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## ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON THE PRESENCE OF AFGHAN IMMIGRANT YOUTH IN IRANIAN UNIVERSITIES

SUMMARY: 1. Introduction. – 2. Theoretical background. – 3. Research Methodology. – 4. Findings. – 4.1 Descriptive Statistics. – 4.2 Inferential statistics. – 4.3 Overall Fit of the Model. – 4.4 Hypothesis Testing. – 5. Discussion. – 6. Conclusion. – 7. Recommendation. – 8. Bibliography.

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## 1. *Introduction*

In order to create optimal transformations for a better future, in addition to adapting to a dynamic environment, society must also change<sup>1</sup>. To this end, with the increase of human relationships between societies, the phenomenon of migration is raised as one of the most important social, political, economic and international issues<sup>2</sup>. The upward trend of increasing immigrants is expanding daily with the emergence of political and social crises in different countries. This situation has progressed to the point that the percentage of immigrants to the total population in many countries is over 20% and even in some countries more than 50%, in 2017, this figure reached more than 258 million people<sup>3,4</sup>.

According to the 2016 census, 83,912 Afghan immigrants in Iran had refugee cards, 30000 had long-term residence permits, 450000 had short-term passports, and 734622 did not have legal documents<sup>5</sup>. The areas of concentration of Afghan immigrants are mostly in Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan and Kerman. The disadvantages of the source community in terms of education and facilities of the destination community can be considered a severe factor for the migration of Afghans to Iran<sup>6</sup>. So, immigration is not a coincidence, but a response to deprivation. Of course, not every deprivation causes migration, in conditions of equality of origin and destination, deprivation of goals such as education that are more valuable can be influential in migration<sup>7</sup>.

Social entrepreneurship involves activities and processes that require to finding opportunities and so, it increases social wealth by creating new risky transactions or

<sup>1</sup> Tajpour, Mehdi, Elahe Hosseini, and Atefe Moghaddm. "The Effect of Managers Strategic Thinking on Opportunity Exploitation." *Scholedge Int. J. Multi. Allied Stud* 5, no. 2 (2018): 68-81. <http://dx.doi.org/10.19085/journal.sijmas050602>

<sup>2</sup> Borjas, George J. *Immigration and Economic Growth*. National Bureau of Economic Research (2019).

<sup>3</sup> *International Migration Report*. (2017). United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017\\_Highlights.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> World Bank. (2016). *Republic of Turkey, Natural Capital Accounting, Valuing Water Resources in Turkey, A Methodological Overview and Case Study*, September. Available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/600681476343083047/pdf/AUS10650-REVISED-PUBLIC-Turkey-NCA-Water-Valuation-Report-FINAL-CLEAN.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://morr.gov.af/>

<sup>6</sup> Gholami, Yones, and Farshad Falahat. "Structural modeling of inter generational social mobility among Afghan immigrants (Case study: Kashan city)." *Journal of Urban Social Geography* 6, no. 2 (2019): 187-204. <https://dx.doi.org/10.22103/JUSG.2019.1998>

<sup>7</sup> de Haas, Hein, Mark J. Miller, and Stephen Castles. *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*. Red Globe Press, 2020.

managing existing organizations in an innovative way<sup>8</sup>. The social entrepreneurship is a process of innovative use and combination of resources to pursue opportunities to accelerate social change or identify social needs<sup>9</sup>. This type of entrepreneurship is the effort of public, voluntary and social organizations and the purpose of their activities is not purely for profit. Social entrepreneurs bridge the gap between the private and public sectors, government and the market in order to develop effective and efficient solutions to more complex social problems<sup>10</sup>. In general, social entrepreneurs focus on unmet needs or creating new social opportunities that the private and public sectors have failed to address. Because of this, their impact on human motivation is very high<sup>11</sup>. Also, social entrepreneurs seek to identify and meet the social needs of community and in this way they sacrifice their social credibility and life and property to accelerate social change and bring long-term and lasting social consequences<sup>12</sup>. Schumpeter<sup>13</sup> believes that entrepreneurial activity is a source of innovation. Hence, the special role of the entrepreneur is to stabilize economic growth by eliminating the old and sustainable ways of doing business. He describes the term as creative destruction<sup>14</sup>. But entrepreneurial opportunities can be described as a way to meet the needs of the market through the creative combination of resources which provides exceptional value. Entrepreneurship includes all activities and actions related to understanding opportunities and exploiting these opportunities<sup>15</sup>. Every opportunity is visible when, after this time, it

<sup>8</sup> Zahra, Shaker A., Eric Gedajlovic, Donald O. Neubaum, and Joel M. Shulman. "A typology of social entrepreneurs: Motives, search processes and ethical challenges." *Journal of business venturing* 24, no. 5 (2009): 519-532. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusvent.2008.04.007>

<sup>9</sup> Mair, Johanna, and Ignasi Marti. "Social entrepreneurship research: A source of explanation, prediction, and delight." *Journal of world business* 41, no. 1 (2006): 36-44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jwb.2005.09.002>.

<sup>10</sup> Perrini, Francesco, Clodia Vurro, and Laura A. Costanzo. "A process-based view of social entrepreneurship: From opportunity identification to scaling-up social change in the case of San Patrignano." *Entrepreneurship and regional development* 22, no. 6 (2010): 515-534. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08985626.2010.488402>

<sup>11</sup> Rubin, Anita. "Hidden, inconsistent, and influential: Images of the future in changing times." *Futures* 45 (2013): S38-S44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2012.11.011>

<sup>12</sup> Alvord, Sarah H., L. David Brown, and Christine W. Letts. "Social entrepreneurship and societal transformation: An exploratory study." *The journal of applied behavioral science* 40, no. 3 (2004): 260-282. <https://doi.org/10.1177/027001886304266847>.

