

Reframing Community Solidarity: Micro-Level Social Capital as a Catalyst for Inclusive Welfare Development

Fildza Ghassani Aisyara ¹, Naila Nur Aziza ², Abdul Ghani ³

¹ Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta 1

² Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta 2

³ Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta 3

Correspondence: abdulghani14@email.com

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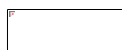
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ABSTRACT

This study examines how micro-level social capital can be reframed as a strategic driver of inclusive welfare development. The primary objective is to analyze the mechanisms through which community-based networks, trust, and reciprocity contribute to equitable welfare outcomes. A qualitative approach is employed using a case study design, chosen for its capacity to capture in-depth social interactions and contextual dynamics within a specific community setting. The research is conducted in an urban–peri-urban area of Tangerang Regency, Indonesia, selected due to its socio-economic diversity and the coexistence of formal and informal welfare systems. Data are collected from twelve informants, including community leaders, volunteers, and residents, who are purposively selected based on their active involvement in local welfare practices. The findings reveal that bonding, bridging, and linking social capital collectively enhance social resilience, expand access to resources, and strengthen participatory governance. However, challenges such as social exclusion and uneven network access persist. The study recommends integrating community-based social capital into formal welfare policies, strengthening local leadership, and promoting inclusive participation to ensure sustainable and equitable welfare development.



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INTRODUCTION

The discourse on welfare development has increasingly shifted from macro-institutional frameworks toward more localized, community-driven approaches, reflecting a growing recognition that inclusive welfare cannot be achieved solely through top-down policy interventions (Smedsvik & Iacono, 2023). In this context, social capital particularly at the micro level has emerged as a critical conceptual and empirical lens for understanding how communities mobilize internal resources to address social vulnerabilities (Matthew, 2024). While classical welfare state models emphasize formal redistribution mechanisms, recent scholarship highlights the role of informal networks, trust, reciprocity, and collective norms in shaping welfare outcomes (Griffiths, 2025). This evolving perspective underpins the need to reframe community solidarity not merely as a cultural attribute, but as a dynamic and strategic asset that can catalyze inclusive welfare development (Addy, 2023). The present study, titled *“Reframing Community Solidarity: Micro-Level Social Capital as a Catalyst for Inclusive Welfare Development,”* situates itself within this intellectual trajectory by examining how micro-level social capital operates as a transformative force in advancing equitable and participatory welfare systems.

Despite the expanding body of literature on social capital, significant gaps persist in understanding its operational mechanisms at the micro level, particularly in developing country contexts where formal welfare systems often face structural limitations (Marshall, 2020). Existing studies tend to privilege macro- or meso-level analyses, focusing on institutional trust, civic engagement, or policy frameworks, while underexploring the nuanced interactions that occur within households, neighborhoods, and small community groups (Dietrich, 2023). Moreover, there remains a tendency to treat social capital as a static resource, rather than as a fluid process shaped by power relations, socio-economic inequalities, and cultural dynamics (Appleton & Holt, 2025). This creates a critical research

gap, as the transformative potential of micro-level social capital in fostering inclusive welfare development remains insufficiently theorized and empirically validated (Choi, 2022). Addressing this gap is essential, particularly in societies characterized by fragmented social structures and uneven access to welfare resources (Yoon, 2023).

The main problem addressed in this study lies in the limited integration of micro-level social capital into welfare development strategies, resulting in policies that often overlook grassroots capacities and local knowledge systems (Syaiful & Kharisma, 2022). This disconnect contributes to inefficiencies in welfare delivery and undermines the inclusivity of development outcomes (Rahman et al., 2023). Furthermore, there is a lack of clarity regarding how different dimensions of social capital such as bonding, bridging, and linking interact at the micro level to influence welfare accessibility and sustainability (Venter, 2025). Consequently, this study seeks to interrogate the extent to which micro-level social capital can be leveraged as a catalyst for inclusive welfare development, and how its various forms can be strategically mobilized within community contexts.

