



Unveiling the Importance of the Roles of Social Capital from Clan Association Memberships: A Comprehensive Review
Mengulas Kepentingan Peranan Modal Sosial daripada Keahlian Persatuan Keturunan: Satu Kajian Komprehensif

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ABSTRACT

Chinese clan associations have played an important role in the evolution of Chinese community in Malaysia and all around the world. Clan associations build trust, social networks, and conventions. Social capital in clan associations and its effects on communal life are examined in this comprehensive review. Clan associations use social capital for resource mobilization, community development, and intergenerational transmission. Social capital mobilizes resources by providing financial capital, information, skills, and opportunities through strong social networks. This enhances clan associations' ability to pursue common goals. By fostering unity and consensus, social capital affects collective decision-making. Clan associations use their diverse networks to support clan members and assist community efforts, and social capital helps sustain clan associations. Clan associations also preserve identity and develop a sense of belonging by passing on cultural traditions, values, and practises. To safeguard the sustainability of clan associations, social network dynamics, social capital's effects on community development, challenges and adaptation to changing landscapes, and intergenerational relations should be explored. This review provides an understanding of how clan associations use social capital to promote collective well-being and maintain sustainability.

Keywords: Chinese community; clan association; social capital; social network; clan culture

ABSTRAK

Persatuan Keturunan Cina telah memainkan peranan penting dalam evolusi masyarakat Cina di Malaysia dan di seluruh dunia. Persatuan keturunan membina kepercayaan, rangkaian sosial dan konvensyen. Modal sosial dalam persatuan keturunan dan kesannya terhadap kehidupan bermasyarakat dikaji dalam kajian komprehensif ini. Persatuan keturunan menggunakan modal sosial untuk menggerakkan sumber, pembangunan komuniti, dan transmisi antara generasi. Modal sosial menggerakkan sumber dengan menyediakan modal kewangan, maklumat, kemahiran dan peluang melalui rangkaian sosial yang kukuh. Ini meningkatkan keupayaan persatuan keturunan untuk mencapai matlamat bersama. Dengan memupuk perpaduan dan konsensus, modal sosial mempengaruhi keputusan kolektif. Persatuan keturunan menggunakan rangkaian mereka yang pelbagai untuk menyokong ahli persatuan dan membantu usaha komuniti, dan modal sosial membantu mengekalkan persatuan keturunan. Persatuan keturunan juga mengekalkan identiti dan mengembangkan semangat kekitaan dengan meneruskan tradisi budaya, nilai dan amalan. Untuk melindungi kemampuan persatuan keturunan, dinamik rangkaian sosial, kesan modal sosial terhadap pembangunan komuniti, cabaran dan penyesuaian kepada perubahan landskap, dan hubungan antara generasi harus diterokai. Kajian pengulasan ini memberikan pemahaman tentang cara persatuan keturunan menggunakan modal sosial untuk menggalakkan kesejahteraan kolektif dan mengekalkan kemampuan.

Kata kunci: Masyarakat Cina; persatuan keturunan; modal sosial; rangkaian sosial; budaya persatuan keturunan

INTRODUCTION

Social capital has become a prominent term in the field of social sciences, highlighting the importance of connections and social networks as essential resources for individuals and societies (Alpino & Mehlum 2023). Clan relationships, which are based on cultural and genealogical connections, offer a distinctive framework for examining the significance of social capital. These associations have a well-established practice of uniting persons who have shared lineage, cultural legacy, and societal responsibilities. Studying the interactions of social capital in clan associations can provide insight into how social networks, norms, and trust promote collaboration, integration into society, and well-being.

The purpose of this extensive review paper is to thoroughly examine the importance of social capital in clan association memberships. The objective is to offer a comprehensive understanding of how social capital promotes social integration and well-being by examining its diverse aspects and consequences within this particular framework. The review paper aims to accomplish this by conducting a thorough analysis of the conceptualization of social capital, exploring the viewpoints of influential theorists, tracing its conceptual history, and investigating its importance within clan associations through an examination of networking sites, norms, and trust.

LITERATURE REVIEW

DEFINITIONS OF SOCIAL CAPITAL



Scholars from different fields have provided several definitions and conceptualizations of social capital. Although there may be differences in focus and vocabulary, these definitions include similar elements that lead to a thorough comprehension of social capital. Sociologist Robert Putnam offers a prominent definition of social capital as “the characteristics of social organization, such as networks, norms, and trust, that enable coordination and cooperation for mutual advantage” (Portes 1998). Putnam highlights the significance of social networks, common norms, and trust in facilitating collective action and promoting social cohesion.

