

Influences Affecting Social Capital and Public Trust with a Prominence on the Policies of the Guardians of Art and Culture in Current Iranian Society.

Abstract

Public trust and social capital are considered to be the most imperative elements of social order; therefore, if mistrust prevails or the level of trust is low in social interactions among the members of a society, stable relations between the members of the social order are less likely to be established. Despite the fact that governments play a fundamental role in strengthening or weakening public trust and social capital, numerous searches indicate that this area has not been completely explored by domestic thinkers. For this reason, this research seeks to answer this question by examining the factors affecting social capital and public trust and by emphasizing the policies of culture and art in the years ۱۳۹۲ to ۱۳۹۷ in Iran (Rouhani administration). This investigation was completed by applying the survey method and meta-analysis tool; The meta-analysis tool is the main tool for summarizing past research, particularly when the sample size in a study is so small that no reliable conclusions can be reached. The findings of the research indicate that the performance of the government and their cultural and artistic policies have instigated the social capital to decrease in three levels: micro, medium and macro.

Research aims:

۱. Explanation of the factors affecting social capital and public trust in the Islamic Republic of Iran (case study of the Rouhani administration).
۲. Investigating cultural and artistic policies on social capital and public trust.

Research questions:

١. Which components have influenced the creation of public trust and social capital in the Islamic Republic of Iran?

٢. What role have cultural and artistic policies in the Islamic Republic of Iran played on social capital and public trust?

Keywords: Social capital, public trust, Islamic Republic of Iran, Rouhani administration, cultural and artistic policies.

Introduction

The importance of social capital and public trust for a social system can be enlightened when compared to the rowers of a boat. If the oarsmen know that the only way to be saved from sinking is to move towards their goal, the captain, with wisdom and prudent guidance, will guide them to row in harmony at the same time and same direction, nevertheless, if each row for themselves and without coordination, power is wasted and the ship will likely capsize and sink. Good governance can be considered the most important component for strengthening social capital and public trust; Comparable to other concepts, good governance can be defined in terms of its characteristics or in process. In other words, in the definition based on the characteristics, the state of good governance is defined that is authority with features such as participation, transparency, accountability, effectiveness, respect for equality, promoting the rule of law and determining economic, political and social priorities based on a broader consensus in which the voice of the weakest and most vulnerable people in making decisions and allocating resources. Rouhani took over the executive power of the country in ٢٠١٣ under difficult conditions, which made it more problematic to meet the demands of the people in the region and worldwide. The Rouhani administration started its tenure with the effective support of all reformist currents and forces in the country. The huge capital of the reformists was behind his government. Due to not using the great socio-political capacity of the Iranian people, especially those who considered voting for Rouhani as a vote for change, improvement, progress and development, the conditions became even more difficult. Rouhani's government was expected to free itself from the closed circles and currents of the past and provide the basis for the widespread participation of supporters of transformation in the executive institutions. But then again, the government could not escape the closed circles and pave

the way for young people and creative and fresh forces in the field of economy and politics by sending off “managers-for-life”. This administration did not properly use the potentiality of human power in the society. In this context, it is possible to point out the non-use of scientific and research institutions in various fields. Now the question arises, what are the factors influencing social capital and public trust in the Rouhani administration? Consequently, the present exploration intends to scrutinize this matter.

No independent research has been complied regarding the subject of the current paper. Published material with focuses close to the subject under study can be mentioned as the following: Taheri Akerdi (۲۰۱۳), in his thesis titled "The Role of Electronic Government in Realizing Good Governance in Iran" believes that humans have always sought to use the best method to communicate with others; based on this, popular governments have constantly sought to find a way to bring stability and constancy by establishing proper interaction with their citizens. Sehganah (۲۰۱۴), in evaluating the state of good governance in Iran's administrative system from the perspective of professionals and believes that the most important factor in the development of any country is its administrative system and experts in this field have specialized opinions regarding how it is carried out; in his research by using the model presented in the World Bank, it examines the status of good governance indicators in Iran's administrative system from the perspective of experts. In order to obtain the opinions of the experts of the administrative system, non-probability snowball sampling method was used, and in this way, the opinions of ۷۰ experts were collected using a researcher-made questionnaire. The results of his data processing show that the used model was a strong theoretical model for evaluating the governance status through the investigated indicators. The outcomes of his investigation designate that the age difference and level of education of the studied experts had no effect on their view of good governance and its indicators in Iran's administrative system; nevertheless, there is a difference of opinion between the average opinions of the senior experts and the basic managers and senior managers regarding the index of political stability and the absence of terrorism. Alilou (۲۰۱۵) in her thesis titled "Requirements for the realization of the idea of good governance in Iran's legislative system in the light of the monitoring and balance system", believes that the concept of good governance is one of the concepts that has received a lot of attention in the last few decades with many researches carried out in this regard. According to her, this concept has been introduced in the form of several indicators which briefly means creating a rule based on law, security and trust among the members

