The Effect of Entrepreneurship on the Sustainability of Social Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- Between the Mediating Effects of Government Support Policy in Korea

Tae-Ho You¹ & Yen-Yoo You¹

Correspondence: Tae-Ho You, Dept. of Smart Convergence Consulting, Hansung University, Seoul, South Korea. Tel: 82-10-9110-5370. E-mail: Yta1348@hanmail.net

Received: April 9, 2020 Accepted: May 9, 2020 Online Published: May 23, 2020

Abstract

Background/Objectives: This study aims to study the impact of the entrepreneurial mentality of social small and medium-sized entrepreneurs on the sustainability of SMEs through the intermediary effect of the Korean government-backed policy for social enterprises in South Korea.

Methods/Statistical analysis: The target of the study is the CEO of a social small and medium-sized business company that has been in business for less than seven years, and the survey method was conducted. The questionnaire item was composed of a total of 35 questions, including five demographic questions, the measurement was used for a Likert 5-point scale. Using SPSS 22.0 as an empirical analysis was carried out technical statistical analysis, exploratory factor analysis, reliability analysis, regression analysis, mediated analysis.

Findings: Looking at the results of the study, first, the empathy, social value orientation, and innovation of the entrepreneurial spirit of social start-ups have been shown to affect the sustainability of social SMEs. Social value orientation has the greatest impact (β = .345***). Second, Empathy, Social value orientation, and Innovation have been shown to influence government policy support, but risk-taking has not been affected. Social value orientation has the greatest impact (β = .459***). Third, the Republic of Korea Government Support Policy has been shown to have an impact on sustainability (β = .751***). Fourth, about the impact of Social SMEs Entrepreneurship and sustainability, innovation and Risk-taking is partly mediated by Government Support Policy, while Empathy (p=.158) and Social value orientation (p=.148) was found to be a complete mediating.

Improvements/Applications: In this study, which mediated government-funded policies on the impact of the entrepreneurial mentality of the CEO of a Social SMB, empathy and Social value orientation were identified as important factors. Therefore, it is believed that a study will be needed on the optimal configuration scenario of the Government Policy Support System of the Republic of Korea, which takes into account social entrepreneurship.

Keywords: social small and medium-sized enterprises (social SMEs), social SME entrepreneurship, the Republic of Korea government support policy, sustainability of social SMEs, social value orientation, empathy

1. Introduction

After the Korean War in 1950, the Republic of Korea reorganized its ruined state and achieved rapid economic growth. In the process, various socio-economic problems are increasing, such as the gap between rich and poor, rising unemployment, regional conflict, and environmental pollution due to income inequality. The national solution to this problem is the social economical, which is emerging as an economic alternative to capitalism. Many small and medium-sized social enterprises (SMEs) are established to realize social value first, to create employment, to solve income inequality, and to solve various social problems (Jang, 2011). However, the purpose of realizing the social value of small and medium-sized enterprises is that the difficulties of CEOs of social start-ups continue because they cannot guarantee their sustainability (Park and Kim, 2016). In this regard, this study investigated the effects of entrepreneurship on small business startups' sustainability through the government support policy of the Republic of Korea. Through this, the entrepreneurial mentality of SMEs and the optimization of government support policies will be optimized to enhance the sustainability of social SMEs.

¹ Dept. of Smart Convergence Consulting, Hansung University, Seoul, South Korea

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Concept of Social Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Social SMEs)

Many previous studies show that the definition of Social SMEs varies slightly from researcher to researcher.

But SMEs that innovate through continuous innovation activities can be said. In this study, we mean Social SMEs that realize their social purpose within seven years after their establishment (Son et al., 2018).

2.2 Concept of Social SME Entrepreneurship

As for social entrepreneurship, a variety of scholars define concepts in various areas. Social SME Entrepreneurship is a propensity to create and maintain social values through entrepreneurial and innovative methods, and to define it as a propensity to explore, apply and implement new methods (Lee, 2018). According to the definition of previous studies, this study proposed four types of Social SME Entrepreneurship: risk-taking, empathy, social value orientation, and innovation. Entrepreneurship was first introduced by Schumpeter (1934), and innovation meant new ways of production, new sources of raw materials, new combinations of companies, and recombination of resources for new markets.

