

Intervention project on social capital, efficiency, engagement, health and well-being in the dairy industry

Submission date 29/04/2016	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered ☐ Protocol
Registration date 06/06/2016	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☐ Results
Last Edited 12/10/2017	Condition category Other	☐ Individual participant data ☐ Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Social capital can be defined as the resources in the social relations in a workplace which can potentially facilitate cooperation. Three types of social capital can be defined. Bonding social capital refers to the resources in the social relations between colleagues working closely together, for example in a team. Bridging social capital refers to the resources in the social relations between teams at a workplace. Linking social capital refers to the resources in the social relations between the teams and management. The aim of this study is to explore whether social capital can be enhanced through planned interventions, to identify how effective different types of interventions are, and if social capital can improve efficiency while maintaining or enhancing the wellbeing, work engagement, and health of the employees.

Who can participate?

Employees at six companies in the Danish dairy industry

What does the study involve?

All employees are invited to fill in a questionnaire addressing the four types of social capital (within teams, between teams, in relation to the immediate management, in relation to the overall management and the company as a whole), as well as measures of the psychosocial work environment, work engagement, and wellbeing. A workshop is then held for each participating team. The purpose is to develop interventions designed individually to fit the team in question. The main point is that the employees participate in the development of the intervention. In the process of developing the interventions the results of the questionnaire are presented and discussed. When an intervention has been agreed upon, an action plan is formulated. The participating teams work independently on their individual interventions (action plans) for between 10 and 12 months. At the end of the intervention period, all employees are invited to fill in the questionnaire again. We measure any changes in the four types of social capital, the psychosocial work environment, work engagement, and wellbeing, as well as productivity and absence due to sickness. Focus groups and interviews are conducted with representatives from each action plan.

Possible benefits and risks of participating

There are several potential benefits for the participants. Firstly, participation may encourage the employees as well as management to enhance their dialogue about their cooperation and psychosocial work environment. Secondly, if the implemented interventions show the desired effects, they may experience improved social capital, wellbeing, work engagement, and productivity. Finally, participation may equip the dairies to work with the social capital as well as other aspects of the psychosocial working environment in the future. One risk of participating is that the company and/or employees may become aware of or become more focussed on problems and conflicts at the workplace. This could be problematic if not dealt with appropriately.

Where is the study run from?

Six Danish dairy companies

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

June 2014 to January 2017

Who is funding the study?

The Danish Work Environment Research Fund (Arbejdsmiljøforskningsfonden (AMFF))

Who is the main contact?

Dr Thomas Clausen

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

001

Study information

Scientific Title

Intervention project on social capital, efficiency, engagement, health and well-being in the dairy industry

Study objectives

1. Interventions designed particularly to the team and in cooperation with the team members can enhance the social capital of the team
2. Different types of interventions will differ in their efficiency at enhancing the different types of social capital
3. An increase in the social capital will lead to an increase in employees' work engagement, their psychosocial work environment, their wellbeing, health, and productivity

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

In Denmark an approval from an ethics committee is not required for research of this nature.

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Multi-case intervention study based on the intervention mapping method

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Social capital

Interventions

Based on the baseline results, the participants will be involved in intervention mapping workshops, where the participants design their own interventions (action plans) to enhance the social capital of their team. This will be achieved by discussing what they see as the underlying reasons for or factors leading to the results, identify the most salient problem areas for the team, and finally, discuss possible solutions to these problems. The researchers facilitate the process as well as provide suggestions, based on the literature, for possible solutions to the identified problems. When an intervention has been agreed upon, an action plan will be formulated where each step of the intervention is clearly described, persons responsible for the execution of the intervention noted, an evaluation plan described and finally, the success criteria of the intervention formulated. Thereafter the teams work independently on the interventions.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

The level of the four types of social capital (within team, between teams, in the relationship with the immediate management, in the relationship with the overall management and company as a whole) at the team level and company level. This will be measured with the newly developed social capital questionnaire (Borg et al. 2014). The qualitative assessment of primary and secondary outcomes will be undertaken about 9 months after implementation of action plans. The quantitative assessment of primary and secondary outcomes will be undertaken about 12 months after implementation of action plans.

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Psychosocial work environment, measured with scales from the Danish Psychosocial Questionnaire that is currently under development at the NRCWE (Influence at work, Possibilities of performing core work tasks, and Psychological demands)
2. Work engagement, measured with UWES9 (Schaufeli et al. 2002).
3. Psychological wellbeing, measured with WHO-5 (Bech et al. 2003)
4. Sickness absence
5. Productivity measured with productivity indicators that the researchers will identify in collaboration with the participating workplaces

The qualitative assessment of primary and secondary outcomes will be undertaken about 9 months after implementation of action plans. The quantitative assessment of primary and secondary outcomes will be undertaken about 12 months after implementation of action plans.

Completion date

01/01/2017

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Employees at Danish dairies

Participant type(s)

All

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Persons not working at the six participating dairies
2. Employees in the six dairies who did not belong to a Work team

Date of first enrolment

01/06/2014

Date of final enrolment

01/01/2015

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Denmark

Study participating centre
Six Danish dairy companies
Denmark
-

Sponsor information

Organisation

The Danish Work Environment Research Fund (Arbejdsmiljøforskningsfonden (AMFF))

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research organisation

Funder Name

The Danish Work Environment Research Fund (Arbejdsmiljøforskningsfonden (AMFF))

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date