Relationship of Social Trust and Social Participation

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Abstract

Forming participation, membership and cooperation of the people in non-governmental units and organized collective activities are affected by various factors while social trust is one of the critical concepts. However, trust is the reason for democratic systems, social order, stability, integration as well. This research aims to find the answer of what is the relationship of social trust and social participation and investigate impact of social trust parameters on social participation and its aspects as well. Library methodology has been used in documentary studies and surveying for field ones. Statistical society is citizens over 16 years in city of Tehran of which 384 samples were selected using Cochran formula while data were collected and finally analyzed via SPSS Software. Study of relations between variables showed that social trust is increased by social participation. Women enjoy more social participation in comparison with men for 28/59.

Key Words: City of Tehran, Social Participation, Social Trust, Interpersonal Trust, Generalized Trust, Basic Trust.

1. Introduction

Social trust of interpersonal relationship plays a main role for society development so that it is necessary for social interactions. By the way, cooperative and participation are created, problems solved with differences and social duties also fulfilled. On the other hand, trust is the key element for existence of any society. “It seems that we live in a time in which the future community's dependence on decision-making has been increasing and of transition from the community of society on the basis fatalism. The human agents are active and effective to meet the future needs trust (Ztvmpka, 1384:13). “In view of Ayznshad, the main issue is social order and, Durkheim and Tunis’s standpoint, social trust and integration; it means that stability of social order is impossible without solidarity and trust (Chalabi, 1998:12). In a way that, lack of social trust result in dispute and fragmentation of society. Due to being the first element of social capital related to interpersonal communications therefore, emphasis on trust plays an impressive role in literature of social capital in comparison with other relationships (Mousavi, 2006:75). On the other hand, trust is criterion for social capital that facilitates social interaction in uncertainty and risk (Kook, 2004). Nowadays, upon agreement of majority theoreticians that trust is a key element of types of social relationships. It is stated that trust is result of existing social interactions among social groups, societies and activities. Hence, trust as one of the most vital elements of social participation is considered. Social trust has taken into consideration for its integration with many variables of civil society such as, participation. Outcomes of social participation and optional membership in non-governmental organizations and voluntary associations are expected to be with social trust in high level in a suitable ground (Alipour, 2009:110). If the individual trust was changed into social level, it would be considered as a valuable social capital, named the same thing Social Capital. Ingle hart believes that "social capital is the trust" (quoted in Rose, 1999:87).The capital results in lower socio-economic interactions and actions are related.

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Given the importance of social trust and its impact on social participation discussed in this article is an attempt to measure the social participation of the citizens of Tehran in addition to relationship of social trust and social participation.

**Background**

Reister, et.al.,(2001) concluded in a research entitled (relationship of organized trust with economic growth) that the more organized trust, the more civil participation which affected on economic development. Costa and Kahn (2001), Atkinso and Michelwight(1992) concluded that there is a meaningful relationship between social trust and social participation. Also, Knack and Keefer(1997) tried to answer the question of is there any relationship between social trust, social participation and economic activities in a research entitled “Does social capital have economic benefits?” and discovered meaningful relationship among three items, the more trust, the more civil participation result in improving economic activities of the society. Enam (2002) indicated a meaningful relationship between interpersonal trust and social participation in a research entitled “study of interpersonal trust between sample villages of City of Shahriar”.

Mousavi has investigated micro culture approach of Dehghani in a research of social participation in city of Tehran. The micro culture includes components of lack of trust in personal relationship, lack of innovation and appreciation, low wishes, lack of attention to the future, familism, dependency on the State authority and local- oriented which has been measured with social participation in two mental (intended participation) and objective (membership, supervision, implementation and decision-making) levels. The results show that in view of mentality, the citizens of Tehran tend to participation while it is limited in level of objective so, there is no meaningful relationship between micro culture approach of Dehghani and objective level of participation due to lack of interpersonal and State trust (Mousavi, 1384:309 & 308, 324).

Azkia and Hassani (2009) found out in a research with the title of (study of relationship of social trust among participation people in rural development plans)that social trust, social integrity and level of education have the most influence on participation of people in rural development plans.