The Innovative concept is Represents a new combination of new products, new sources of raw materials, new ways of production, new markets, and recombination of resources for new organizations. All physical and human factors are called new combinations. In addition, innovation is a manager's effort to continuously change the organization and create new opportunities despite the uncertainty of the external environment and resource constraints (Won et al., 2015).

Social value orientation refers to the tendency to recognize social problems, to create social value, and to contribute to the community through stakeholder involvement (Helm and Anderson, 2010).

2.3 Concept of Republic of Korea Government Support Policy

In Korea, companies certified as social enterprises under the Social Enterprise Promotion Act will benefit from government support such as management support, financial support, tax support, and human resource development. Specifically, management support can be provided with management consulting in a variety of ways that meet the needs and levels of social enterprises and conducts projects that link activities that donate the expertise of experts in various fields such as management, law, and accounting. Financial support can be provided for workers' labor costs and social insurance premiums if social enterprises engage in social jobs and employ vulnerable groups. Tax support can reduce taxes for social enterprises as required by the Corporate Tax Act, the Restriction of Special Taxation Act and the Local Tax Act (Kim and Park, 2012).

2.4 Concept of Empathy

The UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) looked at the concept of sustainability in social enterprises from three perspectives. First, even if subsidies were suspended, financial sustainability should be maintained. Second, fiscal revenue should be secured through 100% commercial transactions. Third, financial and social goals should be pursued simultaneously. In this study, the sustainability of social enterprises is defined as "the realization of economic profit and environmental sustainability in the long term while continuing the social mission as the value of the social enterprise" (Ahmad et al., 2015).

2.5 Relationship Between Social SME Entrepreneurship and Sustainability of Social SMEs

As one of the components of social entrepreneurship, it was first demonstrated and analyzed using the "empathy" element, which was recently developed as a measuring tool for social entrepreneurship. However, contrary to this study result, empathy did not have a positive impact on sustainability. This means that while empathy affects the motivation, vision and goal setting of social enterprises through the recognition of social issues, it does not directly affect the sustainability of social Enterprises (Oh, 2017).

2.6 Relationship Between Korean Government Support Policy and Sustainability of Social SMEs

Corporate support policies are recognized as a necessity because social enterprises operate in different characteristics and environmental conditions than ordinary businesses. In particular, considering the environment of domestic social enterprises, a system of support for social enterprises is needed even more. However, since the government's policy of supporting social enterprises is focused on "social enterprises that make money and become self-reliant in the market," relevant support for social enterprises is provided in accordance with this policy direction. Securing sustainability is difficult. In addition, the central government is promoting the localization of social enterprise-related policies without establishing a support system for social enterprises. In this policy environment, we cannot guarantee the sustainability

of social enterprises (Lim and Chang, 2018).

2.7 The Research Model and Hypothesis

2.7.1 Research Model

The purpose of this study is to find the optimal combination of Social SME Entrepreneurship and the Korean government support policy. For empirical verification of this study, Social SME Entrepreneurship's Risk-taking, Empathy, Social value orientation, and Innovative were set as independent variables. Korea's government support policy was set as a parameter for establishing the Social SME Entrepreneurship and social SME' sustainability research model. This research analysis model can be displayed as shown in [Figure 1].

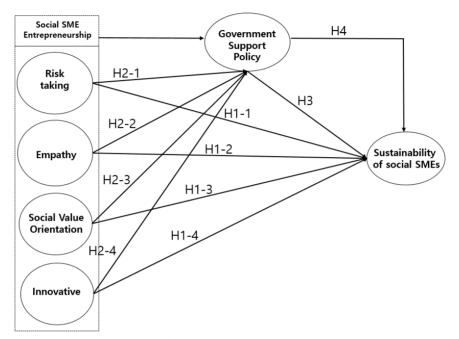


Figure 1. Research model

2.7.2 Research Hypothesis

Based on Figure 1, the following hypotheses were established about the relationship between Social SME Entrepreneurship and government policy support on the sustainability of social SMEs.

