

Role of Social Capital in Tehran Neighborhoods Safety: a Neighborhood Oriented Approach To Security

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Abstract. One of the missions of the neighborhood police is to largely cooperate with local bodies and citizens to maintain security in neighborhoods. The current research was aimed to "explore the social capital of security of Tehran's neighborhoods with a Neighborhood Security Approach". The methodology employed involved two documentary and survey (inventory) forms. The statistical population of this research consisted of District 16, Tehran with three police stations of Khazane Bokhara'ea, Naziabad and Javadye, and the sample volume included 400 citizens. The sampling procedure was performed via convenience random method. In the end, using Lisrel and SPSS software, data were analyzed and the inventory was described. Research results indicated that there was a direct relationship between social capital and security. The more social capital decreases in neighborhoods, the less security will be displayed, and vice versa; the more social capital, the more security in such neighborhoods. It was found out that public participation, was considered a kind of social capital and the more people cooperate with police forces in establishing security of their own neighborhoods, the more they will see their neighborhood security rising. It was also shown that citizens or local officials were doing all their best to cooperate with police forces to maintain peace and security. Also, public awareness and necessary education about local laws and regulations by the police force were found to have positive effects on establishing security in neighborhoods, and the citizens had full social trust in police forces' performance to establish security.

Keywords. Social Capital, Security, Social Participation, Social Trust.

1. Introduction

Of policing innovations in the recent four decades was the policing strategy of neighborhood police. In the neighborhood-oriented approach, management and administration of parts of the neighborhood's affairs are vested upon its residents and police assist the citizens in handling their own neighborhood's affairs. The implementation of this plan is one of the actions adopted to decentralize; get people to take part more, reduce people's references to police stations, and judicial bodies, and resolve policing problems. With implementing the so-called neighborhood security, police is able to resolve many conflicts and altercations before they reach the level of violence and thus end them peacefully. In essence, increasing police powers and granting the role of an arbiter to them, in many of the conflicts, especially familial and legal conflicts, can increase law-orientedness and expand the culture of order a discipline while reducing the scope of crime. Anyway, in recent decades, theoretical and empirical views of social sciences have placed emphasis on the constructive role and contribution of social capital in explaining and preventing crime. The main goal of this research was to examine the role of social capital in Tehran's neighborhood security with a Neighborhood Security Approach.

One of the missions of neighborhood police is to cooperate with local bodies and citizens to establish peace and security. As seen, after two years since the plane was administered in Tehran, we saw an increase in security and sense of peace among people in Tehran. When speaking of neighborhood police, it means handling the neighborhood affairs by police forces; but when speaking of neighborhood oriented security, we mean security of the neighborhood and government bodies by people and popular representatives. Of the most important functions of neighborhood oriented approach is to revive the identity of old neighborhood and create new identity for the newly formed neighborhoods, because peoples' identity is intermingled with their identity. This is the neighborhoods which shape peoples' identity and pave the way for crime prevention. With the economic developments across cities, the central part of most metropolitans is less populated and the urban population turn to the suburb areas. Hence, an examination of new approaches for social promotion in old structures can lead to development of appropriate guidelines for each area cross the city. Police wants to create stable security; however, if security is just based on power without attention to components of culture, beliefs and popular participation it will be merely security. Thus, to establish stable security, it is essential to pay attention to the mentioned components.

Today, beside human and economic capital, there is another capital called social capital. Social capital or the spiritual dimension of a community is a historic inheritance which, through encouraging people to "cooperate" and "participate" in social interactions, can resolve many exiting conflicts in that community and allow for a rapid economic political and economic development (Ghafari, 2011, p. 12). On the other hand, social capital is the cornerstone of a secure and effective society, and it is

under the light of this valuable source that the community can achieve security accomplishments. This concept is assumed to be a kind of asset as it outlines a secure social situation in form of compressed network of collective affairs. Some police services and activities that can contribute to the security of neighborhoods include physically and accurately supervising neighborhood, proper awareness-raising of the citizens, providing guidance about values and local laws, and also making them respect these values, providing necessary awareness in the area of risks that may lead to crises. Rapid investigation of the crimes committed by criminals and preventing any kind of illegal and unethical activities across the neighborhoods.

