

IMPACT OF JOB ENVIRONMENT ON JOB SATISFACTION & COMMITMENT AMONG NIGERIAN NURSES

Abstract

The incessant strike, picketing among health workers in developing nations is becoming a worrisome phenomenon in developing economy. This paper's main objective is to examine the impact of job environment (work-family interface, climate, work roles, and job security) on job satisfaction and commitment among Nigerian nurses. A model was developed and tested using two hundred and twenty eight valid questionnaires, which were completed by nurses in the public hospitals in Lagos, Nigeria. Structural Equation Modeling was adopted to test the hypotheses and relationships that might exist among variables. The results show that strong relationship exists between job security and job satisfaction; and workers are not satisfy with the present condition of the job environment. The summary of the findings indicates a good fit, which implies that there is strong correlation between the tested dependent and independent constructs. However, decision makers should endeavour to make job environment conducive in order to earn workers' commitment, which tends to increase organizational performance.

Keywords: Commitment, Job environment, Job satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

Job dissatisfaction among workers has been a bone of contention and most researched variable among management and human resource researchers (Dhammika, Ahmad, & Sam, 2001). The world is a global village, job seekers expect to be engaged in an organization that provide adequate work environment, free of environmental hazards, well ventilated, and secured thereby leading to job satisfaction. Essentially, researchers in the fields of organizational behaviour and management opined that the conceptual framework of the phenomena (satisfaction) is complex, indescribable and mythical (Malik, 2011). It has been argued that organizations cannot be at their best until workers are committed to the organizational goals and objectives (Dixit and Bhati, 2012). However, the degree to which workers are satisfied with their jobs vary and subject to factors such as job environment, work hours and schedules, reward system, (Osibanjo, Abiodun, and Fadugba, 2012). In other words, workers' commitment can be described as a function of job satisfaction, which implies that workers could be committed in delivering their services when they are satisfied with their jobs and this may be influenced by job environment. Job environment include workers' immediate vicinity where they carry out their assignments (Chapins, 1995); achieve management

perceived and expected results (Shikdar, 2002, Mike, 2010). Job environment entails some basic features that tend to make workers satisfy on their job amongst which include; easy accessibility, ventilation, ergonomic furniture, cooling system, (Humphries, 2005; Veitch, Charles, Newsham, Marquardt & Geerts, 2004); and these have positive impact on workers' health (Dilani, 2004; Milton, Glencross & Walters, 2000). With the understanding that job formed an integral part of workers' life, it is therefore essential for workers to seek its satisfaction in order to be able to render their services without reservation, which tends to increase productivity at both employee and organizational levels. Job satisfaction as an independent variable can be influenced by other variables such as wages, benefits, job security, work type, family and so on.

NEED/IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The survey became necessary because of the incessant conflicts among the health workers in the Nigerian public hospitals. In the recent past, health workers in Lagos State have being in and out of strikes/picketing due to inability of the stakeholders in the health industry to harmonize and manage the affairs effectively and efficiently. However, the resultant effects of these actions have caused irrecoverable damages such as death, deformities, etc. among the citizens. Having understood from the literature (reviewed above) that job environment is one of the major underlining factors that can make workers satisfy with their jobs. Therefore, this study is essential because it help identify the challenges militating against health industry and subsequent proffer suggestions that will help alleviate these issues.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The rate at which population is growing in Nigeria is very alarming, and it is obvious that the stakeholders in the health sector are negligent in managing and utilization of the scarce resources (human and infrastructure). In the Nigerian health sector, workers' job satisfaction and commitment is linked with wages/salary and other benefits, whereby other factors such as job environment; work roles, job security, organizational climate & work-family interface are not being addressed.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective for this research study is to examine the impact of job environment on workers' job satisfaction and commitment.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Job Environment and Job Satisfaction

