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NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

URECA
Undergraduate Research Experience on CAmpus

Category: 1
Nanyang Business School

Student: Zhang Qi

Project ID: NBS11004

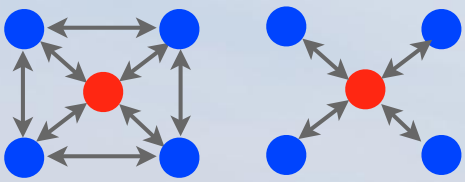
Correlation between Subjective Well-being and Friendship Pattern

Subjective Well-being

defined as "people's emotional responses, domain satisfactions, and global judgements of life satisfaction" (Diener et.al., 1997)

Friendship Patterns

If the majority of your friends are friends or acquaintances among themselves, this shows a relatively close pattern, and if few or none of the friends know each other, it is called an open pattern. As shown in the below graphs, there exist many direct links among friends in a close pattern and few in an open one.



CLOSE OPEN

Research Problem

The objective is to find out which friendship pattern, close or open, possesses a positive correlation with the subjective well-being(SW) in Singapore society.

Method

- 100 Singaporean Chinese students from Nanyang Technological University (50 M, 50 F)
- Subjective Well-being Survey to measure SW level with seven-point scale
- Friendship network survey to measure the degree of openness or closeness (denote as Friendship coefficient F) by asking participants to list ten important friends and then rate the acquaintance level among these friends.

Future Analysis

Model the SW data with two explanatory variables: F and gender(G) using a multivariate linear regression: $SW = \beta_0 + \beta_1 F + \beta_2 G + \varepsilon$. Use R^2 to examine the fitness of this linear model. Perform hypothesis tests to find whether F or G significantly affect SW and interpret the meaning of corresponding coefficients.

Project Title: Correlation between Subjective Well-being and Friendship Pattern
Supervisor: Prof Hong Ying-Yi **Collaborators: Yang Ying**