

Workshop Presentation

Topic: Social Capital and Volunteering

Sustainable Community through Building Social Capital within the Community

Dr. Hyun Mee La HONG

Ewha Womans University, Korea

hmrhong@ewha.ac.kr

Abstract

The main experience in forming social capital, so-called “central phenomenon” creates automatic formation and sustainability of a community (‘creating an autonomy and sustainability of community’). In order to create the autonomy and sustainability of community, social workers go through the following four stages of an experience to build social capital. These stages are 'plotting and searching,' 'discovering and understanding,' 'participating and converting,' and 'maintaining sustainability'. Additionally in creating autonomy and sustainability of community, there are four types of social workers' effort in building social capitals within the community: 'restoring norms of reciprocity', 'developing citizen's capabilities', 'mobilizing resources through community organizations', and 'utilizing external resource-networks'.

Body of Paper

The purpose of this study is to establish fundamental knowledge on the experience for building social capital as a strategy for changing the community. This study used a definition of social capital by Putnam (1993)¹ and the grounded theory methods based on Strauss and Corbin (1998) and Corbin (2004).

Interviews were conducted with 14 Korean social workers (general managers and assistant managers) at community welfare centers who have developed resources by using social network or social relations for more than 3 years. Their ages ranged from 38.6 years, and they have worked an average 12.5 years in social work. Ten men and four women participated in this study.

Data were collected with in-depth interviews from October 2004 to March 2005, and signed consent forms were obtained from the participants before the interviews. The interviews were recorded on tape and were transcribed afterwards. Data collection and analysis were conducted simultaneously. Content analysis was used to analyze into categories representative of an experience of the social workers.

¹ Social capital refers to “connections among individuals-social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them” (Putnam, 1993)

www.volunteerlink.net

Social Capital and Volunteering- 1 -

本文屬義務工作發展局出版。All right reserved 2006.

歡迎轉載內文以推廣義務工作，使用時請列明出處。

The data were analyzed into concepts, subcategories, and categories with the open coding process. The axial coding was done to identify the relationships between the concepts and categories, and process analysis. The selective coding was done to develop the core category and the storyline, classify the types. The major findings of this study are as followed.

As a result of the data analysis, 178 concepts, 63 subcategories, and 16 categories were revealed. The main experience in forming social capital, so-called “central phenomenon”² creates automatic formation and sustainability of a community (‘creating an autonomy and sustainability of community’). In creating this automatic and sustainable community there are three major causal conditions. According to the result of categorical analyses by the paradigm in ‘axial coding’³, the causal conditions in the experience for building social capital as a strategy for changing communities created distress to the practitioners due to following two respects: the lack of presently available resources and the problems resulting from donors’ sympathetic perception toward recipients. In addition, the corresponding contextual conditions result from the expertise of social workers, the environment allowing agencies to develop resources, and the potential to organize communities. Lastly, there exist intervening conditions which facilitate or mediate in activating the central phenomenon. This intervening factors control the degree of “the action and interaction strategies” in the following respects: varying resources depending upon the type of community (low-income communities, middle and high-income communities, public rental communities, and commercial communities), the social relations based on internal or external network, the conversion of the mission of the community network to the welfare value, and the encouragement of wide participation. Mediated by the intervening conditions above, the action and interaction strategies construct close social networks, and build trustworthiness as well as mutual reciprocities among individuals, organizations, and community. Additionally, these strategies can be diversified depending upon the type of community mentioned above. Finally, the final consequences of the central phenomenon then assure sustainability of community and expand the participation of recipients of the service. <fig-1>

In order to create the autonomy and sustainability of community, social workers go through the following four stages of an experience to build social capital. First, the initial stage, ‘plotting and searching,’ is a period that both specifies the characteristics of each community and plans the required functions based on the

² Central phenomenon refers to “something that happens occurs and central thinking in the experience that is indicated as a concept with data” Strauss and Corbin(1998)

³ Results of ‘axial coding’ can be showed at the <fig-1>.

environmental conditions for developing resources. In this period, social workers should plan the smooth procedures in creating autonomy and sustainability of community by finding out the causal conditions among them.

