Definitions of Social Capital

Social capital is "the institutions, relationships, and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interactions" (World Bank, 1999).

"Social capital refers to those stocks of social trust, norms and networks that people can draw upon to solve common problems. (Networks) facilitate coordination and communication, and thus create channels through which information about the trustworthiness of other individuals and groups can flow, and be tested and verified" (Civic Practices Network, 2000).

Social capital "___involves formal and informal social networks among individuals who share norms and values, especially the norm of reciprocity (mutual assistance). Two types of social capital are distinguished: localized social capital, found among people who live in the same or adjacent communities; and bridging capital, which extends to individuals and organizations that are more removed" (Wallis, 1998).

Social capital is "___ the mutual relations, interactions, and networks that emerge among human groups, as well as the level of trust (seen as the outcome of obligations and norms which adhere to the social structure) found within a particular group or community. There is an implicit understanding that social capital will be useful for enhancing some other feature such as learning, social mobility, economic growth, political prominence, or community vitality"(Wall, Ferrazzi & Schryer, 1998:304).

"...social capital [consists] of two main components: sociocultural milieu and institutional infrastructure. Sociocultural milieu is quite similar to the bonding capital outlined by Putnam. Institutional infrastructure has strong similarities to bridging capital" (Temkin & Rohe, 1997 cited in Gittel & Vidal, 1998:16).

Social capital is a feature of social relations that contribute to the ability of a society to work together and accomplish its goals (Putnam, 1993).

Concerns and Risks Associated with Strategies

- Social exclusion

- Non-sustainable program delivery systems

- Inadequate local capacity (limited resources, marginal education/ literacy, cultural barriers)

- Domination of local politics and political elite

References

Civic Practices Network. (2000). http://www.cpn.org/sections/tools/models/social_capital.html

Gittel, R., & Vidal, A. (1998). <u>Community organizing: Building social capital as a development strategy</u>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Putnam, R. D. (1993). Making democracy work: Civic traditions in modern Italy. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Temkin, K., & Rohe, W. (1998). Social capital and neighborhood stability: An empirical investigation. <u>Housing Policy Debate</u> 9(1).

Wall, E., Ferrazzi, G., & Schryer, F. (1998). Getting the goods on social capital. <u>Rural Sociology</u>, <u>63</u>(2), 300-322.

Wallis, A.(1998). Social capital and community building. <u>National Civic Review</u>, <u>87</u>(4), 317-337.

World Bank (1999). <u>Social capital for development</u>. http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/ scapital/index.htm

Martin B. & Patsy D. Tracy
2000