

## **IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: SAMPLE OF TURKEY**

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### **Abstract**

At the present, economic development is in a dimension that cannot be explained with only the traditionalized models of economics. For enabling countries to increase their welfare levels, it is also necessary to examine the sociological structures of societies. In this context, economic development needs the new actors. Especially social capital affecting all scientists takes its place as an important actor from the point of economic development. Countries can no longer account for their developedness levels with only physical capital. The developing countries, in order to be able to reduce the developedness differences between them and the developed countries, need for social capital. Increasing the levels of economic development of the countries will depend on that individuals prepare an environment supporting the individuals to come together in the framework of trust, norm, and communication networks. The effect of social capital, positively affected in this meaning, on country increases the success of country in the economic, political, and social area.

The aim of the study is to research the effect of social capital that is a new actor on economic development. In this context, dealing with the concept of social capital, the literature on the discipline of economics will be evaluated. In addition, the effect of social capital in economic development on Turkey will be examined.

**Key Words:** Social Capital, Economic Development, Turkey and Social Capital

### **Introduction**

The own internal dynamics of society; formed by human factor that is an important element of development, have undertaken an important role about the development and growth. As a natural process, societies want to use the dynamics they have the most effectively to develop and grow. In the center of these dynamics, there are individuals forming that society. With moving from here, economics also scrutinizes the events emerging as a result of the relationship of human and production factors in the direction of increasing social welfare. Today, the target of the traditional production factors, "labor, capital, and entrepreneur", resulted from human, is to be able to come together "natural resources", the fourth factor. From this point of view, since people are positively or negatively affected from economic activities, they try to direct in favor of themselves.

Importance of the social structures that develop and information have developed the concept "social capital", especially, which is used in expressing the differences of societies from each other, and which provides the ability to create more value than the like to the available factors. Social capital is a phenomenon, which includes the social and cultural value judgments of individuals, fosters the trust sense between individuals, and may show the differences between the countries, societies, and regions. In this context, the subject "social capital" made its relative importance felt at the present days. As a result of increasing the opportunities to reach and use information and technology, especially differences in economic development are expressed by the concept of social capital. The subject social capital brings a new meaning in economic development

## **The Concept Of Social Capital**

Although social capital is a new economic concept, it also incorporates economic functions of countries as well as a feature directing social lives of societies (Temple, 2000:23). Social capital, besides the science economics, in the different disciplines and approaches such as sociology, business management, and political sciences, differentiating according to their aims and resources, can be defined in multidimensional and different ways (Temple,2000:23). In this context, it is examined as a phenomenon carrying the features of trust, norm, and communication network coordinating social relationships among the dynamics of society (Temple, 2000:23). According to Putman, including in social relationships or participating in social networks are the most basic phenomenon of social capital. In order to provide the trust between people, it is necessary for people to socialize by coming together. Trust has an importance for social relationships to improve (Putnam,1993:171). According to Coleman, the expectations, liabilities, and norms show parallelism with the continuity of relationship (Coleman,1990: 321; Cited by, Çetin, 2006: 2) social capital is under the effect of norms directly or indirectly(Fukuyama,2001:7). According to Lin the phenomenon social capital is a communication resource of the actors taking place in social networks. In such a way that concept includes the resources taking place in the social relationships and that the access to these resources are provided by actors, there are two important elements (Lin, 2001:24–25).

The definition of social capital by Lin is focused on social network, since he is a network theoretician. According to Portes , the participation of social capital in social networks or the other social structures brings some benefits (Portes ,1998:6). According to Woolcock , the relationships between social network and trust are qualified as behavioral norms (Woolcock, 1998:153). According to Nahapietand and Ghoshal, social capital is considered in two ways as phenomena drawn by a network and the other networks. They concentrate on, besides that the economic performances of countries show parallelism with the natural, human, and physical capital networks, that new networks derive from the new approaches move away from this linear relationship(Nahapietand and Ghoshal,1998:243). According to Knack, social capital, enabling individual to move together in the direction of the common targets, supports them to unit in the framework of common values, norms, and social networks (Knack, 2002:1). According to Loury (1977; 1987), social capital is an important concept in terms of social development of individuals. This concept can be based on the different interpretations between individuals (Coleman, 1990:300). According to Field, social capital expresses that the interpersonal and interinstitutional relationships are important (Field,2003: 1). In the definitions made, that the functions of concept stands out, rather than what is, although it brings together with it an ambiguity about how it will be empirically examined and what like results will engender, it does not seem to be possible to mention about a real situation (Fukuyama, 2001: 7-20).

