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DIFFERENTIATION OF SOCIAL CAPITAL LEVEL IN RURAL CITIES OF THE WEST POMERANIAN VOIVODESHIP ACCORDING TO THE CRITERION FOR INCOME – RESEARCH RESULTS

Beata Będzik✉

West Pomeranian University of Technology

ABSTRACT

Evolution of societies means that factors that generate socio-economic development also evolve. Classic growth determinants are not enough to further improve the economic situation. The paper draws attention to the so-called soft factors, which are increasingly important in generating progress in highly developed countries, and focuses on one of them, i.e. social capital. It forms on the basis of trust, cooperation, participation, and these components have the strongest influence in the immediate environment. At the same time, the strength of their impact decreases with the increase of the radius of range. Therefore, it implies the selection of measurement tools which optics should be limited locally. Therefore, the aim of the article is to present the relationship between social capital and income at the local level, i.e. in rural communes of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship. This is important due to the search for categories that could contribute to creating and multiplying social capital.

Key words: trust, commitment, participation, income, social capital, soft factors

INTRODUCTION

Evolution of societies means that factors that generate socio-economic development also evolve. The focus of development stimulators over the centuries has shifted from physical strength, through material and human capital, shifting the economic framework of growth determinants. Classic factors are no longer enough to drive progress. This is particularly noticeable in highly developed countries, in which researchers deepened the analysis aimed at seeking sources of growth. At the end of the last century, much attention was paid to information as a key element of success. Then they turned to knowledge as a category that creates progress. In the meantime, efforts in further searches, which conclusions indicate the so-called soft factors as the main determinants of socio-economic development of countries that have already achieved a high level of development and a sufficient level of saturation of the high-quality economy with classical factors of production, i.e. labor, land, and capital. Less developed countries still have the opportunity to grow by improving the quality of the listed classical factors, however, in the best-developed countries, their possible development is no longer translated into economic growth. Due to the assumption in the theory of economy that the consumer prefers more than less, the characteristic feature of modern societies – including the most developed ones – is not so much the maintenance of *status quo*, but the pursuit of further enlargement of various socio-economic categories. Hence the focus on factors that will continue to support socio-

✉ Beata.Bedzik@zut.edu.pl

-economic development in highly developed countries. The subject of this article is the concentration on social capital, as one of the soft factors which key importance in the development of highly developed economies is indicated in the literature of the subject. Social capital is an intangible category, and therefore also difficult to measure, hence every attempt to observe and look for its sources and dependencies contributes to its closer knowledge and better understanding.

Social capital is created on the basis of trust, cooperation, participation, etc., and these are the components that have the strongest impact in the immediate environment, and the strength of their impact decreases with the increase in the radius of range. Therefore, it implies the selection of a measurement instrumentation which optics should be limited locally. In connection with the above, this article focuses on the study of the level of social capital and its dependence on income at the local level, i.e. in rural communes of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship. The aim of the paper is to present the relationship between social capital and other categories that could contribute to creating and multiplying social capital. Due to the limited scope of this study, individual components of social capital have been referred to the income of households. Verification of the existence of a positive relationship between the level of income and the level of social capital was verified.

Social capital is an interdisciplinary category which has been taken over by economics from sociology and which is still living at the junction of these two disciplines. To be precise, it should be said that although it is most widely discussed by economists and sociologists, it was also noticed by psychologists, politicians, culture experts, anthropologists, etc. Social capital is defined ambiguously due to its intangibility and difficulty of measurement. Additional difficulties arise from its multifaceted nature, which is often the resultant of various goals that individual researchers carry out. According to Coleman [1990], it is a set of resources rooted in family relationships and in the social organization of a given community. Putnam [1995] identified social capital with the structures of civil society, while according to the OECD, social capital is a network of dependencies created by norms, values and beliefs that facilitate cooperation within and between social groups. The immanent feature of social capital, however, is evident in every definition that it is based on trust, cooperation or commitment.

