

Investigating the Role of Social Capital in Recreating the Historical-Cultural Context of Shiraz

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Article History: Received: 14 July 2020; Accepted: 2 January 2021; Published online: 5 February 2021

Abstract: The present study aimed to investigate the role of social capital in recreating the historical and cultural context of Shiraz. The predominant methodological approach of this research is quantitative, the information of which has been collected in the form of documents and surveys. To benefit from the views of the residents of the historical context of Shiraz and evaluate their views on the situation of social capital and its role in recreating the historical and cultural context of Shiraz, a questionnaire with closed questions has been used, which the sample size is 380 people at 95% confidence level and considering 10% error using the Cochran's formula. To analyze the data obtained from the questionnaires, examine the relationships between variables and test the research hypotheses, the descriptive and inferential statistical analyses, especially the sample t-test and Pearson correlation test in SPSS computer software environment were used. Based on the field findings, the components of social capital including networks of social participation, social trust, social cohesion and solidarity and social belonging in the historical-cultural context of Shiraz are at a low level. As a result of these conditions, the realization of regeneration programs in these neighborhoods will depend on strengthening the components of social capital among the residents of the historical-cultural context of Shiraz.

Keywords: social capital, urban regeneration, historical-cultural context, Shiraz

1. Introduction and problem statement

Historical contexts in the past, have had a logical and hierarchical function over time; however, they are structurally and functionally deficient today (Habibi et al. 2007; cited by Izadfar et al., 2020: 328). The historical-cultural context of Shiraz, which is several years old and is the initial center of the city, is no exception to this rule. Fundamental inadequacies and shortcomings in the social, economic and functional fields, have seriously created the risk of a gradual decline in the region's population. Conversely, the urban regeneration approach provides a methodical intervention to address the issues and challenges facing this group of urban contexts using its principles and strategies (Jalili 2015). In the process of urban regeneration, the implementation of physical projects plays an important role because they lead to improving the quality of life, but attention to social, cultural and economic issues along with the approach of physical rehabilitation, is one of the most important features of urban regeneration (Taghipour 2015). In research discussed the design of high-rise building with ecological approach in Iran (Alborz Province)(Rezvani Befrouie 2015). In research studied Assessing the Effect of FRP System on Compressive and Shear Bending Strength of Concrete Elements(Seddigh Marvasti 2015). In research studied Assessment and Analysis of Risk Associated with the Implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project Using FMEA Technique (Taghipour 2020). In research studied Analysing the Effects of Physical Conditions of the Workplace on Employees Productivity(Taghipour 2015). In research studied Implementation of Software-Efficient DES Algorithm (Taghipour 2015). In research studied Evaluating CCPM method versus CPM in multiple petrochemical projects(Taghipour 2020). In research studied Application of Cloud Computing in System Management in Order to Control the Process(Taghipour 2020). In another

studied Necessity Analysis and Optimization of Implementing Projects with The Integration Approach of Risk Management and Value Engineering (Taghipour 2015). In another studied Risk assessment and analysis of the state DAM construction projects using FMEA technique (Taghipour 2015). In research studied The Problem Solving of Bi-objective Hybrid Production with the Possibility of Production Outsourcing through Imperialist Algorithm, NSGA-II, GAPS Hybrid Algorithms (Hoseinpour 2021). In research studied Identify and Priorize Suitable Area for Ecotourism Development using Multi-criteria Analysis for Development of the Tourism Market in Iran (Nathanz City) (Abdollahzadeh & Taghipour 2015). One of the most important and influential social issues in urban regeneration is social capital, because today, when the participatory planning or bottom-up planning is considered, the social capital is concerned (Mizraei 2015). Therefore, measuring social capital as a part of the urban regeneration process is known as a manifestation of the mobility and dynamism of the social system and the impact on the physical-spatial dimensions of the city. In addition, it has the ability to increase planning efficiency and targeted impact to achieve urban regeneration programs in various dimensions with the ability to create synergy among the community living in urban space (Taghipour 2020). In research studied Investigating the consequences of corona outbreak from the perspective of economic geography with emphasis on urban economy in Iran (Medhat 2021).. In another studied Investigated the Relationship between Competitive Strategies and Corporates Performance. Seismic Analysis (Non-Linear Static Analysis (Pushover) and Nonlinear Dynamic) on Cable-Stayed Bridge (Taghipour 2015). Also in another studied Evaluation of Tourist Attractions in Borujerd County with Emphasis on Development of New Markets by Using Topsis Model (Taghipour & Ahmadi Sarchoghaei 2015). The main issue in the present study is to examine whether considering the concept of social capital and its measurement can increase the feasibility or advance the goals of urban regeneration programs and be an effective step to solve the problems of historical contexts?

