The Effectiveness of Social Capital as Added Value to Gated and Guarded Community as Safety Basic in Residential Area

Intan Nazuha binti Abdullah[1], Jalaluddin Abdul Malek[2], Azima Abd Manaf[3]

[1,2,3]Pusat Pengajian Sosial, Pembangunan dan Persekitaran, Fakulti Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia
[1]Department of Construction Management and Real Estate, Faculty of Built Environment, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, 53300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Abstract

The rapid growth of a gated community in Malaysia is due to public concerns over the safety of their family. Currently this concept has expanded to almost all cities over the world. In Malaysia, the concept of gated and guarded communities has more concentrated to the big cities which allow an increasing in the crime case problems. The concept of a gated and guarded community emphasizes the security issues from the physical aspects such as fencing and a combination of privacy and lifestyle of the population itself. While social capital is a concept that emphasizes the values in the individual itself as trust, a good network of relationships and mutual assistance to each other in the community. The method use is discourse analysis by using journals and other sources of reading as a reference. Therefore this study will discuss the extent to which the concept of a gated and guarded community with the addition of the social capital can ensure safety the residents. As a result, there are features in the social capital when combined with the physical aspects of a gated community to ensure community safety is guaranteed.

Keywords: Gated and Guarded Community, Safety, Social Capital, Property, Management.

Introduction

Gated and guarded community residents is regularly known as gathering a community who occupied landed properties and controlled by Management Corporation on that area. In the meantime, guarded neighborhood refers to an existing residential area monitored and controlled by security services in the scheme with individual land titles. By right, any physical barriers of access to the general public streets are illegal and restriction of entry and exit to the residents and also the public. These mean that no physical barriers can apply in gated and guarded community schemes on public streets and not enforce any entry and exit restrictions to the residents and the public. It is seen that gated communities as a response to the fear

and worried of crime. However, privacy, status and investment potential may also be significant factors, and these issues include the privatisation of public places and the fortification of urban space (Atkinson & Smith, 2012).

Concept of Gated and Guarded Community and Social Capital

There are three existing categories of gated and guarded community which are lifestyle, elite and security zone community. Refer to the lifestyle gated community scheme are surrounded by a fence for the safety and separation purposes for leisure and amenities activity (A. Abdullah, Salleh, & Sakip, 2012; Blandy, 2007; Ekblom, 2011). For example Country Height residential area which is applying gated and guarded community scheme in Kajang area. While for the elite community, they use fencing around their boundary as a symbol of prestige and image with the high monthly fees because the most important thing for them is to secure their family life. Hence, security zone is the last category of the gated and guarded community. Majority of the resident preferred to stay in this community because of their bad experience in a crime case especially burglary case and their intention also is to ensure the property value is keep increasing in the future. Thus, with the fence and bar gate as a physical controlling, it can use as psychology tools to the others people for feeling more safer to stay in that area (Blakely & Snyder, 1997).

There are two-factor involve in the growth of gated community which is structure causes and subjective causes. Structure causes are more related to the social, politic and economy while subjective causes are more to the how the individual take care of their family safety. Another factor that makes people willing to stay in the gated community scheme is because of the location and the design of the housing scheme itself (Roitman, Webster, & Landman, 2010).A social capital concept is applied to ensure the successful of community life with assumption that community life will achieve the target when they have the high level of social value and culture in appreciating the co-operation in the community and it will expand because of the community itself. While gated and guarded community concept was developed because of the urban community roles on controlling and handling a social issue such as to prevent crime case occur and to ensure the community life in good condition. Thus, social capital is a tool on how the internal strength of the community in handling social problem whiles another resource is use as a compliment in driving them forward. But to solve an urban community problem, the combination of social capital and gated and guarded community concept must have to pay attention and more research is needed to ensure this concept is successfully in the future.

Issues and Challenge in Gated and Guarded Community

Gated and guarded community is always being as a hot topic for discussion because of the issue arises such as the effect of gated and guarded community to the public. But this concept always is the first priority when they choose for housing concept. It is because this concept is more concern on the safety and security of the resident from the crime case.

But the problem rising on how this concept can ensure there are zero crime case happen in that area. Although there has a statistic shown crime case decrease in gated and guarded community area but many people still argue. It will be a questions mark when on that area security features such as fencing and automatic bar gate can't avoid the crime case from happens. It happens because the bar gate just slows down for the incoming car police for help to that area but the thief still can run away or hide in any house or any place before they can went off as normal. Actually gated and guarded community concept is just a concept

which is use human psychology. It works when that area has surrounded by a fence and it would have 24 hours security guard. Than people were thinking that place is safe from crime threat.

After that another issue will arise. It is about separation and segregation area from public. It is because gated and guarded community will form an area or restricted zone for public to enter it. So it will block all the pedestrian and motorcar to use that public road. A security guard and bar gate was allocated at the entrance with 24 hours controlling. In the same time, human activity was disturbed because they have to use a different road to go to that place. But it was different to the original gated and guarded community scheme. It is because the scheme has law and regulations to follow and the community also have the right to create their own rules on their area (Abdalla & Elhadary, 2014).

