Impact of Sociological Factors on the Civic Engagement of University Students

Rahib Ali Jalalani
University of Sindh, Jamshoro

Mukesh Kumar Khatwani
Areas Study Far East and Southeast Asia, University of Sindh, Jamshoro

Ishrat Afshan Abbasi
Department of International Relations, University of Sindh, Jamshoro

The study aimed at assessing the impact of sociological factors i.e., family and friends' connections, neighbourhood connections and trust on civic engagement by applying quantitative research approach. The sample was collected from students of four general universities of Pakistan through a random sampling technique. Proposed integrated model was tested on a sample of 391 students. Research instrument consisted of 17 items; family and friends' connections 3 items, trust 3 items, neighbourhood connections 5 items, and civic engagement 6 items. The Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was applied to assess family and friends' connection, trust, and neighbourhood connection with civic engagement: Association of family's connections, friends' connections and trust were positive and significant with civic engagement, however, association between neighbourhood connections and civic engagement was not significant.
Keywords: neighbourhood connection, family and friends' connection, trust, civic engagement

Uncertainty and intensity of deviant behaviour among masses are the burning issues of the current time across the globe. Deviance ignites various social issues; including class difference, inequality, ignorance and many more. Such environment in any society provokes social injustice and makes society imbalanced. The intensity of such issues is witnessed more in developing societies as compared to the developed societies. In such kind of imbalanced society, youth population is mostly the most vulnerable. The transition of manic society to a right-based society depends on social and political activism as well as confidence in the democratic process. The civic participation makes citizens active and is also considered hallmark of democracy.

Researchers in the socialization domain point out that connection of youth in family and communities develop strong relations and provide channels to work out together. From the perspective of these researchers, encouragement of families and communities develops more new paths and channels for youth to add something to the development of a broader social order (Flanagan & Levine, 2010). The pre-socialization from basic institution such as family and positive behaviour of friends/neighbours provide space to the young generation to join civic activities. The socialization, like training youth for participation in social activities, helps in the process of development of community and society (Jencks & Mayer, 1990). By supporting this argument, Duke et al. (2009) described that family and community connectedness played a very important role in making children aware of and responsive towards civic participation. However; lack of integration among the members of community creates aloofness amongst neighbours. Consequently, less social cohesion takes place in the society. Thus, the lowest level of social cohesion may develop such attitude of masses that declines civic engagement of young generation. Addressing these consequences, a variety of factors have been measured with civic engagement in the previous studies, including civic values, filial self-efficacy, rational parent-child support, pro-social behaviour, voluntary association participation, psychological orientations, identity, volunteer engagement, political engagement, civic efficacy and social responsibilities (Alessandri et al., 2014; Barrett & Smith, 2014; Crocetti et al., 2012). Previous literature reveals that family connections, neighbourhood connections and trust have been measured with civic engagement individually (Duke, Skay, Pettingell, & Borowsky, 2009; Onyx & Bullen, 2000). In this study, authors have attempted to investigate above-mentioned sociological factors in combination with civic engagement. On the basis of primary aim, this study assesses families and friend's connections, neighbourhood connections and trust on civic engagement.

In the current social environment, individual's socialization towards the development of marginalized segment of society is a big challenge for development experts. In this connection, civic engagement plays a very important role in developing the attitude of masses towards performing the common good for social development of society. Informally, civic engagement is a process of socialization from generation to generation. Formally, it is related to civic education, which creates strong bond between individuals and state. Simultaneously, for the civic education, pro-civic curriculum is required for creating an ideal environment. In the domain of research journey, many researchers have measured civic engagement related social activities with different other variables (Besser, 2009; Chung & Probert, 2011a; Crocetti et al., 2012).

In the context of the United States of America, Chung and Probert (2011) examined civic engagement and political activism among the American and African youth. The results revealed that civic engagement had positive and significant relationship with political

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Dr. Mukesh Kumar Khatwani, Assistant Professor, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Email: mukesh.khatwani@usinth.edu.pk

activism. Another study in the similar domain was conducted by Crocetti et al. (2012) by using civic engagement related constructs. Result of study revealed a strong association between identity, civic efficacy and civic engagement. Similarly, in the context of health related behaviours among American adolescents, Duke et al. (2009) assessed the community connections and civic engagement. Study identified that community and family connections had significant effect on the civic engagement amongst American adolescents.

