

Social Capital and Poverty Alleviation: Some Qualitative Evidences from Lahore District

Abdul Aziz Taga

Department of Sociology, Government College of Science,
Lahore, PAKISTAN.

azeztaga@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present study focuses on the newly emerged concept of social capital and its relationship with poverty alleviation in some slum areas of the Lahore city. The basic assumption of the study was that social capital empowers an individual through connecting ones with various social groups, institutions and structural networks. The resultant factor is that the individual, through his/her strong social ties, exposes to new options and resources in a variety of ways, and at the same time learns various ways (both legitimate and illegitimate) to get benefit from these resources. The universe of the present study consisted of those married people (both male and female) whose monthly income was equal to 2500 rupees. A total of 15 respondents were selected purely on the basis of purposive sampling and case study method was used as method of data collection. An interview guide was used as a tool for data collection. The qualitative analysis of all the case studies was made. The case studies demonstrated that family, friends, relatives and neighbours were the major sources of social capital and role of social capital was decisive in the improvement of their living standard specially by exposing them to various options and resources, which enabled them to improve their living standard. At the end, the researcher concluded that social capital facilitates different resources which are crucial in reducing poverty.

Keywords: Social capital, biradri, social ties, resource facilitation, poverty alleviation

INTRODUCTION

People and groups continually interact with other people and groups. These multiple contacts are organized into social networks and these networks of relationship link the individual directly to other people, and through these others, indirectly to even more people. One's network, for example, consists of primary ties (like relatives, family and close friends) and secondary ties (like classmates and colleagues). "This multiplicity of relationship constitutes a web of relationship among people" (Robertson. 1987:174). Human relations based on the network of connections that facilitates the people to interact in a better way. Interaction among people constitutes a chain of relationships, which generates familiarity and acquisition among people. The familiarity and acquisition among people bind them into different social groups.

Interaction between individuals or social groups may constitute a focal point where all actors gather their resources and activities. Collection of the group's resources sometime, offer to their members for the utilization of the resources. When a relationship facilitates resources and have economic benefit can be stated as "social capital" - network of relationship, which has economic benefits. Through network of relationships, one may fulfil his/her needs and may expose to different opportunities and new options.

".....social intercourse among the individual and families who make up a social unit if (an individual comes) into contact with his neighbours and they with other neighbours, there

will be an accumulation of social capital, which may immediately satisfy his social needs and which may bear a social potentiality sufficient to the substantial improvement of living standard in the whole community" (Hanifer 1916; Wool cock and Narayan 1999:35).

Basically, the original idea of social capital is that one's association with family, friends, and neighbours facilitates the resources for the welfare of the individual. In other words this can be stated that social capital may produce opportunities or exposes one to the new reservoir of resources. Actually, social capital is not a name of a tangible good rather it's a "collective intelligence of society" that functions collectively for the solution of the problem and welfare of the individual.

Individual's web of relationship mostly depends on his/her friends, colleagues, relatives and family. When one faces any problem, he/she first tries to consult these channels at a time or turn by turn to get a better solution of the problem. People consult these sources because they know that these people could be a source of problem shooting for them or can suggest a better suggestion of their problem. But the question that arises here, why people consult these channels even in the absence of problem? The answer could be that People consult others to get the better out-come of their work and to save their resources. So, this can be stated that social capital also has problem solving characteristic, which plays a vital role in the achievements of certain ends.

Grootaert, (1998), stated that by understanding this definition, two assumptions underlie this concept: networks and norms, which exist in society, are empirically associated and these networks and norms "have important economic consequences". The key feature of this definition is social capital facilitates, coordinates and helps an individual to achieve better performance.

The main sources of social capital are family, community, friends, social groups, ethnicity, firms and organizations.

Relationship between Social Capital and Poverty

Poverty is rampant and exists almost in all societies especially in developing countries where majority of the population is at the worst hit. It is not merely a Pakistan or third world phenomena. With the exception of few it's a global phenomenon "one in every five persons lives in the world below poverty line" (Ahmad 1997:20).