Therefore, social trust in the performance of police forces and local officials in establishing security in neighborhoods is considered as a social capital and people, having trust in their own security forces and local officials and conducting necessary co-ops within them, get engaged in voluntary participation with their local officials to establish peace and security and in public education and public awareness-raising as well as awareness of social, human and religious awareness on the part of police forces can be considered as social capital to establish security across the neighborhoods (Na'eani, 2011, p. 63). This research is important in that it addresses neighborhood security with a neighborhood security approach, i.e. the role of people themselves and voluntary forces to establish security. The city of Tehran has 22 districts and 323 neighborhoods, and the current research as to examine the security level of district 16, and thus, the results can be generalized to other districts also.

- **Literature review:** Concerning the subject matter of the research, some researches were done inside or outside of the country, some of which are as follows: Khorami (2015), in his thesis, under the name of "The impacts of social capital on promoting public security from the view of commanders and managers; case study: Police Command of Golestan Province", concluded that social capital and its dimensions including trust, participation and law-orientedness can be effective in improving security. Also, the more trust participation and law-orientedness rises, the more public security will be.

In his doctoral thesis under the title of "A transcendental model with a social capital approach in the organization", Jafari (2012) concluded that one of the way in which social capital is increased is to strengthen social norms and communications. Also, norms result in strengthening of cooperation a reduction of official control of citizens, and this, social security is established. In a research under the title of " Role played by police social capital in attracting popular cooperation in establishing order and security", Shayegan (2010) stated that the data obtained from 45 police personnel working in police stations as a sample size showed the relation of social capital within people's participation.

Mojaradi (2012) identified factors affecting the formation and expansion of social capital. He has listed those factors as: Obligation to religious belief, formation of a universal trust, increase of awareness level, expansion of individual and social ethics, increase of social and political participation. Coleman (1978) released the book

"Norms as social capital" and via integrating two major elements of social capital, i.e. social structure: including laws, norms and obligations and economic principle, including individual and rational action, has made a model whereby the social action is made possible for members of the network, the society and social groups with the least costs (Baker, 2003, p. 30).

In a research in North America, Aslaynd (1999) concluded that peoples' trust in police will engender security. In 2001, Patnam conducted a research under the title of community-oriented social capital and examined the relationship of social capital and altruism and found out that altruistic conducts follows a significant relationship with the social capital and it is not random (Abdulah Khani, 2006, p. 20). Study by Liderman et al. (2001) on the relationship between social capital and crime on data of 33 countries revealed a significant relationship between the level of popular participation and neighborhood security with level of homicide in these countries. In this study, they found out that people participation was a main index of social capital and level of homicide was taken as mans for measuring the crime commission (McCain, 2001, p. 63). Until 1981, the number of articles published in different journals in which social capital was a keyword was not exceeding 20 cases, while reference to the category of social capital in a time interval from 1991 to 1995 reached the number of 109 and from 1996 to 1999, it was 1003 cases. In these researches, social capital has been dealt with a different approach, during which behavioral sciences scholars like Diego Kamita (1988), James Coleman (1990), Robert Phatm (1993) and Francis Fukuyama (1995) have conducted researches on social capital and have demonstrated that the level of determining social capital is the quality of social bodies functions and in recent researches, focus has been directed at voluntary behaviors and value and ethical outcomes (Pouyan, 2007, p. 54).

- **Social capital:** Today, besides human and economic capital, there is another capital called social capital. Social capital or the spiritual dimension of a community is a historic inheritance which, through encouraging people to "cooperate" and "participate" in social interactions, can resolve many exiting conflicts in that community and allow for a rapid economic political and economic development (Ghafari, 2011, p. 12).

In fact, social capital can be considered alongside with other human and economic capitals which pave the way for utilizing human and physical (material) capital and provide path for attaining intended goals. Without social capital, no community shall meet its goals, such that many of the groups and organizations and human societies have managed to become successful without economic capital; however, no human groups have even managed to conduct useful and purposeful measures without special capital (Fukuyama, 2006, p. 44).

