



University of Mohaghegh Ardabili

Journal of Geography and Spatial Justice

Received:2018/01/07

accepted:2018/03/07



Investigating the role of social security in the social capital of Iranian rural citizens with the mediating effect of psychological security (Case study: heads of rural households in Hashtrood County)

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ABSTRACT

No emotion would exist without social relation and interaction. In social sciences, the feeling of freedom to perform social interactions and activities is known as the sense of social security. Since this sense originates from people's experiences and interpretations, correct and incorrect experience and interpretation of social conditions may give people a true or false sense of security. Regardless of its accuracy, people's perception of their own social environment or that of others may induce a feeling of insecurity. Another important multidisciplinary concept of particular interest to humanities scholars is the notion of social capital. This concept contributes to the social and economic analysis of rural developments by explaining the role played in this regard by local resources available to rural settlements such as human relationships, networks, and institutions in social structures. The present study aimed to investigate the role of social security in the social capital and the mediating role that psychological security of citizens may play in this regard in rural areas of Hashtrood County, Iran. The study was applied in its objective and a descriptive survey in its methodology. From the population, which consisted of rural households residing in Hashtrood County, a sample of 440 rural households was formed through stratified random sampling. The sample size was calculated using Cochran's formula. The research instrument was a standard questionnaire, the validity of which was confirmed in advance by content validity analysis and Cronbach's alpha method. Research hypotheses were tested using structural equation modeling with the help of Amos. The results showed, at 95% confidence level, that social security has a significant positive impact on social capital and psychological security of rural citizens. It was also found that the psychological security of these citizens mediates the impact of social security on social capital.

Keywords: social security, social capital, psychological security, rural, Hashtrood County

INTRODUCTION

By the end of modernity and arrival of postmodern era, the concept of development underwent an evolution that further expanded the already vast array of concepts related to this issue. According to the new definition, real development is not a unidimensional issue but instead requires consistent progress in several dimensions. One of the concepts

formed and developed during this era is the notion of social capital (Afrakhte et al., 2014: 28). The current social systems theories regard social capital as a basic input for growth and development. This definition covers different aspects, including rural and urban socioeconomic development and management improvement in different fields at both micro and

macro levels. One of the prerequisites for the comprehensive growth and development of the society is the growth of social coherence, social participation, and person-society-state trust (Rostamelizadeh and Firoozabadi, 2011: 7). Almost all countries have experienced periods of instability, chaos, crisis, and war during their history. Many ethnic, racial and religious groups that have lived together in the tumultuous political and social structures of the past now face the challenge of achieving and maintaining social security. In recent decades, the issue of social security has been a topic of interest to scientific and research communities, partly because of its inherent importance, but more importantly because of catalyzing or adverse role that the sense of social security can play in the development of communities (Hosseini, 2007, 55). Social security is a state in which a particular group of hazards are addressed or the involved risks are minimized (Giddens, 2008, 13). One of the primary factors that promote social security and thus social wellbeing, peace, and desirability is social capital. Social capital is a component of civil society that is derived from the everyday engagement of people, and is the source from which social connections and networks are formed based on the principles of trust, cooperation, and rules of social interaction. The importance of social capital stems partly from its involvement with the sense of security in society and especially the psychological security of citizens (Lindstrom et al., 2003, 1116). In recent years, a growing number of studies have emphasized the importance of social capital for achieving rural development because of the essential role played by the components of social capital like social cohesion, social participation, and most importantly mutual trust (between individuals and state) in the development of rural communities. When speaking about economic problems, it is very common to attribute the issues to the lack of physical capital, and overlook the association of social capital with the problems. This is while social capital is very important, perhaps more than any other capital, for dealing with situations such

as “stagflation”, which require “trust building”, as well as many other unresolved social issues that may obstruct the path to development (Seidayi et al., 2009: 190). *In this regard, one cannot ignore the association of the level of activity, participation, and trust of rural citizens with the economic and social development process and the exploitation of social capital. In today’s world, one capital cannot be exploited optimally without the others, thus, the issue of social capital is widely regarded as a key prerequisite for development, and those managers who manage to generate and mobilize greater social capital in their relations with the society are considered more successful. The question that the present study seeks to answer is that, with the psychological security of citizens considered as a possibly mediating factor, what is the effect of social security on social capital? To answer this question, the study aims to determine the effect of social security on social capital in rural areas of Hashrood, with the possible impact of psychological security of rural citizens taken into account.*

Research background.

