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REVIEW OF LITERATURE

NEED/IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESIS (ES)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

LIMITATIONS

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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INFLUENCE OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON ORGANISATIONAL CITIZENSHIP BEHAVIOUR

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ABSTRACT

Literature suggests that certain Human Resource Management practices have the potential to promote Organisational Citizenship Behaviour. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between Human Resource Management practices (Recognition, Empowerment, Fair rewards, Competence development and Information-sharing practices) and Organisational citizenship behaviour. Precisely, it addressed two research questions: What is the relationship between Human Resource Management practices and Organisational Citizenship Behaviour and, whether Organisational commitment mediates the relationship between Human Resource Management practices and Organisational Citizenship Behaviour. It was hypothesized that Human Resource Management practices would have a positive correlation with Organisational Citizenship Behaviour and would predict it as well. Secondly, Organisational commitment would mediate the relationship between the two. Data from 295 respondents belonging to three different sectors – bank, construction company and school was collected by survey method. All of the Human Resource Management scales but one (Recognition, Empowerment, Fair rewards and Competence development) were developed by Trembly, Rondeau and Lemelin (1998). Information-sharing practices were measured using a scale developed by Lawler, Mohrman and Lefford (1992). Organisational Citizenship Behaviour scale comprising of five dimensions- Helping, Compliance, Loyalty, Initiative and Sportsmanship was developed by the researcher. Organisational commitment was measured using an 18-item scale developed by Meyer, Allen and Smith (1993). Correlation, regression and mediation analysis were performed. Results indicated positive correlation among all variables taken in the study and that Human Resource Management practices and Organisational Citizenship Behaviour relationship.

KEYWORDS

human resource management practices, mediation, organisational citizenship behaviour, organisational commitment, prediction.

INTRODUCTION

uccessful organisations are those the employees of which do more than just their usual job duties and give out performance that is above expectations. Perhaps this is the reason why organisational citizenship behaviour has been the focus of organisational behaviour researchers (George and Battenhousen, 1990; Organ and Ryan 1995; Organ 1997; Podsakoff, Mackenzie, Paine and Bachrach, 2000). It has been the most extensively studied topic in Organisational Behaviour research (Chahal & Mehta, 2011, Lievson & Anseel, 2004;) owing to its importance and its implications in the organisations. These researchers also proposed that OCB could positively influence individual and organisational performance. All this lead researchers to engage in studies to find out the antecedents of citizenship behaviour. Hence, this piece of research plans to study the determinants of OCB, particularly organisational level factors. In order to do this, we must first understand the concept of OCB.

The term Organisational Citizenship Behaviour was coined by Organ in 1988. He defined OCB as "Individual behaviour that is discretionary, not directly or explicitly recognized by the formal reward system and that in the aggregate promotes the effective functioning of the organization. By discretionary, we mean that the behavior is not an enforceable requirement of the role of the job description, that is, the clearly specifiable terms of the person's employment contract with the organization; the behaviour is rather a matter of personal choice, such that its omission is not generally understood as punishment" (Organ, 1988).

Hence, we can understand OCB as behaviours which are not a part of an individual's job profile, neither do their presence guarantee rewards nor their absence ensure punishment. However, they help to improve the overall performance of the organisation.

Scholars hold different views with respect to the dimensionality of OCB. Smith, Organ, and Near (1983) conceptualized OCB with two dimensions: altruism (behaviour targeted specifically at helping individuals) and generalized compliance (behaviour reflecting compliance with general rules, norms, and expectations). Later Organ (1988) identified five dimensions belonging to OCB: Altruism, Courtesy, Civic Virtue, Conscientiousness and Sportsmanship.

A factor considered to be an important determinant of OCB in some studies is Human Resource Management practices. HRM practices are the measures taken by the organizational authorities to manage their human resources in a better way so as to enhance their potentials and increase their productivity. There are various kinds HRM practices adopted by organisations, for example; recognition (giving recognition to its employees apart from monetary rewards), empowerment (enhancing the responsibilities and decision making power), competence development (through training, mentoring, etc.), work-life policies (cooperating with employees to manage work with personal life), etc. Some of the HRM practices are high on involvement while others are low on it.

