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## THE EFFECT OF MARKET ATTITUDE ON INNOVATION AND NEW PRODUCT PERFORMANCE

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**ABSTRACT**

*This research produces new perceptions of three main elements: market attitudes (information range, information dispersion, and reactive) affect innovation and new product performance, and about the arbitrating role of innovation. Data were collected from a sample of 247 firms of the manufacturing industries. The results indicate that information range has an indirect positive effect on innovation via information dispersion and reactive. Information dispersion effects innovation positively, both directly and indirectly through reactive. Findings report a curvilinear (J-shaped) relationship between reactive and innovation. Also indicates a positive relationship between reactive and new product performance. The findings show that information range and information dispersion control new product performance indirectly through reactive. Finally, a positive relationship was discovered between innovation and new product performance. As well as a result indicate that the effects of elements on innovation and new product performance are arbitrated by reactive to market information.*

**KEYWORDS**

Market attitude, Innovation, Product innovation, marketing information.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In recent years, there is focus on the relationship between market attitude and new product performance. This research indicates that market attitude has a positive influence on new product performance (Baker and Sinkula, 2005; Kirca et al., 2005). However, researchers have to decide how market attitude contributes to superior new product performance. Few studies have examined the possible negotiators of the market attitude/new product performance relationship. Such research is essential to understand the directions through which market attitude effects new product performance (Langerak et al., 2004). Explaining the negotiators of the market attitude-performance relationship will produce managers with more comprehensive perceptions into how market attitude works and how it may be useful as a strategic firm ability (Kirca et al., 2005). The present study examines the effect of market attitude on innovation and new product performance. Specifically, we suggest that innovation is an arbitrator between market attitude and new product performance. Innovation is reflecting on a core element of an innovation strategy for three reasons. First, the increasing rate of competition, technological developments in the market and shorter product life cycles load companies to innovate faster (Lynn et al., 2000). Second, innovation can produce a maintainable competitive advantage. Innovation is a valuable resource for the firm in that it makes possible firms to keep close touch with customers and their needs (Tatikonda and Montoya-Weiss, 2001). Third, innovation results in new product performance. Carbonell and Rodriguez (2006) and Chen et al. (2005) have stated a positive relation between market and new product success. In terms of research on the influence of market attitude on innovation, it is disputed that innovation has been absent in the models of market attitude. Regardless of the popular idea that market-attitude firms have an advantage in the market (Day, 1994; Slater and Narver, 1995). At this time, the opportunity presents advance of understanding of the relationships among market attitude, innovation, and new product performance. In this study, market attitude is imagined as a set of organizational behaviors and procedures related to (a) Market information range; (b) Market information dispersion; and (c) Reactive to such information across department (Kohli and Jaworski, 1990).

**2. THEORETICAL MODEL AND RESEARCH HYPOTHESES**

Regardless of the market attitude construct, a review of the studies shows that the first emphasis on empirical research has been on the combined (versus individual) effects of the market attitude elements. Yet, the study of market attitude as a hybrid construct might result in ignoring refinement due to its multidimensionality. Therefore, such practice might lead to incomplete or misleading conclusions about the usefulness to firms of specific market attitude's elements (Frambach et al., 2003). The present study, therefore, follows an element-level approach and examines direct effects of each of market attitude's elements – information range, information dispersion and reactive – on innovation and new product performance (Figure 1). By distributing market attitude into elements, we are able to examine the relationships between market attitude and innovation, and market attitude and new product performance. Specifically, we can decide whether and how each element affects innovation and new product performance. The current model also examines indirect effects of information range, information dispersion and reactive on new product performance via innovation. According to studies that suggest a positive relationship between market information procedure and innovation (Moorman, 1995; Ottum and Moore, 1997), and between innovation and new product performance (Carbonell and Rodriguez, 2006). Finally, according to the studies on information use (Homburg et al., 2004) and organization learning (Deeter-Schmelz and Ramsey, 2003), the model suggests causal links among the market attitude elements. In this research, information range refers to the area to which a firm collects primary and secondary information from the organization stakeholders (i.e. competitors, suppliers, mediators) and market forces (i.e. social, cultural, regulatory and macroeconomic factors) (Matsuno et al., 2000). Information dispersion refers to the degree to which information is delivering, shared and discussed among applicable users within an organization by formal and unofficial means (Moorman, 1995; Akgu'n et al., 2002). Studies on new product development include that information range can lead to shorter new product development cycle times. Information conference gives new product development teams an opportunity to learn, and therefore an opportunity to act on that information more quickly (Lynn et al., 2003). Slater and Narver (1995) have stated that the ability to rally information from customers and competitors gives companies an advantage and efficiency of their responses to opportunities and threats. Information dispersion is also critical to drive new products to begin more rapidly (Gupta et al., 1986; Cooper and Kleinschmidt, 1991). Effective information dispersion decreases development time by promoting communication, cooperation and increasing goal among the parties involved in the development procedure (Dougherty, 1992; Moorman, 1995). Open sharing of information across the parties involved in the development procedure leads to better understanding of the product claimants, and the range of each party's capabilities and limitations. Procedure the preceding disputes, it has been stated that high levels of information entering and moving within an organization could also have negative effects on innovation (Barczak and Sultan, 2001; Blazevic et al., 2003; Park et al. 2009).