Although the advent of social security as a scientific concept dates back to the earliest period of World War II, the issue of social security has always been one of the main concerns of human societies and political systems (Zakeri, Afshani, and Asgari Nadoushan, 2012, 20). In a study by Radadi (2008) on the social capital and social security in Iran, he stated that improving social security requires close attention to social capital. He added that the accumulation of social capital over time facilitates crime prevention and that in the Iranian religious communities, strengthening the religious trust-building norms can effectively increase the social capital. Mir and Khalilzadeh (2015) investigated the role of social capital in the sense of security in the Lorestan province of Iran. In this study, social capital, which was examined in structural, cognitive, and relational dimensions, was found to affect all four dimensions of security. This study reported that social capital has a correlation with the

security in its economic (0.28), political (0.23), psychosocial (0.21), and legal (0.51) dimensions. A study conducted by Najibi Rabiee (2004) on the factors influencing the social security reported that 62% of all respondents felt moderately secure, but regardless of the type of capital, most respondents were feeling insecure in terms of their lives. This study reported that 35%, 56%, and 13% of the respondents had respectively low, moderate, and high sense of life security, while 40%, 47%, and 13% of the respondents had respectively low, moderate, and high sense of financial security. The statistical tests of this study showed that social capital has a significant correlation with the sense of psychological, financial and collective security. Different forms of capital and social class were also found to be related to the level of psychological security. The regression test conducted in this study showed that the combination of economic, social, educational and occupational capital variables could explain some of the changes in the sense of psychological security. In a study carried out by Jackson (2007), the respondents who had a more authoritative view about law and order and those who were concerned about long-term social deviations were more likely to perceive disorder in the environment. These respondents were also more likely to associate physical signs to the community problems, the social cohesion issues, and the deteriorating quality of social bonds and informal social control. Research on social capital has shown its impacts in several dimensions. For example, it has been shown that young people's access to social capital can reduce the social and behavioral problems. Based on this finding, making sure that young people learn social interaction, social skills and teamwork can reduce social vulnerabilities and risk factors and lead to improvement in academic achievement and wellbeing (Kreuter and Linz, 2002, 291). In a research by Turkomani (2006), he approached the issue of social capital from the religious perspective. This study argued that the cause of the decline of social capital in Iran is less related to economic or cultural factors and more rooted in the

state's organizational weakness and its poor relationship with social forces. The present research is the first to examine the relationship of social security with social capital in rural areas of the region, and is therefore different from previous works, which have been mostly focused on urban areas. The results will show that social security has a significant positive impact on social capital and psychological security of citizens at 95% confidence level. We will also show that psychological security of citizens plays a mediating role in the impact of social security on social capital; a role that has not been addressed in previous researches.

THEORY AND METHODOLOGY.

Theoretical foundation.

Social security.

Before defining social security, we first need to define the term "security". From a social and cultural standpoint, security can be viewed as a state of peace in which humans feel confident of the safety of their lives, property, dignity, identity, relations, thoughts, values, etc. in the present and future (Salehi and Naderi, 2011, 51). In other words, security can be defined as being free from the threat of forced events and actions, which in the case of individuals, translates into being free from fear of violation of legitimate rights and freedoms and from the threat and danger of death, illness, poverty, incidents, or generally anything that disrupts human peace (Jones, 1999, 12). The sense of inner peace, comfort, and freedom from threats can be realized only when the societal laws have been developed, based on collective bargain, public consent, and mutual approval of core social elements, into a social contract that prioritizes collective interests above individual interests (Lik and Morgan, 2002, 22). It is in such setting that one can speak of social security. In a general definition, social security can be viewed as a lack of fear of threat or danger to fundamental human values and legitimate rights and freedoms (Afshar, 2006, 36). Social security is a psychological-social state that is not granted to or imposed on people, but is