From the social view, social separation is obvious in neglecting of common use because only high and standard individual will stayed in that area because their image and prestige are more important rather than humanism aspect. So it will give a big gap between the community and the public.

Why The Resident Choose Gated and Guarded Community?
The main reason is because of the demand for a good and safe environment for their life (Asiedu & Arku, 2009; Blakely & Snyder, 1997; Blandy, 2007; Debertin & Goetz, 2013; M. Low, 2014; Tedong, 2014). It is because to have a good life environment is a dreaming to all people which is including rich and poor people. Based on the research done by Blakely and Snyder (1997), USA was bombed in 1980, it was shows the increment on the violent crimes in the main town including sub-urban area. When it happened, the growth of gated and guarded community concept was expanding very fast and it was dominant by middle income people until poor people. They want a good quality of life and to ensure their family safety. The resident in gated and guarded community feel that there are responsible to taking care of their area from crime threat and can control the environment with the establishment of gated and guarded community area. So in the same time, it will get the involvement from all community to monitor and control their area (Lepri, Antonelli, Pianesi, & Pentland, 2015), it also is the main reason of the choice of gated and guarded community among the resident (Ainur Zaireen Zainudin and Khadijah Hussin, 2015; Caudill, Getty, Smith, Patten, & Trulson, 2013). While Nonemaker (2009) did a research on the 2710 number of the resident at gated and guarded community in Arbor Greene, Hunter's Green, and Grand Hampton, Tampa Florida. The result was shown, the main reason of people choose to stayed in gated and guarded community is because of safety and to enhance the property value.

The categories of gated and guarded community are in a big scopes (Mittelsteadt, 2003; Tedong et al., 2016) while the function of gated and guarded community can be summarised as follow:

- Safety and security – Gated and guarded community area will ensure the safety is in high level.
- Social controlling – Is easier for the resident to control and monitor the behaviour and social activities in the community. It is because of the team work among security officer, CCTV and community itself.
- Segregation and privacy – Limited and controlling social relationship with the public.
- Status – Have a big impact on the property value within the area and will have a strong social relationship between the individual.

- Facilities and services –Gated and guarded community also allow the residents to use all the services and facilities provided in the area (Roitman et al., 2010). It also can prevent outsiders/ public from using their existing facilities in the area.

Social Capital vs Safety Threat in Gated and Guarded Community

Social capital can be defined as a teamwork in the community to achieve the target (Coleman, 1999) where they are meet each other to ensure they have a strong relationship in daily life and to ensure their stabilization in economy and safety (Burt, 2000). This value and informal norm (Tittenbrun, 2013) will establish a good relationship and social trust among the community to ensure the efficient and effective coordination to all of them (Western, Stimson, Baum, & Van Gellecum, 2005). In certain situation, social capital can be seen as a resource to solve the problem. In the book "Bowling Alone" written by Robert Putnam in the year 2000, its talk how the collapse and development of America resident in term of social and politic in the early on 1960. So, social capital is used to improve their living condition.

Hence, Coleman (1988) written in "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital" which was discuss how social capital can relate with sociology perspective and economy. Then, an economy principle was using globally in the analysis of the human social process. Thus a complete set of data was taken from secondary school to find the function of social capital in creating human capital through observation situation process in their children education development in the family and local resident. The result is if one family was in perfect condition, a good value can be absorbed by all individual in that family and at the same time it will bring the happiness and secure in community life.

Putnam just thinking that social relationship which is based on the social norm in the community will ensure strong economy and happiness community life. Whilst social norm will play their roles in individual behavior control in the community. It was a rule and regulations that need to follow and agreed by the community itself. Normally, the social norm is not stated in any rules and regulation handbook but understood by all community in controlling the behavior in social life. When it was a strong social bonding, the community will follow what have been prepared and plan in social norm and continuously it will bring trusted to each other in the community. Trust is the risk have to be taken by the community in their social relationship where it has a high confident level and perhaps the others person will do the same thing and the action was taken after thinking about the risk that they will face in the future and will ensure everybody will get benefit from it (Putnam, 2001). Fukuyama (2002) believe with high trust level in each individual in the community will ensure the strong unity and can contribute in increments of social capital. The establishment of trust in the community will create a strong bonding among the resident in the community and they will help each other to ensure their area in safe and it will give a positive implication to the community itself (Foster, Meinhard, & Berger, 2003).

The social norm is a result from social capital and will create quality and quantity in the public social relationship in a big area. It is also can be used as social glue in taking care of community welfare together (Xia, 2009) and in the same time, it will drive the community capability to co-operate to produce a huge productivity. Refer to Tittenbrun (2013) the establishment of relationship in the community is because of trust value, understanding between each other, share the same value and the target will be achieved if it was done in the efficient and effective way (Amornsiriphong & Piemyat, 2012). The community is strong if the number of population is low. Because is impossible in the small population, the individual plan to do a crime. It is because the resident on that area was knowing each other

and always working together in monitoring and controlling their area. Whilst high crime rate can be found in the big township because they do not recognize each other and not understand the character played by each individual in the community. It will cause a misunderstanding among the individual in the community and in the same time others individual are not satisfied with their bad behavior and their social relationship is limited (Glaeser, Laibson, & Sacerdote, 2002). But it differences if they recognize each other in the community and it will make them happy to join any activity together in their area. It was agreed by (Putnam, 1995), if they have participation from them it will help others community also in their charity work.

