

# The role of social capital in empowering individuals for sustainable development in Iraq

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## **Abstract**

*The importance of the role of social capital is to empower individuals and achieve sustainable development in the Iraqi society. In light of seeking a strategy that reshapes human behavior according to the standards of sustainable development that prevail in societies today, the problem of the present study is focused in the role of social capital in empowering individuals to gain sustainable development. The significance of the present study is due to the strong need to achieve sustainable development and the participation of all members of the Iraqi society in achieving this goal. Because sustainable societies require a solid foundation of social capital, reform of social, economic, and political modernization cannot achieve goals when there is no moral and ethical framework that supports Relationships and mutual interactions and enhances the areas of trust that must be available. Interest in building social capital and its value, moral, and religious components is a way to develop social capital. The present study aims to identify the characteristics and components of social capital to identify the importance of social capital and its functions for achieving sustainable development in the Iraqi society. The present study belongs to descriptive studies, It is based on the social survey method; the sample using the data collection tool in a questionnaire form.*

*The most important result related to the characteristics of the community of present study is that there is a diversity of beneficiaries in order to satisfy their needs and develop their capabilities to solve their problems. The results indicate that there is a diversity in the ages of the beneficiaries of income-generating loans. These loans develop social capital at all different stages of life to achieve sustainable development. This confirms that these loans are provided to all members of the Iraqi society without any discrimination.*

*The present study recommends organizing training courses for workers in these loans to provide them with appropriate experiences and skills, benefit from the experiences of others in this field, and raise the competence of workers to develop social capital to achieve sustainable development in the Iraqi society. It is necessary to develop social welfare policies to activate building and developing social capital.*

**Keywords:** social capital, empowering individuals, sustainable development

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## **Introduction**

Changes make today's societies work to make optimal use of their resources to ensure progress in various areas of economic, social, cultural, and political life. Social capital is one of those resources that are highly reliable in bringing progress and advancement in human resources. It is an important factor in progress of these societies and contribute greatly to the development of these societies and keep pace with the prevailing progress in different societies. Social capital has emerged as an optimal expression for community participation, which means that there must be another factor that is not less important that cannot be neglected in analysis and interpretation, which is social capital. Some scholars point to the importance of social capital for sustainable development.

The issue of development occupies a prominent position in all societies at all levels. It focuses on the human element because it is the means of development and its goal. Thus, focus must be on the development of the human element in

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order to be able to keep pace with the changes witnessed by all societies that result from technological progress and the intertwining of modern life. The human being is the engine of the development process, its leader, and the one who develops the level of use of material resources. Hence, the issue of forming social capital occupies a special importance in light of the economic and social development conditions. It represents the cornerstone of every development controlling the physical capital that constitutes the second element Of the elements of development.

### **First; The general framework of the present study.**

#### **The problem of the present study**

The Iraqi society at the present time has an urgent need to achieve sustainable development and the participation of all members to achieve that goal. Sustainable societies require a solid foundation of social capital as reform of social, economic, and political modernization cannot achieve goals when there is no moral and ethical framework that supports Relationships and mutual interactions and enhances the areas of trust that must be available. Attention to building social capital and its valuable ethical and religious components is a way to develop social capital. Therefore, it is necessary to have the economy and social policies that facilitate the creation and development of social capital. With the growing importance of the role of social capital in empowering individuals and achieving sustainable development in Iraq, this contributes to the formation of a strategy that reshapes human behavior according to the criteria of sustainable development that prevail in societies today.

Hence, the problem of the present study is focused on the role of social capital in empowering individuals to gain sustainable development in Iraq.

#### **The significance of the present study**

The present study focuses on the fact that social capital is a form of capital that must be used in sustainable development processes as informal ties and relationships play an important role in the sustainable development process. Interest in building social capital and its value, moral, and religious components is a way to develop social capital. Therefore, the present study, along with other studies, contributes to provide depth to an important variable that has an effective role in achieving sustainable development that can be exploited in the Iraqi society, whose a wealth is social capital.

#### **The aims of study**

- A. Identifying characteristics and components of social capital.
- B. Identifying the importance of social capital in achieving sustainable development in the Iraqi society.
- C. Identifying dimensions and goals of sustainable development in the Iraqi society.
- D. Identifying the role of social capital in empowering individuals to gain sustainable development in Iraq.

#### **The study questions**

- A. What is meant by social capital and what are its characteristics and components?
- B. What is the importance and functions of social capital in achieving sustainable development in the Iraqi society?
- C. What is meant by sustainable development and what are its dimensions and goals in the Iraqi society?
- D. What is the role of social capital in empowering individuals for sustainable development in Iraq?

