

A QUANTITATIVE STUDY ON POVERTY REDUCTION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

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Abstract

There are the poorest communities in the world, as well as multidimensional poverty, which are prevalent problems in developing countries. The study is comprehensive, with the goal of identifying sustainable community development and poverty reduction in Sindh, Pakistan areas. The study surveyed and collected data from 300 respondents in five Sindh districts. The study is based on quantitative research, which includes data collecting from five districts in Pakistan's Sindh province, as well as a description and in-depth analysis. Only three research questions have been answered, all of which are related to integrate and sustainable community development and poverty reduction. According to the research, there is a considerable positive link between development and multidimensional poverty when it comes to inclusive and sustainable coproduction. The relevance of developing livelihoods for community development and poverty reduction is also highlighted in the research. The findings lead to a number of recommendations for successful and efficient poverty reduction and community development policies.

Keywords: Multidimensional Poverty, Sustainable Community Development, Poverty Reduction

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a social and economic disaster that looks to be spreading across practically all economies (Bugra, 2007). Poverty has governed society for a long time, and it now has numerous facets, according to modern occurrences. Poverty alleviation remains a difficult undertaking, despite numerous approaches. Almost every country faces difficulties (Piven & Cloward, 2012). However, because society is critical to tackling these difficulties, this difficulty can be solved through sustainable and inclusive community development. The scarcity of monetary and non-monetary resources required for individual and family survival was a typical occurrence in ancient times (Bugra, 2007). This, however, has altered in recent years. It is now defined as the disintegration of economic and social links in order to maintain economic and social relations that are stable. Income and Cost of Living Poverty is described as a person's inability to meet a basic need for survival (Alkire & Santos, 2010). Poverty cannot be measured just on the basis of income or expenditure. Learn to walk in the footsteps of the underprivileged. Poverty, according to Alkire and Santos (2010), is a multifaceted effect based on three core indicators: education, health, and living standards. For the remaining ten, Alkire and Santos (2010) found different poverty indicators. Pakistan, on the other hand, has been granted 15 indications by the rest of the globe. Society is a universal concept with no defined definition or norm. It is based on a set of criteria. Security reasons for the same or distinct actors, tribes, and ethnic groups residing in the same area with some shared members. The population or dimensions of the local area have not been modified or described (Alkire & Eli, 2010). A community can be defined as a local demographic group that can gather in a centre to share resources. Schools, houses of worship, businesses or stores, and medical or legal institutions are all strategic institutions. Of Population, geography, and economy can all be used to define a community's boundaries.

Community development is Community Sovereignty and Improvement Empowerment, and a community is a common area and local society (Altieri et al., 2012). Criteria for presenting future models of economic and

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social progress with key objectives are part of the notion of sustainable development, protection of the natural environment and human well-being. Given the current state of the economy, environmental and natural resource reduction targets, as well as sustainable development goals, are all being pursued for optimal utilization of resources to maximize people's happiness (Altieri et al., 2012).

Problem Identification

Community development is the most effective strategy to eradicate or reduce multidimensional poverty, and it can be accomplished by combining several development projects under one roof (Alkire & Santos, 2010). The first step toward development is to provide livelihoods for community members, and sustainability can only be realized through community members' engagement as beneficiaries (Alkire & Santos, 2010).

Sindh is Pakistan's second-largest province, with a population of 47.89 million people (figure 1). Sindh has a rural population of about 48% (Kalwar et al., 2018). Sindh is the country's second-largest economy, yet the provincial poverty rate is very high. According to the Pakistan National MPI statistics for 2014-15, Foster projected that 43.1 percent of the population was classified as poor in multidimensional terms, with 53.5 percent poverty intensity. The findings revealed that multidimensional poverty accounted for 75.5 percent of the rural population, with the level of poverty varying of rural poverty was 54.9% (Kalwar et al., 2018).

Research Question

Studies have put forward the different problems of guidance and guidance research as follows:

1. Can poverty be reduced by Social capital?
2. Whether the livelihood creation is the basic requirement for community development and poverty reduction?
3. Does sustainable development have to be used for community development and poverty reduction?