<sup>13</sup> Schumpeter, Joseph A. "Entrepreneurship as innovation." *Entrepreneurship: The social science view* (2000): 51-75. <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1512266>.

<sup>14</sup> Shane, Scott, and Sankaran Venkataraman. "The promise of entrepreneurship as a field of research." *Academy of management review* 25, no. 1 (2000): 217-226. <https://doi.org/10.5465/amr.2000.2791611>.

<sup>15</sup> Sousa, Bruno. "Book review: Transformational entrepreneurship." *International Small Business Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0266242619828014> (2019).

is no longer exploitable<sup>16</sup>. Thus, opportunities in the environment are waiting to be discovered so that people with superior human capital are able to consciously discover opportunities<sup>17</sup>. People with high levels of human capital identify more business opportunities over a period of time<sup>18</sup>. Human capital as a hierarchy of inflows of knowledge and skills leads to outputs such as self-employment decisions and development of entrepreneurial activities<sup>19</sup>. Migration also affects both source and destination communities. As a result, it is important to address the components of social entrepreneurship and effectiveness of entrepreneurial opportunities, and communities must use appropriate mechanisms to develop it. Social entrepreneurship is a new and emerging topic in academic research and it has attracted the considerable attention of researchers, policymakers and stakeholders. Given the nature of international competition and the intense and continuous environmental changes, if societies cannot develop entrepreneurship in various domains, it can be said that they have not played their role well. According to the issues raised, the main purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of social entrepreneurship components on entrepreneurial opportunities with emphasis on the presence of Afghan students in Iranian universities to study.

## 2. *Theoretical background*

Entrepreneurship is recognized as the backbone of economic development in all societies and it plays an important role in employment, income and social change, especially in developing countries<sup>20</sup>. Social entrepreneurship has

<sup>16</sup> Lee, Keun, and Franco Malerba. "Catch-up cycles and changes in industrial leadership: Windows of opportunity and responses of firms and countries in the evolution of sectoral systems." *Research Policy* 46, no. 2 (2017): 338-351. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2016.09.006>

<sup>17</sup> Chitsaz, Ehsan, Mehdi Tajpour, Elahe Hosseini, Hengameh Khorram, and Salomeh Zorrieh. "The effect of human and social capital on entrepreneurial activities: A case study of Iran and implications." *Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues* 6, no. 3 (2019): 1193-1203. [http://doi.org/10.9770/jesi.2019.6.3\(24\)](http://doi.org/10.9770/jesi.2019.6.3(24))

<sup>18</sup> Ziyae, Babak, and Mehdi Tajpour. "Designing a Comprehensive Model of Entrepreneurial University in the Science and Technology Parks." *World Journal of Entrepreneurship, Management and Sustainable Development* 12, no. 3 (2016): 267-280. <https://doi.org/10.1108/WJEMSD-04-2016-0022>

<sup>19</sup> Salamzadeh, Aidin, Mehdi Tajpour, and Elahe Hosseini. "Corporate entrepreneurship in University of Tehran: does human resources management matter?" *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development* 10, no. 3 (2019): 276-292. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJKBD.2019.103218>

<sup>20</sup> Tajpour, Mehdi, Farideh Moradi, and Niloufar Moradi. "Identify the impact of emotional intelligence on corporate entrepreneurship." *International Journal of Management, IT and Engineering* 5, no. 11 (2015): 66-75. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/314094915>

been identified as an important source of social, economic, cultural and environmental wealth<sup>21</sup> and, therefore, doing research and policy-making based on the idea that social entrepreneurs are important for economic and social development became critical and vital<sup>22</sup>. The term first appeared in the entrepreneurial literature in the early 1980s, and although it is not as well-known as economic entrepreneurship, its popularity and achievements are growing dramatically<sup>23</sup>. This type of entrepreneurship has a vague meaning as a two-way institution involving the community and the dimensions of entrepreneurship<sup>24</sup>. This vague and unclear concept can illustrate the complex nature of social entrepreneurship, the multidisciplinary nature and the efforts of researchers to define it from different angles<sup>25</sup>. Social entrepreneurship is the process by which individuals create or change an organization. In other words, they create social value by providing advanced solutions to social problems such as human rights violations and exploitation in order to improve the lives of many people in society<sup>26</sup>. Social entrepreneurship is an innovative activity to create social value within or between nonprofit, business, or the governmental sectors<sup>27</sup>. Thus, social entrepreneurship is represented as an innovative approach to respond to social needs with an emphasis on solving social problems and breaking down

<sup>21</sup> Urbano, David, Nuria Toledano, and Domingo Ribeiro Soriano. "Analyzing social entrepreneurship from an institutional perspective: Evidence from Spain." *Journal of social entrepreneurship* 1, no. 1 (2010): 54-69. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19420670903442061>

<sup>22</sup> Beckmann, Markus, Anica Zeyen, and Anna Krzeminska. "Mission, finance, and innovation: The similarities and differences between social entrepreneurship and social business." In *Social business*, pp. 23-41. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2014. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-45275-8\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-45275-8_2)

<sup>23</sup> Nga, Joyce Koe Hwee, and Gomathi Shamuganathan. "The influence of personality traits and demographic factors on social entrepreneurship start up intentions." *Journal of business ethics* 95, no. 2 (2010): 259-282. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-009-0358-8>.

<sup>24</sup> Salamzadeh, Aidin, Yashar Salamzadeh, and Mehran Nejati. "Social entrepreneurship: analyzing literature and proposing a comprehensive model." In *Proceedings of the 9th Asian Academy of Management International Conference*. 2011. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2027637>.

<sup>25</sup> Tajpour, Mehdi, and Somyeh Hossini. "A Study of factors affecting Academic Entrepreneurship in University of Tehran Science and Technology Park." *International Journal of Case 3*, no. 10 (2014). <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3390404>.