In responding to these challenges, the novelty of this research lies in its integrative analytical framework that reconceptualizes community solidarity through the lens of micro-level social capital. Unlike prior studies that adopt a fragmented approach, this research synthesizes theoretical insights from social capital theory, community development, and welfare governance to construct a holistic understanding of grassroots welfare dynamics. Additionally, the study introduces an empirical focus on micro-level interactions, capturing the lived experiences of community members and the informal mechanisms through which welfare support is negotiated and distributed. This approach not only contributes to theoretical advancement but also provides practical insights for designing more context-sensitive and participatory welfare policies.

Guided by this conceptual foundation, the study formulates several key research questions. It seeks to explore how micro-level social capital is constructed and maintained within community settings, how it influences access to and distribution of welfare resources, and what factors enhance or constrain its effectiveness as a catalyst for inclusive development. Furthermore, the study examines the interplay between formal welfare institutions and informal social networks, aiming to identify opportunities for synergy and integration. These questions are designed to generate a comprehensive understanding of the role of micro-level social capital in shaping inclusive welfare outcomes.

The primary objective of this research is to analyze the function and impact of micro-level social capital in promoting inclusive welfare development. Specifically, the study aims to identify the mechanisms through which social capital facilitates collective action, enhances social resilience, and supports equitable access to welfare resources. By doing so, the research seeks to contribute to the development of more inclusive and sustainable welfare models that are grounded in community realities. Additionally, the study aims to provide policy-relevant recommendations that can inform the design and implementation of welfare programs at the local level.

From a theoretical perspective, this research contributes to the advancement of social capital theory by emphasizing its micro-level dimensions and dynamic characteristics (Mahlangu & Lorenzo, 2025). It challenges conventional assumptions that prioritize macro-structural factors, offering a more nuanced understanding of how social relations operate as drivers of welfare development (Nugroho, 2024). Academically, the study enriches the interdisciplinary discourse on community development, public administration, and social policy, providing empirical evidence that bridges theoretical constructs and practical applications. Practically, the findings are expected to inform policymakers, practitioners, and community organizations in designing welfare interventions that leverage local capacities and foster participatory governance.

However, this study acknowledges several limitations that may affect the generalizability of its findings. The focus on specific community contexts may limit the applicability of results to broader populations with different socio-cultural and institutional characteristics (Thara, 2021). Additionally, the qualitative nature of the research may introduce subjectivity in data interpretation, although efforts are made to ensure rigor through systematic analysis and triangulation (Ofoegbu, 2020). Time and

resource constraints may also restrict the scope of data collection, potentially overlooking certain dimensions of social capital that require longitudinal observation.

In light of these limitations, future research is encouraged to adopt comparative and longitudinal approaches to further investigate the role of micro-level social capital across diverse contexts (Lionanda & Kurniawati, 2024). Quantitative studies could complement qualitative insights by providing broader generalizations and identifying measurable indicators of social capital and welfare outcomes (Ho et al., 2023). Moreover, future studies may explore the integration of digital social networks and technological innovations in shaping new forms of community solidarity and welfare provision (Hampton et al., 2024). Such research would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of how social capital evolves in response to changing socio-economic and technological landscapes, thereby enhancing its relevance for inclusive welfare development in the contemporary era.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The scholarly discussion on community solidarity and inclusive welfare development is deeply rooted in interdisciplinary perspectives that integrate sociology, public administration, and development studies (E. Udom, 2024). In examining the role of micro-level social capital as a catalyst for inclusive welfare development, this study draws upon three major theoretical foundations: Social Capital Theory, Capability Approach Theory, and Community-Driven Development Theory. These frameworks provide complementary lenses to understand how social relations, human capabilities, and participatory structures interact in shaping equitable welfare outcomes (Beck & Purcell, 2020). The integration of these theories allows for a more comprehensive analysis of how grassroots dynamics influence welfare inclusivity, particularly in contexts where formal institutional mechanisms remain limited or unevenly distributed (Tian et al., 2021).