Pierre Bourdieu, a notable sociologist, offers an alternative viewpoint on social capital. Bourdieu conceptualizes social capital as a manifestation of cultural and symbolic capital, which confers individuals with resources and benefits in their social exchanges (Bourdieu 2018). Social capital, as defined by Bourdieu, encompasses the networks and associations that individuals can utilize to obtain valuable knowledge, assistance, and advantageous circumstances. According to Coleman (1988), a prominent sociologist, social capital can be defined as a collection of entities that share two similar characteristics: they are all related to the social structure, and they enable individuals within that structure to carry out specific acts. Coleman (1988) highlights the significance of the structural dimension of social capital and its role in facilitating individuals’ attainment of their objectives through the utilization of the resources inherent in social networks.

SHARED THEMES AND CONCEPTS ACROSS DEFINITIONS

Although definitions may vary, there are certain recurring elements and concepts that are evident in different viewpoints on social capital. These shared traits enhance comprehension of the core attributes of social capital. First and foremost, social capital is fundamentally based on relationships. It emphasizes the importance of social ties, networks, and relationships as important assets (Green & Haines 2016). These relationships can be categorized as either formal or informal, including individuals from one’s family, friends, neighbours, and members of different social groups, or institutions such as churches (Green & Haines 2016).

Furthermore, trust and reciprocity are essential elements of social capital (Coleman 1988). Trust is the fundamental basis for cooperation, as people are more inclined to participate in joint efforts when they have faith in the dependability and reciprocity of others (Coleman 1988). Reciprocity, which refers to the anticipation of mutual exchange and assistance, enhances social connections and promotes collaboration. Besides, social capital relies heavily on the presence of shared norms and values. Norms are the recognized and accepted standards of conduct, anticipated outcomes, and responsibilities within a social group or community (Putnam 2000). Shared standards and beliefs among individuals promote social cohesion and encourage collaboration. One example is observed in Xie et al.’s (2020) study which posits that fostering a robust sense of community, shared values, and reciprocal support among nurses might enhance job satisfaction and mitigate staff turnover.

SOCIAL CAPITAL AS A STRATEGIC ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES IN SOCIAL NETWORKS

Social capital can be understood as an investment in social relationships (Green & Haines 2016). Social capital encompasses the value obtained from social relationships and networks, analogous to how financial capital symbolizes wealth and resources (Bourdieu 1986; Thomson 2008). People allocate their time, energy, and resources towards establishing and nurturing social connections, which subsequently yield benefits like confidence, assistance, knowledge, and the ability to seize chances. The returns can encompass both physical outcomes, such as

employment recommendations and access to resources, as well as intangible benefits, such as emotional support and a feeling of belonging.

Social capital functions based on the concept of “social embeddedness,” wherein individuals are integrated into social networks that furnish them with social assistance, knowledge, and assets (Adkins 2021). Through the act of engaging in social relationships, individuals acquire social capital, which they can utilize to navigate social, economic, and political institutions with more efficiency. Moreover, social capital is not exclusively a personal resource, but also a communal one. It confers advantages not merely to individuals but also to communities and cultures in their whole. Robust social capital within a community can result in heightened social unity, collaborative efforts, greater governance, and improved welfare for its constituents (Wang et al. 2022).

Ultimately, social capital comprises a range of definitions and conceptualizations, emphasizing the significance of social ties, trust, norms, and reciprocity. It symbolizes a financial commitment to interpersonal connections, equipping individuals with assets and benefits in their dealings. To comprehend these shared characteristics and the notion of social capital as a commitment to social connections establishes the basis for investigating its importance within clan association memberships.

SOCIAL CAPITAL PERSPECTIVES

PIERRE BOURDIEU’S PERSPECTIVE: INSTITUTIONALIZED RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

Pierre Bourdieu’s viewpoint on social capital centers on the established ties and resources that individuals might obtain through their social networks. Bourdieu (2018) defines social capital as a type of intellectual and symbolic capital that offers benefits and resources in social exchanges. According to him, those who possess social capital may use their networks and interpersonal connections to get information, assistance, and advantageous prospects which are not easily accessible to others (Bourdieu 1986).

