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The Influence of External Support, Social Capital and Entrepreneurial Attitude Orientation on Social Entrepreneurial Intentions: The Mediating Role of Psychological Capital

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Abstract

A recent development in entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship (SE) aims to generate social benefit for its recipients. the tools that social entrepreneurs can use to preserve their mental health (MWB), which is crucial for carrying out their social missions. In order to scientifically investigate the predictive values of four categories of resources—personality, external support, and social impact—for mental well-being, the current study takes a psychological approach. Studying the internal psychological antecedents that may support the mental health of Tunisian social entrepreneurs is the aim of this study. To do this, a conceptual model that takes into account external support (social support, institutional support), the perception of social influence, and personality traits (openness, self-confidence trait, and self-transcendence) has been put forth. The effects of business endeavors on society Studying the internal psychological antecedents that may support the mental health of Tunisian social entrepreneurs is the aim of this study. To do this, a conceptual model that takes into account external support (social support, institutional support), the perception of social influence, and personality traits (openness, self-confidence trait, and self-transcendence) has been put forth.The social impact of entrepreneurial endeavors to observe how they affect the social entrepreneur's general well-being and job happiness. Based on a broad sample of 250 social entrepreneurs from various sectors in Tunisia, structural equation modeling validated all of the model's hypotheses. The theoretical and managerial ramifications of the survey results were examined. The theoretical and administrative ramifications of the survey's findings were examined.

Keywords: *External Support, Social Entrepreneurial Intentions, Role of Psychological Capital.*

Introduction

Studying the internal psychological antecedents that may support the mental health of Tunisian social entrepreneurs is the aim of this study. To do this, a conceptual model that takes into account external support (social support, institutional support), the perception of social influence, and personality traits (openness, self-confidence trait, and self-transcendence) has been put forth. The social impact of entrepreneurial endeavors to observe how they affect the social entrepreneur's general well-being and job happiness. Based on a broad sample of 250 social entrepreneurs from various sectors in Tunisia, structural equation modeling validated all of the model's hypotheses. The theoretical and managerial ramifications of the survey results were examined. The theoretical and administrative ramifications of the survey's findings were examined. Research on SEs has been steadily expanding over the past 30 years and continues to draw interest from academics in a variety of fields (Bacq, and Kickul, 2022). Consequently, important findings have been established about, for example, the emergence and motivation of social entrepreneurship (Kruse et al., 2021), the impact of cultural and economic conditions on SE-activity (Stephan, U.; et al., 2015), or the diversity of SE-activities (Weaver, 2017).

Additionally, it is well known that SE activity has a (mostly good) social impact on its recipients and society (for a summary, see Rawhouser et al. (2019). Research on the effects of SE activity on social entrepreneurs themselves, namely their mental well-being (MWB), or level of happiness, is still lacking, nevertheless. H. Rawhouser et al. (2019). This is surprising, as MWB is not only essential for the proper functioning of human beings and their performance capacity (Ryff, 2017), but it is also considered an important criterion that entrepreneurs use to evaluate the success of their careers (Wach, D.et al. 20116).

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Therefore, to maintain the socially beneficial effects of SE activity, it is essential to understand what makes social entrepreneurs happy. However, recent studies show not only that academic work on the well-being of social entrepreneurs is practically non-existent (Stephan, U et al.2022) or that it is more concerned with how social entrepreneurial activity can contribute to the well-being of society (Torres and Augusto 2020), but that it even tends to emphasize the risks and adverse effects of entrepreneurial activity on the well-being of social entrepreneurs. To illustrate this point, the literature on mission drift, that is, the risk that for-profit SEs fail to manage conflicting financial and social objectives and end up losing their hybridity, highlights the extremely significant challenges faced by social entrepreneurs (see Grimes et al. (2019) for an overview). Therefore, the risk of failure for SEs and the risk for social entrepreneurs to suffer from mental illnesses such as burnout are assumed to be even higher compared to commercial entrepreneurship (Vandor and Meyer,2021).