rather generated and undermined by the people themselves based on their needs, interests, aspirations, and abilities (Bayat, 2009, 33). In another definition, social security involves the domains of privacy that are somehow related to other people in society and to the political system and government. These domains can be language, race, ethnicity, credibility, social role, work, income, welfare, political participation, freedom, belief, etc. In other words, because of the diversity of the environment, different people have different views about the security and their definition of the sense of security may depend on economic system, healthcare system, individual experiences of insecurity, and their fear of insecurity, which may be greater than the actual levels of insecurity and crime in their society (Lindstrom, 2008, 2). In the present paper, social security is studied using the model of Keyes & Shapiro (2004). According to this model, social security has five dimensions: social integration, social contribution, social acceptance, social coherence, and social actualization. The importance of this model stems from its ability to address all dimensions of social security in terms of individual aspects, social challenges, development, and social integration (Samaram, 2009, 24). Brief descriptions of the dimensions of social security are provided below. Social integration refers to an individual's evaluation of the quality of his relationships in society and social groups. Healthy people normally consider themselves a part of the society. Accordingly, social integration is the state in which people feel that they share commonalities with others, and belong to social groups and communities. This concept is the opposite of Seeman's definition of social alienation and isolation and Marx's definition of class consciousness (Keyes & Shapiro, 2004, 30). Social contribution represents an individual's assessment of his social value. People who enjoy a

high sense of social contribution believe that they are an important member of the community and have something valuable to offer to others. The social contribution reflects how and to what extent people feel that what they are doing is valuable to the society and is considered to be a social aid. (Keyes & Shapiro, 2004, 30). Social acceptance refers to a person's interpretation of the community and the characteristics of others. People with a high sense of social acceptance see the community as a group of different people, accept others with all of their positive and negative aspects, and are likely to show faith in general kindness and integrity of individuals (Keyes & Shapiro, 2004, 31). The next dimension of social security is social coherence. Social coherence is the belief in the principle that the problems of society are rational, understandable, and predictable. People who enjoy a high sense of social coherence are interested in the type of world they live in and about what is happening, and feel capable of understanding the events that occur around them (Keyes & Shapiro, 2004, 31). The last dimension of social security is social actualization, which means having a positive view of the society's potentials and how it is evolving. People with a high sense of social actualization are hopeful about the future of their community and believe that they themselves, as well as other people, have some potential for social growth, and the world can be a better place for them and others (Keyes and Shapiro, 2004, 31).

Social security.

Because of its importance, social security has always been a topic of interest to scholars and academics. However, there has never been an integrated and unified view of social security (Amiri and Naderi, 2011, 45). Table 1 presents a list of models and views provided in regard to social security.

Table 1: models and views in regard to social security

No.	Scholar	View	Source
1	Anthony Giddens	Social security is a state in which a particular group of hazards are addressed or the involved risks are minimized. Social security depends on the balance of trust and risk.	(Giddens, 1998)
2	Marx	Marx offers a model of conflict for social security. In this model, economic organizations, and particularly ownership and production tools, constitute the entire structure of society and social security. The major feature of Marx's perspective is his view toward the mechanisms in the society that make the conflict inevitable and violent, and their reflections in the economic foundations of society.	(Buzan, 1999)
3	Émile Durkheim	Emile Durkheim argues that society needs to discipline and oversee the actions of individuals and to limit their insatiable desires and aspirations through social pressure.	(Tanhayi, 1995)
5	Auguste Comte	He believes that society and social security cannot be achieved unless members of the society have the same beliefs. Thus, as with any natural material phenomenon, society is subject to absolute laws.	(Navidnia, 2006)
	Parsons	Parsons provides a model of social relationships between actors and patterns of social exchanges. He believes that social security depends largely on social institutions such as police force.	(Lopez & Scott, 2006)

