

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Relationship between Social Capital and the Level of Entrepreneurial Spirituality in the Students of Payame-Noor University in Hamadan

Marjan Behzadfar, ²Mehdi shahmoradi

Assistant Professor and Faculty Member of Payame Noor University, Iran

²Clinical Psychologist, Iran

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the relationship between social capital and the entrepreneurial spirit was carried out in 2016. The population in this study consisted of students of Payame Noor University of Hamadan that their number was approximately 3,500 people who are using stratified sampling and Morgan table, 346 individuals were chosen. Data collected using standard questionnaires Cai& Zhao (2016), and Vatankhah& (2015), were collected. Data analysis was performed using SPSS₂₁ software. Results revealed a significant and positive relationship between social capital and its dimensions (structural dimension, cognitive dimension, relational Dimension) is the entrepreneurial spirit of students. It was concluded that social capital as a potential source for the development of students' creative and entrepreneurial activities which officials and university administrators should pay special attention to them.

Keywords: Social Capital, Entrepreneurial Spirit, Structural Dimension, Cognitive Dimension, Relational Dimension.

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INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is a phenomenon that occurs in different environments and collections. Organizations have made significant contributions to an environment that encourages entrepreneurship and fosters individuals' talents. Organizations must provide conditions that the entire organization, entrepreneurial spirit, and individuals can comfortable, continuous and individually and collectively, in the organization, engage in entrepreneurial activities (such as innovation, risk-taking, pioneering, independence, and success) (Brazeau, 2013). Entrepreneurship as a scholarly field was defined by Venkataraman as "seeking to understand how opportunities to bring into existence future goods and services are discovered, created, and exploited, by whom, and with what consequences. In the modern economic climate, entrepreneurship, or possessing entrepreneurial spirit, is critical for driving innovation and creating a prosperous society (Lavery, Hanna, Haughey, & Hughes, 2015). The field of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship related inquiry are growing at an impressive rate (Dean, Shook, & Payne, 2007; Short, Kitchen, Combs, & Ireland, 2010). Over roughly the last 10 years, it is reported that the Entrepreneurship Division of the Academy of Management has witnessed 155% increase in membership indicating the steady growth of the discipline (Crook, Shook, Morris, & Madden, 2010). One of the most important factors in strengthening entrepreneurial spirit in universities is social capital, which is very important. In recent years, the importance of social capital as an intangible asset of an organization, has attracted the attention of stakeholders in the organization and management, as inclusive changes, such as the increasing needs for information and education, the necessary requirements for innovation and creativity, change to design a smooth, flexible organization and close relationship between the organization and the networks of customers, suppliers and competitors require that corporate leaders create social capital as an

organizational competence (Zhang et al., 2015). Park J. & Sharma (2016), Social capital consists of relational ties and networks that can foster social norms, provide support, and be leveraged for gain. Numerous studies indicate that social capital can positively influence educational achievement. Social capital makes our lives more productive and thus has political, institutional and economic value. The concept is most readily associated with Putnam (2000, 2001) who suggests that "social capital refers to connections among individuals -social networks, and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them" (Gladys, 2009). Although debate continues whether entrepreneurship can be taught, literature suggests that entrepreneurship education does lead to an increase in the students' desirability of becoming self-employed individuals in the future (Leitch et al. 2012). Authors suggest that entrepreneurship can be taught and that entrepreneurship education increases the chances of success of the startups (Metcalf 2013). Recently, Daim et al. (2016) provides insight into the entrepreneurial intentions of students in terms of genders and country of residence differences. The paper explores perceived feasibility and desirability for students in 10 countries. The entrepreneurship role is gender tested against desirability and feasibility. The results indicate that gender impacts entrepreneurship intention and the way it impacts is influenced by which country the students are from (Daim et al. 2016). Business plan competitions act as entrepreneurship support programs and provide a platform to the participants to enhance their entrepreneurial skill sets and increase their self-confidence (Russell et al. 2008). Entrepreneurship support programs such as business plan competitions enhance the desire within the students to become businessmen some day in the future (Russell et al. 2008). Business plan competitions are an effective way of incentivizing the participants to work on their ideas, and help in igniting the entrepreneurial spirit within them. In this paper therefore we intend to see how various entrepreneurial interventions carried out during a business plan competition helped in motivating the participants to start their own ventures in the future. This paper was prepared in order to The Relationship between Social Capital and the Level of Entrepreneurial Spirituality in the Students of Payame-Noor University in Hamadan. The purpose of the paper is to entrepreneurial aspiration of in incentivizing the students to start their entrepreneurial ventures in the near or distant future. Which has enabled universities and educational centers to create knowledge and ideas, and lead students to engage in entrepreneurial and risky activities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Process of Research