of a society; thus, among such indicators, we can mention the rule of law, transparency, responsibility and accountability, flexibility and participation. Shukohfar (۲۰۱۷), by studying the role of operational budgeting in the promotion of good governance (the case study of the United States of America and Iran) declared that the two concepts of budgeting and governance were formed in a historical context during mutual communication with each other and reached their current position and the transition from different stages of this historical path has been associated with different ups and downs for different societies. He again states that in this way, governance in number of societies has reached its current position, for instance, good governance and budgeting has reached the stage of performance-based budgeting.

Conclusion

Public trust and social capital are considered to be the most important elements of social order; Therefore, if mistrust prevails or the level of trust is low in social interactions among the members of a society, stable relations between the members of the society are less likely to be established. In the meantime, trust in the government is particularly significant for political development and in general for comprehensive and sustainable development and its distortion can bring heavy losses and costs to the administrative system and, on a larger scale, to the country's political system. Reduction of public trust and erosion of citizens' social capital towards the government and political institutions are one of the calamities in today's world; therefore, research in this field will be useful and informative for statesmen and politicians. Despite the importance of the factors affecting social capital and public trust in the Islamic Republic of Iran, no research has been conducted in this field. Our research is the first investigation that aims to explore the factors affecting social capital and public trust in the Rouhani administration. In order to achieve this goal, due to the history of the concept of social capital and the newness of this concept in Iran, as well as the lack of history of national surveys, the escape analysis tool has been used. As the observations show and it was clearly mentioned in the survey above, social capital and public trust have decreased drastically in the period of ۱۹۹۳ to ۱۹۹۷ at three levels: micro, medium and macro. Nonetheless, the question arises that did this occur by itself and naturally? It seems that the decrease in the level of public trust and social capital depends on the attitude of executive management of the country or government. In other words, social capital and public trust are a dependent variable that relies on the governance of the Rouhani government as an independent

variable, and if the independent variable is decreased or increased, the dependent variable will also change.

The first essential element of good governance that has influenced social capital and public trust is increasing efficiency. In other words, the Rouhani government was not able to reduce the gap between the rightful demands of the people and government services, and it had become a "servant" government. The more Rouhani's government became incapable of fulfilling its responsibilities towards the people and providing for their needs, the more the loss of social capital and public trust increased. Another element in good governance is the reduction of corruption. The infiltration of corruption in various types of administrative, economic, cultural, etc. into the official structure of the government led to the reduction of social capital and public trust. The most significant instance of this, which caused a decrease in public trust and social capital, can be considered the scandal of salary slips in ۱۳۹۵. Transparency is one of the fundamental issues in the macro-discussions of democratic governments and public administration reform, which is considered as a fundamental move in improving policy-making in order to strengthen the government's relationship with citizens; as it is considered as one of the basic components of good governance today. If the people are informed about the decisions, they will realize their correctness and incorrectness and the result of this, the security of mind that the nation will incline towards the government and will take steps towards its continuation and strengthening. Social capital and public trust is a dependent variable and one of its independent variables is transparency. The same conflict between words and deeds in the performance of Rouhani's government shows that this government was more interested in secrecy than transparency. Undoubtedly, attentiveness towards the youth community, is one of the pillars of government efficiency that promotes social capital and public trust, nevertheless, it is also a double-edged sword and can weaken social capital through nepotism as this became apparent in Rouhani's government.

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