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The Influence of Cultural and Historical Factors and Government Support on Artistic Essence Through Pingyang Woodblock New Year Prints in Shanxi China and Kurdish Region: Mediating Role of Community Engagement

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Abstract

The cultural and historical factors are the foremost element that affect the artistic essence and demands the new researchers' emphasis. Hence, the present article examines the impact of cultural and historical factors and government support on the artistic essence in the Shanxi China and Kurdish region. The study also investigates the mediating role of community engagement among cultural and historical factors, government support and artistic essence in the Shanxi China and Kurdish region. The study used survey questionnaires to collect the primary data from the community of the Kurdish region. The study also used the SPSS-AMOS to check the reliability and association among the variables. The findings indicated that the cultural and historical factors and government support have a positive impact on artistic essence in the Shanxi China and Kurdish region. The outcomes also exposed that community engagement significantly mediates among cultural and historical factors, government support and artistic essence in the Shanxi China and Kurdish region. The study guides the policymakers in making policies related to achieve the high artistic essence using effective cultural and historical factors and government support.

Keywords: Cultural Factors, Historical Factors, Government Support, Artistic Essence, Community Engagement, Kurdish Region.

Introduction

Within a cultural and historical context, exploring the artistic essence is a complex venture that necessitates a comprehensive grip of the subtle interplay between societal aspects and the creative expressions that arise as a result of them. This study looks into Shanxi China and Kurdish region's complex tapestry, attempting to untangle the significant influence of cultural and historical influences on artistic endeavors while investigating the mediating function of community engagement, with a special focus on the impact of government funding. Shanxi's cultural landscape's historical richness twined together with contemporary efforts to preserve and develop these traditions, resulting in a unique artistic sequence. On the other hand, the Kurdish region, with its distinct blend of varied cultural influences and volatile historical narrative, provides an intriguing setting for such a study.

Within a specific community, cultural identity is a pillar of artistic essence, influencing the narratives, topics, and forms that arise (Sutrisno, 2023). Despite the constraints provided by geopolitical limits, the Kurdish

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people, who are distributed throughout multiple Middle Eastern countries, have retained a distinct cultural identity (Gunes, Gunes, & Finotello, 2019). On the other hand, Shanxi, an ancient northern province of China, has a rich tapestry of traditional art forms such as Pingyang Woodblock New Year Prints, Shanxi Opera, and variety of other intangible cultural heritage practices (Feng, Ma, & Ding, 2023). This research tries to understand how the regions' ongoing sense of identity affects and informs artistic creativity. We hope to uncover the numerous layers that comprise the dynamic tapestry of Shanxi and Kurdish artistic expression by examining the various cultural factors that contribute to their artistic essence, from language and folklore to traditional crafts and rituals. Furthermore, Çaylı (2021) says, the Kurdish region's historical setting is crucial in developing the artistic environment. The Kurdish people's traumatic past, marked by periods of violence, relocation, and resilience, has surely left a lasting impact on their artistic endeavors (Almukhtar, 2020). On the other hand, Shanxi has a millennia-long history that includes influences from many dynasties, ethnic groupings, and cultural exchanges (Gürel, 2023). This historical richness is reflected in the various art forms that have developed, each of which bears the traces of its historical history. This study seeks to trace the echoes of historical events in regional artworks, examining how artists draw inspiration from the collective memory of the Kurdish and Shanxi people.

While investigating the connection of cultural and historical elements, it is necessary to analyse the function of government support in promoting and sustaining artistic endeavors. Lukesch, Ludvig, Slee, Weiss, and Živojinović (2020) Finds that government policies, financial programs, and institutional structures can either foster or hinder artistic creativity. The Kurdish region, with its geopolitical complexity and many governing entities, provides a unique case study for investigating the impact of government assistance on the arts (Gunes et al., 2019). While, the government's role in molding Shanxi's creative environment is varied. The purpose of this research is to examine how Kurdish and Chinese government policies and initiatives help to the preservation and promotion of their creative essence. It also aims to comprehend the difficulties that artists may encounter in navigating the political landscape while attempting to express themselves genuinely. Also, examining the mediating role of community engagement in the relationship between cultural and historical elements and government support for artistic essence is an important aspect of the study. Says Bailey, Booth-Kurpnieks, Davies, and Delsante (2019), communities act as a crucible for the development, critique, and appreciation of artistic expressions. The research looks into how community dynamics influence the themes and forms of artistic creation, bridging the gap between the rich cultural history and the present artistic scene. Furthermore, community engagement is investigated as a possible mediator in the relationship between government assistance and artistic essence, offering insight on how community involvement might magnify or negate the impact of governmental initiatives.