Research Hypotheses

Sustainable development has a significant impact on poverty reduction. A total of three hypotheses are defined for the study:

- The social capital of the communities has a significant effect on poverty reduction.
- The inclusive development of the communities has significant effect on poverty reduction.
- The livelihood creation in the community has a significant impact on poverty reduction.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Social capital is important because it may result in financial gains and, if disregarded, financial losses. Social capital should also be valued since it may be leveraged to create socio-emotional commodities that improve a nation's socio-emotional well-being (Robison et al, 2002). Socio-emotional products can occasionally be ingrained in physical items. When this happens, the object's significance and worth are altered. The object's attachment value is the modification in value brought about by embedded socio-emotional goods. Torjman and Reid (2003) developed the "synthetic community Initiative," which is a strategic community-based strategy to overcoming communal challenges. It focuses primarily on unemployment and poverty. The strategy looks into local solutions as well as the roles of various areas and states in neediness decrease and local area advancement. Government, social administrations, business, work, educational institutions, and anti-poverty organizations are examples of different sectors (Asadi et al., 2008). A coalition of these sectors aids in the identification of resources, education, and information dissemination to stakeholders. These departments can work together to alleviate poverty (Awan, 2013). These departments serve as intermediaries between various stakeholders, and they are able to explore and implement disparate but related poverty-reduction measures.

There are two reasons to emphasize the links between social capital and poverty. The importance of social capital in reducing poverty is first brought up by the fact that it is a valuable resource that, when managed well, may be used to do so. We feel that certain development efforts have not been as effective as they could have been because they have overlooked the importance of social capital. Of course, we are aware that more sources of funding are required to combat poverty. The productivity of physical, financial, human, and natural forms of capital, however, depends on social capital, as we've learned over the past few decades.

Guzman and Auspos (2006) suggested two unique but interrelated ideas of development, which they discussed through establishing the relationship between economic development, housing improvement, crime reduction or elimination, and social capital development, among other things. It describes how the consequences of both and community development are intertwined. Assume "community" as a concept in the theory, and "community-based organizations" can be influenced by local economic operations. Service can be improved with the support of economic operations, capital, and local items (Arcand & Fafchamps, 2012). Housing in the area should be given ownership of locally accessible resources, and ties with the local community and regional economy should be formed. Strengthening local operations, as well as some governments, can help achieve the goal of eliminating poverty and unemployment (Arcand & Fafchamps, 2012).

Policy can be a roadblock to reaching a goal's goal. What can we say; the number of community members and organizations is modest, but it can assist governments in combating poverty and injustice (Arcand & Fafchamps, 2012). Despite these limitations, a community-based economic development method has the potential to strengthen communities. Local firms can also help with infrastructural development, educational and vocational training institution strengthening, and leadership development. According to Infanti and Toye (2004), if the national economy overlooks communities on occasion, a vicious spiral of economic and social difficulties might develop inside communities, resulting in a situation of falling investment and human resources. Rather than contributing to the development of the country, such marginalized populations constitute a financial burden since they result in unemployment, company failure, family stress, crime, ill health, disease, and weeks of housing. Community development necessitates the development of social infrastructure as well as the construction and strengthening of local institutions (Iqbal & Khan, 2020). Communities should also be empowered and resilient by: providing a variety of skills and collaborating with people of the community. Building trust is essential for avoiding animosity, reducing poverty, and strengthening the local social advantage community. As well as building networks among the poor to boost their capacity, social programs should be structured to develop stronger social capital from the community (Iqbal & Khan, 2020). The idea of social capital is predicated on the knowledge that both informal and formal organizations emerge in response to particular human needs. Some networks allow for a variety of participants and are diverse (Øyen, 2002).

Some networks are homogenous and only admit members who share their characteristics. Here, at least two inquiries are pertinent:

- Do those in poverty have the same networks as those in wealth?
- Are others who are less fortunate permitted access to their networks?