Another variable of interest over here, which is also considered to be an important determinant of OCB is Organisational Commitment. It is conceptualized as the psychological attachment of the employee to the organisation. Scholl (1981) suggested that commitment helps in maintaining behavioural direction in the absence of rewards. Thus, employees who are committed to the organization are likely to be eager to contribute to the organization's goals and are more likely than others to extend their efforts beyond their required task performance to enhance the effectiveness of the organization. Mayer and Allen (1984), proposed a three-component conceptualization of organizational commitment: affective commitment (AC), continuance commitment (CC) and normative commitment (NC)

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The way an organization manages its human resources, determines the employees-employer relationship. Employee favouring work practices may convey to employees that their organization promotes humanistic values, cares about their well-being and is willing to trust them. On the basis of reciprocity norms, employees will be inclined to increase their personal contributions and efforts and ultimately their extra-role behaviour (Tsui, Pearce, Porter, & Tripoli, 1997). The positive association between high-involvement HR practices and citizenship behaviours is also supported by Organ (1990).

Empirical research supports a strong positive relationship between commitment and OCB also. Organisational commitment has been regarded as an important predictor of OCB since long (Meyer, Stanley, Herscovitch & Topolynytsky, 2002). Scholl (1981) argued that organisational commitment is responsible for behaviour

that is not primarily reinforcement or punishment driven. Thus, OCB which represents a personal involvement in the life of organisation is also assumed to be influenced by commitment.

Organisational commitment not only shares a strong relationship with OCB, it also has a relationship with organisational factors of culture, structure and HRM practices. A number of studies have shown that individual or a group of HRM practices play a positive role in developing employees' attachment to the organisation (e.g. Gaerten & Nollen, 1989; Gould-Williams, 2003; Meyer & Smith, 2000).

NEED/IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

As stated above, OCB holds importance because of its ability to influence organisational performance. Certain other reasons make this study worthwhile and important. Firstly, not many attempts have been made to study OCB in India. Secondly, Podsakoff et al (2000) opined that the relationship between organisational characteristics(one of which are HRM practices) and OCB is not very clear. However, some studies hint that certain HRM practices may help in building the employee-employer relationship from a humanistic and social exchange perspective. Such a relationship promotes extra-role behaviour like OCB. However, this relationship may be mediated by organisational commitment. This study may provide useful insights into the dynamics of organizational citizenship behaviour.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study will attempt to find out what relation HRM practices share with OCB and whether organisational commitment mediates the relationship between these two variables.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To study the relationship between HRM practices of Empowerment, Competence Development, Information sharing, Recognition, Fair Rewards and OCB
- 2. To assess the mediating role of Organisational Commitment in the relationship between HRM practices and OCB

HYPOTHESES

HRM practices of Empowerment, Competence Development, Information sharing, Recognition and Fair Rewards would be significantly positively related to OCB such that, higher the degree of perception of HRM practices in the organisation by the employees, higher will be their level of OCB

Organisational Commitment will mediate the relationship between HRM practices of Empowerment, Competence Development, Information sharing, Recognition and Fair Rewards and OCB. HRM practices would contribute significantly to Organisational Commitment, which in turn would contribute significantly to OCB

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

SAMPL

295 employees belonging to three different types of organisations—bank, construction company and school, from both government and private sectors participated in the survey.