Heidarabadi (2009) also developed in a research entitled social trust and its effective social-cultural factors that there is a negative and inverse relationship between education, social class and social trust. The results also stated that basic trust among young people is high rather other organized or abstract one. In addition, in group trust in a society is more than out group one.

Safari, et.al., (2009) stated in a research entitled participation of female students of Faculty of Social Sciences among universities of city of Tehran and its effective social factors that there is a meaningful relationship between social capital (social trust), feelings of powerlessness and self-concept with social participation while the most effect is on social participation of female students.

Ghoreishi and Sedaghat(2009) concluded in their research entitled study of cultural and social effective factors on social trust of citizens of City of Tabriz) that there is a meaningful correlation between variables such as, citizenship, religious view, social participation, economic- social base, cultural poverty, gender, marital status, education, age and business and social trust.

The results obtained that between trust and participation is a meaningful relationship. Social trust is an important element of social capital with a direct relationship with morality and faith. By the way, eliminating religious beliefs and moral values cause fading social trust and public trust is increasing by highlighting social trust and relationship, social and economic formalities promotion are achieved and on the other hand, public participation is increased in economic scope along with its dynamism and growth. The most researches have been examined to study relationship between social capital and social trust and those studies of social participation and trust are different from this research by the statistical location and society. Also, two variables have not been simultaneously considered in the most investigations while this research is conducted with 384 citizens of five regions of city of Tehran as statistical society which is different rather than other studies.
2. Theoretical Fundamentals of Research

Theory of social capital concentrates on characteristics of macro sociology and believes that social capital (trust and relationship network) may result in their social participations (Mousavi, 2006:77). Social capital means wealth and other resources that obtained via interrelations of groups or people (Bourdieu, 1985; Oleman, 1988; Putnam, 1992; Alesina & La Ferrara, 2000).

In view of intellectual theory, social life is consequence of rational choices of individual so that agents are imagined as target-oriented people. By the way, trust formed among people is precondition of rational action and participation if different grounds (Ojaghlou, 2005; 97).

Upon Putnam view, social capital may be introduced as networks of voluntary association developing on trust. Trust and participation have bilateral relationship, trust arising from group life and provides spontaneously facilities for formation of associations at the same time. Putnam's standpoint relies on that theory base of social capital is that the more relationship, the more trust and vice versa (Putnam, 1992; 56).

Putnam pays attention to two types of interpersonal and social trusts, the later known generalized trust in literature of social capital while is useful for the society (Putnam, 2001; 136). Also, increase in civil participation and social networks development from personal or special trust conversion to social trust or generalized, is highlighted by him. Social trust as a personal view is also regarded an emergency asset of social system (same reference, 137).

Cooperation and participation are facilitated by trust, more cooperation and participation follow high trust in society. He added that lack of the characteristics grant faithlessness, distrust, deception, abuse, disorder, isolation and deflation (Fukoyama, 2000;12).

Of course, Puntom describes methods of trust advancement 'civil participation networks facilitate relationship and reinforce existing information about trust of people. When economic and political transactions in compact networks of social interaction is formed, opportunism and law violation is decreased while compact social relationship and other worthy techniques for dignity as the main bases of trust in complicated society, is facilitated (Celman, 2005;98-99).

"Social trust, mutual interaction norms, civil participation networks and effective cooperation reinforce each other. Existence of efficient cooperation-oriented institutions is subject to skills and interpersonal trust while those are strengthened via organized cooperation. Norms and civil participation help to economic-social welfare" as explained by Puntom (2001; 309). Gumbet believes that "the more trust, the more cooperation depend on establishment of trustful relationships. It means that there is authority and freedom in cooperation continuation by agents, they can form, keep or avoid relationship (Gumbet, 2000;220).

