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A Systematic Literature Review of Factors Linked to Community Cohesion in the Society

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Abstract:

This article's objective is to identify the factors linked to community cohesion in society. Therefore, this article presents various factors linked to community cohesion in six years' latest studies worldwide. This article used a systematic literature review method to gather the previous study results and systematically develop the theme. The formulation of PICo was used to build this article's research question. Then, the PRISMA framework was used as the guideline for the review process. The articles collected for review in this paper is rigorously extracted from Scopus and Google Scholar database. The review of 24 articles identifies five factors mostly linked to community cohesion: governance and development, social capital, psychological factor, value, cultural and civic engagement. This study has shown that governance development is the top frequently associated with enhancing community cohesion. At the same time, this study also proved that governance development was not an absolute determinant of community cohesion. Non-material factors such as the shared value and psychological factors are widely focused in other countries to improve the cohesion in their community. This paper only focused on the term community cohesion and excluded another term that may have a similar concept to community cohesion. Future study is recommended by including another similar concept of community cohesion for a broad understanding of the cohesion in the community for ensuring unity and harmony in the diverse society.

Keywords: community cohesion, diversity, society.

与社会中社区凝聚力有关的因素的系统文献综述

摘要:

本文的目的是确定与社会中社区凝聚力相关的因素。因此，本文介绍了全球六年最新研究与社区凝聚力相关的各种因素。本文采用系统的文献综述法，收集前人的研究成果，系统地展开主题。微微的公式被用

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来构建本文的研究问题。然后，棱镜框架被用作审查过程的指南。本文收集的供审阅的文章是从斯科普斯 and 谷歌学术数据库中严格提取的。对 24 篇文章的审查确定了五个主要与社区凝聚力相关的因素：治理和发展、社会资本、心理因素、价值、文化和公民参与。这项研究表明，治理发展经常与增强社区凝聚力相关。同时，本研究也证明了治理发展并不是社区凝聚力的绝对决定因素。非物质因素，如共同的价值观和心理因素，在其他国家被广泛关注，以提高他们社区的凝聚力。本文仅关注社区凝聚力一词，排除另一个可能与社区凝聚力具有相似概念的术语。建议未来的研究包括另一个类似的社区凝聚力概念，以广泛了解社区凝聚力，以确保多元化社会的团结与和谐。

关键词：社区凝聚力、多样性、社会。

1. Introduction

This paper seeks the factors linked to community cohesion by systematically reviewing the latest literature for 2016-2021. The deep analysis of 24 articles has resulted in five factors: social capital, civic engagement, value and culture, governance and development, and psychological factors.

The initiatives to build a cohesive community are worldwide attention. This is much more crucial when the society is built with people from different backgrounds like various ethnic groups and culturally diverse. This also includes differences in a community such as age, income, social status, gender, ethnicity, race, and trauma exposure (The City University of New York, 2017).

The European define community as friendship and association that occur in the community that leads to the services in the community itself. Generally, a community can be divided into two different situations. It can be referred to as a small community unit like a village in a rural area or a massive unit like the whole country. Therefore, there is a concept of national community and the international community. The community also refers to the biological aspect that involves the process of interaction, living together, and evolving. A community is a group of individuals that can help each other. The characteristics of a community also can be defined as:

- i. A group of individuals;
- ii. There is an interaction between community members in the same group;
- iii. Running specific and linked activities;
- iv. Every member feel like a part of the community;
- v. Every member is bound to the norms and the structure of the social system in the community.

The concepts of community cohesion and social cohesion are necessary for promoting unity between different members and groups in society. It is also vital to ensure the security and development growth of the country. The cohesion concept refers to how different people from different groups can interact well and maintain a good relationship for everyone's benefit (Turok et al., 2006). It also can explain the stability, well-being, and life quality of the society (Putnam, 2000; Ritzen et al., 2000).

