

## **Institutional Robustness and Its Association with Social Capital: Evidence from Community Based Inland Fisheries Organizations**

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Fishing in inland reservoirs is carried out by community-based organizations. The success of community-based management is conditional upon the institutional robustness of the organization that governs fisheries management. The strength of fisheries community organizations depends heavily on the mutually respect, connectedness and trustworthiness among the fishers. Social capital is a measure of this. The objective of this research is to assess the institutional robustness of five selected medium perennial reservoirs. Institutional robustness was assessed by examining the degree of compliance with Ostrom's design principles. Furthermore, the study assessed the association between institutional robustness and social capital. The social capital was measured by considering social network and groups, social cohesion, trust and solidarity, collective action, information and communication, empowerment and political action. The result suggests that there was a diversity among the selected reservoirs on institutional robustness though fisheries organizations in all medium perennial reservoirs complied with all the 11 modified design principles except "clearly defined user boundaries". Institutional robustness is high in the community-based organization of *Irakkamam* reservoir, it complied well with Ostrom's design principles and had an average value of 77.3 for social capital. There is a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) association between institutional robustness and social capital in the community. To improve institutional robustness, it is important to enhance the social capital of the community. Weak institutions should rebuild their organization with new effective administrative committee and should need to follow the aspects practicing in robust institutions.

**Keywords:** Community-based organizations, Inland fishery, Institutional robustness, Ostrom's principles, Social capital

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