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Association between social capital and health in women of reproductive age: A population-based study

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Introduction: Women's health is a general health priority. Origins of health inequalities are very complicated.

Objective: The present study was conducted to determine association between social capital status and health in reproductive age women in Tehran.

Materials & Methods: This study is a population-based cross-sectional survey on 770 reproductive age women (15-49 years old), residing in any one of the 22 municipality zones across Tehran (capital of Iran). In this study, the social capital integrated questionnaire, the SF-36 and socio-demographic questionnaires were used. Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA test and Stepwise Multiple Linear Regression.

Results: Data showed that after controlling the other variables, both dimensions of social capital outcome (social cohesion and inclusion, and empowerment and political action) are significantly related to most dimensions of health; general health, social functioning, role limitations due to emotional problems and mental health.

Conclusions: Dimensions of social capital manifestations (groups and networks, trust and solidarity, collective action and cooperation) can potentially lead to the dimensions of social capital outcomes (social cohesion and inclusion, and empowerment and political action) which in turn, affect health inequities after controlling socio demographic differences. Therefore, it is required to focus on social capital role on health promotion and health policies.

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