Several studies have shown that those who are impoverished do not create or engage in the same kind of groups as those who are not poor. Political poverty, which is so intricately linked to other types of poverty, is a result of their lack of engagement in political and civic life (Øyen, 2002). The time restriction brought on by poverty lowers involvement in networks built around non-profit endeavors. Instead, it is frequently seen that networks of the impoverished are connected to survival tactics. In the sense that borrowing and lending products and services are linked in a symmetrical pattern of mutual expectations, these networks may be founded on bartering and the exchange of confidence (Øyen, 2002). All society is stratified, albeit to varying degrees. The primary objective of differentiation and stratification is to exclude others from a state or organization while

defining some individuals or groups as members (Øyen, 2002). Typically, the minority enjoys the perks and rights that belong to the strata/organization of which they are members while the majority is kept out. Poor people are historically and by definition at the bottom of such hierarchical systems. Unemployment is yet another aspect of poverty. It's possible that symbolic inclusion and exclusion are just as effective (Øyen, 2002).

The term and concept have gained popularity more recently thanks to the work of several scholars, including Bourdieu, Coleman, Fukuyama, Narayan, Portes, Narayan and Pritchett, Putnam, and Woolcock. Many social scientists were aware of the idea before these researchers even published about it, even if they may have termed it something else. Many people think of social capital as being like old wine in a new bottle or an old idea with a new name. The difference now is that many social scientists and problem solvers are aware of and conversing about their shared interest in social capital. We see social capital as capital because it satisfies the criteria that are often associated with capital. We may ask a friend for a favor and yet keep our connection, demonstrating the capacity of social capital to supply services while maintaining its identity. The social capital's services are different (sympathetic feelings of friends are distinct from the favors they may provide) (Robison et al., 2002). Social capital lasts over time (we can have friends for long periods of time and sometimes for life). The majority of people view the potential benefits of social capital as desirable (we value the affirmation and care that friends share and will fully expend money to sustain them). Social capital may change (we find the services of friends valuable in a variety of settings) (Robison et al., 2002).

The look at it is primarily based totally on a version with 5 variables in total. The poverty is taken as a dependent variable. Independent variables of version encompass inclusive improvement, livelihood creation, and sustainable development. Social capital is taken as a mediator.

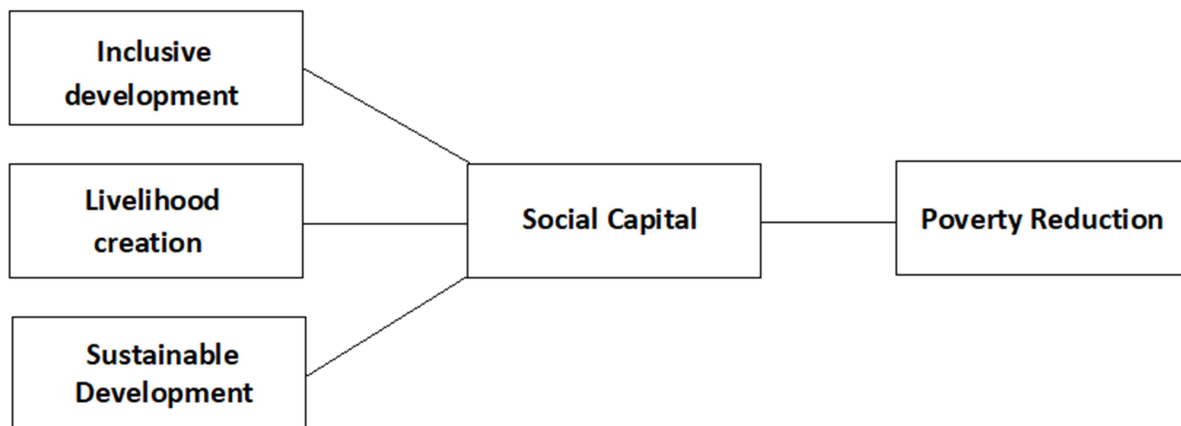


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

METHODOLOGY

The research study is quantitative as well as empirical. A survey was done in Sindh's five districts, and it consisted of Likert scale questions as well as four demographic questions. The crew of experienced enumerators did 300 surveys in total. While the tool was being tested, the data collectors were given thorough tool training. For data analysis and the application of various tests, the statistics software for social sciences (SPSS) is employed. The data's reliability and validity were also verified and debated, including a pilot test involving 50 participants. The validity of the data was determined in this study by creating a hypothesis test questionnaire to analyze the association between dependent and independent variables.