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Conceptual Framework of the Research

Social entrepreneurship has become a scientifically institutionalized field with a growing number of high-caliber publications in prominent entrepreneurship outlets and its own scholarly journals thanks to the efforts of scholars from a variety of academic disciplines, including economics, sociology, and psychology (Sassmannshausen, S.P.; Volkmann, C. 2018). For instance, earlier studies clarified the significance of values in SEs (Kruse, P.; 2019), social entrepreneurial nascence [8,36], and contextual factors that (dis-)favor SE-creation (Stephan, U.; 2018). Furthermore, it is widely known that SEs support their beneficiaries and have a beneficial social influence in their communities (Rawhouser, H.; 2019) in both developed (Stephan, U.2019) and developing countries (Corner, P.D.; Ho, 2010). Although well-being generally refers to people's functioning and overall quality of life [Warr, P. 2010], mental well-being (MWB) is specifically focused on people's mental health, or how much they consider themselves to be "happy. This idea that MWB is a unique concept that goes beyond simply the absence of mental illness is not only theoretically solid, but it also has deep roots in biobehavioral systems, as subsequent research has shown. For example, serotonin and oxytocin are released to promote (mental) well-being (Patel, P.C.; 2019), whereas stress-related biomarkers and allostatic load are the main causes of (mental) ill-being (Liao, J.;Welsch, H. 2005). Additionally, approach conduct is the outcome of (mental) well-being as opposed to avoidance behavior, which is typically the result of (mental) illness (Hair, J.F.; Risher, J.J.; 2019). The idea of MWB has been further developed over time in a variety of fields, including public health, psychology, and medicine.

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Consequently, several distinct MWB components surfaced (for summaries, see Warr 20 and Stephan, et al., 2019).

The MWB is of interest to the current investigation. Therefore, the relationship between general and job-specific MWB is very significant. The cognitive assessment of one's work and level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with it are included in job-specific MWB. As a result, at work Job-specific MWB is frequently referred to as "job satisfaction" in fields like work psychology (Patel, P.C.; 2019). On the other hand, generic MWB is a broad cognitive assessment of people's level of life satisfaction rather than domain-specific. This includes career satisfaction and other domain-specific types, such contentment with one's private life or family.

As a result, in the labor sciences, "life satisfaction" is frequently used interchangeably Job satisfaction has been found to have a significant impact on overall MWB across a variety of occupational groups and cultural contexts 52–54]. Therefore, the relationship between general and job-specific MWB is very significant. The cognitive assessment of one's work and level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with it are included in job-specific MWB. As a result, at work Job-specific MWB is frequently referred to as "job satisfaction" in fields like work psychology (Patel, P.C.; 2019).

H1.High level Entrepreneurial Attitude have a positive effect on Mental Wellbeing Entrepreneurial

On the other hand, generic MWB is a broad cognitive assessment of people's level of life satisfaction rather than domain-specific. This includes both career satisfaction and other domain-specific types, such contentment with one's private life or family. As a result, in the labor sciences, "life satisfaction" is frequently used interchangeably (Chipeta, E.M.; 2020). Job satisfaction has been found to have a significant impact on overall MWB across a variety of occupational groups and cultural contexts (Chipeta, E.M.; 2020). Due to the necessity of interacting with coworkers and/or supervisors, the majority of jobs include more than just completing tasks alone (Kruse, 2021).

Therefore, with task-specific work design, social support—that is, the degree to which a Job happiness is thought to be significantly influenced by the possibility to get guidance and support from others at one's workplace. Indeed, adding this element to the work characteristics model greatly improved its explanatory power for job satisfaction across all vocations (Chipeta. et al., 2022) and one of the most well-researched outside resources for business owners is social support. According to a SE viewpoint, networking and peer support are crucial to maintaining a social enterprise's success (for a case study and conceptual model, see Perrini, Vurro, and Costanzo (2024). The positive impact of social support has also been demonstrated in SE nascence (Stephan, 2018). This is due to a number of factors, including the chance to network with investors or enter advantageous networks and exchange best practices and experiences with peers.

H2.High level external support have a positive effect on Mental Wellbeing Entrepreneurial

Additionally, it is often accepted that social support is a valuable resource for both general MWB and entrepreneurs' MWB. Social assistance encompasses more than just career-specific guidance; it also involves the chance to meet new people, which enhances life happiness (Perrini et al, (2010). Person's social capital is the total of all the networks of relationships they own. It encompasses social connections and relationships (such as close friends and family members with business expertise), trust relationships with other network members, and network environments' members (such as banks and municipal governments), as well as standards that promote entrepreneurship (Kruse, P.;2021).