**Table 1: Synthesis of Social Capital Definitions**

Author	Definition	Variable	Emphasis	Benefits
Pierre Bourdieu	Set of real or potential resources resulting from belonging, for an extended period and institutionally, to networks of mutual acquaintance or recognition relationships.	The durability and the size of the network of relationships. The connections that the network can effectively mobilize.	Starts from the principle that capital and its diverse expressions (economic, historical, symbolic, cultural, social) can be projected onto different aspects of capitalist society and other forms of production, as long as they are considered socially and historically limited to the circumstances that produced them.	Individual benefits, and also benefits to social class to which the benefited individuals belong.
James Coleman	Social capital is defined by its function. It is not a single entity but rather a variety of entities with two common characteristics: they are a form of social structure, and they facilitate the	Family support systems. School systems (catholic) in the social capital of the USA. Vertical and horizontal organizations.	Following the rational choice theory (and its application in sociology), Coleman believed that social exchanges were the sum of individual actions.	Benefits result from the empathy of a person or social group, and the sense of obligation in relation to other

	actions of those individuals who are members of this social structure.			people or social groups.
Robert Putnam	Social capital refers to aspects of social organizations, such as networks, norms and trust, which facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit.	Intensity of social life (horizontal associations), number of citizens who read the press, number of voters, members in choirs and soccer clubs, confidence in public institutions, relevance of the philanthropic activities.	In Putnam's vision, the political dimension is superimposed on the economic dimension: civic traditions allow us to preview the degree of development, and not the contrary. The civic community conditions the "institutional performance".	Both individual and collective benefits.
Mark Granovetter	The economic actions of agents are inserted into social networks (social embeddedness). Social networks are potential creators of social capital, able to contribute to the reduction of opportunistic behavior and in the promotion of mutual trust between the economic agents.	Duration of relationships (considered as positive and symmetrical). Intimacy. Emotional intensity. Quantity and quality of reciprocal services provided.	Granovetter criticizes the two visions of economic behavior: the neoclassic vision, that he qualifies as under-socialized, given that it perceives only the individuals as atomized and disconnected from social relationships; and the structuralist, Marxist vision, that he qualifies as over-socialized, since individuals are considered as totally dependent on their social groups and the social system to which they belong.	Social capital is a public asset and a private asset at the same time.
John Durston	Social capital corresponds to the content of certain social relationships - those that combine trust attitudes with reciprocity and cooperation -which allows greater benefits to those who have them.	Trust. Reciprocity. Cooperation.	Social capital is to behavior and strategies as cultural capital is to abstract values, tenets, norms and visions of the world. Typology of social capital: individual (relations among people in ego-centered networks), group (extension of ego-centered networks), communitarian (collective character, being a member is a right), bridge (symmetrical access to distant people and institutions), latter (asymmetrical relationships in democratic contexts, empower and produce synergies) and of society as a whole.	From individual to social (in accordance with the type of social capital).
David Robinson	Social capital refers to a group of resources accessible to individuals or groups while belonging to a network of mutual acquaintance. This network is a social structure and has aspects (relationships, norms and trust) that help develop the coordination and cooperation that produce common benefits.	Trust relationships. Interactions opportunities and meeting places. Reciprocal obligations. Access to knowledge.	Social capital is cumulative and can increase according to: legal environment, commitment terms (according to the values that dominate the social system), commitment rules (forms assumed by the social relationships and transparency of information), interaction processes (deliberation).	Common benefits (that satisfy the individual and the collective at the same time, via negotiation).

Source:Milani,2003:16

In Table 1, there is some information associated with the definitions, data, importance, and benefits of social capital by James Coleman, Robert Putnam, Mark Granovetter, John Durston, and David

Robinson. According to this, while Pierre Bourdieu emphasizes the importance of meeting and using the real resources, James Coleman defines social capital with its own functions. While Robert Putnam expresses that social capital has the individual and social benefits, Mark Granovetter reports that the concept social capital not only belongs to individual but also to society. While John Durston attracts attention to social and personal benefit and care, David Robinson emphasizes the importance of common benefit.

### **The Concept Of Economic Development**

The economic, political, and military powers of countries and, depending on this, that they have voice in international platform is related to economic developedness. Governments, applying development programs in stable way for years, make active the social and physical resources their countries have and enables the welfare of country to increase (Karagül, 2002: 7). Economic development is a process of structural change carrying a society to the contemporary lines in the social, cultural, economic, and political framework (Şavkar,2011:6). Economic development expresses the change of production structure of country in such a way that high value added products will be produced; and, in turn, by equally distributing the income groups forming the society, raising life standards i.e. the state of being in welfare (Kaynak,2011:77).Economic development, besides improving the socio-cultural structure of country, determines the increase rate of national income per capita in country (Dinler, 2004: 539). By means of economic development, providing the improvement of the regional, geographical, institutional, and political conditions, it is aimed to enhance social interaction and raise the level of social skill and social justice (Şavkar,2011:6).