Social Capital Theory, prominently advanced by Robert David Putnam in his seminal work *Making Democracy Work* (1993), developed during his academic tenure at Harvard University, United States, serves as the primary theoretical anchor of this study (Silva, 2022). Putnam conceptualizes social capital as networks, norms, and trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit (Swain, 2021). His framework distinguishes between bonding, bridging, and linking social capital, each of which plays a distinct role in fostering collective action and social cohesion (Iversen & Rehm, 2022). Bonding social capital refers to strong ties within homogeneous groups, bridging social capital connects diverse social groups, and linking social capital facilitates relationships between communities and institutions (Sun & Chang, 2021). This study adopts Putnam's conceptualization to analyze how micro-level interactions within communities generate trust-based networks that enhance access to welfare resources. The relevance of this theory lies in its ability to explain how informal social structures can compensate for deficiencies in formal welfare systems, thereby directly addressing the main research problem concerning the underutilization of grassroots capacities in welfare development (Septiani & Hermawan, 2025).

Complementing this perspective is the Capability Approach Theory, introduced by Amartya Kumar Sen in *Development as Freedom* (1999), during his affiliation with the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (Falsarone, 2022). Sen's framework shifts the focus of development from income-based measures to the expansion of individuals' capabilities their real freedoms to achieve valued functionings (Jettner & Secret, 2020). According to Sen, welfare should be evaluated not merely by resource distribution but by the extent to which individuals can convert resources into meaningful opportunities (Ramadan et al., 2025). This theoretical lens is particularly relevant in understanding inclusive welfare development, as it emphasizes the role of social conditions, including social capital, in enabling or constraining individual capabilities (K. E. Lee & Chan, 2024). Within the context of this study, micro-level social capital is conceptualized as an enabling factor that enhances individuals' access to opportunities, information, and support systems, thereby expanding their capabilities. Sen's theory addresses the research gap related to the limited understanding of how social capital translates into tangible welfare outcomes at the individual level (Elpisah et al., 2022).

The third theoretical foundation is Community-Driven Development (CDD) Theory, significantly advanced by Michael Woolcock (2004), associated with the World Bank and later Harvard Kennedy School, United States (Kawlra, 2020). Woolcock's work emphasizes the importance of

integrating social capital into development practice, particularly through participatory and community-led initiatives (Nite & Dash, 2022). He argues that effective development requires a balance between bottom-up community engagement and top-down institutional support (Esping-Andersen, 2024). Woolcock introduces a framework that highlights the interaction between social cohesion and institutional capacity, suggesting that sustainable development outcomes emerge when communities are empowered to actively participate in decision-making processes (S. Yang, 2025). In this study, CDD Theory provides a practical and policy-oriented perspective, illustrating how micro-level social capital can be operationalized within welfare programs to enhance inclusivity and responsiveness. This theory is particularly relevant in addressing the gap between formal policy frameworks and local implementation practices (Agustín & Jørgensen, 2025).

The conceptual frameworks proposed by these three scholars collectively form the analytical foundation of this research (Mayo, 2024). Putnam's theory provides insight into the structural and relational dimensions of social capital, Sen's approach offers a normative framework for evaluating welfare outcomes, and Woolcock's perspective bridges theory and practice by emphasizing participatory development mechanisms (Nakanishi, 2022). Together, these frameworks enable a multidimensional analysis of community solidarity, positioning it as both a social resource and a developmental strategy (Savard & Charbonneau, 2020). The integration of these theories also reflects the evolving nature of social capital research, which has moved beyond static interpretations toward more dynamic and context-sensitive understandings (Bevis, 2025).

The development of Social Capital Theory has undergone significant transformation since its early conceptualizations by Pierre Bourdieu (1986) and James Coleman (1988), evolving into a more policy-relevant framework through Putnam's contributions (Talmage et al., 2024). Contemporary scholarship has further expanded this theory by incorporating digital social networks and examining the role of social capital in crisis resilience and governance innovation (Irwandi & Yuliani, 2022). Similarly, the Capability Approach has been extended by scholars such as Martha Nussbaum, who introduced a more defined list of central human capabilities, thereby enhancing its applicability in policy contexts (Peterson et al., 2022). Community-Driven Development Theory has also evolved, particularly in response to critiques regarding elite capture and sustainability, leading to more nuanced models that emphasize accountability, inclusivity, and institutional synergy (Morkel et al., 2023).