Bourdieu (2018) highlights the role of social capital in a wider framework of social stratification, wherein people hold distinct social positions that grant them differing degrees of access to resources and privileges. He emphasizes the imbalanced allocation of social capital and its function in perpetuating socioeconomic disparities (Bourdieu 1986). According to Bourdieu, social capital is strongly connected to social class and power dynamics, influencing people’s ability to obtain assets and social benefits (Portes 1998). His research illuminates that social capital plays a role in maintaining social structures and perpetuating inequalities in society.

JAMES COLEMAN’S VIEWPOINT: SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND RELATIONSHIPS

James Coleman’s viewpoint on social capital focuses on the structural elements of social capital, including societal frameworks and interactions (Field 2017). Coleman underscores the significance of social capital and its impact on individual conduct and results. According to Coleman (1988), social capital comprises elements within social systems that enable specific activities by individuals. These social structures encompass familial networks, cohorts, and vocational affiliations. Coleman emphasizes that social capital functions by utilizing the resources inherent in social networks, allowing individuals to accomplish their objectives and obtain useful information, assistance, and chances.

Social networks function as channels for the exchange of resources, and those who have significant social connections enjoy enhanced access to assets and social assistance. Coleman's (1990) viewpoint highlights the utilitarian aspect of social capital, emphasizing its influence on individual autonomy and societal advancement. The research he has conducted has significantly advanced our understanding of the impact of social capital on educational achievement, financial prosperity, and various other personal outcomes.

ROBERT PUTNAM'S VIEWPOINT: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Robert Putnam's viewpoint on social capital highlights the significance of civic engagement and social institutions in promoting social capital (Portes 1998). Putnam (2000) asserts that social capital is constructed by actively participating in civic activities and actively engaging with social institutions, such as organizations, clubs, and community organizations. He argues that social capital is based on social networks, common norms, and trust, which enable the coordination and collaboration of individuals for their mutual advantage within communities.

Putnam emphasizes that social relationships and exchanges foster a feeling of interconnectedness, togetherness, and mutual exchange among individuals, hence promoting social integration and the well-being of the community (Field 2017). Putnam's perspective underscores the communal advantages of social capital, highlighting its influence on social unity, civic participation, and the general well-being of communities. His research, notably his classic book "*Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*," has shed light on the collapse of social capital in modern countries and its implications for connection to society and engagement with society.

INTEGRATION OF PERSPECTIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL CAPITAL THEORY

The combination of Bourdieu's viewpoint on institutions in the study of social capital, Coleman's focus on structural aspects, and Putnam's emphasis on civic aspects leads to a comprehensive examination of its dynamics and consequences. This integration provides a thorough and insightful analysis of the intricate elements of social capital theory.

Bourdieu's (2018) viewpoint highlights the benefits obtained from social relationships, emphasizing the influence of social capital on determining one's social status and prospects. He enhances the perspective by emphasizing the uneven allocation of social capital and its role in sustaining social inequalities. Bourdieu's study illuminates the role of social capital in strengthening social hierarchies and power relations, underscoring the importance of contextualizing it within wider frameworks of social division and inequity.

Coleman's (1988) contribution highlights the crucial role of social networks, emphasizing how individuals can use their connections to gain access to resources and achieve their goals. This viewpoint emphasizes the ability of individuals to act and make choices within the framework of social systems, emphasizing how social connections and resources contribute to personal achievement and the ability to move up in society. Coleman's study highlights the function of social capital in connecting societal divides, providing individuals with valuable assets, and creating avenues for opportunity.

Putnam's (2000) perspective regards social capital as a collective resource that promotes social cohesion, active participation in civic affairs, and the overall welfare of the community. Engaging in civic activities and participating in social groups foster trust, common norms, and collaboration, ultimately strengthening the social structure. Putnam's research



highlights the significance of social capital in fostering a feeling of inclusion, offering social assistance, and facilitating joint efforts within communities.

This comprehensive approach enhances social capital theory by recognizing its collective and individual aspects, structural foundations, and impact on socioeconomic disparities. By collectively adopting these viewpoints, researchers and practitioners can develop a more nuanced comprehension of the consequences of social capital. This will enable them to devise strategies to improve its positive results for individuals as well as communities.

CONCEPTUAL HISTORY OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

The origins of social capital can be perceived in diverse philosophical traditions and antecedents. Woolcock (1998) traces the general idea of social capital to Émile Durkheim, Max Weber and Georg Simmel, highlighting the roles different types of social relationships play in effecting institutional outcomes. Durkheim outlines the importance of values, moral imperatives, and commitments over contractual relations; Weber examines social ties (e.g. families) and their impact on social action and compliance with rules of conduct; whereas Simmel stresses on the significance of norms and obligations that develop through personalized networks of exchange (Woolcock 1998). According to Woolcock (1998), particular combinations of these social relationships can nurture different types of “benefits” such as trust and norms of reciprocity, fairness, and cooperation. These fundamental concepts established the basis for comprehending the importance of social interactions and their potential advantages.