People can access current and future resources that support entrepreneurship through social capital, which comes from the connections of individual business owners, communities, networks, or societies (Hünefeld, L.; 2020). Access to potential clients, crucial knowledge about rivals, and venture funding are further benefits of social capital (Sergent, K ,2019). In order to create and execute their venture idea, people must leverage their networks and gather resources (such as financial, informational, and technological resources) throughout opportunity discovery and exploitation. People with high social capital can get support,

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resources, and influence for starting their own business, which boosts their self-esteem and eventually encourages them to do so (Rawhouser, H. et al.2018).

Additionally, those who wish to start their own business might find a suitable and encouraging social environment thanks to social capital (Eurostat, 2021). Positive feelings about entrepreneurship may be increased and perceived risk may be decreased by family members' and friends' successful experiences. People are also inspired to engage in entrepreneurship by the common norms and values that uphold and promote entrepreneurship in a community or society .Consequently, we postulate that: When people have access to personal resources like PsyCap, they can use them to focus more on their work (Van den Heuvel et al., 2010; Youssef-Morgan and Luthans, 2015; Bakker and Demerouti, 2017). For entrepreneurs, that is also true (Baron et al., 2016; Bockorny and Youssef-Morgan, 2019). More effective task completion and goal attainment are made possible by approaching work with a larger reservoir of resources (Bakker and Demerouti, 2017).

Accordingly, achieving one's goals and standards leads to a feeling of fulfillment (Youssef-Morgan and Luthans, 2015), which is a part of EWB and a sign of successful business operations (Dijkhuizen et al., 2016b; Stephan, 2018). PsyCap should therefore encourage the growth of EWB, which will allow business owners to focus more on their work . Additionally, based on Institutional Theory (North ,1991), it was discovered that so-called institutional support had an impact on (social) entrepreneurial activity. When governments provide financial, educational, or other resources, for example, it fosters a positive and encouraging ecosystem for entrepreneurs, which has been demonstrated to have a favorable impact on the success of social companies in particular (Kruse,2021) and businesses in general (Stephan, 2018).

According to research, a positive work environment lowers the likelihood of mental health issues and is associated with greater job satisfaction (Humphrey, 2007). The latter conclusion is also consistent with Bakker and Demerouti's Job Demands-Resources Model, one of the most well-known and empirically supported models on mental health and illness (Lesener, T.et al., 2019). The main premise of the paradigm is that job-related demands, including the generation of social value through entrepreneurial endeavors, can be mitigated by job-related resources, such as a positive work environment provided by institutional support. On a cutthroat market, and lower the chance of mental illness. Therefore, we anticipate that social entrepreneurs' overall MWB and job satisfaction will be positively impacted by high levels of institutional support, and we draw the following hypothesis:

H.3. Psychological Capital Moderate between External Support and Mental Wellbeing

Although there are many different ways being used and the social enterprise landscape is getting more diversified (Weaver, R.L. 2020), the main goal, which is to create social value, which binds all social entrepreneurs together and helps bring about constructive social change in society. Therefore, their primary success criterion is social impact (Rawhouser, H. et al.2018). The process of changing thought, behavior, social relationships, institutions, and social structure in order to produce positive results for people, communities, organizations, society, and/or the environment that outweigh the advantages for those who initiate such changes is known as social impact (Stephan, U.; et al. 2016). We contend that the benefits of effectively providing social impact extend beyond the beneficiaries of SEs and provide resources for employment. First, a significant factor influencing job satisfaction has been found to be success at work (for a summary and model, see Jalagat (2016).

This is motivated by the idea that people enjoy carrying out tasks that they are competent at. Second, in terms of general MWB, social entrepreneurs are mostly motivated by the desire to serve others in an altruistic and charitable manner while deciding on a career path (Shumate, M.; et al. 2014). Therefore, establishing a social enterprise that effectively has a positive social impact helps social entrepreneurs achieve one of their main life goals. In this sense, it makes sense that social entrepreneurs' work success impacts extend beyond job satisfaction and have a beneficial impact on their overall MWB. Thus, the following hypothesis is derived. The successful provision of social impact has a positive effect on social entrepreneurs' job satisfaction and general MWB.