In relation to the main research problem, these theoretical frameworks collectively highlight the importance of integrating micro-level social dynamics into welfare development strategies (Aldrich & Meyer, 2022). The gap identified in this study namely, the insufficient attention to micro-level social capital in existing welfare models is directly addressed through the application of these theories (Xu, 2023). Putnam's framework elucidates the mechanisms of social interaction, Sen's approach clarifies the outcomes in terms of human well-being, and Woolcock's model provides pathways for practical implementation (Suyanto & Lestari, 2024). This theoretical triangulation strengthens the analytical rigor of the study and ensures that the research questions are grounded in well-established scholarly traditions (Chauhan, 2020).

Furthermore, the theories are closely aligned with the formulation of the research questions, which seek to explore how micro-level social capital is constructed, how it influences welfare accessibility, and how it can be effectively integrated into development policies. The theoretical framework also supports the research objectives by providing a basis for analyzing both the processes and outcomes of community-based welfare initiatives. In terms of theoretical contribution, the study advances the discourse on social capital by emphasizing its micro-level dynamics and its role as a catalyst for inclusive development (Best et al., 2025). Academically, it bridges gaps between sociological theory and public policy, while practically, it offers insights for designing more participatory and context-sensitive welfare programs.

The benefits of this theoretical integration extend across multiple dimensions. Theoretically, it enriches the understanding of social capital as a dynamic and multifaceted construct (Banerjee, 2022). Academically, it contributes to interdisciplinary scholarship by linking concepts from sociology, economics, and development studies (Weber & Grech, 2025). Practically, it provides a framework for policymakers and practitioners to design welfare interventions that leverage community resources and

promote inclusivity. These contributions are particularly relevant in addressing the challenges of welfare development in diverse and complex social contexts (Mandrysz, 2020).

In conclusion, the literature review demonstrates that Social Capital Theory, Capability Approach Theory, and Community-Driven Development Theory offer a robust and complementary foundation for analyzing the role of micro-level social capital in inclusive welfare development (Barbi et al., 2023). The integration of these theories addresses the main research problem by highlighting the importance of grassroots dynamics, fills the identified research gap by focusing on micro-level interactions, and supports the formulation of research questions and objectives (Wolfrum, 2021). The novelty of this study lies in its holistic approach, which synthesizes these theoretical perspectives to reframe community solidarity as a strategic asset in welfare development. This synthesis not only advances theoretical discourse but also provides practical insights for enhancing the inclusivity and effectiveness of welfare systems (Guérin et al., 2021).

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a qualitative research approach to explore how micro-level social capital operates as a catalyst for inclusive welfare development within community settings. A qualitative paradigm is particularly appropriate for this research because it enables an in-depth understanding of social interactions, meanings, and lived experiences that cannot be adequately captured through quantitative measurement (Nasvian et al., 2021). Given that the central focus of this study lies in examining community solidarity, trust, reciprocity, and informal welfare practices, a qualitative approach allows the researcher to uncover nuanced dynamics embedded in everyday social relations. This methodological choice aligns with the interpretivist tradition, which emphasizes the subjective construction of social reality and the importance of context in shaping human behavior (Schrage & Thompson, 2023). By adopting this approach, the study seeks to generate rich, contextualized insights into how micro-level social capital is formed, sustained, and mobilized to support inclusive welfare outcomes.

The research design applied in this study is a qualitative case study design. This design is selected because it facilitates an intensive and holistic examination of a bounded system, namely a specific community where social capital practices are actively embedded in welfare-related activities (Ge, 2021). The case study approach enables the researcher to investigate complex social phenomena within their real-life context, particularly when the boundaries between the phenomenon and the context are not clearly evident (Office, 2024). In the context of this research, the case study design is justified by the need to understand how community solidarity is reframed through micro-level interactions and how these interactions contribute to welfare inclusivity. Furthermore, the design allows for the integration of multiple data sources, including interviews, observations, and document analysis, thereby enhancing the depth and credibility of the findings (Mikkonen, 2020). The case study approach is also consistent with the theoretical framework of social capital, which emphasizes relational dynamics and contextual variability.

The research is conducted in a selected urban–peri-urban community in Tangerang Regency, Banten Province, Indonesia. This location is chosen due to its socio-economic diversity, rapid urbanization, and the coexistence of formal and informal welfare mechanisms. The community represents a relevant setting for examining the interplay between micro-level social capital and welfare development, as it exhibits characteristics of both traditional communal ties and modern institutional structures. Additionally, the area has experienced various social challenges, including economic inequality, limited access to formal welfare services, and increased social fragmentation, making it an appropriate site for investigating how community-based resources are mobilized to address these issues. The selection of this location is also informed by accessibility considerations and the presence of active community organizations, which provide a conducive environment for data collection and analysis.

