Despite the attempts made to the development of various approaches for evaluating intellectual capital, the problems with the application of such approaches have so far not been so far addressed in practice. Many of the evaluation indicators of intellectual capital were qualitative and required subjective and inaccurate judgments; hence, decision makers and assessors should act based on subjective and experimental judgments. In this case, it is easier to make subjective judgment by using verbal expressions such as linguistic variables. Therefore, it is essential that any selected method is capable of aggregating these qualitative and quantitative values through a logical and rational process. On the other hand, the decision maker often barely has the access to all evidence and necessary information about one of the evaluation indicators of the intellectual capital, and has to conduct the assessment only by means of as much information as he has access to while assessing an enterprise. In this regard, it is quite rational that we pay scrupulous attention to the issue of lack of having full access to evidence as developing an evaluation model of intellectual capital.

In both lastIn the past two decades, the evidential reasoning approach to the problem of making decisions with multiple criteria has been offered and developed. It is based on an evaluation, hierarchical model, and synthetic rules of Dempster–Shafer theory of evidence. Until now, the approach was employed in different fields including Failure mode and effects analysis, Assessment of E-Commerce security, and performance assessment. In this paper, based on a practical application of the assessment of intellectual capital in SMEs active in the IT sector in Kermanshah, a city in western Iran, the aim is to offer a framework for the utilization of evidential reasoning approach to assessing intellectual capital. Finally, an analysis of the results of the application of the framework was carried out in practical examples.

The article entails the following structure: in the first second part, there are the related literatures as well as the discussions about intellectual capital and methods of assessing them, intellectual capital in SMEs and evidential reasoning approach. Part three by proposing a systematic process, and based on a practical example, attempts to present a framework for use of objective logic in assessing intellectual capital. Henceforth, we account for, in part 4, the characteristics and advantages of employing the method by using the results obtained from the application of the proposed framework, and at last finally, in part 5, we refer to some our findings and achievements approaches for upcoming future researches in part 5.

2. The Related Literature

2.1. Intellectual capital

With respect to intellectual capital, numerous descriptions have been given with respect to intellectual capital. Stewart (1997) defines it as a set of knowledge, information, intellectual assets, experience, competition, and organizational learning, (i.e., it