In the second stage, the 'discovering and understanding' period, the practitioners find out the appropriate social networks according to the possibility of available resources in the community. Then they try to understand the specific characteristics and need of the founded social networks. In other words, they need to target each community organization and social network. This stage can be served to understand the social networks founded in the community.

The third stage of 'participating and converting' creates a stage to make a system of active resources. First of all, while targeting and tailoring characteristics of each community organization and social network, the related parties participate in the social network to make a social infrastructure for clients in this stage. In a process of participation, the related parties will lead the conversion of participants' value to welfare value. Thus, this stage can be referred to as autonomy and sustainability of community.

The last stage of 'maintaining sustainability' is completed following the stages of 'plotting and searching', 'discovering and understanding' and 'participating and converting.' This stage includes two meanings. One is to create autonomy of community in assuring sustainable cycle of the community. The other is to encourage and expand the participation of recipients. <fig-2>

In creating autonomy and sustainability of community, there are four types of social workers' effort in building social capitals within the community: 'restoring norms of reciprocity', 'developing citizen's capabilities', 'mobilizing resources through community organizations', and 'utilizing external resource-networks'.

In the type of 'restoring norms of reciprocity', the social workers perceive that there is naive culture to help each other and that there are diverse social networks. These social workers concentrated on their social networks even though they are very poor. In this type, the community center was not so much a taker but a giver. It also was possible to participate in governmental grassroots organizations. So the community of this type was cooperative in spite of the lack of resource. According to these characters, it is shown that the social workers have taken a part in increasing the role of the local leaders as an indigenous leader. The social workers are able to use appropriate strategies suitable to restructure the roles of those local leaders. This phenomenon is found in most low-income communities.

The second type is called 'developing citizen's capabilities.' In this type, the social workers perceived that their community was wealthy but individualized. There

are three major factors of developing citizens capabilities found through our experiment. First of all, there are a number of non-profit organizations that have a mission related to social welfare in the communities that fit in the category of 'developing citizen's capabilities.' In these communities, the social workers perceived their community as a warehouse of resources. Secondly, they noticed that a few recipients lived in this wealthy and individualized community. Instead, most of them lived in sub-communities along the boundaries of this community. While pointing out this point, the social workers decided to share the information of these recipients of sub-communities and then came up with the new social networks targeting the needs of these people. Lastly, we noticed that the social workers had previously failed to practice based on issues, but they had succeeded in cooperating easily with government-oriented grassroots organizations. The social workers were able to have horizontal relationships with the government-oriented grassroots organizations. According to these factors, the social workers could target the capable individuals with resources at their disposal and endow them with responsibility for caring the recipients residing in the sub-communities. It is also important to build social networks in which those recipients could get aid. These social networks should be channeled from and managed by the individuals with resources at their disposal. This phenomenon is common in most of middle and high-income communities.

The third type is characterized by the social workers' action of 'mobilizing resources through community organizations'. In this type, the social workers perceive that most of residents are composed of recipients having a multiple problems in their community. The community is isolated and abandoned from other major communities. There is no participation because of residents' desperate living condition, weak social networks and social disintegration. So the only source of network in this type of community is the community center. Since there are no available resources, the recipients themselves have become the only source of resource. The social workers named this community as 'a place with people but without fertile land.' According to these features, social workers used some strategies to get extra resources by empowering recipients. It is important to give them approachable resources and opportunities, so that they could be interested in social welfare of the region and gradually build their leadership and be proud of being a member of their community. In addition, the social workers could support the recipients to become usual human capital in the form of volunteering. This phenomenon is typical of a public rental apartment community in which legal recipients lived.

The last type is characterized by the social workers' position of 'utilizing external resource networks.' In this type, the social workers perceive that there is no

cooperative culture and there are a few social networks with weak community base. The social networks within this community are benefit-oriented. Also the people in this area are ignorant of the existence of community centers. This community tends to be sub-urbanized. In other words, there are a few living residents and most of the businesses, enterprises, and employees within. According to these features, the social workers have used a benefit-oriented strategy to strengthen the weak social network in this community. It is also important to utilize external resource networks in order to link these external care systems with the recipients. This type is noticed in most of commercial communities.