The primary data sources in this study consist of key informants selected through purposive sampling. This sampling technique is employed to identify individuals who possess relevant knowledge, experience, and involvement in community welfare activities (McKenzie & McConkey, 2025). A total of twelve informants are included in the study, each representing different roles within the community to ensure diverse perspectives. These informants include local leaders, community organizers, social

workers, and residents actively engaged in mutual aid practices. To maintain confidentiality and ethical standards, all informants are assigned pseudonyms. Among them are Mr. “Rahmat,” a neighborhood head (RT leader) who oversees local administrative and social coordination; Ms. “Sari,” a community health volunteer (kader posyandu) involved in grassroots welfare initiatives; Mr. “Dedi,” a youth organization leader who facilitates social engagement among younger residents; and Ms. “Lina,” a single mother who actively participates in informal support networks. Additional informants include religious leaders, informal laborers, and members of local women’s groups, each contributing unique insights into the functioning of social capital within the community.

The selection of these informants is based on their direct involvement in or experience with community-based welfare practices. Local leaders are chosen for their role in coordinating collective activities and mediating between formal institutions and community members. Community volunteers and social workers are included due to their hands-on experience in delivering welfare services at the grassroots level. Ordinary residents, particularly those from vulnerable groups, are selected to capture the lived experiences of individuals who rely on social capital for accessing welfare support. This diverse composition of informants ensures that the data reflects multiple dimensions of social capital, including bonding, bridging, and linking relationships.

Data collection is carried out through in-depth semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and document analysis (Kazimoto & Shitima, 2025). Semi-structured interviews are used as the primary method to elicit detailed narratives and personal experiences related to community solidarity and welfare practices (Landaburú-Mendoza et al., 2024). This method allows for flexibility in probing deeper into specific issues while maintaining a consistent thematic focus across interviews. Participant observation is conducted to capture real-time interactions and social behaviors within the community, such as mutual aid activities, community meetings, and informal gatherings (Nakajo, 2021). This method provides valuable contextual information that complements interview data. Document analysis involves reviewing local records, community reports, and policy documents to understand the institutional context and historical development of welfare initiatives in the area (Chtouris & Miller, 2024).

The data analysis process follows a thematic analysis approach, which involves systematically identifying, coding, and interpreting patterns within the data (Baroroh et al., 2023). The analysis begins with data familiarization, where interview transcripts and field notes are carefully reviewed to gain an overall understanding of the content. This is followed by the generation of initial codes, which represent meaningful units of information related to social capital and welfare development (Taylor, 2025). The codes are then organized into broader themes that reflect key aspects of the research questions, such as trust-building mechanisms, informal support systems, and interactions between community members and formal institutions. These themes are continuously refined through an iterative process, ensuring that they accurately represent the data and align with the theoretical framework.

To enhance the validity and reliability of the findings, the study employs several strategies, including data triangulation, member checking, and peer debriefing (Sardà, 2020). Data triangulation is achieved by comparing information obtained from different sources and methods, thereby reducing the risk of bias and increasing the robustness of the analysis (Seemab & Abbas, 2024). Member checking involves sharing preliminary findings with selected informants to verify the accuracy and credibility of the interpretations (Islam & Khan, 2020). Peer debriefing is conducted with fellow researchers to critically assess the analytical process and ensure methodological rigor (Radvila et al., 2025). These measures contribute to the trustworthiness of the study and strengthen its contribution to the field (Sonkar, 2025).

The technique for drawing conclusions in this study is based on inductive reasoning, where general insights are derived from specific observations and empirical data (Kokkinidis & Checchi, 2023). The conclusions are formulated by synthesizing the identified themes and linking them to the theoretical framework and research objectives. This process involves interpreting how micro-level social capital functions as a catalyst for inclusive welfare development and identifying the conditions under which it is most effective. The findings are then contextualized within the broader literature, highlighting their implications for theory, policy, and practice (Bernados & Ocampo, 2023). By

adopting an inductive approach, the study remains grounded in the empirical realities of the community while contributing to the development of more generalized conceptual insights.