Job environment could be described as the physical, geographical, professional surroundings or conditions wherein employee interacts with colleagues and equipment in order to carry out some specific activities. However, such professional surroundings could be either located at home or outside. Essentially, job environment is expected to be conducive, hazard free, well ventilation, etc. because hazardous environment tends to influence employees' performances (Bakotia and Babia, 2013). Choi, Cheung, and Pang, (2012) identified five dimensions of job environment amongst which include co-worker relationship, management, ward practice, etc. However, for the purpose of this study, we would like to specify the following variables to be tested under the job environment construct; organization climate, work roles, job security, and work-family interface. These variables shall be tested against job satisfaction and commitment among Nigerian nurses in the public hospitals. The term 'Job satisfaction' has been described by different authors; the state of emotion that relates with either positive or negative appraisal of work experiences (Locke, 1969); self-perception of fulfilling one's needs through work (Kreis and Brockopp, 1986); represents workers' evaluation of their work context (Thomas, Dose, and Scott, 2002); "state of mind determined by the extent to which the individual perceives his/her job related needs being met" (Freund, 2005). Further, job satisfaction is defined by Spector (1997) as "a global construct or as a constellation of different dimensions to which the employee reacts effectively". Put differently from psychologist point of view, Dawes (2004) as cited in Muhammad, Samina, Basharat, and Rizwan (2010) opined that job satisfaction comprises of two components: (i) cognitive component; meaning workers having perception that their needs have being fulfilled, and (ii) affective component; the kind of feeling workers experience or have that comes with the perception. In similar direction, as cited in Muhammad, et al (2010), McNamara (1999) described job satisfaction as feelings or state of mind of workers regarding the characteristics of their jobs. He went further to state that for workers to be satisfied on their job depends on variables such as work relationship with one's supervisor, the quality of physical work environment, oneself-actualization, among others. A critical analysis of the above definitions shows that job satisfaction connotes different meaning to different people, however, it could be deduced that job satisfaction is subjective and it depends on many factors (Weaver, 1980) such as one's feeling, state of mind, perception, frame of reference, work context, etc. As obtained in the literature, job satisfaction

comprises of various elements such as remuneration, recognition, supervision, job security, and career advancement (Weiss, 2002). Further, physical job environment, quality of interpersonal relationship among workers; nature of the work (Ghazzawi, 2008; Judge and Church, 2000), tend to influence workers job satisfaction; therefore we propose the following hypotheses:

H₁: Work Roles have positive impact on workers' job satisfaction;

H₂: Work Roles have positive impact on workers' commitment

Job satisfaction could also be influenced by organizational climate, which could be described as the collective attitude of employees towards their organizations (Burton, Lauridsen, and Obel, 2004); experienced by workers, influences their behaviour and attitude (Tagiuri and Litwin, 1968). Organizational climate in comparison with organizational culture is regarded as a quantifiable concept and culture is seen as qualitative and less visible (Gould-Williams, 2007). Denison, (1996) argued that organizational climate is more concerned with 'those aspects of the social environment that are consciously perceived by organizational members'. Essentially, organizational climate can be seen as a combination of workers' useful perceptions that differentiate organizations in terms of procedure and practices. Therefore, we propose the following hypotheses:

H₃: There is positive impact of organizational climate on workers' job satisfaction and commitment.

Job security as obtained in the literature could be described as the feeling workers experience having assurance regarding the continuance of their jobs (Arabi, 2000); and avoidance of threats in the line of their jobs. Having job security implies workers do not feel or perceive any kind of threat in the line of their duties; and as opined by Jandaghi, Mokhles, and Bahrami, (2011) organizational effectiveness is a function of employee commitment and satisfaction; similarly, Thomas (2006) described job security as one of the creators of job satisfaction and commitment. With these assertions, we propose:

H₄: Job security has positive impact on job satisfaction among the Nigerian Nurses.

H₅: Job security has positive impact on commitment among the Nigerian Nurses.

Work can be described as an engagement of persons in physical or mental activity with the aim of achieving results, which often comes with financial gain. While family is described as a group comprises of parents and children living together in the same house. Work is essential and an important factor in sustaining and maintaining family in particular and society at large, and it is evident that work can generate stress as a result of interactions with colleagues and meeting set

targets. However, there is need to accept that work comes with its pros and cons, and therefore workers are expected to strike balance between work and family obligations. Work-family interface could be described as workers' continuous effort to maintain happiness and productive family and work lives. We therefore hypothesize that:

H₆: Work-family interface has positive impact on job satisfaction among the Nigerian Nurses.