In this context, although economic development is a phenomenon concerning many disciplines including politics, law, history, geography, culture, and psychology, it is a phenomenon affecting human behaviors(Ersalcan,2009:45). Therefore, economic development is not directed by certain factors. In new economic development models, in which feeling oneself powerful and self- confidence stand out, beside income, the social, political, and economic change such as increasing the capacity of skill and ability has an importance. Considering social capital as new actor in economic development presents a different outlook to economic development (Ersalcan,2009:46).

### **Importance Of Social Capital In Economic Development**

The effects of social capital on the institutes of society were discussed as a study subject in society from many aspects. Social capital gains importance, mostly being considered on interaction networks and togetherness. in society. Importance of social capital depends on the interaction and efficiency of the regional factors affecting the growth of regions at the present days.

In economics, although the concept of social capital is expressed as “missing relation” , in economic meaning, the concept is qualified as the assumption of a positive relationship between economic variables (such as income, economic growth, etc. ) that are social. In the discipline of economics, in the studies carried out on social capital, a causality relationship is sought between economic growth and development. In the context of the discipline economics, besides that the studies carried out associated with social capital form positive effect at the macro level, they are in a communication with labor market at the micro level (Erselcan, 2009: 20). At macro level, according to Putnam and Woolcock, social capital is qualified as a zero-sum game, and according to Narayan, Portes and Sensenbrenner, positive –sum game. In a zero-sum game, as the intervention of government to economy increases, the other institutes downsize. In positive- sum game, in the context of economic growth and development, the society and government are in interaction . (Woolcock &Narayan, 2000:1-49). At macro level, social capital is evaluated, in the discipline economics, in the context of interpersonal social relationships, in the processes of information sharing, coordination, and common decision making in an informal framework (Serageldin&Grootaert, 2000: 47; Cited by, Erselcan, 2009: 22). In this case, thanks to mass communication network that forms, the negativities, which may form in market, will be removed and economic unites can make more effective decisions. Social

capital at the micro level is evaluated on the basis of labor market and has a structure affecting the cooperation, trust, entrepreneurship, and innovative opinions.

### Measurements of Social Capital

Social capital is a sort of capital, which supports socioeconomic activities like the other sort of capital but which is very difficult to be measured differently from them (Çetin,2006:2). That there is definition more than one toward institute is among the causes of that measurement of social capital is not easy. For becoming the measurement easy, there are various indicators (Yüksel,2015:30). In measuring trust in a society, some indicators such as the degree of respect felt toward government and its institutes, perspiration level of people in the decisions belonging to them, prevalence level of nongovernmental organizations, level of individuals to take in charge in nongovernmental organizations, monthly average voluntary service hours of individuals in the activities of nongovernmental organizations, the size and management styles of firms, prevalence of activity areas of firms, and etc. are used (Gökalp,2003:165).

“A question that appears in almost all international comparative surveys is the 'Interpersonal Trust' question, usually asked in the following terms:

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?

Possible answers:

\*Most people can be trusted

\*You can never be too careful when dealing with others

There can be small variants for the wording and in some studies alternatives such as 'agree with both', 'agree with none' and so on can be added (their results are anyway very residual).

TRUST INDEX = 100 + (% Most people can be trusted) - (% Can't be too careful)

In this way, indexes over 100 correspond to countries where a majority of people trust others, while an index under 100 corresponds to countries where a majority of people think one can never be too careful when dealing with others.”(World Map of interpersonal trust-ASEP/JDS (2016) (<http://www.jdsurvey.net/jds/jdsurveyMaps.jsp?Idioma=%20I&SeccionTexto=0404&NOID=104>).

**Table 2: Measurement of trust in OECD**

Countries	Year	Trust
Norway	2007	148,0
Swedish	2006	134,5
Denmark	1999	131,9
Swiss	2007	107,4
Austria	2005	92,4
Canada	2006	85,9
Iceland	1999	83,0
Japan	2005	79,6
USA	2006	78,9
Germany	2006	75,8
Belgium	1999	63
Italy	2005	60,8
Greece	1999	54,6
Luxembourg	1999	53,9
Estonia	1999	48,4
Israel	2001	48,3
Hungary	1999	44,8
Spain	2007	40,9
Poland	2005	40,9
Slovenia	2005	38,6

France	2006	37,9
Chile	2008	34,4
Portugal	1999	21,9
Türkiye	2007	10,2

Source: World Map of interpersonal trust-ASEP/JDS(2016)

In the table 2, trust measurements of OECD countries and the years, when trust measurements were made (1999-2008), are seen. In the trust measurement made in 2007, while Norway is the country, where the trust rate is the most with 148%, The trust rate in Sweden, in 2006, is 134.5% and, in Denmark, it is 131.9 in 1999. In the trust measurement made in 2007, Turkey is seen as a country, where the rate is the lowest, with 10.2%.

