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The Levels of Social Responsibility

Abstract

To understand social responsibility better, this paper investigates the relationship individuals have with their own, as well as governmental and corporate social responsibility. The objective of the study is to gain better insights into what has been discussed in the literature, through the observation of a study group consisting of 111 people. Through the statistical evaluation of three hypotheses, the main aim is to unpack the relationship between the presence and absence of financial leverage, and the effects of capitalism on social responsibility. Two out of the three hypotheses were proven through the implementations of different statistical tests such as the One-Sample Proportion Z-Test, or the goodness-of-fit Chi-Square formula. Hypotheses include

1. H₁: People find it important to participate in the decision of electing which government is in power;
2. H₁: Capitalism negatively impacts one's ability to carry out social responsibilities;
3. H₁: People consider boycotting an effective method to force more responsible business activities.

Each hypothesis had a null hypothesis, created with the desire to be discredited, and help prove the defined alternate hypotheses. Statistical tests were carried out, the data used was collected through google surveys, open for anyone to fill out. The collected data was quantitative, with exceptions where people were given the option to elaborate. All of the data is primary data, collected by the author. Conclusions made from the results were strictly through observations, variables in the survey were not manipulated nor controlled. The populations of the study are humans living under capitalistic societies. The sample group consists of 111 people. An important notion is that the representative sample group is dominated by certain subgroups regarding socio-economic backgrounds, as well as ethnicity. The survey found that the individual social responsibility receiving the highest number of participants was voting. The first hypothesis still could not be proven to be true, as the rejection of the null hypothesis failed due to the critical value of the Z- score being higher than the calculated value.

The conclusion drawn from the first hypothesis was that the evidence and the collected data was not sufficient enough to prove that the number of people in the sample group who vote regularly is significantly greater than 50%. The proposal was made that the reason why people do not go to vote is because of helplessness, which many of the respondents reported to experience.

Negative relation between the ability to be socially responsible and capitalism, was reported by around 80% of responders. In connection to this, the second hypothesis was proven by the support of the goodness-of-fit Chi-Square formula: Capitalism has a negative impact on social responsibility, on an individual level.

The third, and final big section of the questionnaire was examining the positive effects of financial decisions regarding the economy. The study group's majority (85.6%) agrees with the notion that where they put their money makes a difference in the world. People's belief in voting with money, alas boycotting was examined through the third hypothesis, which was proved to be true by the usage of the One-Sample Proportion Z-Test. People believe boycotting leave financial pressure on firms and contributes to a more socially responsible, ethical market.

Other conclusions and suggestions drawn from the study include the need for a more ethically, and economically diverse sample group. Further insights from different experts across different departments are needed to correctly evaluate the impact and complexity of capitalism. The intersectionality of the issues deriving from capitalism should be mapped out further in future studies. Research about potential paradoxes between capitalism and one's ability to perform social responsibilities, in the case of individuals as well as corporations, is another topic I think is crucial to further investigate. As boycotts gain more popularity, more studies carried out exemplifying connections between financial choices leading to tangible change, and forcing the market to be more ethical would be useful to see and use as a point of reflection.