Conclusion

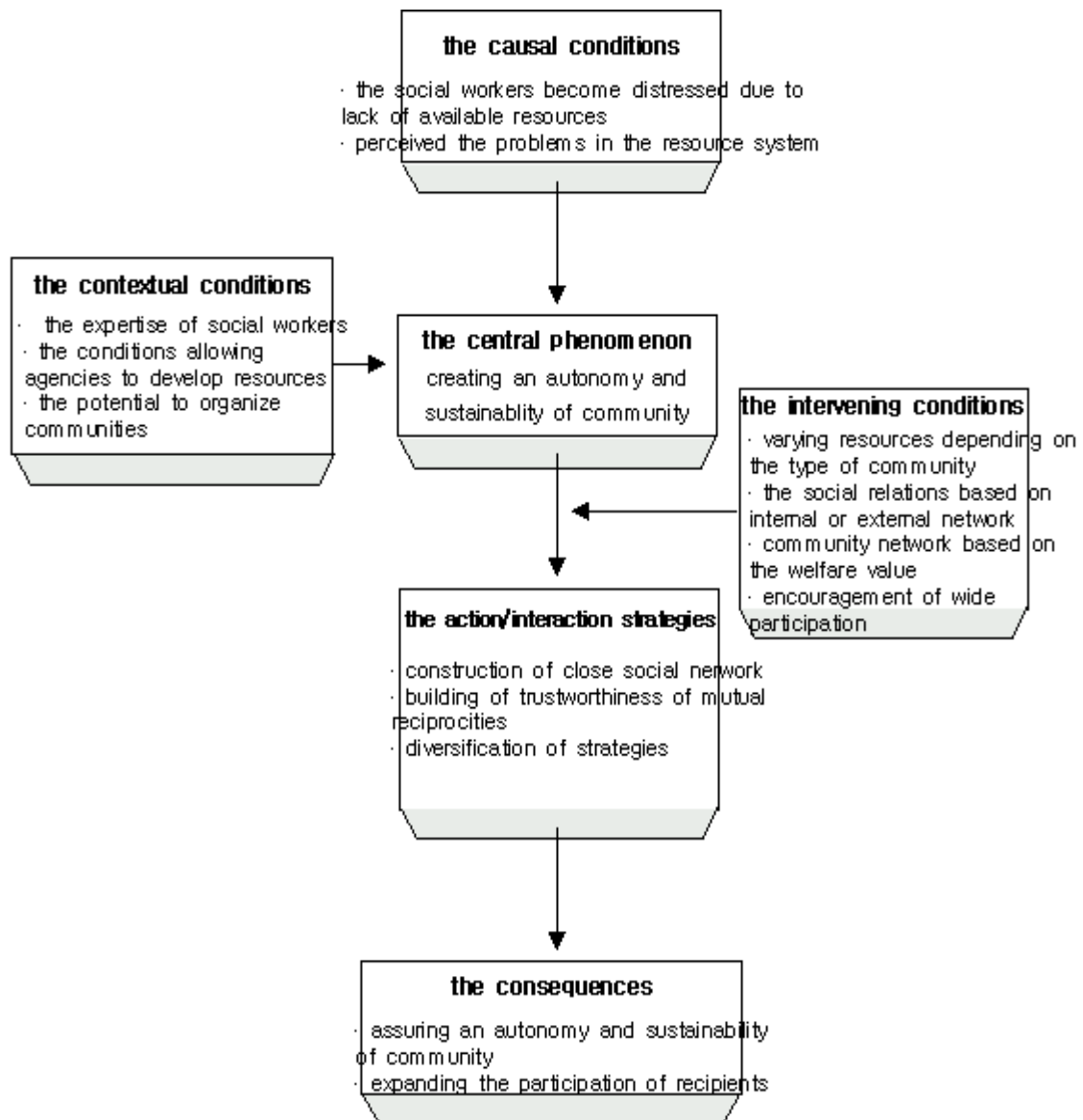
In conclusion, the community change can be interpreted as 'creating autonomy and sustainability of communities.' These types of findings for building social capitals can contribute in developing practical technologies and tools for creating sustainable community. Especially, when someone builds social capital, it is very important to take deep consideration of the existing community conditions and features.