<sup>26</sup> Bornstein, David, and Susan Davis. *Social entrepreneurship: What everyone needs to know*. Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-19-539634-8

<sup>27</sup> Austin, James, Howard Stevenson, and Jane Wei-Skillern. "Social and commercial entrepreneurship: same, different, or both?" *Entrepreneurship theory and practice* 30, no. 1 (2006): 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-6520.2006.00107.x>.

traditional boundaries between the private, public and non-governmental sectors<sup>28</sup>. Organizational credibility is one of the most vital parts of organizations<sup>29</sup>.

In fact, for social entrepreneurship, three situations are conceived as follows: (a) identifying a stable but unjust balance that causes deprivation, marginalization or discomfort to some people, these people cannot meet their needs at the appropriate level; (b) identifying opportunities that expand social values in this unjust balance and inspiring creativity, direct action, courage and tolerance through which the existing stable but unjust conditions are challenged; and (c) creating a balance that eliminates potential flaws or shortcomings faced by a particular group and leads to a better future for the target group and even society as a whole by creating a natural, stable, new and reassuring system<sup>30</sup>. In fact, instead of increasing shareholder wealth and personal gain, the main motive of social entrepreneurship is to create social values and allow them to identify new opportunities so that they can move from a dissatisfied citizen to an altruistic and sensitive citizen<sup>31</sup>. Innovation is essential for organizations because it can create sustainable competitive advantages for them through entrepreneurial opportunities<sup>32</sup>.

The main difference between social and economic entrepreneurs is that the ultimate goal of social entrepreneurs is to maximize social value over economic value. They seek to maximize social effect by addressing needs that have been overlooked by other institutions<sup>33</sup>. Studies show that components of social entrepreneurship include policies and regulations<sup>34</sup>. Research by Acs et al. (2016) emphasizes the empowerment of individuals in policy-making and notes

<sup>28</sup> Johnson, R. Burke, and Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie. "Mixed methods research: A research paradigm whose time has come." *Educational researcher* 33, no. 7 (2004): 14-26. <https://doi.org/10.3102%2F0013189X033007014>

<sup>29</sup> Hosseini, Elahe, and Mehdi Tajpour. "The impact of entrepreneurial skills on manager's job performance." Hosseini, E., Tajpour, M., Lashkarbooluki, M. (2020). The impact of entrepreneurial skills on manager's job performance. *International Journal of Human Capital in Urban Management* 5, no. 4 (2020): 361-372. doi: 10.22034/IJHCUM.2020.04.08

<sup>30</sup> Martin, Roger L., and Sally Osberg. "Social entrepreneurship: The case for definition." (2007): 28-39.

<sup>31</sup> Ferri, Elisabet, and David Urbano. "Environmental factors and social entrepreneurship." (2010). <http://hdl.handle.net/2072/97455>

<sup>32</sup> Tajpour, Mehdi, Soroush Moaddab, and Elahe Hosseini. "Entrepreneurship education and learning environment in institutions." In *Proceeding of ICE2018. International Conference on Entrepreneurship*. Tehran. 2018. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327581668>

<sup>33</sup> Bornstein, David, and Susan Davis. *Social entrepreneurship: What everyone needs to know*. Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-19-539634-8

<sup>34</sup> Yoon, Hyungseok, Sunyoung Yun, Joosung Lee, and Fred Phillips. "Entrepreneurship in East Asian regional innovation systems: Role of social capital." *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 100 (2015): 83-95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2015.06.028>.

that entrepreneurship opportunities cannot be achieved without training and learning key skills<sup>35</sup>. Mintrom<sup>36</sup> also emphasize the importance of public sector institutions in policy implementation and believe that the macroeconomic environment, relationships and coordination of organizations and stakeholders affect policy implementation<sup>37</sup>. The first hypothesis of the research is as follows:

*H<sub>1</sub>. Laws and policies have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.*

Entrepreneurial activities are not just about refereeing opportunities, but also about the formation and use of new ideas adopted by institutions<sup>38,39,40</sup>. Entrepreneurial activities play an important role in economic growth<sup>41</sup>. Studies also show that the component of financial resources affects entrepreneurial opportunities<sup>42</sup>. Simultaneously, declining access to credit is doubly financially burdensome for entrepreneurial activities, especially the fledgling one. Therefore, increasing the opportunities for access to credit and reducing the necessary conditions for the required capital increase the possibility of creating

<sup>35</sup> Acs, Zoltan J., László Szerb, and Erko Autio. "Enhancing Entrepreneurship Ecosystems. A "Systems of Entrepreneurship" Approach to Entrepreneurship Policy." In *Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index 2015*, pp. 57-69. Springer, Cham, 2016. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-26730-2\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-26730-2_4).

<sup>36</sup> Mintrom, Michael, Chris Salisbury, and Joannah Luetjens. "Policy entrepreneurs and promotion of Australian state knowledge economies." *Australian Journal of Political Science* 49, no. 3 (2014): 423-438. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10361146.2014.934657>

<sup>37</sup> Mintrom, Michael, Chris Salisbury, and Joannah Luetjens. "Policy entrepreneurs and promotion of Australian state knowledge economies." *Australian Journal of Political Science* 49, no. 3 (2014): 423-438. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10361146.2014.934657>

<sup>38</sup> Ziyae, Babak, Mehran Rezvani, Mohammad Hasan Mobarki, and Mehdi Tajpour. "Internationalization pattern of University with an Entrepreneurial Approach (case study: Iranian Universities)." *Journal of Entrepreneurship Development* 12, no. 2 (2019): 301-320. <https://dx.doi.org/10.22059/jed.2019.285814.653079>

<sup>39</sup> Khahande Karnama, Asadollah, Amer Dehghan Najm Abadi, and Mehdi Tajpour. "The relationship between entrepreneurial orientations and occupational performance at TUMS student health center." *Journal of Payavard Salamat* 11, no. 2 (2017): 124-133. <http://payavard.tums.ac.ir/article-1-6214-en.html>

<sup>40</sup> Tajpour, Mehdi, Elahe Hosseini, and Aidin Salamzadeh. "The effect of innovation components on organisational performance: case of the governorate of Golestan Province." *International Journal of Public Sector Performance Management* 6, no. 6 (2020): 817-830. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJPSPM.2020.110987>

<sup>41</sup> Acs, Zoltan J., Saul Estrin, Tomasz Mickiewicz, and László Szerb. "Entrepreneurship, institutional economics, and economic growth: an ecosystem perspective." *Small Business Economics* 51, no. 2 (2018): 501-514. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-018-0013-9>.