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Methods

Sample Choice and Sampling Procedure

There were 350 social entrepreneurs in our first sample. The majority of enterprises have been in operation for more than 5 years (36.6%), 37.5% employed 11–20 people, the others employ more than 20 employees. Social entrepreneurs between the ages of 36 and 45 made up the largest percentage (37.2%), followed by those between the ages of 10 and 35 (32.4%) and those over 46 (30.4%). At first, we emailed 280 surveys to respondents, but the response rate was not up to par. In order to motivate respondents to participate in the survey, we called them during the second follow-up phase. After this initiative, the response rate increased to the size needed for PLS software's structural equation approaches (more than 200 observations for a significance threshold of 5%, Roussel and al, 2002). Using a convenience sampling strategy,A total of 250 completed questionnaires were gathered and prepared for statistical examination. This indicates a 71% response rate. With an average age of 35, 32% of the sample is female and 68% is male. Participants in the survey are asked to rate their Mental Wellbeing, their personality trait and their perception about the external support and the social impact of their activities.

Measurement of Constructs

External support resources encompass two elements. Social support, i.e. the extent to which significant others or peers appreciate and help a person in the performance of tasks. The measure was adapted from Ajzen (2002). Participants rated 4 statements - for example, "How much social support (e.g. positive feedback, help) for your business do you receive from your friends? on a 7-point Likert scale (1 = no support at all; 7 = extremely strong support). whether social entrepreneurs receive money and educational or other institutional support from national institutions, such as the government, was assessed using 3 items from a questionnaire developed by Bloom and Smith (2010), on a 7-point Likert scale (1 = almost never to 7 = very often). An example of an item: "I have succeeded in getting government agencies and representatives to financially support my efforts as a researcher.

Psychological capital was measured with the 24-item PsyCap Questionnaire (Luthans et al., 2007; Lupşa and Vîrgă, 2018). The questionnaire comprises four subscales, each with six items, and was adapted to reflect aspects of the activity as an entrepreneur: self-efficacy ("I feel confident presenting information to a group of stakeholders (clients, investors)."), resilience ("I usually take stressful things in stride in my work as an entrepreneur."), hope ("There are lots of ways around any problem in my activity as an entrepreneur."), and optimism ("I approach my activity as an entrepreneur as if every cloud has a silver lining."). The items were evaluated on a six-point Likert scale (1 = "strongly disagree", 6 = "strongly agree").

Collinearity Test (VIF) (VIF)

Table.1. Colinéarité Des Construits Explicatifs

	VIF
Entrepreneurial Attitude -> Mental wellbeing	1.234
Entrepreneurial Attitude -> Psychological Capital	1.182
External Support -> Institutional Support	1.000
External Support -> Mental wellbeing	1.353
External Support -> Psychological Capital	1.182
External Support -> Social Support	1.000
Mental wellbeing -> General Wellbeing	1.000
Mental wellbeing -> Job satisfaction	1.000
Psychological Capital -> Mental wellbeing	1.297

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The values of the VIF statistics are below 5, which means that there is no serious collinearity problem.

Psychometric Qualities of Measurement Instruments

Reliability and Convergent Validity

All AVE scores are greater than 0.5, similarly, Cronbach's alpha and Composite reliability are greater than 0.7 (Hair and al, 2014) except Cronbach Alpha for the "Job satisfaction" variable, but this can be accepted given that CR is greater than 0.6 (Fornell and Larker, 1981).

Table.2. Reliability and Convergent Validity of the Constructs

	Cronbach's alpha	Composite reliability (rho_c)	Average variance extracted (AVE)
Entrepreneurial Attitude	0.737	0.836	0.561
External Support	0.898	0.877	0.781
General Wellbeing	0.784	0.861	0.607
Institutional Support	0.804	0.872	0.631
Job satisfaction	0.705	0.803	0.577
Mental wellbeing	0.829	0.860	0.755
Psychological Capital	0.886	0.909	0.556
Social impact	0.849	0.899	0.689

Discriminant Validity

The statistics in Table 3 show that the square roots of the AVE (see Italics on the diagonal) are all greater than the inter-construct correlations (Fornell and Larker, 1981). We can therefore conclude that our constructs are reliable and valid.

