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Development of the Model of Social Entrepreneurship with a focus on Social Responsibility within the Welfare in Khorasan Razavi Province

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The primary research question of this study focuses on determining the appropriate model for the development of social entrepreneurship with a social responsibility approach in the welfare of Khorasan Razavi.

Methods: Positioned within the domain of developmental-applied research, the current study employed a mixed methodology combining qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative segment targeted a cohort of experts or a Delphi panel comprising 25 individuals, while the quantitative section involved a sample of 323 employees and managers from the welfare sector in Khorasan Razavi, selected through random sampling. Data analysis encompassed the use of descriptive and inferential techniques.

Results: Based on the findings in the qualitative section, there are an interrelationship between social entrepreneurship and social responsibility. In the quantitative part, the multivariate regression results indicated that the dimensions of responsibility have a 21% impact on entrepreneurship.

Conclusions: . In summary, the results underscored the significance of integrating a social responsibility approach in fostering the development of social entrepreneurship.

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Introduction

Recognizing the entrepreneurial opportunity plays a crucial role in the actualization of entrepreneurship and aids entrepreneurs in establishing a business, thereby leading to job creation and macroeconomic growth (Autio et al., 2014; Bamshad et al., 2021). The development of entrepreneurship is a multifaceted, long-term, and all-encompassing process that significantly contributes to the economic growth and advancement of nations. Extensive global studies and assessments on entrepreneurship reveal a 57% correlation between entrepreneurial activities and GDP in select countries, including the United States. Consequently, the upsurge in entrepreneurial activities consistently corresponds to an increase in the gross national product, national income, societal welfare, and comfort. As a result, the inclination towards entrepreneurship has witnessed a global surge (Karami & Agahi, 2015). Many organizations in developed nations are transitioning from a bureaucratic state to an entrepreneurial state. The extensive range of economic and technological endeavors, coupled with the comprehensive transformation of methods and attitudes in recent times, has prompted numerous governments to prioritize entrepreneurship development and enhancement. Additionally, organizations are increasingly focusing on attracting and nurturing entrepreneurial individuals. Organizations strive to meet the demands of their dynamic and intricate environments, which have become increasingly complex (Carsrud & Brännback, 2011). The welfare organization, guided by its objectives, policies, and strategies, takes measures to support marginalized groups, thereby ensuring optimal services for low-income individuals, the injured, and the disabled. Given the significance of social entrepreneurship within this institution, it can be viewed as a suitable solution for fulfilling its mission. With the growing interest of managers and academics in entrepreneurship, researchers in this field have endeavored to establish the legitimacy of entrepreneurship as an independent research domain.

Several scholars have provided definitions of entrepreneurship based on the concept of opportunity in order to legitimize the field, delineate its distinct realm, and differentiate it from other areas of management. "Social entrepreneurship" represents a particular form of entrepreneurship that addresses neglected social needs through an entrepreneurial approach. Given that the efforts of government officials, humanitarian actions, and social sector institutions are insufficient in

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meeting expectations, the advancement of social entrepreneurship is necessary to develop novel patterns and methods (Ansari et al., 2010).

Organizational entrepreneurship, on the other hand, involves the direction of production and processes by fostering an entrepreneurial culture within an organization (Farias et al., 2020; Hjorth, 2004; Moghaddam et al., 2015). The outcome of this type of entrepreneurship typically includes the establishment of a new organizational unit, the provision of new services, and the creation of fresh values for the organization (Oladimeji et al., 2019). One of the noteworthy characteristics of social entrepreneurship is its influence on local development and the enhancement of human development indicators. Considering local development as a deliberate endeavor concerning the production of assets such as physical, human, social, financial, and environmental capitals, social entrepreneurship equips us with the means to organize available resources for solving local problems. In this regard, social entrepreneurship cultivates human resources through entrepreneurial training, the reinforcement of health and security indicators, the establishment of businesses and empowerment of the youth, and facilitates the expansion of literacy, job creation, the reduction of crime, and the enhancement of security. By utilizing existing social capital within the local community, social entrepreneurship not only generates individual and intangible consequences like increased self-confidence, but also establishes a foundation for trust building and capacity development among local residents. Furthermore, this process not only strengthens the local community, but also paves the way for development. Social entrepreneurship also serves to redistribute resources, income, and services among marginalized and excluded groups, such as women, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and immigrants, thereby restoring balance within the local community (Firouzabadi & Dabaghi, 2015; Saebi et al., 2019; Santos, 2012).