According to the World Bank, social capital refers to institutions, norms and relations that shape the quality and quantity of social interaction of a given community, but it is not only the sum of institutions that are the basis of society, but is a kind of glue, a binder that connects them [ONS 2001]. Thus, the social capital, by its very nature, is part of the trend of the new institutional economy focusing on the role of institutions in the efficient functioning of the economy. At the same time, the institutions defined by cultural norms, customs and traditions can be formal and informal, because they are "formal rules, informal coercion and ways to impose and enforce them" [North 1986]. Institutions identified with the rules of behavior, structures and social systems, norms and customs influence the level of transaction costs that are also the focus of the new institutional economy. And social capital, as the literature of the subject indicates, lowers transaction costs, facilitates operations and makes them safe [Moroń 2009].

In Poland, the importance of social capital and the need to conduct research in this area were also recognized, acknowledging that social capital is, apart from the land, labor, financial, physical and human capital, a determinant of the development of economies [Matysiak 1999, Kaźmierczak 2007, Sztompka 2016, Tarkowski 2017]. Polish researchers define it as "the individual's ability to obtain valuable material or symbolic goods through social relations or group membership, as well as the collective ability to take collective action, through voluntary participation, trust in the institution and following recognized standards of conduct" [Sztompka 2016] or as a "component of skills of co-action and co-operation of individuals within social groups, social organizations and institutions of various types (not only economic) for the implementation of common goals" [Januszek 2005]. Matysiak defines it through elements such as: social trust, legal institutions regulating the interaction between people and their rights to resources, norms of reciprocity. The emergence of a new pro-development factor in the awareness of researchers has become the premise for conducting research on social capital. Partial results in this area are presented, for example, in the *Social Diagnosis* published every two years by

Czapiński and Panek [2015]. They cover the whole area of the country, but concern selected aspects of social capital. In-depth research, though on a smaller scale, as regards Wielkopolska, were conducted by a scientific team from the Poznan University of Technology, under the supervision of Skawińska [2011] as part of the project *Study of social capital as a factor determining the effectiveness of the social policy strategy in Wielkopolska*. The effect of these studies was, among others stating that the level of social capital depends on such features as: age, sex, education, place of residence and work experience. On the local scale, the impact of social capital was also analyzed by Gwiaździńska-Goraj, Goraj, Sobolewska-Węgrzyn [2017], while in the context of rural development, it was emphasized, among others, by Miś [2015]. A lot of place in Polish scientific literature is also taken by emphasizing in the creation of the development of rural areas of entrepreneurship, activity and despite the lack of direct indication in the titles of the publications of social capital itself, these are its inherent components, which also indirectly confirms its pro-development character [Rosner and Stanny 2007, Pomianek 2010, Knapik 2017].

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The results of the analyzes presented in this paper come from surveys conducted using a questionnaire survey among residents of rural communes in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship. After rejecting incomplete and/or illogical questionnaires, 2,409 respondents were qualified for the analysis. Most of the respondents were women (58%). Almost half of the respondents did not exceed 30 years of age.

Due to the limited volumetric framework of this publication, only three components of social capital were considered, namely trust that consisted of generalized trust, trust in the commune authorities and trust in the institution, participation in elections and involvement manifested in membership in non-governmental organizations, attempts to exert influence or doing something for the commune and activities for the benefit of the local community.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the most important variables, i.e. participation, trust and commitment, and social capital as the sum of the above-mentioned elements were compared in groups differentiated in terms of average monthly income. For this purpose, the significance of differences in individual outcomes between respondents with different income levels was examined. Table 1 presents the results of the abovementioned research on the significance of differences.

As can be seen from data in Table 1, people with different income levels differed statistically significantly in terms of both social capital ($P < 0.001$) and each of its elements separately ($P < 0.001$). In each case studied, statistically significant differences were found between the different groups. In the further part

Table 1. Investigation of the importance of differences with regard to the social capital between groups diversified in terms of income (results of variable analysis)

Variable	Variable analysis Selected effects are significant at the level $P < 0.05000$							
	SS effect	*df* effect	*MS* effect	*SS* error	*df* error	*MS* error	*F*	*P*
Participation	369.00	5	73.800	1 314.72	2 409	0.54712	134.8886	0.00
Trust	19 754.21	5	3 950.843	24 937.94	2 409	10.37783	380.7001	0.00
Commitment	2947.89	5	589.578	5 093.75	2 409	2.11975	278.1364	0.00
Social capital	40 299.70	5	8 059.940	42 620.40	2 409	17.73633	454.4312	0.00

SS – sum of squares of the tested effect and error; *df* – intergroup and intra-group degrees of freedom; *MS* – mean sum of effect and error squares; *F* – statistics value; *P* – test probability.