References

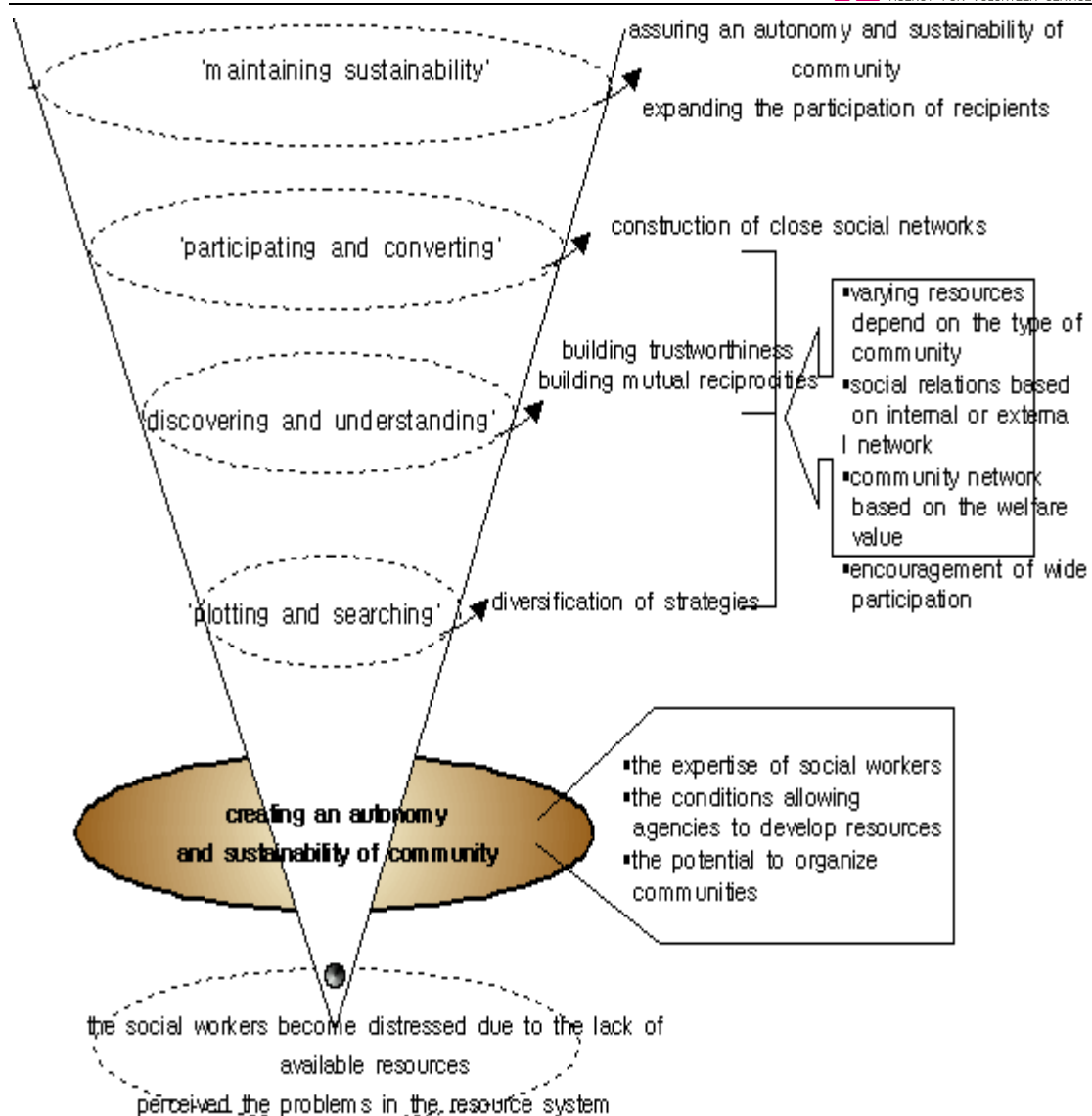
- Bourdieu, Pierre, 1986. "The Forms of Capital," in John G Richardson(ed.), *Handbook of Theory and Research for Sociology of Education*, New York:Greenwood, 241~258
- Bourdieu, Pierre & Loic Wacquant. 1992. *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press: 119
- Burt, Ronald S.. 1980. "Cooptive Corporate Actor Networks: A Reconsideration of Interlocking Directorates Involving American Manufacturing." *Administrative Science Quarterly*. Cornell University.
- Coleman, James. 1988. "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital," *American Journal of Sociology* 94, 94~121
- Coleman, James. 1990. *Foundations of Social Theory*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press: 302
- Corbin, Juliet. 2004. *Grounded Theory: Qualitative Analysis*. Seoul: Korea Center for Qualitative Methodology.
- Derosé, Kathryn Pitkin. 2003. Social Capital: What's It Good For? Exploring the Relationship Between Community Social Structure and Access to Health Care. Ph.D. The University of California, Los Angeles.