First, an information rich environment reduces the speed of sense-making, as analysts must form through and allocate meaning to data that often lack direct comparability (Jaworski et al., 2002). Second, procedure too much information during the development procedure can also overwhelm the decision-makers' cognitive capacities, thus in response they may conduct limited searches and make satisfying decisions (Cyert and March, 1963; Zirger and Hartley, 1994). Furthermore, because of the much of time spent in analyzing productive information, the information may be out of date by the time the data are synthesized. Without correct information at critical period in the procedure, product development is extended as product and procedure designs are modified, reworked or re-created (Zirger and Hartley, 1994). On the basis of the preceding discussion, we suggest that information range and information dispersion will have a positive influence on innovation. However, there is an upper limit to the amount of collected and shared information helpful to the procedure, beyond which new product development may actually be slowed. Thus:

**H1.** There is a reversed U-shaped relationship between information range and innovation.

**H2.** There is a reversed U-shaped relationship between information dispersion and innovation.

Reactive is action taken in response to information in other word created and dispersed (Jaworski and Kohli, 1993). It has been disputed that responding to market information is likely to claim time to happen and therefore, can increase the time collaborated with new product development activities. The reasoning for this is that managers will claim time to think about the information, question key hypothesis about the markets, theorize about the efficiency of option turn to, and challenge one and another's ideas (Rich, 1981). In addition, consequential time is demand for managers to acquire an esteem for market information (Barabba and Zaltman, 1991), and its producers (Moorman et al., 1992). Acquires this viewpoint, it might be disputed that, although firstly reactive to market information can have little or no positive influence on innovation, as the frequency with which a firm responds to market information increases, reactive has greater influence on innovation. Studies on organization learning produces support for this dispute. Thus, studies on organizational learning indicate that organizations learn through experience (Huber, 1991). Learning collected from experience helps create more effective organizational paths (Cohen and Levinthal, 1990). Sarin and McDermott (2003) state that with experience, organizations become more expert at incorporate and using market information. In particular, as organizations apply experiential-based knowledge to decision making, they make less mistakes and quicker decisions (Eisenhardt, 1989; Jaworski et al., 2002), leading to faster time to market (Meyer, 2001; Sarin and McDermott, 2003). On the basis of the above discussion, we dispute that low levels of reactive to market information are forecast to have little or no positive influence on innovation. However, reactive to market information will have greater effects on innovation. Therefore:

**H3.** There is a curvilinear (J-shaped) relationship between reactive and innovation.

Information range is forecast to have a positive control on new product performance. Moorman (1995) stresses that information acquisition will lead to improved performance as it make possible decision makers to better recognize marketing opportunities and threats for better positioning in the marketplace. Cooper and Kleinschmidt (1986) discovered that the developers of successful new products had a deep understanding of user's needs and wants, did a thorough market and competitive analysis, and used regular and in depth customers' infractions. Ottum and Moore (1997), Lynn et al. (2000) and Brockman and Morgan (2003) discovered a positive relation between information acquisition and new product performance. Therefore:

**H4.** Information has a positive effect on new product performance.

It is disputed that information dispersion can increase new product performance. Information dispersion is likely to increase the degree to which organizational members share a vision of marketing strategy design and performing (Sinkula, 1994). In studying the organizational significant to new product success, Ayers et al. (1997) discovered a direct correlation between high interaction and information exchange between R&D and marketing personnel and new product success rates.

**H5.** Information dispersion has a positive effect on new product performance.

Reactive to market information is forecast to have a positive effect on new product performance. Studies dispute that high level of information employment increases efficiency of decision-making and performing which, in turn, will result in greater new product performance (Ottum and Moore, 1997; Moorman, 1995). Empirical evidence supports a positive relationship between market information employment and new product performance (Gotteland and Boule, 2006).

