

EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL CAPITAL FORMATION AMONG FISHING HOUSEHOLDS IN KAINJI LAKE BASIN, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the effectiveness of social capital formation on the livelihood of fisher households in Kainji Lake Basin of Niger State. Multistage sampling was employed in the selection of 290 respondents. The Specific objectives are to: i. assess the socio-economic characteristic of the respondents; ii. assess the level of awareness of social capital formation; iii. identify sources of information about social capital formation, and iv. determine effect of social capital formation on fisher-folks livelihood. Data were collected with questionnaire complemented with interview guide. Descriptive and inferential statistics was employed. Result showed that the mean age of respondents was 42 years; majority (95.2%) were male. More than half (59.2%) had no formal education, 93.7% were married. The mean year of cooperatives was 9 years. The average year of fishing experience was 22 years, and less than half (45.1%) were members of fishers organization. Majority of fisher-folk household had high awareness on bonding (73.6%) while bridging was (76.9%) with linking of (77.6%). Relatives, friends and neighbours (59.7%), were the major sources of information available to the respondents about fishing activities. The social capital formation on bonding relationships among the fisher-folks was found to be effective, social capital formation on linking relationships that involved (social groups, organizations and associations within community) among the fisher-folks was also found to be effective, social capital formation on linking that involves relationships (between community groups, residents/tenants association, governmental partnership) among the fisher-folks was found to be effective in enhancing active participation in volunteers services, reciprocity and experience, and income influenced the effectiveness of social capital formation. Therefore, in conclusion the null hypothesis was rejected, while the alternative hypothesis was accepted. There was high awareness of bonding, bridging and linking social capital by the respondents. Therefore, there is need to promote social ties either horizontally or vertically in order to access services that will enhance the economic well-being of the respondents.

Keywords: Network Social Capital formation

INTRODUCTION

Social capital is an important characteristic of a community, which can influence and be influenced by the flow and stock of other capitals (Emery and Flora, 2006). Social capital is one of the five different types of capital (natural, physical, human, financial and social capital (Pretty, 2013). Social capital needed for households to develop sustainable livelihood strategies, consists of the networks and norms that govern the interactions among households and communities.

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Social capital can be categorized into three types bonding, bridging and linking. The boundaries between these social capitals vary across surrounding communities. Bonding social capital refers to the relations between homogenous groups or communities that are needed for everyday living. Bridging social capital refers to the structure and networks between groups and communities involving collaboration with other groups. Linking social capital is the capacity of groups to gain access to resources, ideas and information from formal institutions beyond the community (Pretty, 2003). Social capital which refers to social resources (network, membership of groups and relationship of trust, access to formal institutions of society) upon which people draw knowledge, idea, information and skills in the pursuit of livelihoods.

Social capital describes circumstances in which individuals can use membership in groups and networks to secure benefits, one can acquire social capital through purposeful activities that transform social capital into conventional economic gain. Social capital is an attribute of an individual that cannot be evaluated without knowledge of the society, in which the individual operates. The extent to which an individual has access to resources through social capital depends not only on the person's contact or association whom they know, but also on the resources available through common group membership, the strength of these connections, and the resources available to their connections. All these depend on individual fisher-folk choice. The amount of social capital is in the person's social characteristics, which include social skills, character, and the size of his trademark that enable him to reap market and non-market returns from interactions with others. Thus, lack of power to enjoy these resources is due to their networking and reducing everyday due to migration and reductions in catch per unit effort in their various fishing camps within the Lake basin. In general, the infrastructures in Lake Kainji are in dilapidated state and most of the fishing villages lack electricity, good feeder road networks to farms and markets.

The Specific objectives are to: i. describes the socio-economic characteristic of the respondents; ii. assess the level of fisher-folk awareness of social capital formation; iii. identify sources of information about social capital formation, and iv. determine effect of social capital formation on fisher-folks.