The concept of community cohesion is also differently defined according to society. The Canadians

define community cohesion as an ongoing process of building a community with a sense of togetherness in values and life opportunities (Cantle, 2001). In the UK, community cohesion is often associated with the sense of loyalty towards the community's social structure and ties with other groups in the community (Ferlander & Timms, 1999). According to Cantle (2001), the concept of community cohesion is more focused on bringing different groups closer to each other by building trust and reducing misunderstanding. It also can cover various aspects of the community, such as its identity, interaction, and support (Guest & Wierzbicki, 1999).

This shows that the concept of community cohesion and the aspect that is linked to community cohesion is complex and broadly defined. To further understand the factor associated with the concept of community cohesion, this paper is to identify the factor that is linked to community cohesion in six years' latest research around the world.

2. Methodology

2.1. Formulation of the Research Question

Two sources were used to formulate the study question: first, concepts from prior studies such as by Dalton et al. (2016), Mount and Cabras (2016), Nethercote (2017). All the prior articles are related to community cohesion and factors associated with enhancing community cohesion. Second, using the mnemonic of PICO, which signifies 'P' (Population or Problem), 'I' (Interest), and 'Co' (Context) (Lockwood et al., 2015). Based on the PICO concepts, three main elements were included in this study to develop the research question. The element is society (Population), factors link to community cohesion (Interest) and community cohesion (Context). This concept has resulted in the research question development on the factors linked to community cohesion in society.

2.2. Searching Strategies

This section will elaborate on the extraction method from the article to identify the factors linked to community cohesion. The authors used the PRISMA method, including resources to collect and filter the articles; the eligibility and exclusion criteria selected for this review; the systematic review, including identification, screening, and eligibility; data abstraction; content analysis.

2.2.1. PRISMA

PRISMA Statement guidelines (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses) were used for the review. The PRISMA defines a clear research question that allows a systematic review; filters the articles using inclusion and exclusion criteria to sort them based on the authors' research question; examines a large database quickly. Using PRISMA permits a rigorous search related to the factors linked to community cohesion.

2.2.2. Resources

The resources for this review come from journal databases, Scopus and Google Scholar. Scopus is the main database used for this systematic review article. It was launched in 2004 and has about more than 10 000 publishers worldwide. It covers a wide academic area such as social science, medical science, physical science, and agricultural field. For the second database, the authors used Google Scholar for searching articles related to the research question. Google Scholar is a database launched in 2004 that offers diverse literature from any field. The method used for searching articles is their handpicking, which includes the same inclusion and exclusion criteria as for articles found in Scopus.

2.2.3. Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria

First, only journal articles were selected for this review. The review articles, books, book series, book chapters, and conference proceedings were not included. Second, the search used only English publications to enhance their understanding. In the case of reviewing non-English publications, the misunderstanding of language and difficulty in translating may occur. Third, because of numerous articles about community cohesion, this review only focuses on six years' latest publications (for 2016-2021). This timeline selection ensures the latest pattern of factors linked to community cohesion. Next, articles indexed in the subject category "Social Sciences" are included to have a wider content view. Finally, to observe the pattern of factors linked to community cohesion worldwide, this article review is not limited to a specific region or country.

Table 1. The inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Document Type	Articles journal	Review articles, book series, books, chapter in a book, conference proceeding
Language	English	Non-English
Publication Timeline	2016 - 2021	< 2016

2.2.4. Systematic Review Process

The first level is identification. At this level, the keyword for the search process is identified. Based on the literature review, previous research, and thesaurus,

similar and related keywords for community cohesion were used in Table 2. At this level, three duplicate articles were found and excluded.

The second level is the screening, where 109 out of 188 articles were removed based on the type of literature, language, and timeline publication selection. The third level is eligibility, where the full articles were examined. After a full examination, a total of 52 articles were removed because they did not have the factors linked to community cohesion, did not have empirical data, and did not focus on community cohesion. Lastly, 24 articles were included for the review and qualitative analysis.

