

Roles of Social Capital in Resource-based Rural Development: Case Study of Shirao-cho Community, Omihachiman City, Shiga Prefecture

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Summary

This study investigates the roles of social capital in resource-based rural development using the community of Shirao-cho, Omihachiman, Shiga Prefecture. Firstly, the authors overview the concept of social capital. Next, bonding-type and bridging-type social capital are defined. Concurrently, the authors also group the various activities which maintain and utilize the unique local resources in Shirao-cho. Finally, the authors investigate which type of social capital contributes to maintaining and utilizing resources for rural development.

The study revealed that bonding-type social capital relates to maintaining the resources and that bridging type social capital relates to utilizing resources. From these results, we conclude that utilization of local resources is made upon the sustainable maintenance of resources, and that both bonding-type and bridging-type social capital are required to utilize the resources for sustainable rural development.

Key words: Social capital, Bonding-type, Bridging-type, Rural development, Local resources

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