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

of the paper, there are drawings depicting basic descriptive statistics (M – median, and SD – standard deviation) concerning individual elements of social capital and social capital itself, recorded in groups differentiated in terms of income. Their analysis allowed to verify the differences between particular groups, which – as demonstrated by the analysis of variations – are statistically significant.

The respondents with average monthly net income of up to PLN 10,000 most often voted in the last municipal elections (Table 2), of which the highest percentage of such indications concerned people earning PLN 1,001–2,000 (95.7%), while the smallest – PLN 2,001–4,000 (43.5%). In turn, people with incomes in excess of PLN 10,000 in the majority admitted that they did not vote in the last local elections (56.4%). The results of the χ^2 test indicate that there was a statistically significant relationship between income and voting in the last local elections ($P < 0.001$).

Persons earning up to PLN 1,000 and from PLN 1,001 to 2,000 recorded a similar, quite high level of participation, amounting to 0.86 and 0.9 on average, with standard deviations equal to 0.5 and 0.4, respectively (Fig. 1). In the group of people earning PLN 2,001–4,000, the level of participation was much smaller and amounted to an average of 0.1 (standard deviation – 0.9). Then, along with incomes (up to PLN 6,001–10,000 inclusive), the average level of participation grew and amounted to 0.2 (standard deviation – 0.9) – PLN 4,001–6,000 and 0.6 (standard deviation

Table 2. Vote in the last launching self-government between groups diversified in terms of income (results of variable analysis) (%)

Item	Average monthly net income (PLN)						Results of the test
	up to 1 000	1 001–2 000	2 001–4 000	4 001–6 000	6 000–10 000	over 10 000	
Yes	93.0	95.7	43.5	56.7	73.9	43.6	$\chi^2 = 659.632$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
No	7.0	4.3	37.5	34.5	11.3	56.4	
Don't know	0.0	0.0	19.0	8.8	14.8	0.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

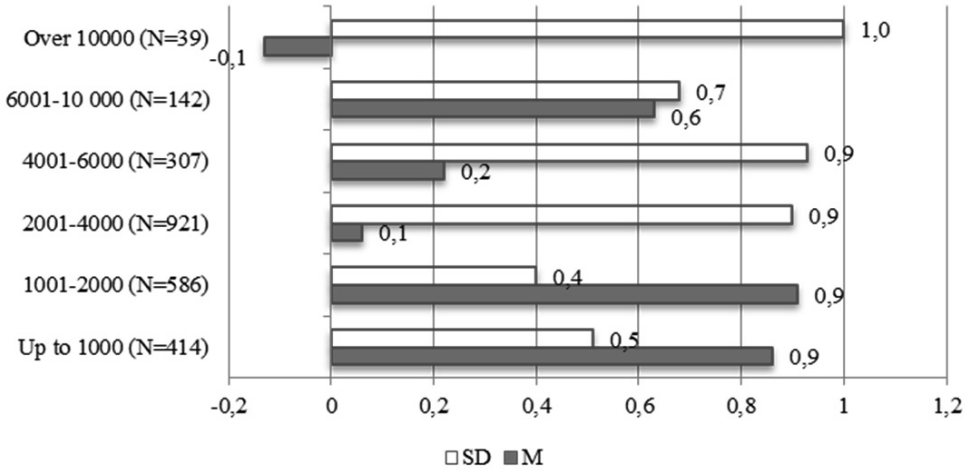

Fig. 1. The level of participation divided into the income of the respondents (basic descriptive statistics)

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

– 0.7) in the PLN 6,001–10,000 group respectively. Whereas in the group of people with income exceeding PLN 10,000 per month, the level of participation was the lowest of all and at the same time negative, amounting to –0.1 (standard deviation – 1.0) on average.

The respondents earning a maximum of PLN 4,000 and more than PLN 10,000 mostly expressed the opinion that caution in dealing with people is never too much (53.9–95.4%) (Table 3). In turn, people earning from PLN 4,001 to PLN 10,000 most often did not have an opinion on this subject (72.3 and 50.0%). The results of the χ^2 test indicate that there was a statistically significant relationship between income and trust towards other people ($P < 0.001$) – Table 3.