Hypothesis

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the socio-economic characteristic of fisher-folks and effectiveness of social capital formation in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

Study Area

Kainji Lake lies in the savannah region between latitude 9° 30' and 10° 35' N and between longitudes 40° 20' and 4° 40' E, and it was formed after the closure of the river Niger. The Kainji Lake has about 5000 fishers, the whole Lake has about 286 fishing localities (villages and camps) spread along the shoreline and Island of Kainji Lake. The Lake is divided into three main strata by Nigerian/German Kainji Lake Fisheries Promotion Project I, II and III (Binyotubo and Obhahie, 2006). Kainji Lake areas comprises of Niger and Kebbi States.

Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

The population of this study was the artisanal fishing households in fishing villages around the Kainji Lake areas in Niger and Kebbi States. Multistage sampling technique will be employed in

... of respondents for this study. In stage one, three Local Government Areas (Magama, Agwara and Borgu) and two Local Government Areas (Ngaski and Yauri) will be selected from Niger and Kebbi States, respectively, because they made up of the fishing basin. Stage two involves proportionate sampling by 50% the fishing communities in the states which are fifty-one (51) in total. In the third stage, the total registered fisher-folks engaged in fishing activities will be obtained from Niger and Kebbi States respectively as the sampling frame. Stage four involves sampling of fisher-folks out of the sample frame obtained in each fishing communities of the five Local Government Areas selected using Yamanne formula as adapted by Agu and Udoh (2012).

| Local Government Areas | LGAs | Fishing Communities (50%) | Sample Frame | Sample Fisher-folks |
|------------------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | Magama | 8 (4) | 175 | 48 |
| | Agwara | 10 (5) | 179 | 49 |
| | Borgu | 11 (6) | 282 | 78 |
| | Ngaski | 12 (6) | 264 | 73 |
| | Yauri | 10 (5) | 152 | 42 |
| TOTAL | 5 | 51 (26) | 1052 | 290 |

Source: Niger and Kebbi States Bureau of Statistics (2013)

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were subjected to analysis using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistic involved; frequency distribution, percentages, mean and standard deviation, while the inferential statistic involved; Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and Chi-square.

$$r_{xy} = \frac{n\sum XY - \sum X \sum Y}{\sqrt{[n\sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2][n\sum Y^2 - (\sum Y)^2]}}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal characteristics of the respondents

Age of the respondents

Table 2 revealed that the mean age of the respondents in the study area was 42 years. This findings indicated that they are still young, active and in their productive years where they can be actively participated in social capital formation. The younger respondents are, the more likely to involve in social capital formation due to their innovativeness and willingness to engage in new ideas that could change their status and economic livelihood. This finding is line with the assertion of Million and Belay (2004) that most active age farmers can easily key-in to new innovation and technology. Similarly, Ani (2007) stressed that the innovators are mostly in their active years.

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Gender

Table 2. Majority (95.2%) of the respondents in the study area were males, while 4.8% of respondents were females. This indicates that more males were engaged in fish farming operations. This finding is in line with the work of Adeleke (2013) who pointed out that fishing activities involve more males than females because of the strength, standard time, and various risks of the fishing job.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents according to their Socio-Economic Characteristics

| Variable | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Age (years) | | |
| < 30 | 34 | 11.7 |
| 31 – 40 | 94 | 32.4 |
| 41 – 50 | 109 | 37.6 |
| 51 – 60 | 44 | 15.2 |
| > 60 | 9 | 3.1 |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 276 | 95.2 |
| Female | 14 | 4.8 |
| Education level | | |
| Non-formal | 172 | 59.3 |
| Quranic | 81 | 27.9 |
| Primary | 20 | 6.9 |
| Secondary | 17 | 5.9 |
| Household (number) | | |
| > 5 | 41 | 14.1 |
| 6 – 10 | 58 | 20.0 |
| 11 – 15 | 144 | 49.7 |
| 16 – 20 | 30 | 10.3 |
| 21 – 25 | 14 | 4.8 |
| > 25 | 3 | 1.1 |
| Experience | | |
| < 10 | 48 | 16.6 |
| 11 – 20 | 109 | 37.6 |
| 21 – 30 | 65 | 22.4 |
| 31 – 40 | 58 | 20.0 |
| > 40 | 10 | 3.4 |
| Primary occupations | | |
| Fishing | 283 | 97.6 |
| Trading | 7 | 2.4 |
| Secondary occupation | | |
| Farming | 85 | 29.3 |
| Trading | 14 | 4.8 |
| Civil servant | 55 | 19.0 |
| Private | 85 | 29.3 |
| Craft | 85 | 29.3 |
| Ownership of canoe | | |
| Yes | 214 | 73.8 |
| No | 76 | 26.2 |