**H6.** Reactive to market information has a positive effect on new product performance.

Research suggests innovation uses a real positive influence on new product performance results. Cooper and Kleinschmidt (1994) showed that getting products to market schedule has a positive connection with financial performance of a new product project. Ali et al. (1995) reported that faster product development leads to shorter break-even time. Gupta and Souder's (1998) find that short cycle-time companies show greater sales, profit and return on equity than longer cycle-time companies. According to Pearce (2002), the excellent revenues enjoyed by Hewlett-Packard in the laser printing technology, digital photography, wireless information distribution, and e-commerce imagining fields can be attributed to the company's emphasis on. Thus, we suggest that:

**H7.** Innovation has a positive effect on new product performance.

Information range is forecast to use a positive effect on information dispersion and reactive (Akgün et al., 2006). Zaltman (1986) argued that if a firm has a tendency to conference information, it is more likely that the information will be shared and used (Zaltman, 1986). Homburg et al. (2004) dispute that since information range is costly, managers who decide to collect information on customer and competitors could be under load to not hold back this information but rather distribute and use it in the organization.

**H8/H9.** Information range has a positive effect on information dispersion and reactive.

Information dispersion is forecast to have a positive influence on reactive (Akgün et al., 2006). Menon and Varadarajan (1992), stated that as the amount of communication flows within an organization increases, information is viewed with less caution and hostility. A different dispute is that once the information is distributed across different departments and employees, there will be load to respond to the knowledge (Homburg et al., 2004).

**H10.** Information dispersion has a positive effect on reactive.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Sample and data collection

The target population for the study was from the industrial organization listing of Iranian manufacturing firms. We focused on the following manufacturing sectors: food, chemicals, plastics, and transportation. From each industry, only firms with 25 or more employees were chosen, a total of 825 firms made up the target population. A questionnaire was distributed to the person in charge of new product development activities at each company. Of the 825 surveys originally distributed, 494 completed questionnaires were returned, compliant a response rate of 53.3 percent. To test for non-response bias we compared early with late respondents as suggested by Armstrong and Overton (1977). No consequential differences were discovered in the mean responses for any of the builds of this study. Chi-square analyses showed no consequential differences between our sample and the population it was attracted from in terms of industry distribution, employee number and, company sales. Table I shows the sample and population distribution by industry, employee number, and company sales. Almost 70 percent of the responding firms were in the business-to-business sector. The respondents were 25 percent general managers, 17 percent marketing directors, and 58 percent technical R&D directors. Results from analysis of variance and multiple comparison tests showed no statistically consequential differences on the mean responses on any of the builds included in this study across respondent's with different functional backgrounds and across firms from different industries. Innovation and new product performance are tested at the project level. Specifically, respondents were asked to base their answers on a new product project of the firm. The new product must have been on the market for more than 6 months to ensure that the firm had sufficient data on the resulting performance. The core measurements of market attitude were calculated at the firm level. New product performance was calculated using four indicators from Lynn et al. (2000): (1) in general performance; (2) profits; (3) sales; and (4) market share. These variables were calculated relative to the objectives set for the project. Innovation was calculated through three items taken from previous studies. The fact that relative measures were used enabled us to compare different product development projects. Information range was calculated through five items: products, customer satisfaction, supplier and mediators, the activity of competitors and, changes in the market. Four items draw on information dispersion: the information collected is shared among all the departments, taken from documents, transmitted to all departments, and discussed among all departments. Finally, four items belong to reactive: the information collected is used to respond to changes in our consumers' needs, review our product development attempt, respond to competitors' actions, and deal with customers' protest. We include relative firm size, market possible and competitive strength as control variables because of the possible to control new product performance (Henard and Szymanski, 2001). Relative firm size was calculated as the size of the business relative to that of its largest competitor (Slater and Narver, 1994). Competitive strength and market possible were calculated through multi-item scales taken from Ali (2000). Two types of measures were used in this survey: (1) useful multi-item; and (2) reflective multi-item. Following the recent work of Coltman et al. (2008), the scales for the measurement of market attitude were reflecting on are useful. The reflective multi-item measures used were new product performance, innovation market and competitive strength. To obtain unidimensionality for reflective multi-item variables, the item-to-total correlations were calculated for each item, taking one scale at a time. Items for which these correlations were lower than 0.32 were removed (Saxe and Weitz, 1982). Calculating reliability coefficients examined the reliability of each sanitized, unidimensional scale. Alpha coefficients values were equal or greater than 0.65, which indicates good reliability. Internal material coherence and convergent validity were examined by