Additionally, social anthropologists, such as Marcel Mauss and Bronisław Malinowski, investigate the significance of reciprocity, trust, and social networks in traditional civilizations. Mauss’s definition of “the gift” highlights the connections constructed through mutual exchanges and the overall societal benefits of gift exchange, whereas Malinowski’s inquiries of the Trobriand Islanders’ *Kula* system focuses on the how gift giving benefits individuals and enhances social relationships (Welsch & Vivanco 2020). The early anthropological observations provide the foundation for subsequent conceptualizations of social capital.

INITIAL TERM, ITS EMERGENCE AND THEORETICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

The phrase “social capital” was initially employed in the beginning of the 20th century by L.J. Hanifan, an American social activist, in his research on the enhancement of rural communities. Hanifan’s (1916) definition of social capital refers to the physical resources present within a society that act as a means to achieve goals or objectives. He emphasized the significance of social ties, trust, and cooperation in promoting community growth and well-being. Nevertheless, Hanifan’s work remained largely unknown, and the notion of social capital failed to gain widespread acceptance at that period.

The philosophical evolution of social capital gained momentum during the latter part of the 20th century. During the 1970s, American sociologist James Coleman raised the significance of social capital in educational environments. He stressed the impact of social networks and institutional ties on the performance of pupils and educational results (Rogošić & Baranović 2016; Tan & Fang 2023). Coleman’s research established the fundamental basis



for comprehending how social capital enables individuals to gain access to valuable opportunities and assets.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the notion of social capital experienced additional theoretical extensions and enhancements. Robert Putnam, a prominent political scientist, greatly contributed to the dissemination of the concept of social capital with his landmark publication “*Making Democracy Work*” (Putnam et al. 1992). Putnam examined the impact of civic participation and social groups on promoting social capital. He contended that social capital, manifested as trust, norms, and networks, played a role in enhancing the efficiency of democratic administration, growth in the economy, and social unity.

Simultaneously, the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu presented his view of social capital as a manifestation of cultural and symbolic capital. Bourdieu (1986) highlighted the uneven allocation of social capital and its function in perpetuating social disparities. He emphasized the role of social capital in conferring people with resources and benefits, facilitating their navigation of social structures and granting them access to possibilities which were not easily accessible to others.

EVOLUTION AND POPULAR APPLICATION OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social capital became widely acknowledged and embraced in the late 1990s and early 2000s. It gained popularity as a tool for comprehending diverse social phenomena and their policy implications. Researchers from several fields, such as sociology, political science, economics, and public health, started incorporating the concept into their studies. Social capital is utilized in a wide range of settings, such as economic development, community well-being, public health, and social policy (Thomson et al. 2017). Social scientists investigated the impact of social capital on promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth. The researchers examined the impact of social capital on community resilience, social support networks, and quality of life (Claridge 2021). In addition, the study investigated the impact of social capital on health outcomes, crime prevention, and educational attainment.

The widespread of these concepts and appeal has sparked discussions and evaluations. Several researchers have raised issues over the concept’s expansive and imprecise nature, advocating for more precise definitions and assessment methodologies (Farr 2004; Gannon & Roberts 2018; Woolcock 1998). Some scholars warned against the possibility of social capital strengthening current power dynamics and disparities, emphasizing the importance of critically analyzing how social capital is allocated and its resulting effects (Baycan & Öner 2022; Rostila 2010). Notwithstanding these discussions, the notion of social capital remains a crucial foundation for comprehending the social aspects of human existence. This information offers valuable understanding regarding the significance of social connections, networks, and trust in influencing the well-being of both individuals and groups (Huang et al. 2022). Continual study is being conducted on social capital, with scholars working to improve its conceptualization, measurement, and use in various circumstances.

