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Substance-based Informal Social Networks: an Initial Investigation

In this paper, substance-based informal social networks are the focus. Substance-based networks external to an organization but involving organizational members may hold unique and interesting properties not previously scrutinized. Possible organizational consequences of substance-based informal networks are explored. Further, the relationship between informal networks based on accepted and not accepted (illicit) substances is proposed. Generally, the argument that regardless of the substance used, networks based on substance use, will involve strong ties between members with the strength increasing as social acceptance decreases. These strong ties may create increases in cohesion and trust within the informal group while at work resulting in both positive and negative organizational outcomes.

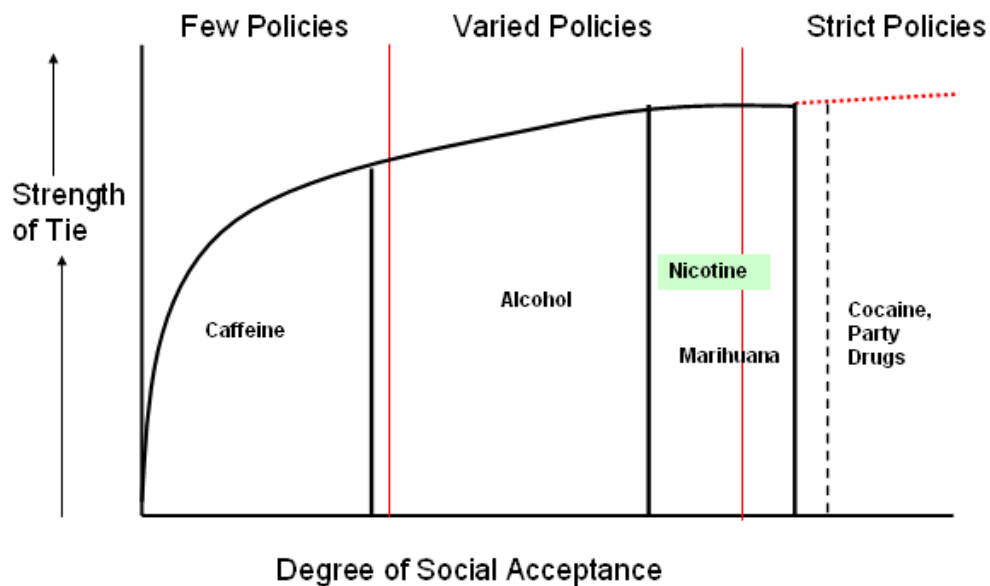


Table 1. Estimated Tie Strength Curve vs. Social Acceptance and Organizational Policies