- **Social capital and crime prevention:** Human beings are social creatures who come together in communities and create a set of values and rules in order to communicate with others. These values and rules are not natural' rather they need to be created through the security so that the society turns to a place for living. Although people choose their lives freely and enjoy individual rights, all these can be figured out in a social context. Social capital, in its broad spectrum, has been defined as a set of rules, norms, belongings, exchanges and trusts within social relations, social structure and arrangements by social bodies, which enable people to meet their individual and social goals.

Social capital is not a homogenous concerto; rather it involves various social elements which acquire individual and social actions, Coleman, Boudreaux and other social scholars have presented valuable writings in regard to social capital, though they have not provided a valid explanation which, in their pinions, would constitute social capital. To seek to understand the idea of capital, one needs to understand that which the human beings want. The final goal of all human beings' behavior is to reproduce success; capital is the thing that contributes to the meeting of goals and ends. Social capital, from the view of evolutionary psychology, refers to any direct or indirect social relationship that helps man to maximize their reproduction of success (Kanzava, Savich, 2002, p. 195). For Fukuyama, social capital is a saving or an accumulation of socially shared values. Pantham defines networks, norms and trust as social capital which enable participants to cooperate effectively to meet shared goals. Values and norms reinforce social order and all societies must enjoy some levels of social order; otherwise, they will die down and disintegrate. For social development, three mechanisms are needed: 1. Mechanism of coercion which is grounded on using police and the prison; 2-Utilitarian mechanism which is grounded on economic incentives, public costs, infrastructure, etc. 3- normative mechanism which is grounded o utilizing values and ethical education (Taghiloo, 2006, p. 240).

Social involvement: Social involvement can be considered as an organized process in which people in the society contribute to power sources knowingly, voluntarily and collectively with considering some certain goals. The embodiments of this involvement can be sought in some participatory bodies such as associations, local groups and NGOs. Sociologically, involvement is a kind of interactive multilateral process.

- **Factors affecting the attraction of popular involvement by police:** Robert Doll refers to factors which have direct effects on peoples' involvement and in case these factors are fulfilled, they will participate. These factors are as follows:
 - The participating individual must assume high values for the rewards arising from participation;
 - The individual must to consider as effective participation mechanism in

meeting goals compared to other mechanism;

- The individual must have the necessary confidence for the materialization of the results;
- Sufficient knowledge must be available for participation;
- The individual must not see many obstacles while facing problems and during participation; because, when man expects macro rewards from an activity, he/she will render to dominate the [problems and bar the cost; but when he/she sees that the rewards are meager or that they do not exist at all, the most commonplace obstacles will suffice to hinder him/her to stop trying (Nasri, 2002, p. 40).

For participating people to meet thee mentioned goals, and as a result, to take actions, it is necessary for police, as a force seeking to establish popular participation and security, to do the following actions: 1. Raising awareness and giving information; 2. Determining duties and responsvilitiees;3. Motivating social and ethical conscience; 4. Creating stimulus in people; 5. Rewarding participation and 6. Modeling (Darani, 2007, p. 79).

- **Social trust:** Social trust is one of the major aspects of human relations that paves the way for participation and cooperation among social members. Trust fosters participation in different economic political, social, and cultural areas and increases peoples' tendency to cooperate with other groups in the community (Ahmadi, 2005, p. 23).
- **Social security:** Social security refers to the ability to guard or repel threats from an element which connects people of a society to each other. For example, if the chain of a minority connection is their nationality; their social security is: removing concerns and worries which are related to them (Sedigh Sarvestani, 2007, p. 138). As a social phenomenon which enable structural and action patterns in a society, and as a phenomenon on the way of social developments, social security is focused attention by people and social groups. In case social security is not materialized, values and the perfection of the society will be exposed to danger.

Given the fact the development and improvement of social human lives have two value dimensions of normative and actual-positive, security, as a social phenomenon is investigated from the value and normative dimension for meeting the desirable goals of the society and also, from positive and actual dimension, it is investigated in line with the limitations on the way of social development. Given this issue, and consistent with the sustainable development of the society, development goals can be divided into two specific and general categories. Special goals are related with special values which change in terms of each social unit like groups, class, minorities, cities, villages and social systems.