Sources: Field Survey, 2016

more than half (59.3%) of the respondents in the study area had non-formal education. 27.3% of the respondents had quranic education was under formal education. 13.4% of the respondents in the study area had primary education while 5.9% of the respondents had secondary education. This implies that majority of the respondents in the study area had not acquired formal education. This development is unhealthy for social capital formation among the respondents in the study area as education enhanced the formation of social capital.

Household Size
The mean household size of the respondents was 12 persons. This implies that the respondents in the study area have large household size. This finding agreed with Johnson (2009) who stated that farmers with large household are more likely to engaged in more income generating activities such as social capital formation.

Fishing Experience
The study showed that the mean fishing experience of the respondents in the study area was 22 years. This implies that the respondents in the study area had been involved in fishing activities for many years. The number of years spent indicate a practical knowledge acquired by the fishermen in fishing activities. This result agrees with the findings of Nwaru *et al.* (2006) who stated that the number of years spent in fish farming gives an indication of the practical knowledge and skill on how to cope with inherent fish production, processing and marketing problem.

Primary Occupation
Table 2 shows Further more majority (97.6%) of the respondents in the study area were fishermen. This indicates that majority of the respondents in the study area were fishermen which could be due to the fact that they live along the riverine area. More than one quarter (29.3%) of the respondents indicated farming as their secondary occupation, while 29.3% were traders. More so, 19.0% of the respondents in the study area were civil servants, while 4.8% of the respondents were traders. This findings show that most of the respondents have secondary occupations and this could negatively affect their involvement in social capital formation in the study area.

Ownership of Canoe
The result in Table 2 revealed that majority (73.8%) of the respondents in the study area owned canoe for fishing activities. This implies that majority of the respondent owned their personal canoe for fishing activities in the study area. This could enhance social capital formation as most of the respondents will be able to generate income which will in turn raise their social status.

Cooperatives Membership
Table 3 revealed that about 43.1% of the respondents belong to cooperative societies, while 56.9% did not belong to cooperative societies. This implies that most of the respondents did not belong in cooperative societies which could have a negative effect on the social capital formation in the study area.

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Year Membership of Cooperatives

The table 3 show that more than half (53.4%) of the respondents had been into cooperative within the ranges of 1 – 10 years, while 23.1% had been into cooperative within the range of 11 – 20 years and few (1.4%) of the respondents had been into cooperative for more than 20 years with the mean years of 8.5 years. The number of years spent in cooperative is expected to increase farmers knowledge and enhance their involvement in social capital formation.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents according to Institutional Variables Accessed