performing a corroborative factor analysis using AMOS. The results showed that the measurement model fit the data well ( $\chi^2 = 52.75$ ,  $df = 34$ ,  $p < 0.02$ ; normed fit index (NFI) = 0.89; comparative fit index (CFI) = 0.93; root mean square error of approach (RMSEA) = 0.03). Hybrid reliabilities calculated were equal to or passed the standard of 0.6 suggested by Bagozzi and Yi (1988). Values of average variance removed also produced satisfactory results. Standardized item loadings for all structures were greater than 0.5 and non-significant ( $p < 0.05$ ), which evidences good convergent validity (Bagozzi et al., 1991). Together the results of the tests suggest that the reflective measures included in this study control sufficient unidimensionality, reliability and validity. Diamantopoulos and Winklhofer (2001) suggested that the quality of the index construction for a useful scale should be estimated in terms of indicator co-linearity. To estimate indicator co-linearity for each measure, we ran regression analysis of all items (as independent variables) on each single item (dependent variable). For the information range scale, variance inflation factor (max VIF = 1.5) and condition numbers (max CN = 17.5) show that co-linearity did not seem to pose a problem. In relation to the information dispersion and reactive measures, results offered no indication that co-linearity was an interesting (max VIF = 2.1; max CN = 12.2; max VIF = 1.2; max CN = 11.5, respectively). Typically, VIFs over 8 and CNs over 25 show critical multicollinearity problems. Hence, all items were retained. The discriminant validity of the market attitude sub measurement can be questioned. To check the discriminant validity of these scales, we used Anderson and Gerbing's (1988) procedure and checked whether the confidence intervals for the estimated correlation coefficients included the value of 1. Results show that the confidence intervals for the correlation coefficients for information range-information dispersion (0.44, 0.65), information range reactive (0.52, 0.66), and information dispersion reactive (0.38, 0.57) did not include the value of 1, providing evidence for discriminant validity of the scales. A similar procedure was used for new product performance, innovation, market possible and competitive strength with similar results. For hypotheses testing analysis, scale items were averaged to create a single measure of each construct. Before testing the hypotheses, we examined the correlation matrix for the hybrid scales of the structures. The signs of the bivariate correlations seem to be coherent with the hypothesized relationships (Table II).

#### 4. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

We used analysis with maximum estimation to produce parameter calculate roughly for the structural equations system (Figure 1). The hypothesis of multivariate normality was tested using Mardia's (1970) multivariate kurtosis statistic. The large value of Mardia's statistic signals the attendance of non-normality. In this case, bootstrap simulation was performed for purposes of estimating confidence interval around the parameter calculate roughly (Stine, 1989). Quadratic terms of information range, information dispersion and reactive were included in the model to test for curvilinear relationships. Information range, information dispersion and reactive were mean-centered prior to the creation of the squared terms. A series of post hoc power analyses were completed using the G\*POWER 3 computer software (Faul et al., 2007) to decide the p-values for the statistical analyses in this study. We calculated power values for each dependent variable in the model. In all occasion, power values for a medium effect size and Type I error ( $\alpha$ ) of 0.05 exceed Cohen's (1988) recommended criterion of 0.75. Hence, a value of 0.05 seems to be appropriate to judge the statistical significance of the parameter calculate roughly in the analysis (Table III). The first model was a fully saturated model, a typical case of a path analysis. However, since several paths seemed non-consequential, we re-estimated the model by dropping the inconsequential paths one at a time in order to reach a more economical model. The revised model produced a good fit to the data ( $\chi^2/df = 22.38/14$ , NFI = 0.89, CFI = 0.94, RMSEA = 0.04). The model explained 33 percent, 40 percent, 11 percent and 14 percent, respectively, of the variance in information dispersion, reactive, innovation, and new product performance. The amount of variance explained implies that firms have several other avenues to improve innovation and new product performance. To consider the role of innovation as an incomplete arbitrator of the relationships between market attitude's three main elements and new product performance, an optional model which did not include the innovation new product performance path was tested. Results from the  $\chi^2$  difference test showed that the hypothesized model fit the data consequentially better than the optional model ( $\Delta\chi^2 = 21.14$ ,  $\Delta df = 1$ ,  $p < 0.00$ ). Further insight is produced by using the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and the coherent version of AIC (CAIC) (Byrne, 2001). The model with the smallest AIC and CAIC values is the best approaches for the information in the data, relative to other models reflect on. The AIC and CAIC values for the hypothesized model (AIC = 69.7, CAIC = 156.7) are smaller than for the competitor model (AIC = 95.9, CAIC = 175.9). In general, these results produce support for the role of innovation as an incomplete arbitrator in the market attitude-new product performance relationship. A similar procedure was used to test for the indirect effects of information range and information dispersion on innovation and new product performance via information dispersion and reactive. Results from the  $\chi^2$  difference test show that the hypothesized model fits the data consequentially better than the optional model ( $\Delta\chi^2 = 238.91$ ,  $\Delta df = 3$ ,  $p < 0.00$ ). H1, recommended a reversed U-shaped relationship between information range and innovation. To support the reversed U-shaped curvilinear relationship the quadratic term of information range must be negative and consequential. As shown in Table III, both the linear and the quadratic terms of information range are not consequential, failing to support H1. Regarding H2, results show that the linear term of information dispersion is positive and consequential ( $b = 0.16$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), but the quadratic term is not. Hypothesis H2 is, thus, rejected. H3 forecast that reactive would have a J-shaped relationship with innovation. J-curves are convex because their graphs bend upward, away from the origin. Convex curves are recognized by a positive second derivative (Bers and Karal, 1976). A J-curve also has an endpoint that is higher than its beginning. As shown in Figure 2, H3 is supported. The second incomplete derivative of innovation with respect to reactive is positive ( $\beta^2$  innovation /  $\beta$  reactive = 0.9), and the effect of reactive on innovation is greater for firms with higher levels of reactive than for firms with lower levels. No support was discovered for hypotheses H4 and H5, which forecast a positive effect of information range and information dispersion on new product performance, respectively. H6 assumed a positive relationship between reactive and new product performance. The results support this hypothesis ( $\beta = 0.15$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Coherent with H7, innovation is related positively to new product performance ( $\beta = 0.27$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). Support was discovered for H8 and H9, which forecast a positive effect of information range on information dispersion and reactive ( $\beta = 0.54$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ;  $\beta = 0.46$ ,  $p < 0.01$ , respectively). As forecast in H10, there was a positive relationship between information dispersion and reactive ( $\beta = 0.16$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ).

