




# “A multidimensional approach in examining the role of self-efficacy on innovative work behavior: Evidence from the creative industry”

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# A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH IN EXAMINING THE ROLE OF SELF-EFFICACY ON INNOVATIVE WORK BEHAVIOR: EVIDENCE FROM THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY

## **Abstract**

Innovative work behavior is a significant factor for business success, including in the creative industry. This paper aims to explore the effect of self-efficacy on the innovative work behavior of employees in the creative industry sector. This study uses a quantitative research approach. It was conducted on small and medium enterprises in the creative industry sector in Labuhanbatu and South Labuhanbatu regencies, Indonesia. The participants in this study were employees and managers in the creative industry. The sampling technique is non-probability sampling. A total of 250 questionnaires were distributed, and 216 questionnaires were returned. Therefore, the samples in this study were 216 respondents. After the data were collected, they were processed by the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) method, which uses a multidimensional approach to testing the hypothesis. The results revealed that innovative work behavior was influenced by self-efficacy. Based on the results of the multidimensional analysis, it was shown that the most influential dimension in measuring innovative work behavior was the idea champion. In addition, the strength dimension dominantly influenced self-efficacy as the most influential dimension. The originality/value of this paper is that the analysis using multidimensional analysis shows that self-efficacy can predict innovative work behavior. The SMEs in the creative industry are suggested to give support to enhance their capability to improve employee self-efficacy and innovative work behavior.

## **Keywords**

self-efficacy, innovative work behavior, SMEs, creative industry, COVID-19

## **JEL Classification**

D20, D23, 015

## **INTRODUCTION**

Small business has a vital role in economic growth (Ngek, 2015), especially in the creative industry sector. Chollisni et al. (2022) also said that the creative industry affects the economy and social welfare. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has made economic growth, including in the creative industry sector, tend to decline. COVID-19 has paralyzed the country's economy and society (Chollisni et al., 2022). It has also had a negative impact on economies around the world (Hoke et al., 2022).

To survive, the firms must innovate in running the business. The firms need innovative human resources at work. Jodi et al. (2019) argued that the creative industries require the skills and expertise of workers or business owners in running their businesses. Innovation must be conducted to be competitive. Human resources are essential as sources of innovation in an organization (Getz & Robinson, 2003). The firms must develop and improve employ-

ees' innovative work behavior at the workplace to achieve the firm's goals (Eskiler et al., 2016). Generally, innovation also has become a driver of a country's economic growth and development. According to the Global Innovation Index 2021, Indonesia's innovation index ranking in 2021 was relatively low; it was 87th among 132 countries with a score of 29.80 (Dutta et al., 2021). The low level of innovative work behavior will produce unfavorable output, for example, declining performance of the firm.

Given this, several previous research indicates that self-efficacy has a role as a predictor of innovation at work (Hsu et al., 2011; Hsiao et al., 2011; Momeni et al., 2014). An employee with high efficacy will perform more innovative at work (Momeni et al., 2014). Hsiao et al. (2011) also show evidence that innovative work behavior was predicted by self-efficacy. However, the empirical research does not always support the evidence that self-efficacy affects innovative work behavior. For example, Salanova et al. (2012) and Widyani et al. (2017) found that self-efficacy does not significantly affect employees' innovative work behavior. This study intends to fill the gap in conducting the effect of self-efficacy on innovative work behavior in a different context in the creative industry in Labuhanbatu and South Labuhanbatu regencies, Indonesia.

The idea of examining the influence of self-efficacy on innovative work behavior is based on Albert Bandura's social theory that said individual beliefs about their ability would affect their behavior at work (Bandura, 1997). Moreover, the theory of planned behavior is known as the most influential and popular conceptual framework for studying human behavior (Ajzen, 2002). Murwani and Caesar (2016) also indicated that being successful at a job requires high self-efficacy.