Another longitudinal study measured the relationships among pro-social behaviours, filial self-efficacy, relational parent-child support, civic values and civic engagement. The study explored the civic engagement by diverse trajectories of pro-social behaviours dynamic of family among Italian youth. The results highlighted that during the period of adolescence to adulthood positive behaviour of parents promotes pro-social behaviour among children to participate in civic related activities in the society. Furthermore, an adult's daily communication and parent's positive response may lead youth to engage in different social activities in the society. Bobek and Lerner (2009) using quantitative method measured the civic engagement amongst youth by using different variables like, participation in civic activities, performing civic duty, civic related skills, social connections with peer and neighbourhood social connections. Results pointed out that peer's communication is a very important variable, which leads youth to perform civic duty and become part of civic voice.

From the above literature, it is evident that various studies have been conducted to examine the youth civic engagement by applying different variables such as a community, small groups, congregations, social networks, religion, civic duty, identity, neighbor, peer, civic participation, adult, citizenship, political socialization, ethnic identity, and positive youth development (Bobek et al., 2009; Whitehead & Stroope, 2015). These studies have highlighted that political activism, volunteerism and responsibilities could be fostered by promoting activities related to civic engagement amongst youth. Higher degree of integration amongst youth with their parents and communities may lead to a greater civic involvement within society (Smetana & Metzger, 2005). Civic action of parents may lead as a role model for youth and provide opportunities to behave pro-socially and benefit others by helping and carrying (Spinrad et al., 2006). The influence of family and community towards civic engagement amongst members of community is highlighted in the above literature. However, critical analysis of reviewed literature suggests that examining association between friend connections, neighborhood connections, and trust towards civic engagement had been a leading gap in the past studies. Building on the identified research gap, this study aimed at assessing association of family and friends' connections, neighbourhood connections and trust with civic engagement. This is a first study in this domain, conducted on Pakistani educated youth.

Civic engagement is considered as a soul of democracy rather than just one of the key characteristics of democracy. It is argued that democracy provides an equal chance to every citizen to move and work freely in society. Civic action is a democratic way of exercising fundamental rights including right to freedom and right to expression in society. Active citizens in a democratic society involve themselves to take care of the less privileged and marginalized segments of society by doing civic action. It is important to know that having welfare mindset, primary socialization is a very important factor. In this context, Triandis (2015) pointed out that primary socialization promotes self-interest, space for the civic engagement and community ties. Interaction of members of local community with adults promotes civic engagement and develops a sense of motivation to work for social change in the society. Many researchers have used different variables for the measurement of civic engagement including parent-family connection, shared activities, school connection, neighbourhood connection, connection to other adult, peer connection, previous civic engagement, likelihood of future civic engagement, neighbourhood trust and reciprocity, social relationship with neighbourhood, neighbourhood attachment, local civic responsibility, competence for civic actions, global civic responsibility and civic behavior (Chung & Probert, 2011; Duke et al., 2009; Lenzi, Vieno, Pastore, & Santinello, 2013; Smetana & Metzger, 2005; Whitehead & Stroope, 2015).

In the above literature, researchers have rarely focused on the measurement of civic engagement collectively through family and friend connections, neighborhood connections and trust. Test of these sociological factors may develop powerful links socially and morally between the weaker segment of society and broader social order. On the basis of the identified literature gap, the authors have conceptualized that civic engagement can be predicted by the variables like family and friend connections, neighborhood connections and trust. On the basis of conceptualization, following conceptual model and hypotheses were developed to assess the association of sociological factors with civic engagement.
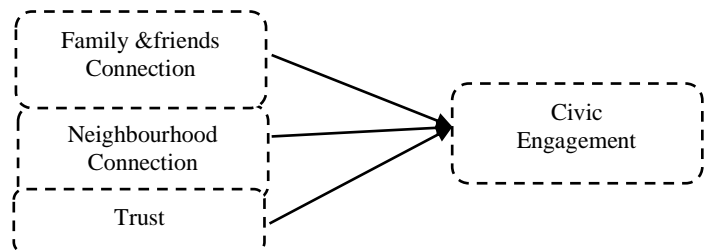
Family is a basic social institution and considered as a primary agency of socialization. In this context, the pre-socialization from family and positive behaviour of friends and neighbours provide space to a young generation to join civic activities. Family and community connectedness play a very important role in making children aware of and responsive to civic participation (Duke et al., 2009). The encouragement of family develops more paths for youth to work out for community as well as for society (Flanagan & Levine, 2010). Hence, on the basis of previous strong evidence, following hypothesis was developed.