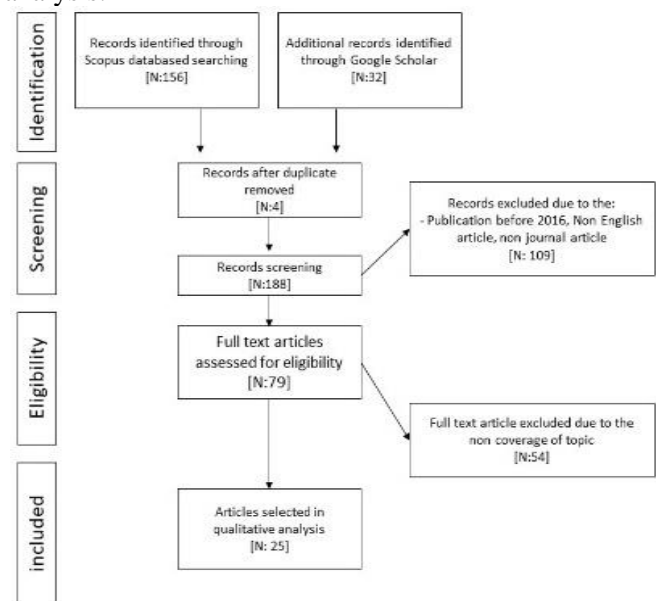


Figure 1. PRISMA model

2.2.5. Data Abstraction and Analysis

Twenty-four articles were examined and fully analyzed. The analysis was focused on studies that answered the research question for this review. The result was obtained by reading the abstract and then going through the full article for in-depth reading to obtain the article theme and sub-theme of community cohesion-associated factors found in the article. Next, the content analysis was used in the qualitative analysis to identify the theme related to factors linked to community cohesion.

Table 2. Search string used in the identification process

Database	Search String
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Community Cohesion" AND model) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2021) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2020) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2019) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2018) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2017) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2016)) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English"))
Google Scholar	("Community Cohesion" AND model)

3. Result

In six years' latest research, the review identified five factors and 16 subfactors associated with

<i>Meaning:</i>			
Bon - Bonding	Vol - Volunteerism	Div - Diversity	Sec - Security
Bri - Bridging	Pol - Politic and leadership	Eco - Economy	Psy - Psychology health
Lin - Linking	Com - Community Organization	Pol - Policy	Per - Personal value
Tru - Trust	Norm - Norms and values	Phy - Physical development	Att - Attitude

According to this review, the top factor that seems the most popular factor linked to community cohesion is governance and development. This is because the promoting of community cohesion is running together with the implementation of policies by the government. The challenges to bind people from different background together is based on governance and development management. In 2001, the White Paper published by the European Commission stated the requirement to build democratic governance to achieve cohesion of society. The commission also drew attention to reducing poverty, enhancing new job opportunities, and local development to reinforce a civil society and build cohesion in the community (Eizaguirre et al., 2012).

Next, the most popular factors linked to community cohesion are the social capital and psychological factor. Sociologically, the idea of a community's emergence is basic. Based on this assertion, a community should constitute a network of interdependent individuals, even though their interdependence nature might be complex. The idea that social capital can contribute to a community's existence is not based on the number of people alone. The quality of interactions between individuals in the communal setting provides the bonding agent that makes the community possible in the first place (Pooley et al., 2005). This is in line with the assertions of many social capital researchers that a localized social capital measure is a more appropriate measure since the social capital varies widely following local characteristics and cultures (Krishna, 2002).

Next is the psychological factor ranking third among the most popular factors linked to community cohesion. Psychology offers a perspective on intergroup processes, including conflicts, emphasizing the promotion of cohesion within and between communities (Nadler & Schnabel, 2008). Furthermore, psychology can offer models to conceptualize community conflict, including the processes through which an individual can come to be 'radicalized' or engaged in violent extremism. In addition, an international literature review on schools' and colleges' using psychology-based interventions to promote community cohesion found that best practice in this area used knowledge and process-based components with a multi-level approach, considering individuals, their relationships, the relationships between community groups, and the individuals' participation in their communities (Taft et al., 2020).