H₇: Work-family interface has positive impact on commitment among the Nigerian Nurses.

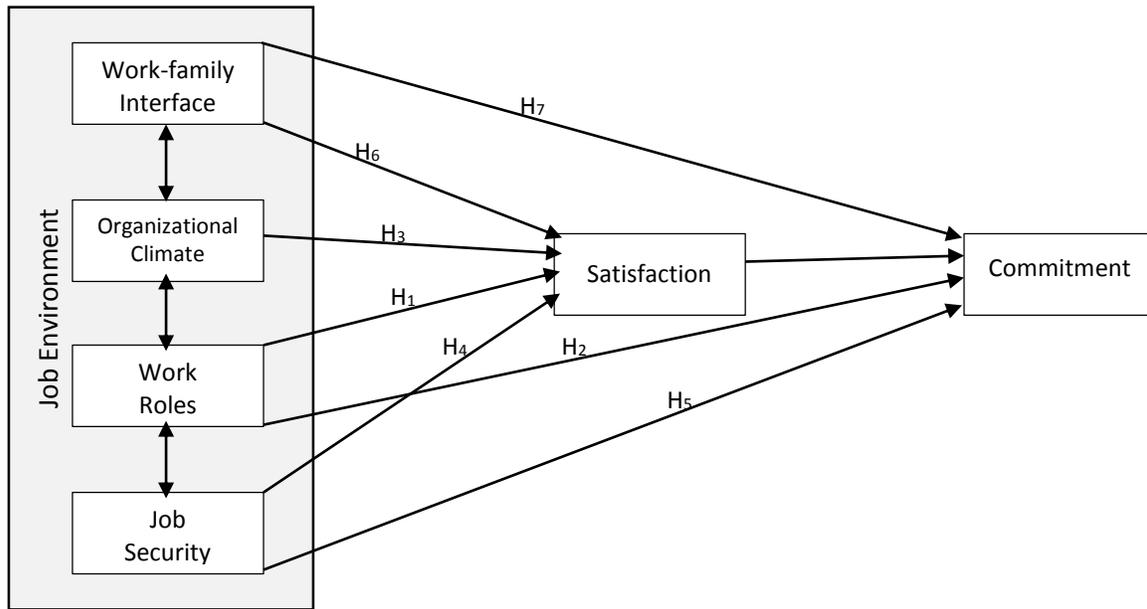
Job Commitment and Job Satisfaction

As obtained in the literature, organizational commitment as a variable related to sustained productivity (Dixit and Bhati, 2012); ethical climate types, facets of job satisfaction (Huang and Tsai, 2007); job satisfaction among teachers during times of burnout (Nagar, 2012); amongst others have been studied by researchers in the fields of organizational behaviour, psychology, and management. Organizational commitment is described as a three-component model viz-a-viz Affective Commitment – degree to which employees believe and identify with the organization; Continuance Commitment – employees' awareness of the cost of leaving their present organizations; and Normative Commitment is said to be the obligation employees have to remain with their present organizations (Meyer and Allen, 1991; Meyer, Stanley, Herscovitch, and Topolnytsky, 2002). As cited in Nagar (2012); Porter, Steers, Mowday, and Boulian (1974); and Cook and Wall, (1980) conceptualized commitment as “the strength of an individual's identification with and involvement in a particular organization, characterized by a strong belief in an acceptance of an organization's goals and values; a willingness to exert considerable effort on behalf of the organization; and a definite desire to maintain organizational membership.” Based on the above opinions, it is evident that commitment on the part of employees tends to provide results that are favourable to the organizations; and it can also predict employees' perceived behaviour (Dordevic, 2004).