However, low self-efficacy will make employees or managers not dare to discover and explore creative ideas to enhance business success. This will lead to low innovation, and the firm's competitiveness will be challenging. Therefore, the firm needs employees with high self-efficacy to achieve business goals.

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## 1. LITERATURE REVIEW

The study discusses the concept of self-efficacy and innovative work behavior. Then, the paper explains the relationship between self-efficacy and innovative work behavior. First, a review of the literature on innovative work behavior is done.

Innovative work behavior is defined as employees' overall actions or behavior that lead to the emergence of ideas, recognition, and application of something new (Kleysen & Street, 2001). According to Putri et al. (2019), innovating means introducing new things that have renewal quality. Goller and Paloniemi (2017, p. 145) cited that the construct of innovative work behavior is defined as all work activities of employees, both physical and cognitive, both individually or in social interactions, to produce innovation in work.

According to De Jong and Den Hartog (2010), innovative behavior is all individual behavior direct-

ed to produce, introduce, and apply new things which are useful at various levels of the organization. Gaynor (2002, p. 57) defines innovative behavior as individual actions to create and adopt ideas/thoughts or new ways to be applied in the implementation and completion of work. All individual actions are directed at the generation of an idea, processing, and application/implementation of new ideas on how to do things, including new product ideas, technologies, work procedures, or processes to improve the organizational effectiveness and success (Nijenhuis, 2015). Thus, it can be explained that innovative employees tend to have creative ideas to solve any existing problem, and can look for opportunities to achieve the firm's goals.

Messmann and Mulder (2012) identify four dimensions of innovative work behavior: opportunity exploration, idea generation, idea promotion, and idea realization. De Jong and Den Hartog (2010) also found four dimensions of innovative work

behavior: idea exploration, idea generation, idea champion, and idea implementation. Idea exploration is a dimension of innovative work behavior where employees can find opportunities and ideas for improving work methods. Idea generation is a dimension of innovative work behavior where employees can develop innovative ideas by creating and suggesting ideas to others. Generally, new ideas emerge when employees succeed in exploring ideas. In this dimension, employees look for new methods and techniques in executing tasks, bringing up original solutions, and having concepts about improving work methods. The next is idea championing: it is active and enthusiastic individuals who promote ideas, build support, overcome obstacles, and believe that ideas can be implemented. In this dimension, employees are encouraged to seek support in realizing innovative ideas that have been generated. They also look for coalitions so that new ideas can be implemented and believe in the success of these ideas. Finally, idea implementation is related to employee behaviors like new product or work processes development, and testing and then modifying them.

The second step discusses the literature review on self-efficacy. Albert Bandura proposed the self-efficacy concept first (Agu, 2015). Self-efficacy, or Albert Bandura's social theory, defines an individual's beliefs about the ability to organize and execute a task and do the action required to manage the situations and affect their behavior at work (Bandura, 1997). He also argued that interpreting the changes in one's behavior affects change in oneself and change in the environment, which in turn affects future behavior changes (Newman et al., 2018).

Efficacy is also defined as an individual's ability to produce the desired result (Kar et al., 2017). Self-efficacy reflects an individual's confidence to manage his/her skills required in producing even relatively routine behaviors (Rodgers et al., 2008). Self-confidence is one of the characteristics related to entrepreneurship (Naushad & Malik, 2018). Furthermore, Gibson et al. (2012, p. 159) suggest that self-efficacy is the belief that someone can do enough in a particular situation. A person with high self-efficacy believes there are chances to accomplish a specific task (Kreiner & Angelo, 2010, p. 128); thus, he/she can perform the task successfully (Schermerhorn, 2010, p. 359).

Individuals with high self-efficacy believe in their ability to complete a task more effectively (Campbell & Nelson, 2013, p. 178). Individuals with high self-efficacy can feel more confident, consider difficult tasks as challenges, set high goals, and try harder to overcome the challenges themselves (Hsu et al., 2011). Saleem et al. (2012) claimed that self-efficacy is the name of pride, self-confidence, and trust in one's capabilities so an efficacious employee can succeed. Thus, an employee with high self-efficacy will tend to have confidence in own abilities to work and solve problems at work.