- Fram, Maryah Stella. 2003. *Discussions of Social Capital: Social Work, Social Structure, and the Contextualization of Inequality*. Ph.D. University of Washington.
- Gittell, Ross & Avis Vidal. 1998. *Community Organizing: Building Social Capital as a Development Strategy*. Sage Publications, Inc.
- Gordon, Erika Leeanna. 2002. A Laying on of Hands: Contemporary African American Women's Community Works, Social Capital, and Micromobilization. Ph.D. The University of Maryland
- Hutchson, Judy Mae. 1999. Propinquity without Community: A study of Social Capital, Survival Networks and Community Building in the Pico Union Area of Los Angeles. Ph.D. The University of California, Los Angeles.
- Hyman, James B. 2002. "Exploring Social Capital and Civic Engagement to Create a Framework for Community Building." *Applied Developmental Science*, 6(4): 196~202
- Jantzi, Terrence Lee. 2000. Local Program theories and social capital: A case study of a nongovernmental organization in eastern Bolivia. Ph.D. Cornell University.
- Krishma, Aniruch, 2000. Social Capital, Collective Action, and The State: Understanding Economic Development, Community Peace, and Democratic Governance in Rural North India. Ph.D. Cornell University.
- Loury, Glenn. 1992. "The Economics of Discrimination: Getting to the Core of the Problem," *Harvard Journal for African American Public Policy* 1: 100
- Mattessich, Paul and Barbara Monsey. 1997. *Community Building: What Makes It Work-A Review of Factors Influencing Successful Community Building*. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
- Mizrahi, Terry. 1999. "Strategies for Effective Collaborations in the Human Services." *Social Policy*, Summer 1999: 5~21
- Nguyen, Toan Quoc. 2002. Essays on the dynamics of social capital and external debt in low-income countries. Ph.D. The New York University.
- Niehm, Linda Swihart. 2002. Retail Superpreneurs and Their Influence on Small Communities. Ph.D. Michigan State University.
- Owens, Michael Leo. 1997. "Renewal in a Working-Class Black Neighborhood." *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 19(2):183~205
- Portes, Alejandro. 1998. "Social Capital: Its Origins and Applications in Modern Sociology," *Annual Review of Sociology* 22: 1~24
- Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: 167

