

Research Paper**The Comparison of Familial Social Capitals With and Without the Elderly*****Shahnaz Sedaghatzadeghan¹, Parvaneh Danesh¹, Hossein Baghery¹**

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**Citation:** Sedaghatzadeghan Sh, Danesh P, Baghery H. [The Comparison of Familial Social Capitals With and Without the Elderly (Persian)]. Iranian Journal of Ageing. 2018; 13(2):222-235.

Received: 09 Sep 2017

Accepted: 31 Dec 2017

ABSTRACT**Objectives** The goal of the study is to compare the social capitals of two groups of families (families with and without the elderly).

But some scholars of social sciences have introduced family life as the ashlar of social capital and have stated that the root of today's social chaos is the lack or absence of it.

So family as an independent capital has a close relationship with other important capitals in the society. Therefore, reinforcing and consolidating family and bringing ethics back to family and its members are the responsibilities of public that may promote the important social capitals.

Methods & Materials The current study has been done on the authentic statistical society consisting of 384 people from families of four-fold areas of Qom using the survey method, questionnaire technique, and cluster and accidental samples. So, with regards to social and conventional criteria, the city was divided into 5 regions, and then one street was chosen randomly in each of those regions. Then according to the population in each region, 100 respondents were randomly selected from one or two blocks in each region for this study. A total of 97% of the respondents were male, and 8% were female. Half (50%) of the respondents were in the age group of 26 to 55 years, 33% were aged 36 to 45 years, and the other 17% were over 45 years of age.**Results** We found that there was no meaningful difference between intra-familial cognitive social capital between two groups with or without the elderly. However, there was a significant difference between the groups with respect to capital and external cognitive structural social. No significant difference was observed between the two groups with respect to the basic variables such as gender, education, age, the number of children, and occupation.**Conclusion** Based on the obtained results, it can be said that the presence of elderly in the family increases family social capital and decreases major moral issues in the society.

Governments, supporting the elderly and their needs, including health care and pharmaceutical costs, economic supports, etc., provide conditions for the elderly to accompany their children and increase family social capital.

Key words:

Familial social capital, Cognitive capital, Structural capital, Elderly

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Extended Abstract

1. Objectives

The aim of this study was to compare the family social capital between two family groups (families with elderly and families without elderly). In the literature of social capital, there is not enough emphasis on the role of families in building social capital, but there is an overemphasis on the degree of participation of individuals in voluntary associations. But family life has been introduced as the cornerstone of social capital by some social scientists [1]. Putnam believes that the family is the most basic form of social capital. [2]. The root of some of the social disorganization in today's society is the lack of this basic form. Therefore, strengthening and consolidating the family, bringing back the morality to the family, and promoting the bond between family members promote the important social capitals. In fact, social capital within the family is the strong and positive relationship between parents and children that can be measured in terms of interest and the degree of intimacy between parents and children [4].

2. Methods and Materials

The current study conducted on authorized statistical samples, using the Cochran's formula, with the size of 384 people among all 18 and older citizens from the families of the district 4 of Qom Province which stated to be 889583 on the census of 2011 by the Statistics Center of Iran. The method used for surveying is a questionnaire that was approved in the ethical committee of the Payame Noor University, Faculty of Social Sciences. The processes of making a questionnaire were completed in such a way that all the items were created in accordance with the Coleman's theoretical framework in social family capital in the internal and external dimensions and also in the structural and cognitive dimensions. In this case, the groups or clusters were first sampled, and the elements were selected from each selected cluster. Then, a random sampling method was used in such a way that the city was first divided into three regions based on customary and social criteria. Then in the next step, a street was selected randomly from any of the districts, and finally, 100 respondents were randomly studied from one or two blocks in the selected areas, given the similarity of the population size of each region. The theoretical framework used in this research is based on the Coleman theoretical framework. Coleman, in

particular, deals with social capital of the family [4]. In this study, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to measure the reliability of the applied spectrum in two stages of pre-test and post-test (final test). For data analysis, SPSS software was used. In this research, observation unit was the individual, and the analysis unit was "family." A total of 91% of respondents were male, and 8% of them were female respondents. About half of the respondents were in the age range of 26 to 35 years, 33% were in the age range of 36 to 45 years, and the remaining 17% were in the age range of 45 years and higher. Among all the respondents, 3% of the respondents had step-children while 97% reported that they do not have any step-children.

3. Results

The findings on the measurement of intra-family structural social capital indicate that both types of families have mostly a modest amount of social capital within the family according to the above terms. However, the condition of the elderly household has been slightly better in the high social capital group. The statistical indicators show that the families that have an elderly at home have, to some extent, a better status in the social capital structure of the family. Findings on the measurement of social capital status of the outside-of-family structure suggest that 52% of the households with elderly and 77% of the households without elderly have a modest amount of social capital on outside-of-family structure but in the category of high social capital.

Again, the families with elderly have a better rank in such a way that 44% of the families with elderly and 12% of the families without elderly have a high outside-of-family structure social capital. Moreover, 4% of families with elderly and 2% families without elderly have a low rating in the status of the above-mentioned variable. Inferential findings of the study showed no significant difference between two types of families in the above-mentioned variable. In other words, though a slight difference was observed in the interest of families with and without elderly. So, accordingly, the above hypothesis suggesting a significant difference in social cognitive capital among the families with and without elderly will not be supported. Analytical findings in the test of the difference between the structural social capital of the family, depending on whether or not the elderly variable is present, showed that this difference is in favor of the first group, i.e. families with elderly. Therefore, the above hypothesis suggesting a significant difference in the social capi-

tal structure of the family is supported among families with and without elderly. Research findings showed that there was a significant difference between two groups of families with and without elderly in terms of outside-of-family cognitive social capital. According to this, it can be said that the amount of outside-of-family cognitive social capital is different depending on whether or not the elderly is present and one of a variety of families with or without elderly has more social capital. Given the four differences in score in favor of families with elderly, the above finding confirms the research hypothesis. The results of the hypothesis test of the difference between outside-of-family structural social capital depending on whether or not the elderly is present showed that there is a significant difference between the two groups of families. Also, by referring to the statistical indicators presented in the previous section, it should be mentioned that the difference in the amount of outside-of-family structural social capital in families without the elderly is about 5 scores more than that of families with the elderly. The above result confirms that there is a significant difference in the outside-of-family structural social capital of the two types of families.

4. Conclusion

The results of this study showed that the presence of the elderly in the families of Qom has an effect on the relationship of family with relatives and even neighbors, including the trust and communication with each other. Therefore, Qom's children enjoy positive and strong interactions with trust, intimacy, and parental support, in addition to having a higher social capital. It is suggested that the government establishes grounds and provides conditions for the elderly's presence alongside the children to increase family social capital and reduce the crisis. They support the elderly by meeting their needs including health care and pharmaceutical costs, economic support, and social contributions. Also, since many researchers have no access to information and statistics in this area, the government, policymakers, and social planners should provide these conditions for their work by providing researchers with the necessary statistics and information.

Ethical Considerations

Compliance with ethical guidelines

The process of implementing research was explained to the participants, and they were assured that their information would remain confidential.

Funding

This article was extract from the master thesis of Hossein Bagheri ien Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Parand Branch, Payame Noor University.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements

Thank to professors Dr. Sangtohzadegan and Dr. Danes for helping in this research.