<sup>42</sup> Yoon, Hyungseok, Sunyoung Yun, Joosung Lee, and Fred Phillips. "Entrepreneurship in East Asian regional innovation systems: Role of social capital." *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 100 (2015): 83-95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2015.06.028>



entrepreneurship<sup>43</sup>. However, the main focus of social entrepreneurs is on the emergence of social value. Creating economic value in income is essential to ensure financial sustainability and self-sufficiency<sup>44</sup>. It can be concluded that having financial resources causes entrepreneurial opportunities to be identified and turned into ideas. Consequently, the second hypothesis of the research is formulated as follows:

*H<sub>2</sub>. Financial resources have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.*

Communication and networking include the ability to identify and communicate with others, to establish communication based on mutual trust (communication skills), and to coordinate and integrate a set of communications as coordination<sup>45</sup>. This has led to a widespread change in communication and networking<sup>46,47</sup>. As a result, connecting with other people has the advantage of being a leader among Afghan immigrants<sup>48</sup>. Hence, access to new and complementary knowledge is greater and their entrepreneurial activities increase<sup>49</sup>. Also, people's communication skills reduce the possibility of opportunistic behavior between people. However, research shows that building trust is one of the main catalysts for providing knowledge and information in collaborations that exist in the opportunistic behavior of individuals<sup>50</sup>. Immigrants who can build informal rela-

<sup>43</sup> Taddeo, Raffaella, Alberto Simboli, Giuseppe Ioppolo, and Anna Morgante. "Industrial symbiosis, networking and innovation: The potential role of innovation poles." *Sustainability* 9, no. 2 (2017): 169. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su9020169>

<sup>44</sup> Mair, Johanna, and Ignasi Marti. "Social entrepreneurship research: A source of explanation, prediction, and delight." *Journal of world business* 41, no. 1 (2006): 36-44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jwb.2005.09.002>

<sup>45</sup> Sabokro, M., Tajpour, M., Hosseini, E. (2018). Investigating the knowledge management effect on managers' skills improvement. *International Journal of Human Capital in Urban Management* 3, no. 2 (2018): 125-132. doi: 10.22034/ijhcum.2018.02.05.

<sup>46</sup> Salamzadeh, Aidin, Mehdi Tajpour, and Elahe Hosseini. "Exploring the Impact of Social Networks on Entrepreneurial Intention." *Media Studies* 15, no. 48 (2020): 111-124. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344072088>

<sup>47</sup> Tajpour, Mehdi, Aidin Salamzadeh, and Elahe Hosseini. "Social Media and Entrepreneurship in Creative Industries." In *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference of Research in Innovation and Technology*, Tehran: Iran (2019). 2019. <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3625085>

<sup>48</sup> Schilke, Oliver, and Anthony Goerzen. "Alliance management capability: an investigation of the construct and its measurement." *Journal of management* 36, no. 5 (2010): 1192-1219. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0149206310362102>

<sup>49</sup> Tajpour, M., F. Moradi, and S. E. Jalali. "Studying the influence of emotional intelligence on the organizational innovation." *International Journal of Human Capital Urban Management* 3, no. 1 (2018): 45-52. DOI: 10.22034/ijhcum.2018.03.01.005.

<sup>50</sup> Das, Tarun K., and Bing-Sheng Teng. "Between trust and control: Developing confidence in partner cooperation in alliances." *Academy of management review* 23, no. 3 (1998): 491-512. <https://doi.org/10.5465/amr.1998.926623>



tionships based on trust and mutual commitment with others gain more knowledge in their cooperative relationships. This knowledge is crucial in identifying and exploiting new ideas and entrepreneurial opportunities<sup>51</sup>. In other words, the main obstacle to achieving entrepreneurial opportunities in this field is the lack of active participation of individuals in altruistic social responsibilities<sup>52</sup>. According to the contents, the research hypothesis is as follows:

*H<sub>3</sub>. Communication and networking have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.*

Social entrepreneurship is defined as a tool to reduce social problems and issues and accelerate social change<sup>53</sup> which creates social capital by emphasizing the two dimensions of innovation and leadership in the social domain by pursuing social goals<sup>54</sup>. Social entrepreneurship offers sustainable solutions to social problems to make the small-scale change that affects the entire networking and organization on a larger scale<sup>55</sup>. The main difference between social entrepreneurship with other entrepreneurs is pursuing social goals and supporting people<sup>56</sup>. Social capital refers to the potential of gaining valuable resources through social communication which helps immigrants to access a variety of resources and opportunities, save time, use career counseling, and provide a lot of support that may not be available to the individual<sup>57</sup>. They are so diverse and will be very effective in examining environmental change and identifying entrepreneurial opportunities<sup>58</sup>. Actually, social capital in individuals leads to

<sup>51</sup> Teng, Bing-Sheng. "Corporate entrepreneurship activities through strategic alliances: A resource-based approach toward competitive advantage." *Journal of Management studies* 44, no. 1 (2007): 119-142. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-6486.2006.00645.x>

<sup>52</sup> Ardalan, Mohammad Reza, and Vahid Soltanzadeh. "Affected Social entrepreneurship of intelligent leadership with the role of mediator organizational learning." *Journal of Entrepreneurship Development* 8, no. 3 (2015): 493-512. <https://dx.doi.org/10.22059/jed.2015.57647>

<sup>53</sup> Turner, K., T. R. Crook, and A. Miller. "Construct measurement in social entrepreneurship: A review and assessment." *Soc. Entrep. Res. Methods Res. Methodol. Strateg. Manag* 9, no. 9 (2014): 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1479-838720140000009009>

<sup>54</sup> Teasdale, Simon, Pascal Dey, and Chris Steyaert. "Social entrepreneurship: Critique and the radical enactment of the so-cial." *Social Enterprise Journal* (2012). <https://doi.org/10.1108/17508611211252828>.