Social capital

Social capital is an interdisciplinary concept that can be defined in several different ways (Walters, 2002, 379). The definition of social capital is founded on the fact that family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances are important assets that can be relied upon in times of crisis. Hence, the communities that enjoy such social bonds are less vulnerable, stronger in dealing with poverty and social problems, and better at taking advantage of new opportunities, whereas the communities that lack these bonds suffer from the opposite effects (Potmon, 2006, 5). Although the term social capital was first used by Pierre Bourdieu in the field of economics, the first serious scientific theories of social capital were introduced by Coleman and Putnam, who are widely regarded as the main theorists and the founders of new methods of study in this field (Arnil, 2006, 33). In general, social capital is an interdisciplinary concept that facilitates the analysis of human relationships. Social capital is one of the concepts that attracted the attention of social scientists following the failure of the bureaucratic order to organize social affairs (Pierre Bourdieu, 2006, 7). Social capital can be considered as the result of mutual trust, social interaction, social groups, sense of perception of the future, and group work in a social

system (Maylines, 2007, 67). Robert Putnam defines collective and group identity, sense of common social capital as “features of social life -networks, norms, and trust- that enable participants to act together more effectively to pursue shared objectives” (Putnam, 2005, 9). *The present study uses the model proposed by Nahapiet and Ghoshal (1998) for social capital.* In this model, social capital has three dimensions: structural dimension, relational dimension and cognitive dimension (Nahapiet and Ghoshal, 1998, 245). The structural dimension of this model involves the structural bonds, activities, and the way in which group work is organized in a society. The relational dimension refers to the interactions and relationships of members within and without the group and involves concepts such as trust and mutual relation. The last dimension of social capital in this model is the cognitive dimension, which involves participation, trust, attitudes, and commitments in the group that revolve around the cognition achieved by the common language, which provide the members with a common insight into their values and objectives (Nahapiet and Ghoshal, 1998, 245). A summary of definitions of social capital is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Definitions of social capital

<i>No.</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
1	Social capital is an analytical tool for social research.	(Coleman, 1988)
2	Social capital is the bilateral relations, interactions and networks that emerge among human groups, and the level of trust that exists between a particular group and society as a result of commitments and norms that are consistent with social structure.	(Wall, 1998)
3	Social capital is a set of norms in the social system that promotes the level of cooperation between members and reduces the cost of communications and exchanges.	(Fukuyama, 1999)
4	Social capital refers to the institutions, relationships, and norms that shape the quality and quantity of society's social interactions.	(World Bank, 1998)

Psychological security of citizens

The sense of psychological security is one of the most prominent personality traits of creative and talented individuals, and improving this security is an effective way to encourage creativity and innovation and enhance mental peace, and personal, family, professional, social, and economic security (Afrooz, 2006, 22). *Psychological security is a potent internal force that many scholars regard as a requirement for the well-being of society* (Mortazavi et al., 2011, 145). According to Fernandez et al. (2002), psychological security provides people with a sense of freedom to express themselves in a non-hostile environment without the fear of being reprimanded. Inspired by the works of Argeris, Edmondson defines psychological security as the shared belief among members of the community that they are safe from possible threats (Coombe, 2010, 44). Edmondson (1999) believes that psychological security is a sense of trust between the team members that originates from the mutual respect and trust among members and allows them to express

their opinions comfortably without the fear of reprisal or threat. Ross and Jones (2008) argue that psychological security of community members fosters creativity and promotes active participation (Edmondson, 1999, 353). Psychological security has also been defined as a positive mental state, in which a person feels courageous and daring. According to this definition, psychological security enables citizens to fulfill their higher needs by motivating them to participate and improve their skills, whereas the risk of psychological insecurity pushes the person to pursue low-level needs (Maslow, 1996, 11). In the present study, psychological security of citizens is studied using the Iranian Feeling of Security Scale (IFSS) developed by Delavar et al. (2004) specifically for Iran. In this model, security has four dimensions: economic security, life security, social security, and moral security (Delavar et al., 2004, 24). The descriptions of these dimensions are provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Dimensions of IFSS (Delavar et al., 2004)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Dimension</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Economic security	Economic security is a perceptual-economic state in which person feels safe economically.
2	Life security	Life security is a state in which person feels protected from potential dangers and threats to his life.
3	Social security	Social security refers to the domains of privacy that somehow related to other people in the community or the political system and government.
4	Moral security	Moral security is a psychological-emotional state in which person feels that community is morally safe for his family.