However, general goals are derived from general and pervasive values such as

knowledge and prudence, candor and truthfulness, freedom and democracy, justice and equalitarianism, optimal utilization of sources for responding to peoples' needs and expansion of their talents, which are shared to all social units and constitute general development indices (Abdullahi, 2008, p. 11).

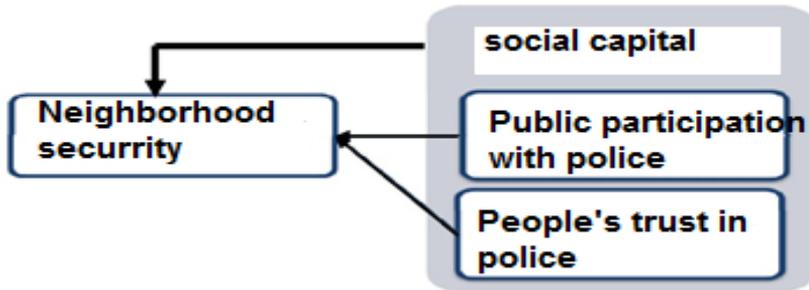


Figure 1. Research Conceptual Model (Source: Authors)

2. Research Methodology

The current research is applied in terms of goal and in terms of the way in which data intended were obtained is descriptive-survey. Since one of the most common tools in survey researches is inventory, thus, after determining and designing this tools, to gather data, a selected sample was taken from people was taken. The statistical population of this research included people of district 16 in the city of Tehran for as many as 365.000, where in the current article, convenience sampling method was used. The statistical sample size consisted of 384 citizens in the said district. However, to avoid possible errors in the inventory, the number of 16 inventories was added and in total, the number of 400 inventories was given out to citizens in district 16, Tehran. The most important method for determining the validity of an inventory is a rational method. In this method, validity was examined from both nominal and content forms. In order to determine the reliability of the inventory, the number of 30 citizens of district 16 was selected as the sample and the inventories were provided to them, and then, Cronbach's alpha was applied. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient obtained for this inventory is 0.811. Since this value is greater than 0.7, it suggests that research inventories enjoy good reliability.

3. Research Findings

In terms of responders' gender, the highest frequency belonged to the masculine gender (males) with 207 people (51.8%). In terms of responders' age, the highest frequency related to the age range of 36-45 with 61 people (15.2%) and the least frequency related to the age range of 55 years plus with 52 people (13%). In terms of marriage status of responders, the highest frequency was seen among 302 people (78%). In terms of responders' education level, the highest frequency related to B.A. with 92 people (23%) and the least frequency related to illiterate people with 19 people (4.8%). In terms of responders' kind of job, the highest frequency related to free jobs with 116 people (29%) and the least frequency related to jobless people with 28 people (7%). In terms of responders' residential places or houses, the highest frequency related to mortgage or rental houses with 79 people (19.8%) and the least frequency related to organizational houses with 53 people (13.2%).

To respond to the questions pertaining to the variable of social capital the highest mean related to the question: "In your view, to what extent can mass media be effective in improving the police forces' performance?" with a mean of 3.73, and the least mean rate related to the question: "To what extent are you satisfied with police awareness-raising in terms of security issues?" with a mean of 3.36. This means that people maintain that police forces have not acted properly in terms of awareness raising and there is a need for awareness-raising.

To respond to the questions pertaining to the variable of people cooperation with police (public participation), the highest mean related to the question: "To what extent do you inform police forces of criminals in your own neighborhood?" with a mean of 4.09. This means people are seeking to cooperate with police forces in terms of introducing criminals and offenders in their own localities, and the least mean is related to the question: "To what extent do you cooperate with police forces in arresting criminals and offenders?" with a mean of 3.73.

To respond to the questions of the variable of social trust, the highest mean related to the question: "To what extent do you have trust in the function of the police forces in establishing security across the neighborhoods of Tehran?" with a mean of 4.06. This means that people assess positively the social trust in police forces with respect to establishing security and peace, and the least frequency related to the question: "How much is your trust in life environment?" with a mean of 3.85.

