

Analysis Dimensions of Social Capital Among Poverty Group in Suburbs Areas

Aziz Amin

Faculty of Applied Social Sciences University of Sultan Zainal Abidin, Malaysia

Zainul Zolkifeli*

Faculty of Applied Social Sciences University of Sultan Zainal Abidin, Malaysia

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyze dimensions of social capital among poverty group. According to Malaysia Department of Statistics, poverty group as known as B40 group measured based on their income. The incomes of B40 group refer to cut-off for Malaysia 2016 is below than RM 4,360. Nowadays, communities less directly connected among themselves due to technological advances. This is very serious situation because household income can affect others aspects such as mental health and quality of life. Social Capital can become as a medium in order to overcome this problem and communities are encouraged to support and use this medium. This study involved 149 respondents among B40 group in east coast of peninsular Malaysia which are Temerloh, Pasir Mas and Kemaman. Data were collected using questionnaires and analysis was conducted using SPSS software. The results of this study can be utilized by the parties involved as a reference for them to design specific programs or policies.

Keywords: Social capital; Poverty; Suburbs areas; Peninsular Malaysia.



CC BY: [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

1. Introduction

Social capital has turned into a popular manifestation among political and scholarly elites, however the term remains moderately new to the overall population. Indeed, even among the lawmakers and researchers who utilize the term, there is regularly confusion about what 'social capital' is, or how it should to be estimated (Lin, 2001). In ongoing decades, sociologists and market analysts have recognized that physical capital is not the main accessible and important sort of capital. Proof demonstrates that human capital, regular capital and social capital likewise have an essential job in human public activity. Although social capital is perceived as a center idea of advancement, researchers have not given satisfactory consideration regarding this idea in creating nations (Babaei *et al.*, 2011). In this way, Social capital can be clarified as an idea that attempts to catch the core of network life. The idea depends on the possibility that networks function excellently or ineffectively dependent on the manners by which individuals associate. It pressures the social measurement of life and how it is lived in particular places (Mignone, 2003). This idea is by and large connected with social investment and with systems of co-duty and solidarity (Aref *et al.*, 2010). The B40 group refer to those are income is not more than RM 4,360 per month. In the stream of modernity, communities less directly connected among themselves due to technological advances. This scenario are worried will affect their mental health and quality of life. In this study, researcher was interested to analysis dimensions of social capital among this group.

2. Literature Review

Francis (2001) in his article inclined to the idea of social capital: specifically, where social capital stands today, how it interfaces with different factors in worldwide improvement, and how it will add to monetary development and poverty justification later on. Late social welfare changes have been introduced on the ethical lack debate that needy individuals do not have a real hard working attitude and awareness of other's expectations for their youngsters. Numerous researchers have criticized this "accusing the person in question" approach for instance (Kelley and Robin, 1997). In this light, we should be aware so as not to replace the ethical lack debate with a social deficiency contention, to be precise if poor networks just got their social capital "act together" with the goal that they could resemble working class networks, at that point the issues of poverty could be explained. Practices of efficient prejudice and isolation trap African Americans in these areas and square roads for financial headway (Massey. *et al.*, 1993). Social capital can be clarified as an idea that actions to catch the pith of network life. The idea depends on the possibility that networks function excellently or ineffectively dependent on the manners by which individuals collaborate. Johannes (2009) in his paper analyzed the impact of social capital on family unit neediness. Outcomes of the paper demonstrate that, participation in associations and the indicator for basic leadership record are definitely connected with family per capita consumption.

In others discovers, composed at national and far reaching levels, have shown that the parts of social capital, for the most part social trust, effects impact people's successful which is not genuine by economic criteria (Helliwell, 2006). This is a shown truth that social capital has a positive association with physical and energetic wellbeing, social associations, and normal success (Scheffler *et al.*, 2008). In the public eye where people have higher social capital, there are reduced down rates of terrible direct and more lifted amounts of individual satisfaction (Masalu and

*Corresponding Author

Åstrom, 2002). Poor people group cannot tackle their issues alone, regardless of how solid and efficient their inner social capital moves toward becoming. They require more noticeable financial assets and better open administrations. Their populations require better training and human capital advancement. Social capital can assume a basic job in methodologies to battle neediness in a few different ways. Strong community organization can enhance the effectiveness of public institutions and regeneration strategies. Second, to the degree that the poor can act all things considered and manufacture unions with outside public characters, they stand a superior shot of telling the more important assets that are dynamic for fighting poverty. Roslan *et al.* (2010) directed an examination about the significance of social capital. The outcomes demonstrated that social capital assumes an authoritative job in neediness assistance.

Developing and encouraging the correspondence systems and social ties advances get to levels among people and gatherings to monetary and social assets. These ties and exchanges in their different structures go about as a kind of paste with the goal that the components present in the public arena can interface together and collective capacities, for example, social participation (Ounagh and Ounagh, 2011). Based on the previous studies and scholars in this filed, this study conduct six dimensions of social capital which are networks & communications; trust; value, norms & habits; social rules; ability or capability; religious needs. All this dimensions are important elements of social capital.

3. Materials and Methods

This study was applied a cross sectional survey by quantitative methods. The research populations were B40 group households in suburbs areas in east coast of peninsula Malaysia which are, Temerloh, Kemaman and Pasir Mas. This questionnaire uses five-scale feedback, starting from the lowest scale namely strongly disagree, to the highest scale which is strongly agree. The questionnaire contains six dimensions that were to measure the research variables namely social capital. A total of 149 respondents had answered the questionnaire. Data was analyzed using SPSS software.