The present study is based on the purpose of the applied type. Since in this research we are looking at the relationship between the components of social capital and the level of entrepreneurial spirit in Payame Noor University of Hamedan students, the type of research based on the objective is applied. In terms of the type of data collected, The present study is also of a quantitative nature. The research type is descriptive-correlational in terms of its implementation. In the present study, the statistical population consists of all students of Payame-Noor University in Hamedan, which is about 3,500 people. A sample of a small group of people is selected for viewing and analysis. In this study, based on the size of the society and the method of research, using the Morgan table, 346 students of Payame Noor University of Hamedan have been formed. The sampling method in this research is sampling by random method and relative class method. In a stratified sampling of subgroups with the same relation that exists in society, they will be represented as community representatives.

Tools for data collection

In this study, library and field methods have been used to collect information and a questionnaire was used to collect data.

In the present study, a questionnaire was used to collect data that is a set of written questions that are made up around the variables of a researched question. The research questionnaire consists of three general sections, the first part of which is demographic information of the statistical sample population including gender, age, educational level and marital status. The other two sections relate to the two main structures of research, namely social capital and entrepreneurial spirit, which are described below:

A Social Capital (Questions 1 to 12)

Structural dimension with 3 questions

Cognitive dimension with 4 questions

the relationship with 5 questions

B. The entrepreneurial spirit (Questions 13 to 30)

innovation with 4 questions

Risk factor with 4 questions

Afterward independence with 3 questions

pioneering with 3 questions

Afterward success with 4 questions

It is necessary to note that the scale of measurement of questions in the research questionnaire is based on a five-degree Likert spectrum (very high, high, to some extent, low, very low), with a score of 1 to very low, and so on Extremely dedicated. The questionnaire of the present study is shown in appendix (1).

Technical Characteristics of Data Collection Tool (Validity and Reliability)
The technical characteristics of the questionnaire in this study have been studied in two parts: validity and reliability as follows.

A: Validity

The purpose of the instrument's validity is to measure the scale and content of the questions contained in the tool exactly the variables and the subject under study. Content validity has been used in this study. In order to evaluate the content validity, standard questionnaires of the variables of the research were conducted by qualified individuals including the supervisor of the study and necessary corrections for each of the questions.

B. Reliability:

Cronbach's alpha method is the method used in most of the research, the method used in this study is shown in Table 2 (2-2): Table 3 -2): The reliability table of the research variables Alpha coefficient of variable alpha variable variable element 0.924 0.87 Structural social capital 0.91 Cognitive 0.79 Relation 0.702 Entrepreneurial spirit The higher Cronbach's coefficients than 0.7 prove the reliability of the tool. (Momeni and Qiyumi activist, 1389: 212). 3-6.

the data that from the implementation of questionnaires obtained will be analyzed using SPSS software in two descriptive and inferential sections as follows: Descriptive statistics: descriptive statistics, data setup and classification, graphical display, and calculation of values such as mean, median, etc., indicating the characteristics of each member of the community under discussion. In descriptive statistics, data from a group describes the same group and the information obtained is not generalized to the same categories. In the present research, the descriptive section of the demographic information operations of the sample population will be performed using SPSS software.

RESULTS

Table 1: frequency and frequency percentage of demographic variables

Variable	Group	Experiment	
		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Female	164	65
	Male	86	35
Educational level	BA	217	87
	MA	33	13
Age	Under 20 years old	98	39
	25-20 years	122	49
	More than 25 years	30	12
Marrital status	married	76	30
	single	174	70

The main hypothesis test: There is a meaningful relationship between social capital and the entrepreneurial spirit of students at Payame Noor University in Hamedan.

To test this hypothesis, Pearson correlation test was used. The following and the opposite hypotheses related to this test are as follows:

H0: There is no meaningful relationship between social capital and entrepreneurship spirit of students.

H1: There is a meaningful relationship between social capital and student entrepreneurship morale.

The following table shows the results of the correlation test on the main hypothesis of the research.