#### **The concepts of the present study**

##### **A. The concept of the role**

The role is defined as that each individual has many situations within society as each individual performs a set of different roles. Since the unity of the self requires a certain degree of behavioral and value integration, the person tends to influence the way he/she performs his/her multiple roles. However, his/her performance will not accurately match the expectations of others and he/she will not be able to meet all the expectations that he/she creates for him/herself (Ghaith, 1998: 390-391).

The word “role” is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as “the location of an individual in his/her behavior and his/her dealing with the actions entrusted to him/her when dealing with others. The actor performs a certain role when acting. The role of the individual is determined when dealing with specific circumstances. The individual's role as a doctor or nurse is required when dealing with a patient (oxford, 1999: 646).

As for the British Encyclopedia, the definition of the word role is defined as the location and position occupied by the individual or thing that is done when acting or dealing (longman, 2004: p. 574).

The role is defined in the Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary as the location or place a person or thing occupies in certain situations, in the community, organization, or existing relationships (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2010: 1237).

As for the procedural definition of the concept of the role, it is the actions and duties that society expects from those who occupy a certain social status within the social construction and social participation to start development among individuals in the society.

### **B. The concept of social capital**

The basic common denominator between the definitions of social capital is its link with the nature of the relationships that arise between individuals by their free experience with the aim of achieving interests that exceed the individual interest in its narrow sense (Yujiro Hayami, 2009: 76).

This term in its general sense refers to the interaction of social groups or to the study of this interaction. It is clear that the general principles that apply to the interaction between social groups also apply to their mutual relations (Ghaith, 1976: 92).

As for the procedural definition of social capital, it includes social resources that can be mobilized to achieve profits and great benefits. It also includes organized social features that include social confidence that facilitates coordination, cooperation, and mutual benefit among individuals.

### **C. The concept of empowerment**

Empowerment is defined as the situation in which a person is able to change his/her personal circumstances or environmental factors that have a role in difficult situations in which he/she suffers and impedes his/her access to the services, resources, or life opportunities he/she desires (Hardina. D, Middleton J, 2007: 33).

Empowerment is also defined as the process in which a person is empowered to take on greater responsibilities through training, confidence, and emotional support (Murrell & Meredith, 2000: 110).

It is defined as a strategy aiming at giving power to clients and the ability to control their lives, and helping them access the social resources they need, helping them to obtain information and develop their skills and capabilities required for self-reliance to achieve the desired change (Robert Adams, 2003: 809).

As for the procedural definition of the concept of empowerment, it is one of the strategies involving the members of society in making decisions related to sustainable development and trying to support and sensitize them.

### **D. The concept of sustainable development**

It is the organized efforts that are made according to planning a decree to coordinate the available human and material capabilities in a specific social milieu in order to achieve higher levels of national income and individual incomes, and higher levels of living and social life in its various aspects such as education, health, family, and youth (Ibrahim, 2007: 109).

Some scholars view the concept of sustainable development as the continuation in the development process, which indicates an extremely important moral value, which is the value of equality between generations (Al-Lokani, 2003: 314).

The meaning of the term sustainable development revolves around the development of human capacity with economic, social, and international policies and programs that enhance the ability of the individuals to achieve themselves (George Corm, 1997: 35).

As for the procedural definition of sustainable development, it is the optimal use of economic resources. It provides the necessary resources for future generations. It leads to prepare a good person adhering to religious values and effective positive behavior. It provides the population with education, health, and social care.

## **6. The theoretical framework**

### **1. The social capital theory**

Sociologists tend to count social capital as a useful tool for analysis at the individual and small groups levels. Supporters of the School of Sustainable Development view social capital as an important factor for increasing inventory, developing and passing it on to future generations. Without social capital, sustainable development cannot be achieved (Qandil, 2008: 92- 93). Social capital theory is defined as focusing on the issue of relationships, the idea of social networks, the wealth available in society, and the interaction that enables people to build societies and depend on one another Connecting the social fabric, strengthening experiences of social networks and relationships, and creating trust. Confidence among individuals gives confidence in the broad fabric of society and social institutions. It becomes a common set of values, advantages, and expectations within the whole society. The concept of social capital extends to include building and rebuilding society and confidence in the form of the economy, society and social systems (Al-Suruji, 2009: 11).

The theory of social capital focuses on important variables that are determined in social relationships and networks, interdependence, and the trust that binds and supports the fabric and social structure that is a wealth in society. It focuses on social values that reflect expectations in social relations and interactions among people in society that do not support confidence in social, economic, and political systems in the social construction. In addition, social capital has social functions in the political and economic fields. In relation to the political field, social capital enhances the quality of life based on civil interdependence which is essential to the success of contemporary democratic political systems.