**Table 3: International And Domestic Based Studies on Social Capital**

	Researchers	The country and year, in which the study was carried out	Method applied	Results of the study
Mixed Country Studies	World bank	47 countries (1996)	Correlation	It was identified that there was a strong correlation between socioeconomic development indicators and social capital
Mixed Country Studies	Jan Fidemuc Kalarita Gerxhani	15 EU Countries And 13 EU candidate Countries (2004)	Logit Model	They concluded that the educated individuals had high social capital; that high income caused high social capital and, in addition, that those living in the rural areas participated in the networks more
Mixed Country Studies	Paul Whiteley	34 Countries (2000)	Analysis of Main Components	He identified that social capital increased economic growth and also encouraged the human and physical investment.
Mixed Country Studies	Sjoerd Beugelsdijk Ton van Schaik	7 European Countries (2003)	Regression Method	They identified that there was a strong correlation between active group membership and horizontal networks and growth, while there was no strong correlation between trust and growth.
Studies of developed countries	SriyaIyer Michal Kitson Bernard Toh	USA (2000)	Logit Model	They identified that the education, employment, and living for time in the same place positively affected the increase of social capital and that the level of social capital is higher compared to those living in the rural areas.
Studies of developed countries	Terrence Casey	United Kingdom (1999)	Correlation Method	He identified that there was a linear relationship between economic performance and social capital
Studies of developed countries	Jean Marc Collois Francis Aubert	France (2005)	Analysis of Main Components	They identified that social capital had a positive effect on growth.

Studies of developed countries	Fabio Sabatini	Italy (2005)	Analysis of Main Components	They identified that internal social capital was negatively related to development and external social capital, positively.
Studies of developed countries	Paul Bullen Jenny Onyx	Australia (1997)	Factor Analysis	They concluded that social capital was positively related to demographic characteristics.
Studies of developed countries	Andrew Woodhouse	Australia (2002)	Analysis of Main Components	He identified that there was a positive relationship between social capital and economic development.
Developing country	Deepa Narayan Land Pritchett	Tanzania (1996)	Regression method	They concluded that high social capital caused high income.
Developing country	Anirudh Krishna	India (1998)	Regression method	. He concluded that high social capital was related to high development.
National Studies	Bee Movement	15 provinces (2005)	Percentages of survey answers	Social capital level of Turkish society turned out high.
National Studies	TESEV	17 provinces (2000) 12 provinces (2003) 20 provinces (2004)	Percentages of survey answers	They identified that the most reliable institute was Armed Forces
National Studies	Nalan Yetim	Mersin (2002)	Chi-Square	It was considered that female entrepreneurs had the ability and skill to drive social capital

Source: Keskin, 2008: 58

In table 3, there are mixed country research of some countries, research of developing countries, national research, those carrying out the research, the country and year, in which research is carried out, method applied, and findings of the research.

According to this, in the research of mixed country ;

47 countries participated in the study carried out by World Bank. Correlation Method was applied and it was identified that there was a strong correlation between indicators of socioeconomic development and social capital.

In the study carried out by Jan Fidemuc and Kalarita Gerxhani, on 15 European countries and 13 EU candidate countries (2004), logit model was applied and it was concluded that educated individuals had high social capital; that high income caused high social capital; in addition, that those living in the rural areas more participated in networks.

In the analysis of main components conducted by Paul Whiteley (2000) for 34 countries, it was identified that social capital increased economic growth and also encouraged the human and physical investment.

In Regression analysis, carried out by Ton van Schaik (2003) for 7 European countries, while a strong correlation was not found between trust and growth, it was identified that the correlation between the membership of active group and growth via horizontal networks was strong.

In the studies of developed countries,

In Logit Model, carried out by Sriya Iyer, Michal Kitson, Bernard Toh in US (2000), it was identified that the education, employment, dwelling for long time in the same location positively affected the

increase of social capital and that in the rural area, the level of social capital compared to those in the city.

In analysis, carried out by Casey (1999), by means of Correlation Method in United Kingdom, it was identified that there was a linear relationship between economic performance and social capital.

