

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
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**INFORMATION PAGE ON THE ACADEMIC AND THEORETICAL
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE THESIS**

Thesis title: **The impact of Intellectual Capital and Innovation Capability on Business Sustainability: The mediating role of Management Accounting Practices in Vietnamese enterprises.**

Major: Accounting

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Ph.D student: Nguyen Thi Ngoc Bich Course: 2021-1

Academic Institution: University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH)

Academic Supervisor: 1. Dr. Tran Anh Hoa

2. Dr. Pham Tra Lam

Theoretical Contributions:

Theoretically, the study expands the theoretical foundation of the relationship between intellectual capital (IC), innovation capability (InC), management accounting practices (MAP) and business sustainability (BS) by developing and testing a comprehensive model grounded in several fundamental theories, including resource-based view theory (RBV), stewardship theory, innovation theory and dynamic capabilities. Specifically:

First, an important theoretical contribution of the study is the clarification of the distinct roles of each component of intellectual capital (IC) - human capital (HC), structural capital (SC), relational capital (RC) in influencing management accounting practices (MAP) and business sustainability (BS). Specifically, SC and RC are found to have significant indirect and direct effects on MAP, whereas HC shows no impact. Regarding the direct effects on BS, SC plays a dominant role, followed by HC, while the effect of RC is not statistically significant.

Second, the study adds to the theory on the mediating role of MAP, confirming that MAP partially mediates the relationship between IC and BS, but not the relationship between InC and BS. This finding clarifies the mechanism through which MAP plays a mediating role in transforming the value of IC into sustainable outcomes – a perspective that has not been fully explored in previous theoretical models. Additionally, the results provide new evidence that InC has a direct impact on BS, but not on MAP, thereby suggesting a new understanding of how innovation contributes to business sustainability without necessarily going through management

accounting practices.

Third, the study contributes to clarifying the role of institutional context within the underlying theoretical framework by emphasizing the influence of state policies, environmental regulations, and cultural characteristics in shaping the implementation of IC and InC in emerging markets like Vietnam. Although institutional factors are not directly measured, variables such as RC (relational culture), as well as EN and SS (influenced by ESG policies, CPTPP), InC is promoted by national innovation policies, showing that institutional impacts are clearly present in business behavior. This approach addresses the limitations of previous studies that overlooked institutional context (Schaltegger and Burritt, 2010), thereby enriching a multi-level analytical framework (enterprise, industry, country). This contribution also provides a theoretical foundation for the development of SEM frameworks that directly incorporate institutional factors in future research, ensuring relevance to emerging markets (Al-Dhubaibi, 2024; Hutahayan, 2020).

Practical Contributions:

First, HC development: enterprises need to invest in training and skill development for employees, not only to improve work performance but also to contribute to the long-term sustainability of the enterprise (Becker and Huselid, 1998). High-quality HC helps enterprises create a dynamic work environment, promote creativity and innovation, thereby improving the ability to adapt to rapid market changes. Human resource development not only brings short-term benefits in performance but also ensures organizational stability and sustainable growth over the long term.

Second, SC building: strengthening social relationships and business networks helps build trust and cooperation, thereby promoting sustainable initiatives. This is especially important in the highly competitive business context in Vietnam. Enterprises with strong SC are better able to optimize resources, minimize costs and enhance the ability to meet customer needs, all of which contribute to the sustainability of the enterprise.

Third, improve MAP: businesses need to optimize internal management accounting processes to ensure transparency, enhance efficiency, and support strategic decision-making, thereby contributing to long-term sustainability (Al-Dhubaibi, 2024). Effective MAP helps businesses accurately monitor and analyze financial performance, support data-driven decision-making and improve operational efficiency. This not only helps businesses maintain financial stability but also supports the development of long-term strategies towards sustainability.

Fourth, enhance InC: businesses need to innovate not only in products but also in business processes to stay competitive and adapt quickly to market changes. Continuous innovation capabilities help businesses improve internal processes, develop new products and respond promptly to evolving market requirements, thereby enhancing competitiveness and maintaining

long-term survival (Tidd and Bessant, 2014).

Fifth, integrating governance and innovation elements: businesses need to integrate innovation strategies with internal accounting governance processes to achieve optimal effectiveness in promoting sustainability (Nartey et al., 2021). This integration ensures that innovation initiatives are supported by effective governance systems, thereby enhancing the ability to implement sustainability strategies and achieve long-term business goals.

New points of the study

The study has several notable novelties, especially in the context of Vietnam's rapidly developing economy, including:

(i) Multidimensional analysis of the second-order components of IC: instead of viewing intellectual capital as a composite concept, this study analyzes its individual components (HC, RC, SC) separately and examines how each interacts with MAP and BS. This approach provides a clearer understanding of the distinct roles each component plays in promoting sustainability.

(ii) Mediating effects of MAP: examining the mediating role of MAP between IC and BS provides valuable insights into how internal governance practices can convey the value of intellectual capital to sustainability outcomes. This is a new aspect that has not been explored in previous studies. Tayles et al. (2007) have shown that internal governance processes such as effective communication channels, strategic decision frameworks, and collaborative platforms are essential for transforming relational capital into tangible sustainability outcomes.

(iii) Research context in Vietnam: This study focuses on enterprises in Vietnam, a developing market with distinct characteristics in terms of business culture and economic environment. This helps to provide results that are relevant to the local economic and cultural context, thereby allowing for more effective practical application (Chowdhury et al., 2022). The research context in Vietnam not only increases the applicability of the findings but also contributes to a deeper understanding of how enterprises in developing markets can build and manage intellectual resources to achieve sustainability in a highly competitive environment. Since many economies in the world are also in the development stage like Vietnam, the study therefore provides a new perspective, generally from developing markets.

PhD Candidate

Nguyen Thi Ngoc Bich