STRUCTURES, CHARACTERISTICS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CLAN ASSOCIATIONS

Clan associations hold an important position in the social fabric of many communities, particularly in societies with a strong clan-based system. These societies are distinguished by their emphasis on safeguarding and advancing the interests of certain clans or extended families. A clan is a social organisation formed on the basis of family relationships or kinship ties (Greif & Tabellini 2010). It has a hierarchical structure led by clan leadership, and the

households within the clan follow a patrilineal system tracing their origin to a common male ancestor (Greif & Tabellini 2017). Clan groups typically require membership based on familial connections and ancestral heritage, fostering a strong sense of belonging and shared identity among its members (Zhang 2019). Clan associations are important social structures that offer mutual support, protection, solidarity and identity to their members (Chen 2022). Clan associations function as forums for the preservation of cultural traditions, the safeguarding of historical legacies, and the maintenance of the values and customs linked to a specific clan. They frequently coordinate events, assemblies, and festivities that promote unity and strengthen the connections among members of the clan.

Clan culture is a longstanding cultural tradition in societies with a strong clan-based system, such as China (Huang et al. 2022) and Chinese diasporic communities (Chan 2022; Makmur 2018; Setijadi 2016). Clan culture is arguably one of the two major foundations of institutions around the world (Greif & Tabellini 2010, in Huang et al. 2022). As a form of “root culture” rooted in natural blood and stemming from a common ancestor (Peng 2004, in Xiong et al. 2021), clan culture embodies the ideals of collectivism through its cultural attributes. It is widely acknowledged as a dominant cultural archetype within Asian companies (Chuang et al. 2012, in Xiong et al. 2021). Chan (1997) identifies the essential structural characteristics of a clan organization modelled after clan culture. These characteristics encompass cultivating a communally-oriented values within the organization, advocating for trust and respect among individuals, constructing clan identity and culture, promoting organizational cohesiveness, maintaining internal stability and prioritizing collective goals. It is argued that a company adopting a robust clan culture may be more resilient in the face of turbulence (Chan 1997). This study contributes useful insights to the existing body of knowledge on the dynamics of clan culture. Besides, in the study by Li et al. (2024), it is demonstrated that clans play a coordinating role in resolving inner-clan conflict and conflict between the members and outsiders. This facilitation helps to avoid potential disputes and promote a stable and harmonious environment within corporate settings. This study underscores the importance of clan culture in maintaining transparency and minimizing adversarial dynamics in business activities.

Essentially, clan relationships create intricate social networks that connect individuals who belong to the same clan or extended family. These networks have robust connections that require high level of trust among members to sustain cooperation (Fan et al. 2023). The social networks of clan affiliations frequently have a hierarchical arrangement, where leaders occupy positions of power and authority (Li 1999). According to Li (1999), leaders are the core of clan associations. The survival and expansion of clan organizations highly rely on their leaders’ attributes which include the ability to organize and to articulate an ideology (Li 1999). The networks formed by clan relationships play a role in transmitting spirit and values of the clans, consequently influencing the behaviours and decision-making of their members (Li et al. 2024). The structure of social networks within clan associations entails frequent interactions and transfers of information, resources, and support (Fan et al. 2023). Given these benefits, members depend on these networks for diverse goals, including soliciting guidance, obtaining prospects, and sustaining social relationships. The interconnections across clan groups’ social networks foster the development of social capital, serving as a useful asset that individuals can utilize in their professional and personal lives (Chan 2022).



Norms and trust are essential elements in clan affiliations, as they enable collaboration and promote cultural integration amongst members. Norms encompass the collective anticipations, principles, and actions that direct the behaviour of people within the group. Cao et al. (2022) emphasize that norms are as important as formal rules in facilitating collective action. In clan associations, these norms frequently center on concepts of reverence for older individuals, allegiance to the kinship group, and reciprocal assistance among participants. Interpersonal relations are shaped by strong norms of reconciliation, which is common among clan leaders as well as among ordinary members (Wong 2007). In his study on clan associations in Hong Kong, Wong (2007) observes that when it involves domestic disputes, especially family violence and divorce, the community leaders and the elders are keen to arbitrate and intervene.

Trust is another crucial element in clan connections, as it cultivates a feeling of dependability and assurance amongst members, which in turn, facilitating collective action (Wong 2007). Trust is established by ongoing contacts, continuous adherence to conventions, and fulfilling commitments within the association. Trust in clan associations fosters synergy, cooperation, and concerted effort, empowering members to collaborate harmoniously towards shared objectives and effectively tackle obstacles as a unified entity. Greif and Tabellini (2017) highlight the critical role of trust in sustaining economic and social relations within clan associations, serving to facilitate transactions and enforce contracts. Trust as an underpinning factor is also evidenced in various studies focused on the business culture within small and medium Chinese enterprises in contemporary Southeast Asia (Kwee 2013). Instead of relying on legal and official channels to enforce contracts, these enterprises tend to conduct economic activities in a “closed shop” manner, in which they establish trust relationships, share market information, and provided credit among people in their networks, especially those of common surnames and home regions (Jomo & Folk 2003; McVey 1992, in Kwee 2013). Trust helps to reduce transactional costs, enable clan members to get access to funds, and enhance credit-worthiness of businesses (Li et al. 2024).

