Assessing social capital role in management of sustainable urban development
(15th zone of Tehran municipality)

Ali-Asghar Balesh-Zar
MA in urban management, Department of Management, Electronic branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

Alireza Estelaji
Department of Geography, Yadegar-e-Emam Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

Abstract

This study mainly aimed to evaluate social capital role in sustainable urban development. Social capital refers to the collective value of all "social networks" and the inclinations that arise from these networks to do works for each other. Sustainable urban development is also defined as conditions that provide opportunity for citizens and urban resident to live in peace and quiet and enjoy healthy and productive life. This descriptive survey study aimed to be practical. And also it is correlative and sectional. Based on data collection, this research is conducted through survey. In order to study collecting theoretic basis we used documents and library books. In this study, we selected 92 people from 120 managers and authorities of 15th zone of Tehran municipality and related areas through simple random sampling by Kerejesi and Morgan table. Results of the study approved relation of social participation (sig: 0.000), social awareness (sig: 0.000), religiosity (sig: 0.000) and management of sustainable urban development.

Keywords: social capital, management of sustainable urban development, social participation, social awareness.
Introduction

As most theorists believe that social capital is a foundation of society and helps to maintain community integrity and compatibility and besides reinforcing dynamic social order, it has also a considerable role in providing security and social discipline (Ghafari, 2011: 11). Social capital is social network providing integrity between people interactions with people themselves and organizations. Social capital includes concepts such as mutual trust, accepting fairly competition, cooperation, attention to social interests, participation, accepting law, accepting responsibility etc … which all today are main concern of sociology. Social capital is created by thousands of people interactions. Social capital is phenomenon that is found among people and social structures and it is created among people and social networks based on principles of trust in mutual trade and action norms (Sam Aram et a 2010). Social studies belong to researches about social issues.

Some theorists believe that social capital and its components are new approach in development issue; however they are necessary for filling the gap between policy makers, executors and masters (Woolcock et a 2005:527). In this context theoretic attempt and practical experiences of these groups all come together in social capital concepts in order to accomplish announced and administrative policies. If these policies are successful and meet stratum needs it will correct common executive procedures in addition to prevalent attitudes.

Statement of the problem

Social capital concept is firstly introduced by Honey Fun from western Virginia University before 1916. However firstly this was stated in classic literary work of Jane Jacob titled as life and death of big American cities (1961). He explained massive social networks in traditional suburbs form a type of social capital and they show more responsibility in relation to protect hygiene, lack of street crimes and other decisions about improving quality of life in compare to components of formal institutions including police force and disciplinary force (wall, 1998:259) Social capital concept is firstly introduced by James Kelman in 1980s. Then sociologists including Fukuyama (1996) and Giddens (1990) developed this concept. Finally in mid-1990, social capital is concerned as a main component of new paradigm of development (encyclopedia of urban management, 1388: 148).

Brief explanation of social capital idea is outlined as the relations. Community members are able to cooperate through communication with each other and sustain community so they can accomplish aims that we couldn't achieve them lonely (Ghafari et al, 1388:148)

Social capital recently has been one main concern of many scientist specially sociologists. As social capital is illustrative of "certain actions of actors” in "social structures” and this concern is increasingly getting important in compare to physical, economic and human capitals. Social capital is norm of social system which on one hand causes improvement in cooperation level of community members and leads to decrees of trade and communication costs on the other hand. In
addition, sustainable urban development is objectively causes improvement in normal life level through creating favorable and optimum condition in contexts of optimum, food, sanitation, employment, education and how to pass free time. So in order to meet sustainable urban development which is aiming to improve social, economic and cultural condition of community members, formation and strengthening social capital is mainly important. In urban communities, despite there are plenty of economic, physical and human capitals urban development is gowing slowly and it proves lack of social capital. (Mohseni Tabrizi et al 2010).

The concept of sustainable which firstly in 1970s became concern of scientific community is result of awareness about environmental and developmental issues which were also affected by environmental campaigns in 60s and publication of books including growth limitation, nations organization conference about environment and development in 1972, Rio convention and 21 agenda (Bahrani and Maknoon, 2001:42). There are different definitions from sustainable development; as Winter believes there are more than 200 definitions (Barton et al, 2000:16). The most common description from sustainable development belonged to World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 which is provided by Brant Land who defines sustainable development as a development that meet today needs without risking capabilities and potentials for future generations; in other word our current deed has serious impact on future generation sequence in order to meet their needs (WCED, 1987:43)

In other word, today main concern is not changing but it is identity, intensity, speed and all changes that happen for the society. In new world every moment is different and place is changing as time. As Giddens (2009:35) believes today world is changing in a moment. It is not only social revolutions speed in new word is faster than society before modernization but also action field and its effects on functions and behavioral manners of old communities is unique. In this condition of changing and alternation the main social and economic base is human itself who is basic capital disengaged with physical and spiritual resources of the countries.

