CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION
The general organization of this chapter is as follows. First, the reasons for researching on the relationship between social capital and quality of life and statement of the problem have been examined. Leading research questions that guide the study have been highlighted. Following the research questions, the research objectives are presented in second section of current chapter. Third section pertains to the research design. This section is divided in four parts. In the first part of this section, research methodology, Method and Techniques which have been used in this study are discussed. The study area is presented in next part. Third part of this section briefly discusses about statistical population and sampling method. Last part of this section examines research approach. The fourth section of this chapter illustrates the research significance. Next section explains the research limitations. Finally, this chapter ends with outline of the thesis.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

The thesis revolves round the relationship between social capital and quality of life in different localities of Delhi (India) and Tehran (Iran). There is an attempt in the present study to answer the following questions:

- Is there any significant difference in quality of life variances between Delhi and Tehran according to level of social capital?
- Is there any relationship between social capital and quality of life in general?
- To what extent the social capital indicators included in the model as predictors of quality of life can determine its variances?
- To what extent total variance in quality of life could be uniquely explained by each predictor in both societies?
- To what extent total variance in quality of life could be uniquely explained by cognitive and structural dimensions of social capital?

The common goal of development at local, national, and international level is to promote the quality of life. The future of human beings’ life depends on better understanding of elements that have been bearing on the quality of life of human beings. Parts of these elements are related to the quality of our relationships with others, formal and informal groups and institutions; that are expressed as social capital and as a lost element of development programs. Expanding and facilitating the communication networks and social ties, promotes the access level of individuals and groups to economic and social resources. These ties and communications, in their different forms act as a type of glue so that the elements present in the society would be connected together and cumulative functions such as social cooperation, social support are facilitated. Presence of cumulative functions and solving the issues and
problems in a group form will result in better utilization of social resources, decrease in social expenses, and increase in the efficiency of economic, social, and development planning in the society. A number of studies have shown that inefficiency in most of the economic, political, and social plans that have been executed in some regions were related to the condition of the relations and ties present among those people with each other, with official organizations, and the norms that stabilized them. As a critical energizer of social and economic regeneration and contributors to increase overall quality of life, social capital has been recognized. The most important role of social capital is to enhance quality of life through making complementarities and positive supported ties among the individuals. Therefore, we could claim that the quality of life, in its different dimensions is under the influence of the quality of communications and social ties. Both metropolitan cities of Delhi and Tehran as the country's capital, with excellent employment opportunities and as socio-political forefront of the both developing countries have attracted people from across both countries. Therefore, they both reflect the wealth and diversity of India and Iran where in diverse religions, languages, customs and cultures co-exist in splendid plural harmony. These features have created an asymmetrical composition regarding the quality of life and social capital forms. Lack of knowledge about these characteristics always hinders the insights to gain proper outcomes for quality of life development programs for both countries' policy makers. Lack of comprehensive information about the societies due to the cities division into numerous disintegrated divisions also has led to a fragmentation between local structures and policy systems in both developing countries' capital. In order to capture comprehensive information about the societies, alternative methods of data analysis and presentation are necessary to investigate the quality of life and social capital situation of populations across different geographic areas. One of the best complementary analytical tools for traditional standard statistical analyses in order to obtain simple but comprehensive visual information about society is Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It allows interactive mapping and spatial analysis of subjective individuals' perceptions that can present multiple layers of information in one format. This helps policy makers to have integrated and comprehensive information about splendid plural localities before making development policies. Herein, this study attempts to investigate one of the most important factors (social capital) which is affecting residents' quality of life in subjective and objective dimensions in both developing societies by employing both Geographical Information Systems and Statistical Package of Social Sciences.
1.2. **Objectives of the Study**

This study is guided by six objectives as follows.

a. The first objective of the study is to gain insight into the comparison of quality of life differences according to level of social capital in Delhi and Tehran.

b. The second objective of the study is to investigate the relationship between social capital and quality of life in Delhi and Tehran.

c. To identify to what extent variances in quality of life is determined by social capital indicators in both societies.

d. To illuminate the empirical model for both societies and identifying the extent to which total variance in quality of life could be uniquely explained by each predictor.

e. To identify the extent to which total variance in quality of life could be uniquely explained by cognitive and structural dimensions of social capital in both societies.

f. To describe and visualize the social capital and quality of life indicators distribution in both societies through maps and charts.

1.3. **Research Design**

This section is divided into the following four subsections:

1.3.1. **Research methodology, method, and techniques**

This study attempts to check the positive and linear relationship between social capital and quality of life which resulted in previous works. Additionally, the hypotheses which resulted from theoretical model will be tested. Therefore, in order to conduct the research and obtain the empirical model positivistic methodology and deductive logic of inquiry is employed in this study.

