Defining and Measuring Social Cohesion

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Outline

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Economic Implications
- Indicators
- Methodology
- Critical Success Factors
“Sustainable Development is kind of like pornography… we know it when we see it but apart from that its pretty difficult to define” – Herman Daly (1996)

Can the same be said of Social Cohesion?

Two terms
- Social – Society
- Cohesion – the extent of togetherness

Can it be measured?
Role of Values
Girvan (1998)

- “... the failure to agree on a basic set of core values to which everyone subscribes results in continuous contention over fundamentals.”
- Call for social consensus among principal social partners
- Development of “... trust and co-operation among the social partners and for promoting socially constructive behavior”.
- Lessons of East Asia
- Call for consistency
Literature Review

- Level of discourse among political parties

- Values require a sense of self
  - “the Caribbean is a green world, one without metaphors” – Derek Walcott

- Best (2009) Role of the Plantation Economy

- Has Caribbean economic development taken into account Caribbean values?
UNECLAC (2007) – Social Cohesion: Inclusion and a sense of belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Social cohesion has been seen as a response:
  - high indices of poverty
  - the extreme levels of inequality and discrimination
  - the incidences of social exclusion which can be traced throughout the history of the region
Latin America

- Inter-American Development Bank – Social Cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean: Analysis, Action and Coordination
- Correlation exists between social cohesion and the important areas of development:
  - Growth
  - competitiveness
  - capacities for technological innovation and
  - democratic governance
Extra– Regional

- **Singapore**
  - History of Social tensions (Heng & Aljunied(2011))
  - Bilingual Education Policy (Dixon (2005))
  - Legislation that lends a voice to minority groups

- **England (House of Commons)**
  - Oldham Riots (racial tensions)
  - Common vision and sense of belonging
  - Need for open dialogue
  - Role for media
European Union (Growing Regions, Growing Europe: Fourth Report on Economic and Social Cohesion)
- GDP 5–10% higher
- Creation of 2 million net additional jobs
- Enhanced environmental quality
- Increased human capital investments
- More integrated approach to development
- More holistic view of development
- Strategic planning structure of governance
Methodology

- Foa (2011)
- Econometric Model
- Social Development Indicators
- 200 variables from 25 sources
- Extremely time consuming
- Availability of Data
Indicators

- Markus (2011)
- Sense of Belonging
- Sense of Worth
- Social Justice and Equity
- Acceptance/Rejection Legitimacy
- Participation
Methodology

- Survey

- Belonging
  - pride in the country’s way of life
  - whether or not persons see a need for change in that way of life

- Sense of Worth
  - the ability of persons to meet their needs financially
  - and secure some sense of financial security for themselves.
Methodology

Social justice and equity

◦ perceptions of adequate opportunities for those experiencing poverty
◦ perception that there exists a gap between the rich and the poor
◦ possibility of that gap widening
◦ whether or not persons view their homeland as conducive to economic opportunity
◦ the extent of trust in the powers that be
Methodology

- Acceptance/Rejection legitimacy
  - attitudes to immigration
  - incidences of discrimination
  - perception of equal opportunities between and among religious groups

- Participation in Political processes
Social Cohesion Indicators

$$SCI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} f_r \cdot w_r}{n}$$

- Where:
  - $f_r = \text{the frequency of each response}$
  - $w_r = \text{the weight of each response}$
  - $i = \text{the question number}$
  - $n = \text{the number of questions in each section}$
## Pilot Data

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<th>Belonging</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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Social Cohesion Indicators

- $0 \leq \text{TSCI} < 0.4 = \text{weak cohesion}$
- $0.4 \leq \text{TSCI} < 0.8 = \text{mild cohesion}$
- $0.8 \leq \text{TSCI} < 1.2 = \text{moderate cohesion}$
- $1.2 \leq \text{TSCI} < 1.6 = \text{strong cohesion}$
Participation Index

\[ P = \sum_{i=1}^{5} p_i \cdot w \]

- Where: \( P \) = participation Index
- \( p_i \) = political process 1,2...5
- \( w \) = weighted value = 0.2
### Pilot Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Weighted Value</th>
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<td>Sample Size:</td>
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<td>Voted in an election</td>
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<td>0.21</td>
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<td>0.04</td>
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<td>Contacted MOP</td>
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<td>0.21</td>
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Critical Success Factors

- Consensus among principal agents
  - Shared Vision
  - Sense of self
  - Co-operation

- Consistent and concentrated policy

- Communication

- Education

- Not an Outcome but a Process
Looking Ahead

- National Survey
- Regional Integration
- Causal Relationships