Social capital is the main component of social development which has role in strengthening community as the main symbol of national identity and unity and society consistency in all communities. Reduction of social capital in metro police causes decline of social life and it causes social vulnerabilities.

Social capital is complicated and multi aspect concept including objective or structural dimensions such as inter-objective relations as network of relation between people, institutions and it includes subjective or cognitive dimension such as inter-subjective relations including social commitment and trust among people or among people and institutions.

Additionally, in this peremptory globe, many organizations are attempting to achieve organizational aims and life continuity by different models and methods and obtain new advantage in order to prevent risks related to environmental immediate changes. In traditional management approach, development of economic, physical and human resource capital has the main role in a way that many scientists and professionals of management believe that employees
are the basis for improvement in quality and productivity and they should be concerned as main basis of increasing efficacy and productivity and finally they are as type of capital. In spite of all we stated about the value of economic, physical and human capital, social capital is more important because without this it is not possible to effectively use other capitals. In the past, social capital crucially had not been acknowledged as today, however in today immediate changes including environmental changes, informational technology, increasing need for information and education, increasing needs to innovation and creativity and necessity of consistent improvement of organization, organizations leaders must accept social capital as valuable organizational resource and utilize it in order for organization's excellence (Jafari et al, 2012:370-396)

Social capital is found in relations of people as a social resource and includes social networks, supportive structure, social, civil and political participation, and also trust between people and social systems (Spielberg, 2001)

Social capital is the main component of social development which has role in strengthening community as the main symbol of national identity and unity and society consistency in all communities. Reduction of social capital in metro police causes decline of social life and it causes social vulnerabilities. (Lyne, 2001:246).

In ill-mannered society, relations are not formed based on trust and potential social deviations are reflecting lack of social capital and consequently lack of social capital is leading to outbreak of social deviations and malformations. Since social capital is reflecting behavioral norms based on cooperation, potential social deviations also reflect lack of social capital. Statistics illustrated that lack of social capital is related to statistics of anti-social behaviors.

There are different attitudes and opinions about social capital with various definitions. In one general category there are two personal and collective approaches about social capital theories. In personal approach, social capital is getting private and its benefit belongs to a specific group or cast and a person at most.

In measuring social capital, the difference between various samples and the manner of their formation in traditional and modern societies are important. So that social capital in traditional communities or under developed societies is limited and based on inter group trust which is identified as traditional social capital. While in developed countries there is another form of this concept as modern social capital which is generalized mainly because of social trust (Siani et al 2011).

As we noted social capital is focusing considerably on relations between people. Relations that governed daily life in whole time and it had effect on their behavior and their attitude. So social capital has role everywhere either in relation to families and friends at home and school or in relation with coworkers and acquaintance in workplace or is behavior of people in the society.
Literature of social capital is looking for proving this relations experimentally (Elmi et al, 2005, Afshani et al 2011).

**Literature review**

Social capital subjectively belongs to social science. In classic social science, social capital is assumed as reductionism while today theorists in social science field all explicitly pay attention to this concept. Alcott Parsons explained social concept as resource of interactions and producer of loyalty and commitment in order to extending social correlation and consistency (1996), Jürgen Habermas defined it as main context of liberal communicative action with bringing vital world concept up specially collective aspect(1979), Anthony Giddens explained it with stating globalization and tele action and abstract and generalized social trust (1988), and Manuel Castells stated network society of information era (1380:4-534) by providing integrative attitudes for analyzing social phenomenon including some social capitals indexes which all had effective role on theoretic and methodology basis organizing.

Many developed and developing countries have published many researches about social capital, in US Ports (1998) and Paxton (1999), in Britain, Hal (1999) and Harper (2002), in India, Krishna (2002) they all researched about social capital from structural and cognitive aspects. Comparative study of social capital is getting concern of World Bank as international organizations and some people such as Inglehart (1997) and Leh (2003).

Pantam (2000) believed that economic-social performance in sustainable societies is more strong than inconsistent communities so formation of social capital mean there is consistency and trust between networks ad it provides the chance for economic and social efficacy (Pantam 2000). After regionally investigating Italia one before and after reformation of 1970s, he concluded that better social capital in northern zones in different periods provides opportunity for development (Hasanvi et al 2007).