Bandura (1997) highlighted three dimensions of self-efficacy, i.e., magnitude, strength, and generality. The level or magnitude dimension is related to the task's degree of difficulty when individuals feel able to do it. Suppose an individual is confronted with tasks arranged according to the level of difficulty. In that case, the individual's self-efficacy may be limited to tasks that are easy, moderate, or even include the most difficult tasks, according to the limits of perceived ability to meet the demands of behavior that are needed at each level. This dimension has implications for the choice of behavior to be tried or avoided. Rodgers et al. (2008) found that the level of task/job demands represents varying challenges to successful performance.

The strength dimension emphasizes the level of strength or stability of the individual against beliefs, even though faced with an unpleasant situation. Self-efficacy reflected that actions taken by individuals would give results that follow the expectations of individuals (Bandura, 1997). The generality dimension is related to the beliefs of individuals to assess their confidence in completing an activity and situation, or a series of activities, that can be done and think to avoid failure in various fields. Individuals can declare themselves to have self-efficacy in broad activities or limited to certain domain functions (Bandura, 1997).

Furthermore, discussing the relationship between self-efficacy and innovative work behavior is vital. Bandura (1997) claimed that individuals' beliefs about their ability would affect their behavior at work. Murwani and Caesar (2016) also noticed that being successful at a job requires high self-efficacy. Self-efficacy has a positive influence

on innovative work behavior (Hsiao et al., 2011). The higher the level of self-efficacy, the higher the innovative behavior that will be generated (Kumar & Uz Kurt, 2010).

Momeni et al. (2014) analyze the effects of employee self-efficacy on employees' innovative behavior. Hypothesis testing results indicate that innovative work behavior was influenced by self-efficacy positively. Wahyuningrum et al. (2012) researched the impact of self-efficacy on innovation behavior. The study uses a quantitative observation method employing a questionnaire as a measurement tool. The results statistically showed a significant effect of self-efficacy on innovation behavior (Wahyuningrum et al., 2012).

Therefore, this study aims to analyze the effect of self-efficacy on innovative work behavior in the creative industry. This study uses a more comprehensive analysis by using multidimensional approach (second-order constructs) to examine the effect of self-efficacy on innovative work behavior. Thus, the following hypothesis is analyzed:

*H1: Self-efficacy positively influences innovative work behavior.*

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The population unit in this study is employees and managers in the creative industry sector in Labuhanbatu and South Labuhanbatu regencies. This study used a non-probability sampling technique. This technique was chosen considering the number of populations that were not defined or very large. According to Hair et al. (2013), using CB-SEM, the minimum assumption of data adequacy is 200 data or more. Thus, 250 questionnaires were distributed, and 216 questionnaires were returned. Therefore, the samples in this study were 216 respondents.

This study examines the effect of self-efficacy and innovative work behavior in this study. Each variable was measured using indicators adopted from several existing studies. Innovative work behavior uses four dimensions adopted from De Jong and Den Hartog (2010) and Messmann and Mulder (2012), i.e., idea exploration, idea generation, idea champion, and idea implementation. Idea exploration uses two items, i.e., looking for the opportunity to innovate and looking for ways to improve current methods. Idea generation is measured with three items, i.e., original solutions to