In the realm of entrepreneurship, an entrepreneur identifies an idea and transforms it into an economic opportunity. Within the business environment, an opportunity is a novel idea that can be commercialized. Knowledge of the market environment and customer needs, combined with an entrepreneurial mindset, assists entrepreneurs in recognizing and pursuing opportunities (Ahmadpourdariani & Azizi, 2009). Numerous managers and researchers contend that social responsibility is a fundamental component of the relationship between a company and its environment, and can confer a competitive advantage and great significance to companies. Responsibility plays a crucial role in entrepreneurship due to the numerous benefits it offers to

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entrepreneurs (Andadari & Suharti, 2020; Baron, 2007; Fischer & Comini, 2012). Based on the aforementioned introduction, the researcher endeavors to address the question of what constitutes an appropriate model for the development of social entrepreneurship with a focus on social responsibility in the welfare of Razavi Khorasan.

Materials and Methods

The current study falls into the developmental-applied research category based on the objective dimension. From a methodological perspective, the current study is classified as mixed research. In the context of mixed exploratory research projects, the researcher aims to uncover the underlying factors in an "uncertain situation". It is worth noting that the design of the social entrepreneurship development model, with a focus on social responsibility in the welfare of Khorasan Razavi, lacks previous models. However, this design has been experimentally tested and accepted by researchers in the field. In this study, the qualitative part utilizes methods and tools such as the Delphi method, the introduction of the Delphi panel or expert group members, and the steps involved in the Delphi method. The statistical population in the qualitative section consists of experts or a Delphi panel, which is a selected sample employing non-probability sampling and a combination of targeted and judgmental methods. Furthermore, the qualitative section's statistical population (Delphi panel) comprises experts in the field. The sample size for the qualitative section consisted of 25 qualified individuals who were part of the statistical population, as coordinated by esteemed professors. The consultant chose the qualitative section or selected members of the Delphi panel as the samples. In the first stage of the Delphi design, the researcher provided a questionnaire to a group of experts. This questionnaire included dimensions, components, and indicators derived from the research background, aiming to measure the development model of social entrepreneurship with a focus on social responsibility in welfare Khorasan Razavi. The experts were asked to express their opinions regarding the importance of these dimensions, components, and indicators. They were also requested to indicate their agreement or disagreement with each of the dimensions, components, and indicators proposed in the research model. The research tool employed was a questionnaire developed by the researcher, which was derived from the results of the three stages of the Delphi technique.

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As previously stated, the researcher provided a questionnaire to the expert group in order to evaluate the design of the social entrepreneurship development model with a social responsibility approach in the welfare of Razavi Khorasan. This questionnaire included dimensions, components, and indicators proposed by the researcher. In the initial phase of the Delphi project, the components suggested by the researcher for measuring the development model of social entrepreneurship with a social responsibility approach in the welfare of Khorasan Razavi were presented to the expert group. The purpose was to obtain their opinion on the significance of these items. The expert group members were requested to express their agreement or disagreement with the raised issues in the research model. Subsequently, the dimensions that received a positive score higher than 0.7 were retained for further analysis and included in the second phase of the Delphi project. In the second stage, the members of the Delphi panel were asked to provide their opinions on each of the accepted dimensions and components from the first stage. This was done using a Likert scale with five options ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The aim was to analyze the content and assess the quality of the variables in two categories: dimensions and components affecting entrepreneurship and social responsibility. The questionnaire, along with the results from the first round, was shared with the experts. After gathering and processing the opinions and views of the Delphi panel members, the criterion for accepting each component in the model was based on its placement in the 3rd to 4th quartile (75 to 100 percent). No new dimensions or components were introduced by the experts at the end of this stage. The overall examination of the level of consensus among the experts' opinions indicated a general agreement in most of the questions. However, in the second stage, five components were not approved.