#### 5. DISCUSSION

The current study adds new evidence about the interdependences among information range, information dispersion and reactive. In relation to the effect of the market attitude's elements on new product performance, our finding shows a positive relationship between reactive to market information and new product performance. This finding is coherent with the studies of Moorman (1995) and Akgu'n et al. (2006), which suggest that utilizing market-related information during the new product development procedure is a key determinant of the new product's marketplace success. The parameter calculates roughly for the direct paths linking information range and information dispersion with new product performance were discovered not consequential. Instead, our findings show that information range and information dispersion control new product performance indirectly through the arbitrating role of reactive. Therefore according to previous research claiming that information gathered and/or shared is of no consequence, if it is not used to make decisions (Homburg et al., 2004; Akgu'n et al., 2006). It is also coherent with Hult et al.'s (2005) stated that information range and information dispersion do not directly control performance. Instead, the activities collaborated with information range and dispersion allows the firm to enact better actions, which in turn increase performance. Hence, unless an organization responds to information, neither the acquisition nor the dispersion of information will result in externally directed actions that will lead to greater new product performance (Pentland, 1995; Homburg et al., 2004). Therefore this study claims that innovation somewhat arbitrates the relationship between market attitude and new product performance. In other words, market attitude firms achieve superior new product performance; because of their advantage which new products are developed and brought to the market. Our results show information range has a positive influence on information dispersion and reactive. Information dispersion is, in turn, positively correlated with reactive. Opposed to our expectations, the current findings do not support reversed U-shaped relationships between information range and innovation, and information dispersion and innovation. Optionally, the results show that information dispersion directly, and information range indirectly (via dispersion and reactive), have a positive effect on innovation. The finding suggesting that information range effects innovation indirectly rather than directly is coherent with existing studies that disputes that the take fact of information availability does not lead to quicker innovation. If market information is collected but not distributed or used, then the act of information range has little, if any, effect on cycle time or other measures of performance (Barczak and Sultan, 2001). According to our results, high levels of information range and information dispersion seem not to have negative effects on innovation. The explanation may lie in the organization's own strategies to cope with information excessive load. Therefore, it shows that reactive to market information improves innovation. Low levels of reactivity seem to have little or no influence on innovation. However, as the frequency with

which a firm responds to market information increases, reactive has greater influence on innovation. This supports the dispute that it takes some time, experience and knowledge to be able to get to the point where market employment procedures result in time savings for the firm. Expert decision makers, guided by their more detailed and comprehensive scheme, are more likely to make faster decisions. This is also coherent with the dispute that operating in the firm's experience field leads to new combinations and re-combinations of information and knowledge that increase product development efficiency (Atuahene-Gima et al., 2005).