**Table 1.** Construct and measurements

Variable	Dimension/ Indicator
Self-efficacy (Bandura, 1997)	Magnitude
	1. Never avoid difficult tasks and directly deal with them.
	2. The belief one can complete difficult/complicated tasks successfully.
	Strength
	1. The belief one can survive and never give up doing a complicated task.
	2. The stability of confidence in doing a difficult task.
	3. High expectations of success.
	Generality
	1. The belief one can be successful in various fields.
	2. The belief one can be more successful than colleagues.
	3. The belief one can complete a variety of tasks.
	Innovative Work Behavior (De Jong & Den Hartog, 2010; Messmann & Mulder, 2012)
1. Looking for an opportunity to innovate.	
2. Looking for ways to improve current methods.	
Idea Generation	
1. Original solutions to identified problems.	
2. A new approach to executing the task.	
3. A new concept for developing ideas.	
Idea Champion	
1. Making important organizational members enthusiastic.	
2. Trying to convince people to support the idea.	
Idea Implementation	
1. Applying innovative ideas in daily work activities.	
2. Contributing to the implementation of new ideas.	



identified problems, a new approach to execute a task, and a new concept for developing ideas. Idea champion uses two items, i.e., making important organizational members enthusiastic and trying to convince people to support the idea. Finally, idea implementation uses two items, i.e., applying innovative ideas in daily work activities and contributing to the implementation of new ideas.

Self-efficacy is measured using three dimensions: magnitude, strength, and generality (Bandura, 1997). The magnitude dimension uses two items, i.e., never avoid the difficult task and directly deal with a difficult task. The strength dimension uses three items, i.e., the belief one can survive and never give up doing a complicated task, the stability of confidence in doing a difficult task, and high expectation of success. Finally, the generality dimension uses three dimensions, i.e., the belief one can be successful in various fields, the belief one can be more successful than colleagues, and the belief one can complete a variety of tasks.

This paper is quantitative research. There are several steps in this study, i.e., normality testing, measurement models, and hypothesis testing performed using structural equation modeling with the help of Amos Version 23 software.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1. Measurement model

The measurement model in this study was performed using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) processed by AMOS software version 23. The recommended value of the loading factor must be greater than 0.50. The higher loading factor indicates that the indicator is better at measuring latent variables or more valid for measuring the latent variable. The reliability test was performed by Construct Reliability (CR) and Average Variance Extract (AVE). According to Hair et al. (2013), the value of Construct Reliability (CR) must exceed 0.70, and the value of Variance Extracted (AVE) must exceed 0.50.

The measurement model, as presented in Table 2, shows that the result of factor loadings in second-order constructs and first-order constructs has a value exceeding 0.5. The composite reliability (CR) value also has a value exceeding 0.70. The variance extracted (AVE) results also show the value exceeding 0.5. These results showed that all indicators and dimensions used to measure self-efficacy (magnitude, strength, and generality) are of good validity and reliability to explain or measure self-efficacy.

**Table 2.** Multidimensional measurement model

Variable	Dimensions	Factor Loadings	CR	VE
<b>Second-Order Constructs</b>				
Self-efficacy	Magnitude	0.871	0.953	0.871
	Strength	0.973		
	Generality	0.953		
Innovative Work Behavior	Idea Exploration	0.906	0.978	0.916
	Idea Generation	0.972		
	Idea Champion	0.981		
	Idea Implementation	0.968		
<b>First-Order Constructs</b>				
Dimensions	Item	Factor Loadings	CR	VE
Magnitude	I never avoid the difficult task in this firm (SE_1)	0.765	0.892	0.579
	I believe I can do complicated work in this firm (SE_2)	0.775		
Strength	I believe in overcoming the problems and all difficult tasks in this firm (SE_3)	0.727		
	I have a strong belief I will be successful in doing a difficult task in this firm (SE_4)	0.793		
	I have a high expectation of being successful in this firm (SE_5)	0.754		
Generality	I believe I will be more successful than my coworkers (SE_6)	0.749		
	I believe I can be successful in various fields/jobs (SE_7)	0.798		
	I believe I can do various tasks successfully in this firm (SE_8)	0.723		