The method which is applied in this study is survey method. Survey is a means of gathering information, usually through self-report using scheduled interviews or questionnaires (Hutchinson 2004). The major assumption for using the survey in this study is that all respondents interpret survey questions in the same way; that is, a given item has the same meaning for everyone. This suggests that differences in response among respondents, as indicated by level of agreement on a particular item, for example, reflect true differences on the attitude, opinion, or behavior being measured, and not differences in interpretation of the item. The survey is designed to be representative at the level of area of interest and to facilitate analysis of the relationships between social capital and quality of life.
Other sources of data used in this study are Google Earth's satellite images in order to prepare base map, census reports published in survey of India and Iran, and allied economic surveys of India and Iran as secondary sources of data.

Since the types of information gathered from this survey are opinions, attitudes, facts, and spatial data the technique which is employed to collect the data is Household Schedule Interview Form (HSIF) and Global Positioning System (GPS) that provides reliable location for interested cases.

1.3.2. Study area

The present study is based on data collected from Delhi and Tehran between April to December 2009. Delhi is located in northern India between the latitudes of 28°-24′-17″ and 28°-53′-00″ north and longitudes of 76° - 50′ - 24″ and 77° - 20′ - 37″ east. Delhi shares its border with the states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The Economic Survey of Delhi (2008) recorded 3,214,000 households residing in Delhi. As the country's capital, with vibrant trade and excellent employment opportunities, Delhi has attracted people from all over the country and its population today reflects the characteristics of almost every region. Delhi truly reflects the wealth and diversity of India where in diverse religions, languages, customs and cultures co-exist in splendid plural harmony. Religious, cultural and social functions of different socio-cultural groups have transformed Delhi into a city of festivals.

According to the geographic alignment Tehran is located between the latitudes of 35°, 35′ and 35°, 45′ north and longitudes 51°, 17′ and 51°, 33′ east. Tehran as capital of Iran and Tehran province with 2,267,892 households (Census 2006) is the largest city of Iran and Western Asia. In the Central Iranian Plateau Tehran is bordered by the Alborz Mountains in the north and by the Kavir desert in the south with an area of about 800sq/m. Today Tehran marks a gigantic Iranian metropolis at approximately equal distance from eastern (Afghanistan) and western (Turkey, Iraq) boarders in the Middle East. Representing all of Iran's urban and pastoral nomadic population, Tehran defines the political and social forefront of Iran. Tehran houses diverse ethnic and linguistic groups from all over the country and represents the ethnic/linguistic composition of Iran.

1.3.3. Sampling method

As the statistical population in this study is too large (5,481,892 households), it is not feasible and too costly for the researcher to attempt to survey the whole population to get their opinion and views. Therefore, according to the nature of the study which is pertaining to the quality of life and social capital in both heterogeneous societies the multistage sampling approach is chosen as sampling method. In the first stage both Delhi and Tehran are divided
in three zones viz. well off zone, middle class zone, and poor zone. Each zone encompasses different localities; one of them is selected through simple random sampling in next step. At the end, respondents are selected through simple random sampling in each selected locality. As representative of poor, middle class, and well-off area in Delhi, Nandlal Slum, Uttam Nagar, and Defence Colony are selected respectively. In Tehran as representative of poor, middle class, and well-off area, Moshirie, Amirie, and Shahrak-E-Gharb localities are selected respectively as well. According to Krejcie & Morgan’s (1970) formula the sample size is 384 and 192 schedule interviews have been taken in three localities of Delhi and 192 interviews in three localities of Tehran between March-December 2009.

1.3.4. Study approach

In this study, the data are gathered and generated based on following steps. In the first step, the HSIF has been used for collecting the primary subjective data and also GPS is used for determining the respondents' location and collecting the spatial data like public and social services’ location in both Delhi and Tehran. In the second step, to generate and process the both collected spatial and subjective data, they are transferred to the GIS software that is called Integrated Land and Water Information System (ILWIS) after producing the database in Excel. After preparing the base map through georeferencing the satellite image, point maps are produced according to the database which is imported to the ILWIS. Then, in order to make raster maps the existing data related to the independent and dependent variables are interpolated. Afterward, the slice maps were produced to prepare quantitative distribution map for each variable. After producing the attribute maps as qualitative distribution maps again point maps were produced from generated data to export them to the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS, 11.5) in order to obtain empirical models and compare the obtained data through multiple regression and two-ways analysis of variance techniques. In the final step, in order to obtain the model maps for both Delhi and Tehran, the existing data are transferred to ILWIS again based upon the results obtained from multiple regressions.