Table-2

structures	Social Capital	spirit of the entrepreneurial	level of Significance
Social Capital	1	0.78	0.000
spirit of the entrepreneurial	0.78	1	0.000

Since the correlation matrix has a meaningful level below the error rate (0.05), H_0 at the level of 95% confidence is rejected. As can be seen, the Pearson correlation coefficient between two variables is 0.78, which indicates a direct and relatively high correlation between them. That is, the relation of social capital with student entrepreneurship spirit is meaningful. The positive sign of the correlation coefficient in the table above shows the direct relationship between the two variables; this means that by boosting the social capital of the students, their entrepreneurial spirit will also improve.

Table 3 :To examine the relationship between the structural, cognitional and relational dimension of social capital with students' entrepreneurial spirit, Correlation matrix between structures in sub-hypothesis was used.

structures	Structural dimension	spirit of the entrepreneurial	level of Significance
Structural dimension	1	0.66	0.000
spirit of the entrepreneurial	0.66	1	0.000
structures	cognitional dimension	spirit of the entrepreneurial	level of Significance
cognitional dimension	1	0.73	0.000
spirit of the entrepreneurial	0.73	1	0.000
structures	relational dimension	spirit of the entrepreneurial	level of Significance
relational dimension	1	0.78	0.000
spirit of the entrepreneurial	0.78	1	0.000

And as can be seen, Pearson correlation coefficient between two variables is 0.66 which indicates a direct and relatively high correlation between them. That is, the relationship between the structural dimension of social capital and students' entrepreneurial spirit is meaningful. The positive sign of the correlation coefficient in the above table indicates the direct relationship between the two variables, which means that by strengthening the social dimension of students' social capital, their entrepreneurial spirit will also improve.

As can be seen, the correlation coefficient of Pearson sample between two variables is 0.73 which indicates a direct and relatively high correlation between them. That is, the relationship between the cognitive dimension of social capital and students' entrepreneurial spirit is meaningful. The positive sign of the correlation coefficient in the table above indicates the direct relationship between the two variables, which means that, by strengthening the cognitive dimension of social capital of students, their entrepreneurial spirit will also improve.

And as can be seen, Pearson's correlation coefficient between the two variables is 0.56 which indicates a direct and relatively high correlation between them. That is, the relationship between the social capital's relative dimension and student entrepreneurship spirit is meaningful. The positive sign of the correlation coefficient in the table above shows the direct relationship between the two variables; this means that by strengthening the social relations dimension of students' social capital, their entrepreneurial spirit will also be improved.

DISCUSSION

The study examined The Relationship between Social Capital and the Level of Entrepreneurial Spirituality in the Students of Payame-Noor University in Hamadan. The study identified, the confirmation of the main hypothesis of the research suggests that there is a positive and significant relationship between the social capital of the students of Payame Noor University in Hamedan and their entrepreneurial spirit. As stated in the research literature, social capital refers to the links and connections among the members of a network, which creates the goals of the members by creating norms and mutual trust. Expressing the direct relationship in the hypothesis means that by decreasing or increasing the numerical value of social capital, the degree of students' entrepreneurial spirit also decreases or increases. A university with a good social capital can boost new ideas among students through the exchange of information and the transfer of knowledge among employees and professors as well as students, and these ideas The new creativity will be created and, in the end, this creativity will bring innovation and entrepreneurship at the university, and we will see an increase in the entrepreneurial spirit among the students. The result of this hypothesis is consistent with the research of Chi and Zhao (2016) and Zhang et al. (2015), which