Based on Men'asek theory, Durkim states that "individuals move closer to each other in social ceremonies by doing the same behaviors such as, dancing and cheering, they became concordant leading to trust and confidence and high social participation in limited, medium and wide ranges" (Behzad, 2003; 51-52). Following, we recognize that there is a close relationship between in group trust and participation and
formation of voluntary and civil associations. In a view, trust shapes groups and encourages individuals to cooperate as associations systematically and in another one, voluntary activities of individuals in associations result in growth and reinforcement of their trust (Zareai, 2008; 70). Some scholars such as Tokovil, Durkim, Zeimel and Kouli believe that "many social interest and sciences are obtained by membership and participation of groups especially family. Therefore, family, school and work environments are the most important atmosphere for trust formation” and help increase in social participations (Samiei, 2008; 87).

Concepts Description

Social Participation

Participation as a commitment and act (participation act) also as state and situation (participating) are difference in view of sociology. The former means group participation actively and consider social activity and the later belonging to a special group and being share in its nature (Bairo, 1987; 275).

Social participation includes types of voluntary participations with active memberships among out family groups in addition to all active independent groups of political bodies, voting and pressure groups of social participation (Hely, 2002;1).and covers participation with limited, medium and wide ranges.

Participation with limited range:

It is a kind of participation which is easy for agent. Local participation such as, board of directors of residential complex, local committee, board of trustees of mosque and so on are some examples of this kind of participation and its extent and its scopes of activity are not exceeded from a special region.

Participation with medium range:

It is a kind of participation exceeded from local activities and often appears at local structures while follow trans local goals. Participation in guild unions, associations, cultural, social and arts societies are involved.

Participation with Wide Range

If we call participation with limited range as public participation so, this kind of participation can be entitled special participation. Election activities, membership in special parties, political establishment and non- state organizations are such definitions.

Social Trust

Three forms of trust are distinguishable as interpersonal, generalized and basic trusts in standpoint of sociology;

Interpersonal Trust

It is known on direct and face-to- face relationship relies on interpersonal communications. Direct symbiotic among subjects is an item which distinguishes interpersonal trust and other ones. It is may be found as interrelation among members of family, friends, colleagues and the same cases (Ghaffari, 2004; 13).

Generalized Trust

The generalized trust is described as a good suspicion to others apart from their dependencies to tribal and ethnic groups, it involves some key points of; 1- generalized trust is not merely limited to those people who are interrelated via face-to- face relationship, 2- it covers those people who are interrelated or are able to enter into interrelation by potential, 3- This type of trust beyond the broader level of family, friends, neighborhood, tribal and local limits are while expands in nationwide level, 4- it is as a special phenomenon of the new division is defined along with formation of modern governments, 5- consequently, generalized trust is necessary for cooperation and participation of many more people formed complicated and modern societies (Amir Kafi, 1995; 9).
Basic Trust

This kind of trust shows level of acceptance, efficiency and trust of people to the institutions and as Dougan believes that lack of trust to the institutions is almost arising from non-trust to those people working at these bodies (Dougan, 1955; 10).

Conceptual Model

- **Social Participation**
  - Participation with medium range
  - Participation with limited range
  - Participation with wide range

- **Social Trust**
  - Generalized Trust
  - Basic Trust
  - Interpersonal Trust

Voluntary associations
Communications
Economic and political transactions
Social ceremonies
Family, school and work environments
Mutual confidence
Hypotheses

Main Hypothesis

There is a relationship between social trust and social participation among individuals.

Sub-hypothesis

There is a relationship between social trust and social participation. There is a relationship between social basic trust and social participation. There is a relationship between social interpersonal trust. There is a relationship between social trust and social participation with limited range. There is a relationship between social trust and social participation with medium range. There is a relationship between social trust and social participation with wide range. There is a relationship between participation and gender. There is a relationship between social participation and marital status.

3. Methodology

Present research has been investigated on descriptive-correlative methodology. Data were gathered by questionnaire via library and field survey. In general, calculated reliability for all questions is over 0.70. Processing and statistical analysis has been conducted using descriptive-inference statistics relied on correlation, multi-variables regression and rout analysis tests. It is a cross sectional study at the same point of time and review the fact at certain intervals in year of 2013. Citizens of city of Tehran in regions 1,19,21,13 and 11 were analyzed in a way that region 1 as northern, region 19 as southern, region 21 as western, 13 as eastern and 11 as central regions were considered with the aim of more variance in respect to social-economic base, subjects were selected. Population in five regions was 384 estimated by Kukran formula.