The qualitative aspect of the research employs the methodology proposed by Corbin and Strauss (1990) to analyze the qualitative data. This methodology involves three stages: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. During the open coding stage, the collected interviews are studied and each component relevant to the research question is assigned a descriptive label. This process is repeated for all interviews, and by grouping similar codes together, classes, features, and dimensions are identified for the axial coding stage. At this stage, more abstract concepts are utilized to enhance the categorization and encompass similar codes. For the quantitative aspect, a structural equation model will be employed for validation purposes. There are several methods available for implementing the structural equation model, and one of the most recent approaches

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is the partial least squares method. This particular method is well-suited for situations where there is a large number of variables within each structure, or when the total sample size is divided into small groups. The structural equation model is a comprehensive statistical approach that allows for testing hypotheses regarding the relationships between observed variables and latent variables. Through this approach, the acceptability of theoretical models can be examined within specific societies, utilizing various types of data such as correlation, non-experimental, and experimental data. In the qualitative part of the study, the Delphi method was employed to analyze the data. In the inferential part, the assumption of normality was made after checking the distribution of the data using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

Results

The primary research question of this study focuses on determining the appropriate model for the development of social entrepreneurship with a social responsibility approach in the welfare of Khorasan Razavi. In Figure 1, based on the findings in the qualitative section, the relationship between social entrepreneurship and social responsibility is presented. In the quantitative part, the question has been raised about what role each dimension of social responsibility plays in social entrepreneurship of employees. Multivariate regression was used to answer this question. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Regression results of the role of social responsibility dimensions in social entrepreneurship

Variable	R	R^2	Effect size
Social responsibility/ Social entrepreneurship	0.46	0.21	20 %

According to Table 1, in general, the dimensions of responsibility have a 21% impact on entrepreneurship.