<sup>55</sup> Light, Paul C. "The search for social entrepreneurship." *Strategic Direction* (2011). <https://doi.org/10.1108/sd.2011.05627fae.001>.

<sup>56</sup> Karanda, Crispin, and Nuria Toledano. "Social entrepreneurship in South Africa: A different narrative for a different con-text." *Social Enterprise Journal* (2012). <https://doi.org/10.1108/17508611211280755>

<sup>57</sup> Sappleton, Natalie. "Women non-traditional entrepreneurs and social capital." *International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship* (2009). <https://doi.org/10.1108/17566260910990892>

<sup>58</sup> Nahapiet, Janine, and Sumantra Ghoshal. "Social capital, intellectual capital, and the organizational advantage." *Academy of management review* 23, no. 2 (1998): 242-266. <https://doi.org/10.5465/amr.1998.533225>

knowledge sharing. Therefore, it is one of the most important variables explaining the development and welfare of communities<sup>59</sup>. According to the contents, the fourth research hypothesis is as follows:

*H<sub>4</sub>. Social capital has a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.*

Some scholars consider cultural and social values to be synonymous. According to them, social values are among the cultural criteria that determine the general goals desirable for organized social life and cause behaviors<sup>60</sup>. According to others, society defines particular behaviors and special values as cultural behaviors and values according to the necessity of its life. These cultural values underlie the behavioral patterns of entrepreneurs as incentives for individuals and groups to explore and size opportunities<sup>61</sup>. Innovative cultural values increase risk-taking and support individual growth and development. So, it can lead to the identification of entrepreneurial opportunities<sup>62</sup>. According to the previous contents, the fifth research hypothesis is as follows:

*H<sub>5</sub>. Cultural values have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.*

According to the hypotheses presented in this research, the conceptual model of the research is represented as follows:

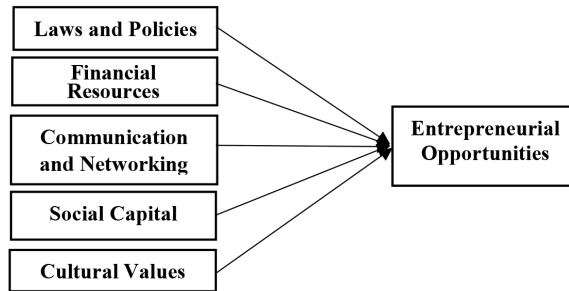


Figure 1. Conceptual model (Source: authors)

<sup>59</sup> Johnson, Scott G., Karen Schnatterly, and Aaron D. Hill. "Board composition beyond independence: Social capital, human capital, and demographics." *Journal of management* 39, no. 1 (2013): 232-262. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0149206312463938>

<sup>60</sup> Smelser, Neil J. *Essays in sociological explanation*. Quid Pro Books, 2013. ISBN 978-1-61027-178-3

<sup>61</sup> Coda, Roberto, Patrícia Viveiros de Castro Krakauer, and Davi de França Berne. "Are small business owners entrepreneurs? Exploring small business manager behavioral profiles in the São Paulo Metropolitan region." *RAUSP Management Journal* 53, no. 2 (2018): 152-163. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rausp.2017.05.011>

<sup>62</sup> Donate, Mario J., and Fátima Guadamillas. "The effect of organizational culture on knowledge management practices and innovation." *Knowledge and Process Management* 17, no. 2 (2010): 82-94. <https://doi.org/10.1002/kpm.344>.

### 3. *Research Methodology*

The current study is descriptive-correlational in terms of applied purpose and data collection. The statistical population of the study is approximately 35,000 students in all educational levels which have been obtained based on Cochran's formula<sup>63</sup> and with an error level of 5% at a 95% confidence level of 380 people. In this study, according to UNICO, an immigrant is someone who moves from one place to another to work or live off their own free will. The statistical sample in this study includes those Afghan immigrants who have lived in Iran for more than five years and have studied one of the levels of their university education in Iranian universities. A 30-item questionnaire taken from the scaled research literature with a 5-point Likert scale<sup>64</sup> distributed in individual and online in a simple random manner among these students and data were collected. By using Smart PLS 3 software and structural equation modeling method, the relationships between variables have been investigated. This method is a statistical model for examining the relationships between indigenous variables and exogenous variables. In order to evaluate the fit, the model was examined in three levels of measurement, structural and general. In order to ensure the accuracy of the research results, the technical characteristics of the questionnaire were evaluated in two parts: validity (construct and content) and shared reliability by using different criteria. For this purpose, first a copy of the questionnaire was provided to five experts and faculty members of universities to assess the content validity of the questionnaire and, finally, their proposed views were applied in the questionnaire. In order to evaluate the shared reliability of the tool for measuring research variables, Cronbach's alpha coefficient and composite reliability index have been used. As shown in Table 1, the value of Cronbach's alpha coefficients for all variables is more than the minimum acceptable, i.e. 0.7; therefore, it can be said that the tool for measuring variables has good shared reliability.

<sup>63</sup> . Cronbach's alpha is used to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire. Accordingly, with increasing the internal consistency of the questionnaire, the alpha coefficient also increases, which means that if the items are most relevant to the target, the coefficient increases.

