



## Factors that influence the social capital of rural youth (Case study: Youth Villages Shiraz)

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### ABSTRACT

Nowadays, in addition to human, economic and physical capital, social capital is another name that has been considered in economic and social surveys. Social capital like concepts such as physical and human capital (the tools and trainings that enhance individual productivity), refers to the social organization features such as networks, norms and trust which facilitate the coordination and cooperation to achieve mutual benefit. The purpose of this study is to predict students' social capital based on sociological variables. Therefore, in this study we sought to answer the question, what is the relationship between sociological variables and social capital? Methodology in the present research is surveys and data collection is questionnaire and a sample of 400 young people from rural areas Shiraz city have been studied by using multi-stage sampling method. The findings suggest that there is a significant relationship between variables such as urban areas, use of mass media, social-economic base, gender, marital status with social capital of young people.

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### Introduction

Nowadays, in addition to human, economic and physical capital, social capital is another name that has been considered in economic and social surveys. social capital like concepts such as physical and human capital (the tools and trainings that enhance individual productivity), refers to the social organization features such as networks, norms and trust which facilitate the coordination and cooperation to achieve mutual benefit. Social capital increases investment gains in physical capital and human capital. Always it is easier to corporate in a society in which social capital is remarkable. Today's it is impossible without social capital to reach to development, civil society, the universe criteria and suitable ground for social life, (Shaare Pour and Hosseini, 2008). Social capital is a term that is normally used everyday, even though the image of its concept is often too little. The social capital is an old concept, but is the only term that is recently well developed (Bankston and Zhou, 2002, Labonte, 1999).

Until the recent decades, economic scholars considered growth and development of a country depending on natural resources. Then, during the last half century with the emergence of neoclassists, human capital formation was also considered, but social interactions and the role of values and culture and in general, formal and informal institutions in the economy was fewer considered.

With the emergence of the school "new institutionalism", was paid more attention to the role of institutions and particularly, social capital in development of a country. This type of investment is defined by the World Bank as "invisible assets". If the social interaction, in which culture, customs, norms, institutions, and social networks are involved in its formation, are grown and evolved in a positive direction, can

reduce transaction costs and impact on other types of capital in economic interactions and exchanges and finally can impact on the country's growth (safdari and others, 2008: 39).

In this context, social capital has become a very common concept and slogan among politicians and academic elites. Social capital is a multi-dimensional concept in the social sciences and influential in many areas of society, and therefore it is important to take into consideration and review.

### Theoretical Framework

Social capital is a term that is normally used everyday, even though the image of its concept is often too little. The social capital is an old concept, but is the only term that is recently well developed (Bankston and Zhou, 2002, Labonte, 1999).

The term social capital is said to capitals such as trust, norms and networks that people can draw for a general solution (Adam and Roncevic, 2003). The existence of social capital is used as a solution to different social problems such as poverty, crime, underdeveloped economy and inefficient government. (Boix and Posner, 1998). Social capital is linked to concepts such as, civil society and social relationships (adam and roncevic, 2003).

Although the origins of social capital discussion can be found in the work of nineteenth-century sociologists as Durkheim, Weber, Marx and Simmel (Grix, 2001, Wall et al 1998, Portes et al., 1998), but the first term was used by Hani fan. Later, James Coleman explained the role of social enterprise in shaping culture and education. The concept of social capital stayed away from the discussions, but then, Jane Jacob made it in the late 60s, then Loury in the 70s and Coleman in the 80s explained it in detail. The French sociologist, Pierre Bourdieu, has also done research on this (Woolcock, 2001: 194). It can be generally said that new development of social capital is composed of three key

concepts introduced by Bourdieu, Coleman and Putnam and several other works has emerged in collaboration with the multi-disciplinary theory. Social capital refers to the social relationships among people who have achieved fruitful results (Szreter, 2000).

#### **James Coleman**

James Coleman put social capital in the anchors cooperation in the social structures. Coleman looks at social capital as congenitancy of relations among and within the anchors cooperation in a society which has a benefit to some of population and has not to some others. Social capital is not a singular unit but it is a range of different units which has two parameters in common: all of them include aspects of a social structure and help to a specific anchors which are in the structure. Development of social capital is said to the aspects of trustworthiness, obligations and influential norms which are kept by the participants in the network and depends on the opportunities and resources in progress. Coleman considers the formation and destruction of social capital and its effects on closing the relationships within the chain groups.