H1. Family and friends connections have a significant impact on civic engagement

Individual's neighbourhood connections depend on how much longer he/ she has been living in community and has social engagement with community members. According to Garder (2011), social engagement within community creates space for individual to take initiative for interaction with neighbourhood. Therefore, interpersonal interaction is seen positively associated with social activities like civic engagement, mostly in the context of informal civic engagement (McClurg, 2003). In previous studies, it was also highlighted that informal civic engagement like; volunteering, social and political activism are major sources of casual social interaction and neighborhoods connections (Wiles & Jayasinha, 2013) and such casual social interaction provide opportunity for sharing issues of community. Martinson and Minker (2006) found that old friends and neighbours help in informal ways due to strong social bond and

connection which is frequently considered informal civic engagement. Therefore, summing up above-discussed literature following hypothesis was developed:

H2. Neighborhood connections have a significant impact on civic engagement.

Several studies can be seen in the existing literature in which association between trust and civic engagement has been assessed. Most of the studies revealed a positive association between trust and civic engagement (Delhey & Newton, 2003). As compared to formal civic engagement, the informal civic engagement was reported having significant association with trust in study conducted by Van Ingen and Bekkers (2015). It can easily be interpreted that trust is a very important ingredient for constructive human association (McClurg, 2003). Thus, it is scientifically proved that trust makes easy way in terms of cooperation in different social-dilemma environments (Brann & Foddy, 1987; Parks, Henager, & Scamahorn., 1996; Wrightsman, 1992). Taking trust as an important requirement for civic engagement, the following hypothesis was developed:

H3. Trust has a significant impact on civic engagement.

Method

Sample

The sample consisted of 391 university students (Male=280, Female=111) selected from four public sector universities. Three age categories were given in developed questionnaire such as 18-23 years, 24-29 years and above 29 years. 90.5 percent of respondents were in the age group 18-23 years, 9 percent were from 24- 29 years age group, while .5 percent were above 29 years old.

Instruments

The design of research instrument is a difficult task for researcher in quantitative research. The lengthy questionnaire, which takes more than one hour and offers participants a set of close quantitative categories, has more chances of error along with biasness (Schwarz, Hippler, Deutsch, & Strack, 1985). In terms of rating scale, it is still a big debate among researchers (Marsden & Wright, 2010) that which rating scale is favorable to gain close answer from respondents. Over the last sixty years, through the American National Election Survey, the citizen's political attitudes were measured by using 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 7-, and 101-point scales (Miller, & Miller, 1977). The catalogue of rating scales for a range of social psychological latent factors and political attitudes, developed by Robinson, Shaver, & Wrightsman, (1999), describes 37 using 2-point scales, 7 using 3-point scales, 10 using 4-point scales, 27 using 5-point scales, 6 using 6-point scales, 21 using 7-point scales, two using 9-point scales, and one using a 10-point scale. Thus, it is very much clear that there is no any particular standard for the number of points on rating scales. It depends on research questions and constructs used in the study. However, literature revealed that lengths of scales were more helpful for maximizing reliability and validity. Therefore, in terms of reliability and validity, originality of items and its scales cannot be ignored. In current study, adopted items were used with same scales without making any change in scales. Total 17 items were used to collect data from sample sites.