Table.3. Discriminant Validity

	Entrepreu-Attitude	External Support	General Wellbeing	Institutional Support	Job satisfaction	Mental wellbeing	Psychological Capital	
Entrepreneurial Attitude	***0.749***							
External Support	0.393	***0.883***						
General Wellbeing	0.667	0.417	***0.779***					
Institutional Support	0.364	0.850	0.340	***0.795***				
Job satisfaction	0.611	0.422	0.555	0.402	***0.759***			
Mental wellbeing	0.746	0.492	0.701	0.428	0.735	***0.869***		
Psychological Capital	0.342	0.441	0.402	0.304	0.257	0.403	***0.746***	
Social Support	0.329	0.881	0.394	0.557	0.358	0.445	0.451	***0.830***

The following diagram shows the measurement model after purification Measurement Model (n=288).

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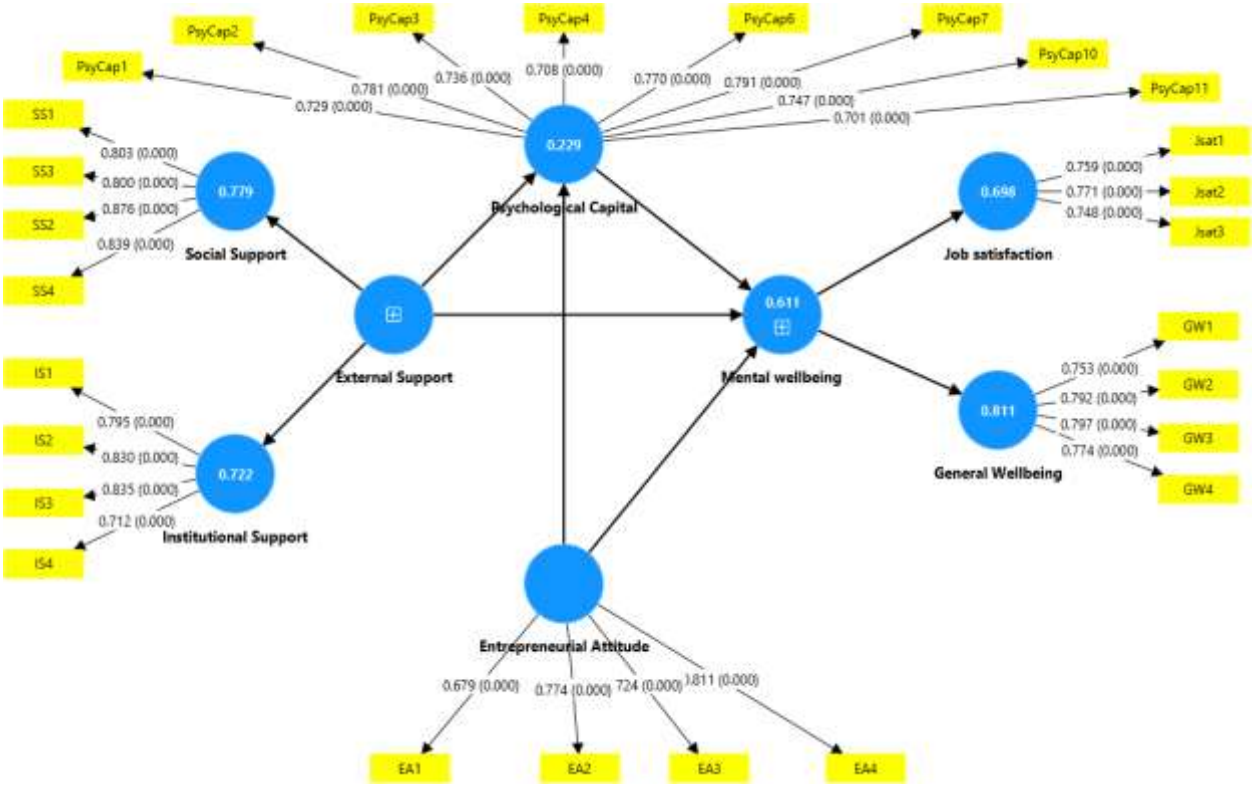
Figure 1. Measurement Model