In developing set-ups, there are various approaches to reduce poverty like literacy programmes, public employment policy, and micro credit schemes etc. But these conventional approaches have failed to produce desirable results. Otherwise, poverty should be disappeared from society. Continuous persistence of poverty, despite hectic efforts to eliminate it proves the fact that it has the ability to trap and prevail upon them unless it is addressed from its roots. Persistence rather growth of poverty proves that poverty is still trapping the people in its net and pushing them in the worst conditions. As Ahmed stated:

"...several efforts have been made to alleviate the poverty during the past four or five decades — both in theory and practice — but have almost failed to make any meaningful assault on poverty. Even today, more than one fifth of the world population continues to be trapped in absolute poverty (Ahmed 1997: 14).

By following previous evidences, this can be concluded that only giving money to the poor is not a proper way to reduce poverty for a long time, or could be stated as a temporary method to reduce poverty. The only and effective way to reduce poverty can be to give empowerment

of individuals, and by making him/her a productive member of society. However, empowerment of individuals creates sense of responsibility and promotes participatory development in society. Empowerment of people and their participation in the society can be achieved only through connecting the individuals with different social institutions (e.g., education, economic, political, etc.). This goal can be achieved with the development and promotion of social capital — that might activate individual's capacities and at the same time may produce opportunities for the empowerment of individual. Empowerment of individual further activates one's hidden capacities and thereby makes him/her a productive member of society.

At lay level, poverty is perceived as to be a result of scarcity of money and resources. But actually this may not be the reality but in fact poverty is the one's inability to mobilize the available resources. "Poverty is not by accident it is by design". On the face, it does not look true but in reality it may be true, because the true causes of poverty starts when society divides the people into different social groups on the basis of their socio-economic characteristics. Accordingly, nature of the resources also divided in accordance with the division of people: limited resources and opportunities for poor people or for low socio-economic groups, good quality of resources are for the rich or for upper socio-economic groups, this may be stated a design of poverty, which is creation of society. This division of people into different socio-economic groups may effects the one's strength of access to the resources, which are available in society.

Poverty is not a matter of resources rather it's a matter of scarcity of access to the available resources and the inability to exploit the available resources. Rich are rich because they have adequate access to the good quality of resources and poor are lack in access to the available resources. As Schiller (1976:198) concluded that "Poor are poor because they do not have adequate access to the goods, jobs and income".

CONCEPTS AND APPROACH TO THIS STUDY

Few would disagree with the fact that social capital is crucial in reducing poverty and in economic development. Previous evidences showed that poverty reduces only through the availability of money and providing infrastructure to the poor. By utilization of the resources and money, which were provided to them, poor improved their living standard and reduced their poverty.

It has increasingly been realized that availability of financial capital, human capital and physical capital (infrastructure) is not enough in reducing poverty or in economic development. There should be another capital in the process of economic development that named social capital. As Grootaert stated:

"It has now become recognized that these three types of capital (financial capital, human capital and physical capital) determine only partially the process of economic growth because they overlook the way in which the economic actors are organize themselves to generate growth and development-The missing link is social capital" (1998:1).

Why Social Capital, is Capital?

Any individual in social set up has some social network or relationship with other people. Without social relationships it would be difficult for the individuals to live in society. Individual is a product of a group, (male & female), that's why, he/she, is needed a group life. Social network is an attribute of social capital, which has the ability to produce resources and opportunities for the benefits of the individuals. It is often seen that some people have good

relation with the influential person or have a strong network of friendship. In spite of having strong network they cannot solve their problems or draw benefits from those people. When relations with others are beneficial or effects one's socio-economic condition, known as social capital because "Social Capital is 'capital' only if it effects persist" (Grooteaert 1998:v). Narayan, (1999), Synthesized the Collier's notion that social capital is 'social' because it focuses on the social behaviour of individual, and it is 'capital' because it concerns with social interaction that contribute to productivity with some durability i.e. they are repeated and not casual.

For social interaction to be social capital must have persistence in the process of interaction "Putnam define the concept of social capital as a form of a social interaction which have persistence" (Grootaert 1998:4). Grootaert, (1998), termed that continuity of social interaction as constituting social capital and social capital stock increases when "there is a long term change in the amount of social interaction. The most obvious and clear example is that if a village's community is needed a school for their children and village community organizes itself collectively to built a school for the children which is a result of social interaction. The school is not a social capital but a physical capital, which is a product of social network. However, social interaction in this case has a clear and persistence economic benefit. However school provides an opportunity for the development of social capital, which ultimately effect economic activities. Because children get education from school, which, ultimately improve the living standard as it has been proved that 'higher the education greater would be the income' (Weeks 1992).