Methodology

This research is applied in purpose, as the results can help clarify the impact of social security on the social capital of citizens of the studied villages with the psychological security taken into account, but it is a descriptive survey in terms of methodology. The required data were collected using a standard questionnaire developed based on the model of Keyes & Shapiro (2004) for social security, the model of

Edmondson (1999) for psychological security of citizens, and the model of Onyx and Bullen (2000) as cited in Bagheri Yazdi (2011) for social capital. The validity of the questionnaire was confirmed through content validation and its reliability and internal consistency were confirmed by SPSS using Cronbach's alpha. Table 4 shows the reliability of the components of the research questionnaire.

Table 4: Reliability of research variables

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Cronbach's alpha</i>
Social security	0.81
Social capital	0.77
Psychosocial security of citizens	0.79

The population of interest was the citizens of 197 villages in 7 rural districts of Hashtrud County, home to 45118 people in 11452 households. Of this population, 135 villages that had more than 20 households, which had an overall population of 43695 people in 9745 households, were selected as the sample (all statistics are according to 2016 consensus). The sample was formed using the simple random sampling method. For this purpose, the selected villages were divided into three groups based on the number of households: (I) 74 villages with 20-50 households, (II) 39 villages with 51-100 households, and (III) 22 villages with more than 100 households. We then

randomly selected 20% of villages in each group, i.e. 15 villages from the first group, 8 villages from the second group, and 4 villages from the third group. In total, 27 villages with 1320 households were selected. Using the Cochran's formula, the sample size suitable for 1320 rural households was calculated to 298 (this number was obtained for 95% confidence level). This was the minimum number of questionnaires that needed to be administered, but to increase the accuracy of calculations and make sure that at least 15 questionnaires would be collected in each village, the total number of questionnaires was increased to 440.

Table 5: Villages in the sample

Villages with 20-50 households		Villages with 51-100 households		Villages with more than 100 households	
Villages selected from the 7 studied rural districts	Number of households	Villages selected from the 7 studied rural districts	Number of households	Villages selected from the 7 studied rural districts	Number of households
Kamajari	36	Beig blaghi	66	Bayghra rud	106
Aghblagh (hassan kandi)	25	Qara saqqal	75	Kalle gerd	101
Ayaz	22	Aghche kandi	61	Lamshan	107
Barredeh	25	Sufilar	54	Saadatlu	120
Bayat	35	Bashmaq	57		

Dehlan	15	Qara div	53		
Talesh kandi	24	Talam khan	52		
Doshar	28	Darin su	62		
Idelu khan	24				
Sheikh ol-Islam	23				
Yly dregh sofla	25				
Ganjabad olia	23				
Ghatanlu	27				
Asayesh	32				
Yanblaghi olia	29				
Total	393		480		434
The total number of households in the selected villages	<i>1320 households</i>				
Final sample	<i>440 heads of households</i>				

Table 6: Villages in the sample by rural district

Rural district	Selected village	Village terrain category	Total number of households	Number of selected households
Saluk	Bayghra rud	Mountain	106	17
	Beig blaghi	Foothill	66	19
	Kamajari	Plain	36	20
Qaranqu	Lamshan	Plain	107	17
	Saadatlu	Foothill	120	19
	Aghche kandi	Foothill	61	17
	Sufilar	Mountain	54	15
	Ayaz	Mountain	22	15
	Barredeh	Foothill	25	15
	Bayat	Mountain	35	19
Aliabad	Kalle gerd	Foothill	101	16
	Qara saqqal	Foothill	75	21
	Aghblagh (hassan kandi)	Foothill	25	15
Kuhsar	Bashmaq	Mountain	57	16
	Dehlan	Mountain	28	15
Northeast Charoimagh	Talesh kandi	Mountain	24	15
Almalu	Qara div	Foothill	53	15
	Doshar	Mountain	28	15
	Idelu khan	Foothill	24	15
	Sheikh ol-Islam	Foothill	23	15
Nazarkahrizi	Talam khan	Mountain	52	15
	Darin su	Mountain	62	17
	Yly dregh sofla	Mountain	25	15
	Ganjabad olia	Mountain	23	15
	Ghatanlu	Mountain	27	15
	Asayesh	Mountain	32	16

Rural district	Selected village	Village terrain category	Total number of households	Number of selected households
	Yanblaghi olia	Mountain	29	16
Total	27	-	1320	440

An overview of the indicators used for the measurement of observed research variables is provided in Table 7.