3. Method

The present study is an applied research and its approach is descriptive-analytical. The method of data collection is documentary studies, and it is a field study in using the standard and researcher-made questionnaires. To examine the validity of the questionnaires, the content validity method (receiving the approval of the questionnaire from professors before being performed) was used. The reliability of the questionnaires was calculated with Cronbach's alpha at a confidence level of 99% (0.936), indicating that the questionnaire has a very good reliability. The statistical population is the residents of the historical-cultural context of Shiraz with 53,000 people (revision of the detailed plan of the historical-cultural context of Shiraz, 2011: 59), which the sample size at the 95% confidence level considering a 10% error was 380 people using Cochran's formula, and the questionnaires were distributed randomly among the residents. Data analysis and subsequent representations were performed in the form of descriptive and inferential statistics in SPSS computer software environment.

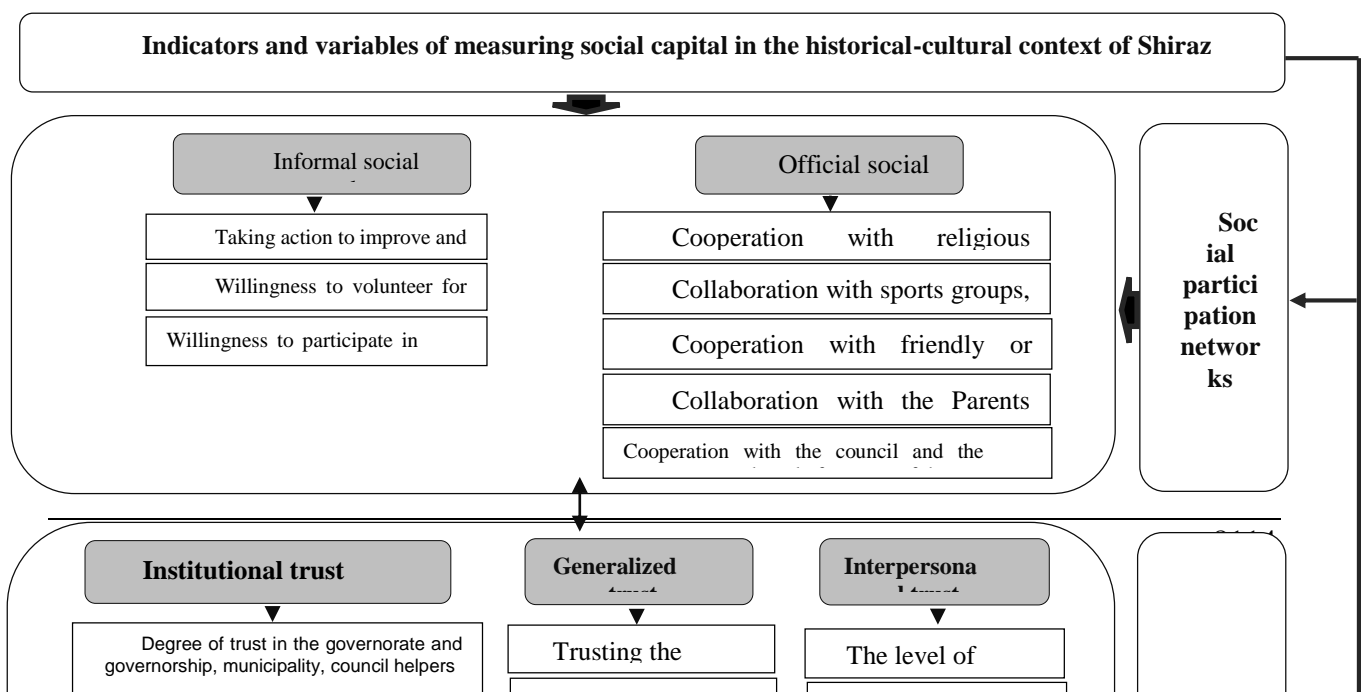


Figure 2. The process of indexing social capital in the historical-cultural context of Shiraz

5. Findings

1.2.5. Investigating the first hypothesis of the research: It seems that the components of social capital in the historical-cultural context of Shiraz are at a low level.