### **Second; Social capital and sustainable development**

#### ***Social capital is a developmental input***

Sustainable development and social capital are inseparable. Scholars indicate that developmental aspects are various. The first aspect is the material input. For a long time, people believed that development can only be achieved through benefit and wealth. This aspect has proven failure in modern global experiences. It has been found that it may be the solution in the human element. The second aspect is the human capital which has been viewed as an entrance to development. Human skills are viewed as important factors In the process of development. Development must not take place in isolation. The third approach focuses on the political dimension of development. This approach focuses on the role played by the state and the government in leading the development process. It must be noted that most developing countries rely on this approach in the development process. Social capital is directed towards a total difference from the political aspect. In this context, the researcher finds that most people working in social sciences always view concepts of reform and development as being extremely important. They compare that to the achievements and prosperity achieved by developed countries and the hardship and backward conditions experienced by developed countries. They are unable to keep pace with the tremendous events and changes in today's world. Social initiatives have not succeeded to get out of the crisis due to a basic premise that the country in the era of globalization no longer has the mechanisms of reform alone, which prompted those countries to adopt new strategies. Sustainable development process mainly depends on social capital. This approach is important when talking about development priorities in developing countries. It depends on social ties, family ties, and civil work (Abbas, 2010: 9).

Scientists use "social capital" in reference to the intangible collective assets that each society holds, such as standards, social networks, and the educational level of society as similar to the tangible collective assets, such as public goods and common things. But, it is imagined that social capital is the same as owned and used by individual agents, including individual institutions. It currently differs in theory from social norms and from other social groups that develop as a product of society (Lorenzo Sacconi and Giacomo Degli Antoni, 2011: 133). Social capital appears to improve social trust outside the individual's family and ethnic group. The promotion of good behavior rules, such as honesty, business ethics, loyalty to the organization improves networks between individuals, especially with influential or knowledgeable people (Ian W. Jones and Michael Pollitt, 2007: 5).

#### ***Social Capital and Development***

Social capital affects economic development by wrapping people around agreed general development goals and targets as development results always reflect all social needs (Al-Suruji, 2009: 109- 110).

Some scholars believe that social capital plays an important role in development. It has consistently been linked to class analysis as the understanding and interaction of social capital as a social balance of relationships and symbols interacts with the balance that individuals possess it from material capital. Social and cultural capital is a balance that is negotiable, accumulating, and usable as is material capital. There is another vision which emerged when the concept of social capital was adopted among the organizations involved in development issues. The sociological class view of the concept of social capital was removed. Instead, the concept was formulated in an economic behavioral framework. This vision was linked to the work of both James Coleman and Robert Putnam. The former viewed social capital as the balance that the individual possesses from relationships and values that enable the individual to establish relationships within the social construction and build expectations and goals. On the other hand, Putnam looked at social capital by identifying the characteristics and features that form an asset within the social organization, such as trust, standards, and social networks emphasizing having the positive aspects of these characteristics. It enables the community to perform its functions in an efficient and better manner. It facilitates coordination among different social actions.

It is clear that social capital plays a fundamental role in maximizing development returns as it is no less important than material or human capital because it helps to support civil and governmental efforts, which leads to the cohesion of all society and the establishment of effective relationships among members of society based on trust and mutual respect to set goals, clarity, and ease of achieving them. This is positively reflected on society. On the other hand, social capital helps to increase production, achieve economic development, develop human capital, and eliminate the gap between classes. It helps to spread the spirit of cooperation among all members of the society, categories, and public and private institutions (Zaki, 2013: 65). Accordingly, social capital can improve civic awareness, participation, economic development, and social equity. It can contribute to the well-being of the society.

### **Third; The methodological procedures.**

#### ***1. Type of the present study***

The present study belongs to the descriptive studies.

#### ***2. The methodology***

Social survey by sample is adopted in the present study.

#### ***3. The study tools***

The data collection tool was the questionnaire form.

#### ***4. The study fields***

A. The spatial domain; Al-Diwaniyah province.

B. The Human Domain; A random sample of beneficiaries of small income-generating projects loans within the lending program offered by the Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs in Al-Diwaniyah province was selected.

C. The temporal domain; It is the stage of data collection in the field, specifically in 2019.

***5. Statistical coefficients of data;*** The researcher used the S.P.S.S software to package statistical programs.

#### ***6. Analysis of field study evidence***

A. Initial data; characteristics of the study community

Table (1) shows the distribution of the sample according to gender

Gender	No.	%
Male	116	58%
Female	84	42%

<b>Total</b>	200	100%
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The analysis of the data of the previous table shows that the percentage of 58% males came first with 116 items out of the total sample size of 200 items followed by 42% females with 84 items out of the total size of the adult sample of 200 items.

These data indicate a diversity in the gender of those who are reluctant to benefit from small income-generating loans within the lending program offered by the Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs in Diwaniya province in order to achieve social capital development and increase the rates of achieving sustainable development.