Understanding the dynamics of artistic expression within distinct cultural and historical contexts has become not only an academic pursuit, but also a critical way of maintaining and appreciating varied cultural heritages as the world becomes more interconnected. This study of both regions intend to add to the larger conversation by providing insights into the intricate network of influences that define artistic essence. The study seeks to provide a detailed understanding of the forces that merge to determine the rich artistic landscape of Shanxi and Kurdish people by illuminating the intricate relationships between cultural identity, historical narratives, government assistance, and community participation. Through this investigation, we hope to contribute to a broader discussion about the role of art in reflecting, shaping, and transcending cultural and historical boundaries.

However, despite its thorough examination of the impacts on artistic essence in both regions, this study also have some gaps. Given the regions' complex geopolitical and cultural landscape, one significant gap is the possible problem of generalizability. While the study seeks to capture the core of Kurdish cultural expression, the intrinsic heterogeneity of the Kurdish diaspora across countries may restrict the findings' relevance to the entire Kurdish population. Notably, it could delve deeper into the temporal dynamics of historical and cultural influences over time, conduct a comparative analysis with other regions, provide

a granular examination of specific government policies, investigate the diversity of Shanxi's communities and their agency, and examine the impact of global influences on the local art scene. Furthermore, a more detailed investigation of certain art forms, genres, or individual artists may help the research by providing a more nuanced knowledge of the complex ways in which cultural, historical, governmental, and community elements intersect in generating artistic manifestations. Addressing these deficiencies will lead to a more complex and comprehensive understanding.

In the next sections of this research, we will delve into the relevant literature, provide the research methodology, and conduct a full empirical analysis to test the proposed hypotheses.

Literature Review

Cultural factors have an important role in developing and magnifying the essence of artistic expression in the diverse mosaic of the Kurdish region. The Kurdish people's complex and distinct cultural history operates as a dynamic force that extends across many artistic genres (Salih, 2021). Kurdish becomes a potent medium for artists to express their views, drawing on the linguistic intricacies and historical resonances inherent in the words they chose (Akturk, 2016). Whether through poetry, literature, or music, the language becomes an instrument for the transmission of cultural narratives, embodying the Kurdish people's collective consciousness. Furthermore, Kencis (2020) explored that the folklore and traditional customs embedded into the cultural fabric add greatly to the diversity of Kurdish artistic forms. Artists are frequently inspired by the vivid tapestry of myths, tales, and traditional crafts, perfectly mixing the ancient and the modern. Salih (2021) Finds that Kurdish artists' brushstrokes, melodies, and narratives revive the exquisite designs of Kurdish carpets, the symbolism embedded in traditional dress, and the timeless stories passed down through generations. In this way, cultural influences serve as a source of inspiration as well as an inventory of symbols and themes that artists may use into their work to create a strong sense of continuity and identity (Abu-Deeb, 2019). Cultural events and rituals reinforce the positive impact on the Kurdish region's artistic essence (Santa & Tiatco, 2019). Festivals and social gatherings are transformed into opportunities for artistic participation, providing a shared place for creative expression. Artists participate in these events, portraying the vibrancy of village life and honoring the communal spirit that defines Kurdish identity. This sense of belonging and shared experience is fostered by this social participation, enhancing the favorable association between cultural variables and artistic endeavors.

On the other side, cultural influences in Shanxi, China, have a profoundly positive impact on the region's artistic identity, serving as a dynamic force that defines and preserves its rich mosaic of traditional and modern art forms (Nie, Xie, Xie, & Zheng, 2022). The province's rich history, entrenched in ancient Chinese culture, provides as a source of inspiration for artists. Traditional art forms such as Pingyang Woodblock New Year Prints are significantly influenced by cultural narratives, representing centuries-old traditions and reflecting local values (Fu & Cao, 2019). Furthermore, according to Beauregard et al. (2020) study, intergenerational transmission of artistic abilities between families and communities strengthens cultural continuity, guaranteeing that the essence of Shanxi's cultural identity is not only retained but also sustained over time. The bustling festivals, cultural activities, and community involvements highlight the importance of cultural factors in fostering an artistic landscape (X. Song, Yang, Yang, & Shafi, 2019). This sense of belonging and shared experience is fostered by social participation, enhancing the favorable association between cultural variables and artistic endeavors. In essence, the both regions' rich interaction of cultural influences provides as a foundation for artistic expression. Therefore, we propose a hypothesis that,

H1: *Cultural factors have positive impact on artistic essence.*

Historical forces weave an elaborate narrative in the Kurdish region, deeply influencing and enriching the cultural soul of the culture. The Kurdish people's turbulent history, marked by periods of perseverance, struggle, and cultural endurance, serves as a source of inspiration for artists (Muhammad, Hama, & Hama Karim, 2023).