MEASURES

HRM PRACTICES

All of the HRM scales but one (Recognition, Empowerment, Fair rewards and Competence development) were developed by Trembly, Rondeau and Lemelin (1998). Information-sharing practices were measured using a scale developed by Lawler, Mohrman and Ledford (1992). The HRM practices measure had a total of 27 items. Following is the way these practices were conceptualized-

Recognition, which has been conceptualized in this study as the non-monetary rewards, appreciation and feedback given to employees by organisation for their valuable contributions, efforts and their quality work

Empowerment which is the process by which the employees of an organisation become capable enough to be in charge of their own growth and development and solve their problems on their own

Fair rewards which refer to the perceived fairness of job outcomes for the employees, such as compensation, promotion job assignments, performance evaluations, etc.

Competence development which had been described as employees' skill enhancement

Information sharing which refers to sharing of information by the organisation with the employees on future policies and programmes, profit, loss costs, output, customer feedback, etc.

ORGANISATIONAL COMMITMENT

Organisational Commitment was measured using the scales developed by Mayer, Allen and Smith (1993). It measured three dimensions of organisational commitment- Affective, Normative and Continuance commitment. It had a total of 18 items. The three kinds of commitment were conceptualized as-

Affective commitment-members remained in the organisation because they want to

Normative commitment- members remain with the organisation because they feel they ought to do so

 $\textbf{Continuance commitment}\text{-} \ \text{members remain with the organisation because they need to remain with the organisation}$

OCB

This scale comprising of five dimensions- Helping, Compliance, Loyalty, Initiative and Sportsmanship was developed by the researcher. It had a total of 23 items. These dimensions were conceptualized as-

Helping- discretionary behavior by employees, aimed at helping, supporting or favouring a specific other- coworker or client in the context of organization

Compliance- discretionary behavior on the part of the employee that go beyond the minimum role requirement of the employee including putting extra effort in completing tasks and obeying rules and regulations even when no one is watching.

Loyalty-includes concern for organisation's objectives, staying with the organization during hard times, representing the organization favourably to others, attempts to protect and conserve organizational resources

Initiative-includes voluntary acts of creativity and innovation designed to improve one's task or organisation's performance, volunteering to take on extra responsibilities and attempts to enhance growth of the organization.

Sportsmanship-willingness to tolerate the inevitable inconveniences and impositions of work without complaining; also maintaining a positive attitude when things don't go ones way

PROCEDURE

First of all, the organisations where data collection was to be conducted were identified. Then the permission of the heads of these organisations was taken for conducting the surveys. The respondents were personally contacted and after their informed consent to participate in the study was taken, they were explained how the questionnaire was to be filled out. They were allowed to take their own time to complete the questionnaires. After they returned the questionnaire, they were thanked for their co-operation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data obtained were in the form of responses made on Likert scales which were entered into SPSS software, cleaned and prepared for analysis. Presented here are the findings after analysing the data and hypotheses were tested sequentially. In order to test the first hypothesis, i.e. "HRM practices of Empowerment, Competence Development, Information sharing, Recognition and Fair Rewards would be significantly positively related to OCB such that, higher the degree of

perception of HRM practices in the organisation by the employees, higher will be their level of OCB", zero order correlations were found between OCB dimensions and HRM practices.

TABLE 1: ZERO-ORDER CORRELATION BETWEEN OCB AND HRM PRACTICES

	RECOGNITION	EMPOWERMENT	FAIR REWARDS	COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT	INFORMATION SHARING
HELPING	.4108**	.475**	.092	.479**	.210*
COMPLIANCE	072	.056	.533**	.439**	.458**
LOYALTY	.237**	.317**	.170**	.448**	.278**
INITIATIVE	.237**	169*	.345**	.124*	.285**
SPORTSMANSHIP	203**	078	.358**	.232**	.231**

^{**}value is significant at 0.01 level, * value is significant at 0.05 level

To further test this hypothesis, i.e. to see if HRM practices predict OCB, regression analysis was carried out.