In summary, the methodological framework of this study is designed to capture the complexity and richness of micro-level social capital in community welfare contexts (Akintobi, 2023). The qualitative case study approach, combined with purposive sampling and multiple data collection methods, enables a comprehensive exploration of the research problem. The selection of a socio-economically diverse community in Tangerang Regency provides a relevant and meaningful context for the study, while the inclusion of diverse informants ensures a multidimensional perspective. Through rigorous data analysis and validation techniques, the study aims to produce credible and insightful findings that advance the understanding of community solidarity and its role in inclusive welfare development (Yuliastuti, 2024).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study reveal that micro-level social capital plays a pivotal and multifaceted role in reframing community solidarity as a driving force for inclusive welfare development (Rawal, 2022). Grounded in qualitative data collected through in-depth interviews, participant observation, and document analysis, the results demonstrate that social capital at the grassroots level is not merely a passive social asset but an active and dynamic mechanism that enables communities to respond adaptively to welfare challenges (Koizumi et al., 2021). The analysis identifies several interconnected themes, including trust formation, reciprocal practices, informal welfare distribution, and the interaction between community networks and formal institutions. These findings directly address the main research problem, namely the limited integration of micro-level social capital into welfare development strategies, and provide empirical evidence that such integration is both feasible and impactful (Raghubanshi et al., 2021).

One of the central findings indicates that bonding social capital, characterized by close-knit relationships among family members and neighbors, functions as the primary safety net for vulnerable individuals (Kumar, 2024). Informants such as “Lina,” a single mother, emphasized that daily survival often depends on informal support systems, including food sharing, childcare assistance, and small financial loans. This finding aligns with Putnam’s Social Capital Theory, which highlights the importance of dense social networks in fostering mutual support (Mendes, 2022). However, the study extends this theoretical perspective by demonstrating that bonding ties, while essential, may also have limitations when they become insular and exclude outsiders. This observation reflects a nuanced understanding of social capital as both enabling and constraining, thereby addressing the research gap concerning the dynamic nature of social capital at the micro level (Falch-Eriksen et al., 2021).

In addition to bonding ties, the study finds that bridging social capital plays a critical role in expanding access to welfare resources (Mungai, 2024). Community actors such as “Dedi,” a youth leader, actively connect different social groups, facilitating the flow of information and resources across socio-economic boundaries. These bridging networks enable marginalized individuals to access opportunities beyond their immediate circles, such as employment information and educational support. This finding resonates with Sen’s Capability Approach, as it illustrates how social capital enhances individuals’ capabilities by broadening their access to opportunities (Brazant, 2023). The empirical evidence suggests that communities with stronger bridging ties are better positioned to achieve inclusive welfare outcomes, thereby reinforcing the theoretical linkage between social capital and capability expansion (Soithong & Suksawas, 2025).

Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of linking social capital, which connects community members with formal institutions such as local government agencies and non-governmental organizations (Forje, 2021). Informants like “Rahmat,” a neighborhood head, play a crucial role in mediating these relationships, ensuring that community needs are communicated to institutional actors. This finding is consistent with Woolcock’s Community-Driven Development Theory, which emphasizes the synergy between grassroots participation and institutional support (J. Yang et al., 2025). The study demonstrates that effective welfare development requires not only strong internal networks but also strategic external linkages that enable communities to access formal resources and influence policy decisions (Suyatna et al., 2024).

To systematically present these findings, the following table summarizes the key themes, indicators, and theoretical linkages identified in the study:

Key Theme	Empirical Indicators	Theoretical Linkage	Implication for Welfare Development
Bonding Social Capital	Family support, mutual aid, informal loans, shared childcare	Putnam (1993) – Social Capital Theory	Strengthens immediate safety nets for vulnerable groups
Bridging Social Capital	Inter-group collaboration, youth networks, information exchange	Sen (1999) – Capability Approach	Expands access to opportunities and social mobility
Linking Social Capital	Interaction with local government, NGO support, policy access	Woolcock (2004) – CDD Theory	Enhances institutional responsiveness and resource access
Trust and Reciprocity	Collective action, voluntary participation, community solidarity	Integrated across all three theories	Builds sustainable and participatory welfare systems
Informal Welfare Mechanisms	Community-based aid, religious charity, rotating savings groups	Combined theoretical framework	Complements formal welfare programs

