Testing The Association Between Individual Social Capital And Health In Turkey

Yrd. Doç. Dr. Asuman Çukur
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, asucukur@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The nature of health is complex and multidimensional. Lately social capital has been increasingly linked to health outcomes along with other economic and socio-demographic indicators. Even though the association between social capital and health has been widely explored in many countries, the research in this field is scarce in Turkey. Also most of the studies in this area have been examined the link through the macro level indicators. Therefore it is important to explore the connection more fully with micro level indicators. This study utilizes micro level indicators of social capital to investigate the impact of social capital on the health status of individuals in Turkey. The analysis is based on the micro data set of Turkey Health Survey 2014. To research the relation both subjective and objective measures of health and several forms of trust as a proxy of measure of social capital has been used. Logistic regression is performed to investigate the association between social capital and health at an individual level while controlling for the basic socio-demographic variables. The analysis indicates a positive impact of social capital on individual health but different degrees. The pattern of findings are compared with the literature.

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