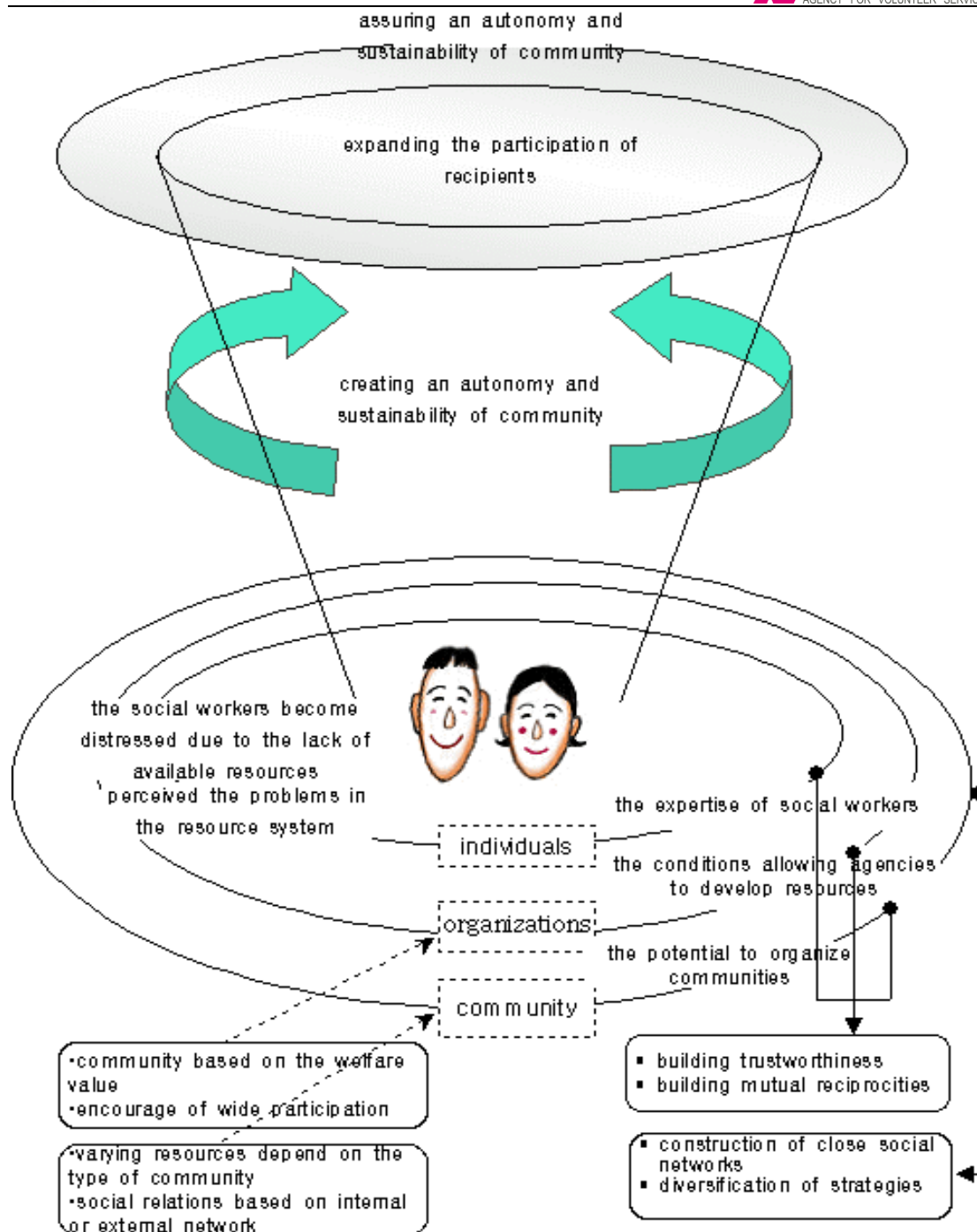
- Putnam, Robert. 1993. "The Prosperous Community: Social Capital and Public Life," *The American Prospect* 13(spring), 35~42
- Ridings, Dorothy S. "Philanthropy in action: Building community." *National Civic Review*; 86(4): 281~287
- Strauss A. and Juliet Corbin. 1998. *Basic of Qualitive Research*. New Deli: Sage Publications.
- Tillerman, Rev. Walter. 2001. "Building Autonomy Within Community. Social Pollicy," Fall 2001: 53~59
- Yin, Jordan S. 2000. The Community Development Industry System: A Case Study of Politics and Institutions in Cleveland, 1967-1997. *Jornal of Urban Affairs*, 20(2): 137~157



<fig-1> the model of an experience for building social capital



<fig-2> the stage of an experience for building social capital



<fig-3> the situational model of an experience for building social capital