

Social Capital for Aged People in Khuzistān Province, Iran: toward developing a scale

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Abstract—Measuring social capital is main issues for sociologist and politicians after widespread of it. The other issue is increasing aged population in developing countries. The study was conducted to respond to this issues and developing a relevant scale of social capital for aged people. Literatures were reviewed and indicators of social capital estimated for aged as well. Operational items evaluated among 768 elder samples upon cluster-ratio sampling in eight districts of Khuzistān province in Iran. The findings suggested the acceptance of social capital's items for aged to illustrate their situations in social sphere and items of scale upon Cronbach's alpha are validated as well. There are differences within its categories of rural-urban and ethnicity that warn policies for seniors in society.

Keywords—Aged People; Iran; Districts of Khuzistān; Scaling; Social Capital

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, developing societies have faced to various obstacles in development such as un-satisfaction and un-efficiency the administration parts, low level of trust and reciprocal actions among citizens and within common-state, and lack of participatory and volunteering believes for improvement of social problems. All of them could be evaluated using social capital (SC) within organized networks for pathology of social system. Social relationships can considered as social capital when it is based on reciprocal norms and similar norms and values of citizens. Social capital will lead to simplified participation process of members for achievement of common revenues. Our definition about SC is nearest to Putnam's definition (1995) that stated of structural dimension of social capital as

Networks and objectivity; and also *Trust* and *Norms* mention to cognitive dimension of SC and subjectivity [1].

Reference [2] states that the dimensions of social capital are as:

- Norms, Values, and Expectancies
- Networks
- Warranty of Sanctions [2].

Similar to other social phenomenon, all kinds of capital should be reserve in society together so that it could be beneficial and useful for society. If every kinds of capital reserve for particular group or cast than for revenues of society, they would have negative and inadvisable results [3].

SC similarly other sociological concepts needs to illustrated in an acceptable and adjustable scale [4, 5]. Also, measuring and scaling social capital has turned out to be point view in most social studies. Social capital is defined as linkage among social systems and groups for strengthening of communications among citizens. Notwithstanding to these patronages, there is neglect for scaling of SC for aged among gerontologists sociologically. This brief article is part of a study that was conducted for preparing a scale of social capital for aged citizens.

II. METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLING

This study attempts to develop a scale of SC for aged people. The scale was developed through the Operationalisation of its items in eight districts of Khuzistān province in southwest of Iran within 768 aged samples upon cluster-ratio sampling.

III. INDICATORS AND VARIABLES

According to table 1 and review of literatures, 26 definitions for indicators of SC were mentioned and 13 main categories were collected. Finally, the scale of social capital (SSC) was developed based on them. *Social Intermediary* is new indicator to estimate social capital for elders initially. For taking the best view on measuring of SC and its indicators, some related study and national research were evaluated and studied such as measuring of SC in five region of Australia by Bullen and Onyx (1998), Richard Rose's

study on social capital and life style in Russia (1998), Narayan and Dippa's indicators for social capital (1999), measurement of social capital as structural and cognitive aspect in India and Panama by Krishna and Schrader (2000), social capital survey of Benchmark (2000) under supervision of Putnam, indicators of social capital by Australian Bureau of Statistic[ABS] (2002), study of Grootaert and others (2005), and Stone and Hughes' works (2001 to 2004) in Australian Institute for Family Studies. Briefly, SC was divided in three aspects of *Networks*, *Trust*, and *Norms*. In table 1, indexes of social capital and its references was listed.