The group earning PLN 2,001–4,000 had the highest percentage of people who did not trust most institutions (Table 4). This applies to entities such as commercial banks, where the respondents earning PLN 2,001–4,000, most often from all groups, indicated lack of trust (84.9%), and people earning over PLN 10,000 most often trusted the institution (53.9%). In addition, the list of such entities included: the Sejm (the lower house of the Polish parliament) (95.3% of people from the PLN 2,001–4,000 group did not trust this institution), people from the PLN 4,001–6,000 group most often trusted it (37.5%); the President (64.6%), who most often trusted people from the PLN 1,001–2,000 group (56.3%); European Parliament (51.5%), most often trusted by people from the PLN 6,001–10,000 group (38.7%); Police (69.9%), most often trusted by people from the PLN 1,001–2,000 group (51.2%); the government (75.1%) most often trusted by people from the group of over PLN 10 000 (48.7%); ZUS (The Polish Social Insurance Institution – state organisational unit) (86.2%), most often trusted by people from the group of over PLN 10,000 (41.0%); OFE (Open Pension Funds) (70.4%), most often trusted by people from the group of over PLN 10,000 (23.1%) and insurance companies (76.8%), most often trusted by people from the group of over PLN 10,000 (48.7%).

In the case of courts, people earning PLN 2,001––4,000 at the same time most trusted (53.8%) and distrusted (42.2%) this institution – this was due to the fact that this group was the most determined in terms of trust in the courts (only 4.0% of respondents in this group indicated the answer "hard to say", while in the remaining groups the percentage of such responses fluctuated between 18.8 and 37.3%). In second place in terms of trust in the courts there were people earning PLN 1,001–2,000 (47.3%), and in terms of distrust – up to PLN 1,000 (35.0%), respectively.

The National Bank of Poland was most often trusted in all groups of people earning PLN 2,001–4,000 (79.8%), and people earning up to PLN 1,000 (35.5%) most often indicated a lack of trust in this institution, respectively. In turn, people earning over PLN 10,000 most often trusted the stock market (38.5%), and the lack of confidence in this institution was most often indicated by people earning up to PLN 1,001–2,000 (50.7%), respectively.

However, the majority of people earning a maximum of PLN 10,000 trusted the family members and neighbors (87.4–95.7% and 54.5–95.7%, respectively). The respondents earning over PLN 10,000 much less often trusted family members (43.6%) – more often they were unable to determine whether they trust them (48.7%), and most people in this group did not

Table 3. Trust in people in income groups (%)

Item	Average monthly net income (PLN)						Results of the test
	Up to 1 000	1 001–2 000	2 001– 4 000	4 000–6 000	6 001–10 000	over 10 000	
Most people can be trusted	40.3	7.0	4.2	23.8	39.4	43.6	$\chi^2 = 1\,925.777$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
Can't be too careful	58.0	91.5	95.4	3.9	10.6	53.9	
Hard to say	1.7	1.5	0.3	72.3	50.0	2.6	

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

Table 4. Institutional trust in income groups (%)