- H1-1 Risk-taking has a positive effect on the sustainability of Social SMEs.
- H1-2 Empathy has a positive impact on the sustainability of Social SMEs.
- H1-3 Social Value Orientation Positively Affects the Sustainability of Social SMEs.
- H1-4 Innovative positively affects the Sustainability of Social SMEs.
- H2-1 Risk-taking positively affects Government Support Policies.
- H2-2 Empathy has a positive impact on government support policies.
- H2-3 Social Value Orientation positively affects Government Support Policies.
- H2-4 Innovative positively affects Government Support Policies.
- H3 The Republic Korea government support policy has a positive impact on the sustainability of Social SMEs.
- H4-1 The mediating effect of government support policy has a positive effect on the relationship between Risk-taking and sustainability of Social SMEs.
- H4-2 The mediating effect of government support policy has a positive effect on the relationship between empathy and sustainability of Social SMEs.
- H4-3 The mediating effect of government support policy has a positive effect on the relationship between social value

orientation and sustainability of Social SMEs.

H4-4 The mediating effect of government support policy has a positive effect on the relationship between innovation and sustainability of Social SMEs.

2.7.3 Operational Definition of Variables

The operational definition of each variable is summarized as [Table 1].

Table 1. Operational definition of variables

Evaluation	Measurement variable	Operational definition	Configure Questionnaire	Researcher
Social SMEs Entrepreneurship	Risk-taking	In spite of uncertainties in the external environment and resource constraints, managers' efforts to continuously change their organization to create new opportunities	5 question	
	Innovative	An innovation process that develops, fuses and transforms the ideas needed to create new programs and values to generate results	5 question	(Kim and Chang, 2018)
	Social Value Orientation	Activities that recognize the problems of social problems, create social value and contribute to the community through the participation of stakeholders	5 question	
	Empathy	By capturing social needs not met by existing business models, specifying business items, market-driven thinking of starting or operating social enterprises can be made	5 question	(Oh et al., 2017)
Korea Government Support Policy	Korea Government Support Policy	Government 2007, providing various support for		(Jang, 2011)
Sustainability of social SMEs	In order for social enterprises to be sustainable, We believe that human resource ustainability of Sustainability of management efforts that are appropriate		5 question	(Lee, 2013)

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Empirical Discussion

3.1.1 Analysis of Demographic Characteristics and Descriptive Statistics

The number of samples used in this study was a total of 263, the frequency analysis was carried out to determine the demographic characteristics of the sample. The analysis showed that men 86.3% (227), women 13.7% (36). Age was the highest in the 40s to 38% (100), followed by 30 was found to be 35.4% (93). The start-up period was the highest in less than 0-1 years at 36.9% (97), while Seoul and Gyeonggi (metropolitan area) was 81.7% (215). Re-start-up experience was 55.1% (145) and 2 times 30.4% (80). In this study, it was analyzed the data collected for real

Social SME Entrepreneurs, the standard deviation 3 or less, why the statistics absolute value 3 or less, the cusp statistics absolute value 3 or less it was found that the individual measurement variables follow the normal distribution (Keho, 2019); (Kpae and Masi, 2019).

3.1.2 Exploring Factors and Reliability Analysis

It was carried out an exploratory factor analysis to verify the validity. The main component analysis was used it was used for the simplistic method (Varimax) to simplify the factor loading value. The selection criteria of the question in this study were based on the eigenvalue is more than 1.0, the factor load value is more than 0.4. Factor analysis showed that Social Value Orientation 3, Innovative2, Government Support Policy 5 was removed due to low convergent validity, Risk-taking 5, Sustainability of SMEs 4, Empathy2 was removed due to low discriminant validity. Reliability analysis is determined that the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of all measurement variables appears above the general level of 0.6 or more to ensure the reliability. The summary of the exploratory factor analysis and reliability analysis is as follows [Table 2].

Table 2. Exploring factors and reliability analysis

		Е		Reliability Analysis						
Measurement Item	Social Value Orientatio n	Innovative	Government Support Policy	Risk taking	Sustainabilit y of social SMEs,	Empathy	commonalit y	Cronbach's alpha		
Social Value Orientation 5	.826	.148	.227	.142	.210	.073	.721			
Social Value Orientation 4	.824	.102	.235	.078	.208	.153	.784	. Q11		
Social Value Orientation 2	.804	.230	.218	036	.127	.229	.548	.844		
Social Value Orientation 1	.764	.214	.214	.071	.147	.222	.654			
Innovative 3	.088	.879	.193	.085	.111	.108	.681			
Innovative 4	.140	.867	.136	.044	.170	.153	.790	.897		
Innovative 5	.227	.857	.154	.016	.064	033	.742	.057		
Innovative 1	.145	.718	074	.111	.247	.163	.751			
Government Support Policy 2	.234	.163	.793	.035	.234	.144	.817			
Government Support Policy 3	.258	.107	.722	.111	.326	.198	.818	.880		
Government Support Policy 4	.283	.076	.706	.094	.368	.169	.825	.880		
Government Support Policy 1	.239	.123	.638	.022	.351	.070	.642			
Risk taking 3	.012	.041	.081	.848	070	.132	.848			
Risk taking 2	.015	.162	.045	.843	.133	.163	.844	.844		
Risk taking 1	.039	.053	028	.833	.067	.128	.815	.044		
Risk taking 4	.132	020	.112	.686	.197	.089	.609			
Sustainability of social SMEs,5	.174	.222	.249	.086	.791	.200	.787	.907		