4. Analysis and Discussion

Table-1. Reliability Test Analysis

	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Networks & Communications	9	0.776
Trust	10	0.832
Value, Norms & Habits	10	0.879
Social Rules	10	0.895
Ability or Capability	10	0.888
Religious Needs	10	0.915

Based on Table 1, the value of Cronbach's Alpha for dimensions of social capital is 0.776, 0.832, 0.879, 0.895, 0.888 and 0.915 respectively. All of the above Cronbach's Alpha value exceeds 0.6 means the above items are suitable for use and acceptable as measurement (Cates, 1990).

Table-2. Descriptive Statistics of Social Capital

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Networks & Communications	149	2.00	4.00	3.2767	.37248	-.698	1.471
Trust	149	2.60	4.00	3.3785	.36550	-.073	-.968
Value, Norms & Habits	149	2.30	4.00	3.3638	.38295	-.288	-.212
Social Rules	149	2.60	4.00	3.3248	.39727	.269	-1.212
Ability or Capability	149	2.30	4.00	3.3094	.39650	.318	-.752
Religious Needs	149	2.90	4.00	3.5275	.38692	-.205	-1.549

According Mohd *et al.* (2009) all the variables dimensions of social capital indicate a min greater than 3. This indicates the level of social capital is high because the median scale for this scale is 3. If the value is greater than 3, it is considered as good as it is closer to the value 5. On the other hand, if the mean value of the score is lower than 3, the variable's level is considered low because it is approaching the minimum value 1.

Table 2 shows the descriptive statistics of social capital among B40 group in suburbs areas in east coast of peninsular Malaysia. The levels of social capital among low income group are at a high level as shown. The statistics shows these dimensions, network and communication (mean=3.2767, std. dev.=0.37248); trust (mean=3.3785, std. dev.=0.36550); value, norms & habits (mean=3.3638, std. dev.=0.38295); social rules (mean=3.3328, std. dev.=0.39727); ability or capability (mean=3.3094, std. dev.=0.39650) and religious needs (mean=3.5275, std. dev.=0.38692). Dimension of religious needs shows the highest mean score and dimension of networks & communications shows the lowest mean score. From this results, it shows that dimension of networks &

communications need to be improved and dimension of religious needs is already at the high levels but still need to maintained so that the overall value of social capital among respondents can always be at the high levels.

5. Conclusion and Implication

In brief, it can describe that the social capital of respondents were at a good level. However, it still can be improve in order to reach higher level. As said Johannes (2009) in his paper analyzed the impact of social capital on family unit neediness. Outcomes of the paper demonstrate that, participation in associations and the indicator for basic leadership record are definitely connected with family per capita consumption. From this discussion, the social capital can be an important role to bring societies especially poverty group to gain a better life.

Besides the results of this study can be utilized by the parties involved as a reference for them to design specific programs or policies In future, others researchers can improve this research by take a look others dimension or respondents. On top of that, researchers or academicians can provide materials or tools about social capital interest. It is very much losing if not using the available resources optimally.

Acknowledgement

This project has been funded by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia via Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS / 1/2017 / SS06 / UniSZA / 01/1 / RR243). The authors would like to thank the Research Management, Innovation and Commercialization Centre, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Terengganu, Malaysia for providing the financial assistance to support the publication fee of this article.

References

- Aref, F., Ma'rof, R. and Sarjit, S. G. (2010). Community capacity building, A review of its implications in tourism development. *Journal of american science*, 6(1): 172-80.
- Babaei, H., Zomorrodian, A. H., Sarjit, S. G., Nobaya, A. and Falahati, L. (2011). 'Social capital and human development, A meta-analysis in Iran', *Journal of american science* (7), 194-97.
- Cates, W. M. (1990). Panduan amali untuk penyelidikan pendidikan (terjemahan).
- Francis, F. (2001). Social capital, civil society and development, third world quarterly. 22(1): 7-20.
- Helliwell, J. F. (2006). Well-being, social capital and public policy: What's new? *The economic Journal*, 116, c34-c45: Available: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-0297.2006.01074>.
- Johannes, A. J., 2009. "Does social capital determines poverty? Evidence from cameroon household survey, prepared for presentation at the globelics (global network for economics of learning, innovation, and competence building systems) 2009 conference: UNU-MERIT (Maastricht, the Netherlands)."
- Kelley and Robin, D. G. (1997). *Yo' Mama's disfunkcional. Fighting the culture wars in urban*. Boston, Beacon Press.
- Lin, N. (2001). Social capital, a theory of social structure and action, Cambridge university press.
- Masalu, J. R. and Åstrom, A. N. (2002). Social and behavioral correlates of oral quality of life studied among university students in Tanzania. *Acta odontologica Scandinavica*, 60, 353-359.: Available: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/000163502762667388>.
- Massey., Douglas, S., Nancy, A. and Denton. (1993). *American apartheid, Segregation and the making of the underclass*. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Mass.
- Mignone, J. (2003). Measuring social Capital, A guide for first nations communities. *Canadian institute for health information*:
- Mohd, S. M., Wan, A. A. W. M. A. and Nik, W. O. (2009). Analisis kesejahteraan hidup nelayan pesisir. *Jurnal kemanusiaan*, 8: 58-77.
- Ounagh, N. and Ounagh, M. (2011). A comparative study of social capital and quality of life in Delhi and Tehran. *Journal of Exclusion Studies*, 1(1): 19-35.
- Roslan, A., Russayani, I. and Nor Azam, A. (2010). The impact of social capital on quality of life, evidence from Malaysia. *European Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Sciences*, 22: 113-23.
- Scheffler, R. M., Brown, T. T., Syme, L., Kawachi, I., Tolstykh, I. and Iribarren, C. (2008). Community-level social capital and recurrence of acute coronary syndrome, social science & medicine. 66: 1603-13. Available: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2007.12.007>