Trust		Average monthly net income PLN						Results of the test
		up to 1 000	1 001–2 000	2 001–4 000	4 001–6 000	6 001–10 000	over 10 000	
Commercial banks	yes	30.7	31.6	6.5	38.8	38.7	53.9	$\chi^2 = 606.195$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	33.1	41.0	84.9	29.3	31.0	20.5	
	hard to say	36.2	27.5	8.6	31.9	30.3	25.6	
National Bank of Poland	yes	29.7	36.0	79.8	29.0	35.9	43.6	$\chi^2 = 518.064$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	35.5	31.7	13.5	34.5	31.7	33.3	
	hard to say	34.8	32.3	6.7	36.5	32.4	23.1	
Sejm	yes	5.8	1.7	0.7	37.5	27.5	18.0	$\chi^2 = 814.678$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	70.1	78.2	95.3	30.3	38.0	61.5	
	hard to say	24.2	20.1	4.0	32.3	34.5	20.5	
President	yes	32.9	56.3	31.6	33.9	26.8	38.5	$\chi^2 = 436.438$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	37.2	31.1	64.6	31.6	34.5	41.0	
	hard to say	30.0	12.6	3.8	34.5	38.7	20.5	
European Parliament	yes	29.0	34.3	13.7	35.2	38.7	23.1	$\chi^2 = 145.661$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	37.0	34.6	51.5	30.6	25.4	28.2	
	hard to say	34.1	31.1	34.9	34.2	35.9	48.7	
Police	yes	41.3	51.2	26.7	30.0	34.5	35.9	$\chi^2 = 423.402$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	32.6	32.6	69.9	37.1	32.4	35.9	
	hard to say	26.1	16.2	3.4	32.9	33.1	28.2	
Government	yes	28.5	6.5	3.0	30.3	31.7	48.7	$\chi^2 = 432.947$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	48.1	71.0	75.1	32.3	34.5	23.1	
	hard to say	23.4	22.5	21.8	37.5	33.8	28.2	
ZUS	yes	7.0	2.6	1.1	36.8	34.5	41.0	$\chi^2 = 690.602$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	67.4	77.7	86.2	29.6	33.1	25.6	
	hard to say	25.6	19.8	12.7	33.6	32.4	33.3	
Stock market	yes	33.6	19.5	5.2	30.9	25.4	38.5	$\chi^2 = 257.172$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	36.5	50.7	43.2	34.5	41.6	33.3	
	hard to say	30.0	29.9	51.6	34.5	33.1	28.2	
Open pension funds (OFE)	yes	4.1	2.4	0.4	22.2	18.3	23.1	$\chi^2 = 297.697$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	61.4	65.9	70.4	44.0	50.7	46.2	
	hard to say	34.5	31.7	29.2	33.9	31.0	30.8	
Courts	yes	43.7	47.3	53.8	34.9	33.1	41.0	$\chi^2 = 219.407$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	35.0	34.0	42.2	32.9	29.6	30.8	
	hard to say	21.3	18.8	4.0	32.3	37.3	28.2	
Insurance companies	yes	10.6	2.9	1.3	32.3	34.5	48.7	$\chi^2 = 506.275$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	57.7	66.9	76.8	34.5	38.0	35.9	
	hard to say	31.6	30.2	21.9	33.2	27.5	15.4	
Family members	yes	93.0	95.7	87.4	95.1	88.7	43.6	$\chi^2 = 151.449$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	1.7	1.5	2.7	1.3	1.4	7.7	
	hard to say	5.3	2.7	9.9	3.6	9.9	48.7	
Neighbors	yes	93.0	95.7	54.5	81.4	88.7	43.6	$\chi^2 = 611.192$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
	no	5.3	2.7	40.2	3.9	10.6	53.9	
	hard to say	1.7	1.5	5.3	14.7	0.7	2.6	

Categories add up to 100%.

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

trust their neighbors (53.9%). The results of the χ^2 test indicate that there was a statistically significant relationship between income and confidence in each of the above institutions and people ($P < 0.001$).

The respondents earning up to PLN 1,000 and from PLN 4,001 up most often trusted the commune authorities (43.6–89.1%) – Table 5. In turn, people with incomes from PLN 1,001 to 4,000 most often did not trust the commune authorities (39.4 and 47.2%). The results of the χ^2 test indicate that there was a statistically significant relationship between income and trust to the commune authorities ($P < 0.001$).

In terms of the level of trust, the respondents with different income can be divided into two groups – earning a maximum of PLN 4,000 and earning a minimum of PLN 4,001 (Fig. 2). The respondents earning a maximum of PLN 4,000 recorded a negative average level of trust, which means that they did not trust different institutions and people more often. What is more, in this group, the level of trust decreased along with the increase in income. Among people earning up to PLN 1,000, the level of trust was on average –1.9, PLN 1,001–2,000 –4.3, while those earning PLN 2,001––4,000 –6.8. However, the respondents earning a minimum of PLN 4,001 recorded a positive level of trust, which in turn means that they trusted different institutions and people more often. Moreover, in this group – as in the previous one – the level of trust decreased along with the increase in income. Among those earning PLN 4,001–6,000, the level of trust was on average