TABLE 2: SHOWING HRM PRACTICES AS PREDICTOR OF OCB

	RECOGNITION	EMPOWERMENT	FAIR	COMPETENCE	INFORMATION	ADJUSTEDR ²	F
			REWARDS	DEVELOPMENT	SHARING		
HELPING	.4108**	.238**	053	.433***	105	.312	27.631***
COMPLIANCE	383***	.166*	.338***	.303***	.115	.392	38.985***
LOYALTY	093	.203*	025	.393***	.022	.207	16.340***
INITIATIVE	393***	.080	.205**	004	.253**	.215	17.149***
SPORTSMANSHIP	379***	.062	.286***	.282***	053	.214	17.051***

Note: Cell values are Beta coefficients, except for adjusted R² and F;***value is significant at .001 level, **value is significant at 0.01 level, * value is significant at 0.05 level

In the end mediation analysis was conducted using the method of Preacher & Hayes (2008). Here, HRM Practices (Recognition, Empowerment, Fair rewards and Competence development and Information sharing) were taken as Independent Variables. Organisational Citizenship Behaviour (Helping, Compliance, Loyalty, Initiative and Sportsmanship) was taken as the Dependent Variable and Organisational Commitment (Affective, Normative and Continuance commitment) was taken as the Mediating Variable.

Only those set of Independent, Dependent and Mediating Variable which could significantly predict each other (as per mediation analysis method) were chosen for testing mediation.

MEDIATION ANALYSIS

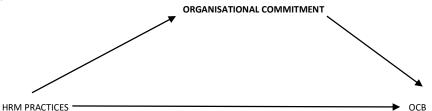


TABLE 3 (A & B): SHOWING THE RELEVANT VALUES DERIVED FROM THE PROCESS OF MEDIATION ANALYSIS

	FAIR REWARDS			
MEDIATOR↓	COMPLIANCE	INITIATIVE	SPORTSMANSHIP	
NORMATIVE	Beta=.3168***	Beta=.2065***	Beta=.2181***	
COMMITMENT	R ² =.5225	R ² =.3548	R ² =.3434	
	F=159.7458***	F=80.2998***	F=76.3730***	
IE(SE)	.1132(.0253)	.1131(.0319)	.1099(.0284)	
(LL,UL	(.0650,.1647)	(.0584,.1815)	(.0570,.1688)	

	COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT			
MEDIATORS↓	HELPING	COMPLIANCE	LOYALTY	SPORTSMANSHIP
NORMATIVE COMMITMENT		Beta=.3020***	Beta=.3028***	Beta=.1629***
		R ² =.5011	R ² =.3914	R ² =.3244
		F=146.6263***	F=93.9038***	F=70.1019***
IE(SE)		.1004(.0249)	.0775(.0199)	.0963(.0264)
(LL,UL)		(.0501,.1497)	(.0408,.1192)	(.0463,.1512)
CONTINUANCE	Beta=.3151***		Beta=.3028***	
COMMITMENT	R ² =.2776		R ² =.2382	
	F=56.1111***		F=45.6803***	
IE(SE)	.0493(.0216)		.0445(.0212)	
(LL,UL)	(.0161,.1059)		(.0109,.0995)	

It can be seen in table no. 1 that the overall pattern of correlation between HRM practices and OCB shows positive relationship between the two. The result of Regression analysis also shows that all the values of F are highly significant. This implies that the HRM practices taken in the study, together strongly predict Organisational citizenship behaviour. HRM practices explain 20.7% to 39.2% of variance in citizenship behavior.

However, certain exceptions were also observed. Some practices do not contribute significantly in prediction of OCB. For example, Empowerment does not contribute significantly in predicting Initiative dimension of OCB. Another point of difference here, is that some beta values in table no. 2 are in negative direction. This denotes that though those HRM practices predict OCB, these citizenship behaviour tend to decrease with the increase in perception of HRM practices in the organization.