Sustainability of social SMEs,2	.244	.226	.323	.229	.713	.127	.758		
Sustainability of social SMEs,1	.248	.196	.397	.080	.702	.135	.757		
Sustainability of social SMEs,3	.170	.156	.409	.082	.691	.169	.775		
Empathy4	.193	.025	.108	.273	.167	.799	.791		
Empathy5	.286	.139	.111	.035	.200	.766	.734	.831	
Empathy3	.071	.178	.107	.163	.166	.761	.816	.031	
Empathy1	.133	.059	.407	.338	073	.590	.750		
Eigen-value	3.294	3.213	3.055	2.962	2.924	2.610			
% of Variance	13.723	13.388	12.729	12.343	12.183	10.875			
% of Accumulated	13.723	27.111	39.840	52.183	64.367	75.242			
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Sample Fit									
Bartlett's unit matrix test		Approximat e Chi Square	4535.096	df	276		p-value	0.000	

3.1.3 Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis showed that the correlation between variables was statistically significant. Sustainability of social SMEs Government Support Policy correlation was .751** with the highest correlation. The correlation analysis summary is shown in [Table 3].

Table 3. Summary of correlation analysis results

constructs	N	Mean	standard deviation	Risk taking	Empathy	Social Value Orientation	Innovative	Government Support Policy	Sustainability of social SMEs
Risk taking	263	3.9477	0.63032	1	.423**	.201**	.188**	.225**	.288**
Empathy	263	3.7785	0.61365	.423**	1	.484**	.324**	.481**	.479**
Social Value Orientation	263	3.2776	0.91528	.201**	.484**	1	.427**	.611**	.560**
Innovative	263	3.538	0.74488	.188**	.324**	.427**	1	.371**	.466**
Government Support Policy	263	3.6226	0.69926	.225**	.481**	.611**	.371**	1	.751**
Sustainability of social SMEs	263	3.6464	0.72933	.288**	.479**	.560**	.466**	.751**	1

^{**.} The correlation is significant at the .01 level (both sides).

3.1.4 Hypothesis Test Result

SPSS ver.22 statistical package was analyzed to test this study hypothesis, Durbin-Watson was determined that there is no residue close to 1.511, VIF (distributed expansion coefficient) is less than 10, so it is determined that there is no Multi-collinearity between the independent variables. Social SME Entrepreneurship appears to have an effect on the sustainability of social SMEs (+) hypothesis H1-1, H1-2, H1-3, H1-4 hypothesis have all been adopted, Social Value Orientation has the greatest impact to .345*** and the next Innovative appears to have an effect of .237***. Social

117

SME Entrepreneurship can be said to have a 41.6% descriptive force for the sustainability of social SMEs. [Table 4] is a summary of the results of the multi-regression analysis with Social SME Entrepreneurship and Sustainability of social SMEs.

Table 4. Summary of multi-regression analysis results

Hypothesis	Constructs	В	β	t	p-value	VIF	Results
	(Constant)	.624		2.294	.023		_
H1-1	Risk taking	.105	.090	1.732	.084	1.223	Not reject
H1-2	Empathy	.234	.197	3.357	.001	1.546	Not reject
H1-3	Social Value Orientation	.275	.345	6.044	.000	1.463	Not reject
H1-4	Innovative	.232	.237	4.483	.000	1.256	Not reject

 $R2 = .425, \ Adjusted \ R2 = .416, \ F = 47.586 (p = <.001), \ Durbin-Watson = 1.511, \ Dependent \ variable: \ Sustainability \ of social \ SMEs$