Clan associations participate in a range of events that promote civic involvement and encourage communal resilience. These activities frequently encompass community service efforts, humanitarian endeavours, and cultural gatherings. Through the coordination and engagement in such endeavours, members of clan associations actively contribute to the welfare of the wider community and showcase their dedication to social responsibility. Engaging with endeavours within clan groups also functions as a method of fostering collective resilience. For instance, the research undertaken by Greif and Tabellini (2017) indicates that loyalty groups, such as clans in China and enterprises in Europe, have a vital function as fundamental units of collaboration. These groupings help decrease the expenses associated with enforcing rules and make it easier for people to work together as a group. These establishments, in return, strengthen collective identification and collaboration among their constituents.

During periods of disaster or hardship, clan associations can also effectively utilize their resources, networks, and specialized knowledge to offer assistance and support to their members. The events foster a collective endurance that fortifies the association’s social cohesion and bolsters its capacity to endure adversities. One critical case being the great famine in China. The study by Cao et al. (2022) informs that clan culture protected Chinese during the Great Famine. The study suggests that clan systems’ social control and risk mitigation mechanisms may have enforced communal rules and discouraged famine-causing conduct. The findings show how the cultural norms in clan culture and social networks helped people survive this acute poverty.

ROLES OF CLAN ASSOCIATION IN INTEGRATING SOCIAL NETWORKS

Social capital is essential for fostering well-being and producing shared advantages within clan associations. Clan associations facilitate the establishment of social connections and networks, which grant members access to useful assets such as social support, information, and opportunities. These resources enhance individuals' total well-being by improving their social, emotional, and financial well-being. For example, Huang et al. (2022) conducted a study that found organizations with strong clan cultures tend to have more stable business networks and are less likely to engage in high-risk innovations or cross-city mergers. The clan culture holds great importance in Asian business culture, and comprehending its impact on performance is highly valuable for both scholars and professionals (Xiong et al. 2021).

Moreover, the social capital present in clan associations goes beyond personal advantages and includes advantages that benefit the entire group. Clan associations foster cohesiveness in society, promoting unity, and cultivating an appreciation of community among their members through nurturing social capital. An example is observed in the nursing community. Xie et al. (2020) emphasize that a robust clan culture, characterized by shared values, trust, and mutual support, fosters a sense of belonging and community among nurses, hence augmenting their dedication and contentment with their work and the organization.

Chan (1997) uses the case study of DHL, an international courier express delivery company, to illustrate the importance of a vigorous clan culture to the success of the company. It suggests that the business success factors of the company, especially during turbulent and uncertain conditions, lie in its adoption of the culture and structural characteristics of a clan organization (Chan 1997). The consolidation can take the form of alliances or social enclaves, which is bound by strong, non-contractual bonds. Their members have a shared vision of their needs and goals, a common direction and a common culture, all of which contribute to the supportive rather than competitive atmosphere within the group (Chan 1997). Clearly, the collective well-being is demonstrated by enhanced social cohesion, enhanced standard of living, and the provision of protection and stability.

In addition to that, the study conducted by Ng (2019) and Liu and Ren (2023) highlight that clan organizations that undergo adaptation and renewal demonstrate greater dynamism and resourcefulness in their networks. This phenomenon is evident in the globalizing trend of Overseas Chinese associations, where clan associations (re)construct new international networks by revitalizing old linkages based on common roots such as place of origin, kinship, and dialect (Liu 1998). These shared attributes are vital as a foundation for establishing personal relationships and networks that emphasize on the importance of mutual trust and obligations. This is similar to what Bourdieu describes as "social uses of kinship", in which the old ties can be reinvigorated to cultivate trust and personal relationships for economic gains (Liu 1998).