Direct Hypothesis Testing and the Extent of Indirect Mediating Effects

All the regression coefficients (βi) reported in Table 4 are positive (>0) and significant (P<0.05), which means that hypotheses H1, H2 and H3 and their sub-hypotheses are confirmed, whereas hypothesis H.4 and its two sub-hypotheses H.4.1 and H.4.2 are rejected. As a result, the entrepreneur's psychological capital does not play the role of mediator in the relationship between the entrepreneurial attitude and the entrepreneur's Mental Wellbeing.

Table.4. Tests D'hypothèses

Hypothèses	βi	P-values	Décisions
H.1. External support---Mental Wellbeing	0.200	0.000	***Supported***
H.1.1. External Support---Job satisfaction	0.196	0.000	***Supported***
H.1.2. External Support--- General wellbeing	0.901	0.000	***Supported***
H.2. Entrepreneurial Attitude---Mental Wellbeing	0.634	0.000	***Supported***
H.2.1. Entrepreneurial Attitude---Job satisfaction	0.546	0.000	***Supported***
H.2.2. Entrepreneurial Attitude---General Wellbeing	0.589	0.000	***Supported***
H.3. Psychological Capital Moderate between External Support and Mental Wellbeing	0.036	0.029	***Supported***
H.3.1. Psychological Capital Moderate between External Support and Job satisfaction	0.030	0.029	***Supported***
H.3.2. Psychological Capital Moderate between External Support and General Wellbeing	0.032	0.030	***Supported***
H.4. Psychological Capital Moderate between Entrepreneurial Attitude and Mental Wellbeing	0.020	0.096	***Rejected***

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H.4.1. Psychological Capital Moderate between Entrepreneurial Attitude and Job Satisfaction	0.016	0.096	***Rejected***
H.4.2. H.4. Psychological Capital Moderate between Entrepreneurial Attitude and General Wellbeing	0.018	0.097	***Rejected***

Having tested the model's direct relationships, we move on to analyze the extent of mediation induced by the entrepreneur's psychological capital in the relationship linking external support and the Mental Wellbeing (H3). The extent of mediation is obtained by comparing the indirect effect with the total effect (IE/TE).

Table.5. Extent of Mediation Induced by Psychological Capital on the Relationship Between External Support and Mental Wellbeing

Hypothèses	Total Effect	Indirect Effect	Confidence intervalls 2.5%/97.5%		Type de Médiation=Indirect effect/Total Effect
H.3. Psychological Capital Moderate the relationship between the External Support and the Mental Wellbeing	0.235	0.036	0.005	0.070	0.016=0.16% Partial mediation
H.3.1 Psychological Capital Moderate the relationship between the External Support and the general wellbeing	0.212	0.030	0.004	0.063	0.14=14% Partial mediation
H.3.2 Psychological Capital Moderate the relationship between the External Support and job satisfaction	0.196	0.032	0.004	0.058	0.163=16% Partial mediation

Predictive relevance and explanatory power of the model

The R2 statistics are above 0.75 for general Wellbeing and social support, which means a substantial effect of predictive accuracy. Institutional support, job satisfaction, psychological capital and Mental Wellbeing are a little lower, but generally reflect a good explanatory power of the combined independent variables (Hair et al, 2011). The Q2 statistics are all positive, providing additional support for the predictive quality of the model (Hair and al, 2017).