He also assessed the aspects of social structures in different ideologies and the role of government in the development of social capital. Coleman's definition of social capital is still more perfect than the recent sociological research, although it has been revised by the researchers (Barber et al, 2010: 25).

#### **Putnam**

Putnam claims that participation in society such as formal and informal networks of social, is the main centre of social capital concept (Putnam, 2000: 56). He says that the voluntary cooperation is better done in a society that has inherited a enormous social capital in the form of social reciprocity norms and social cooperative networks (Putnam, 2000 : 138 ). Social networks encourage people more to track collaboration and reliability than individual conditions of self-interest (Tajbakhsh, 2003 : 12 ). Unlike economic capital, social capital is a public good. Perhaps that is why it is often considered less valuable and will not take much effort to improve it. Putnam's social capital indexes are trust, norms and social cooperative networks that by facilitating social interaction improve the social efficiency.

A) Trust: trust facilitates collaboration among people and cooperation also creates confidence. Confidence requires predicting the behavior of an independent actor. In small and integrated communities the prediction is based on "sincere faith", it means the trust that depends on people close familiarization, but in larger communities requires a more impersonal trust. These communities trust rely on two relevant sources: norms and social cooperative networks (Shaditalab and Hodjati-e- Kirmani, 2008: 37).

B) Social norms: social norms transfer the controlling operation of an agent to others. norms are taught through socialization and as well as encouragement and sanctions to the population. In many societies, strong norms and social cooperative networks minimize the risk of abjuration to the least. Threat to the economic and social disenfranchisement is a powerful and reliable norm in society. In communities where people can be assured that trust is not abused, they are more likely to interact.

C ) social cooperative networks : each community is known through formal and informal channels of communication between individuals. Some of these networks have the same level ( horizontal) and citizens of equal status and power are together. But others are vertical networks associating citizens

hierarchically based on unequal relations. In most cases, networks are a combination of vertical and horizontal relationships. As the social networks are more dense in population, there is more likelihood that citizens will cooperate for mutual benefit. An example of the equal cooperation bonds ( horizontal ) is kinship which has a special role in solving social problems, but in the social level, strengthen the cooperation networks of kinship is less than the networks of civic engagement (common registration in communities). Social cooperative networks which turns around the civic engagement gap causes a broader cooperation, thus different social networks has a vast part of social capital accumulation of a society. mutual relationship among social capital resources such as trust, norms and cooperative networks that encourage and increase, are the characteristics of civil society. The absence of these features: abjuration, mistrust, deception, exploitation, isolation and disorder encourages each other to vicious cycle of under-development periods (ibid).

#### **Bourdieu**

In the 1970s and 1980s, Bourdieu developed the concept of social capital, but this parts of his work received less attention than his social theories (field, 2003). One of the foundation stones of Bourdieu's sociological theory is consideration of society as a plurality of social field. Capital forms ( economic, cultural and social ) are essential factors which define the location and facilities of various actors in any field (Siisaman, 2000). To him, capitalism is emerged in three fundamental forms: economic capitalism which can be turned into money, and it is possible to be institutionalized in the form of ownership; in form of social capital which is made of social requirement and in certain circumstances has the potential to become the economic capital and may be institutionalized in the form of an aristocracy or nobility (Majedi and Lahsae zadeh, 2005 : 94 ). He believed that social capital is one of the leading social science research, these social principles is to strengthen individuals and groups (Bourdieu, 1980: 45) According to Bourdieu, social capital has two components: the first is associated with group membership and social networks, and the second is the volume of social capital possessed by a human agent and is based on the size of communication networks that he can mobilize.

Bourdieu believes that the quality is resulted by the overall communication among the actors than a typical quality group in itself.