- **Main hypothesis:** It seems that there is a significant relationship between social capital and security of Tehran's neighborhoods.

H₀: Non-existence of a significant relationship between social capital and security in Tehran's neighborhoods;

H₁: Existence of significant relationship between social capital and security in Tehran's neighborhoods;

Table 1. Pearson Correlation Test Between Social Capital and Neighborhood Security

Correlation	Correlation coefficient	Sig.	Result
Social capital and neighborhood security	0/651	0/000	0/01sig< existence of a significant relationship

Given table 1, it is observed that the test significance level is 0.000, where this value is less than 0.01. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and with 995 confidence level, one can state that there is a significant relationship between the two variables (social capital and neighborhood security). Given the positive value of the cooperation coefficient, one can state that there is a positive correlation between the two variables of social capital and security in Tehran's neighborhoods, and the relationship between the two variables is direct; i.e. as one rises, the other rises too.

First hypothesis: It seems that there is a significant relationship between public participation to do police duties and security of Tehran's neighborhoods.

H₀: Non-existence of a significant relationship between public participation to do police duties and security in Tehran's neighborhoods;

H₁: Existence of significant relationship between public participation to do police duties and security in Tehran's neighborhoods;

Table 2. Pearson Correlation Test Between Public Participation to Do Police Duties and Neighborhood Security

Correlation	Correlation coefficient	Sig.	Result	Correlation
public participation to do police duties	400	0/461	0/000	Existence of a significant relationship

Given table 2, it is observed that the test significance level is 0.000, where this value is less than 0.01. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and with 995 confidence level, one can state that there is a significant relationship between the two variables (public participation to do police duties and neighborhood security). Given the positive value of the cooperation coefficient, one can state that there is a positive correlation between the two variables of public participation to do police duties and security in Tehran's neighborhoods and the relationship between the two variables is direct; i.e. as one rises, the other rises too.

Second hypothesis: It seems that there is a significant relationship between public trust in police and security of Tehran's neighborhoods.

H₀: Non-existence of a significant relationship between public trust in police duties and security in Tehran's neighborhoods;

H₁: Existence of significant relationship between public trust in police do police duties

and security in Tehran's neighborhoods;

Table 3. Pearson Correlation Test Between Public Trust in Police Duties and Neighborhood Security

Correlation	Correlation coefficient	Sig.	Result	Correlation
Public trust in police in security of Tehran's neighborhoods	400	0/298	0/001	Existence of a significant relationship

Given table 3, it is observed that the test significance level is 0.000, where this value is less than 0.01. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and with 995 confidence level, one can state that there is a significant relationship between the two variables (public trust in police and neighborhood security). Given the positive value of the cooperation coefficient, one can state that there is a positive correlation between the two variables of public trust in police and security in Tehran's neighborhoods and the relationship between the two variables is direct; i.e. as one rises, the other rises too.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

Research hypotheses results can be inferred that the more people participate more in arresting criminals, giving data of criminals and offenders to police, the more they respect laws and participate in police as according to the neighborhood oriented security plan, which is being done by police in Tehran for two years, this can be or the same extent effective in increasing the security of Tehran's neighborhoods. This participation or involvement should align with public trust in police and vice versa. People must know that security is a relative issue and people, organizations and bodies have a role in security.

As stated, there were three key questions in the research; Is there any significant relationship between social capital and security in Tehran's neighborhoods? The answer showed that there was a significant between social capital and security in Tehran's neighborhood. The more social capital in neighborhoods, the more security situation will be. Social capital results from trust, determines the quality of society's bodies functioning. On the one hand, it increases education and health, life expectancy and happiness in the society and national, local and economic development, and on the other hand, it is related with crimes and criminality as it reduces offence, because the public are encouraged to observe and expand positive norms and values, and is thus an obstacle to crimes, deviancies and social violations.