5. Conclusion

This systematic review has identified the factors most frequently linked to community cohesion worldwide from six years' latest studies. It recognized

that the top three factors as the most popular associated with community cohesion are the governance and development, the social capital, and the psychological factor. This study found that physical development and policy are the most linked to community cohesion in terms of governance and development factors. In social capital, the bonding element is identified as the most necessary element. In the psychological factor, personal value seems to be the highest sub-element connected to community cohesion development. This study also found the other two factors associated with the development of community cohesion worldwide: the values and culture, the civic engagement. In the value and cultural factor, the norms and values are the top elements to enhance the community cohesion or associated with the community cohesion study. In the civic engagement factor, the community organization element is often associated with the development of community cohesion in past studies.

This study has shown that governance development is the factor most often associated with community cohesion. The development of governance in this study refers to developing economic aspects, policy, security, and physical development of a region or place. Littman (2018), who also stated that the development of governance in the economic aspect, for example, is a determinant of cohesion in the community, also supports this finding; however, it is not an absolute determinant. Littman (2018) also focuses on values and culture as important determinants of community cohesion. In addition, Cabras and Mount (2017) also agree on the relevance of social capital with community cohesion. In this study, social capital ranked second as the factor most frequently associated with community cohesion. Social capital serves as a support system and encourages community involvement. However, at the same time, social capital requires the development of good governance to support the effective implementation of social capital. Furthermore, the findings of this study indicate that psychological factors are the third factor that is often associated with community cohesion. This is also supported by Brunton-Smith et al. (2018), who stated that psychological factors are closely related to individual behavior, ultimately impacting relationships and norms in society.

Based on the findings, this study found that the factors associated with community cohesion often focus first on physical factors such as governance development through the economy and physical development of a region. However, researchers have begun to turn to other factors without denying the importance of governance development factors. This is because cohesion in the community requires a balance between material and non - material aspects. Material

aspects include income, physical development, education, protection, and necessities of life. While the non-material aspects are neighborhood relations, social relations, common values, and societal norms. This is also agreed with by Fonseca et al. (2019), who found that values, culture, and norms in society as elements to improve cohesion in the community gain attention among researchers. Among the elements of values and culture that have gained increasing focus lately are belief in surrounding people and a sense of togetherness with others in the community because living in a community surrounded by neighbors and a trustworthy environment facilitates survival and increases life satisfaction. This situation will cause a sense of happiness in the community to come by itself and facilitate the process of integration in the community.

This article is a systematic literature review study. This study's strength is that it has gathered findings from past studies worldwide on factors linked to community cohesion. This study has helped researchers obtain patterns and trends on factors focused on improving community cohesion from around the world. The study has ranked the factors associated with community cohesion from the most to the least frequently associated with community cohesion. The findings in this study have enlightened the parties involved that the improvement of community cohesion is not just focused on the development of governance alone. Suppose a region's governance development has already been implemented well but still faces the problem of integration in the community. In that case, other factors need to be considered, as by other countries. However, this study collected findings from previous studies only on the world community cohesion. Other terms that may be synonymous with community cohesion are not included in the studies highlighted in this article.

The strengthening of community cohesion is closely related to the systems, processes, and institutions that result from the values in society (Cantle, 2005). The focus on social and community cohesion needs to be emphasized on social processes that support every aspect of building a harmonious society, level of social capital, wealth distribution, access to service facilities, social order, and values in society (Kearns & Forrest, 2000). Shared values' weakening in a multi-ethnic society can affect building a united society. This statement is supported by Howe and Recchia (2008), who found that conflict in low-income urban communities is due to a clash of values and cultures coming from diverse community backgrounds that are poorly managed. Thus, values and cultural factors are crucial in developing community cohesion in society. This study has shown the factor that needs to be considered for community cohesion development. The governance, institution, or policymaker should consider other necessary factors such as the values and cultural factors. Future literature studies are recommended to

seek the factors linked to other similar community cohesion concepts, such as neighborhood, society resilience, social cohesion, and trustworthy society, to fully understand the cohesion epistemology to build peace and harmony in society.

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Authors' Contribution

Khairol Anuar Kamri is responsible for the theme framework, data analysis, and writing evaluation, Aizathul Hani Abd Hamid - for literature search, data analysis, and writing.

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