Conception of Poverty

Borgatta and Borgatta, (1992), stated that the word poverty is derived from the French word "Pauvre" (meaning 'poor') and simply means the state of lacking material possessions of having little or no means to support one-self.

The most comprehensive definition was given by Lewis, (1992), that poverty not only as economic deprivation, or the absence of something but also as a way of life, the presence of sub-cultural values and attitudes passed down from generation to generation.

Lewis. (1992), further stated that poverty is not simply the lack of economic resource or name of economic deprivation, rather other combinations interact with economic deprivation and constitute poverty. Lewis blamed that poverty is also a product of one's adoption of sub-cultural values and way of living standard that affect one's social status.

According to these definitions it could be concluded that poverty is an abstract and highly subjective state. One's lack of material possession, poor living style and deviation from societal values can be called poverty.

Poverty Line

The researcher uses subjective approach - refers to the position of an individual or household in relation to an income "just sufficient" to ensure the satisfaction of an individual or household expenditure - in defining the level of poor/poverty for this research. The researcher defined poverty line 2500 Rupees per month per family having at least four heads.

According to Haq, (1999), absolute poverty line, (1993-94), of the Pakistan was 385 Rupees per head per month; as most of the respondents family members were more than 6, and the average monthly income for per family having 6 heads was near to 2500 rupees per month that's why, the researcher drew 2500 rupees as poverty line.

World Bank Development Report, (1990), reported 375 U.S dollars as a poverty line for sub-continent per capita per year. As majority of the respondents were more than 6 and the researcher converted this amount into Pakistani rupees, which was near to 2500 hundred rupees, therefore the researcher fixed 2500 as poverty line-385 rupees per capita was defined as a level for absolute poverty according to Haq(1999). But researcher used subjective approach in defining poverty. This permits the researcher to draw 2500 rupees per family per month (having at least four heads) for poverty line.

The respondents belonged to urban areas of Lahore City, where the cost of life was relatively high as compare to rural areas. That's way the researcher drew 2500 rupees per month as poverty line. Majority of the respondents belonged to labour class. Researcher first did survey about the average monthly income of a labourer and (which was not more than 2500 rupees per month) then the research fixed 2500 rupees as poverty line.

Due to variation among these valuable sources of findings, the researcher drew his own poverty line according to the need and demand of the study.

REVIEW OF THE RELEVANT LITERATURE

This literature review may highlight the different aspects of the present study.

Narayan, (1995), studied to find the relationship between poverty and social capital in Rural Tanzania. This study was a nationwide participatory research project that involved 6000 people in eighty-seven villages of Tanzania. The major goals of the project were to check the validity of participatory research methodologies and to explore the forms and impacts of social capital at the local level that affects the economic activity. Narayan examined social capital by participating in their activities and use of qualitative methodology. The number and types of groups, which were found in the village, trends in membership in groups and reason for joining were explored in the study. The key finding of the project was that level of social capital had effects on income level: one standard deviation increase in village level social capital increases the household's income by 20 to 30 percent. It was also found that increase in village-level social capital increase the educational year of person.

Herbert, (1997), launched a project, which was implemented by the Australian Department of Social Security. The principle part of the project was to improve the living standard of poor Australians with the expansion of their social networks and pattern of relationship. This project was an experiment to determine whether social capital is intended to improve low-income families through access to information participation in work both paid and volunteer work and expansion of social network can improve the standard of living of Australia's poor. The key findings of the study were that improvement and expansion of poor's social capital increase building social capital for poor and increases their ability to work in the community. The project was also found on the premise that standard of living cannot be based solely on the income of a family. Working and participation in the social life of one's community were important measures of well-being.