Table (2) shows the distribution of the sample according to age

Age	No.	%
Less than 20 years	36	18%
From 20 years to less than 30 years	50	25%
From 30 years to less than 40 years	70	35%
From 40 years to less than 50 years	44	22%
<b>Total</b>	200	100%

It is clear from the analysis of the data of the previous table that the percentage 35% of those aged from 30 to less than 40 years came in the first rank with 70 individuals of the total size of the sample followed by the percentage of 25% in the age from 20 to less than 30 years with 50 individuals. In the third rank, the percentage of 22% comes with 44 individuals aging from 40 to less than 50 years. In the last rank, the percentage of 18% with 36 individuals aging less than 20 years from the total size off the sample of 200 individuals. These data indicate a diversity in the age of those who benefit from small income-generating loans within the lending program offered by the Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs in Diwaniya province in order to achieve social capital development and increase the rates of achieving sustainable development.

Table (3) shows the distribution of the sample according to the social status

Social Status	No.	%
Single	40	20%
Married	110	55%
Widow	20	10%
Divorced	30	15%
<b>Total</b>	200	100%

It is clear from the analysis of the data of the previous table that the percentage 55% of those aged of the married came in the first rank with 110 individuals of the total size of the sample followed by the percentage of 20% of the single with 40

individuals. In the third rank, the percentage of 10% comes with 20 individuals of the widow. In the last rank, the percentage of 15% with 20 individuals of divorced from the total size off the sample of 200 individuals.

These data indicate that the most category benefiting from small income-generating loans within the lending program offered by the Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs in Diwaniya province are the married. This may be due to the large burdens of this category to fulfill requirements and needs of their families.

B. Characteristics and components of social capital.

Table (4) shows what is meant by social capital

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement	
	Yes		In a measure		No						
	K	%	K	%	K	%					
Volunteer work for individuals	150	75	40	20	10	5	540	2.7	0.90	2	
A set of informal rules that support relationships between individuals	100	50	70	35	30	15	470	2.35	0.78	7	
Social networks of mutual benefit	110	55	70	35	20	10	490	2.45	0.817	5	
Values and standards that regulate relationships between individuals and each other	90	45	80	40	30	15	460	2.3	0.77	8	
The balance an individual possesses of relationships and values within a social structure	140	70	40	20	20	10	520	2.6	0.67	4	
Individual confidence, commitment, and sense of social responsibility	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.916	1	
Social participation skills that lead to community cohesion	100	50	80	40	20	10	480	2.4	0.80	6	
Establishing social relations and belonging to society	140	70	50	25	10	5	530	2.65	0.88	3	
<b>Total</b>							4040				
Relative importance 85%											

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is distributed statistically in light of the total weighted weights of (4040) with a relative strength of (85%), which is a high percentage that confirms the agreement of the majority of the study sample on what is meant by social capital. Individuals' trust, commitment, and sense of social responsibility came in the first rank with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.916). Volunteer work for individuals ranked second with a weighted average of (2.70) and a relative strength of (0.90). Establishing social relations and belonging to society ranked third with weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88). The balance that the individual possesses from relationships and values within social construction ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.6) and a relative strength of (0.87). Social networks Of mutual benefit ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.45) and a relative strength of (0.817). Social participation skills that lead to community cohesion ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.4) and a relative strength of (0.80). A set of informal rules with which Relationships among individuals are strengthened ranked seventh with a weighted average of (2.35) and a relative strength of (0.78). The values and criteria that regulate relations among individuals ranked eighth with a weighted average of (2.3) and a relative strength of (0.77).

**Table (5) shows the social capital characteristics**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement	
	Yes		In a measure		No						
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%					
It represents a public good unlike economic capital	140	70	40	20	20	10	520	2.6	0.87	5	
Depends on social relations and cooperation between members of society	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.91	2	
Depends on trust and mutual benefit between members of society	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	1.65	0.88	4	
It can be measured by multiple indicators	160	80	20	10	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	3	
A means to achieve the purposes of the individual, group and society	130	65	50	25	20	10	510	2.55	0.85	7	
It aims to improve the quality of life for beneficiaries	170	85	20	10	10	5	560	2.8	0.93	1	
It provides a good level of services to the community members	130	65	58	29	12	6	518	2.59	0.86	6	
<b>Total</b>							3728				
Relative importance 89%											

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is distributed statistically in light of the total weighted weights of (3728) with a relative strength of (89%), which is a high percentage that confirms that there is a great awareness among the study sample of the characteristics of social capital. The aim to improve the quality of life ranked first with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Social relations and cooperation among members of society ranked second with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.91). The possibility of measuring it by multiple indicators ranked third with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Trust and mutual benefit among the members of society ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88). Public benefits in contrast with economic capital ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.6) and a relative strength of (0.87). Providing a good level of services to society members ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.59) and a relative strength of (0.86). Being a means to achieve the objectives of the individual, group, and society ranked seventh with a weighted average of (2.55) and a relative strength of (0.85).

