ABSTRACT

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL CAPITAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF INDIAN AND IRANIAN FEMALE STUDENTS

The two main objectives of the research conducted on six hundred Indian and Iranian students are to study the impact of ICT on social capital and the impact of social capital on educational achievements of students in India and Iran.

Respondents’ profile indicates that incomes amid Iranian families in the sample were higher than that of Indian ones, thus it follows that there is a greater purchasing power in Iran. Also both Indian fathers and Indian mothers enjoy higher levels of education as compared to their counterparts. The same thing goes for Indian mothers in the sample as against Iranian mothers, though in general socio-economic status, Iranian subjects were higher than that of their Indian counterparts.

In short, findings and evidence at hand indicate that the main assumptions of the research implying the ICT’s influence upon social capital and also social capital’s influence on educational performance in both India and Iran were true. But contrary to our expectation, the two intervening variables anticipated between ICT and social capital (i.e. social tolerance and universalism) don’t make any contribution to mediating an impact upon social capital. So far as the relationship between social capital and educational achievement is concerned, the essential finding of the research is that social capital as a complicated concept basically doesn’t have a consistent influence upon educational performance. Social capital was conceptualized into different types and aspects in this research, and these different types of social capital were seen to have important similarities and differences in the two countries. Two types of social capitals, i.e. educational social capital and family social capital had more noticeable impacts on educational performance. The four intervening variables help in passing part of these impacts on to the educational performance, though the types and the amounts of impacts in the two countries had major differences.