TABLE I. INDEXES OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THIS SSC AND ITS REFERENCES

Literatures	Indexes and its Items
(Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2002; Bullen & Onyx, 2000; Granovetter, 1985; Grootaert, 1999; Grootaert, Narayan, Jones, & Woolcock, 2005; Krishna & Schrader, 1999; Krishna & Schrader, 2000; Stone, 2001; Stone & Hughes, 2002; Stone & Hughes, 2002)	<u>Trust and its capability:</u> Trust: measuring of trusty to acquaintances (family members, kinships, friends, co-workers, neighbourhoods) and to strange, various organizations and governmental administrators (governmental managers, politics). Capability of trust: measurement of risk in trust in environment (e. g. being or not being of larceny etc.).
(Stone, 2001; Stone & Hughes, 2002; Stone & Hughes, 2002; Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2002; Bullen & Onyx, 2000)	<u>Social participation:</u> All kinds of participation that either be satisfactory for person and so be as determinant and factor for informant of social relations and networks (i.e. visiting of kinships, participate in funeral or ceremony of neighbours, entertainment task with plural).
(Granovetter, 1973; Granovetter, 1985; Stone, 2001; Stone & Hughes, 2002; Stone & Hughes, 2002; Rose, 1998)	<u>Civil participation:</u> All of tasks and actions within politics aspects and spaces, governmental parts, management of clubs and associations and NGOs; usually be as formal membership of person and having particular laws, stratifications, and status.
(Bullen & Onyx, 2000; Krishna & Schrader, 2000; Krishna, 2002; Putnam, Sander, Gibson, & Kennedy Converse, 2008; Putnam et al., 2008)	<u>Cooperation:</u> Cooperative norms are internal sense of citizens about companionship of others and their society. It conduces to equivalent between individual and common benefits and revenues.
(Bullen, 2000; Granovetter, 1985; Krishna, 2000; Krishna, 2002; Putnam, 2008; Putnam, 2008)	<u>Companionship:</u> Companionship is being aimed for joint goals in collective situations (e.g. companion of neighbours to each others for promotion and improvement of environment, voluntary participation in community with local governors).
(Hughes & Stone, 2002; Stone, 2001; Stone & Hughes, 2002; Stone & Hughes, 2002)	<u>Tolerance:</u> Measuring of acceptable and respect of deferent attitudes and thoughts, norms, life styles, believes, and others.
(Bullen, 2000; Stone, 2001; Stone, 2002)	<u>Security:</u> Measurement of safety, leisure, and convenience of citizens in their houses and in communities, and society.
(Putnam, 2008; Hughes, 2002; Stone, 2001; Stone, 2002)	<u>Social support (commercial & emotional):</u> Patronage of persons to each other socially, commercially, and emotionally when it being need in everyday life.
(Grootaert, 1999; Grootaert et al., 2005; Krishna & Schrader, 1999; Krishna & Schrader, 2000; Krishna, 2002)	<u>Social solidarity:</u> Acceptance sense by others as members of society and having convenience within neighbourhood environments, local communities, groups, and clubs
(Putnam, 2008; Putnam, 2002; Hughes, 2002; Stone, 2001; Stone, 2002)	<u>Self-efficiency:</u> Citizens' attitudes and senses on their efficiency in society and able to effect on actions, environment, and decision making.
(Hughes & Stone, 2002; Stone, 2001; Stone & Hughes, 2002; Stone & Hughes, 2002)	<u>Value of life:</u> Means that sense of satisfaction about life, valuation of him/herself and personality in society.
Authors (2010)	<u>Social intermediary:</u>

	Active role of person within struggles, involvements, and disputations of kinships, friends, family members, neighbours, teammates, and kiths as conciliator.
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According to above classification for SC and its definitions; also the indicators, operational indexes of social capital (see table 1), the SSC was developed upon reviews of literatures in 35 items that is illustrated in table 2. The basic variables of SC in SSC are trust and its capability, norms, and social networks.