This issue was substantiated in a documented form and studies by Dr. Shayegan (2010) demonstrated that the less social capital, the more crimes and thefts and criminality will be and this can be seen in the tendency of residents in various parts of the city to intervene for protecting the collective interest and properties, being directly correlated with the level of trust and social solidarity among neighborhoods' residents. In another question, the relationship between social capital and neighborhoods' security was

asked, and research findings revealed that the more social trust in police forces, the more secure the neighborhoods will be. It was found out that there was a mutual relationship between public participation levels and interpersonal trust with social capital. The more citizens participate, the more they will learn from each other and the more they will trust each other, and the more trust, the more state bodies will have faith in each other. The findings of this research were in line with those of Aslaynd and Pantham (1999) who concluded that public trust in police would cause security and the final question was about relation of participation and popular involvement with police in providing security of neighborhoods, and the answer given was that in case people would cooperate with police, their neighborhoods will be more secure.

Various motivations have roles in peoples' participation in policing affairs. These motivations include attention to public interest, sense of duty, interest to work with others, gaining of popularity and enjoying of respect and gratitude from other citizens that can pave the way for peoples' participation in police preventive measures. In total, peoples' cooperation and alignment in maintain social order and security hinges on the level of social capital in police units. Also, in his research, Jafari (2012) concluded that one of the ways in which social capital is increased is to boost social communications and norms. Also, norms will render in the strengthening of co-existence, and reducing formal control, and thus social capital is reinforced. Overall, the results of this research are consistent with those of Khorami (2015), who found out in his research that trust affects public security, i.e. with trust rising,, public security will also rise. Given the findings, we learnt that honorary behavior, risking, staffs; efficacy in the affairs assigned and the level of effectiveness of police activities are , on the one hand, effective on public trust and on the other hand, increasing of public trust is significantly effective on increased sense of public security.

Given the theoretical framework of this research for establishing security, it is needed to create a suitable ground for preventing crimes and social abnormalities in neighborhoods, eliminating crime inducing conditions such as urban old structures, blind points, protecting the parks, training people properly, and building trust between people and police in neighborhoods through appropriate advertisements, activating healthy houses , raising awareness and the like. The factors having the highest effects on meeting of these goals can be enumerated as: 1. Local patrols, 2. Communication plans, 3. Social programs and 4. Problem-oriented programs. Given the hypotheses stating the role of public participation in establishing security, it is recommended that new contributory grounds are laid for people to voluntarily cooperate with police so that they can feel responsible in different policing affairs. Also, participating unions, and professional; associations in police activities and organizational decisions can be another guideline for attracting public participation.

Police forces have had doubled efforts for increasing the prestige and credibility of police in the society so that police character becomes a respectable character for people, because, the more people respect police in the community, the more cooperation with them will be.

Overall, guidelines for developing social participation in urban societies could involve the following: 1. Education is the cornerstone of cultural and social development. People, aware of participation manners and the way they can be active in it as well as outcomes of social participation, can promote it with their own presence; 2. Social trust is a major component in participation. People's trust in each other, people's trust in other bodies and vice versa causes development and deepening of social participation. 3. Existence of an open political environment is accompanied by ground for criticism and analysis, decision making in urban affairs and overall, the pervasiveness of democratic manners in various angles of the urban lives and change of structure in this direction as well as diversity and expansion of social participation. 4. Strengthening of and development of social participation infrastructure in urban planning through improving urban management manners.

- Encouraging collective and group activity and 6. Concentrating on group education instead of individual education. The existence of the following factors are also effective in increasing social and political participation: 1. The Constitutional permission for wide ranging groups of people to find way into other posts and assemblies; 2. An impression by people that the governing people can be changed, and 3. The possibility of contact between people and officials.

The activities the mass media can have are as follows:

- Holding forums for providing practical guideline for using the young peoples' contributory capacity in political and social affairs;

One of the ways in which political and social participation by people is mobilized is to utilize smaller and coherent groups; because these groups can do not have the ability to rapidly mobilize people and unite their own identities with larger mediating groups such as parties and abstract groups such as a nation. The mediating groups foster this process and simulation.

- Another way to expand social and political participation is to use the popular characters and known faces in the community. For example, a popular political, social, scientific, sports and familial face can be considered a major factor to attract peoples' attention and to increase interest in social participation. In this regard, such media as TV can bring about the maximum social participation.

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