

Social Capital in Practice

UCT
18th of May 2007
Carolyn Gomulia



Outline

1. Social Capital Definition
2. Social Capital in Practice
3. Social Capital within the PGWC
4. 'Internal' Social Capital
5. 'External' Social Capital
6. Challenges
7. Social Capital Website



1. Defining Social Capital

Forms of Capital



Physical Capital



Natural Capital



Social Capital



Human Capital



Financial Capital

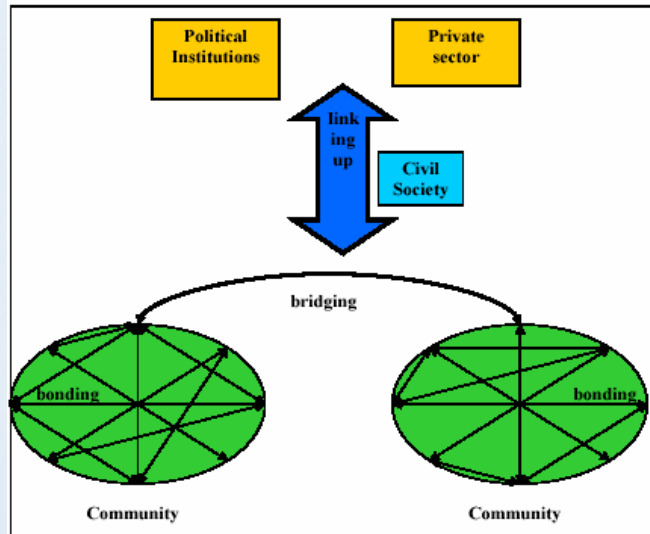
1. Defining Social Capital

- Based on Woolcock's Definition

“Social capital is referred to as the institutions, relationships, norms and networks that shape the quality and quantity of society's social interactions and enables collective action.”

1. Defining Social Capital

Different
Types
of
Social
Capital



2. Social Capital in Practice

- a) Designing programmes, projects and policies through a social capital lens
- b) Designing programmes, projects and policies that create an enabling environment for social capital
- c) Implement programmes, projects and policies applying social capital methods

(a) Designing programmes, projects & policies through a social capital lens

- Ask the right questions because
 - ...most policies, prog./proj. have social capital 'side-effects' – positive and negative ones.
 - ...social capital can have positive spill over effects to other areas.
- Interrogate assumptions
- Use social capital processes to develop or review policies



(a) Designing programmes, projects & policies through a social capital lens

Possible Questions to ask:

- Does the policy/ progr. /proj. increase people's skills to engage in social activities with people they do not know — their sociability?
- Does the policy/ progr. /proj. target some groups at the expense of others-social exclusion, or create scapegoats?
- Does the proposed form of service delivery allow the building of informal relationships and trust with all stakeholders?
- Does the project help extend networks, confidence and optimism among participants?
- Do participants increase their capacity to deal with conflict and diversity?
- Does the program evaluation include the social as well as financial and individual aspects of outputs and outcomes?

(a) Designing programmes, projects & policies through a social capital lens

Possible Questions to ask:

- What messages does the program offer to people about their own values and roles?
- How does the programme help to build trust in others, in communities and in public institutions?
- What are the formal institutions/networks needed so that the informal institutions/network are not a burden for the poor?
- Does the programme address the outcomes in an integrated and cross cutting manner? No silos. What are existing resources that can be used?

(b) Policies, programmes & projects to build or support social capital

- Social Capital Definition
- Key areas/elements of intervention
- Assess stock of social capital
- Localised solutions in terms of context and social issues. → 'One-size-fits-all' approach inappropriate.
- Possible perverse effects of social capital have to be considered
- Consider difficulties of measuring social capital

(c) Use social capital processes for the implementation of programmes, projects & policies

- Inform stakeholders about processes and opportunities for engagement
- Collaborate with other organisations, government or private sector for consultation processes
- Consider the various language(s) or illiteracy
- Build sustainable networks based on trust and good communication
- Involve all relevant stakeholders in the communities.

(c) Use social capital processes for the implementation of programmes, projects & policies

- Facilitate networking and partnerships based on principles of trust, mutual help and reciprocity
- Recognise the importance of the local and locality
- Develop participation/involvement guidelines
- Bottom up and top down
- 'Walk the talk'

Summary SC in practice



Apply SC processes

3. Social Capital within the PGWC

- Social Capital Formation Strategy with emphasis on the youth
 - Various SC programmes and projects in social cluster departments
- external SC
- Internal Social Capital Formation
 - Social Capital Website:
www.capegateway.gov.za/socialcapital

4. INTERNAL SOCIAL CAPITAL

Elements of internal social capital

Trust: the more links there are throughout the organisation, the higher the possibility of trust between members who do not know each other well

- Reciprocity
- Types of social capital:
 - **Bonding/ Bridging/ Linking**
- Social connectivity/networks
- Public Servants → Change Agents



4. INTERNAL SOCIAL CAPITAL

- platforms for engagement for staff (space and time)
- promote organisational learning and outcomes-based governance
- civil-minded civil service
- breaking down barriers to social inclusion
- dense web of internal networks
- Promotion of an integrated and holistic work approach



4. INTERNAL SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Design and implement a social responsibility programme
- Design and implement a diversity and culture programme
- Premier's service excellence awards
- Establish learning networks
- Premier's seminars
- Suggestion Boxes
- Training Programme



5. External Social Capital

- Bambanani → Volunteer programme
- Brawam Siswam
- Platform for engagement → Imbizos, Community forums
- Schools as centres of communities
- Bonte-Langa project
- Support to Proudly Manenberg Campaign
- Healing Communities



6. Challenges

- Definition of Social Capital
- Measuring Social Capital
- Creating Networks & Partnerships based on trust
- Communication
- Keep an appropriate balance between “bottom-up” and “top-down”
- Practise and foster mutual respect
- Readiness of your organisation to deliver in a social capital manner → willingness to change

7. Social Capital Website

www.capegateway.gov.za/socialcapital

- about social capital
- Projects
- Events & conferences
- Links & resources





Thank you for your attention!!

Carolin Gomulia
cgomulia@pgwc.gov.za or 021 466 9533
www.capegateway.gov.za/socialcapital

Questions