TABLE II. THE INDICATORS, OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS, AND INDEXES OF THE SSC

Concept	Basic Indexes	Secondary (Accessory) Indexes			Operational Definitions (Items)	
Social Capital (Aspects of social system which improve & facilitate companionship and cooperation of citizens for goals achievement and joint aims)	I. Trust and its capability	Informal trust			How much do you have trust to these persons: family members, kinships, friends, neighbours, and former teammates?	
		Formal trust			How much do you think these institutions and organizations give us revenues and benefits?	
		Generalized trust			How much do you have any trusty to strangers and unknown persons?	
		Capability of trust in environment			How much might you find your lost things e.g. money, wallet?	
		Security sense			How much do you have any trusty about walking around your home lonely at nights or days?	
	II. Norms	Cooperation	Individual duty		Sense of Individual duties and tasks for problem solving & decision making quarter	
			Social clement		Renunciation of him/her times and money for improving of quarter	
		Companionship	Local		Having some tasks on problem solving or commonweal works sometime	
			Governmental		Companionships with people and government on parsimony	
		Tolerance			Pleasure to live with people in other culture and rites	
					Belief on multicultural situation can solve and improve social problems	
					Achievement to live in multicultural community nor union-cultural	
		Self-efficiency			Belief on self-efficiency of him/her in quarter for problem solving and decision making while his/her life and youth periods	
					Belief on self-efficiency of him/her in quarter for problem solving and decision making	
					Belief on self-efficiency of people in quarter for problem solving and decision making	
		Value of life			Satisfaction about youth and adults periods	
		Social intermediary			Belief on respect of society for aged	
		Social Support	Emotional support			Voluntary actions for intermediate among neighbours' contests
						Help neighbours, friends, and kinships in last year to now as below: About doing their works and solving their problems; attendance to their problems and chats
			Commercial support			Let some things and tools to them
	Lend money to them					
	III. Social networks	Structure	Horizontal	Social participation	Local	Being in following actions in past three months: funeral of neighbours, celebrations of neighbours
					Religious	Friday and Popular praying, funeral sections for religious majors and saints
					Organized	In sections, seminars, gabfests
					Plural entertainment	Weekly-monthly familial parties, plural outing and promenade

		Vertical	Civil participation	Civil traditions	Continuous participation in: charitable institutions, familial commercial cash, religious groups	
				Membership in cultural groups	Cultural groups i.e. Basij	
				New style of participation	NGO's and political groups	
		Quality	Social solidarity	Accent to others not him/herself alone		
				Ability to find real friends in his/her county or quarter		
				Guidance of others/children on respect of others' rights and chattels		
				Effective performance of schools/scholars on providing of juveniles for social life		
				Effective performance of mosques on providing of well social life		
				Humanistic and philanthropic relationships of people among each other not for mercenary alone		
				Equality of citizens in law without any discrimination		

IV. FINDINGS

According to table 3, internal validity upon Cronbach's alpha are well adjusted (see table 3). Items of trust in SSC

are reliable. overall, scores states that these factors were moderately internally consistent. The study has mentioned new definition for SC in Gerontological aspect.

TABLE III. INTERNAL RELIABILITY FOR THE THREE BASIC VARIABLES OF SSC (N = 768, >95)

Basic Variables of SSC	No. of Items	M (SD)	Skewness	Kurtosis	Alpha
Trust	5	2.29 (.68)	.43	.25	.76
Norms	16	3.78 (.72)	-.56	.33	.71
Social networks	14	2.35 (.88)	.41	-.31	.69

The findings of the SSC within districts of Khuzistān province upon basic variables of social capital highlight unequal distribution of scores of SSC though the province. Distribution of ethnicity within districts notifies that districts with crowd ethnic minority groups (Arab and Lor) have least SSC, expect Izeh district that has most rank of social capital as Lor ethnic group. Also, there is differences between rural-urban settlement of aged samples.

institutionalized element for social capital in Iranian culture. This variable could be maintain other indexes of social capital within aged people who reduce their social engagement to other members of community. Notwithstanding, the social capital has existed within Iranian cultural system long time. Existence of religious/ethnic cults and groups historically in this society could reinforced social capital and redefinition of its items vice versa.

V. DISCUSION AND CONCLUSION

However social development could not be reduced to social capital; but it can be acceptable that SC partly covers main part of its sphere and would be useful for practitioners of social development. The SSC was adjusted as well for aged people and could be able to illustrate elderly situations in social realm. Because of internal validity upon Cronbach's alpha are well adjusted. Aged people are an increasing members of Iranian society need to acknowledge and made aware.

Operationalization of the SSC was done at first time for Iranian (Khuzistān districts) aged samples and would be competent to adjust for other cultural backgrounds in other developing countries. Infirmity and intolerance of social capital in non-governmental participation and interactions as civil customs can bring about inefficiency of cultural policies for institutionalization of this category.

Social intermediary (as new item and index for evaluation of social capital made by authors) has acceptable scores among aged samples. It mentions as desirable

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are grateful colleagues and the anonymous referees for their encouraging comments.

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