Townsend, (1994), conducted a research in India to check the relationship between social capital and social capability. Research showed that social capital increases the ability of the Poor to allocate resources, efficiency and increased their resilience to hazard. A study of 750 households from 45 villages in Tanzania suggested that social capital had a remarkable contribution in the household well-being and "welfare". Townsend measured social capital by measuring membership in groups and networks. The key findings of the project were that village level social capital was a key contributor to household welfare even after taking into account the size of household, male schooling, female schooling, household assets, and

market access. In some cases the effect of village level social capital outweighed that of market access than female schooling. On the other hand, household-level social capital appeared to be less significant than village-level social capital.

Coleman, (1988), studied that social capital has positive impact on the quality of education. A study of U.S. schools showed that those school, which were religious based and situated in tight communities had lower dropout rates than in other public and private schools, even after controlling religion and household financial position.

Eggeben et al. (1995) used Coleman's conceptualization of social capital within families, the set of mutual obligations and interpersonal relations between parents and their offspring. The authors used this framework to assess the high school completion and family structure. The authors used sample data from 1990 current population survey. The major focus of the study was to assess the relationship between high school completion and family structure. Family structure was found to have an effect on the student's performance. Parents with low level of educational attainment or human capital had negative effect on the student's academic achievement and dropout rate. The authors concluded that student's academic achievement couldn't be separated from the family structure.

METHODOLOGY

Research Method

The researcher has used case study method in the present research. In case study method, data are gathered about the previous experiences of a person in an effort to understand his/her behaviour. Since case study method is qualitative, intensive and comprehensive approach. Therefore, it was decided to use this technique to conduct research on social capital and poverty.

Universe

The universe of the present study consisted of those married people of *Dhana Sign* village Near *Shah Di Khoi* with having at least four heads (both male and female) whose monthly income was up to 2500 Rupees.

Sampling

The researcher selected 15 cases purely on the basis of purposive or judgmental sampling.

Tool for Data Collection

For present study, interview guide was used as a tool for data collection. Different items were included to gain information about the role of social capital in reducing poverty.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The present study is a qualitative in nature, hence a qualitative, rather than quantitative, analysis is being presented, as the numbers of cases were too small to use any sophisticated statistical analysis.

This analysis is based on all respondents (15), which the researcher interviewed while conducting the study. The case studies revealed that 6 out of 15 respondents belonged to the age group of (41-50), 3 belonged to the age group between 61-70 and rest of the respondents belonged to the other categories. The case studies revealed that 10 out of 15 respondents got education with the help of family; 7 got education with the help of their family, 2 with the

help of their friends and one with the help of an unknown person, rest of the 5 respondents were illiterate.

It was analyzed that majority of the respondents (14) belonged to the male category and rest of the one was female. It was analyzed that 14 out of 15 respondents were earned 2500 rupees per month. Almost all respondents acquired financial help from different channels to whom they consulted. Family supported financially to 6 respondents, 4 respondents acquired financial help from their brothers, 3 respondents took financial help from their friends and rest of the respondents (2) took money from their colleagues, cousin, in laws and from on the basis of same *Bradri*.

All respondents had good and problem sharing relations with their relatives. It was learnt that 7 out of 15 respondents visited to their relatives after 2 or 3 months; 2 respondents visited to their relatives after 6 months and one year. But it was analyzed that almost all the respondents visited to their relatives in case any need or on different occasions (i.e., marriages, deaths etc.). The data revealed that 9 out of 15 respondents consulted different people before taking any decision; 2 respondents consulted their friends before taking decision and rest of the respondents consulted to their uncles, neighbours, relatives, sons, wives, husbands and daughters. Almost all respondents who consulted different channels in decision-making acquired good and positive suggestions from them. Majority of the respondents (10) acquired psychological and emotional support from their families. Rest of the five did not give any response. Out of 15 respondents, 6 acquired different helps from different channels when they were in serious medical emergency. Among these 6 respondents; one respondent acquired free medical treatment with the help of his son; one was treated with the help of his neighbour who worked in the hospital and others were treated with the help of their friends, colleagues and neighbour community.

It was analyzed that 7 out of 15 respondents started new business with the financial help of others; 2 with the help of their cousins; one with the help of friend, neighbour and colleagues and 2 respondents started business with the financial help of their parents. Rest of the 8 respondents did not try to start a new business and never asked anyone for help.