Echoes of historical events, such as the Kurdish struggle for freedom and tenacity in the face of geopolitical challenges, can be found in numerous types of art. According to Achilli, Busco, Giovannoni, and Granà (2023), artists draw on their people's collective memory, turning historical narratives into visual art, literature, and music that capture the spirit of endurance and the search for identity. The Kurdish region's historical fabric becomes a dynamic canvas on which artists portray stories of survival, resistance, and cultural continuity (Akturk, 2016). Artists navigate the complexity of the past to create a nuanced portrayal of the Kurdish experience, whether representing moments of victory or remembering the scars of historical injustices. Muhammad et al. (2023) Says, from genocide to the struggles for self-determination, the concrete and intangible heritage of historical events gives artists with a pool of emotions, stories, and symbols to pour into their creations, developing a strong connection between the past and present. Furthermore, Hatchett (2021) says, historical elements contribute to the Kurdish artistic expression's sense of communal identity and endurance. Artists frequently utilize their craft to recover narratives, confront historical misrepresentations, and contribute to the ongoing conversation about the Kurdish experience. Artists who engage with historical tales not only maintain the memory of the past, but also construct a cultural heritage that resonates with the larger Kurdish community (Gönlügür & Sezer, 2021).

On the other hand, historical elements have a critical and constructive role in forming the cultural nature of Shanxi, China. Shanxi has a rich cultural heritage as a result of the province's millennia-old history, which has been distinguished by the ups and downs of dynasties and cultural exchanges (Fu & Cao, 2019). Pingyang Woodblock New Year Prints, for example, bear the marks of historical narratives, expressing the hopes and customs of bygone ages. The persistence of these artistic traditions not only generates a sense of continuity, but also a link between the past and the present. Shanxi's historical landmarks, old architecture, and archaeological sites are a great source of inspiration for artists, inspiring them to draw from the region's historical reservoir for their creative manifestations (Y. Song & Liao, 2023). Also, the preservation and remembrance of old festivals and rituals help to keep artistic endeavors alive. The positive impact of historical factors is found in the authenticity and richness they offer to Shanxi's artistic landscape, generating a cultural tapestry that is both historically anchored and dynamically relevant to modern artistic conversation. Therefore, we make a hypothesis that,

H2: *Historical factors have positive impact on artistic essence.*

Government support emerges as a vital element in shaping and sustaining the Kurdish region's cultural essence, offering a framework for the vivid tapestry of creative expression to develop. Reed et al. (2021) Finds that government policies and actions have a critical role in creating an atmosphere suitable to artistic endeavors. Government-sponsored financial assistance, grants, and cultural programs enable artists to explore, develop, and contribute to the Kurdish cultural environment (Avdić-Küsmüş, 2022). Institutions and platforms with government assistance become critical venues for exhibiting, promoting, and preserving Kurdish art, assuring its prominence both locally and internationally. Furthermore, government support serves as a driving force in the preservation of cultural assets and traditional creative forms. Reed et al. (2021) Explains, for cultural preservation programs, museums, and educational initiatives not only preserves creative heritage but also gives artists a platform to rethink and modernize these traditions. Government-sponsored programs can bridge the gap between tradition and innovation, allowing for a dynamic and evolving artistic landscape that represents the Kurdish community's changing ambitions and concerns (Avdić-Küsmüş, 2022). Furthermore, Reed et al. (2021) finds that government support helps to professionalize the arts by giving artists with the resources, training, and infrastructure they need to thrive (Kenning, 2019). The government empowers artists to polish their abilities, interact with peers, and engage in a global artistic conversation by investing in educational programs, workshops, and cultural institutions. As a result, the quality and range of artistic output in the Kurdish region improves, supporting a vibrant and forward-thinking creative community.

On the other hand, government support has also emerged as a key driver for fostering and improving Shanxi, China's cultural identity. Recognizing the cultural significance of its artistic legacy, the provincial administration has launched a number of projects aiming at preservation, promotion, and innovation (Feng et al., 2023). Cultural preservation projects, both real and intangible, demonstrate to a determined effort to preserve traditional art forms such as Pingyang Woodblock New Year Prints and Shanxi Opera. At the same time, the construction of cultural centres, art galleries, and funding programmes demonstrates a dedication to nurturing contemporary expressions. Financial and institutional assistance have aided aspiring artists by providing them with platforms to present their work and therefore contributing to the evolution of Shanxi's creative environment (Gürel, 2023). When properly checked, government support not only provide a structural framework for artistic activities, but also demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the lasting vibrancy of cultural traditions. According to Wei et al. (2021), the government of Shanxi has played a key and beneficial role in developing the artistic essence of the province, maintaining its continuity and relevance in a fast changing cultural environment by combining tradition and modernity through support mechanisms. Therefore, we say that,

H3: *Government support have positive impact on artistic essence.*

Community engagement emerges as a key mediator in both Shanxi and Kurdish region's dynamic artistic scene, supporting a nuanced interaction between cultural aspects and the essence of artistic expression. Li, Krishnamurthy, Roders, and Van Wesemael (2020) Says, communities act as living storage of cultural traditions, preserving a collective identity that affects and informs artistic endeavors. The symbiotic relationship between cultural influences and community participation is visible when communities actively participate in and contribute to the artistic process. Deeply rooted in their communities, artists draw motivation from the rich tapestry of cultural traditions, investing their work with symbols, stories, and ideals that resonate in the communal consciousness (Almukhtar, 2020).

