

Economic Inequality, Business and Innovation

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Abstract:

Research in a number of disciplines (other than business) has shown the negative relationship between economic inequality and human development. As creators and distributors of wealth in a society, business has a major role to play in economic inequality. As entities embedded in social structures, organizations are affected by larger society. In this backdrop, drawing on a range of evidence, I suggest that high levels of income inequality inhibit the generation and maintenance of social capital. Declines in social capital, in turn, inhibit future value creation in organizations by eroding the conditions necessary for knowledge exchange and combination. I briefly present empirical tests underway to examine these propositions at multiple levels of analysis.

Speaker's Profile:

Hari Bapuji is currently an Associate Professor at University of Manitoba. He has a PhD from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, MBA Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, India and B.Eng. Osmania University, India. His research interests include Organizational learning and knowledge management, Crises at the intersection of organization and society, such as product safety crisis and global financial crisis. Click here for detailed profile.

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