Civic engagement. Civic engagement's scales were adopted from the 4-study programmes, which were developed to measure social activities and positive youth development among youth across United States in 2002.The researcher used items refined by Bobek et al. (2009). It consists of 9 items ranging from (1= *once* to 5= *never*) and the reliability was reported .73 (Bobek et al., 2009) and for the reliability of items in the current study (see Table 1).

Neighbourhood connections. Items for neighbourhood connections construct were developed by Onyx and Bullen (2000) to assess informal related to interaction of people within the local area. It consists of 5 items (e.g., Can you get help from friends when you need it?). The 4-point response scale was used, ranging from (*1=No to 4= Not at all*). The composite score was calculated through PLS-SEM version 2.0 and for the reliability of items in the current study (see Table 1).

Family and friends connections. Items for family and friends connections were developed by Onyx and Bullen (2000), which reports degree of social capital among the people. The factor consists of 4 items with 4-point response scale ranging from (1=*No* to 4= *Not at all*) the items measure connection with family and friends (e.g., Over the weekend do you have lunch/dinner with other people outside your household?). Cronbach's alpha has been reported as .84 for items of construct (Onyx & Bullen, 2000) and for the reliability of items in the current study (see Table 1).

Trust. Most of the scholars agree that trust is a complex, difficult and hard task to measure. There are two types of approach to the trust measurement in social science. The first one is based on individuals' declarations and the other one depends on the real actions, hence there are two basic notions of trust in social science research, "behavioral trust and attitudinal trust". In the trust domain, majority of studies were conducted on freely available data from World values survey, General Society Survey and European Social survey. Such surveys hold questions on social and general trust. The items were adopted from previous study (Glanville, Paxton, & Wang, 2015)and widely available in trust domain literature in the context of social capital (Berg, Dickhaut, & McCabe, 1995; Knack & Keefer, 1997; Onyx & Bullen, 2000). It consists of 3 times with 5-point Likert scale, ranging from (1= *strongly disagree* to **5**=*strongly agree"*)and Cronbach alpha was reported as .77 (Glanville et al., 2015) and for the reliability of items in the current study (see Table 1).

Procedure

Data were collected from the faculty of social sciences and faculty of arts and humanities. Therefore, Deans of these above-mentioned faculties were approached and asked for permission to administer the questionnaires. The information sheet was given to participants and they were also informed about the purpose of the study and keeping the data confidential and anonymous. After seeking their consent questionnaires were administered.

Random sampling technique was used for data collection. Firstly, random numbers were generated on the basis of students who were present in their classes. On the basis of random numbers, questionnaires were distributed among the students in classes. During questionnaires distribution among students, their mobile phone numbers were also collected for follow-up purpose. The researcher visited every second day of week to collect questionnaires from research participants. Three months were fixed for data collection from mentioned universities from March 2018 to May 2018. The developed research questionnaires along with cover letter were distributed amongst the students of four public universities of

Pakistan; namely, University of Sindh, University of Punjab, University of Peshawar and University of Quetta. The basic reason behind selecting general universities (one from each province) was to ensure representation of educated youth from across Pakistan. Mostly, general universities have different quota system for admission to give representation to all areas of country. Therefore, it was appropriate to select general public universities to maximize chance of equal representation of educated youth across country. The 'G*power software' was employed to obtain appropriate representative sample size. Total 800 questionnaires were distributed amongst students, while 397 questionnaires were received back. Unfortunately, at the time of data collection, students were busy in midterm and semester examination, therefore, response rate was not good as expected. However, response rate was 48% and which is considered enough for multivariate analysis. Collected data was checked manually then screened through SPSS. During the data screening, four missing values and two outliers were identified. The amount of missing values and outliers was not so big and just contributed 1.51 % of total sample size, therefore, it was discarded from the dataset and final study was led by 391participants.