<sup>64</sup> . Likert scale is one of the most common measurement scales in research which is done based on the questionnaire. In this scale or spectrum, according to the subject of his / her research, the researcher, provides a number of items to the participants to determine their tendency based on the items and multiple answers. In this questionnaire, a 5-point Likert scale (1. strongly disagree, 2. disagree, 3. undecided, 4. agree and 5. strongly agree) is used.

Table 1. Relationship between Variables and Questionnaire Items (Source: authors)

No.	Dimensions	Items	Cronbach's alpha	Resource
1	Laws and policies	1-5	0.905	Extracted from literature review
2	Financial resources	6-10	0.919	
3	Communication and networking	11-15	0.919	
4	Social capital	16-20	0.756	
5	Cultural values	21-25	0.834	
6	Entrepreneurial opportunities	26-30	0.780	

In this study, as shown in Table 2, the value of the composite reliability coefficient of all constructs is more than the minimum acceptable, i.e. 0.7; hence, the constructs of this study are optimally reliable. Also, the analysis of the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) shows that the value of the whole construct is higher than the acceptable minimum, i.e. 0.5<sup>65</sup>. According to the results of Table 2, convergent validity is established in all indicators.

Table 2. Composite and Collective Reliability and AVE (Source: authors)

Variable	Composite reliability	Reliability	AVE	R <sup>2</sup>
Laws and policies	0.927	0.929	0.723	-
Financial resources	0.944	0.939	0.755	-
Communication and networking	0.941	0.939	0.754	-
Social capital	0.772	0.756	0.543	-
Cultural values	0.862	0.883	0.604	-
Entrepreneurial opportunities	0.848	0.809	0.556	0.734

In order to evaluate the convergent validity, the AVE was used and for divergent measurement, the root mean index of the extracted variance was used<sup>66</sup>. Also, since the values of the root mean square of the variance are greater than the

<sup>65</sup> . Tajpour, Mehdi, and Elahe Hosseini. "The Effect of Intelligence and Organizational Culture on Corporate Entrepreneurship in Shiraz Gas Compa." *Human Resource Management in The Oil Industry* 12, no. 45 (2020): 335-354. <http://iieshrm.ir/article-1-927-en.html>

<sup>66</sup> . Tajpour, Mehdi, and Aidin Salamzadeh. "The effect of spiritual intelligence on organizational entrepreneurship: case study of educational departments in University of Tehran." *International Journal of Management and Enterprise Development* 18, no. 3 (2019): 205-218. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJMED.2019.100673>

correlation of the variable with other variables, divergent validity is acceptable if the numbers in the original diameter are higher than their lower values<sup>67</sup>. Table 3 shows that the variables are valid and their divergent validity is confirmed.

Table 3. Convergent Validity (Source: authors)

variable	Communication and networking	Cultural values	Entrepreneurial opportunities	Financial resources	Laws and policies	Social capital
Communication and networking	0.868					
Cultural values	0.476	0.777				
Entrepreneurial opportunities	0.462	0.776	0.786			
Financial resources	0.890	0.497	0.420	0.897		
Laws and policies	0.843	0.423	0.314	0.841	0.851	
Social capital	0.720	0.731	0.748	0.717	0.675	0.756

Based on the above and the results obtained from the output of Smart PLS 3 software in Tables 2 and 3, the measurement models are suitable in terms of validity (convergent and divergent) and reliability (composite reliability coefficient and Cronbach's alpha).

#### 4. Findings

##### 4.1 Descriptive Statistics

Respondents to the questionnaire were 79% male and 21% female; In terms of education, 7% had a doctorate, 26% a master's degree and 67% a bachelor's degree. In terms of age, 68% were in the age group of 25-35, 27% in

<sup>67</sup> . Fornell, Claes, and David F. Larcker. "Structural equation models with unobservable variables and measurement error: Algebra and statistics." (1981): 382-388. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F002224378101800313>

the age group of 35-45 and the remaining 5% were over 45 years old. In terms of immigration history to Iran, 63 % have a history of fewer than ten years and 37% have a history of more than ten years.

#### 4.2 Inferential statistics

To evaluate the fit of the structural model of the research using the method of least squares several criteria are used. The first and most basic criterion is the values of t-values. The fit of the structural model using t-coefficients is that these coefficients must be greater than 1.96 to confirm their significance at the 95% confidence level. Figure 2 shows that all paths between model variables are valid and meaningful.

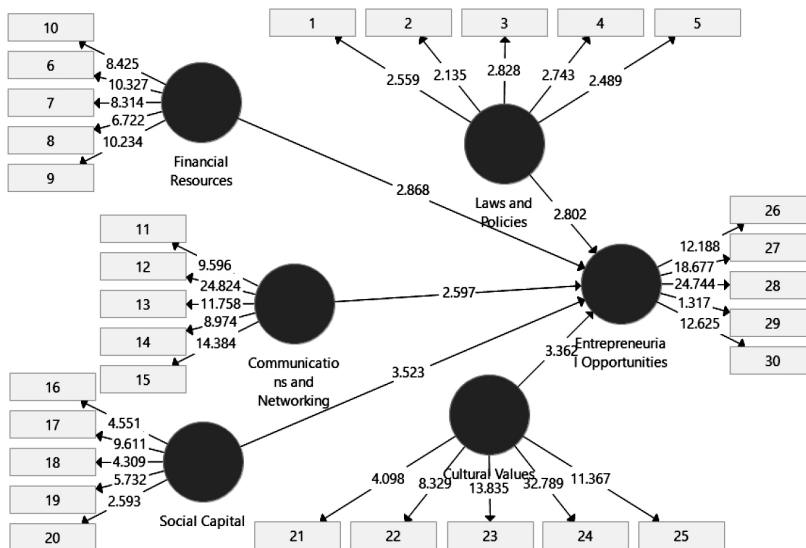


Figure 2. T-values (Source: authors)

The second criterion for examining the fit of a structural model in research is the  $R^2$  coefficients related to the latent endogenous variables of the model.  $R^2$  is a criterion that indicates the effect of exogenous variables on an endogenous variable and three values of 0.19, 0.33 and 0.67 are considered for weak, medium and robust values of  $R^2$  <sup>68</sup>.