	(Constant)	1.111		4.269	.000		_
H2-1	Risk taking	.024	.021	.408	.683	1.223	Reject
H2-2	Empathy	.248	.218	3.712	.000	1.546	Not reject
H2-3	Social Value Orientation	.351	.459	8.048	.000	1.463	Not reject
H2-4	Innovative	.094	.100	1.896	.059	1.256	Not reject

R2=.653, Adjusted R2=.418, F=116.204(p=<.001), Durbin-Watson=1.674, Dependent variable: Government Support Policy

	(Constant)	.807		5.136	.000	
Н3	Government Support Policy	.784	.751	18.399	.000	Not reject

R2=.751, Adjusted R2=.565, F=338.510(p=<.001), Durbin-Watson=2.189, Dependent variable: Sustainability of social SMEs

3.1.5 Mediated Effect Analysis

In order to analyze the effect of Social SME Entrepreneurship on Sustainability of social SMEs, we performed a multiple regression analysis for the analysis of mediating effects using Baron & Kenny (1986). Social SME Entrepreneurship was found to have a positive effect on the Sustainability of social SMEs in the first stage Hypothesis H1-1,2,3,4 were adopted. Hypothesis H2-2, 3, 4 was adopted, but H2-1 risk-taking (p = .683) was not adopted. In the third stage, risk-taking, Innovative partial mediation, Social Value Orientation and Empathy complete mediation were shown in the relationship between Social SME Entrepreneurship and Sustainability of social SMEs. The following [Figure 2] shows the result of the impact analysis of the relationship between Social SME Entrepreneurship and Korea Government Support Policy (Langa and Govender, 2019); (Le and Nguyen, 2019).

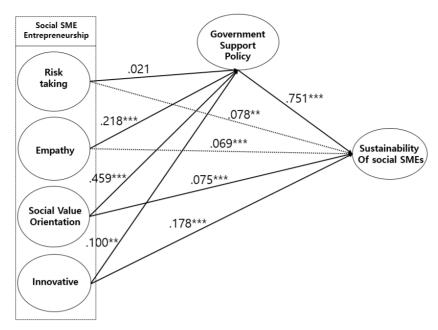


Figure 2. Analysis of the effect of government support policy on the relationship between social SME entrepreneurship and sustainability of social SMEs

[Table 5] is Summarizes the effect of the relationship between Social SME Entrepreneurship and Government Support Policy on Sustainability of social SMEs.

Table 5. Summary of effect relationship analysis government support policy between effect on sustainability of social SMEs

	Step1 Dependent variable: Sustainability of social SMEs		Ste	Step2 Dependent variable:		Step3 Dependent variable: Sustainability of social		
			-					
Model			Government Support Policy		Sustamaom	•		
	В	β	В	β	В	β	mediating effect	
(Constant)	.624		1.111		058			
Risk taking	.105	.090	.024	.021	.090	.078	partial mediating	
Empathy	.234	.197	.248	.218	.082	.069	full mediating	
Social Value Orientation	.275	.345	.351	.459	.060	.075	full mediating	
Innovative	.232	.237	.094	.100	.175	.178	partial mediating	
Government Support Policy					.614	.589		
R ² (Adjusted R ²)	0.425(0.416)		0.653(0.418)		0.751(0.565)			
F-value	90.685***		47.586***		338.510***			
Durbin-Watson	1.5	511	1.0	574	2.189			

p-value: *P<.05 **p<.01 ***p<.001

4. Conclusion

During the Fourth Industrial Revolution, many social problems were created behind the benefits of rapid technological development. Social small and medium-sized start-up companies have been established to try to solve social problems through the social economy, and many success stories are being drawn up. This study demonstrated that the optimal combination of social entrepreneurship and government-backed policies has a significant impact on the sustainability of social small and medium-sized enterprises. We hope that this will increase the chances of survival for more social small and medium-sized enterprises and expand sustainable companies to help solve social problems. If more follow-up studies are to create educational programs and government-supported projects for social entrepreneurship, the results will be more widely used. Finally, the limitations of this study will be necessary to apply them widely by expanding research from the regional center to the industry as a whole, as the survey subjects are concentrated in the Korean metropolitan area.

Acknowledgment

This research was supported by the research fund of the Graduate School of Hansung University.