Analysis

The Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) approach was applied to measure the impact of independent variables on the dependent variable. For assessing multivariate analysis, PLS-SEM is a powerful approach and currently is popular in various disciplines of social sciences (Hair, Sarstedt, Christian, & Gudergan, 2018). The PLS-SEM approach is different from Covariance Based Structural Equation Modeling (CB-SEM) technique and has more capability to maximize explained variance of endogenous variable(Hair et al., 2018). In this situation, The PLS-SEM is the most appropriate approach to assess predictive capabilities of a complex and causal model. Therefore, PLS-SEM approach is more suitable as compared to CB-SEM in the circumstances in which theory is not fully developed(Chin, 1998; Sarstedt, Ringle, & Hair, 2017). In current study, the Smart PLS version 2.0 is used to test the developed hypotheses. Further, the sample size is 391 and is higher than minimum requirement of applying PLS analysis technique. Therefore, the PLS-SEM is data normal distribution free approach and non-parametric approach is suitable to measure a complex model(Chin, 1998). In this study, two approaches were used. In first step, reliability and validity tests were assessed by measuring outer-model. In second step, inner-model was measured to test the impact of independent variables on dependent variable(Hair et al., 2018).

Construct Reliability

In the deductive approach, construct reliability is required to review whether the given variables are adequately signified related construct. The construct reliability can be defined as a set of latent constructs of factor linked with their measurement. In other way, construct reliability means a degree in which a set of indicators are linked with dimension of the same latent factor. The Cronbach's alpha technique was employed to assess construct reliability because Cronbach's alpha is most appropriate statistical technique for assessing construct reliability (Sarstedt et al., 2017; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). The SPSS, V.21.0 was used to calculate reliability of items and overall reliability of four factors were found to be .82, which is above the minimum required value = .60 and .70 and

individual reliability of constructs can be seen in Table 1. However, Cronbach's alpha has some disadvantages too. In coefficient alpha, it is thought to be whole assessed constructs have equivalent reliability. In that situation, it is not appropriate to apply to infer unidimensionality (Anderson & Gerbing, 1988).

Due to some limitations of coefficient alpha, it was decided to apply another alternative measure like "Construct Composite reliability". Result pointed out that overall reliability of study's factors was greater than .70 that was suggested by researchers (Hair et al., 2018; Sarstedt et al., 2017). On the basis of current result, it was ensured that all constructs of factors were reliable for the current study.

Table 1
Construct Reliability (*N*= 391)

Constructs	Composite Reliability	Cranach's Alpha
Civic engagement	.96	.95
Family & Friends Connections	.90	.84
Neighbourhood Connections	.89	.84
Trust	.95	.91

The Convergent and Discriminant Validity

The convergent validity performs the model's capability to clarify the construct's variance. Items were discarded which had shared less than cutoff values. The statistics of the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) can present verification for this validity (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). The AVE values for latent variables civic engagement .90, neighborhood connections .87, family and friends' connections .79 and trust .93 are reported respectively. The calculated AVE value for all latent variables was greater than .50 suggested by Bagozzi and Yi (1988). Therefore, calculated results for measuring convergent validity confirm the appropriateness of above-mentioned four factors for further analysis in this study.

The discriminant validity indicates whether given constructs are linked or not with their factors (Campbell & Fiske, 1959; Hair, Black, Babin, & Anderson, 2006). The discriminant validity comes up when factors share more frequent variance with their individual factor than any variance that variable links with other factors (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). The Square Root of Average Variance Extracted is common approach to assess the discriminant validity. The assessment of current model showed that inter-construct correlation was less than square of AVE each factors. Table 2 shows square-root of AVE for factors under investigation in this study such as family and friends connections, neighbourhood connection, trust and civic engagement.

Table 2
Convergent and Discriminant Validity (*N*= 391)

Constructs	AVE	$\sqrt{AVE}$	CE	FFC	NC	TRT
CE	.82	.90	1.00			
FFC	.76	.87	.57	1.00		
NC	.62	.79	.32	.28	1.00	
TRT	.86	.93	.62	.53	.33	1.00

Note: civic engagement=CE, Family and riends connection= FFC, Neigbhourhoods connection= NC, Trust= TRT

Model Quality

According to Tenenhaus, Vinzi, Chatelin, & Lauro (2005), model's quality can be validated by measurement model, structural model and structural regression equation and that can be assessed by obtaining values of Communality, Redundancy and R^2. Table 3 shows R^2 value for civic engagement 47% and reveals that model is fit according to suggested requirement (Chin, 1998) while value of communality was reported more than threshold value .50 recommended by (Hair et al., 2006). Results of model quality are given in Table 3.