Index 1: Social Participation Networks

A) Formal social networks: As shown in Table 1, the test results indicate that there is a significant difference between the observed participation with the average level of participation and the theoretical average of the community.

Table 3. T-test results to measure the level of public cooperation with groups and institutions representing formal social participation networks

Variables	Test Value = 3							
	Mean	Std	t	df	Sig	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
							Lower	Upper
Cooperation with religious groups	2.94	1.313	-.816	313	.415	-.061	-.21	.09
Collaboration with sports groups	2.07	1.213	- 13.688	319	.000	-.928	-1.06	-.79
Collaboration with charitable associations	1.55	.931	- 27.399	310	.000	-1.447	-1.55	-1.34
Cooperation with the council and the board of trustees of the mosque	1.77	1.074	- 20.229	310	.000	-1.232	-1.35	-1.11
Cooperation with friendly or family loan fund	2.22	1.330	- 10.442	313	.000	-.783	-.93	-.64
Collaboration with the Association of Parents and Teachers of the Neighborhood School	1.68	1.054	- 22.111	313	.000	-1.315	-1.43	-1.20
Cooperation with the Basij base	1.38	.861	- 33.371	313	.000	-1.621	-1.72	-1.53
Collaboration with literary and artistic groups	1.65	1.200	- 19.797	310	.000	-1.347	-1.48	-1.21
Variables mean	1.933	.585	- 32.627	319	.000	-1.067	-1.132	-1.003

Source: Field Studies and Research Calculations

B) Informal social networks: As shown in Table 4, the amount of informal social participation observed among the residents of the historical-cultural context of Shiraz is not at the appropriate level as formal social participation.

Variables	Test Value = 3							
	Mean	Std	t	df	Sig	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
							Lower	Upper
Taking action to improve and create facilities in the neighborhood	2.01	1.065	-16.688	319	.000	-.994	-1.11	-.88
Willingness to participate in solving neighborhood problems	3.01	1.315	.085	319	.932	.006	-.14	.15
Willingness to volunteer for the people of the neighborhood	2.45	1.216	-8.071	317	.000	-.550	-.68	-.42
Mean variables	2.48	1.002	-9.204	319	.000	-.516	-.626	-.405

Table 4. T-test results to measure the level of public participation in informal social participation networks

Source: Field Studies and Research Calculations

Index 2: Examining the social trust

A) *Interpersonal trust:* The level of interpersonal social trust in the study area is moderate and the test results indicate that there is no significant difference between the observed level of trust with the mean level of trust and the theoretical mean of society.

B) *Generalized trust:* The level of generalized trust in the research community, i.e. the residents of the historical-cultural context of Shiraz is less than average and is at a low level.

C) *Institutional trust:* The level of institutional trust observed in the community is lower than average and has a significant difference with the theoretical mean of the community. This highlights the need to review the social policies of various institutions of society and to plan and strive to build trust among the people.

Index 3: Evaluating social cohesion and solidarity

As displayed in Table 8, there is no proper social correlation and cohesion among the residents of these neighborhoods of the city and the mean observed for this index is lower than the average level and there is a significant difference with it.

Table 8. T-test results to measure the level of cohesion and social solidarity in the research community

Variables	Test Value = 3							
	Mean	Std	t	df	Sig	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
							Lower	Upper
The degree of participation of neighborhood people in solving neighborhood problems	2.41	1.040	-10.194	317	.000	-.594	-.71	-.48
The level of participation of neighborhood people in removing turbidity among local people	2.62	1.085	-6.336	319	.000	-.384	-.50	-.27
The willingness of local residents to help people in the event of an accident	3.19	1.259	2.709	319	.007	.191	.05	.33
Variables mean	2.740	.925	-5.037	319	.000	-.260	-.362	-.159

Source: Field Studies and Research Calculations

Index 4: Examining social belonging

The test results (Table 9) indicate that the existing population contexts has little sense of belonging to this tissue and does not respond well to destructive context changes.