1.4. Significance of Research

This research is significant as the study provides implications to the urban policy makers and planners, as the policy making and planning for local community is closely related to the policy and planning of the entire city.

The most pertinent significance of this study is employing GIS for collecting, storing and analyzing both subjective (individuals' self reports and attitudes) and objective (spatial) data in Delhi and Tehran. Employing the GIS helps to make the presentation of data more attractive and clearer than traditional statistical charts. It also helps to project subjective data
like peoples' view and perspectives about trust and solidarity in their living area onto maps for recognizing and sharpening unexpected situations for urban policy makers and governors. In other words, through considering geographical information systems, the analyses become finer and more precise, increasing the likelihood that ensuing strategies will be more pertinent. Finally, it provides more flexible assistance in prospective planning at multiple levels or units of analysis: national, regional, provincial/district, and local (DeGrauwe 2002: 10-12).

In addition, the proposed research adds to the current stream of quality of life researches by integrating the Woolcock and Narayan's perspective and Uphof's perspective on theory of social capital to propose a conceptual and theoretical framework for this study. This research not only includes the cognitive factors of social capital like view towards locality, local solidarity and social trust, but also it includes the structural factors of social capital like social communication and social participation.

1.5. Research Limitations

The choice of the research design forced certain trade-offs that could limit generalizability of the findings. First, since statistical population was too large (5,481,892 households) and the study was pertaining to cases in heterogeneous societies, the multistage sampling approach is chosen as sampling method. It was expected that through geographical information system we can easily interpolate and generalize the collected data in three representative localities in each society to whole society. However, the proper sampling method for interpolation and generalization of the data through GIS is the simple random sampling method.

In addition, it was expected that in slums and poor areas, respondents will indicate lower level of accessibility to public and social services in comparison with their real level of accessibility to public and social services which is obtained through their distances to the services distributed in locality, but we obtained reverse respond. For instance, according to the figures 4.19 and 4.20, majority of the respondents (36%) in Nandlal (as representative of poor areas in Delhi) stated that they have good level of accessibility to the public and social services, and 35% of the respondents who were residing in Western part of the locality believed that they have bad level of accessibility to services provided by government. Whereas, according to the measure of real accessibility to services depicted in figures 4.25 and 4.26, which is obtained through their distances to the services available around their locality, only 3% of the dwellers in western part of the Nandlal have good level of accessibility to social and public services provided by government. This might be because slum dwellers and the poor are more contented than rich people.
Another limitation was the lack of understanding of English by the majority of the Nandlal slum dwellers in Delhi, I therefore had to hire a translator to interpret the items and spend more time and energy in each interview. However, I tried my best to minimize this problem by getting help of sociology students of Delhi University and some students among slum dwellers after teaching and familiarizing them with schedule interview items. Additionally, the questions were repeated and slowly read to ascertain clarity and understanding.

Outline of the Thesis

This thesis is dealing with the relationship between social capital and quality of life in different localities of Delhi (India) and Tehran (Iran). It is organized into five chapters; each of them contains two or more sections which are organized as follows.

- Chapter 1 introduces the research problem. It summarizes the approach providing a condensed overview of the study and a road map for how the problem is addressed through the succeeding chapters.
- Chapter 2 positions the research within the relevant literature. It conceptualizes both the constructs of social capital and quality of life. It attempts to answer why social capital could be matter to the quality of life in both developing countries. Next section presents the theoretical framework and model of the study that is source of our hypotheses.
- Chapter 3 describes the research methodology, method, and techniques adopted to conduct the research. It also defines the independent and dependent variables' indicators conceptually and operationally and depicts the measures' validity and reliability levels in next section. Then, study area, sampling method and sample size are explained in next section. Finally, the last section of this chapter presents the study approach that explains how the study practically was constructed and implemented. In other words it shows how data is collected, processed, and analyzed.
- Chapter 4 describes the distribution of the indicators in both societies through maps and charts in the first section. It visually depicts the demographic results and descriptive statistics of the study. The second section documents the analyses of the data undertaken in order to test the hypotheses identified through theoretical framework and model in the second chapter.
- Chapter 5 presents the discussion in first section. It compares the findings with parallel studies and empirical evidences conducted in this field and presented in second chapter of this thesis. Next section puts the general concluding remarks of the study and attempts to answer the research questions which are posed in first chapter of this thesis.
implications and recommendations for policy making and for further researches are suggested. At the end of the thesis bibliography and appendices have been provided.