Table 7: Indicators used for the measurement of observed research variables

Latent variable	Observed variable	Measurement Indicators	Source
Social security	Social integration	Interpersonal relationships, social coexistence, social belonging, commonalities	Keyes & Shapiro (2004)
	Social contribution	Assessment of one's worth for society, social contribution, feeling valuable for other people	
	Social acceptance	Individual interpretation of society, sociability, trust and confidence in people	
	Social coherence	Seeing social issues as rational and understandable, interest in society, proper comprehension of society	
	Social actualization	Belief in social evolution and growth in the potential capabilities of society, seeing social growth as positive	
Social capital	Structural	Structural bonds of society, social activities, social organization	Nahapiet & Ghoshal (1998)
	Relational	People's relationships in society, social interactions, manner of proper relationship	
	Cognitive	Participation in society, trust and commitment, common vision and goals of individuals	
Psychological security of citizens	Economic security	Order in the economic components, healthy market, fight against economic corruption	Delavar et al. (2004)
	Life security	Potential of life-threatening dangers, lack of threat to life, lack of fear in society	
	Social security	Institutionalized sense of community, national-level justice, absence of violence	
	Moral security	Absence of moral threat, respect for privacy, morally safe and serene condition	

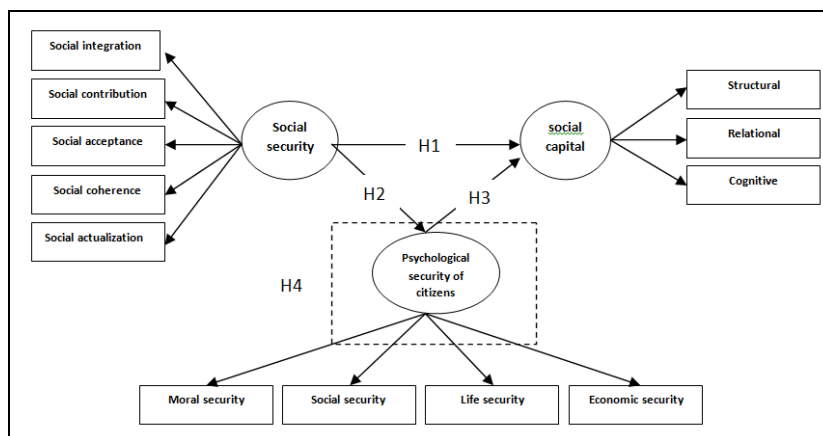
To clarify the relationship between research variables, the conceptual model of research is portrayed in Figure 1. This conceptual model was developed by the use of several models. Social security was studied using the Keyes and Shapiro (2004) model, which as mentioned, consists of five dimensions: social integration, social contribution, social acceptance, social coherence, and

social actualization. Social capital was studied using the model of Nahapiet and Ghoshal (1998), according to which social capital has three dimensions: structural dimension, relational dimension, and cognitive dimension (Nahapiet and Ghosal, 1998). Lastly, psychological security of citizens was studied using the Iranian Feeling of Security Scale (IFSS) developed by

Delavar et al. (2004), which consists of four dimensions: economic security, life security, social

security, and moral security (Delaware et al., 2004).

Figure 1. Conceptual model of the research



According to the conceptual model of research, the hypotheses of research are:

1. Social security has a significant positive impact on social capital.
2. Social security has a significant positive impact on the psychological security of citizens.
3. Psychological security of citizens has a significant positive impact on social capital.
4. Psychological security of citizens mediates the impact of social security on social capital.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive results

To obtain the descriptive results, we first analyzed the demographic characteristics and conducted the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test of sampling adequacy. Examination of data showed that all respondents (heads of household) were male. It was observed that 30% of respondents (141 people) were younger than 30 years, 39% of respondents (155 people) were between 31 and 40 years old, and 31% of respondents (144 people) were 41 years of age or older. KMO was found to be higher than 0.7, meaning that sample was desirable for factor analysis. Structural equation modeling (SEM) and confirmatory factor analysis were used to analyze questionnaire data and test the research hypotheses. In SEM, research variables were divided