Zhao (2002) proved that among Chinese redundant employees with more social capital were more successful in achieving job. So sustainable personal economic is affected by social capital. BhuiyanEvers (2005) approved relation of social capital with urban sustainability.

Khakpoor et al (2006) investigated "role of social capital in sustainable local development" and they illustrated that due to significant or nearly significant relations between some variables of social capital with sustainability we can state that attention to subjective concept of social capital is undeniable condition of meeting objective subject of sustainability.

Shafi’a (2010) approved in his research titled as "study the relation between social capital and local economic sustainable development" that there is significant and positive relation between social capital and economic sustainable development; so high social capital as a tool for increasing local sustainability of economy and economic motivation of research team is effective factor on the way of the research.
Bargahi (2013) had a research titled as "analysis of new cities sustainability" in which he measured some social capital components including dependency in relation to sustainability of new city and he indicated that there is direct and positive relation between components of urban sustainability in a way that with increase of positive effect of social capital components, urban sustainability rate will increase as well.

In Iran, Abdollahi (2004) and Share poor (2004) and Ghasemi (2006) studied about social capital and also Saboori and Tavasoli were also translated these studied from English to Persian.

So based on concepts and variable mentioned in literature we introduce following model:

![Diagram 1: theoretic model based on literature](image)

**Materials and methods**

This descriptive survey study is practical and its type is correlative. Considering the time of the research it is as sectional research. According to data collection this study in considered as field studies. Additionally we used library books and documents in order to collecting information and finally we analyzed data by SPSS software and Pearson correlative coefficient. In this study, sample population including 120 people are managers and authorities of 15th zone of Tehran and related areas among which 92 person were selected by simple random sampling through Kerejesi and Morgan table. Validity of study is calculated by formal method via pretested questionnaires in similar researches and consulting with professionals and finally we assessed stability by Cronbach alpha which was 0/885 in pretest.
Results

Table 1: matrix of correlation between variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>religiosity</th>
<th>Social awareness</th>
<th>Social participation</th>
<th>Social consistency</th>
<th>Social trust</th>
<th>Sustainable development</th>
<th>variable title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sustainable development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.946</td>
<td>Social trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.365</td>
<td>0.854</td>
<td></td>
<td>Social consistency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.299</td>
<td>0.141</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Social participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.305</td>
<td>0.581</td>
<td>0.321</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>Social awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.924</td>
<td>-0.192</td>
<td>0.043</td>
<td>-0.80</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>religiosity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In first hypothesis which is there is no relation between social trust and management of sustainable urban development, the value of Pearson test was -0.006 and significance level was 0.946. Results of Kendall test and Spearman also disapproved this hypothesis. So in Kendall test statistic value is 0.09 and significance level is 0.899 and statistic value in Rho Spearman test was 0.103 and significance level was 0.879/ mentioned hypothesis approved Antony Giddens theory; Antony Giddens stated concepts of globalization and teleaction and abstract and generalized social trust (1988). Results of analysis indicated that hypothesis was not approved. Pearson test value is -0.015 in this hypothesis (there is significant relation between social consistency and management of sustainable urban development) and significance level was 0.854 which states there is no relation between two variables. Results of Kendall statistic and Rho Spearman also disapproved this hypothesis. So in Kendall statistic the value of statistic is 0.088 and significance level is 0.816. And in Rho Spearman test, statistic test was 0.088 and significance level was 0.809. This hypothesis approved Talcott Parsons; Talcott Parsons introduced society either in local or community level as interaction resource and producer of commitment and loyalty for extending social correlation and consistency (1966). And also Pearson test value was 0.529 in third hypothesis (there is significant relation between social participation and management of sustainable urban development) and level of significance was 0.000 which indicated that this hypothesis was approved. So there is direct and significant relation between social participation and management of sustainable urban development. Statistic results of Kendall and Rho Spearman approved this hypothesis.
Accordingly in Kendal statistic, statistic value is 0/522 and level of significance is 0/000 and in Rho spearman test statistic value is 0/597 and level of significance is 0/000. Noted hypothesis approve theory of Jürgen Habermas. Jürgen Habermas introduced vital globe concept as main context of liberal communication actions in (1979). Fourth hypothesis (there is significant relation between social awareness and management of sustainable urban development) is also with value of 0/440 and level of significance of 0/000 which indicated there is relation between two variables. Accordingly there is relation between social awareness and management of sustainable urban development. Statistical results of Kendall and Rho spearman also approved this hypothesis.