4. Findings

A- Society Details

Society is 384 citizens in city of Tehran, 65 % man and 35 % woman of which 17 % are between 16-25 years, 57 % of 26-35 years, 15 % of 36-45 and 8 % of 46-55. 7% under high school diploma, 13 % holding high school diploma, 12% of associate degree, 37 % undergraduate, 31 % postgraduate and over. 36 % are single and 58% married. 21% self-employed, 48% permanent job, 7% retired and 11 % unemployed. 23% receives less than 2,500,000/-, 20 % of 2,500,000/- to 5,000,000/-, 9% of 2,510,000/- to 7,500,000/-, 12 % of 7,510,000/- to 10,000,000/- and 36% above 10,000,000/- monthly (all amounts expressed in Rial). In addition, 47 % live in private house, 36 % are lessee, 12 % live in organizational unit and 5 % for others.

B- Analytical Findings

B-1- Relationship of Gender and Social Participation

Statistical tests show that there is less than 5% error in relation between gender and social participation considering meaningfulness level of 0.016. It indicates that social participation mean among women is 28.59 % more than men (table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: U-Man Vitni Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U-Man Vitni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z Statistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaningfulness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B-2 - Relationship between Marital Status and Social Participation

As tests shown, it is more than 5% considering meaningfulness level of 0.620, there is no meaningful relationship between marital status and social participation (table 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: U- Man Vitni Test</th>
<th>Social Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U- Man Vitni</td>
<td>1.476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkinson</td>
<td>2.407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z Statistic</td>
<td>-0.496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaningfulness Level</td>
<td>0.620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B-3 - Correlation between Social Trust and Social Participation

The data obtained indicates that in less than 0.01% error (Sig=0.000), there is a relationship between social participation and social trust. Correlation coefficient, 0.391, indicating relative fair correlation between two variables (table 3)

| Table 3: Correlation Test between Social Trust and Social Participation |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Respondent | Standard Deviation | Mean |
| Social Trust | 384 | 17.831 | 137.55 |
| Social Participation | 384 | 8.182 | 29.36 |
| Sig=0.000 | R=0.391 |

B-4 - Correlation between Social Trust and Three-aspect of Social Participation

Three factors of social participation with limited, medium and wide ranges are tested with independent variable (social trust)

| Table 4 - Correlation between Social Trust and Three-aspect of Social Participation |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dependent Variable | Independent Variable | Social Trust | |
| Participation with limited range | 0.356 | 00 | 384 |
| Participation with medium range | 0.387 | 00 | 384 |
| Participation with wide range | 0.254 | 00 | 384 |

B-4-1 - Relationship of Social Trust and Participation with Limited Range: Correlation of two variables is 0.356 and meaningful (Sig=0.000). Direction of relationship is positive with medium intensity. It shows that more social trust cause increase in participation with limited range (table 4)

B-4-2 - Relationship of Social Trust and Participation with Medium Range: Correlation of two variables is 0.387 and meaningful (Sig=0.016). Direction of relationship is positive with medium intensity. It shows that more social trust cause increase in participation with medium range (table 4)

B-4-3 - Relationship of Social Trust and Participation with Wide Range: Correlation of two variables is 0.254 and meaningful (Sig=0.000). Direction of relationship is positive with medium intensity. It shows that more social participation cause increase in participation with wide range (table 4)
B-5- Multiple Regression Analysis of Social Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correlation</th>
<th>Determination Coefficient</th>
<th>Adjusted Determination Coefficient</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.524</td>
<td>0.275</td>
<td>0.269</td>
<td>6.995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As data inserted in table show, correlation coefficient is 0.524 indicating correlation of three variables of interpersonal, generalized and basic trust with social participation is 0.52 simultaneously. Adjusted determination coefficient is 0.269, it means that 27% of social participation is defined by triple variables and the remaining for 73% arising from out-factors observations (table 5).