<sup>68</sup> . Fornell, Claes, and David F. Larcker. "Structural equation models with unobservable variables and measurement error: Algebra and statistics." (1981): 382-388. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F002224378101800313>

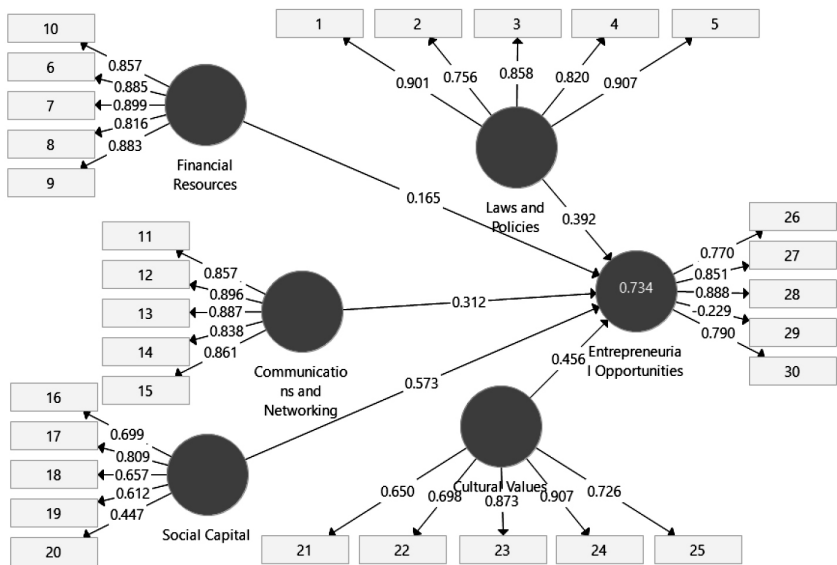


Figure 3. R square (Source: authors)

The mentioned criteria are shown within the circles related to the structural model of the research and for the structural model of this research, considering that an endogenous latent variable exists, it is natural that the number within the other circles is equal to zero. Figure 3 shows that in this study the criterion is higher than 0.67 (criterion of strong values), so the structural model from the perspective of this criterion also has an appropriate and acceptable fit.

4.3 Overall Fit of the Model

The general model includes both parts of the measurement and structural model, and by confirming that, the fit of the model is checked. Hence, the overall fit of the model is possible with the GOF fit goodness criterion. According to the three values of 0.01, 0.25 and 0.36, which are weak, medium and strong values for GOF. A value of 0.805 for this criterion indicates a strong fit of the overall research model. Therefore, the fit for the proposed model in both measurement and construct is confirmed.

4.4 Hypothesis Testing

At this stage, t-values is used to investigate the hypothetical relationships between variables. To test the main hypothesis, five sub-hypotheses have been



examined, which according to Table 4, the t-coefficient of the five existing relationships has been confirmed. Thus, the main hypothesis was confirmed. To determine the effect of predictor variables on dependent variables, standardized factor load coefficients related to the paths of each hypothesis are examined. These coefficients indicate that changes independent variables are explained by independent variables up to a few percent.

Table 4. T-values and Research Influence Factor (Source: authors)

No.	path	Influence factor	T-values	Hypothesis testing
1	Laws and policies have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.	0.392	2.802	Approved
2	Financial resources have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.	0.165	2.868	Approved
3	Communication and networking have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.	0.312	2.597	Approved
4	Social capital has a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.	0.573	3.523	Approved
5	Cultural values have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran.	0.456	3.362	Approved

The results show that the t-value for all paths is higher than 1.96, which indicates the confirmation of the hypotheses. So, it can be said with 95% confidence that the components of social entrepreneurship have a positive and significant effect on entrepreneurial opportunities.

## 5. Discussion

Considering that the purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of social entrepreneurship components on the entrepreneurial opportunities of Afghan immigrant youth in Iran, the results of the software showed that the hypotheses related to the main purpose of the research had been confirmed. Regarding the confirmation of the first hypothesis that laws and policies have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Af-

ghan student immigrants in Iran, it can be said that policies and laws play an important role by providing investment guarantees to entrepreneurs to encourage them to recognize entrepreneurial opportunities. These policies and regulations should reduce uncertainty and transaction costs. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with the studies of Yoon<sup>69</sup>, Acs<sup>70</sup> and Mintrom<sup>71</sup>. Confirming the second hypothesis that financial resources have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran, it can be said that lack of financial resources to develop entrepreneurial opportunities is one of the main limitations of entrepreneurship that Afghan immigrants encounter when they carry out their social missions. Given that having financial resources makes people do not seek to identify opportunities, so the existence of stable financial resources prevents a person from looking for new and innovative opportunities. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with the research of Acs<sup>72</sup>, Mair and Marti<sup>73</sup> and Yoon<sup>54</sup>. Regarding the third hypothesis, communication and networking have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran, the results show that by creating social entrepreneurship networking and communication the individuals in the group can do more activities. Furthermore, they increase the scope of their activities to achieve more opportunities. On the contrary, if communication and networking are not done properly, it will cause conflicts and contradictions between people and prevent them from achieving entrepreneurial opportunities. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with

<sup>69</sup> . Yoon, Hyungseok, Sunyoung Yun, Joosung Lee, and Fred Phillips. "Entrepreneurship in East Asian regional innovation systems: Role of social capital." *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 100 (2015): 83-95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2015.06.028>