However, after looking at results of correlation and regression analysis, it may be concluded that Hypothesis 1 has been accepted; i.e. "HRM practices of Empowerment, Competence Development, Information sharing, Recognition and Fair Rewards would be significantly positively related to OCB such that, higher the degree of perception of HRM practices in the organisation by the employees, higher will be their level of OCB"

Coming to mediation analysis, it can be seen in table no. 3A and B that normative commitment mediates the relationship between Fair Rewards and OCB dimensions of Compliance, Initiative and Sportsmanship. On the other hand, both Normative and Continuance Commitment mediate the relationship between Competence Development and OCB dimensions of Helping, Compliance, Loyalty and Sportsmanship. Hence, it may be said that organisational commitment did mediate

the relationship HRM practices and OCB, but only for two of the HRM practices-Fair Rewards and Competence Development. It may be concluded that hypotheses no. 2 "Organisational Commitment will mediate the relationship between HRM practices of Empowerment, Competence Development, Information sharing, Recognition and Fair Rewards and OCB. HRM practices would contribute significantly to Organisational Commitment, which in turn would contribute significantly to OCB", was partially accepted.

Such findings were well expected in advance. HRM practices indeed have been considered important for eliciting OCB (Morrison, 1996). They help in building employee-employer relationship and employee trust in the organisation. In Huselid's (1995) opinion, HRM practices shape the attitude and behaviour of the employees. Gupta & Singh (2010) also state that HRM practices are potential antecedents of OCB. It is indeed logical that if an organisation pays attention to the employees, invests time and resources in them, the employees would certainly develop positive feelings and attitude towards the organisation and would be driven to engage in activities beneficial to the organisation often in the form of citizenship behaviour.

This relationship of antecedents and consequents (HRM practices and OCB here) may not be direct always. As seen in the result of mediation analysis, organisation commitment mediates between the two.

A number of studies have shown that individual or a group of HRM practices play a positive role in developing employee's attachment to the organisation e.g. Gaetren & Nollen, 1989; Gould-Williams, 2003; Meyer & Smith, 2000). Shahnawaz & Juyal (2006) also conducted a study on two different types of organisation. The results of regression analysis show that HRM practices significantly predict organisation commitment. Organisation commitment in turn manifests itself in the form of Organisational citizenship behaviour.

Employee training and development practices have been found to have significantly positive relationship with OCB (Ahmad, 2011; Noor, 2009). These studies support the findings of this study.

A surprising finding here is that Affective commitment played no role as a mediator. This is opposite to the popular belief and general finding that Affective commitment holds substantial importance in mediating the relationship between HRM practice and OCB. It points to the possibility that the role of emotions has decreased in organisation. However, further study is needed to understand this change.

FINDINGS

Overall significantly positive correlation between all three variables taken in the study, i.e., HRM practices, OCB and Organisational commitment.

Except for a few correlations, there is an overall significantly positive relationship between HRM practices and OCB.

Overall, HRM practices significantly predicted OCB as well as Organisational commitment; and Organisational commitment significantly predicted OCB.

The indirect effect of Fair rewards and Competence development HRM practices through normative and continuance commitment (mediator), accounted for the significant variation in OCB (helping, compliance, loyalty, initiative, sportsmanship).

Contrary to previous findings, affective commitment was not found to mediate the HRM practices-OCB relationship.

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

More HRM practices could be included in studying as antecedents of OCB. Also, organisations may be differentiated on the basis of HRM practices first, and then it may be seen how OCB differs in them.

CONCLUSION

There is a significant positive relationship between HRM practices and OCB.

HRM practices significantly predict OCB.

Normative and continuance commitment mediate the fair rewards and competence development HRM practices and OCB relationship, which implies that Fair rewards and competence development practices increases normative and continuance commitment which in turn elicits OCB.

LIMITATIONS

Like every other research this study also had certain limitations. The self-developed OCB scale had not gone through factor analysis hence, was not a very valid measure. Also, as commitment and OCB scales were self-report measures, social desirability element could have entered the data.

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Organisational factors other than HRM practices may also be taken in relation to OCB like organisational culture, organisational structure, etc. Role of normative and continuance commitment may be further probed in promoting OCB as these were considered to be less important till now. Also, the role of affective commitment may be revisited in relation to OCB.

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