Journal of
Empirical Research In Accounting

Alzahra University, Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics
Empirical Research in Accounting, Fall 2022, V. 12, No. 45, pp.1-4

Intellectual Capital Measurement and Reporting Model in Iran[1]

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Received: 2022/03/28
Accepted: 2022/08/25

Research Paper

Introduction

In recent years, the role of non-physical resources in creating consistent value and sustainable profitability in organizations has significantly increased, and intellectual capital as a concept that reflects the organization's knowledge, skills, and other intangible resources has received a lot of attention. Although the definition of intellectual capital is consistent with the concept of intangible assets, due to the lack of a comprehensive and coherent model, information about it has not found a place in the financial statements. Therefore, this study presents a model for measuring and reporting intellectual capital in Iran to provide a suitable tool for managing intellectual capital and creating a competitive advantage in Iranian companies and organizations.

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1. DOI: 10.22051/JERA.2021.36265.2869

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Material and Method

From the point of view of time, this research is cross-sectional and covers the year 2019 in terms of the period. The present research was conducted in Tehran, and experts with at least a master's degree in accounting, finance, and management and more than three years of professional experience in accounting and financial reporting or capital markets are considered a research community.

In the first step of this research, content analysis was used to study the existing literature and extract the theoretical model of measurement. In the second step, semi-structured interviews were used based on the theoretical framework, and the initial model was examined, confirmed, and expanded. In the third step, a questionnaire was used, and the questions of the questionnaire were adjusted based on the analysis of the results of the conducted interviews to present the final model.

According to the objectives of the research to conduct the interviews, the goal-based (targeted) sampling method was used as the main method of data collection, and the snowball sampling method was used to increase the number of sample members who had experience; they have sufficient expertise regarding intellectual capital. In this section, the opinions of the research management team (3 people) and three people who have had a history of conducting research in this regard in universities outside Iran, including in Australia, Canada, and Spain (all of them were university professors, wrote their doctoral thesis in the field of intellectual capital and published several scientific articles in this field) were used, and the final questionnaire was prepared and adjusted. The interviewees were asked about the factors in the theoretical framework resulting from the examination of the theoretical foundations, and their opinions were sought about other factors that may be effective but were not mentioned in the interview.

Purpose-based sampling was also used to implement the questionnaire, which was conducted using the fuzzy Delphi method. In this section, experts' opinions have been collected using the fuzzy Delphi method. The experts in this department include the following groups:

- Academic faculty members of universities and students of accounting and finance postgraduate courses in national universities.
- Independent auditors (members of the society of official accountants of Iran)
- Professional experts in relevant organizations

In the current research, a qualitative method was used to analyze the data obtained from the interview, and a quantitative method was used to analyze the data obtained from the questionnaire. Considering the exploratory nature of the research in the second step, qualitative content analysis is suitable for analyzing the data obtained from the interview. To analyze the data obtained from the questionnaire in the third step, the fuzzy Delphi method using Excel software was used.

Results and discussions

In the first step, the dimensions, components, and indicators of intellectual capital were extracted after examining and identifying different models of intellectual capital on theoretical bases and comparing them with each other. The results showed three dimensions, nine components, and 37 indicators.

In the second step and to present the modified conceptual model, the opinions of the interviewees regarding each item in the existing theoretical model have been presented to determine whether each of the examined items is approved or needs to be modified based on the interviewees' point of view. The results showed three dimensions, nine components, and 34 indicators.

Finally, by collecting and analyzing 97 questionnaires by the fuzzy Delphi method, the final model is presented. The results of this study indicate 3 dimensions (human, structural and relational capital), 8 components, and 21 indicators for measuring and reporting intellectual capital in Iran.

Keyword: Intellectual capital, Human Capital, Relational Capital, Structural Capital.

JEL Classification: O34, J24, J53, L22.