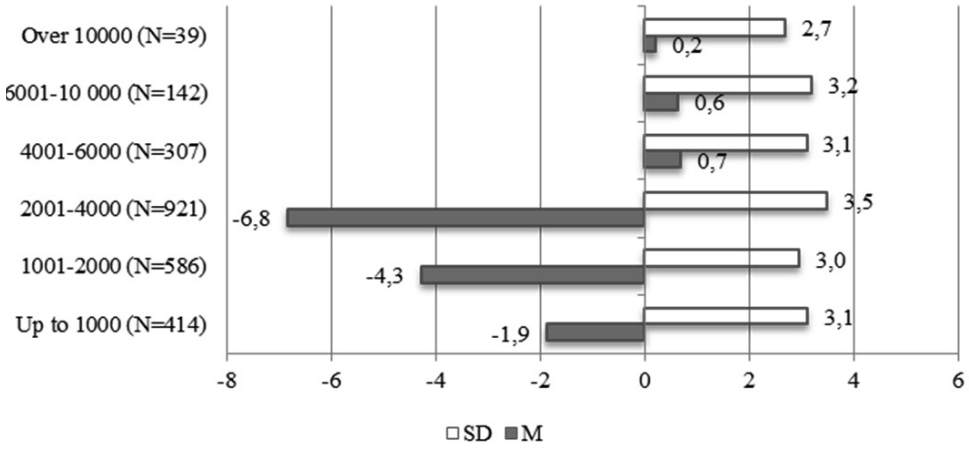

Fig. 2. Trust among groups diversified in terms of income (basic descriptive statistics)

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

Table 5. Trust in the commune authorities among groups diversified in terms of income (%)

Item	Average monthly net income (PLN)						Results of the test
	up to 1 000	1 001–2 000	2 001–4 000	4 001–6 000	6 001–10 000	over 10 000	
Definitely yes	2.2	9.6	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	$\chi^2 = 1308.892$; $df = 20$; $P = 0.000$
Rather yes	89.1	25.6	10.4	80.1	85.9	43.6	
Rather no	4.1	39.4	47.2	17.3	7.0	20.5	
Definitely no	2.7	11.8	5.0	1.3	1.4	15.4	
Don't know	1.9	13.7	35.0	1.3	5.6	20.5	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

0.7, among those earning PLN 6,001–10,000 – 0.6 respectively, and those earning over PLN 10,000 –0.2. In turn, the values of standard deviation were similar in all groups and fluctuated from 2.7 (among those earning over PLN 10,000) to 3.5 (among those earning PLN 2,001–4,000).

The respondents from each income group in the majority indicated that they do not belong to any social organization (Table 6), the highest percentage of such indications concerned people earning up to PLN 2,001–4,000 (98.2%), while the smallest – above PLN 10,000 (53.9%). Only those who earned PLN 4,001––6,000 belonged to such an organization (12.7%). The results of the χ^2 test indicate that there was a statistically significant relationship between income and affiliation to some social organization ($P < 0.001$).

Almost all respondents – apart from those earning from PLN 4,001 to PLN 10,000 – usually never attempted to exert any influence, to do something for the commune (48.1–65.2%) – Table 7. However, the vast majority of people earning from PLN 4,001 to PLN 10,000 have ever made such attempts (80.1% and 88.7%). The results of the χ^2 test indicate that there was a statistically significant relationship between income and making any attempt to exert influence to do something for the commune ($P < 0.001$).

The respondents with incomes up to PLN 1,000 and from PLN 4,001 to 10,000 usually played the role of an active participant in activities for the benefit of the local community (40.3–66.1%) – Table 8. People with income between PLN 1,000 and 4,000 usually acted as a passive participant (64.3 and 46.3%). In turn, most people earning over PLN 10,000 (56.4%) were unable to clearly determine their role in activities for the benefit of the local community. The results of the χ^2 test indicate that there was a statistically significant relationship between income and making any attempt to exert influence, to do something for the commune ($P < 0.001$).