Majority of the respondents (10) got different jobs by utilizing their relations rather on the basis of their own effort. 4 out of those 10 employed with the help of their uncles; 2 acquired jobs with the help of their family and friends. Rest of the 4 respondents employed by activating their neighbours, colleagues and in laws.

With the exception of 1, all respondents were not the legal members of any political association. Almost majority of the respondents (14) had no any access to their political representator (MPA, MNA, and Councilor). Mostly respondents (13) did not try to meet their political representator and asked about their problems. All political representators of that community did not visit to their area. One respondent had good relation with the S.H.O police of their area and achieved desirable benefits with the help of that S.H.O.

In some cases (6) respondent's wives fulfilled their basic needs with the help of their neighbours. These wives of the respondents acquired help by demanding oil, sugar, flour and others things of daily usage. One respondent's wife also consulted the expert neighbour in delivery process. 10 out of 15 respondents accommodated by their relationships with different people; 4 respondents got home with the help of their uncle; 2 respondents acquired temporary residence by utilizing their friends. In some cases (4) the respondents took house and residential plots due to their in-laws (2) cousin (1) and unknown person. Rest of the 5 respondents already had their own accommodation. 2 out of 15 respondents employed their 2

sons with the help of in laws (1) and uncle. In one case, the in-laws up brought the daughter of the respondent.

DISCUSSION

The present study was conducted to know the dynamics of individual's social relationships and their impacts poverty alleviation. After the analysis of the case studies, it was found that the dynamics of relationships are multidimensional and associated with the one's nature of relationship with others.

This research pointed out that family is an important and basic source of social capital. One's nature of social capital depends substantially on the nature and status of the family and its social capital. For instance, if one belongs to the influential and socially well connected family correspondingly his/her nature of social capital will be of expanded and well wired in the society.

It can be stated that children's level of education depends on their parent's level of education. The empirical data pointed out that majority of the respondents (6) were literate at primary level and 5 respondents were illiterate. Correspondingly, majority of the respondent's children (25) were literate at primary level and among all those children of the respondents (72), 18 children were altogether illiterate. By following this empirical data, it can be stated that there is a positive association between parent's education level and academic achievement of their children. This supports the findings of Eggeben et al, (1995), that parents with low educational achievements had negative impact on children's academic achievements and dropout rate.

Social capital is a force that sometimes influences a large portion of the life. Similarly, respondent's nature of social capital may determine the future of the children or the children's future could be the reflection of their parent's social position in society. However, out of 68 children of the 15 respondents, only 3 children were worked at good position. Among rest of the children (65) majority of the children were belonged to labour class and low-level profession like labour, conductor etc. This finding contributes the research of Gordon and Swift, (1993), that occupation of children is determined to a large extent by one's parent's social class and children of high-class occupation people acquire good job as compare to working class group child rather their education should same.

Poor are potentially able to allocate resources for their well-being. However, everyman on the earth generates the needed resources from society. However, 10 out of 15 respondents generated jobs for themselves by utilizing their friends, parents, relatives and neighbours. Likewise, 5 respondents started new business with the help of their social capital. This evidence shows the resource generating ability of the poor. Respondent's acquired job, started business with the help of their social capital as Townsend, (1994), emphasized that social capital increases the efficiency of the poor to allocate resources.

Interaction with neighbour communities is critical in the well being of the people. But the empirical data gave evidences that majority of the respondents (14) had no connection with the residents, of neighbour communities. In some cases, respondents did not visit the neighbour communities even once in their life. Although, all neighbour communities were situated nearest from the residents of the respondents. This kind of situation restricts their social capital and social exposure of the respondents, which bound the individual to live and work within an environment. This type of people enjoyed limited resources and opportunities, therefore majority of the respondents belonged to labour class. This finding is correlated with Friedman's and Krackhardt's, (1994), finding as quoted by Narayan, (1999), that exclusion

from the social network of dominant group leads to achieve low status. This finding also negatively correlated with the Herbert's, (1997), finding that expansion of social network increases the bridging social capital and ability to work. Because of the absence of interaction with neighbour communities, the respondents did not acquire any sort of help from them. By following these findings, this can be stated that respondents had bounded themselves and they did not want to cut the net of their exclusion from society.