Community engagement, on the other hand, becomes a dynamic mediator by giving artists with a direct and immediate audience (Biondi, Demartini, Marchegiani, Marchiori, & Piber, 2020). The community's reactivity influences the direction and evolution of artistic expressions, resulting in a conversation between creators and consumers (Acar, Neumayer, & Burnett, 2021). This collaborative method not only enriches the artistic narrative, but also assures that the products are deeply based in the community's actual experiences and goals. Furthermore, community engagement can serve as a link between historical and cultural legacies and modern artistic forms. Almukhtar (2020) Says that artists and community members collaborate to evolve Kurdish artistic essence through festivals, workshops, and communal activities, producing a live, breathing cultural tapestry that reflects both continuity and adaptation within the Kurdish community. Therefore, we propose that,

H4: *Community engagement works as a mediator between cultural factors and artistic essence.*

Community engagement emerges as a powerful mediator in a region's complicated relationship between historical factors and artistic essence, functioning as a bridge that connects the echoes of the past with the dynamic expressions of the present. Communities, which are profoundly embedded in the Kurdish people's historical narrative, play an important role in preserving and transferring collective memories (Arkorful, Hilton, & Awaah, 2023). Community engagement becomes a living archive that encourages the resonance of historical events via communal gatherings, storytelling, and shared rituals (Viola, 2022). Artists, in turn, connect with these communal narratives, drawing inspiration from the community's collective memories. Arkorful et al. (2023) Finds that community engagement also serves as a medium for reinterpreting and reflecting on historical events through artistic expression. Artists work with their communities to analyses, question, and redefine historical tales, whether through visual arts, writing, or performance (Challenor & Ma, 2019). This collaborative approach not only strengthens the community's

connection to its past, but it also changes the trajectory of artistic endeavors, making historical subjects relevant and accessible to modern audiences. As a result, community engagement becomes a dynamic mediator, facilitating a dialogue between historical factors and artistic essence, guaranteeing that historical resonance spreads and enhances the Kurdish region's cultural landscape. Günay (2019) Exposed that the Kurdish community actively crafts the narrative of its history, infusing it with new meanings and views in conjunction with artists who serve as mediator between the past and the present, via shared experiences, communal engagement, and artistic reinterpretation. Therefore, we make a hypothesis that,

H5: *Community engagement works as a mediator between historical factors and artistic essence.*

In the complex dynamics of a region's creative environment, community engagement serves as an important intermediary between government support and the substance of artistic essence. Pickard (2020) Finds that government actions and policies are critical in providing the infrastructure, money, and institutional support required for the arts to flourish. However, it is only through community engagement that the true benefit of government assistance is realized and sustained. Communities become active participants, influencing the scope and impact of government-sponsored cultural initiatives (Arkorful et al., 2023). Their participation guarantees that government-supported programmes are rooted in the true needs and ambitions of the local population rather than being imposed from on high. Furthermore, Arkorful et al. (2023) Finds that community engagement functions as a feedback loop, resulting in a dynamic connection between artists, government institutions, and the community. As artists respond to their communities' cultural and creative needs, government funding becomes more targeted and successful. Community participation becomes a vehicle for open communication, allowing artists and community people to voice to governing bodies their expectations, concerns, and creative ambitions (Balog-Way, McComas, & Besley, 2020). This conversation ensures that government support is aligned with the Kurdish community's diverse and expanding artistic manifestations. Therefore, we propose a hypothesis that,

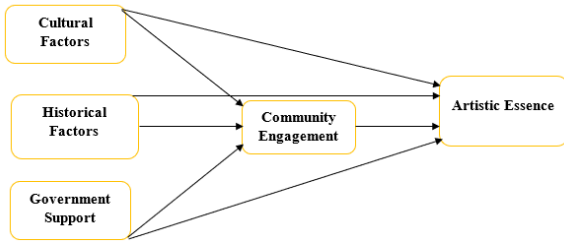
H6: *Community engagement works as a mediator between government support and artistic essence.*

Research Methodology

The article examines the impact of cultural and historical factors and government support on the artistic essence and also investigates the mediating role of community engagement among cultural and historical factors, government support and artistic essence in the Shanxi China and Kurdish region. The study used survey questionnaires to collect the primary data from the community of the Shanxi China and Kurdish region. The constructs are measure with the help of items extracted from past literature. For example, cultural factors is measured with seven items (Van Steen & Wilson, 2020), historical factors is measured with eight questions (Meng et al., 2020), government support is measured with six questions (Zulu-Chisanga, Chabala, & Mandawa-Bray, 2021), community engagement has six items (Esmailpoorarabi, Yigitcanlar, Kamruzzaman, & Guaralda, 2020) and artistic essence is measured with eight questions (Purnomo, 2023).