The respondents earning up to PLN 1,000 showed a positive level of involvement (median 1.2, standard deviation 1.8), as well as people with income above PLN 4,000 (Fig. 3). People from income groups PLN 1,001–2,000 and PLN 2,001–4,000 recorded a negative average commitment level of –0.5 (standard deviation 1.3) and –0.9 (standard deviation 1.1), respectively. In contrast, in the remaining groups of

Table 6. Belonging to a social organization among groups diversified in terms of income (%)

Item	Average monthly net income (PLN)						Results of the test
	up to 1 000	1 001–2 000	2 001– 4 000	4 001– 6 000	6 001–10 000	over 10 000	
Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	0.0	0.0	$\chi^2 = 564.297$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
No	89.6	96.4	98.2	62.9	77.5	53.9	
Don't know	10.4	3.6	1.9	24.4	22.5	46.2	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

Table 7. To do something for the commune among groups diversified in terms of income (%)

Item	Average monthly net income (PLN)						Results of the test
	up to 1 000	1 001–2 000	2 001–4 000	4 001–6 000	6 001–10 000	over 10 000	
Yes	32.6	5.8	3.4	80.1	88.7	43.6	$\chi^2 = 564.297$; $df = 10$; $P = 0.000$
No	48.1	65.2	64.9	19.9	11.3	56.4	
Don't know	19.3	29.0	31.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

Table 8. Role in activities for the local community among groups diversified in terms of income (%)

Item	Average monthly net income (PLN)						Results of the test
	up to 1 000	1 001–2 000	2 001–4 000	4 000–6 000	6 001–10 000	over 10 000	
As the initiator of the project	15.0	4.1	2.6	6.5	0.0	0.0	$\chi^2 = 1403.111$; $df = 20$; $P = 0.000$
As the main project implementer	22.2	4.6	2.2	7.5	13.4	0.0	
Active participant	40.3	8.4	4.0	66.1	60.6	43.6	
Passive participant	13.0	64.3	46.3	2.3	14.8	0.0	
Don't know	9.4	18.6	45.0	17.6	11.3	56.4	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

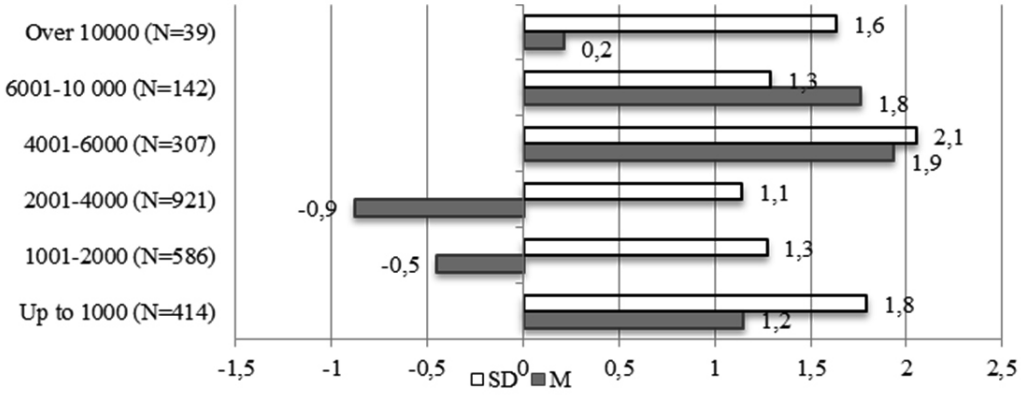

Fig. 3. Commitment among groups diversified in terms of income (basic descriptive statistics)

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

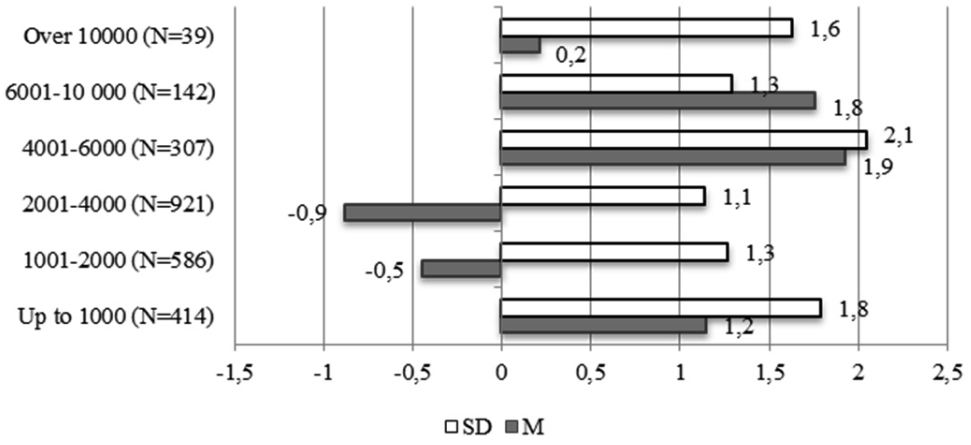

Fig. 4. Social capital among groups diversified in terms of income (basic descriptive statistics)

Source: The author's own research outcomes.

respondents earning a minimum of PLN 4,001, the level of involvement decreased with incomes, of which in the groups PLN 4,001–6,000 and PLN 6,001–10,000 it was similar and amounted to 1.9 (standard deviation 2.1) and 1.8 (standard deviation 1.3) respectively, while in the group of earners above PLN 10,000 the level of involvement was much lower and amounted to 0.2 (standard deviation 1.6).