| Variable | Frequency | Percentage | Mean |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|------|
| Cooperative (access) | | | |
| Yes | 125 | 43.1 | |
| No | 165 | 56.9 | |
| Cooperative (years) | | | |
| 1-10 | 155 | 53.4 | 8.5 |
| 11-20 | 67 | 23.1 | |
| >20 | 4 | 1.4 | |
| Cooperative (number) | | | |
| None | 165 | 56.9 | |
| Two | 110 | 37.9 | |
| Three | 2 | 0.7 | |
| Four | 2 | 0.7 | |
| Five | 11 | 3.8 | |
| Cooperative (meeting) | | | |
| None | 38 | 13.1 | |
| Weekly | 190 | 65.5 | |
| Monthly | 50 | 17.2 | |
| Bi-monthly | 1 | 0.4 | |
| Quarterly | 11 | 3.8 | |
| Cooperative (benefit) | | | |
| Access to loan | 144 | 49.7 | |
| Purchase of fishing tools | 154 | 53.1 | |
| Market of fishing product | 101 | 34.1 | |
| Extension (contact) | | | |
| Yes | 172 | 59.3 | |
| No | 118 | 40.7 | |
| Extension (number) | | | |
| 1 – 2 times | 27 | 9.3 | |
| 3 – 4 times | 135 | 46.6 | |
| > 4 | 11 | 3.8 | |
| Credit (access) | | | |
| Yes | 149 | 51.4 | |
| No | 141 | 48.6 | |
| Credit (constraints) | | | |
| High interest rate | 97 | 33.4 | |
| Insufficient credit | 77 | 26.6 | |
| Collateral security | 1 | 0.3 | |
| Delaying in getting credit | 46 | 15.9 | |

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 3, more than half (51.4%) of the respondents in the study area had access to fishing technologies. Availability of credit becomes imperative for improving and income. Akudungu *et al.* (2012) stressed post-harvest loss among farmer was lack of access to credit that will bring about affordable technologies.

Access of respondents according to sources of information

Table 4, majority (70.0%) of the respondents in the study area listen to radio agricultural programmes everyday. More than half (51.4%) of the respondents in the study area revealed that mean of being exposed to agricultural programmes in fishing activities in the study area is in agreement with Oyeyinka *et al.* (2014) who posited that radio is very important medium of communication in a rural communities because of the value attributed to it as it little spending than the other mass media such as television.

majority (97.6%) of the respondents in the study area indicated that access to information had effect on their fishing activities, while few (2.4%) of the respondents indicated that has no effect on their fishing activities. Meanwhile, area in which the respondents access information includes fish marketing (92.4%), fish processing (90.0%), fish catch (73.8%) and preservation (72.8%). This implies that information on fishing activities are very relevant in fishing activities in the study area. According to Adimoral (2012), information needs of fisher-folks encompasses agricultural credits, planning and forecasting, availability of and prices.

Awareness of social capital formation by the respondents

The result in Table 4 revealed that majority (78.6%) of the respondents in the study area had high awareness of bonding social capital formation in promoting livelihood of fisher-folks, while 13.3% of the respondents had fair awareness of bonding social capital, while few (7.9%) of the respondents had no awareness of bonding social capital in promoting livelihood. Based on mean score value of 2.71, it therefore implies that there was high awareness of bonding social capital formation in promoting livelihood of fisher-folks in the study area. Bonding social capital is seen as bond or relationship that connect each member of a community which involves principle and norms such as trust and cooperation among each member to help cope with unfavourable conditions (Aldrich, 2012). Due to similarity within the group, livelihood activities could easily be enhanced among members.

Bonding social capital is different from bridging in the sense that relationship is within social groups, social class, race, religion or other important socio-demographic or socio-economic characteristics and sometime completely exclusive. The bonding/bridging distinction can be made in relation to a range of relationship and network characteristics. This is in consonance to Bahaei *et al.* (2012) who posited that bonding social capital is considered a foundation from which to establish bridging and linking ties among groups.