The findings also reveal that the implementation of micro-level social capital in welfare development is shaped by contextual factors such as cultural norms, leadership structures, and socio-economic conditions (Nikunen, 2024). While strong social capital can enhance welfare inclusivity, its effectiveness is contingent upon the presence of inclusive norms and equitable power relations (Ali, 2024). In some cases, the study identifies instances of exclusion, where certain groups are marginalized due to social hierarchies or lack of network access. This observation highlights the gap between the theoretical ideal of inclusive social capital and its practical realization, thereby contributing to the discourse on the limitations of social capital in addressing structural inequalities (Schmitt, 2024).

In relation to the research gap, the findings provide a nuanced understanding of how micro-level social capital operates in practice, addressing the lack of empirical evidence on its role in welfare development (Adebayo et al., 2025). By integrating insights from the three theoretical frameworks, the study demonstrates that social capital is not a monolithic construct but a complex interplay of relationships that influence welfare outcomes in different ways (Matashu, 2021). This contributes to bridging the gap between theory and practice, offering a more grounded perspective on how community solidarity can be leveraged for inclusive development (Miquel et al., 2024).

The results also respond directly to the research questions, which focus on the construction, function, and impact of micro-level social capital. The study finds that social capital is constructed through repeated interactions, shared experiences, and collective norms, and that its effectiveness depends on the quality and diversity of social networks. These findings align with the research objectives, which aim to analyze the mechanisms through which social capital facilitates inclusive welfare development. By providing empirical evidence on these mechanisms, the study advances the understanding of how community-based resources can be mobilized to address welfare challenges.

In terms of research objectives, the findings confirm that micro-level social capital significantly contributes to enhancing social resilience, promoting equitable access to resources, and fostering participatory governance (Young-shin, 2024). These outcomes are consistent with the theoretical propositions of Putnam, Sen, and Woolcock, demonstrating the relevance of these frameworks in

explaining real-world phenomena (Azraq & Aulia, 2025). The study also highlights the importance of integrating these theories to capture the multidimensional nature of welfare development, thereby reinforcing the novelty of the research.

The theoretical implications of the findings are substantial, as they extend existing frameworks by emphasizing the micro-level dynamics of social capital (Lefkofridi & Rhein, 2022). The study contributes to the refinement of Social Capital Theory by illustrating its contextual variability and interaction with other social factors (MGIEP, 2024). It also enriches the Capability Approach by demonstrating how social capital functions as an enabling condition for capability expansion (Hidayat et al., 2025). Additionally, it advances Community-Driven Development Theory by providing empirical evidence on the role of grassroots networks in enhancing institutional effectiveness (Ajayi & Adinlewa, 2020).

From a practical perspective, the findings offer valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to design more inclusive welfare programs. The study suggests that interventions should not only focus on resource allocation but also on strengthening community networks and fostering trust-based relationships (Hilmi & Maryana, 2025). This includes supporting local leaders, facilitating inter-group collaboration, and enhancing community engagement in decision-making processes. Academically, the research contributes to interdisciplinary scholarship by bridging theoretical concepts with empirical evidence, providing a robust foundation for future studies (Scarano, 2022).

The discussion of these findings in relation to previous research further underscores their significance (Gurín & Brandt, 2024). Prior studies have highlighted the importance of social capital in development, but often at a macro or meso level (Y. Lee & McGinley, 2025). This study builds on these findings by providing a micro-level perspective, demonstrating how everyday interactions shape welfare outcomes. It also addresses the limitations identified in previous research, such as the lack of attention to informal welfare mechanisms and the dynamic nature of social capital (Schwartz & Schwenken, 2021).

In conclusion, the findings of this study provide compelling evidence that micro-level social capital is a critical catalyst for inclusive welfare development (Zeitler, 2025). By integrating theoretical insights with empirical data, the study offers a comprehensive understanding of how community solidarity can be reframed as a strategic resource for development. The results address the main research problem, fill the identified gap, and contribute to the advancement of both theory and practice (Smith et al., 2020). Through its holistic approach, the study highlights the transformative potential of social capital in creating more inclusive and sustainable welfare systems (Venkareddy, 2021).