In this research, it was also found that after family, relatives are crucial in solving the problems. Respondents, who had good relations with their relatives, acquired financial support as well as jobs and free accommodation from their relatives. This empirical data again supports the Herbert's, (1997), finding that expansion of social network increases the bridging social capital and ability to work. This finding also supports the findings of Buckley, (1996), that intergenerational relationships caused local stability and security that resulted in big turn of economic activity. In some cases, the respondents visited to their relatives after years. Such type of respondents acquired negligible help from their relatives. This finding supports the Homan's, (1972), notion that greater the interaction between individuals greater the attraction would be there. In all cases, it was seen that all respondents visited to their relatives in case of need or problems. This finding suggests that relatives are the source of social capital and produce resources for the well being of the individual.

Role of friends is important in the certain achievements of respondents. Sometime, friend's contribution in the achievement of desirable goal cannot be seen but actually, friends played important role in target achievements. Philosophically, all respondents had their friends. Among those, there were few respondents who acquired substantial help from their friends. Among 15 respondents 4 respondents acquired financial help from their friends and 2 respondents got education and accommodation with the help of their friends. Consequently, such type of help contribute in the betterment of the respondent's life. Additionally, 2 respondents who got education and accommodation with the help of their friends established their families in a better way. Those 2 respondents who acquired financial help married their children by utilizing that money. These findings are in accordance with the findings of Grootaert, (1998), that local association and network have positive impact of development and well being of household. It can be stated that friends are also important in improvement of standard of living.

People who work together within an environment are known as colleagues. Similarly, the respondents of this research had their colleagues. The empirical data showed that only 7 respondents consulted their colleagues in multiple needs; 2 cases consulted their colleagues when they were needed money. Rest of the five respondents consulted their colleagues for different needs (e.g. job, decision making and marriage of their children). This empirical data suggests that colleagues can be a source of social capital, which effect, the social status. Consequently, such types of help, which the respondents acquired from their colleagues, may contribute in reducing problem and improvement of living standard.

Interaction with neighbours and other members of the community is important in daily life because it is difficult to live without contribution of the other people. Only 6 respondents had frequent interaction with their neighbours and the residents of the community and rest of the respondents were busy in their works and had not enough time to meet their neighbours. Among those 6 respondents, one respondent was financially supported by his neighbour and rest of the 5 respondents married their children, started business and acquired job with the help of their neighbours. In some cases, respondent's wives fulfilled their needs by demanding goods of daily usage due to their strong ties with other neighbour women. This sort of exchange saved their resources and improved the efficiency. On the basis of this data,

this assumption can be stated that increase in social relations increases the generation of resources. This assumption again supports the Herbert's, (1997), finding that expansion of social network increases the bridging social capital and ability to work.

Associations with influential people of the community and political representative are very important in problem solving because influential people and political leaders are the sources who can generate resources and solved the problems. Analysis suggests that there was only one case who had good relation with the S.H.O of the area (who lived in the community) and got desirable benefits by utilizing his relation with S.H.O. (But at the time of interview there was no any influential person in the community). One respondent increased his/her social capital by having association with S.H.O. of the police and acquired desirable benefit. This finding suggests that social capital increases the number of resources as Herbert, (1997), concluded that expansion of social network increases the bridging social capital. There was no such case which had interaction with his/her political representator (MNA, MPA, Counselor). This finding shows the respondents level of network with the influential and resources generating people. Therefore, no respondent acquired substantial benefit from influential people, which could lift him/her from worst condition. So, absence of interaction with influential people could be state a factor of their poverty. Krackhardt and Friedman, (1994), concluded that, exclusion from the social network of dominant group leads to achieve low status.

It was found that there was no association or committee among the residents of community that could solve the problems of community. Correspondingly, residents of the community had to solve their problems individually. By following this, it can be assumed that limited stock of their social capital could also be the cause of their worst condition and limited resources. This contention is negatively correlated with Narayan's, (1995), findings that increase in village level social capital increase the income by 20 to 30 percent.