**Table (6) shows the components of social capital**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement
	Yes		In a measure		No					
	K	%	K	%	K	%				
Social construction that extends from family, neighbors, and community institutions.	180	90	20	10	-	-	580	2.9	0.97	1

A set of links and social relationships	160	80	20	10	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	3	
Excess of physical and human resources owned by members of society	140	70	20	10	40	20	500	2.5	0.83	7	
Volunteers group to make use of community and community resources	170	85	20	10	10	5	560	2.8	0.93	2	
The set of goals that group members strive to achieve	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	2.65	0.88	5	
The prevailing values among members of society	140	70	40	20	20	10	520	2.6	0.87	6	
Civil and governmental institutions, unions and political parties	150	75	32	16	18	9	532	2.66	0.89	4	
<b>Total</b>							3762				
Relative importance 89.5 %											

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is distributed statistically in light of the total weighted weights of (3728) with a relative strength of (89.5%), which is a high percentage that confirms the study sample's awareness of the most important components of social capital in the Iraqi society. Social construction that extends from the family, neighbors, and community institutions ranked first with a weighted average of (2.9) and a relative strength of (0.97). Achieving benefits from the resources of the community ranked second with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Social ties and relationships ranked third with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Civil and governmental institutions, unions, and political parties ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.89). The set of goals that members of the group seek to achieve ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.66) and a relative strength of (0.89). The prevailing values among the members of society ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88). Surplus of physical and human resources of members of society ranked seventh with a weighted average of (2.60) and a relative strength of (0.87).

### C. The Importance and Functions of Social Capital.

**Table (7) illustrates the importance of social capital**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement
	Yes		In a measure		No					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%				
It allows citizens to solve problems easily	170	85	20	10	10	5	560	2.8	0.93	1
It contributes to improving the social life of individuals	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	2.65	0.88	5
It contributes to the cohesion of society and prevents it from collapsing	130	65	50	25	20	10	510	2.55	0.85	7
It contributes to preserving the identity of society	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.92	2
An active component in the development of social welfare policies	130	65	40	20	30	15	500	2.5	0.83	8

in society											
Supports affiliation and loyalty to the community	170	85	10	5	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	4	
Activating social and political participation in society	150	75	20	10	30	15	520	2.6	0.86	6	
It encourages citizens to trust in the economy, trade and institutions	160		22	11	18	9	542	2.71	0.91	3	
<b>Total of Weights</b>							4252				

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is statistically distributed in light of the total weights of (4252) and a relative strength of (88.5%), which is a high percentage that confirms the awareness of the members of the Iraqi society of the importance of social capital in achieving sustainable development. Allowing citizens to solve problems easily ranked first with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Contributing to preserving the identity of society ranked second with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.92). Encouraging citizens to trust the economy, trade, and institutions ranked third with a weighted average of (2.71) and a relative strength of (0.91). Supporting belonging and loyalty to society ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative Strength of (0.90). Contributing to improving the social lives of individuals ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative Strength of (0.88). Activating social and political participation in society ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.6) and a relative strength of (0.86). Contributing to the cohesion of society and preventing it from collapsing ranked seventh with a weighted average of (2.55) and a relative strength of (0.85). Being an active component in the development of social welfare policies in society ranked eighth with a weighted average of (2.5) and a relative strength of (0.83).

**Table (8) shows mechanisms to benefit from social capital**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement	
	Yes		In a measure		No						
	K	%	K	%	K	%					
Community participation	180	90	20	10	-	-	580	2.9	0.97	1	
Mutual trust	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.91	4	
Collaborate to achieve common goals	150	75	30	15	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	5	
Mutual benefit	160	80	20	10	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	5	
Tolerance	170	85	24	12	6	3	564	2.82	0.94	2	
Commitment	160	80	40	20	-	-	560	2.8	0.93	3	
<b>Total</b>							3324				
Relative importance 92 %											

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is statistically distributed in light of the total weighted weights of (3324) with a relative strength of (92%), which is a high percentage that confirms the existence of mechanisms to take advantage of social capital . Social participation ranked first with a weighted average of (2.9) and a relative strength of (0.97). Tolerance ranked second with a weighted average of (2.82) and a relative strength of (0.94).

Commitment ranked third with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Mutual trust ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.91). Mutual benefit ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Cooperation to achieve common goals ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88).