Table.6. Coefficients De Détermination Et De Qualité Prédictive

	Q^2predict	**R^2**
General Wellbeing	0.459	0.811
Institutional Support	0.720	0.722
Job satisfaction	0.399	0.698
Mental wellbeing	0.587	0.611
Psychological Capital	0.208	0.229
Social Support	0.778	0.779

On the basis of these analyses, the general model of causal structures is as follows:

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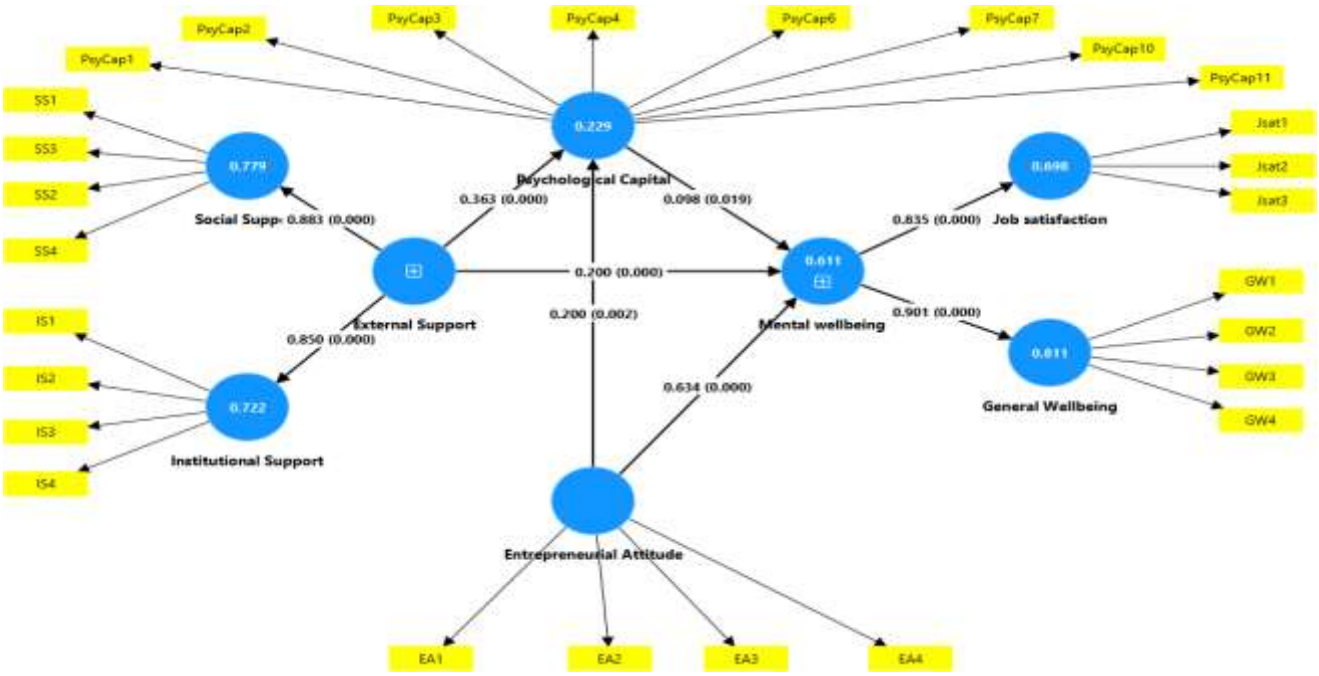
Fig 2. Structural Model



Conclusions

Through EWB, this study shows how PsyCap, a flexible personal resource, is connected to company performance. Additionally, EWB results from effective performance in the home role, where work-life balance predicts good mental health, and the work role, where job engagement leads to entrepreneurial happiness. Our results thus point to the necessity of a paradigm change. It's time to stop thinking of the This study demonstrates the relationship between PsyCap, a flexible personal resource, and business performance using EWB. Furthermore, EWB is the outcome of successful performance in both the work role, where workplace engagement leads to entrepreneurial happiness, and the home role, where work-life balance predicts excellent mental health. Thus, our findings suggest that a paradigm shift is required. At least when it comes to their mental health, it's time to stop considering the roles that entrepreneurs play at work and at home to be interchangeable.

Roles that entrepreneurs play at home and at work as being interchangeable, at least not when it comes to their mental health. Using EWB, this study illustrates the connection between corporate performance and PsyCap, a flexible personal resource. Additionally, EWB is the result of strong performance in both the home role, where work-life balance predicts excellent mental health, and the work role, where workplace engagement leads to entrepreneurial happiness. Our results therefore imply that a paradigm change is necessary. The roles that entrepreneurs perform at home and at work should no longer be seen as interchangeable, at least not when it comes to their mental health.

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