

ABSTRACT

This work involves three fundamental concepts for competitiveness in firms located in territorial agglomerations such as innovation, knowledge and social capital. In recent years, because of the transformation that is suffering the competitive environment, many of the industrial districts that were previously successful cases are in a critical change situation. Given this loss of competitiveness, these systems are forced to implement a set of improvements in order to boost competitiveness.

Thus the main purpose of this research entails the study, in an industrial district scenario, of the effect of the firm internal knowledge and the framework in which the firm develops its activities on its innovative performance. Further we study in what measure social capital can moderate the relationship between firm's exploitative/explorative capacity and its knowledge base.

To confirm our research, empirical work focused on the study of the population of firms in the industrial district.

The results obtained led to the following conclusions: a) The framework in which firms carry out their activities influences on their innovative performance; b) The framework in which firms carry out their activities influences on the type of knowledge that firms of the industrial district hold; c) The type of knowledge held by the industrial district firms influences on their innovative performance; d) The type of knowledge that firms hold has a mediating role in the relationship between the framework in which firms carry out their activities and their innovative performance; e) Social capital plays a moderating role in the relationship between the framework in which firms carry out their activities and the type of knowledge; f) There are differences between companies depending on their levels of exploitation and exploration.

In this regard, we believe that our research, both the theoretical proposal and the results obtained are an important contribution to the literature on industrial districts.