**Table (9) shows the function of social capital**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement	
	Yes		In a measure		No						
	K	%	K	%	K	%					
Increasing job opportunities among individuals in society	170	85	20	10	10	5	560	2.8	0.93	2	
Working to solve poverty problems	180	90	20	10	-	-	580	2.9	0.97	1	
To provide a better standard of living for citizens	160	80	20	10	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	4	
Increasing individual production and developing a sense of loyalty and belonging	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	2.65	0.88	5	
Enabling vulnerable groups in society to participate in decision-making	140	70	40	20	20	10	520	2.6	0.87	6	
Increase the bonds of cooperation and trust among members of society with each other	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.92	3	
<b>Total</b>							3280				
Relative importance 91 %											

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is statistically distributed in light of the total weights of (3280) with a relative strength of (91%), which is a high percentage that confirms the importance of the function of social capital. Working to solve poverty problems ranked first with a weighted average of (2.9) and a relative strength of (0.97). Increasing the available job opportunities among individuals in society ranked second with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Increasing the bonds of cooperation and trust among members of society ranked third with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.92). Providing a better standard of living for citizens ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Increasing individual production and developing the spirit of loyalty and belonging ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88). Empowering Vulnerable groups in society to participate in decision-making ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.60) and a relative strength of (0.87).

**Table (10) clarifies the political function of social capital**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement
	Yes		In a measure		No					
	K	%	K	%	K	%				
Working to introduce a democratic system and distance from individualism	170	85	24	12	6	3	564	2.82	0.94	2

Work to achieve the functions of public political institutions	160	80	20	10	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	5	
Working to face competitive free market dynamics	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	2.65	0.88	6	
Work to pass laws and legislations to protect vulnerable members of society	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.91	4	
Form pressure groups of vulnerable individuals in society	180	90	20	10	-	-	580	2.9	0.97	1	
Encouraging the spirit of loyalty and belonging within the community	160	80	40	20	-	-	560	2.8	0.93	3	
<b>Total</b>							3324				
Relative importance 92 %											

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is statistically distributed in light of the weighted total weights of (3324) with a relative strength of (92%), which is a high percentage that confirms the importance of the political function of social capital. The formation of pressure groups of vulnerable individuals in society ranked first with a weighted average of (2.9) and a relative strength of (0.97). Introducing the democratic system away from individualism ranked second with a weighted average of (2.82) and a relative strength of (0.94). Encouraging the spirit of loyalty and belonging within the community ranked third with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Issuing laws and legislations to protect Vulnerable members of society ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.91). Achieving the functions of public political institutions ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Facing competitive free market dynamics ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88).

D. What is meant by sustainable development?

**Table (11) clarifies what is meant by sustainable development**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement
	Yes		In a measure		No					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%				
Exploiting natural resources for the benefit of man in a way that does not lead to waste	150	75	40	20	10	5	540	2.7	0.90	2
Achieving harmony between economic, social and environmental activity	130	65	40	20	30	15	500	2.5	0.83	6
A human aspiration to create a safe climate that provides a safe life for present and future generations	140	70	30	15	30	15	490	2.45	0.81	7
Improving the quality of human life and preserving the natural heritage in society	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	2.65	0.88	3

Justice and equality and equity between humans	140	70	40	20	20	10	520	2.6	0.86	4
The right of all living things to meet their present and future needs	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.92	1
The ability to absorb current and future variables and developments	130	65	50	25	20	10	450	2.25	0.75	8
Focusing on the human dimension rather than commercial and industrial activity	130	65	50	25	20	10	510	2.55	0.85	5
<b>Total</b>							4090			
Relative importance 85 %										

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is statistically distributed in light of the total weights of (4090) with a relative strength of (85%), which is a high percentage that confirms the awareness of the study sample of the concept of sustainable development. The right of all living organisms to meet their current and future needs ranked first with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.92). The exploitation of natural resources for the benefit of man in a way that does not lead to wasting them ranked second with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Improving the quality of human life and maintenance of natural heritage in society ranked third with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88). Justice, fairness, and equity among people ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.6) and a relative strength of (0.86). Focusing on the human dimension instead of commercial and industrial activity ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.55) and a relative strength of (0.85). Achieving harmony between economic, social, and environmental activity ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.5) and a relative strength of (0.83). Human aspiration to reach a safe climate that provides a safe life for current and future generations ranked seventh with a weighted average of (1.45) and a relative strength of (0.81). The ability to absorb current and future variables and developments ranked eighth with a weighted average of (1.25) and a relative strength of (0.75).

**Table (12) illustrates the objectives of sustainable development**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement
	Yes		In a measure		No					
	K	%	K	%	K	%				
Enabling people to increase their ability to contribute to the development of their society	130	65	58	29	12	6	518	2.59	0.86	6
An individual's sense of social, economic, knowledge, and health security	170	85	20	10	10	5	560	2.8	0.93	1
Equity and fairness in obtaining equal opportunities	130	65	50	25	20	10	510	2.55	0.85	7
Development of positive social values in society	160	80	20	10	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	3
Improve the quality of life for individuals and raise their standard of living	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	2.65	0.88	4

The development of citizenship relations, spirit and cooperation between members of society	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.91	2
Linking modern technology to the goals of society	140	70	40	20	20	10	520	2.6	0.87	5
<b>Total</b>							3728			
Relative importance 89 %										

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is statistically distributed in light of the total weighted weights of (3728) with a relative strength of (89%), which is a high percentage that confirms that there is awareness among the study sample of the objectives of sustainable development. The individual's sense of social, economic, cognitive, and health security ranked first with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Developing citizenship relations, spirit, and cooperation among members of society ranked second with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.91). Developing positive social values in society ranked third with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Improving the quality of life of individuals and raising their standard of living ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88). Linking modern technology to social objectives ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.6) and a relative strength of (0.87). Human ability to contribute to the development of their society ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.59) and a relative strength of (0.86). Justice and equity in obtaining equal opportunities ranked seventh with a weighted average of (2.55) and a relative strength of (0.85).