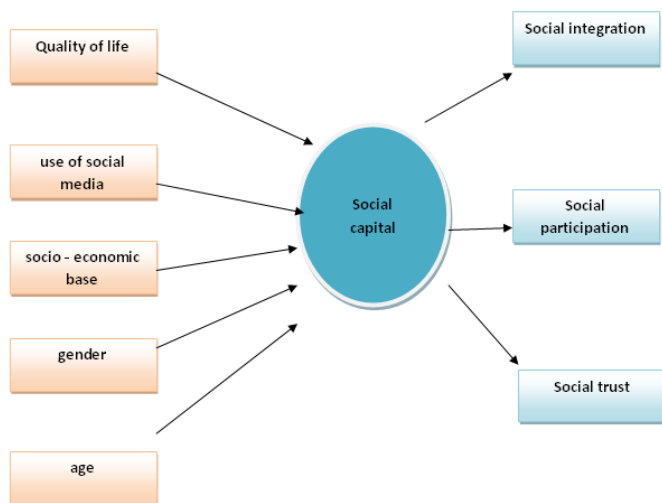
Joining the groups and involving in social networks, which is resulted in the group, and social relations obtained from membership can be used to improve the social status of actors in different areas. Voluntary associations, trade unions, political parties and series associations are all examples of new social capital (ibid.).

#### **Decker**

Decker considers social capital as active networks. social capital is as treatment of disjointed results of social disintegration and disappearance of integration. they are expected to arise cooperation, welfare and economic growth, which is a result of social democratic processes which are considered simultaneously. This implies the potentials to develop social skills and attitudes. Social capital appears to be the overall solution to many detrimental aspects of developed democratic societies. Decker and Avslanr also believe that social capital can clear unforeseen anomalies of general rational theory within social cooperation and solidarity (Qalibaf, 2008 : 30 ).

### Granovetter

He as founder of the weak ties theory believes that of social capital can be assessed in terms of intensity, frequency, and the inclusion of different types such as relationships, friends, colleagues and .... The intensity and strength of social ties within a group causes weakening its relationships with outside groups. Granovetter believed that cohesive relations among members of group members have led to weak ties in outside groups and reduces social capital, so the the weak link in the group leads to build relationships with individuals and groups in outside and to the creation of social capital (Alvani, 2005: 8).



### Theoretical model

#### Research hypotheses

**Hypothesis one:** There is a relationship between quality of life and social capital.

**Hypothesis two:** There is a relationship between use of social media and social capital.

**Hypothesis three:** There is a relationship between socio-economic base and social capital.

**Hypothesis Four:** There is a relationship between gender and social capital.

**Hypothesis five:** There is a relationship between age and social capital.

#### Research Method

The present research is a quantitative research, uses field method and has been conducted by using survey technique.

The present study was undertaken by using quantitative approach and the research method used field method; documentary techniques have been also used in preliminary studies. The research technique is survey, of course library studies technique has been also used.

Data collection is carried out by using the researcher made questionnaire. Statistical population of all youth 15 to 29 years are based on a sample size of 400 individuals were selected by multistage cluster sampling.

In this study, face validity was used for validation, so that the questionnaire items were examined by several professors of sociology and the revised points were included in the questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to assess the reliability. Regarding to high Cronbach's alpha coefficient, all the variables were approved at the final/.7 for the reliability of the questionnaire.

### Analysis of research hypotheses

**Hypothesis one:** There is a relationship between quality of life and social capital.

To investigate the relationship between these two variables, the Pearson correlation coefficient is used. The findings are summarized as follows:

$$H_0: \rho = 0$$

$$H_0: \rho \neq 0$$

**Table 1. Pearson correlation results of the first hypothesis**

Quality of Life	Social capital	
.378	r	
.000	Sig	
400	N	

The results show that because the correlation coefficient values ( $r = .378$ ) at a significance level ( $\alpha = .05$ ) is significant, therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis is confirmed with confidence level of 95%. So there is a significant relationship between Quality of Life with Social capital, and the relationship is positive and direct. The relationship is Average.