Experts from various development organizations and university personalities verified the questionnaire previously, and it was also utilized to validate data. Cronbach's alpha was used to determine the data's reliability,

with a value between zero (0) and one (1) indicating that if the value approaches one (1), the tools and data are more dependable. In this research, Cronbach alpha was calculated in the database of the 300 respondents shown in table 1 showing .871 or 87.1% reliability. Typically, 0.70 is considered received.

Table 1
Reliability statistics

Constructs	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha on standardized item	No of items	Mean	S.D
Inc. Develop	0.64	0.64	5	3.71	0.75
Live.hd creation	0.71	0.71	5	3.83	0.81
Sust. Develop	0.67	0.67	5	3.64	0.72
Social Capital	0.62	0.62	5	3.79	0.79
Poverty reduct	0.72	0.72	5	3.88	0.73

The highest reliability shown in the above table 5 is poverty reduction ($\alpha = 0.72$, Mean= 3.88, SD= 0.73) while the lowest reliability is shown for social capital ($\alpha = 0.62$, Mean= 3.79, SD= 0.79). For all the other constructs, the reliability is greater than 0.6 which is the acceptable and explained that all the items have a reliability and reasonable internal consistency

Table 2
Descriptive statistics

Construct	ID	LC	SD	SC	PR
Mean	3.71	3.83	3.64	3.79	3.88
Maximum	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Minimum	1.23	1.00	1.55	1.52	1.00
Std Deviation	0.75	0.81	0.72	0.79	0.73
Variance	0.57	0.64	0.57	0.58	0.58
Skewness	-0.47	-0.92	-0.43	-0.21	-0.87
Kurtosis	-0.03	-0.92	-0.23	-0.27	0.76

In Table 2, social capital (Mean= 3.79, SD= 0.79) has the lowest skewness (-0.21), and livelihood creation (Mean = 3.83, SD=0.81) has the highest skewness (-0.92). For three items, the kurtosis shown positive while the other three items have a negative kurtosis, the highest kurtosis is for livelihood creation (Mean = 3.83, SD=0.81) is 0.92 and the lowest kurtosis is for inclusive development which is (Mean=3.71, SD= 0.75) is -0.03

Table 3
Discriminant Validity

	ID	LC	SD	SC	PR
Inc. Development	0.73				
Live.hd creation	0.02	0.77			
Sust. Develop	0.07	0.09	0.65		
Social Capital	0.05	0.02	0.07	0.62	
Poverty reduction	0.04	0.81	0.29	0.02	0.73

Discriminant validity refers to the extent to which a test is not related to other tests that measure different constructs. Here, a construct is a behavior, attitude, or concept, particularly one that is not directly observable.

The expectation is that two tests that reflect different constructs should not be highly related to each other. If they are, then you cannot say with certainty that they are not measuring the same construct. Thus, discriminant validity is an indication of the extent of the difference between constructs (Westen, & Rosenthal, 2003).

CONCLUSION

The networks, standards, and trust that exist both inside and across communities are referred to as social capital. By giving people and communities access to resources, knowledge, and opportunities that they may not otherwise have, it can play a crucial part in sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty. Social networks may give people access to information about employment prospects, medical services, and educational resources that they might not otherwise have. Individuals may benefit from this by developing their skills and knowledge, which will help them obtain better work and enhance their financial status. Communities can work together with the use of social capital to solve shared issues like access to sanitary facilities or clean water. Communities may find long-lasting solutions to these issues by cooperating and combining their resources and expertise.

Between people and communities, social capital may foster trust and collaboration. This is particularly crucial in poorer nations where institutional trust is frequently low. Communities may work together to address shared issues and come up with lasting solutions through fostering trust and collaboration. Via impromptu lending and saving clubs, social networks may give people and communities access to finance. These organizations may be able to offer access to credit and savings options that are not offered by conventional financial institutions.

In general, social capital may play a significant role in sustainable development and poverty reduction by giving people and communities' access to opportunities, resources, and knowledge that they might not otherwise have. Communities may work together to develop long-lasting solutions to shared challenges and gradually improve their economic condition by establishing solid social networks and partnerships.

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