References

- Ahmad, S. Z., Abu Bakar, A. R., Faziharudean, T. M., & Mohamad Zaki, K. A. (2015). An empirical study of factors affecting e-commerce adoption among small-and medium-sized enterprises in a developing country: Evidence from Malaysia. *Information Technology for Development*, 21(4), 555-72.
- Baron, R. M., & Kenny, D. A. (1986). The moderator–mediator variable distinction in social psychological research: Conceptual, strategic, and statistical considerations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51(6), 1173-1182.
- Helm, S. T., & Anderson, F. O. (2010). Beyond taxonomy: An empirical validation of social entrepreneurship in the nonprofit sector. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, 20(3), 259-76.
- Helm, S. T., & Anderson, F. O. (2010, March). Beyond taxonomy: An empirical validation of social entrepreneurship in the nonprofit sector. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, 20(3), 259-76.
- Jang, S. H. (2011). The effects of internal, external environment and entrepreneurship on the performance of social enterprise: Focused on the network activity. *Journal of the Korea Academia-Industrial Cooperation Society*, 12(11), 4801-11.
- Jang, S. H. (2011). The effects of internal, external environment and entrepreneurship on the performance of social enterprise: Focused on the network activity. *Journal of the Korea Academia-Industrial Cooperation Society*, 12(11), 4801-11. https://doi.org/10.5762/KAIS.2011.12.11.4801
- Keho, Y. (2019). Revisiting the exports and economic growth nexus: Rolling window cointegration and causality evidence from Cote d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Pakistan and South Africa. *Asian Journal of Economics and Empirical Research*, 6(1), 27-35. https://doi.org/10.20448/journal.501.2019.61.27.35
- Kim, M. J., & Chang, S. I. (2018). Impact of organizational influences of management on organizational performance in social enterprise. *Industry Promotion Research*, 3(2), 9-20.
- Kim, Y. T., & Park, J. H. (2012). An empirical study on the affecting factors of social enterprise entrepreneurial performance. *Doctor of Business*, 132-8.
- Kpae, G., & Masi, J. (2019). Women participation in conflict management in Nigeria: A case of a rural community in the Niger Delta Area. *American Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 4(1), 38-55.
- Langa, M. T., & Govender, K. K. (2019). The need for agile relationship lending between small business and banks, towards a more engaged relationship: A case study in Khayelitsha, South Africa. *Asian Business Research Journal*, 4, 29-34.
- Le, Q. H., & Nguyen, H. N. (2019). The impact of income inequality on economic growth in Vietnam: An empirical analysis. *Asian Economic and Financial Review*, 9(5), 617.
- Lee, H. (2018). A Conceptual Framework for the Sustainable Regional Ecosystem of Social Economy Enterprises: Reciprocity, Regard and Public Policy. *Journal of the Economic Geographical Society of Korea, 21*(3), 254-69.
- Lee, E. J. (2013). Assessing the impacts of job insecurity, job satisfaction and relationship with customers on intention of retention of employees in social enterprises. *Journal of Digital Convergence*, 11(12), 835-43. https://doi.org/10.14400/JDPM.2013.11.12.835

- Lee, H. (2018). A conceptual framework for the sustainable regional ecosystem of social economy enterprises: Reciprocity, regard and public policy. *Journal of the Economic Geographical Society of Korea*, 21(3), 254-69.
- Lim, J. W., & Chang, S. I. (2018). A study on relationship between social entrepreneurship and organizational performance-focused on moderating effect of government support. *Management & Information Systems Review*, 37(2), 235-58.
- Oh, S. H. (2017). The effects of social entrepreneurship on the market orientation and sustainability of social enterprise [dissertation]. [Pusan]: Graduate School of Department of Business Administration Graduate School, Catholic University of Pusan, 99-8.
- Oh, S. H., Yun, D. H., & Ock, J. W. (2017). The effect of social entrepreneurship on market orientation. *Management & Information Systems Review*, 36(5), 27-44.
- Park, J. S., & Kim, Y. B. (2016). Contending pathways of social enterprise incubation and the questions of sustainability in South Korea. *Academy of Democratic Society and Policy*, 30, 256-86.
- Son, J. H., Jung, K. B., & Lee, N. Y. (2018). The impact of entrepreneurial self-efficacy on the entrepreneurial intention of preliminary social entrepreneurs and general entrepreneurs: The moderating effect of social support. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Business Venturing and Entrepreneurship*, 13(1), 89-104.
- Won, H. S., Hong, J. H., & Cha, J. H. (2015). An effect on business performance of S&M business CEOs' entrepreneurship. *Journal of Business Education*, 29(1), 309-40.