Table 6: Impact Coefficient of Explanatory Model of Social Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>3.057</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.097</td>
<td>0.273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal Trust</td>
<td>0.177</td>
<td>0.160</td>
<td>3.470</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generalized Trust</td>
<td>0.015</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>0.435</td>
<td>0.664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Trust</td>
<td>0.888</td>
<td>0.473</td>
<td>9.761</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Influence coefficients of existing standard in above table indicates that variable of basic trust has strong feeling of social participation with regression impact coefficient of Beta= -0.473, interpersonal trust is in the second rank with Beta=0.160 and the weak belongs to generalized trust with coefficient of Beta=0.022 (table 6).

B-7- Simple Regression Analysis of Social Participation

Table 7: Impact Coefficient of Explanatory Model of Social Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>4.689</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.565</td>
<td>0.119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Trust</td>
<td>0.179</td>
<td>0.391</td>
<td>8.301</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Influence coefficients of existing standard indicates influence intensity of social trust on social participation with Beta= -0.391 (table 7).

B-7- Analysis Model of Influence of Social Trust and its Triple Aspects on Social Participation

![Diagram: Social Participation model with influence coefficients]
5. Conclusion

Social trust as an essential element of social relationships leads to facilitate authority to do something also reflects obtained expectations and commitments approved socially. The trust constructs interactions of people with social agents as well as state organizations on three interpersonal, generalized and basic types. The relationship may be analyzed as a main determinant of level and depth of continuous interactions of social participation. In view of scholars of social capital, social trust has been drawn attention as the most significant factor so that an effective base for collective interactions including cooperative and social participation. Meanwhile, there is no one-sided impact but multilateral and interactional. In fact, there is an interactional relationship between two variables of social trust and social participation while the resultant is expanding public atmosphere known by diversity of collective participations (Ghaffari, 2001:28).

This research has been conducted to investigate relationship of social trust and social participation among 22 regions of city of Tehran (1, 19, 21, 13 & 11), 11 case studies. 16-year and above subjects of population of 384 were selected.

Social participation in three aspects of limited, medium and wide ranges while social trust in three basic, generalized and interpersonal were studied as well.

Relationships of social trust and its aspects and social participation demonstrate that basic trust variables has strong social participation with regression impact coefficient (Beta=0.473), interpersonal trust is in the second rank with Beta=0.160 and weak belongs to generalized trust with coefficient of Beta=0.022.

The results show that variables of interpersonal, eneralized and basic trust have correlation with social participation for 0.52 simultaneously. Also, there is a meaningful relationship between social participation and gender while no meaningful relationship between social participation and marital status with 5 % error.

In general, findings also prove that there is a positive and meaningful relationship between social trust and social participation, the more social trust, the more social participation. The above results are parallel with researches of Sipel (2007), Reister(2001),Atkinso and Michelwright (1992), Knack and Keefr (1997), Alipour, et.al., (2009),Azkia and Hassani Rad (2009), Safiri, et.al., (2009), Enam (2002) and Putnam (1992), all believes that “the more social trust, the more social participation”.

- Moreover, due to importance of influence of social trust on social participation, the media should provide suitable backgrounds to build social trust against small groups and non-trust ones tries to reach by another and better way.
- Constructive assistance and expanding self-esteem among the people via local associations
- Concentrating on group training instead of individual, encouraging collective and group activities using religious recommendations
- Highlighting urban life requirements, commitment to urbanization not urbanism rules, establishing respect and observing unofficial prestige in a society for increase in social trust while it leads to high social participations.
- Principal needs and priorities of citizens have been examined to prevent incompatibility of social policies with citizens’ demands, widespread their social activities and enhance mutual trust among policy makers and citizens.
- Developing scientific, art, sport, political societies allocating material and immaterial supports
- Bring happiness and optimism of citizens through applied suggested plans throughout the city
- Establishing beds required to develop public activities as well as grounding to reinforce institutional relationships and membership in citizen’s association
- It is recommended that in charges should prepare plans towards enhancing medium knowledge and training of citizens using internet which cause high cultural-social interactions and finally social trust development
Holding national and religious ceremonies also locations attracts people for more interaction and gathering, it is also reinforce feeling of integration and social trust and consequently, providing growth and development backgrounds of society.

References


Putnam, R. et.al. (1992), Making Democracy Work,New Jersey, Prinston University Press


