

Research Paper

A Study of the Relationship Between Poverty and Social Capital: A Case Study From Sistan and Baluchestan Border Settlements

*Faramarz Barimani¹, Hadi Rasti², Meisam Dahani³, Raziye Jahantigh⁴

1. Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanity & Social Sciences, University of Mazandaran, Babolsar, Iran.
2. PhD Candidate, Department of Geography and Rural Planning, Faculty of Geographical Sciences and Planning, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran.
3. MA, Department of Geography and Rural Planning, Faculty of Geographical Sciences and Planning, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran.
4. MA, Department of Geography and Rural Planning, Faculty of Geography and Environmental Planning, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Zahedan, Iran.

Citation: Barimani, F., Rasti, H., Dahani, M., & Jahantigh, R. (2016). A Study of the Relationship Between Poverty and Social Capital: A Case Study From Sistan and Baluchestan Border Settlements. *Journal of Rural Research*. 7(3), 438-453. <http://dx.doi.org/10.21859/jjr-07032>

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21859/jjr-07032>

Received: 27 May, 2016

Accepted: 5 Aug. 2016

ABSTRACT

Settlements located in border areas, especially rural areas, are in lower level of social capital. Poverty is one of the key contributing factors for this. The aim of this research was to explore the relationship between poverty and social capital in the theoretical framework of social depilation. The type of research is descriptive-analytic and correlation. Due to widespread population, 382 households and 136 people of local manager among the three township (Mirjaveh, Saravan and Zahak) were sampled by cochran. The data were collected using a questionnaire and analyzed by fuzzy logic (MATLAB software) and SPSS (Statistical package for social sciences). The findings indicate a relatively high degree of correlation between social capital and poverty with a degree (0.628) and (0.602) and a negative impact of poverty on social capital. So that poverty explains 79.2 percent of the social capital, and edit as per unit change in the poverty rate (-0.890) Change will be created in the social capital. Among the indicators of poverty, "culture of poverty" and then "social rejection" have the most influence on social capital. The results indicate that the level social capital in this kind of settlements, strongly is under the influence of poverty. So if perpetuation of poverty, accompanied with the trend of gradual reduction of social capital (trust, participation and social solidarity) continue, it is possible the region in the future faced, the unstable upper, which in that case, control it will be difficult.

Key words:

Poverty, Social capital, Settlements of borders, Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran

Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

One of the most important effects and consequences that poverty can cause in human society is to undermine the social capital or at least prevent its growth. In this regard, collier has stated that poverty impacts more on social capital than social capital

affects on poverty. This phenomenon is reflected more in underdeveloped border areas than other areas. Border areas in Iran are sensitive and strategic areas. Nature of isolated in border areas, especially in mountainous and desert areas, steadily because of a lack of welfare and lack of motivation for the life of the was underlying political, economic and security problems for governments. In this regard, environmental injustice, and unbalanced development in geographical areas of the country, especially in border areas of southern east the country caused a split

* Corresponding Author:

Faramarz Barimani, PhD

Address: Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanity & Social Sciences, University of Mazandaran, Babolsar, Iran.

Tel: +98 (911) 2272243

E-mail: f.barimani@umz.ac.ir

in national unity and lead to divergent provocations response, and despite efforts that after the islamic revolution has been done in order to overcome deprivation the less developed areas of border the south east areas, again because such as geographical isolation, increase of feelings of discrimination and class, crisis of unemployment, drug trafficking and commodities, immigration and the factors limiting of investment security, caused the remaining areas of the development cycle, and development indicators they are not at a desirable level. Hence, the present study scrutinized relationship between poverty and social capital in the theoretical framework of social ostracism, in the border areas of Sistan and Baluchestan (Mirjaveh, Saravan and Zahak Township).

2. Methodology

Method research in his study is analytic-descriptive and correlation. Among the study population, 518 cases from residents of border areas of east of Iran located in Sistan and Baluchestan (Mirjaveh, Saravan and Zahak Township), 24 rural settlements and 4 urban settlements (rural-urban) have been selected and sampled by cochrane. With the extraction, factors and variables, literature, questionnaires were prepared. Validity and reliability of the instrument was done by experts and judged by cronbach's alpha (0.796 to 0.901) respectively. After collecting research data, analysis was done using fuzzy logic in the toolbox in Matlab, and using statistical software, SPSS.

3. Results

The findings show that the poverty and the social capital are respectively with the rank of 0.602 and 0.628. Among the indicators of poverty, "position of poverty" with the grade 0.686 and among the indicators of social capital, "social participation" with the grade 0.667 were assigned the highest rank. Findings also indicate a negative impact of poverty on social capital, so that 79.2% of social capital in the study area is related to changes in poverty rates and per unit change in the level of poverty happens in the area, -0.890 changes in social capital. In the meantime, indicator "culture of poverty", in explanation of social capital (social trust, participation and cohesion) from other poverty indicators has role and impact more prominent. Position of poverty, with less impact only shares somewhat in explaining changes in social trust and participation. According to the findings poverty has high impact in reducing the ablation of social capital, in this border region.

4. Discussion

In the study area, the problem of social capital reduction, due to poverty, can be related to unequal power relations and therefore unbalanced distribution of resources, social and economic services, and opportunities, especially employment and income opportunities as well as inequality in access to financial and social services. Since the study area is geographically isolated and its inhabitants usually do not share in national and regional programs, their access to economic opportunities and production infrastructures is minimal, naturally poverty finds a favorable footing in these areas. The root of the problem must be sought in the inefficiency of border management and unequal regional and local development. Having security view toward the border and lack of opportunity-based approach to border areas on the one hand, and unequal distribution of assets, facilities, services, opportunities and socioeconomic facilities, in regional and local level, lack of attention to the role of people in border management and most importantly the fundamental weakness of the local economic infrastructure on the other hand, are considered prominent manifestations of this ineffectiveness. Hence it seems that "position of poverty" in the region is the main factor of the decline of social capital. Because the culture of poverty and social exclusion according to Alkaki, Marx, Andrew and De Haan views are rooted in position of poverty, which is derived from social construction and unequal distribution of power.

5. Conclusion

The results indicate strong influence of social capital caused by poverty in the border region under study. The prominent status of poverty is related to the shortcomings of the local economy that is the most important cause of poverty in the study area. So if poverty continues with gradual decline in social capital (social trust, participation and cohesion), it is likely that in the future the region becomes unstable and its control will become difficult.