The study selected the Shanxi China and Kurdish region community as the respondent. The surveys were sent to the community using personal visits. The study selected the simple random sampling to select the respondents. The researchers sent around 564 surveys but only 291 surveys were returned and represents approximately 51.60 percent response rate. In addition, the study also used the SPSS-AMOS to check the reliability and association among the variables. The AMOS is an effective statistical tool that provides best outcomes even though the researcher used the large data sets and complex frameworks (Hair Jr, Howard, & Nitzl, 2020). Finally, the study used three independent variables named cultural factors (CF), historical factors (HF) and government support (GS), while the study also used community engagement (CE) as mediator and artistic essence (AE) is used as dependent variable. These variables are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Theoretical Model.



Research Findings

The outcomes show the correlation between the items called convergent validity. The outcomes exposed that the Alpha values are bigger than 0.70, average variance extracted (AVE) values are larger than 0.50, factor loadings are bigger than 0.50 and ASV and MSV values are lower than AVE. These outcomes indicated a high correlation between items. These values are given in Table 1(a) and Table 1(b).

Table 1(A): Convergent Validity (Kurdish Region).

Constructs	Relationships	Loadings	CR	AVE	MSV	ASV
Cultural Factors	CF1 <--- CF	0.998	0.945	0.718	0.440	0.147
	CF2 <--- CF	0.753				
	CF3 <--- CF	0.696				
	CF4 <--- CF	0.983				
	CF5 <--- CF	0.742				
	CF6 <--- CF	0.688				
	CF7 <--- CF	0.993				
Historical Factors	HF1 <--- HF	0.837	0.924	0.606	0.581	0.316
	HF2 <--- HF	0.841				
	HF3 <--- HF	0.840				
	HF4 <--- HF	0.828				
	HF5 <--- HF	0.801				
	HF6 <--- HF	0.623				
	HF7 <--- HF	0.717				
	HF8 <--- HF	0.711				
Government Support	GS1 <--- GS	0.997	0.957	0.793	0.681	0.256
	GS2 <--- GS	0.635				
	GS3 <--- GS	0.996				
	GS4 <--- GS	0.991				
	GS5 <--- GS	0.634				
	GS6 <--- GS	0.993				
Community Engagement	CE1 <--- CE	0.808	0.930	0.689	0.440	0.235
	CE2 <--- CE	0.845				
	CE3 <--- CE	0.841				
	CE4 <--- CE	0.795				
	CE5 <--- CE	0.869				
	CE6 <--- CE	0.821				
Artistic Essence	AE1 <--- AE	0.502	0.906	0.553	0.292	0.168
	AE2 <--- AE	0.778				
	AE3 <--- AE	0.575				
	AE4 <--- AE	0.748				
	AE5 <--- AE	0.827				
	AE6 <--- AE	0.784				
	AE7 <--- AE	0.836				
	AE8 <--- AE	0.823				

Table 1(B): Convergent Validity (Shanxi China).

Constructs	Items	Loadings	CR	AVE	MSV	ASV	
Cultural Factors	CF1 <---	CF	0.984	0.925	0.677	0.441	0.149
	CF2 <---	CF	0.762				
	CF4 <---	CF	0.708				
	CF5 <---	CF	0.987				
	CF6 <---	CF	0.757				
	CF7 <---	CF	0.681				
	Historical Factors	HF2 <---	HF				
HF3 <---		HF	0.811				
HF4 <---		HF	0.761				
HF5 <---		HF	0.668				
HF6 <---		HF	0.748				
HF7 <---		HF	0.783				
HF8 <---		HF	0.770				
Community Engagement		CE1 <---	CE	0.997	0.957	0.793	0.661
	CE2 <---	CE	0.635				
	CE3 <---	CE	0.996				
	CE4 <---	CE	0.991				
	CE5 <---	CE	0.634				
	CE6 <---	CE	0.993				
Government Support	GS1 <---	GS	0.826	0.894	0.589	0.441	0.251
	GS2 <---	GS	0.810				
	GS3 <---	GS	0.862				
	GS4 <---	GS	0.798				
	GS5 <---	GS	0.734				
	GS6 <---	GS	0.525				
Artistic Essence	AE1 <---	AE	0.689	0.913	0.602	0.283	0.178
	AE2 <---	AE	0.846				
	AE3 <---	AE	0.803				
	AE4 <---	AE	0.841				
	AE5 <---	AE	0.831				
	AE6 <---	AE	0.716				
	AE8 <---	AE	0.686				

The outcomes show the correlation between the variables called discriminant validity. The outcomes exposed that first value in the column is larger than the other values in the same column. These outcomes indicated a low correlation between variables. These values are given in Table 2 (a) and Table 2(b).