Ng's (2019) study shows how clan organisations in Malaysia re-engineer their functions and capitalize on new opportunities in response to the regional development trends especially China's Open Door policy and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Another good example illustrating this trend is the study conducted by Chan and Khalid (2019), where the authors highlight how clan associations in Malaysia serve as a transnational social support network. Using Chan She Shu Yuen Clan Association Kuala Lumpur & Selangor (CSSYKL), a Cantonese ancestral clan as a case study, the research examines transnational Chinese clan networks as an example for understanding how a social institution transitions from an era of traditional diversity to a contemporary form of diversity (Chan & Khalid 2019). The study findings demonstrate that the new function of clan associations as linkage points covers a wide

array of social interactions, encompassing family and dialect groups, economy, legal system, education system, politics, religion and tourism (Chan & Khalid 2019; Chan 2022). These debates have been documented in Chan's (2022) book on the reason for the continued existence of Chinese clan associations in Malaysia and elsewhere.

Going further, Liu and Ren (2023) argue that the growing economic ties between China and Southeast Asia has stimulated Chinese voluntary organisations to reconstruct and reconstitute themselves in order to compete in the new economy. This has led to the emergence of a new form of Chinese voluntary associations, which transcend the conventional organising principles of locality, kinship and occupation, and characterized by a new pattern of "de-territorialisation" and "pan-Chineseness" (Liu & Ren 2023). All these studies demonstrate the significance of diversity and adaptability of clan organizations in developing robust transnational networks that can elevate them to new heights.

To summarize, clan relationships have unique traits and importance in society. Social networks, norms, and trust within these affiliations promote collaboration, social cohesion, and collective ability to face challenges. Participating in associational activities enhances civic involvement and produces shared advantages. Ultimately, social capital is crucial in fostering well-being and the comprehensive advancement of clan associations and their members.

IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIAL CAPITAL DERIVED BY CLAN ASSOCIATIONS

The presence of social capital among clan groupings is essential for effectively gathering resources to collectively progress (Wang et al. 2022). The robust social networks and interpersonal connections within the clan facilitate the acquisition of diverse resources, including financial wealth, knowledge, skills, and opportunities. Individuals can utilize their social connections and relationships to obtain financial support for charitable endeavours, businesses, educational pursuits, and other joint initiatives. The development of social links and trust among clan groups enhances the ability to collaborate and cooperate in attempts to mobilize resources. Members can combine their assets, exchange knowledge, and utilize the connections of other clan members to gain access to more resources and assistance. The utilization of social capital enables clan groupings to enhance their shared potential to accomplish their common objectives and desires.

One important example is demonstrated in the study conducted by Li et al. (2024) which highlights the favourable influence of clan culture on company innovation in the Chinese setting, suggesting that cultural traditions have a long-lasting impact on present-day economic results as well as shaping economic behaviours. The study presents compelling evidence that firms operating in an environment characterized by a strong clan culture produce greater innovative outputs. This is attributed to their access to clan social capital, enabling them to tap into informal institutional arrangements, managerial incentives and financial provisions (Li et al. 2024). The findings indicate the importance of understanding the complex relationship between traditional values and the changing environment of business innovation in China.

Liu et al. (2023) offer another captivating example by illustrating how social capital acquired through clans sheltered firms during the Covid-19 pandemic. Focusing on social capital embedded in city clans, the study discovers that firms in cities with greater clan influence tend to suffer smaller losses and experience quicker recovery from the pandemic shock (Liu et al. 2023). The study also confirms clan's influence on individual values such as trust, pro-sociality, and crisis awareness in facilitating pandemic prevention. The results of the study reaffirm that social capital, as a "proxy" for informal institutions like clan groups, encourages collection action and enhances firms' resilience amid crises (Liu et al. 2023).

Contributing to this strand of literature, Fan et al.'s (2023) study examines the influence of clan culture on industrial specialization in China. The study proposes that historical cultural legacies play a pivotal role in shaping contemporary economic landscapes, influencing the types of industries that flourish in specific regions. The findings shed light on the enduring impact of social capital on the economic dynamics of different industries in diverse geographical areas.

Based on the studies mentioned, it is indeed clear that there is a complex interplay between clan networks, corporate governance and economic development at different levels. Clan associations are greatly affected by social capital, which plays a crucial role in shaping collective decision-making processes. The presence of social capital within clan groups facilitates efficient communication, dissemination of information, and collective decision-making among its members (Fan et al. 2023). It fosters the interchange of varied perspectives, permits the examination of distinct interests and concerns, and encourages the formation of mutually agreeable resolutions. The participatory processes of decision-making facilitated by social capital improve the credibility and approval of decisions within the organization and promote the overall solidarity and harmony among clan members.

