe where they live. Previous studies have determined that one of the factors of social disorder is the consumption of drugs in public places, which generates a decrease in the perception of safety. Therefore, social disorder is negatively related to the perception of order and security in a given context; as long as there are people who generate disorder, the perception of feeling safe decreases. It can be determined that the presence of people with bad habits such as: drunks, drug addicts, micro-commercializers of illicit substances alter the security of citizens in the district, making it difficult to be safe and enjoy the outdoors in peace, both during the day and much less at night. The significant negative relationship between social disorder and feelings of safety underscores the importance of addressing social disorder not only as a public safety problem, but also as a community health, social welfare, and urban development issue. These strategies must be multifaceted and collaborative, involving diverse societal actors to create safe and enabling environments for the well-being of all citizens.

The findings demonstrate that social disorder was positively related to Victimization by Violence, supporting the hypothesis that social disorder contributes to increased victimization by violence. Nowadays, the population feels fear because they have largely been victims of violence, provinces in the region still remain in a state of emergency, due to high rates of thefts, contract killings, and extortion (Peruano, 2024). One of the factors that has generated social disorder is the influx of foreign migrants, most of whom do not have job opportunities, housing, and choose to occupy squares, streets, and public spaces. Similar studies suggest that the conditions of insecurity generated by social disorder provoke emotional responses of fear and anxiety in young men and women (Moreno et al., 2024; Ratto et al., 2023), individuals who are involved in gangs or problems with alcohol or drugs are more likely to commit violent acts such as thefts, use of weapons, and burglaries (Katz et al., 2023).
This direct correlation fosters a cycle of fear and anxiety within the community, deteriorating the quality of life and limiting participation in community and daily activities. This increase in victimization by violence implies additional pressure on security and justice systems, demanding more resources and the implementation of community-centered crime prevention strategies. Moreover, there emerges a need for urban planning and management of public spaces that promote inclusion and safety, challenging urban authorities to reconsider the design of these spaces. The results demonstrate a strong positive relationship between the feeling of safety (FS) and satisfaction with life (SWL), where a greater feeling of safety is significantly associated with higher satisfaction with life. When people live in a place that is safe for them and their family, they choose to stay because they feel good, fulfilled, and recommend those spaces for living in harmony. Studies confirm that the level of safety of young people is associated with the quality of social relationships, geographic space, friends, family, and the police force, making the place where they live an ideal space (Moreno et al., 2024). When safety is low, it forces many people to migrate and seek a space with better living conditions (Moreno, 2020). The findings determine that the safer people feel in their geographic space, day or night; the more satisfied they will be with their living conditions, their achievements, and they are thankful for having lived all the facets of their life in their district of birth.

A negative relationship between Victimization by Violence (VIC) and satisfaction with life (SWL) was evidenced, demonstrating that victimization by violence reduces satisfaction with life. The results indicate that a large portion of respondents have been victims or close to people who have suffered from thefts, physical violence, threats, extortion, or harassment, and this generates a negative image of the city for living in peace and harmony. Similar studies have established that perceptions of social disorder are associated with criminal behaviors, generating fear and apprehension in people (Fox et al., 2010). Consequently, individuals residing in areas with high rates of insecurity have undergone negative experiences and unpleasant sensations in their lives (Inzunza, 2022). The study demonstrates that people who have been victims of theft, physical violence, threats, sexual harassment, or extortion are more likely to perceive that the living conditions where they reside are inadequate and feel dissatisfied with the security services provided by the state.
Social disorder has a negative relationship with the feeling of safety and satisfaction with life, indicating that as social disorder increases, the perception of safety increases and satisfaction with life decreases. Elements such as people loitering, the presence of alcoholics or drug addicts alter the perception of feeling safe in the region. It's difficult to go out on the street for fear of becoming victims of thefts, kidnappings, common gang activities, and many people decide to leave the region or close their businesses out of fear. These results contrast with similar studies indicating that social disorder alters individuals' perception of safety (Bolger & Bolger, 2019) and this leads to greater fears of crime, especially when police interventions and social cohesion are less objective (Carter & Wolfe, 2021). Another important finding suggests that when the neighborhood is safe and has fewer acts of violence, it improves the functional state of people, considering that the conditions are excellent for living in peace (Pan et al., 2024).

It has been demonstrated that witnessing people in vagrancy, high rates of alcohol consumption in public spaces, individuals looking like illegal substance dealers influence the perception of unsafe spaces for living in harmony and feeling that in that place the family will prosper.

Social disorder has a negative relationship with victimization by violence and satisfaction with life, the findings demonstrate that as the rates of disorder and violence are high, satisfaction with life is lower. Previous studies suggest that social disorder along with exposure to acts of violence causes emotional disturbance in exposed youths, decreasing satisfaction with life; youths do not feel fulfilled, content (Butcher et al., 2015). Disorganized public spaces, the influx of disorderly pedestrians favor criminal acts, generating distrust for moving freely and peacefully (Valente et al., 2024). The influx of people drinking alcohol, illegal immigrants, drug dealers generate higher rates of violence such as thefts, burglaries, street harassment; these factors cause citizens not to feel calm and often truncate their aspirations, with youths seeing limited possibilities to get ahead and often being influenced by their environment to end up in the same conditions.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The findings reveal that social disorder, characterized by urban environments marked by abandonment and neglect, significantly contributes to a decrease in the feeling
of safety among residents, which in turn negatively affects their satisfaction with life. Additionally, it was identified that victimization by violence acts as a critical mediator in this relationship, exacerbating the negative impact of social disorder on satisfaction with life. The erosion of social cohesion and the weakening of community support networks emerge as fundamental consequences of social disorder, facilitating an increase in the incidence of victimization by violence. This phenomenon not only perpetuates cycles of insecurity and fear among residents but also undermines efforts toward building peaceful and resilient communities. The results underscore the need for public policies and intervention strategies that comprehensively address social disorder and violence, focusing not only on improving the physical environment but also on strengthening social cohesion and promoting safe environments. The practical implication of this research highlights the importance of careful urban planning and the implementation of community surveillance programs that contribute to violence prevention and the promotion of a greater feeling of security. This, in turn, can lead to a significant improvement in the quality of life and satisfaction with life of individuals in urban contexts. By providing a detailed analysis of how social disorder impacts victimization by violence and the feeling of safety, and how this affects satisfaction with life, this study contributes to the existing body of knowledge and offers a solid foundation for the development of effective interventions and public policies aimed at creating safer and more satisfied communities. Ultimately, this study reinforces the notion that community safety and well-being are fundamental for sustainable development and social progress. By addressing the roots of social disorder and violence, and by fostering safe and cohesive urban environments, we can advance towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby promoting well-being for all.

REFERENCES