In terms of total social capital, the lowest level was recorded by people earning PLN 1,001–2,000 and PLN 2,001–4,000, amounting to –3.8 and –7.7 respectively (Fig. 4). These groups were the only ones to reach a negative level of social capital, which indicates the fact that they were least interested in the affairs of the commune, and at the same time were the least likely to participate in elections or to engage in social initiatives. The level of social capital was slightly better among people with extreme income levels, i.e. earning up to PLN 1,000 and over PLN 10,000, where the average social capital ratio amounted to 0.1 and 0.3, respectively. The best average social capital result was achieved by respondents earning PLN 4,001–6,000 and PLN 6001–10,000, which amounted to 2.9 and 3.0, respectively. This means that income at the level of PLN 4,001–10,000 is the most conducive to involvement in matters related to the municipality (also through active participation in various initiatives or voting in elections) and trusting others.

CONCLUSIONS

Due to the fact that social capital is a category composed of elements such as trust, cooperation, civic participation, its effects are most visible at the local level, which implies the need to conduct research in a local dimension as well. The presented research results indicate the diversity of analyzed components of social capital in individual income groups. Those who earn the least participate in the elections, but their level of involvement in the affairs of the commune is relatively low. Similarly, the results of generalized trust, trust in the commune authorities and institutions are presented. That is, the lowest level of trust is characterized by people from the lowest income range. This may be due to the fact that one firstly has to satisfy their own needs, only when the level of their satisfaction is sufficient, at least in relation to basic needs, one can expand their interest to the environment and the local community. The highest level of social capital in this research was demonstrated by respondents earning income in the range from PLN 4,000 to 10,000. The level of their involvement in the affairs of the commune was the highest, although at the same time they were characterized by an average lower level of trust. Thus, we can see a positive relationship between the income achieved and the level of social capital characterizing the studied groups, though only to a certain level of wealth, beyond which the level of social capital decreases again. One can cautiously state that creating and multiplying social capital, indispensable for socio-economic development in highly developed communities, will be possible only after providing a given level of income, in rural communes of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, corresponding to approximately the national average.

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ZRÓŻNICOWANIE POZIOMU KAPITAŁU SPOŁECZNEGO W GMINACH WIEJSKICH WOJEWÓDZTWA ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIEGO WEDŁUG KRYTERIUM DOCHODOWEGO – WYNIKI BADAŃ

STRESZCZENIE

Ewoluowanie społeczeństw sprawia, że czynniki generujące rozwój społeczno-gospodarczy również ewoluują z nimi. Klasyczne determinanty wzrostu nie wystarczą do dalszego poprawiania koniunktury gospodarczej. W pracy zwrócono uwagę na tzw. czynniki miękkie, mające coraz większe znaczenie w generowaniu postępu w krajach wysokorozwiniętych, i skoncentrowano się na jednym z nich – kapitale społecznym. Tworzy się on na bazie zaufania, współpracy, partycypacji, a te komponenty najsilniej oddziałują w najbliższym otoczeniu. Jednocześnie siła ich oddziaływania słabnie wraz ze wzrostem promienia zasięgu. Implikuje to więc dobór narzędzi pomiaru, którego optyka powinna być ograniczona lokalnie. W związku z tym celem artykułu jest zaprezentowanie zależności między kapitałem społecznym a dochodem na poziomie lokalnym, tj. w gminach wiejskich województwa zachodniopomorskiego. Jest to ważne z uwagi na poszukiwanie kategorii, które mogłyby przyczynić się do kreowania i pomnażania kapitału społecznego.

Słowa kluczowe: zaufanie, zaangażowanie, partycypacja, dochód, kapitał społeczny, czynniki miękkie