Then, when the trustworthy aspect is a part of conversation topic in social relationship, it will proof that trusted each other in the community is a valuable and will get back a return in a good environment in peaceful and secure (Careford, 2007). In this new era world, trust element is important to hold by all individual because nowadays people choose to live in the selfish situation because of the risk and high challenge in life (Tittenbrun, 2013). Safety and trust are two aspects that can enhance social capital value in the community. It is because the community will more respect to each other with adding others norms since a previous year.

This concept is one asset where it emphasized a good name, good relationship, sympathy and social relationship among individual and their family. It will create a harmony social relationship and it was importance in human life. Bourdieu (1977) stated that social capital was based on the relationship network that has been formed as a result of the collaboration between all individual in the community.

Function of Social Capital in Gated and Guarded Community from Safety Aspect

Crime case and resident safety are famous research area in United Kingdom (Caudill et al., 2013; S. M. Low, 2001) and resident separation and segregation to have a good quality of life (Fatimah, Nasaruddin, & Osman, 2017; Le Goix, 2007; Zamhari & Perumal, 2016). It was clear shows that the community safety does not belong to individual but it covers to all individuals who are staying in the same area (Mutalib, Aziz, Noor, & Eves, 2012). Thus it will create a relationship between fear of crime and environment physical (S. M. Low, 2001).

Roitman (2008) through "Urban social group segregation: a gated community in Mendoza, Argentina" purposely done a research to identify and review how social relationship and their review on the social group in the gated and guarded community area. The result shows the development of gated community will contribute to the privatisation of the road and restriction to the public to enter to that area. But there have pro's and con's to the Local Authority, it is because there are limited finance resources for the purpose of improvement of public use in town area but in the same time they are not agreed with blocking the public area. It was clear shows that the establishment of social segregation is obvious in the community inside and outside of the gated and guarded community. Thus the issue of the selection of community to live in a gated community is clear because there is a significant correlation between the formation of gated and guarded community with a safety aspect because it supports the government's policy that allows control over public space with the guarded community (Tedong, 2014; Tedong, Grant, & Abd Aziz, 2014).

Strasbourg (2010) through his writing in "Behind the closed doors: Exploring the gated community in Ontario" find out that physical and social safety is the main element in the community. If the gated and guarded community and social capital concept was combine together, it will ensure the community safety. Research done by "Housing Owner

Association"(HOA) find out access block will help the community feel safe and physical structure will ensure the safety (Falconer & Mitchell, 2012; Mittelsteadt, 2003), and the community will have more chance to know each other and will create a high level of trust aspect. This is because there is a significant correlation between gated communities and assumes that outsiders are dangerous and pose a threat to the community. This was driven by the psychology of society itself is narrow-minded and conservative who does not grant a renewal of rural communities in jointly lead a life in peace and harmony.

But it different with the research done in crime experience and safety perception in gated and guarded community and outside of that area (Mohit & Elsawahli, 2010). The result shows that crime rate level is higher in gated and guarded community compare to the non-gated and guarded community. The study also showed no significant relationship to the perception of safety between these two communities. These findings clearly contradicted by Newman (1973) concluded that the population more secure in a gated community. However, this study is limited to low-medium cost apartments and the results can not represent the whole community is gated and non- gated.

Thus, gated and guarded community has a strong relationship with the reason on why the gated community is imperative in the society. It is because the community feels they need to have the fence around the compound to ensure the safety and wealth of their family (M. Low, 2014). The gated community was inspired by garden city concept where is it was practice by the ideology of privatism (Zainudin and Khadijah Hussin, 2015; Bendt, Barthel, & Colding, 2013).But the question is how the community can play their roles in social capital to ensure their safety is perfect. Overall previous research report, there has a variety of factor in gated community growth. It shows the demand for safety, enhancing of property value, the government policy and crime rate will contribute to the establishment of gated and guarded community but there is no research done in detail regarding social capital and safety aspect in gated and guarded community.

Conclusion

This paper reviews the effectiveness of social capital as added value in gated and guarded community to ensure safety aspect among the communities in residential area. This discussion is not thought that in a gated and guarded community does not exist the concept of social capital but it more concern if the concept was not absorbed and understood by all the individuals of gated communities. This is due to the characteristics inherent in the social capital itself may form noble values among the population and crime problems can be overcome. Therefore, if the concept is combined with the gated and guarded community is certainly guaranteed the safety aspect in the community. However, involvement of all individual in the communities will ensure the function and role of social capital are more effective and crime case can be prevented and the community is more secure.

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Corresponding Author

Intan Nazuha binti Abdullah

Department of Construction Management and Real Estate,
Faculty of Built Environment,
Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, 53300 Kuala Lumpur.

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