Table 2(A): Discriminant Validity (Kurdish Region).

	CE	CF	HF	GS	AE
CE	0.830				
CF	0.663	0.847			
HF	0.464	0.278	0.778		
GS	0.352	0.185	0.625	0.891	
AE	0.402	0.187	0.540	0.431	0.743

Table 2(B): Discriminant Validity (Shanxi China).

	GS	CF	HF	CE	AE
GS	0.767				
CF	0.664	0.823			
HF	0.489	0.292	0.767		
CE	0.370	0.189	0.513	0.891	
AE	0.432	0.182	0.532	0.458	0.776

The outcomes show the model good fitness. The outcomes exposed that the TLI and CFI figures are bigger than 0.90. In addition, the outcomes also exposed that the RMSEA value is smaller than 0.05. These outcomes indicated that model is good fit. These values are given in Table 3(a0 and Table 3(b).

Table 3(A): Model Good Fitness (Kurdish Region).

Selected Indices	Result	Acceptable level of fit
TLI	0.987	TLI > 0.90
CFI	0.988	CFI > 0.90
RMSEA	0.002	RMSEA < 0.05 good; 0.05 to 0.10 acceptable

Table 3(B): Model Good Fitness (Shanxi China).

Selected Indices	Result	Acceptable level of fit
TLI	0.909	TLI > 0.90
CFI	0.911	CFI > 0.90
RMSEA	0.001	RMSEA < 0.05 good; 0.05 to 0.10 acceptable

Figure 2(A): Measurement Model Assessment (Kurdish Region).

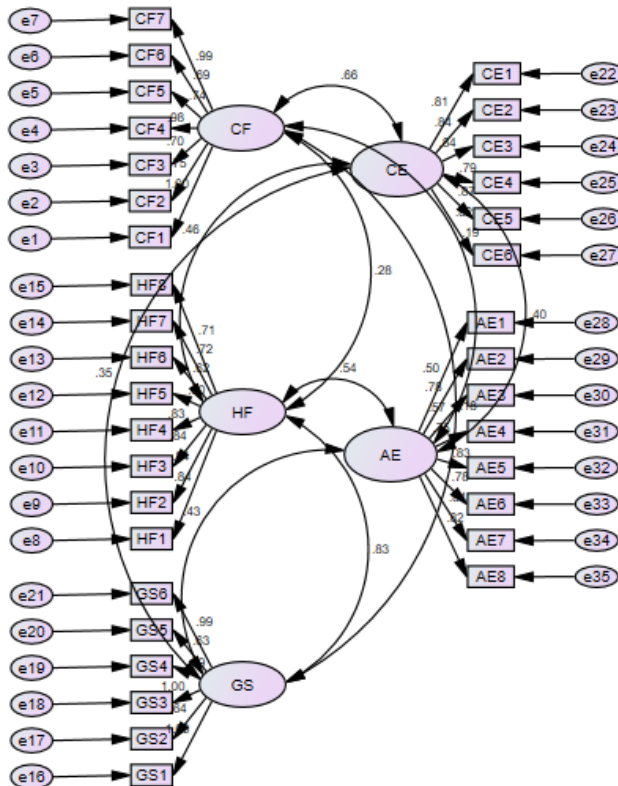
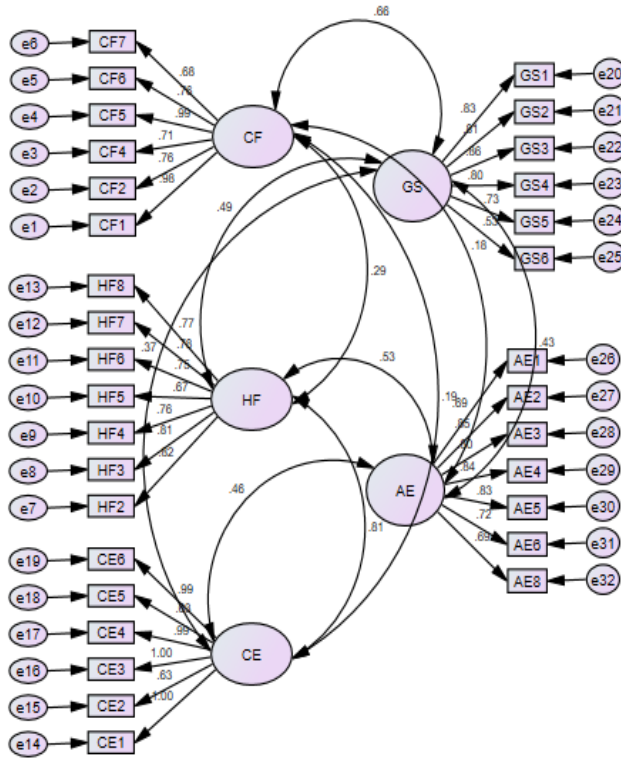


Figure 2(B): Measurement Model Assessment (Shanxi China).