A managerial implications follow from these results are: First, from a managerial viewpoint, the explanation of the directions through which market attitude effects performance is vital. Our findings suggest that time-to market measures may be useful from tracking the influence of marketing attitude on new product performance for managers who implement strategic procedure-measurement frame works, such as the Balanced Scorecard (Kaplan and Norton, 1992). Second, the correlations between information range, information dispersion and reactive were reasonably high. From a managerial viewpoint, this suggests that companies should focus on their information range and dispersion procedures to increase reactive to market information. Regarding information range activities, an important idea is that market information pertains, not just, to current needs, but to future needs as well. Also, the range of market information relies on a host of completing mechanisms including unofficial discussions with customers and trade partners, analysis of sales reports and customer databases and formal market research (Kohli and Jaworski, 1990). In relation to information dispersion, studies stress that formal information dispersion mechanisms should be complete with unofficial mechanisms. Unofficial dispersion mechanisms produce greater openness and clarification opportunities, where formal communications tend to be more credible and verifiably, therefore encouraging the use of information specifically if it is contradictory to receiver's prior beliefs. This is particularly suitable for managers interested in ensuring that market information is acted on by its receivers (Maltz and Kohli, 1996). Third, our findings show that reactive to market information improves innovation, but only after a certain level of reactive has been arrived. That is, it takes some time, experience and knowledge for a firm to be able to get to the point where it can quickly evaluate information, understand it and relate to it (Weitz et al., 1986). Fourth, our finding shows that, among the three elements of market attitude, reactive to market information has the greatest influence on innovation and new product performance. Therefore, it is specifically important that firms encourage the use of market information in their organizations. Existing research produces several suggestions about the factors that encourage reactive to market information in organizations. In general, elder managers must themselves be certain of the value of reactive to market information and communicate their obligation to younger employees. Also, market attitude is almost certain to lead to a few projects or programs that do not succeed. To this respect, supportive reaction to lack of success is critical for promoting reactive to market information. Finally, elder managers can help encourage reactive by changing reward systems from being completely finance based to being at the lowest partly market based (Kohli and Jaworski, 1990). According to the academic point of view, this research makes two important contributions to the marketing strategy and new product development studies. First, by distributing market attitude into the elements of information range, information dispersion and reactive, the study produces a closer examination into whether and how each of the elements of market attitude affects innovation and new product performance. To this respect, clearly different effects were discovered for each of the three elements of market attitude. Second, the results show that the effects of information range and information dispersion on innovation and new product performance are arbitrated by reactive to market information. Our limitations of the present study is: First, Grinstein (2008) discovered market attitude to be more positively collaborated with new product performance in countries that are high rather than low on power distance. To ensure the generalizability of our findings beyond the Iran context, additional research is needed in countries with different levels of power distance. Second, our respondents estimated new product development projects after their completion, which raises concerns about retrospective justification bias. Since our informants produced their estimate of the firm's level of market attitude in the context of other measures, it is less likely that they paid attention to their estimate with their knowledge of the new product results (Moorman and Miner, 1997). Third, a single key informant produced the data in each company for independent and dependent variables. While it is not our plan to minimize the possible effect of response bias, it is believed that this bias was not a major problem in our sample. Thus, the study produced evidence of discriminant validity between the builds. Moreover, results from the Harman's one-factor test (Podsakoff et al., 2003) showed that there were five factors with an eigenvalue greater than 1 and that the first factor only accounted for 27.8 percent of the total variance explained. Nevertheless, it is important that future studies validate these findings using multiple data sources. Finally, in this study, we based our analysis on perceptual data. Objective values can only be explained within the framework of a particular type of industry or product. Kirca et al. (2005), discovered that subjective measures of performance produce higher market attitude-performance correlations than those obtained when objective calculated are used. Future research introducing objective measures is suggested. Apart from the necessary improvements in the measurement procedure, some other lines of further research can be suggested. First, this study does not examine the issue of variations in the quality of market attitude (Jaworski and Kohli, 1996). Firms may have a market attitude, but the quality of their market directed behaviors may be weak relative to other firms (Day, 1994). Resources that control the quality of market directed behaviors are arguably as necessary as a market attitude itself (Baker and Sinkula, 1999); which leaves an interesting topic for future research. Second, empirical evidence suggests that firm-specific factors such as managerial procedures, and organizational structures and capabilities can affect the organization's employment of the market information (Menon and Varadarajan, 1992). Finally, it could be interesting to investigate the arbitrating effect of other variables such as product quality, customer satisfaction or new product creativity (Kirca et al., 2005).