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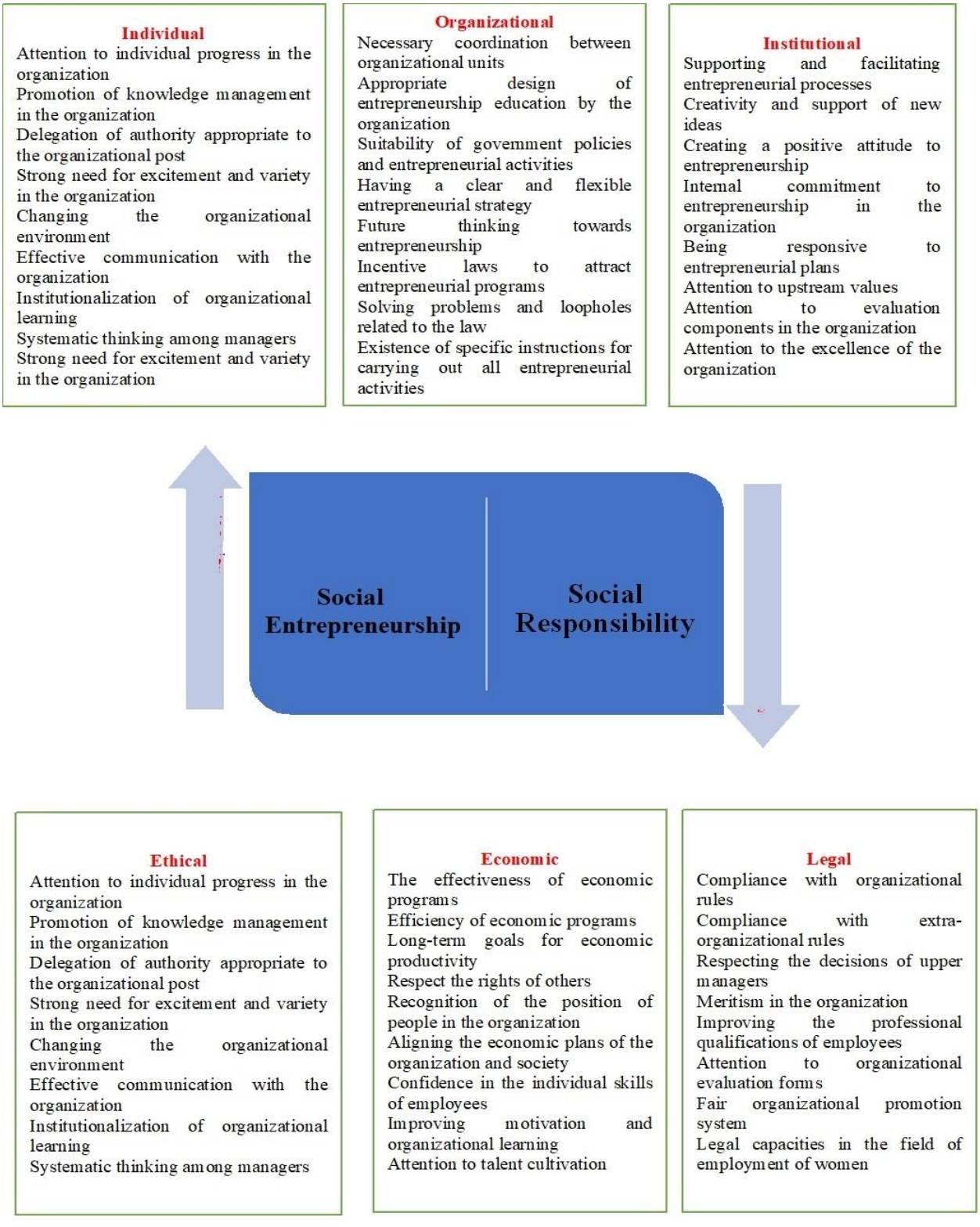


Fig. 1. The relationship between social entrepreneurship and social responsibility

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Discussion

The research findings indicate that the dimensions of responsibility exert a 21% influence on entrepreneurship. These findings align with the studies conducted by Andadari and Suharti (2020) and Mestre et al. (2022). Upon examination of the research outcomes and theoretical underpinnings, one can infer that social entrepreneurship refers to the growth-oriented organizations that aim to fulfill the fundamental needs of individuals. These needs cannot be adequately addressed by commercial enterprises or the private sector (Seelos & Mair, 2005). Therefore, any definition of community entrepreneurship should move away from the purely economic and commercial approach embraced by business entrepreneurs. According to Short et al. (2009), social entrepreneurship is a process wherein organizations design and introduce new initiatives to tackle social issues. This definition emphasizes the integration of responsiveness, innovation, and change. By assuming the role of change agents in the social realm, social entrepreneurs strive to fulfill the following factors: the pursuit of creating and maintaining social values (rather than solely economic value), identifying and continuously seeking new opportunities to uphold their mission, engaging in ongoing processes of innovation, adaptability, and learning, operating without being constrained by existing resources, and being accountable for their actions and outcomes. Organizational responsibility is defined as a mechanism that obliges organizations to utilize their resources to safeguard societal interests and enhance public well-being. Nowadays, there is increasing focus on the advancement of social entrepreneurship as a social and philanthropic endeavor, serving as one of the solutions to address various problems and social ills. Entrepreneurship has a positive and direct impact on diverse activities within countries. It fosters economic development, generates job opportunities, and fundamentally enhances the social and cultural standing of society (Mostafazadeh & Haghighat Monfared, 2021). Irrespective of an organization's actions, its performance has consequences for society, and these consequences, whether positive or negative, ultimately reflect back on the organization itself. Therefore, the misconduct of managers can create problems for society, which in turn will have repercussions for them.