There were only 2 cases whose *Bradrimates* lived in their community. Between these 2 respondents, one started new business with the help of his *Bradrimates*. In second case, *Bradrimates* preceded the case in the high court instead of the respondent. This finding shows that ethnic based relation can be a source of social capital and solve the problem for the welfare of the individual. This contention supports the finding of Townsend, (1994), that village level social capital can be key contributor for the well being of household. Buckley, (1996) also stated that intergenerational relationships caused local stability and security that resulted in big turn of economic activity. Almost, all respondents were agreed with the affectivity and benefits of having relations with people. Respondents argued that relations with people are beneficial and have potential to produce different sort of opportunities and economic resources. Surprisingly, all respondents were agreed at the point that association is critical in the improvement of living standard and in reducing poverty.

The last and the most important question of this discussion is that if association with people provide opportunities and resources for the well being of individual, then why the respondents were poor although they had a network of associations with people? Nature of resources and opportunities depend on the connection with the status of the group. If someone is associated with a group of upper class people, then he/she may enjoy and acquired the substantial resources and opportunities. Contrary to that, if one is associated with a group of poor people or have interaction with poor then the chances of acquiring resources become rare. As Aston et al, (1999: 3), stated that, "group members enjoy those resources which are available to the whole group". This assumption is true in accordance with empirical data of this research. Respondents enjoyed those resources which were available to their group e.g. one respondent had interaction with police officer of the area, and he

achieved desirable benefits with the help of police officer. One respondent had good familiarity with the chairman of the department, and he acquired a job in the same department with the help of that chairman. Respondents were poor despite having association with different groups because the groups to whom they were connected were also poor. Those groups had not enough potential to produce resources; therefore the majority of respondents could not improve their living standard. Only 2 respondents were connected with upper class people and improved their living standard.

CONCLUSIONS

Keeping in view the empirical facts yielded by the present research, the researcher drew the following conclusions:

Family, friends, relatives, neighbours, colleague and ethnic groups are the major sources of social capital. Strong ties with these channels facilitate the resources and opportunities in the improvement of living standard and solve the problems. The researcher further concluded that social capital provides opportunities to produce financial capital, physical capital and human capital.

It was concluded that social capital could be conducive to reduce poverty if it flows through proper institutional arrangements, and increase the functioning of an individual in the process of economic development. Furthermore, education, job opportunities, financial help, accommodation, health facilities, good suggestions, and psychological support are crucial in reducing poverty and as findings suggested, that one can gain access to these resources by utilizing his/her social capital and these are the products of social capital.

Limited amount of help does not affect the one's status at considerable level. It could be concluded that in spite of getting all sorts of possible help, the respondents were poor because the respondent's channels of acquiring help were not the potential people of the society. Majority of the respondents often acquired help from those people who were also belonged to the low socio-economic status and the demanded help of the respondents was not enough which could reduce their poverty for a long-time. Therefore, the respondent's poverty sustained.

Respondents acquired level of help was not sufficient to alleviate their poverty but help in the maintenance of their status quo. The respondents rarely touched those institutions, which produce the reservoir of recourses for the improvement of income like business firms, education institution, political authorities, etc and also did not try to interact with the productive member of society, in spite of living in the centre of the city and well developed communities. Therefore, the respondents remain poor

The empirical data suggest that absence of interaction with resource oriented people and political representator, lack of association between the residents of the community, absence of interaction with neighbour communities and absence of membership in institutions (economic, political, education) were the major factors which effect the respondents level of social exclusion.

Findings show that respondents acquired nature of resources from their relations enabled them to live in society as poor. Just imagine, if these sources (relations) are fused, then what will be the future of the lives of the poor? And if it happens then it can be stated that there would be no better option for the subsistence of the poor, as they are already lack in economic capital, human capital and least connected with social institutions which led them

to live in worst condition. At the end, it can also be concluded that social capital is inevitable for the subsistence of the poor because it constitutes supplement for the existence of the poor.

