Abstract

The main objective of this study is to measure social capital empirically in the context of Tibetan settlements in Mysore district, Karnataka. The present study is based on the primary data collected from ten percent of the population located in two settlements namely, the Tibetan Dickey Larsoe Settlement and Lugsung Samdupling Tibetan Settlement through a pretested questionnaire. The survey data were supplemented with focus group discussions.

Two separate questionnaires were prepared for collecting information. One questionnaire focusing on the camp leasers and other was for the sample households. The questionnaires were prepared based on the framework proposed by the World Bank to measure social capital. The household questionnaire contains three sections. Section one, deals with the demographic details of the sample population. Under this section, the information relating to the education, occupation and gender of the respondents were asked. Section two, deals with the measurement of Structural Social Capital, by using the proxy parameters like membership in groups and networks, degree of participation, nature of decision making process, density and effectiveness of the groups, etc. Section three, deals with the measurement of cognitive social capital among the members by using proxy indicators of cognitive social capital like the presence or absence of the following traits among the members of different social networks- the degree of solidarity, cooperation, trust, cohesion, collective action, exclusion and conflict, etc.

From the study it was found that, at the micro level, the members have strong Bonding Social Capital, reflected by the density of local institutions and the dependence of the respondents on these community based institutions. But at the macro level, the Central Tibetan Administration as a legitimate social capital builder of the six million Tibetan promotes all the bridging and linking social capital, by planning and implementing programmes for the wellbeing of the Tibetans in their settlements and across the world.