In Principal Component Analysis carried out by Jean Marc Collois and Francis Aubert, (2005) in France, it was identified that social capital has a positive effect on growth.

In Principal Component Analysis, carried out by Fabio Sabatini (2005) in Italy, it was identified that internal social capital was negatively related to development and external social capital, punitively.

In Factor Analysis, carried out by Paul Bullen and Jenny Onyx (1997) in Australia, it was concluded that demographic characteristics were always related to social capital

In principal Component Analysis carried out by Andrew Woodhouse (2002) in Australia, it was identified that there was a positive relationship between social capital and economic development .

In Regression Analysis, carried out by Deepa Narayan ve Land Pritchett (1996) in Tanzania, it was concluded that high social capital caused high income.

In Regression Analysis, carried out by Anirudh Krishna (1998) in India, it was identified that high social capital was related to high development.

In national studies;

In the percentages of survey answers carried out by Arı Operation in 2005, the level of social capital of Turkish society turned out low.

In the percentages of survey responses , carried out by TESEV (Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation ) in 17 provinces (2000), 12 provinces (2003), and 20 provinces (2004), it was identified that the most reliable institute by Turkish society was Turkish Armed Forces.

According to the study, carried out by Nalan Yetim (2002) in Mersin, it was considered that female entrepreneurs had the abilities and skills driving social capital.

### **Turkey And Social Capital**

Just as the reliability and communication deficiencies, experienced between individuals in Turkey, formed many social problem, they lead to negativities in economic activities. The reasons for this is that in Turkey, problem is perceived as physical capital and that the individual and social dimension of the process was not dealt with. Since Ottoman Period, country experienced variety of economic crises and, since the human and social capital in the solutions of crises were not given place, the desired results could not be reached. (Karagül, 2002: 138). In some studies carried out, that social capital is weak at the social level is attributed to that the reliability level of the people in Turkey to the people they do not know turned out low compared to the other societies(Ardahan,2012:777). Due to the fact that the communities in Turkey have the dominant values such as collectivism, avoiding ambiguity, and power distance, any environment to provide for foreigner to rely on foreigner does not form and people only rely on the people they are related to with the primary relations of kinship and citizenship (Ardahan,2012:777). Therefore, in Turkey there is a need for knowledgeable people having high reliability level and consciousness of social capital (Karagül, 2002: 138).In five- year economic development programs applied in Turkey, several applications were made toward social capital.

In the first development plan (1963-1967), it is emphasized that the concept social capital is effective in removing disorders that form, and becoming fair of distribution of physical investments, although skilled labor force and some basic services from abroad (DPT, 1963: 45).

Until 9<sup>th</sup> Development Plan (2007-2013), instead of the concept social capital, the concepts such as social justice, equality, social development, social services, and human capital were dealt with. In 10<sup>th</sup> Development Plan (2014-2018), increasing activity lines of low income regions in economy, and raising life levels of people, and social and human capital were mentioned about (DPT, 2013: 142).

## **Conclusion**

Globalization movements in the world, especially economic development, leading to the emergence of the new searches, stand out the element of social capital in development. With that social capital stands out, the concepts such as providing the supply and demand balance of economy, drawing the investors abroad to the country, structure specific to the country, networks, production factors, job culture, learning regions, and innovation undertake important role in economic development. Setting out from this concepts forming in economy, social capital, evaluating the interpersonal relationships in society both in vertical and horizontal axis from the physical, legal, and moral point of view and analyzing in the context of trust element, mentions whether or not the aims set are reached (Schuller, 2000: 3-9). In the country, providing the cooperation and coordination between the actors in development such as private sector, public institutes, (Research and Development) R&D centers, universities, and industrial and commercial chambers, the necessary conditions for development are prepared. Social capital enables the formation of abilities of a society to be able to organize itself, to acquire information, or to produce (Altan, 2007: 224).

The successes of countries in economic development gain importance with the sustainable development. In this case, it is necessary to be well evaluated the existing conditions and existing conditions by individuals. That countries provide sustainable development expresses a meaning for sake of caring the activities of economic and social actors. With development of social capital in a country, organization and cooperation in networks, mutual trust relation, and strengthening of solidarity provide a peaceful environment together with the formation of these concepts.

In the study, under the title of outlook to the phenomenon of social capital and economic development, the definition of social capital and economic development has been dealt with. The importance of social capital in economic development has been discussed and the measurements of social capital, social capital in Turkey, and importance of social capital in economy have been mentioned about. In Turkey, for social capital to be able to function, it is concluded that the cooperation is connected with the formation of abilities of society to be able to organize itself and to produce.

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