REFERENCES

- [1] Ahmed, K. (1997). "Introduction" in *Poverty Alleviation in Pakistan: Present Scenario and Future Strategy*, edited by Sahibzada M. Haq. Islamabad: Institute of Policy Studies.
- [2] Aston, N. M. et al. (1999). "Family Demography, Social Theory, and Investment in Social Capital." *Population and Development Review*, 25(1), 2-9
- [3] Babie, E. (1994). *Survey Research Method* (2nd ed.). New York: Words Worth Inc.
- [4] Baity, K. D. (1978). *Methods of Social Research*. New York: McMillan Publishing Inc.
- [5] Brinton, Mary C. et al. (1996). "Elite Education and Social Capital: The Case of South Korea". (Home Page on line) Available URL: {<http://www.worldbank.scapital.org/PRM/open document>}. [Accessed 6 may 2009].
- [6] Collier, Paul. (1998). *Social Capital and Poverty. Social Capital Initiative Working Paper No.4*. Social Development Family, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network. Washington DC: World Bank.
- [7] Durkheim, Emile et al. (1960). *Essays on Sociology and Philosophy*, Edited by Kurt H. Wolff. Ohio: Harper Corchbooks Publisher.
- [8] Eggeben, David et al. (1995). "Harvesting Human Capital: Family Structure and Education Among Rural Youth". (Home Page on Line) available URL: {www.worldbank.scapilal.org/PRM/open document}. [Accessed 20 April 2009].
- [9] Goode, W. J. & Paul, K. M. (1981). *Methods in Social Research*. Singapore: McGraw Hill Book Company.
- [10] Grootaert, C. (1998). *Social Capital: The Missing Link? Social Capital Initiative Working Paper No.3*. Social Development Family, Environmentally and'-Socially Sustainable Development Network. Washington DC: World Bank.
- [11] Haq, M. (1999). *Assessing Poverty in Pakistan: A Profile of Poverty in Pakistan*. Islamabad: Mahbubu-ul Haq centre for Human Development in Collaboration with UNDP.
- [12] Herbert, S. J.B. (1997). "Community Based Initiatives: Gateways to Opportunities". (Home Page on Line) Available URL: {<http://www.dss.gov.au./pubs/policeresearch>}. [Accessed 8 September 2010].
- [13] Homans, G.C. (1960). *Exchange Theory*. New York: McMillan Publishing Inc.
- [14] Lewis, Oscar. (1992). "Poverty" in *Encyclopaedia of Sociology*, edited by Edgar F. Borgatta and Marie L. Borgatta. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company.
- [15] Mann, Michael. (1983). *Macmillan Encyclopaedia of Sociology*. London: Macmillan Press.
- [16] Narayan, Deepa. (1997). *Voices of the Poor: Poverty and Social Capital in Tanazania*. Washington DC: The World Bank.
- [17] Neuman, W. L.(1997). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approach, 3rd ed.*. Boston: Aviacome Company.

- [18] Robertson, I. (1987). *Sociology*. New York: Worth Publisher Inc.
- [19] Rose, R. (1998). *Getting Things Done in Anti Modern Society: Social Capital Networks in Russia*.
- [20] Salazar, S. R. & Stanford, M. D. (1995). "Social Capital and Reproduction of Inequality: Information Network Among - Mexican - Origin High School Student". (Home Page on Line) available URL: (<http://www.worldbank.scapital.org/PRM/open document>). [Accessed 20 July 2009].
- [21] Schiller, B. R. (1976). *Poverty and Discrimination*. New York: Russell Publisher Inc.
- [22] Seragalden, I. (1998). "Foreword" in *Getting Things Done in Anil Modern Society: Social Capital Networks in Russia*, by Richard Rose. Social Capital Initiative Working Paper No.6. Social Development Family, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network. Washington DC: World Bank.
- [23] Woolcock, M., & Deepa, N. (1999). *Social Capital: Implication for Development Theory and Policy*. Washington DC: World Bank.
- [24] World Bank. (1999). "How is Social Capital Measured?" (Home Page on Line) Available URL: {<http://www.worldbank.scapital.org/PRM/open document>}. [Accessed 21 September 2009].
- [25] World Bank. (1999). *Methodological Guide: Consultation With the Poor*. Washington DC: World Bank.
- [26] World Bank. (1999). "Social Capital: Methods and Tools". (Home Page on Line) Available URL: {<http://www.worldbank.scapital.org/PRM/open document>}. [Accessed 12 August 2008].
- [27] World Bank. (1990). *World Bank Development Report*. Washington DC: Oxford University Press.