**Hypothesis two:** There is a relationship between use of social media and social capital.

To investigate the relationship between these two variables, the Pearson correlation coefficient is used. The findings are summarized as follows:

$$H_0: \rho = 0$$

$$H_0: \rho \neq 0$$

**Table (2). Pearson correlation results of the tow hypothesis**

External radio	Internal radio	internet	External TV	Internal TV	Social capital	
.272*	.543*	.432*	.286*	.372*	r	
.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	Sig	
400	400	400	400	400	N	

The results show that because the correlation coefficient values: ( $r_1 = .372$ ,  $r_2 = 0.286$ ,  $r_3 = 0.432$ ,  $r_4 = 0.543$ ,  $r_5 = 0.272$ ) at a significance level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) is significant, therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis is confirmed with confidence level of 95%. Thus, there is a significant relationship between use of social media and social capital, and this is a positive and direct relationship. The strongest relationship is between the internal television networks and social capital and the lowest relationship is between two variables; using external TV and social capital.

**Hypothesis three:** There is a relationship between socio-economic base and social capital.

Since the socio-economic are interval variables, the Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to test this hypothesis.

$$H_0: \rho = 0$$

$$H_0: \rho \neq 0$$

**Table (3). Pearson correlation results of the three hypothesis**

socio-economic base	Social capital	
	r	.311
	Sig	.000
	N	400

The results show that because the correlation coefficient values ( $r = .313$ ) at a significance level ( $\alpha = .05$ ) is significant, therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis is confirmed with confidence level of 95%. So there is a significant relationship between socio-economic base with social capital, and the relationship is positive and direct. The relationship is average.

**Hypothesis Four:** There is a relationship between gender and social capital.

**Table (4) statistical indices of T-test to compare the mean of two independent variables**

Gender	Number	mean	SD	Standard error of the mean
man	160	3.41	0.420	.243
woman	240	3.52	0.410	.227

As can be seen, the calculated t with 516 degrees of freedom at the level of 0/05 for the gender variable is greater than the critical value t (98/1). Thus, this can be said with 95% confidence that there is a significant difference between the mean observed. The significant difference is observed between women scores in social capital and regarding to the average, this amount is more for men than women.

**Table (5). T-test to compare the mean of two independent variables (man and woman)**

		F	Signifi- cant level	t	Degree of freedom	Signifi- cant level	Differ- ence of the mean	SD
input	By the assumption of equality of variances	.301	.573	4.19	516	0.004	.41	.17
	Without the assumption of equality of variances			4.26	515.12	0.004	.52	.19

**Hypothesis five:** There is a relationship between age and social capital.

To investigate the relationship between these two variables, the Pearson correlation coefficient is used. The findings are summarized as follows:

$$H_0: \rho = 0$$

$$H_0: \rho \neq 0$$

**Table (6). Pearson correlation results of the five hypothesis**

Social capital		
age	r	.284
	Sig	.000
	N	400

The results show that because the correlation coefficient values ( $r = .313$ ) at a significance level ( $\alpha = .05$ ) is significant, therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis is confirmed with confidence level of 95%. So there is a significant relationship between age with social capital, and the relationship is positive and direct. The relationship is average.

### Conclusion

As mentioned Nowadays, in addition to human, economic and physical capital, social capital is another name that has been considered in economic and social surveys. social capital like concepts such as physical and human capital (the tools and trainings that enhance individual productivity), refers to the social organization features such as networks, norms and trust which facilitate the coordination and cooperation to achieve mutual benefit. Social capital increases investment gains in physical capital and human capital. Always it is easier to corporate in a society in which social capital is remarkable. Today's it is impossible without social capital to reach to development, civil society, the universe criteria and suitable ground for social life.

In this study we have assessed social capital among young people from rural areas Shiraz city by using field method and survey technique. Such variables as independent variables were examined in this study including; quality of life, external and internal media, socio-economic base, gender and age. Thus the effect of each of these variables were assessed on social capital to show that is there any correlation between these variables and social capital of the citizens or not.

The overall results show that:

there is a significant relationship between Quality of Life with Social capital, and the relationship is positive and direct. The relationship is Average.

there is a significant relationship between use of social media and social capital, and this is a positive and direct relationship. The strongest relationship is between the internal television networks and social capital and the lowest relationship is between two variables; using external TV and social capital.

there is a significant relationship between socio - economic base with social capital, and the relationship is positive and direct. The relationship is average.

The significant difference is observed between women scores in social capital and regarding to the average, this amount is more for men than women.

there is a significant relationship between age with social capital, and the relationship is positive and direct. The relationship is average.

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