**Table 2 (cont.).** Multidimensional measurement model

Variable	Dimensions	Factor Loadings	CR	VE
Idea Exploration	I always look for an opportunity to innovate (IWB_1)	0.721	0.921	0.565
	I always look for ways to improve current methods (IWB_2)	0.806		
Idea Generation	I always give an original solution to the identified problems (IWB_3)	0.791		
	I always introduce a new approach to doing tasks (IWB_4)	0.748		
	I often give new concepts for developing ideas (IWB_5)	0.730		
Idea Champion	I try to make my coworkers enthusiastic about achieving the goals of this firm (IWB_6)	0.785		
	I attempt to convince my coworkers to support the idea (IWB_7)	0.742		
Idea Implementation	I practice the innovative idea in achieving the firm's goals (IWB_8)	0.741		
	I have a contribution to new idea implementation (IWB_9)	0.691		

### 3.2. The goodness of fit test

Testing the goodness of fit model aims to evaluate the degree of compatibility of the research model. The criteria of model fit in structural equation modeling, i.e., Adjusted GFI (AGFI), must exceed 0.90, Goodness of Fit Index (GFI) exceeds 0.90, CFI exceeds 0.90, RMSEA is below 0.08, and RMR does not exceed 0.05 (Hair et al., 2017). The results of the goodness of fit test can be seen in Table 3.

**Table 3.** The goodness of fit test results

Criteria	Result	Decision
Probability Value	0.799	Good fit
RMSEA	0.000	Good fit
CMIN/DF	0.886	Good fit
GFI	0.962	Good fit
AGFI	0.948	Good fit
RMR	0.012	Good fit
CFI	1.000	Good fit

The results of the goodness of fit show that the RMSEA value is smaller than 0.08 (RMSEA 0.000 < 0.08), which means that the RMSEA value is in

the good fit criteria. The value of AGFI, GFI, and CFI also exceeds the value of 0.900, so the AGFI, GFI, and CFI are in good fit criteria. The model in the study is fit and suitable, and the study can proceed with the estimation of the model.

