METROPOLIS BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Title:** **SOCIAL CAPITAL AND LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES FOR SOUTH ASIA BORN IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA**

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**Research Question:**
The role of social capital in impacting labour market outcomes in terms of employment, job search, sectors of employment and earnings with reference to South Asia born immigrants in Canada.

**Importance:**
Studies on the role of social capital impacting labour market outcomes with reference to South Asian immigrants in Canada are scanty. Such studies validate the role of social capital in economic theory and in framing socio-economic policies for immigrants. This could help them integrate in the labour market of the host country.

**Research Findings:**
1) Social capital helps South Asia born immigrants in gainful employment and in search for jobs. ii) Social capital is not a significant determinant in explaining variations in earnings. iii) The role of social capital is sensitive to the method of estimating it. iv) The primary survey undertaken (though not a representative one), corresponds with the results of quantitative analysis. v) Data set(s), more extensive in coverage are necessary for disaggregated, gender wise analysis of immigrants from different source countries.

**Implications:**
The research confirms that social milieu contribute to the understanding of economic phenomena and reaffirms that economic studies should include human attributes and institutional characteristics of a society. There are implications regarding conceptual framework of social capital, its types, and methods of estimation as they influence the study and interpretation of such an economic phenomena. Some more empirical studies based on wider data base are required to confirm the role of social capital in economic theory and policy formation. In order to let immigrants integrate better in the labour market, existing policies in Canada need to be revised in the context of country/region of origin so as to be appropriate and demand side inclusive.