

Social Capital? Say more...

What is “social capital”?

The networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively. The three types include Bonding, Bridging, and Linking social capital.



“Bonding” Social Capital

characterizes a closely-knit community where relationships are robust and supportive. Relationships are often with people who are similar or who are in similar positions in society. It can be great for “getting by”, but not so good for “getting ahead”.

“Bridging” Social Capital

involves connections across areas of difference that typically divide society (such as race, or class, or religion). Social relationships of exchange, often of associations between people with shared interests or goals but contrasting social identity



Bridging Social Capital

offers opportunities to “get ahead” by providing access to resources and connections that extend beyond one’s usual social setting and becomes a pathway to diverse and broader networks that can be instrumental in achieving long-term goals.

Bridging Social Capital

allows different groups to share and exchange information, ideas and innovation and builds consensus among the groups representing diverse interests. It breaks down barriers to participation.



“Linking” Social Capital

involves connecting individuals with those in different positions within the social hierarchy. These relationships are described as ‘vertical’ and the key feature is differences in social position or power.

Linking Social Capital

provides access to power and influence, creating possibilities for achieving significant outcomes by tapping into diverse perspectives and resources. Often involves classic patron/client or mentor/mentee relationships.



Social Capital

Bonding

vs.

Bridging

Within



Between

Intra



Inter

Exclusive



Inclusive

Inward Looking



Outward Looking

Strong Ties



Weak Ties

People who are alike



People who are
different

Horizontal



Vertical

Thick Trust



Thin Trust

Network Closure



Structural Holes