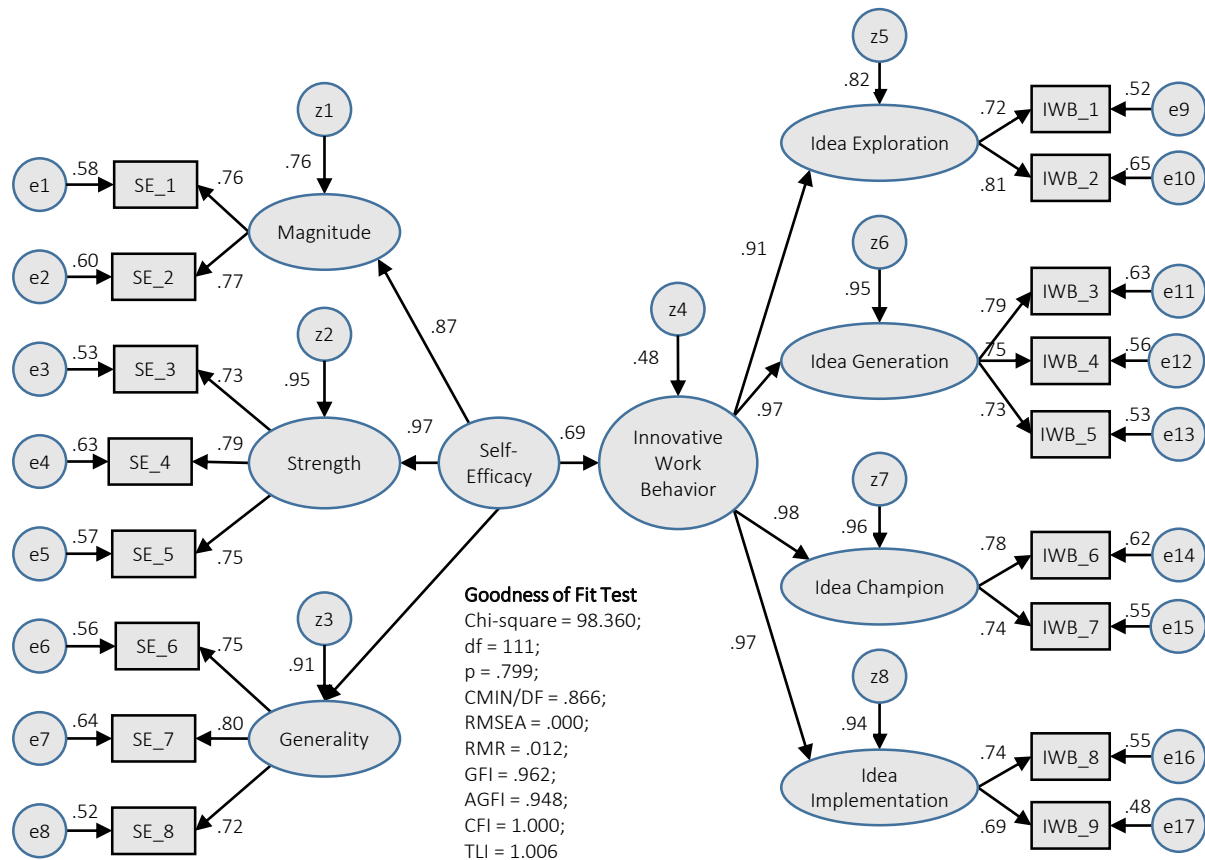
### 3.3. Hypothesis testing

Next, the paper tests the hypothesis that has been proposed based on the existing theoretical review and previous studies. The analysis of the Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was done to test the hypothesis. The proposed structural equation modeling (SEM) is shown in Figure 1. The hypothesis result was tested using the critical ratio (C.R.), or t-value, and probability value (P-Value). The critical ratio must be  $> 1.96\pm$ , and the value of probability (P-value) does not exceed 0.05 (Byrne, 2010). The hypothesis test results can be seen in Table 4.

The result proves that self-efficacy positively influences the innovative work behavior of employees

**Table 4.** Constructs of the structural model

Source: Own elaboration.			
Linking in the Model	Hypothesis	Std. Estimation	t-value
<b>Main path</b>			
Self-efficacy > Innovative Work Behavior	H1	0.690	8.030
<b>R<sup>2</sup> = 0.475, P-value: 0.000</b>			
<b>Second-Order Constructs</b>			
Self-efficacy > Magnitude		0.953	_a
Self-efficacy > Strength		0.973	10.261
Self-efficacy > Generality		0.871	10.408
Innovative Work Behavior > Idea Exploration		0.906	_a
Innovative Work Behavior > Idea Generation		0.972	11.006
Innovative Work Behavior > Idea Champion		0.981	11.032
Innovative Work Behavior > Idea Implementation		0.968	10.435



**Figure 1.** Multidimensionality of structural equation modeling

in the creative industry in Indonesia. The result of estimate value (factor loading) is 0.690, critical ratio (t-value) is 8.030, and a significance value is 0.000. Statistically, it can be explained that the effect of self-efficacy on innovative work behavior has a significant effect because the value of the t-value is greater than the t-table (t-value  $8.030 \geq t\text{-table } 1.96$ ), and the significance value is less than 0.05 ( $0.000 < 0.05$ ). This finding suggests that self-efficacy needs to enhance innovative work behavior at the workplace. It further provides evidence that the result supports the hypothesis. This means that the better self-efficacy, the more innovative the employee. Thus, this finding proves that self-efficacy is very important to improving innovative work behavior at work.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

The focus of this study is to examine the relationship between self-efficacy and innovative work behavior in the context of employees in the creative industry in Indonesia. Based on existing

literature, the hypothesis was developed: self-efficacy positively influences the employee’s innovative work behavior (Bandura, 1997; Murwani & Caesar, 2016; Hsiao et al., 2011; Kumar & Uz Kurt, 2010; Momeni et al., 2014; Wahyuningrum et al., 2012). However, previous studies did not prove the relationship between self-efficacy and innovative work behavior (Salanova et al., 2012; Widayani et al., 2017). Therefore, this study provides new evidence about the effect of self-efficacy on innovative work behavior in a new perspective of the creative industry sector. In addition, this study investigates which dimensions most strongly influence each variable (second-order constructs).