<sup>70</sup> . Acs, Zoltan J., László Szerb, and Erkko Autio. "Enhancing Entrepreneurship Ecosystems. A "Systems of Entrepreneurship" Approach to Entrepreneurship Policy." In *Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index 2015*, pp. 57-69. Springer, Cham, 2016. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-26730-2\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-26730-2_4)

<sup>71</sup> . Mintrom, Michael, Chris Salisbury, and Joannah Luetjens. "Policy entrepreneurs and promotion of Australian state knowledge economies." *Australian Journal of Political Science* 49, no. 3 (2014): 423-438. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10361146.2014.934657>

<sup>72</sup> . Acs, Zoltan J., László Szerb, and Erkko Autio. "Enhancing Entrepreneurship Ecosystems. A "Systems of Entrepreneurship" Approach to Entrepreneurship Policy." In *Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index 2015*, pp. 57-69. Springer, Cham, 2016. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-26730-2\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-26730-2_4)

<sup>73</sup> . Mair, Johanna, and Ignasi Marti. "Social entrepreneurship research: A source of explanation, prediction, and delight." *Journal of world business* 41, no. 1 (2006): 36-44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jwb.2005.09.002>

the results of researchers such as Teng<sup>74</sup> and Schilke and Goerzen<sup>75</sup>. Regarding the fourth hypothesis that social capital has a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran, it can be said that the more participation and cooperation among individuals, the more entrepreneurial opportunities are identified. Also, the relationship between entrepreneurship opportunities and social capital in terms of the emergence of innovation in society can be examined. Thus, social capital is a key factor in identifying entrepreneurial opportunities and creating new ideas. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with the results of researchers such as Turner<sup>76</sup>, Light<sup>77</sup> and Johnson<sup>78</sup>. By confirming the fifth hypothesis that cultural values have a positive and significant effect on the entrepreneurial opportunities of young Afghan student immigrants in Iran, then, entrepreneurship means value creation in such a way that entrepreneurship innovatively revives and creates cultural values. Cultural value does not always include economic value, but economic value can also include cultural value, so achieving entrepreneurial opportunities in this field has dynamic and lasting benefits and in the long run they can play a role as a contributing force in the country's development cycle. Cultural values also play an important role in the formation of institutions in societies. These values lead to influence on social investment as an excellent way to achieve entrepreneurial opportunities. Finally, the results of this hypothesis

<sup>74</sup> . Teng, Bing-Sheng. "Corporate entrepreneurship activities through strategic alliances: A resource-based approach toward competitive advantage." *Journal of Management studies* 44, no. 1 (2007): 119-142. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-6486.2006.00645.x>

<sup>75</sup> . Schilke, Oliver, and Anthony Goerzen. "Alliance management capability: an investigation of the construct and its measurement." *Journal of management* 36, no. 5 (2010): 1192-1219. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0149206310362102>

<sup>76</sup> . Turner, K., T. R. Crook, and A. Miller. "Construct measurement in social entrepreneurship: A review and assessment." *Soc. Entrep. Res. Methods Res. Methodol. Strateg. Manag* 9, no. 9 (2014): 1-18.

<sup>77</sup> . Light, Paul C. "The search for social entrepreneurship." *Strategic Direction* (2011). <https://doi.org/10.1108/sd.2011.05627fae.001>

<sup>78</sup> . Johnson, R. Burke, and Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie. "Mixed methods research: A research paradigm whose time has come." *Educational researcher* 33, no. 7 (2004): 14-26. <https://doi.org/10.3102%2F0013189X033007014>

are consistent with the results of researchers such as Smelser<sup>79</sup>, de Castro<sup>80</sup> and Donate and Guadamillas<sup>81</sup>.

## 6. *Conclusion*

Contrary to ancient history, migration today has no biological motivation, but migration in today's world is a social, economic, political and cultural phenomenon under social conditions in the broadest sense. Migration takes place between a source and a destination. In general, it can be said that the main reason for all migration is the failure of societies to meet the needs and aspirations of their citizens. The desire to progress and achieve valuable things encourages man to seek opportunities beyond the available opportunities. This issue is significant in terms of the effect it has on the source community, regardless of the possible outcomes that may be present for immigrants or the destination community. Among them, the student bodies are of special importance because they are precious and have a significant effect on the future and the growth and development of the community of origin. Therefore, if an immigration community has an upward trend and its immigrants are considered as scientific and labor forces, it is a global and complex issue, and Afghanistan can be named as a country that sends immigrants to different countries including Iran.

In contrast, social entrepreneurship is important because it seeks to find practical and sustainable solutions that can be implemented in most parts of the world. For this reason, Iran is also taking steps towards development and progress, and the introduction of social entrepreneurship can help accelerate the progress. Entrepreneurs take advantage of opportunities that others overlook to grow society with new approaches and create solutions to improve the situation.

<sup>79</sup> . Smelser, Neil J. *Essays in sociological explanation*. Quid Pro Books, 2013. ISBN 978-1-61027-178-3

<sup>80</sup> . Coda, Roberto, Patrícia Viveiros de Castro Krakauer, and Davi de França Berne. "Are small business owners entrepreneurs? Exploring small business manager behavioral profiles in the São Paulo Metropolitan region." *RAUSP Management Journal* 53, no. 2 (2018): 152-163. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rausp.2017.05.011>

<sup>81</sup> . Donate, Mario J., and Fátima Guadamillas. "The effect of organizational culture on knowledge management practices and innovation." *Knowledge and Process Management* 17, no. 2 (2010): 82-94. <https://doi.org/10.1002/kpm.344>

## 7. Recommendation

In this regard, it is suggested that educational workshops be held in universities, because constructive criticism methods can have a significant effect on increasing social capital. Also, appropriate recommendations should be given in accordance with the skills of the people. The following suggestions can be taken into consideration:

- Informing people about social entrepreneurship through various media.
- Encouraging these people to take advantage of entrepreneurial opportunities by holding festivals and promotional conferences.

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