into two groups, latent and observed. A latent variable is a variable that is not observable and must be derived from multiple observed variables. The latent variables of this study were social security, social capital and psychological security of citizens. In line with the model of Keyes and Shapiro (2004), the observed variables related to social security were assumed to be social integration, social contribution, social acceptance, social coherence, and social actualization. In line with the model of Nahapiet and Ghoshal (1998), structural, relational and cognitive dimensions were considered as the observed variable of social capital. Finally, according to the IFSS model, the obvious variables of the psychological security of citizens were assumed to be economic security, life security, social security, and moral security (Delavar et al., 2004). To determine the degree to which observed variables measure the latent variables, first, all observed variables related to each latent variable were tested separately. The fit indices of measurement models (confirmatory factor analysis) were evaluated using the software Amos18. For all latent variables, the fit indices obtained for the models were at a desirable level, indicating that observed variables can indeed measure the latent variables properly. The results of the confirmatory factor analysis (Table 8) and the partial index P were tested to determine whether the factor

loadings of questions are acceptable. This examination showed that for all questions, factor loading was higher than 0.05 and P value was less than 0.05, which led to

the conclusion that the questions properly measure the observed variables.

Table 8: Results of confirmatory factor analysis with partial index P for each question

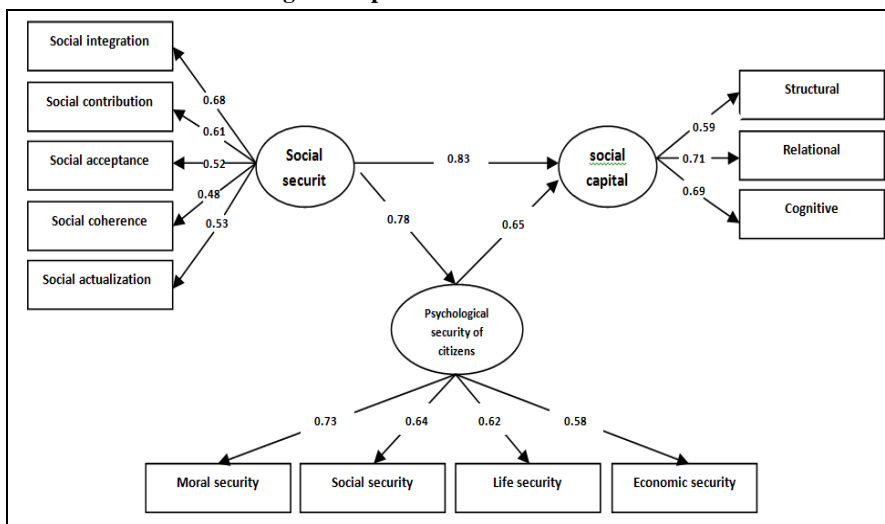
Component	Question	Confirmatory factor loading	P	Component	Question	Confirmatory factor loading	P
Social integration	Q1	0.71	0.01	Relational dimension	Q26	0.71	0.02
	Q2	0.70	0.000		Q27	0.72	0.005
	Q3	0.68	0.034		Q28	0.63	0.002
	Q4	0.071	0.000		Q29	0.73	0.034
Social contribution	Q5	0.63	0.004	Cognitive dimension	Q30	0.81	0.000
	Q6	0.64	0.012		Q31	0.68	0.005
	Q7	0.70	0.005		Q32	0.77	0.007
social acceptance	Q8	0.72	0.002	Economic security	Q33	0.73	0.017
	Q9	0.51	0.010		Q34	0.84	0.000
	Q10	0.84	0.000		Q35	0.76	0.034
Social coherence	Q11	0.72	0.004	Life security	Q36	0.75	0.006
	Q12	0.75	0.002		Q37	0.74	0.004
	Q13	0.81	0.000		Q38	0.72	0.030
	Q14	0.63	0.034		Q39	0.79	0.000
	Q15	0.71	0.006		Q40	0.57	0.006
Social actualization	Q16	0.71	0.005	Social security	Q41	0.64	0.005
	Q17	0.64	0.009		Q42	0.73	0.009
	Q18	0.73	0.003		Q43	0.55	0.006
	Q19	0.66	0.000		Q44	0.73	0.000
	Q20	0.51	0.002		Q45	0.68	0.003
Structural dimension	Q21	0.69	0.002	Moral security	Q46	0.82	0.000
	Q22	0.60	0.009		Q47	0.75	0.003
	Q23	0.62	0.012		Q48	0.72	0.004
	Q24	0.73	0.006		Q49	0.79	0.002
	Q25	0.51	0.015				