emphasized that attention to social norms, controlled behaviors and social capital among students increases the entrepreneurial intentions of students. In addition, the results of the researches by Vatankhah and Rezaei Moghaddam (2015), Mir Mohammad Rezaei and Gholipour (2016), concluded that social capital as a key factor in increasing the entrepreneurial spirit of known individuals And affects it; they also confirm the conclusion of the present hypothesis. The confirmation of the first hypothesis of the research suggests that there is a positive and significant relationship between the structural dimension of social capital and the entrepreneurial spirit of students at Payame Noor University in Hamedan. Structural dimension in relation to the structures and management processes, such as the responsiveness of managers and leaders to their actions, transparency in decision-making, decision-making and action is based on group work. The result of this hypothesis is consistent with the findings of Zhang et al. (2015) and Mohammadi et al. (2016). Mesbahi-Jahrimi and his colleague (2015) also argued that interactions of individuals from structural aspects have a significant effect on improving the situation of entrepreneurship. Therefore, the result of their research is consistent with the present study. Bretell et al. (2011), and Kheirandish and Jamshidi (2016) also concluded in a separate study that the existence of structural capital of an organization that manifests itself in such dimensions as the warm and good relationships of students combined with entrepreneurial spirit Can be effective. The result of these studies is consistent with the findings of the present hypothesis. There is a positive and significant relationship between the cognitive dimension of social capital and students' entrepreneurial spirit in Payame Noor University. The cognitive dimension is related to phenomena such as values, attitudes, commitments, partnerships, and trust in the system. Organizations in which partnership, commitment and trust are at a higher level, individuals spend little time protecting themselves from exploitation in economic interactions and overseeing actions against partners and colleagues, and exchanging information at a high level of trust More is done and that makes it a lot of time for thinking, creativity, innovation, and ultimately entrepreneurship. This suggests that if the university has a better cognitive dimension of social capital, the entrepreneurial spirit of the student becomes more and more. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with the findings of Engelen et al. (2015) and Schuster et al. (2010). They concluded that the cognitive dimensions of social capital, which include features such as shared values, norms and goals between students and the university, have a positive impact on increasing students' entrepreneurial spirit. The results of the research, Aldrich & Zimmer (2012) and Robel (2009), which also indicate the impact of cultural and social variables on individuals' creativity and entrepreneurship, are consistent with the current research. Also, Seyyedamir et al. (2015) expressed the agreement of individuals on values, norms and attitudes on the effective entrepreneurial process, and thus agrees with the present hypothesis. Also, There is a positive and significant relationship between the social capital's social dimension and students' entrepreneurship spirit in Payame Noor University in Hamedan. The relationship refers to the level of trust between individuals as well as their common norms. So that if they can solve the differences and reduce the negative norms between themselves and maintain the level of interaction among themselves, the trust between them will increase, And thus, they do not have to worry about sharing innovative ideas and ideas with other friends, and then they will improve the spirit of entrepreneurship.

Some of the results of the research confirm the same hypothesis. Saleh et al. (2015), for example, affirmed the positive impact of social communication and network nodes on creativity; Jalali et al. (2014), also concluded that repeating interactions affected entrepreneurship and increased the entrepreneurial spirit in organizations. Some internal researches are also consistent with the findings of this hypothesis. The results of Purataishi and Mokhtarnia (2009) also show that the more social capital of individuals richer, the lower the conflicts between individuals, which reduces the barriers Creativity and entrepreneurship, and creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

1. Non-generalizability: Since this research has been carried out at a university at a certain time, the results are only for the examined cases and cannot be a complete representative of the whole country and at all universities. To overcome this limitation, it is possible to consider other universities in the country as a statistical society and to eliminate this restriction.
2. Lack of familiarity of some respondents with Subject: Some of the employees had weak information in some dimensions of social capital and entrepreneurial spirit.
3. Low accuracy in completing questionnaire.
4. The incompleteness of questionnaire due to the lack of response to test questions.

PROPOSALS BASED ON RESEARCH FINDINGS

(A) Strengthening social capital among students through:

- Creating a climate of trust and confidence in the learning environment and inducing a sense of responsibility and trust from the university authorities to the students.
- Adherence to promises and ethical principles in organizational decisions by university authorities.
- Strengthen team and team activities and student participation.
- Establish a bridge between university officials and students to provide facilities and recount problems.
- Organizing general education courses, especially for communication classes and courses that can enhance students' communication.

B) Strengthen the student entrepreneurship spirit through:

- Create a culture of entrepreneurship and reasonable and reasonable risk-taking among students.
- Improve motivation by welcoming and encouraging new insights on solving academic problems.
- Creating supportive programs for students' business ideas to enhance their motivation to participate more.
- Training entrepreneurship training courses to raise students' entrepreneurial spirit.
- Conducting entrepreneurship festivals and supporting entrepreneurial students.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Investigating the effect of other factors on students' entrepreneurship morale, such as: the impact of organization culture or structure or the impact of different student festivals on their entrepreneurial spirit.

Examining the impact of social capital on other variables. Including: student commitment, students' ethical behaviors, and student creativity.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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