Table 3
Model's Quality

Constructs	R Square	Communality	Redundancy
CE	.47	.82	.21
FFC		.76	
NC		.62	
TRT		.86	
Average	.47	.76	
GoF	.60		

Note: *GoF = Goodness of Fit Index =* $\sqrt{R^2 * average\ communality}$

In addition, the Linear Structural Relations (LISRE), and Analysis of a Moment Structures (AMOS) technique in CB-SEM have some global scalar functions like Chi-square X^2, NFI, NNFI, and CFI and so on. However, Partial Least Square (PLS) has lack of best or most effective global scalar functions as compared to CB-SEM. Therefore,

Table 4
Paths Relation

Constructs	S. Mean	S. Deviation	S. Error	T Statistics	Accepted/Rejected
FFC ->CE	.32	.10	.10	.99	Accepted
NC -> CE	.10	.10	.10	.87	Rejected
TRT ->CE	.41	.10	.10	4.07	Accepted

Note: *civic engagement=CE, Family and friends connection= FFC, Neigbhourhoods connection= NC, Trust= TRT*

The paths estimation was performed to measure the significance of the relationships in structural model. The relationships of paths presented in conceptual model were examined through regression coefficient. The Beta coefficient (β) is a measurement of multiple correlation coefficients exogenous variables towards endogenous variable (Hair, et al., 2018; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007).The significant of paths were assessed on the basis of t-test by using bootstrapping technique in PLS-SEM.

In this context, there are different views of scholars regarding the path significance. Some scholars suggest that if any path has value of t=2.58, p<0.01, t=1.96 p<0.05 and t=1.64 p<0.10 is considered as significant path relationship between factors (Hair et al., 2018; Sarstedt et al., 2017) and t=2.326 p<0.01 was also suggested in literature (Keil, Beranek, & Konsynski, 1995). The each path
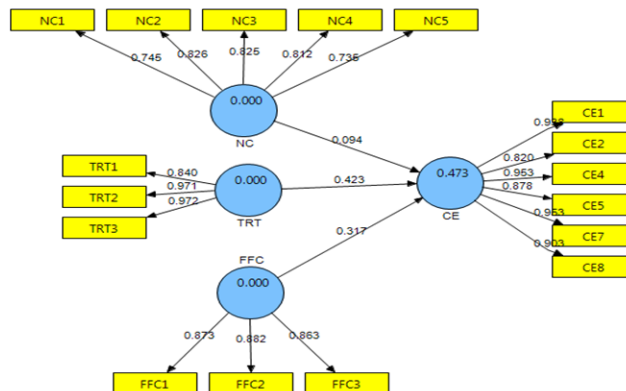
PLS-SEM does not have specific way to assess overall model of fitness globally (Tenenhaus et al., 2005; Vinzi et al., 2010). To overcome this issue, global criterion of goodness-of-fit was applied to assess GoF (Tenenhaus et al., 2005) which was assessed by calculating geometric mean of the average communality and the average of R^2. The current study's model GoF was 0.60 (60%) and can be understood as a good model of fit for current data (Chin, 1998).

Hypotheses Testing

The proposed conceptual model's hypotheses were tested by using PLS-SEM technique. Results of paths relations are given in Table 4.

significance was measured on the basis of t-value. The PLS bootstrapping algorithm was applied to obtain significant values for each given paths relation between independent variables and the dependent variable. In the model, total three paths were given and two were found significant while path neighbourhood connection towards civic engagement was found insignificant.

The result of H1 indicated that path relation family connections towards civic engagement has positive and significant with values of β= 0.31, SE= 0.10, t= 2.99. The result pointed out that individuals have strong communication with primary social institution and individuals are supported by family members to do something better for society. It is a positive sign that the prevalence of primary socialization still exists in Pakistani society while youth just need space to involve themselves in different civic activities.