Test of research hypotheses

After verifying and validating the model, the significance of hypotheses was tested using two partial coefficients: critical ratio (CR) and P. To achieve a significance level of 0.05, CR should be greater than 1.96 (lower values represent insignificance). The P

values of less than 0.05 signify the significant difference of the calculated regression weights from zero at 0.95 level. Research hypotheses were tested using structural equations and Amos18. The output of this software is presented in Figure 2.

Fig. 2. Output of the AMOS software



The above model was fitted using the same software. The obtained fit indices are listed in Table 9.

Table 9: fit indices obtained for the conceptual model

RMSE	NFI	GFI	P	CIMN/ DF	CIMN	DF
0.003	0.90	0.91	0.002	3.61	149.68	85

As indicated in the table above, the model enjoys a very good fitness. Table 10 shows the results of the test of hypotheses after this model analysis.

Table 10: Regression coefficient and partial indices of hypotheses

Hypothesis	Regression coefficient	CR	P	Verdict
Social security has a significant positive impact on social capital.	0.83	2.88	0.000	Confirmed
Social security has a significant positive impact on the psychological security of citizens.	0.78	2.65	0.005	Confirmed
Psychological security of citizens has a significant positive impact on social capital.	0.65	2.57	0.003	Confirmed
Psychological security of citizens mediates the impact of social security on social capital	0.58	-	-	Confirmed

As indicated in Table 10, all research hypotheses were confirmed at 95% confidence level (for all hypotheses, CR was greater than 1.96 and P value was lower than 0.05). According to the results of Table 10, it can be claimed, at 95% confidence level, that social security has a significant positive impact on social capital and psychological security of citizens. Moreover, these results indicate that the psychological security of

citizens acts as a mediating variable for the impact of social security on social capital.

CONCLUSION.

Without social relation and interaction, there would not be any emotion. According to Turner and Stace, it is rather apparent that feelings are the glue that bonds people to each other. For People to engage in social

activities all day and interact with others inside and outside home and in different social settings, they should enjoy a sense of peace and freedom to do so. In social science, this feeling of peace that facilitates social activities and interactions is known as the sense of social security. Social changes in the past can be compared in neither speed nor scope with those in the current era. In addition to affecting general experience, these changes have engaged the minds of many thinkers, and particularly the scholars of humanities and social sciences, who have provided different definitions for this concept, such as “Postmodern Condition” (Lyotard, 2002), “Age of Anxiety” (Baumer, 2006), and “Risk Culture” (Giddens 2001). In short, these terms refer to a “state of uncertainty” in modern life conditions (Althaus, 2005), which are in contrast with the small communities of the past, where although people were not truly secure, they felt a sense of security. The sense of social security is of great importance for Iranian society, which is burdened with many global and national challenges while still transitioning into its modern condition. This importance has not gone unnoticed by Iranian scholars and researchers, who have surveyed the sense of security in various parts of the country, and found a decline in this sense over the years (e.g. Rabbani Khorasgani and Ghasemi, 2002; Alikhah and Najibi Rabiee, 2005; Keramati, 2006). While the traditional view was that development of economic, physical, and human resources play the major role in the development of a society, recent theories put more emphasis on social capital rather than physical and economic capital based the argument that without social capital, other capitals cannot be exploited properly. The present study aimed to investigate the impact of social security on social capital and the mediating role that psychological security of citizens may play in this regard in rural areas of Hashtrud County. Research findings showed that, for all latent variables, fit indices obtained for confirmatory factor analysis models were of satisfactory quality, indicating that measurement indicators (observed variables) can

measure latent variables properly. The results also showed, at 95% confidence level, that social security has a significant positive impact on both social capital and psychological security of rural citizens. It was also found that the psychological security of rural citizens mediates the impact of social security on social capital. These findings are consistent with the results reported by Zakeri, Afzani and Askari Nodoushan (2011) and Feghhi, Farahmand, and Zanjani (2013) for Iranian populations and by Coombe (2010) for other countries.

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