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## FIGURES

FIGURE 1: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

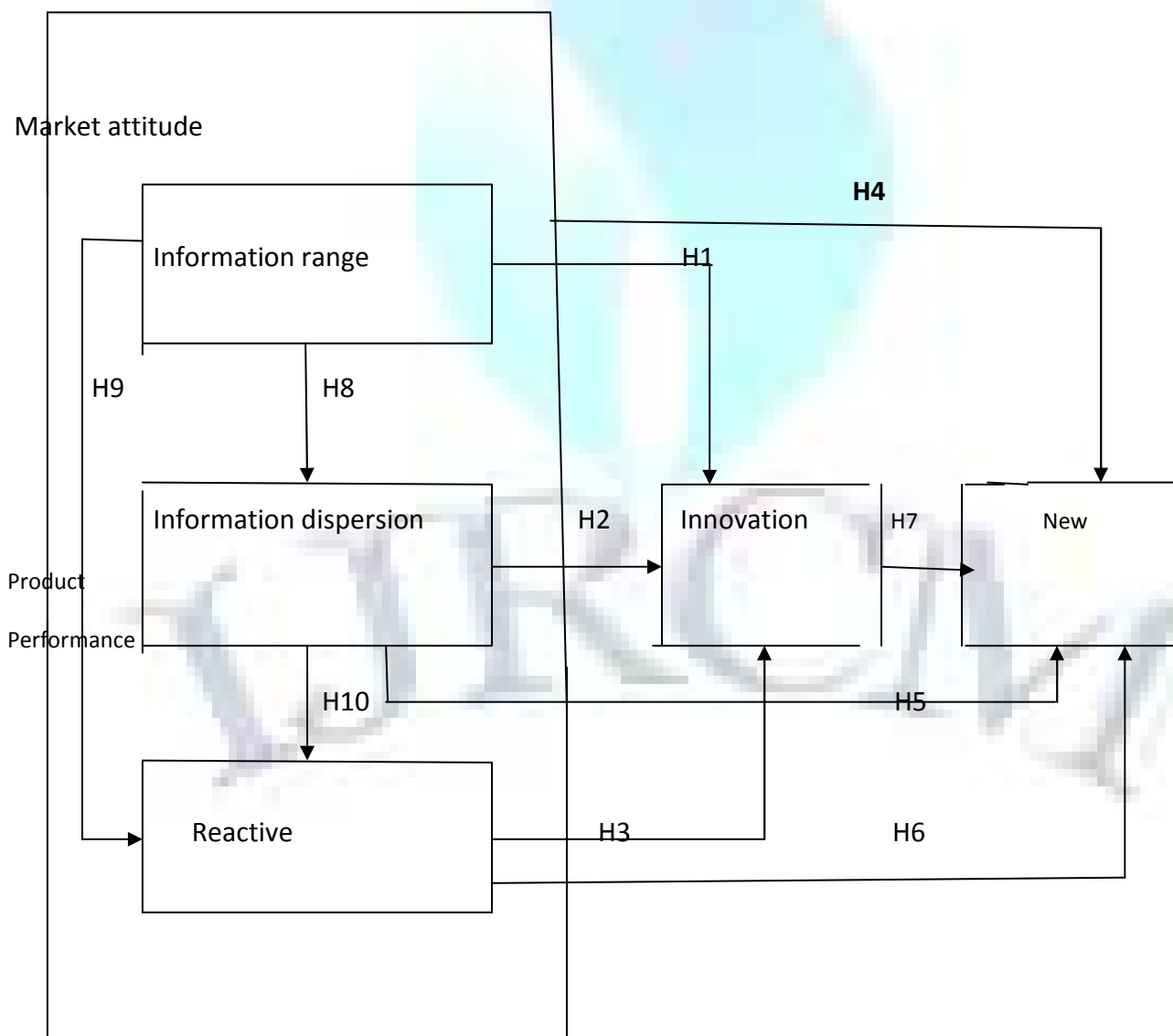
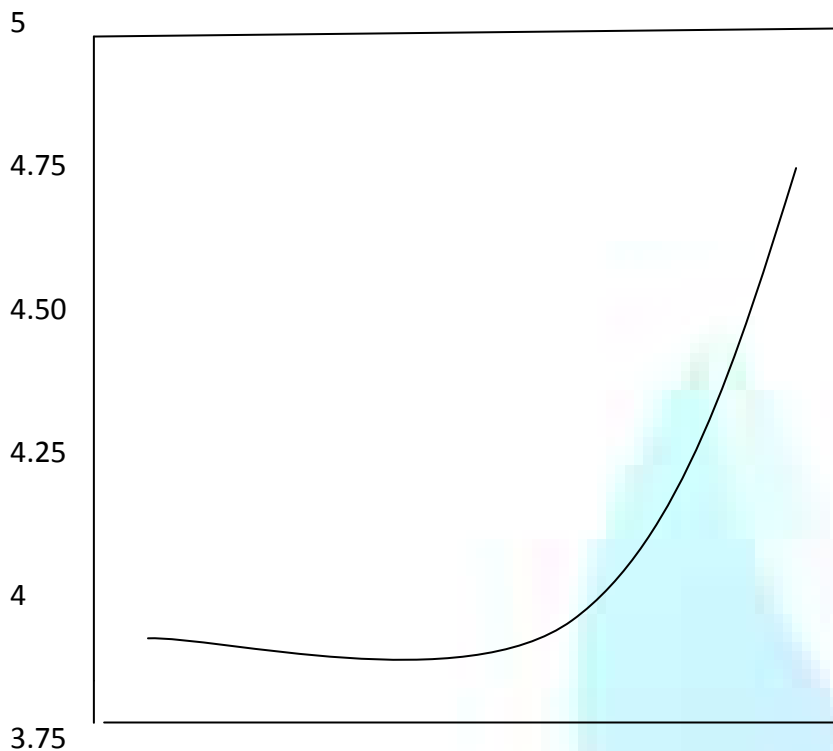