Clan associations, utilizing their social connections and influence, have a crucial impact on community development and the enhancement of local and state initiatives. Clan associations can effectively mobilize their members for collective action and community engagement due to their robust social networks and relationships. They can commence and provide support to projects that address specific need within a community, such as the enhancement of infrastructure, implementation of educational programs, provision of healthcare services, and preservation of cultural heritage. For example, according to Wang et al.'s (2022) study, clan culture has a significant impact on corporate governance reform in family firms during the succession process. The research highlights that a strong clan culture is associated with a methodical and careful approach to implementing governance reform. This method places a higher importance on maintaining family unity and stability rather than quickly making changes. It suggests that the values associated with clan culture greatly influence the decision-making processes when it comes to transitioning corporate governance in family-owned businesses.

On the other hand, clan associations also enhance social capital, which in turn promotes interaction with other community organizations, government departments, and stakeholders. Clan associations can enhance their impact and influence on community development by forming partnerships and alliances, thanks to the trust and reputation they have established through social capital. For instance, Lee and Low (2009) examines the role of clan associations in contributing to the economic development of Singapore. The authors highlight how clan associations, by utilizing the richness of their clan networks and social capital, help to multiply the efficacy of state intervention by serving as partners in the nation's development process. The study concludes that the right kind of social networks not only help to reduce transaction costs and solve collective action problems, but also serve to disseminate information, ideas and support the further development effort by offering social services and developments (Lee & Low 2009).

IMPLICATIONS

This review enhances comprehension of social capital within the framework of clan affiliations by emphasizing its implications and practical uses. It highlights the importance of social networks, norms, and trust in fostering cooperation, community involvement, and overall

welfare within clan associations. This review also illuminates the significance of social capital in the mobilization of resources, decision-making procedures, and the transmission of cultural values and practices between generations. Moreover, this paper reveals the positive influence of social capital on business innovation, corporate governance, and economic development at varying levels. The importance of clan associations lies in actively promoting their social networks and preserving clan culture. This ensures that social capital is beneficial to all members and contributes to the communal development.

CONCLUSION

This literature review delves into the notion of social capital within the context of clan associations, uncovering noteworthy insights. It explores the social capital concept introduced by different scholars, highlighting the fundamental elements and shared traits of social capital across various perspectives. This review also recapitulates the evolution of the social capital concept and how it is applied in numerous sectors spanning from business, economy and community development to public health and social policy. With the focus on clan associations, this review delves deeper into the role and function of social capital in these social organizations. The social capital embedded in clan associations is characterized by strong social connections, established norms, and mutual trust among its members. Beyond these essential elements, clan associations play a pivotal role in preserving cultural traditions, fostering communal cohesion, and offering crucial support. Furthermore, the importance of social capital extends to its critical role in mobilizing resources, facilitating collective decision-making, nurturing community development and assisting in knowledge transmission between generations. This multifaceted role indicates the dynamic nature of social capital within clan networks, showing its far-reaching impact on both the internal dynamics of these affiliations and their broader societal contributions. In essence, this study illustrates the complex interplay between social capital and clan associations, showcasing their indispensable contributions to social, cultural, community and economic developments. While these dimensions are explored, it becomes evident that the nuanced dynamics of social capital within clan networks contribute not only to the internal strength of these affiliations but also the broader fabric of societal interconnectedness.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDIES

Several potential avenues for future research arise from the valuable insights obtained from this assessment. Firstly, it is necessary to conduct a more thorough investigation of the intricacies of social networks inside clan affiliations, including their establishment, upkeep, and development. Secondly, it is imperative to examine the wider influence of social capital within clan affiliations on the personal welfare of individuals, the advancement of the community, and the facilitation of societal transformation. Additionally, it is crucial to investigate effective approaches for promoting the fair and equitable utilization of social capital within clan associations. This exploration should particularly focus on addressing issues of exclusivity, inequality, and ethical concerns, while acknowledging the benefits they provide.

Moreover, there is potential to investigate how social capital operates within the evolving contexts of social, economic, and technological environments. In addition to that, examining the adaptability of clan associations to these transformations can offer valuable insights. Lastly, by conducting an examination of how social capital influences intergroup contacts, fosters cross-clan partnerships, and enhances community cohesiveness, significant



knowledge can be obtained on this subject. Through the pursuit of these research directions, researchers can enhance their comprehension of social capital within clan relationships and its ramifications for people, communities, and society. This knowledge can be used to build successful strategies and interventions that can utilize the potential of social capital to promote collective well-being and sustainable development within clan associations.

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