**Table (13) dimensions of sustainable development**

Variable	No.	%
Environmental dimensions	160	25.5
Economic dimensions	140	22.5
Human dimensions	180	29
Technological dimensions	150	23
<b>Total</b>	630	100%

The data of the previous table indicate that 29%; 180 individuals of the total size of the study sample believe that the human dimensions of sustainable development comes first. The environmental dimensions ranked second with 25.5%; 160 individuals of the total sample size. The technological dimensions ranked third with 23%; 150 individuals of the total size of the study sample. The economic dimensions ranked fourth with 22.5%; 140 individuals of the total size of the study sample. These data indicate the multiplicity and diversity of sustainable development dimensions as they include mobility of Human, economic, environmental, and technological fields.

E. The role of social capital in empowering individuals for sustainable development.

**Table (14) the role of social capital in the field of social development**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement
	Yes		In a measure		No					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%				
Social care for the most needy	180	90	20	10	-	-	580	2.9	0.97	2

individuals											
Interest in spreading education and developing awareness among members of society	160	80	30	15	10	5	550	2.75	0.91	5	
Exploiting the social relations network to achieve development in its various fields	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	2.65	0.88	7	
Observing the principle of justice in distributing its activities to the beneficiaries	160	80	20	10	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	6	
Raise the level of awareness of women in society in terms of social, professional and health	170	85	24	12	6	3	564	2.82	0.94	3	
Child care through nurseries and medical centers	160	80	40	20	-	-	560	2.8	0.93	4	
Rehabilitation and training of groups that need rehabilitation	140	70	10	5	50	25	490	2.45	0.81	8	
Work to satisfy the needs of people of all groups	190	95	10	5	-	-	590	2.95	0.98	1	
<b>Total</b>							4404				
Relative importance 91.75 %											

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is statistically distributed in light of the total weights of (4404) with a relative strength of (91.75%), which is a high percentage that confirms the importance of social capital in the field of social development. Working to satisfy the needs of people of different groups ranked first with a weighted average of (2.95) and a relative strength of (0.98). Social welfare for the most needy individuals ranked second with a weighted average of (2.9) and a relative strength of (0.97). Raising the level of awareness of women in society in terms of social, professional, and health dimensions ranked third with a weighted average of (2.82) and a relative strength of (0.94). Caring for children through Nurseries and medical centers ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Interest in spreading education and developing awareness among members of society ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.75) and a relative strength of (0.91). Taking into account the principle of justice in distributing its activities among the beneficiaries ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Exploitation of the Social network times in achieving development in various fields ranked seventh with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88). Rehabilitation and training of groups that need rehabilitation ranked eighth with a weighted average of (2.45) and a relative strength of (0.81).

**Table (15) shows the indicators of social capital**

Variable	Response						Weights	Likely	Relative strength	Arrangement
	Yes		In a measure		No					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%				
Increasing sustainable development rates	180	90	10	5	10	5	570	2.82	0.95	2
Increasing the country's ability to expand its production at faster rates of	150	75	32	16	18	9	532	2.66	0.89	5

population growth											
Improve the ability of individuals to make decisions related to sustainable development	140	70	40	20	20	10	520	2.6	0.87	7	
Working to expand the options available to individuals in the context of teamwork	150	75	30	15	20	10	530	2.65	0.88	6	
Increasing ethical obligations among citizens in development projects	170	85	20	10	10	5	560	2.8	0.93	3	
Achieving justice, transparency, responsibility and social solidarity	140	70	20	10	40	20	500	2.5	0.83	8	
Abandonment of personal interest	160	80	20	10	20	10	540	2.7	0.90	4	
Improving societal trust between the government and the people	180	90%	20	10%	-	-	580	2.9	0.97	1	
<b>Total</b>							4332				
Relative importance 90 %											