The phenomenon of corporate social responsibility is gaining widespread attention among prominent corporations. Approximately 90% of businesses are pioneers in implementing social

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responsibility, and large corporations have made substantial investments in initiatives related to corporate social responsibility (Miragaia et al., 2015). Companies and organizations bear the responsibility for the impact and activities of their operations on the external environment, and the principle of social responsibility should be ingrained as a fundamental principle. Provision of support services plays a crucial role in facilitating social development and achieving satisfaction at the micro level, encompassing individuals and local communities. By adopting a strategy that empowers individuals and prevents the exclusion of socially disadvantaged members, particularly those in need of support in social domains, through job creation and social entrepreneurship, the exacerbation and deepening of poverty-related issues can be mitigated. At the individual level of social entrepreneurship, positive transformations can be observed within the organization through the cultivation of interest in working in challenging environments, effective communication with the organization, establishment of a platform for organizational learning, and fostering systematic thinking among managers. Social responsibility emanates from social power, and this attribute stems from the fact that businesses exert influence over critical social concerns, such as environmental pollution. Consequently, the collective actions of all institutions within a nation fundamentally shape the living environment of its citizens. Davis argues that given businesses' capacity to impact society, society has both the ability and the obligation to hold them accountable for the social conditions that arise as a result of their exercise of power. If individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions within society embrace responsibility for various events, incidents, and crises, and actively strive to address these issues, many crises can be resolved within a short period of time, leading to the establishment of a healthy and peaceful society. The organizational landscape is undergoing rapid transformations, and these changes are being further intensified by the prevailing trends towards global trade and the rise of multinational organizations with global supply chains.

Conclusion

One of the most crucial aspects of social entrepreneurship is its influence on local progress and the enhancement of human development indicators. When considering local development as a deliberate endeavor in the realm of producing assets such as physical, human, social, financial, and environmental capitals, social entrepreneurship equips itself with the means to facilitate this

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progress by efficiently organizing the available resources to resolve local issues. In this regard, social entrepreneurship fosters the development of human resources through entrepreneurial training, the reinforcement of health and security indicators, the establishment of businesses, and the empowerment of young individuals. Moreover, it also facilitates the expansion of literacy, job creation, the reduction of crime, and the enhancement of security. By utilizing the existing social capital within the local community, social entrepreneurship not only yields individual and intangible outcomes such as heightened self-assurance, but also establishes the foundation for trust-based networks and the cultivation of capabilities among local residents. In addition to fortifying the local community, this process simultaneously paves the way for progress. Social entrepreneurship also endeavors to redistribute resources, income, and services amongst marginalized and excluded groups such as women, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, immigrants, and others, thereby restoring equilibrium within the context of the local community (Firouzabadi & Dabaghi, 2015). Today, entrepreneurial endeavors have been proposed as the principal driver of innovation, job creation, and economic growth on a global scale. Among these endeavors, social entrepreneurship has recently garnered significant attention from researchers. The objective of social entrepreneurship is to foster a deeper comprehension of society's needs on the part of entrepreneurs while simultaneously cultivating a sense of social responsibility towards society. Attaining high levels of social entrepreneurship can be indicative of a thriving society (Crisan & Borza, 2012). Numerous organizations have increasingly recognized the direct economic value of social responsibility. By strategically integrating it into their business and management activities, they can generate a positive impact on society and the environment, while simultaneously bolstering their reputation and credibility. By adopting this approach, they not only generate profits for the present but also fortify their future standing. Social responsibility encompasses a comprehensive range of fundamental principles that organizations are expected to embrace and exemplify in their actions. These principles include, among others, human dignity, ethics, equitable treatment of human resources, society, customers and suppliers, stakeholders, and environmental preservation. These principles are not only morally commendable and desirable objectives, but also pivotal determinants in ensuring the long-term survival of an organization, as society benefits from these activities and the behavior of the organization.

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Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Ethics statement

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by ethics committee of Islamic Azad University. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

Author contributions

All authors contributed to the study conception and design, material preparation, data collection and analysis. The author contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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