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study lead to a comprehensive conclusion that micro-level social capital constitutes a fundamental and transformative driver in advancing inclusive welfare development, particularly within community-based contexts. Drawing from the results and discussion, the study demonstrates that community solidarity, when reframed through the lens of social capital, evolves from a passive social attribute into an active mechanism that facilitates equitable access to welfare resources. The empirical evidence confirms that the interaction of bonding, bridging, and linking social capital generates a synergistic effect, enabling communities to respond adaptively to socio-economic vulnerabilities while complementing the limitations of formal welfare systems.

The study concludes that bonding social capital plays a crucial role in sustaining immediate welfare support through close interpersonal relationships characterized by trust and reciprocity. These internal networks provide a foundational safety net, particularly for marginalized individuals who lack access to institutional assistance. However, the findings also reveal that excessive reliance on bonding ties may lead to exclusivity, thereby limiting broader welfare inclusivity. This insight reinforces the argument presented in the discussion that social capital must be understood as a dynamic construct, capable of both enabling and constraining welfare outcomes depending on its configuration within the community.

In addition, bridging social capital emerges as a key factor in expanding welfare opportunities by connecting diverse social groups and facilitating the flow of information and resources. The results indicate that communities with stronger bridging networks are more capable of overcoming structural barriers, thereby enhancing individuals' capabilities in line with the theoretical propositions of the Capability Approach. This confirms that inclusive welfare development is not solely dependent on resource availability but also on the accessibility of social networks that enable individuals to utilize these resources effectively. The discussion further emphasizes that bridging ties contribute to social cohesion across heterogeneous groups, reducing inequalities and fostering a more inclusive development environment.

Furthermore, the study highlights the strategic importance of linking social capital in connecting community actors with formal institutions. The findings suggest that effective welfare development requires not only strong internal cohesion but also institutional engagement that supports and legitimizes community initiatives. This aligns with the principles of Community-Driven Development, where participatory governance and institutional collaboration are essential for sustainable outcomes. The discussion underscores that communities with well-established linking networks are better positioned to access public services, influence policy decisions, and ensure that welfare programs are responsive to local needs.

The integration of these three dimensions of social capital provides a holistic understanding of how community solidarity can be operationalized as a catalyst for inclusive welfare development. The study concludes that the effectiveness of social capital lies in its ability to bridge the gap between informal community practices and formal welfare systems. This finding directly addresses the main research problem identified in the study, namely the limited incorporation of micro-level social dynamics in welfare policies. By demonstrating the practical relevance of social capital, the research contributes to narrowing the gap between theoretical discourse and policy implementation.

Moreover, the study concludes that the research objectives have been successfully achieved, as it provides a detailed analysis of the mechanisms through which micro-level social capital enhances social resilience, promotes equitable resource distribution, and supports participatory governance. The findings also respond to the research questions by illustrating how social capital is constructed through everyday interactions, how it influences welfare accessibility, and how it can be strategically mobilized within community settings. These conclusions are consistent with the theoretical frameworks employed in the study, confirming the applicability of Social Capital Theory, the Capability Approach, and Community-Driven Development Theory in explaining grassroots welfare dynamics.

From a broader perspective, the study concludes that the reframing of community solidarity offers significant theoretical, practical, and academic contributions. Theoretically, it advances the understanding of social capital by emphasizing its micro-level and process-oriented dimensions. Practically, it provides actionable insights for policymakers and practitioners to design welfare interventions that leverage community resources and foster inclusive participation. Academically, it enriches interdisciplinary scholarship by integrating sociological, economic, and developmental perspectives into a cohesive analytical framework.

In conclusion, the study affirms that micro-level social capital is not merely a supplementary element but a central pillar in the realization of inclusive welfare development. The synthesis of empirical findings and theoretical insights highlights the necessity of adopting a more community-centered approach to welfare policy, one that recognizes and strengthens the capacities inherent within local social structures. By reframing community solidarity as a strategic asset, this research offers a compelling pathway toward more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable welfare systems.

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