



THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA

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The paper addressed the influence of Social capital in rural development in Sri Lanka. Social capital has been taken into account among scholars last period of time. Although many researches have been conducted on influence of social capital for rural development it is not enough to weigh its strength in rural development. Therefore it was an insufficient exploratory volition of development sector in Sri Lanka. Many researchers have argued that the weight of social capital is more influencing factor of rural development. Drawing attention on this case of rural development, this paper, argued that the effective influence of social capital in rural development. The objective of this study was to inspect the influence of social capital in rural development projects in the sabaragamuwa province. The sample size was taken 100 individuals from the project using random sampling method. Questionnaire was the data collection tool. The weighted principle component was used to develop indices for social capital. Social capital describe as one depth component of rural development. Finally, in this research paper, as a result found that the social capital mainly contributed a vast hidden portion in rural development projects. The prevailing characteristics of poverty and deficient diversity in social capital were taken in to account as major factors in rural development. As a useful hidden resource it facilitated social interaction and cooperation. Also it helped to improve community livelihood and capacity building. A significant finding was that social capital produce supreme outcome if it is used in line with the local conditions of given society. In this paper the findings suggests for policy makers to use social capital as a resource in order to achieve sustainable development.

Keywords: *Social Capital, Rural Development, livelihood, community Development*