The result of H2 revealed that relationship between dependent variable civic engagement and independent variable neighbourhood connection was insignificant with values of β= .09, SE= .10, t= .87. Therefore, lack of association was considered between these two factors in the study. The results pointed out that individuals are not supported by neighbourhood in doing welfare activities for community. Furthermore, result shows that there is a lack of cohesion among youth and neighbourhood. Lack of interaction and encouragement from neighbourhood towards youth decreases association between these two factors in the current study.

The second path of conceptual model was hypnotized to measure relationship between trust and civic engagement. The result of path H3 showed positive and significant relationship between trust and civic engagement, values, β= 0.42, SE= 0.10, t= 4.07. The results pointed out that individual's involvement in social activities depends on trust. Decreasing trust among masses leads youth towards less engagement in civic related activities within society.

Discussion

Civic engagement is a hallmark of democracy. Sustainable democracy needs active participation in any aspect of civic engagement including volunteerism, political activism, and social activism. Socially engaged people establish a balanced society where every person's rights are protected by the civic action. Active citizenship gives right path to sustainable democracy by collective action on common goals. The purpose of this study was to examine impact of neighbourhood connection, trust, family and friends connections on civic engagement. The targeted population was youth of Pakistan. In current model, association between sociological factors like family and friends connections, neighborhoods connections and trust were assessed with civic engagement.

The result of first path showed that there was significant association between family and friend's connection and civic engagement (see Table 4). Thus, the results of the study corroborated with the findings of study by Duke et al. (2009) and Onxy and Bullen (2000), which showed that community and family connections had significant impact on civic engagement amongst American adolescents. Generally, the results pointed out that support of parents and encouragement of friends lead youth to participate in civic related activities within society. Current study illustrates that primary social institution such as family can play very important role to engagement of youth generation for development of society. Association between these two factors illustrate that primary social institution, known as family, supports Pakistani young generation to work out for development of society as pointed out by Triandis (2015) that primary socialization promotes self-interest and space for the civic engagement and community ties. Similalry, Flanagan and Levine (2010) suggested that encouragement of family develops more paths for youth to work out for community.

The second path of the current model assessed association between neighbourhood connections and civic engagement. Results identified that path relationship neighbourhood connection towards civic engagement was insignificant because of weaker communication of youth with secondary groups than with primary group (family and peers). Thus, the findings validated the results of study by Bobek and Lerner (2009) that suggested that peer's communication was a very important variable, which led youth to perform civic duty and became a part of civic voice. There are several factors which can create space for lack of association between neighbourhood connection and civic engagement but social capital is one of them. Declining social capital

in any society leaves sufficient negative impact on the participation in social activities. In such social environment, promoting social activities related to civic engagement and development of society is a big challenge for development professionals.

Third path of the model assessed association between trust and civic engagement and found significant. Corroborating to previous studies, Jenninges and Stoker (2004), Uslaner and Brown (2005) results demonstrated that trust was a major predicator of civic engagement. Without trust, it is very hard to motivate masses to step up to work out for community development as well as society. In context of Pakistani young population, association between trust and civic engagement was higher as compared to other variables of interest.

Implications

This study is significant with regard to its findings, which might be helpful for social activists to enhance social approach of youth concerning social development of communities as well as society. This may also be helpful for development of professionals in developing as well as implementing development projects, which may increase development process within society.

Recommendations

The policy makers must make such policies which provide space for youth to intervene in development of society. Youth must be given proper channel where they participate in social activities and enhance their skills related to social development. Government must bring such policies for development sector, which emphasize that every development related organization includes at least one component for positive youth development. Public and private level civic education, civic skills and social activities related debates must be organized at universities level as well as other appreciate channels. At university level, youth action related projects must be employed, where they should be asked for designing and implementing projects. Such projects would help to increase social and development approach among youth.

Conclusion

This study concludes that Pakistani young generation needs just space to participate in social activities in society. The positive and significant relation between family connections towards civic engagement pointed out that individuals have strong communication with primary social institution. Positive and significant relationship between trust and civic engagement. The results point out that individual's involvement in social activities depends on trust. In the light of above discussion, it can be concluded that Pakistani family structure is very supportive for youth while youth generation needs space and encouragement from community and neighbors to engage themselves in social activism and welfare activities.

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