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Table 4: Distribution of Respondents according to Sources of Information

| Variable | Frequency | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Information source* | | |
| Relatives, friends and neighbours | 173 | 59.7 |
| Community bulletin board | 39 | 13.4 |
| Local market | 125 | 43.1 |
| Community or local newspaper | 56 | 19.3 |
| Radio | 130 | 44.8 |
| Television | 11 | 3.8 |
| Group or association | 134 | 46.2 |
| Extension agents | 101 | 34.8 |
| Internet | 8 | 2.8 |
| Listening to radio on agriculture programme | | |
| Every day | 203 | 70.0 |
| Few times | 64 | 22.1 |
| Once a week | 14 | 4.8 |
| Once bi-weekly | 3 | 1.1 |
| Watching television programme on agriculture | | |
| Every day | 99 | 34.1 |
| Few times | 149 | 51.4 |
| Once a week | 27 | 9.3 |
| Once bi-weekly | 12 | 4.1 |
| Never | 3 | 1.1 |
| Effect of information on fishing activities | | |
| Yes | 283 | 97.6 |
| No | 7 | 2.4 |
| Types of information* | | |
| Fish catch | 214 | 73.8 |
| Processing | 261 | 90.0 |
| Marketing | 268 | 92.4 |
| Fish preservation | 211 | 72.8 |

Source: Field Survey, 2016

*multiple responses

Table 5: Level of Awareness of Social Capital Formation in Promoting Livelihood Diversification

| Awareness | HA (3) | FA (2) | NA (1) | WS | WM | Remark |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----|------|--------|
| Bonding social capital | 228 (78.6) | 39 (13.5) | 23 (7.9) | 785 | 2.71 | High |
| Bridging social capital | 223 (76.9) | 40 (13.8) | 27 (9.3) | 776 | 2.68 | High |
| Linking social capital | 225 (77.9) | 45 (15.5) | 20 (6.9) | 785 | 2.71 | High |

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Note: HA = Highly Aware, FA = Fairly Aware and NA = Not Aware, Mean score of ≥ 2.00 implies High, while < 2.00 implies Low. Numbers in parenthesis are the percentages

Also, majority (76.9%) of the respondents in the study area had high awareness of bridging social capital in promoting livelihood (Table 5), it therefore implies that there was high awareness of bridging social capital formation in promoting livelihood of the fisher-folks in the

It facilitates external assets that can benefit members of groups and broader social economic identities (Wetterberg, 2004). In terms of linking, majority (77.6%) of the respondents in the study area had high awareness of linking social capital with mean score value of 3.78, it therefore implies that there was high awareness of linking social capital formation in improving livelihood of the fisher-folks in the study area. Generally, the findings revealed that the respondents in the study area had high awareness of bonding, bridging and linking social capital which could positively influence their involvement in social capital formation for improved livelihood. This is in agreement with the work of Aldrich (2012) who posited that communities with high level of bonding, bridging and linking social capital are inherently more resilient than those with only one type or none.

Social capital formation of the respondents

The study revealed the distribution of respondents based on different social group formation in the study area. It revealed that 24.1% of the respondents belong to Aldaji fishermen social group, followed by 23.4% of the respondents who belongs to Yunna fishermen association and 22.8% belongs to Monnai fisheries multipurpose. Fisher-folks groups, such as associations or cooperatives create social relations that enable individuals to achieve goals that individuals are unable to achieve. They benefit from economies of scale when sharing information on how to access resource inputs, and rely on help of one another to meet the needs of friends or people they can trust. Membership into fisher-folks groups further enables individuals to have access to capacity building such as training and study tours, and to information pertaining to new technologies. This is in agreement with a priori expectation. Ofuoku and Urang (2009) observed that farmers subscribe to various farmers' groups to access extension services, credit, exchange of ideas/experiences and cheap inputs. More frequent contact with other farmers made the these farmers have great influence on their thoughts and attitude towards farmers' self-help group

The groups or other local-level community with formal or informal structures shape norms, such as extent of trust, abiding by bylaws, settling conflicts, cooperation among members, giving gifts or exchanging items, as well as the extent of financial contributions toward group activities or collective community problems. However, small groups are more cohesive than large groups as they tend to have high performance goals making them to be more productive. The farmers' sources of information determine the decision they take. according to Agbamu (2006), sources of information and acquired knowledge from those sources constitute the bedrock on which farmers base their decisions

| Diversification |
|-----------------|
| Remark |
| High |
| High |
| High |

score of ≥ 2.00
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