The results of the hypothesis testing prove that self-efficacy positively and significantly influences the innovative work behavior of an employee in the creative industry. It means that the employee who has high self-efficacy tends to be more innovative at work. Conversely, if an employee has a low self-efficacy, he/she will have a low level of innovative work behavior. This finding was supported by Bandura (1997), who claimed that self-efficacy



would make individuals spend the effort needed to be creative and innovative at work. Bandura's social theory also said that individual beliefs would affect work behavior (Bandura, 1997).

The finding is consistent with Kumar and Uz Kurt (2010) regarding the influence of self-efficacy on innovative work behavior. They found that individuals with high self-efficacy would enhance their innovative behavior. Hsiao et al. (2011) also found that self-efficacy has a positive effect on innovative work behavior. Moreover, the higher the self-efficacy, the higher the level of innovative behavior that will be generated (Aditya & Ardana, 2016). Finally, Momeni et al. (2014) analyzed the effects of employee self-efficacy on innovative behavior. The result indicates that self-efficacy positively affects employees' innovative work behavior.

Based on the results of the multidimensional analysis, it was shown that the most influential dimension to measure the innovative work behavior was the idea champion (with a loading factor of 0.98). De Jong and Den Hartog (2010) found that employees with idea champions are

active and enthusiastic about promoting ideas. In addition, employees are encouraged to seek support in realizing innovative ideas that have been generated. Next follows the idea generation and idea implementation dimensions with the same loading factor (0.97).

Furthermore, idea generation has a loading factor of 0.91. That is, the findings explain that the idea champion dimension more dominantly forms the factors that shape innovative work behavior. The higher idea champion was formed by the "I practice the innovative idea in achieving the firm's goals (IWB\_8)" indicator with a loading factor of 0.78. For self-efficacy, it was dominantly influenced by the strength dimension with a loading factor of 0.97. The more substantial loading factor of the statement item to form the strength dimension was "I have a strong belief I will be successful in doing a difficult task in this firm (SE\_4)" with a loading factor of 0.79. It was followed by the statement "I have a high expectation of being successful in this firm (SE\_5)" with a loading factor of 0.75, and "I believe in overcoming the problems and all difficult tasks in this firm (SE\_3)" with a loading factor of 0.73.

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## CONCLUSION

This study aims to examine the effect of self-efficacy on employee innovative work behavior in the creative industry. The results of this study prove that self-efficacy positively influences innovative work behavior. It means that self-efficacy has a role as a valid predictor of innovative work behavior. In other words, self-efficacy will enhance the employee's innovative work behavior. Therefore, an employee with a high level of self-efficacy will be more innovative at work, and it will be easier to achieve the firm's goals. Furthermore, based on the multidimensional analysis, the result showed that the idea champion has a higher loading factor in measuring the innovative work behavior, and the strength dimension has a higher loading factor in measuring self-efficacy.

The firms should foster and develop employees' self-efficacy to be more innovative and achieve organizational goals. They can also train employees to enhance their capability to show high self-efficacy at work.

## FUTURE RESEARCH

This study has several limitations; therefore, this study offers some future research suggestions. First, it is worth adding the new dependent variable, namely firm performance. Second, this study only examines the creative industry sector. Thus, future research can consider other sectors, for example, the banking sector, the manufacturing sector, and others. Third, this paper uses a quantitative approach; future research may use mixed methods, namely quantitative and qualitative.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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