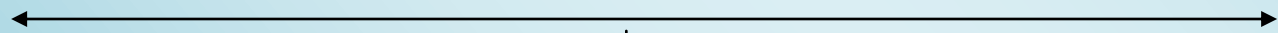


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**ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827**

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## Investigating the Ways to Promote Willingness to Cooperation and Empathy in the University Students of Ardebil Azad University in 2015

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### ABSTRACT

*The aim of this study is to investigate the ways to promote willingness to cooperation and empathy in the university students of Ardebil Azad University. The study is an applied research from the purpose point of view and based on the method, it is a descriptive correlation survey research. Participants are 5211 university students from the Islamic Azad University, Ardebil Branch in 2015. 358 students were selected after the application of Cochran's C Test for determining the sampling size. The sampling was conducted in a simply randomized manner. To collect data, a researcher-generated questionnaire with high reliability of 0.70 was administered. The data and the hypotheses were analyzed by SPSS and regression coefficient respectively. The study confirms that the social trust, cultural commonalities, common cause and a cooperation-friendly environment influence the promotion of the students' willingness to cooperation and empathy.*

**Key Words;** cooperation, empathy, contribution, Azad University, Ardebil

### INTRODUCTION

The concepts of empathy and unanimity are among the principal subjects in the constructive function theories in sociology, according to which, the empathy makes the basis of any social order and provides for unity and social solidarity, and it makes grounds for the people's greater cooperation and participation in a society. Social solidarity, along with empathy, guarantees the stability of a social organization. In the sociology encyclopedias, the concept of empathy and unanimity refers to the connection between governments and people through interdependence, mutual understanding or having the same social origins (Biero, 2008: 712).

These days, it is not, however, easy to find workplaces which can be considered as good examples of a team work. In our country, the structure of families, schools, organizations, institutes and even hobbies is based on winning, excelling and being on top; it's generally based on individual successes. Workers and employees and most people in general are rarely raised in environments where the team work is emphasized or group is considered as something more important.

From the sociological viewpoint, the influential factors on empathy point to a state in which people are dependent on each other in groups or communities. The empathy in a group means that, along maintaining its unity, the group shows coordination and conformity towards the unifying factors within it. Empathy and cooperation implies a unity between government officials and people of a society and it is a factor for accepting and internalizing social norms and values and a sense of a community (feeling of being "we"). Interaction among the people and unanimity refer to social and political cooperation, loyalty, participation in religious activities, lack of social alienation or ethnic prejudice. Therefore any scientific or experimental analysis on empathy and cooperation will be insufficient without reference to the principles of the common theories of sociology in different schools and branches of sociology, psychology or social psychology. On the other hand, defining empathy as an interconnected collection concept full analysis of all social, psychological, cultural, biological and economic factors and variables in interactions between them (Mohseni Tabrizi, 2004:45).

## **METHODS**

### **Research Method**

Concerning the purpose, the study is an applied research. Furthermore, it's a descriptive correlational survey research as well.

### **Statistical Population**

Participants are 5211 university students from the Islamic Azad University, Ardebil Branch in 2015.

### **Sampling Size and Method**

Cochrane's C Test was conducted to determine the sampling size, which reduced the size to 358 people, who were selected based on a simple randomization.

### **Data Collection Method**

Both documentary and survey methods were applied for collecting data in this study. In the theoretical part, the past literature in the field and theories in sociology, social psychology and sociology of the deviations were used

as the theoretical basis of the research. The experimental part analyzes the relationships between hypotheses using a survey method.

### Data Collection Tools

The publications in this field were used as the data collection tools for the theoretical part. The experimental part used a researcher-generated questionnaire with closed questions to be filled out by the individuals themselves.

### Data Analysis Method

After the questionnaires were administered and data was collected, the study was encoded based on the variable scales of measurement and analyzed by SPSS. The methods used in analysis are as the following,

**Descriptive Analysis;** the descriptive analysis includes convergent factors, distribution, frequency, and percentage which are used for categorizing the data and presenting them in frequency tables and graphs.

**Inferential Analysis;** Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test was conducted to test the data distribution normality. If the research is normal, the Pearson Correlation Coefficient is used for analyzing the hypotheses.

### Findings

*Table 1.1: Main Factors and Distribution for Participants' Age and GPA*

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>GPA of the Previous Semester</b>	<b>GPA of the Present Semester</b>
Mean	23.5056	18.3231	17.7146
Standard Deviation	3.13983	1.23895	1.18164
Minimum Score	19.00	16.32	15.66
Maximum Score	32.00	20.00	19.92

According to the table 1.1, the average age of the respondents was 23.50, the average GPA in the previous semester and at present is 18.32 (of 20) and 17.71 respectively.