FIGURE 2: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REACTIVE TO MARKET INFORMATION AND INNOVATION



## TABLES

TABLE I: SAMPLE AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

	Percentage of firms in the sample	Percentage of firms in the population
Food	19.2	20.8
Chemical	16.2	20.6
Plastic	13.6	12.5
Electrical equipment	19.2	13.7
Transportation	13.3	13.8
Number of employees		
25-40	14.6	18.7
41-70	11.5	16.2
71-100	15.3	16.6
101-150	11.4	13.3
151-200	14.1	14.3
>200	22.4	15.2
Sales,		
< 10.5	12.4	12.3
10.5-25.0	22.3	31.2
25.1-35.5	18.9	13.6
35.6-45.0	7.8	8.9
45.1-65.0	13.2	10.6
>120	13.4	11.0

TABLE II: DESCRIPTIVE AND PEARSON CORRELATIONS

	Mean	SD	Range	1	2	3	4	5	6
NP performance	4.8	1.12	1.0-7.0						
Innovation	3.76	1.07	1.2-3.0	0.32**					
Intelligence generation	4.87	0.80	2.2-1.0	0.15**	0.20**				
Intelligence dissemination	3.90	1.12	1.2-4.0	0.16**	0.25**	0.55**			
Responsiveness	4.97	0.90	3.1-1.0	0.24**	0.23**	0.60**	0.48**		
Firm size	3.90	1.20	1.0-1.0	0.02	0.04	0.17**	0.11*	0.10*	
Competitive strength	3.18	1.29	1.0-2.0	-0.02	-0.11*	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05

Notes: Significance levels: \*p, 0:05; \*\*p, 0:01



TABLE III: PATH ANALYSIS RESULTS: STANDARDIZED PARAMETER ESTIMATES

	Hypothesized model		Revised model	
Hypothesized relationships				
information range →Information dispersion	0.52	0.46, 0.61 **	0.53	0.43, 0.61 **
information range →reactive	0.55	0.36, 0.53 **	0.55	0.36, 0.53 **
Information dispersion →reactive	0.16	0.10, 0.25 **	0.16	0.10, 0.25 **
information range → Innovation	-0.04	-0.13, 0.09		
information range → Innovation	0.00	-0.10, 0.9		
Information dispersion → Innovation	0.14	0.04, 0.25 **	0.16	0.06, 0.26 **
Information dispersion→ Innovation	-0.05	- 0.15, 0.04		
reactive → Innovation	0.13	0.04, 0.27 *	0.13	0.04, 0.23 *
reactive <sup>2</sup> → Innovation	0.11	0.04, 0.20*	0.10	0.04, 0.16 *
information range → NP performance	-0.04	-0.16, 0.07		
Information dispersion →NP performance	0.05	-0.8, 0.15		
reactive → NP performance	0.13	0.03, 0.26 *	0.13	0.07, 0.23 *
Innovation→NP performance	0.23	0.13, 0.33 **	0.26	0.16, 0.35 **
Control relationships				
Firm size→Information dispersion	0.06	-0.03, 0.13		
Competitive strength→Information dispersion	-0.03	-0.9, 0.05		
Firm size→ reactive	0.01	-0.04, 0.06		
Competitive strength→reactive	0.05	-0.02, 0.10		
Firm size→Innovation	-0.02	-0.10, 0.07		
Competitive strength→ Innovation	-0.10	-0.20, 15.04 *	-0.14	-0.24, 20.03 *
Firm size→ NP performance	0.04	-0.05, 0.10		
Competitivestrength→NP performance	-0.03	-0.10, 0.04		
R <sup>2</sup> of Information dispersion	0.33		0.32	
R <sup>2</sup> of reactive	0.40		0.39	
R <sup>2</sup> of innovation	0.10		0.9	
R <sup>2</sup> of new product performance	0.13		0.12	

Significance levels: \*p, 0:05; \*\*p, 0:01

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