So in Kendall statistic the statistic value is 0/412 and significance level was 0/000 and in Rho Spearman test, statistic value is 0/426 and level of significance is 0/000/ noted hypothesis approved Manuel Castells. Manuel Castells introduced community concept as network of information era. The value of Pearson test in fifth hypothesis (there is significant relation between religiosity and management of sustainable urban development) was 0/374 and significance level was 0/000 indicating there is direct and significant relation between religiosity and management of sustainable urban development. Statistic results of Kendall and Rho Spearman also approved this hypothesis. Accordingly, in Kendall statistic indicated that statistic value was 0/355 and significance level was 0/000 and statistic value in Rho Spearman test was 0/341 and significance level was 0/000.

Recommendations

- In order to make different areas of the region to participate into developmental issues there is need to use institutional analysis. So that with analysis of internal relations of institutions and different sectors of mentioned community there is need to grow toward meet urban development.
- Providing appropriate condition for citizens participation in informal groups of region
- Providing clear information for citizens and training citizens who like people and they are ware and responsive with sense of responsibility
- Participating citizens in interest of urban services production
- Reducing municipality toll for citizens who participate in urban affairs
- Providing structure for direct relations of citizens with governmental organizations, participation and asking their opinion about planning and implementing civil and wellbeing designs
  - Annual assessment of participation rate in urban management and identifying obstacles and problems by municipality and related branch
  - Necessity of creating culture and giving information aiming to increase citizenship culture, their spiritual awareness and responsibility and public participation by municipality
  - Establishing participative institutions such as cooperative companies, NGOs, CBOs, PVOs in order to increase sense of dependence and local homogeneity
  - Economic empowerment and development of welfare services and creating job in order to empowerment and create institutions and welfare funds.
  - Implementing public educational plan for social-cultural issues in order to improve public culture level and social and local identity of this region inhabitants
• Recognizing citizenship rights of population in region in planning different economic, social and skeletal plans aiming to attract and participate region citizens
  - Promoting culture of enjoining good and forbidding wrong in region
  - Development of religious enters and region mosques and promoting Namaz culture
  - More activity of region mosques in providing culture-sport courses and spiritual ceremonies and Quran sessions.
References:

Abdollahi Mohamad (2007), social capital in Iran; present condition, future perspective, quarterly journal of social welfare, sixth year, 25th number, Tehran, wellbeing and rehabilitation university.

Alvani, seid Mahdi: Shirvani Aireza, (2004), main social capital in development, quarterly journal of Tadbir, No 147.


Chalbi Mojtaba, Masoud and Mohammad Mobaraki (2005), analysis of social capital and crime in macro and micro level. Journal of Iran sociology, No 2, Tehran, association of Iran sociology


Fine Ben (2006), social capital and social theory, translated by Kamal Sarvarian. Tehran: research institute of strategic studies

Firooz Abadi Seid Ahmad (2005), social capital and effective elements on its formation in Tehran. University of social science of Tehran university, Phd Thesis

Francis Fukuyama, 2000, end of order, social capital and maintaining it, translated by Gholam Abbas Tavasoli, Tehran: Iranian population publish.


Ghafari Gholamreza (2011), social trust of Iran, analysis of survey about values and attitudes of Iranian, Tehran, office of national plans of The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Ghafari Gholamreza , 2011, social capital and disciplinary security, Tehran: sociologists publish


Hasanvi Reza, Pezashkan Amir (2007), stating social capital concept and its role in development. Tomorrow management publish, 17th no, pages 17-35

Khakpoor, Baratali, and Mafi Ezatollah (2009), role of social capital in local sustainable development, sample: Mashhan Sajadieh, quarterly journal of geography and regional development, 12th no, page 55-81.


Maknoon Reza (1995), sustainable development, two monthly published journal of Bana, No 1, pages 39-64


Seraj Zadeh Hossein et al, 2013, religion and health: investigating religiosity effect on health among sample of students, practical sociology publish, 24th year, 49th number

Shafia sa’id (2010), relation of social capacity of inhabitants in informal habitats with sustainable development. Tehran: Allameh Tabataba’i University.

Taj Bakhsh , Kian (2005), social capital (trust, democracy and development), translator: Afshin Khakbaz and Hassan pooyan, Tehran: Shirazeh publication

Tiba Mojtaba and Zahra Golkar (2009), science of social relations. Tehran: publication of cultural education center