The outcomes of direct path analysis indicated that the cultural and historical factors and government support have a positive impact on artistic essence in the Shanxi China and Kurdish region and accept H1, H2 and H3. These relationships are given in Table 4(a) and Table 4(b).

Table 4 (A): Direct Path Analysis (Kurdish Region).

	Relationships	Beta	S.E.	C.R.	P
Community Engagement	<--- Cultural Factors	0.651	0.039	16.816	0.000
Community Engagement	<--- Historical Factors	0.189	0.043	4.439	0.000
Community Engagement	<--- Government Support	0.085	0.035	2.409	0.016
Artistic Essence	<--- Cultural Factors	0.038	0.014	2.714	0.039
Artistic Essence	<--- Historical Factors	0.362	0.044	8.172	0.000
Artistic Essence	<--- Government Support	0.058	0.021	2.761	0.038

Table 4 (B): Direct Path Analysis (Shanxi China).

	Relationships	Beta	S.E.	C.R.	P
Community Engagement	<--- Cultural Factors	0.089	0.033	2.735	0.006
Community Engagement	<--- Historical Factors	1.061	0.037	29.057	0.000
Community Engagement	<--- Government Support	0.082	0.033	2.449	0.014
Artistic Essence	<--- Cultural Factors	0.112	0.042	2.694	0.007
Artistic Essence	<--- Historical Factors	0.201	0.091	2.200	0.028
Artistic Essence	<--- Government Support	0.284	0.043	6.651	0.000
Artistic Essence	<--- Community Engagement	0.168	0.074	2.263	0.024

The outcomes of indirect path analysis also exposed that community engagement significantly mediates among cultural and historical factors, government support and artistic essence in the Shanxi China and Kurdish region and accept H4, H5 and H6. These relationships are given in Table 5(a) and Table 5(b).

Table 5 (A): Indirect Path Analysis (Kurdish Region).

	Government Support	Historical Factors	Cultural Factors
Artistic Essence	0.000	0.000	0.000
Community Engagement	0.039	0.007	0.000

Table 5 (B): Indirect Path Analysis (Shanxi China).

	Government Support	Historical Factors	Cultural Factors	Community Engagement
Community Engagement	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Artistic Essence	0.016	0.189	0.018	0.000

Figure 3(A): Structural Model Assessment (Kurdish Region).

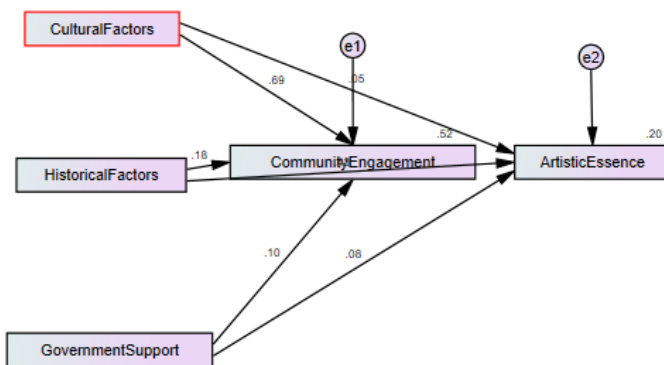
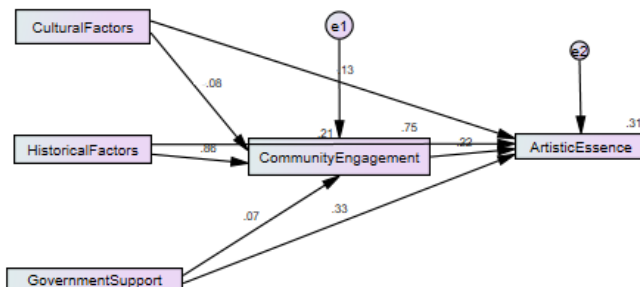


Figure 3(B): Structural Model Assessment (Shanxi China).