*Table 1.2: Main Factors and Distribution for Forgetting Empathy and Cooperation*

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Empathy</b>	<b>Cooperation</b>
Mean	17.8128	18.9050
Standard Deviation	3.90161	1.92635
Minimum Score	12.00	16.00
Maximum Score	24.00	22.00

Based on the table 1.2, the average score of respondents' empathy is 17.81 while the average cooperation score is 18.90.

*Table 1.3. Main Factors and Distribution for the Working Life Quality*

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Social Trust</b>	<b>Cultural Commonalities</b>	<b>Common Cause</b>	<b>Cooperation-friendly environment</b>
Mean	17.6034	21.1089	21.2877	19.0084
Standard Deviation	2.11416	2.21704	1.67480	2.31605
Minimum Score	13.00	17.00	18.00	14.00
Maximum Score	20.00	24.00	24.00	22.00

According to the table 1.3, the average for social trust of the respondents is 17.60, the average for the cultural commonalities is 21.10, and the average score for common cause and cooperation-friendly environment is 21.28 and 19 respectively.

*Table 1.4. Results of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test to determine the normality of the research dependent variable*

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Empathy and Cooperation</b>
z value in Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test	1.04
Level of Significance	0.10

According to the table 1.4, and considering the fact that the level of significance for the test error of the 0.95 reliability is more than 0.05, it can be concluded that the distribution of the research dependent variables is normal and as such, the parametric tests can be used for analyzing the hypotheses.

**The First Hypothesis;** Social trust influences promoting the university students' willingness to empathy and cooperation.

*Table 1.5: Results of the Univariate Regression Coefficient*

<b>Predictor Variable</b>	<b>Non-standard Coefficients</b>		<b>Standard Coefficient</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>P</b>
	<b>B</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>BETA</b>		
Constant Value	31.247	2.070		15.094	.000
Social Trust	.311	.117	.140	2.662	.008

Based on the table 1.5 and the level of significance of less than 0.01 for the test error, it can be concluded that the first hypothesis is confirmed. The social trust has a positive effect on the students' willingness to empathy and

cooperation. The Beta coefficient also shows that the social trust of 0.14 predicts the changes in the university students' willingness concerning empathy and cooperation.

**The Second Hypothesis;** Cultural commonalities influence the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation

*Table 1.6: Results of the Univariate Regression Coefficient*

Predictor variable	Non-standard Coefficients		Standard Coefficient	T	P
	B	SE	BETA		
Constant Value	21.537	2.245		9.592	.000
Cultural Common Points	.719	.106	.339	6.798	.000

According to the table 1.6, and considering the fact that the level of significance for the test error is less than 0.01, the second hypothesis is approved. The cultural commonalities exert positive influences on the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation. Additionally the Beta coefficient shows that the cultural commonalities of 0.33 predict the changes in the promotion of the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation.

**The Third Hypothesis;** Common cause influences the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation

*Table 1.7: Results of the Univariate Regression Coefficient*

Predictor variable	Non-standard Coefficients		Standard Coefficient	T	P
	B	SE	BETA		
Constant Value	24.217	3.108		7.791	.000
Common cause	.587	.146	.209	4.034	.000

Based the table 1.7, and the level of significance – less than 0.01 for the test error –, the third hypothesis is confirmed. Therefore the common cause affects the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation significantly. The Beta coefficient shows that the common cause of 0.20 predicts the changes in the promotion of the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation as well.

**The Fourth Hypothesis;** Cooperation-friendly environments influence the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation

*Table 1.8: Results of the Univariate Regression Coefficient*

Predictor variable	Non-standard Coefficients		Standard Coefficient	T	P
	B	SE	BETA		
Constant Value	11.547	1.563		7.389	.000
Cooperation-friendly environment	1.324	.082	.652	16.226	.000

According to the table 1.8 and considering the fact that the level of significance for the test error is less than 0.01, the fourth hypothesis is confirmed which shows a cooperation-friendly environment can have significant positive effects on the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation. Additionally the Beta coefficient proves that the cooperation-friendly environments of 0.65 predict the changes in the promotion of the students' willingness to empathy and cooperation.

## CONCLUSIONS

### Results from the Descriptive Findings

Based on the results of the research 39.38% of the respondents were men and 60.61% were women.

Also 13.4% of them were students of medical schools with the least frequency while the students of the humanities with 33% made the most respondents.

Concerning the academic levels of study, in must be mentioned that the results show 3.4% of respondents, with the least frequency, were studying at Ph.D. level and the most respondents, 43.6% belonged to the B.A. undergraduate students.

It must also be mentioned that the average age of the respondents is 23.50 years, and the average GPA for the previous semester and the present one is 18.32 and 17.71 respectively.

The average for empathy among the respondents was 17.81 and the average level of cooperation is 18.90.

Finally, the average for the social trust of the respondents is 17.60, the average for cultural commonalities is 21.10, and the average for common cause and cooperation-friendly environment is 21.28 and 19 respectively.



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