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Research on the amount of social capital in rural and urban areas

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Introduction

Social capital refers to features such as networks and norms that facilitate cooperation between individuals for mutual benefit. The theoretical history of the concept dates back to the early twentieth century, when it was first introduced by Nifan and then, in 1961, by Jane Jacobs, but its use in social policy has become widespread in recent decades. Social capital is now spoken of in many disciplines, including sociology, political science, and economics. This concept is also widely mentioned at various levels of policy-making from local to national, as well as in some international organizations such as the World Bank. Cooperation is easier in a society that enjoys the blessings of significant social capital. In general, in the social system, there are three conflicting elements that need to be balanced: government, society, and the market. A healthy relationship between these three areas leads to the strengthening of social capital. In this article, an attempt has been made to study and measure social capital in the suburbs of Gorgan city in the north of the country. In the framework of the article theory, it is explained when the history of using social capital is related and by whom it was developed and evolved. Also, in the topic of the evolution of social capital theory, the levels of social capital and its status are examined. Then, he deals with the different definitions of thinkers in this field, and because the vast majority of thinkers in their definitions have relied on trust, the next topic is dedicated to the relationship between social capital and trust. Then, the level and distribution of social capital in general are examined and the highest and lowest levels of social capital are determined and views on its causes are expressed. Materials, methods and characteristics of the region and geographical features and the current situation of the suburbs are the topics of the following sections. Finally, in the last section, which is the result of the research, the data are analyzed and interpreted. This data is prepared through the field and is analyzed using SPSS software. This article has been compiled with the aim of examining and measuring the amount of social capital in rural areas. The main question and hypothesis of the research is: Is there a relationship between social capital and the satisfaction of the residents of the study area? Also, the variables of this research include six items: participation in group work, belief in group work, trust in neighbors, trust in officials in performing tasks, membership in social networks, willingness to work integrated within the three components of social capital, which are: Participation, social cohesion, trust have been used.

Materials & Methods

The study area of this research consists of Gharq sub-district, Gharq sub-district is a part of Golestan province and is one of the functions of the spring section of Gorgan city. This village had 18 villages in 2011 and a population of 24,139 people (Statistics Center of Iran, 2011). According to the population of 24,139 people in Ghargh sub-district, Cochran model has been used to calculate the sample size. According to the formula, the sample size is 370 items. The research was conducted by descriptive-analytical method and information was collected in two stages: library and field. In the library stage, using the available data and information, the theoretical foundations and research background were completed. Then, using random questionnaire distribution, field information was collected and analyzed using SPSS software.

After statistical operations, frequency and percentage distribution tables were used to present the findings. Also, Cronbach's alpha method (0.75) was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire and the opinions of professors and experts were used to determine the validity. In this research, three components of participation, social cohesion and trust have been used to measure social capital.

Discussion of Results & Conclusions

Social capital as one of the main factors affecting the economic, social and environmental conditions and characteristics of society, can be used during the change, transformation and evolution of any society. It is a tool that can have a positive impact on quality of life by planning for development, by increasing the amount of social capital in this way to affect the responsibility and participation of residents in social, economic and environmental affairs. In this study, it was found that social capital has a certain complexity and includes several variables that were briefly selected to examine the amount of social capital. The results of this study clearly show the correlation between the six variables of characteristics: participation in group work, belief in group work, trust in neighbors, trust in officials in the performance of tasks, membership in social networks, willingness to work integrated within the three components of trust, Social participation and cohesion in the statistical community is studied. Therefore, it can be said that with the improvement and increase of social capital in the study area, we will see an increase in residents' satisfaction with their place of residence and there is a significant relationship between social capital and residents' satisfaction in the study area.

Keywords: social capital, social cohesion, social participation, social trust



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