Discussions

The study of the interrelation of cultural and historical influences, government support, and community engagement in forming the artistic essence of the Kurdish and Chinese region reveals a rich tapestry that

represents the intricate linkages between these aspects. The various processes at work highlight the deep complexity of both regions' artistic environment, where cultural identity, historical narratives, government policies, and community involvement all come together to produce a distinct and vibrant creative expression. The study finds that cultural factors stand out as foundational pillars that underpin the Shanxi and Kurdish region's artistic essence. The Kurdish cultural land's unique blend of traditions, language, folklore, and rituals offers as a rich source of inspiration for artists (Gunes et al., 2019). Language, as a fundamental component of cultural identity, reverberates not only in spoken and written forms, but also in the rhythms and phrases of artistic creations (Salih, 2021). Kurdish literature, poetry, and song become vehicles for transmitting cultural essence, providing artists with a rich vocabulary to describe their community's common experiences, values, and goals (Bocheńska & Ghaderi, 2023). On the other hand, Fu and Cao (2019) says that traditional art styles, including as the well-known Pingyang Woodblock New Year Prints, represent Shanxi's cultural heritage. These prints' elaborate designs, brilliant colors, and symbolic motifs capture the spirit of Shanxi's cultural character. Furthermore, it finds that folklore and traditional crafts, which are firmly ingrained in the cultural fabric, provide artists with a plethora of symbols, stories, and skills that add to the rich artistic tapestry of the world. Furthermore, the study finds that Kurdish region's historical setting adds another degree of complication to the artistic tale. The Kurdish people's traumatic history, marked by periods of violence, displacement, and resilience, is reflected in the region's cultural representations (Abu-Deeb, 2019). Artists employ historical events, such as the Kurdish struggle for freedom and the wounds of genocide, to infuse a profound feeling of identity, recollection, and resilience in their art. The historical narrative serves as an inspiration, a tribute to the Kurdish people's perseverance, and a means of identifying and rectifying past injustices (Alizadeh, Kohlbacher, Mohammed, & Vaisi, 2022). This historical consciousness, integrated into the fabric of artistic creativity, not only preserves memory but also contributes to the continuous conversation on the past.

Moreover, the research explores that government support appears as a crucial element in determining the parameters of both Shanxi and Kurdish cultural expression. Policies, financial efforts, and institutional structures give a foundation for artists to create and prosper on (Viola, 2022). The government's financial assistance and cultural programmes enable artists to explore, develop, and contribute to a region's cultural environment. Institutions with government assistance become critical venues for exhibiting, promoting, and preserving Kurdish art, assuring its prominence both locally and globally (Reed et al., 2021). Furthermore, Wang (2019) finds that government support is critical in the preservation of cultural heritage and traditional art forms, helping to maintain a feeling of continuity and identity in the face of current difficulties. Such as documentation, restoration, and conservation of physical and intangible cultural assets are all part of cultural preservation activities (Gireesh Kumar, 2022). This covers the preservation of old architectural landmarks, traditional art forms, and historical artefacts in Shanxi. Projects funded by the government strive to ensure that the essence of Shanxi's cultural identity is not lost to the period of time (X. Song et al., 2019). However, the study also reveals that, in the link between cultural and historical factors, government support, and artistic essence, community engagement emerges as a critical mediator. The delicate interplay between these aspects is most visible in social areas where artistic expression takes place. According to Santa and Tiatco (2019), communities function as live cultural heritage repositories, providing artists with a source of inspiration and a direct relationship to communal memory. Community engagement becomes a dynamic mediator that reinforces the relevance of historical events and cultural traditions through communal gatherings, storytelling, and shared rituals (Arkorful et al., 2023). Furthermore, Li et al. (2020) explored that the community's responsiveness determines the direction and impact of government-sponsored cultural activities, ensuring that they are not only relevant but also accepted by the local people. This collaborative process transforms government support into a collaborative and responsive force, producing a symbiotic

partnership that empowers both artists and the community.

Implications

The study provides useful insights with important implications for both academic debate and practical implementations. To begin, the findings emphasize the significance of understanding the interconnection of cultural, historical, governmental, and community variables in generating artistic manifestations. This comprehensive understanding has the potential to teach politicians, cultural institutions, and artists in the both regions and abroad, creating a more integrated and complex approach to sustaining and safeguarding artistic history. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the critical function of community engagement as a mediator, highlighting the importance of inclusive and participatory approaches in cultural activities.

Limitations

Despite the implications, this study does, however, have certain limitations. The findings' generalizability may be limited by the diversity of the Kurdish diaspora and geographical variances. Also, due to the study's chronological scope, the developing nature of cultural and artistic processes may be overlooked. While the conclusions of this study can be used to enrich broader conversations, the unique historical, cultural, and socio-political background of Shanxi may limit their direct relevance to other locations. Recognizing these constraints, future study can go further into individual art forms, regional idiosyncrasies, and shifting community dynamics, resulting in a more detailed understanding of the intricate relationships shaping artistic essence in the Kurdish region.

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