Table 9. T-test results to measure the level of social belonging in the research community

Variables	Test Value = 3						
		Std	t	df	Sig		95% Confidence

	Mean					Mean Difference	Interval of the Difference	
							Lower	
The tendency to leave the city	3.67	1.256	9.508	317	.000	.670	.53	
The feeling of comfort in the city	2.42	1.074	-9.736	319	.000	-.584	-.70	
The tendency to leave the place to live in a better place	3.57	1.314	7.736	316	.000	.571	.43	
The amount of nostalgia for the neighborhood if left	2.72	1.242	-3.962	319	.000	-.275	-.41	
Variables mean	3.098	.607	2.880	319	.004	.098	.031	

Considering the amount of observed mean, which is less than the theoretical mean of society for all components of social capital (except the component of social belonging), i.e. 3, and significant values (sig) related to each of the items are all less than 0.05, the amount of social capital in the historical-cultural context of Shiraz is at a lower than average level and there is a significant difference between the observed level of social capital with the average and the theoretical mean of the society in a negative direction (lower level). Accordingly, the first hypothesis of the research is confirmed.

2.2.5. Examining the second hypothesis: There is a direct and significant relationship between social capital and the desire of citizens to participate in the re-creation of the historical-cultural context of Shiraz.

As shown in 10, since the correlation coefficient values for all variables are positive, the significant correlation relationship is direct and positive. That is, as the level of social capital components in the research community decreases or increases, the tendency of people to participate in urban development and regeneration projects will decrease or increase proportionately. Therefore, the second hypothesis of the research is also confirmed.

Table 10. Test results of the relationship between the components of social capital and the willingness of people to participate in contexts regeneration and development projects

Pearson correlation	Formal participation network	Informal participation network	Personal trust	Generalized trust	Institutional trust	Social cohesion and solidarity	Social belonging

Willingness to participate	P.Corr relation	.273**	.871**	.282*	.392*	.382*	.432**	.379**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	320	320	320	320	320	320	320
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).								

Source. Field Studies and Research Calculations

2.5. Examining the third hypothesis: It seems that there is a direct and significant relationship between social capital and citizens' satisfaction with urban development and regeneration projects.

The results of the correlation test indicate that as each component of social capital increases or decreases, the level of people's satisfaction with the plans and programs for the development and reconstruction of the historical-cultural context of the city will increase and decrease. Therefore, the third hypothesis of the research is also confirmed (Table 11).

Table 11. Investigating the relationship between social capital components and people's satisfaction with contexts development and reconstruction projects

Pearson correlation		Formal participation network	Informal participation network	Personal trust	Generalized trust	Institutional trust	Social cohesion and solidarity	Social belonging
Satisfaction with development and regeneration projects	P.Corr relation	.309**	.375**	.384*	.429**	.355**	.367**	.375**
	Sig	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	291	291	291	291	291	291	291
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).								

Source: Field Studies and Research Calculations

6. Discussion and conclusion

In this research, social capital, its principles and concepts have been used as one of the pillars of achieving the goals of urban regeneration. According to the theoretical contexts, social

participation networks, social trust, social cohesion and solidarity and social belonging are among the basic and main components to define the necessary variables in the framework of social capital perspective. In this regard, each of the components expressed in the historical context of Shiraz have been evaluated and the results have been compared along with this evaluation. The result of this study indicates a direct and significant relationship exists between the components of social capital with the level of residents 'willingness to participate in development programs and recreation of the historical-cultural context of Shiraz and the level of residents' satisfaction with these projects. (God willing 2016). That is, increasing the level of social capital components in the neighborhoods of this part of the city will be in line with the increase in satisfaction and willingness of people to participate in the re-creation and development of the historical-cultural context of the city. Accordingly, the need to consider strengthening social capital among the people in general and among the residents of the historical-cultural context of Shiraz is becoming clear.

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