

Social Capital and Peoples' Well-being in Africa: A Cross-Country Analysis

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Introduction

- Social capital is increasingly being recognized as an important resource in influencing economic development
- To the extent that it is the property of social environment, social capital produces valuable resources that can be used to solve a broad range of problems in the society
- Communities with relatively higher stocks of social capital, appear to achieve higher levels of growth compared to societies with low stocks of social capital

- Consequently, social capital is gaining global recognition particularly among international organizations and research institutions
- In Africa, social capital is also increasingly being recognized as an important asset for influencing development outcomes
- However, despite the recognition there is **scarcity of robust literature** and adequate **empirical analysis** of social capital at the **macro level** in Africa

- Most of the studies on social capital in Africa are **country specific**
- This limits the application of such findings widely across Africa
- Thus the proposed study is a comparative analysis of the influence of social capital on the well-being of populations across different countries in Africa
- A comparative analysis of social capital on the well-being of populations using a sample of African countries may thus play a crucial role in setting out the appropriate policies for development in Africa

Objectives of the study

Main Objective

To determine whether countries with high levels of social capital in Africa have better living conditions than those with low levels

Specific Objectives

- i. To investigate the impact of social capital on the well-being of populations across different countries in Africa
- ii. To analyze the factors that may account for the differences in the levels of social capital among the sampled countries in Africa

Hypotheses

- i. Populations in countries with high levels of social capital have better living conditions than those with low levels of social capital
- ii. There is a significant difference in the levels of social capital across African countries

Data Sources

Two sets of data will be used:

- The first set of data on social capital will be derived from the World Bank Social Capital Initiative
- The second set of data will be generated from the Living Standards Measurement Surveys of the World Bank

These datasets have been used extensively for well-being assessments

Theoretical Framework (Theory of Collective Action)

- The theory of collective action is premised on the institutional approach to remedies of community or societal problems
- It is concerned with the conditions under which groups of people sharing a common interest will perceive that interest and take action on it
- The fundamental proposition of collective theory is that collective action often leads to formation of people's organizations in form of groups which bring together individuals with common problems and aspirations and who cannot, as individuals, meet certain goals as effectively unlike if they organize themselves into groups

- Therefore, theory of collective action will be used because its key propositions help in understanding how individuals secure resources by virtue of belonging to social networks and groups and how they also engage in communal activities to enhance community efficacy and subsequently improve their well-being

THANK YOU