Extrapolating the data of the previous table, the researcher found that it is statistically distributed in light of the total weights of (4332) with a relative strength of (90%), which is a high percentage that confirms the large role that social capital plays in achieving sustainable development. Improving social trust between the government and the people ranked first with a weighted average of (2.9) and a relative strength of (0.97). Raising the rates of sustainable development ranked second with a weighted average of (2.85) and a relative strength of (0.95). Increasing moral obligations among citizens in development projects ranked third with a weighted average of (2.8) and a relative strength of (0.93). Giving up personal interest ranked fourth with a weighted average of (2.7) and a relative strength of (0.90). Increasing the ability of the state to expand its production at faster rates of population growth ranked fifth with a weighted average of (2.66) and a relative strength of (0.89). Working To expand the options available to individuals in the context of teamwork ranked sixth with a weighted average of (2.65) and a relative strength of (0.88). Improving the ability of individuals to make decisions related to sustainable development ranked seventh with a weighted average of (2.6) and a relative strength of (0.87). Achieving justice, transparency, responsibility, and social solidarity ranked eighth with a weighted average of (2.5) and a relative strength of (0.83).

These indicators confirm the importance of the role of social capital in enabling individuals to achieve sustainable development.

Fourth; The results and recommendations.

#### 1. The Results.

##### A. Results related to the characteristics of the research community.

1. 58%; 116 males and 42%; 84 females are the beneficiaries that satisfy their needs and develop their capabilities to solve their problems.

2. 35%; 70 individuals in the age group from 30 to less than 40 years, 25% in the age group from 20 to less than 30 years, and 22% in the age group From 40 to less than 50 years indicate the diversity in the ages of the beneficiaries of income-generating loans. These loans develop social capital at all different stages of life in order to achieve sustainable development.

3. 55%; 110 married couples who bear family responsibilities resort to these loans to help them perform their social roles, develop their capabilities and help them solve their problems. 20%; 40 single individuals, 15%; 30 divorced individuals,

and 10%; 20 widow items resort to the loans, which confirms that these loans provide services to all members of the Iraqi society without any discrimination.

B. Results related to what social capital is, its characteristics, and its components.

1. The results of the present study reveal that there is a great awareness among the study sample of what the concept of social capital is in light of the total weighted weights of (4040) with a relative strength of (85%).

2. The results of the present study reveal the awareness of the beneficiaries of the most important characteristics of social capital in light of the total weighted weights of (3728) with a relative strength of (89%).

3. The results of the present study reveal the awareness of the sample members of the most important components of social capital in the Iraqi society in light of the total weighted weights of (3762) with a relative strength of (89.5%).

C. Results related to the importance of social capital and its functions in achieving sustainable development.

1. The results of the present study reveal that there is a great awareness among the beneficiaries of loans of the importance of social capital in achieving sustainable development in light of the total weighted weights of (4252) with a relative strength of (88.5%).

2. The study sample unanimously agreed that there are mechanisms to benefit from social capital in achieving sustainable development in the Iraqi society in light of the total weighted weights of (3324) with a relative strength of (92%).

3. 100%;200 individuals; the total size of the research sample unanimously agreed that there are functions of social capital.

D. Results related to dimensions and objectives of sustainable development.

1- The results of the present study reveal the awareness of the sample members of what sustainable development is in light of the total weighted weights of (4090) with a relative strength of (85%).

2. The results of the present study reveal that there is an awareness among the study sample of the objectives of sustainable development in light of the total weighted weights of (3728) with a relative strength of (89%).

3. The results of the present study reveal that there is a clear vision among the beneficiaries of the loans about the most important elements of sustainable development in light of the total weighted weights of (4252) with a relative strength of (88.5%).

4. The results of the present study reveal that there are various dimensions of sustainable development.

E. Results related to the role of social capital in empowering individuals for sustainable development.

1. The results of the present study reveal the consensus of the study sample on the existence of an effective and clear role for social capital in empowering individuals for sustainable development as follows:

A. There is a role for social capital in the field of social development in light of the total weighted weights of (4404) with a relative strength of (91.75%).

B. There is a role for social capital in developing the educational aspect in light of the total weighted weights of (4332) with a relative strength of (90.25%).

C. There is a role for social capital in health development in light of the total weighted weights of (4252) with a relative strength of (89%).

D. There is a role for social capital in economic development in light of the total weighted weights of (5330) with a relative strength of (89%).

E. There is a role for social capital in achieving environmental development in light of the total weighted weights of (4332) with a relative strength of (90%).

2. The research Recommendations.

- A. Holding training courses for workers in these loans to provide them with appropriate experiences and skills, benefit from the experiences of others in this field, and raise their efficiency in developing social capital to achieve sustainable development in the Iraqi society.
- B. Developing social welfare policies to activate the development of social capital.
- C. Taking into account the development of social capital in local development plans.
- D. Providing the necessary financing for these loans to help them achieve their objectives in the field of social capital development and achieving sustainable development.
- E. Activating public participation and investing the available resources in the Iraqi society to achieve sustainable development.
- F. Cooperation and coordination between the authorities responsible for developing social capital and achieving sustainable development.

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