HYPOTHESES AND RESEARCH MODEL

This study will focus on the impact of job environment on job satisfaction and commitment among Nigerian Nurses. However, as obtained in the literature reviewed above, we propose the following research model depicted in figure 1.

Figure 1: Proposed Study Model



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The empirical data for the study were collected through researchers’ self-administered questionnaires, which were prepared exclusively for nurses in four (4) public hospitals in Lagos, Southwest Nigeria. Methodological approach was adopted for the research design of this survey, which allow the use of primary data collected from the studied respondents on the impact of job environment on job satisfaction and commitment among the Nigerian nurses. However, the choice of Nurses in the public health sector was based on the fact that the Nigeria health sector had been experiencing labour unrest. Convenience and purposeful sampling methods were utilized in order to derive the needed data for the study. Structured questionnaire was used to collect data and this was found appropriate because the views of the respondents were obtained. The research instrument is divided into two sections; the first tends to obtain the respondents’ biodata; while the second part contains the items regarding the constructs of the subject matter; and this was based on a seven-point Likert scale (7 – Strongly agree; 6 – Agree; 5 – Moderately Agree; 4 – Moderately Disagree; 3 – Disagree; 2 – Strongly Disagree; and 1 – Not at all) that best describes the extent to which the respondents agree with each of the items in the questionnaire. The hypothesized proposed model in figure 1 was tested using Amos 21. A total of three hundred questionnaires were administered within the scope of the selected location, having sorted the returned questionnaires, the final valid sample size for the analysis was two hundred and twenty eight (228)

which translate to a response rate of 76%. The study tends to add to the existing literature on job environment and job satisfaction and commitment in developing economy such as Nigeria.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Respondents Demography

Table 1: Respondents Demography

	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	22	9.6%
Female	206	90.4%
Total:	228	100.0%
Age		
20 – 29 years	69	30.3%
30 – 39 years	69	30.3%
40 – 49 years	51	22.4%
50 years & above	39	17.1%
Total:	228	100.0%
Marital Status		
Single	81	35.5%
Married	116	50.9%
Divorced	31	13.6%
Total:	228	100.0%
Years of Experience		
0 – 9 years	55	24.1%
10 – 19 years	114	50.0%
20 years & above	59	25.9%
Total:	228	100.0%
Department		
Critical Care	38	16.7%
Surgery	54	23.7%
Internal medicine	53	23.2%
Outpatient	43	18.9%
Emergency Room	40	17.5%
Total:	228	100.0%

Source: Survey, 2013

It is evident in Table 1 that 9.6% of the sample size were male while 90.4% were female, which implies that the population of the female is higher than the male counterpart in the nursing profession. This makes this survey appropriate and valid because much is expected from the female gender regarding family obligations. Further, about 60.5% (cumulative percentage) of the respondents were within the active age range. Also, half of the respondents (50.9%) were married;

while 35.5% were unmarried; and 13.6% divorced, though the reasons for their present marital status could not be ascertained as that the time of documenting this report. Regarding the years of work experience; 50.0% of the respondent had worked between 10 and 19 years; while 25.9% has put in 20years and about, which makes the respondents authority in responding to the questionnaire.

Discussion

Hooper, Coughlan, and Mullen (2008) described Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) as a technique being adopted by researchers across disciplines to test their variables and identify whether the model fits and represents the underlying proposed theory. Similarly, we adopted Amos 21 for the analysis of data obtained from this survey. The goodness of fit of a model explains the extent to which it fits the observed and expected values. Further, as cited in Adeniji, Osibanjo; and Abiodun (2013), the works of Bentler and Wu, 2002; Kaplan, 2000; and Hair, Anderson, Tathan, & Black (1998) argue that various goodness-of-fit indicators are used to evaluate research models. A model is acceptable if the Normed-Fit Index (NFI) exceeds 0.90 indicating a good fit, and the Comparative Fit Index (CFI) the statistical values range between 0.0 and 1.0 with values closer to 1.0 representing good fit (Hooper *et al*, 2008). As shown in Table 2 (the survey Model Fit summary); the Normed Fit Index (NFI) value for this model is .999, which indicates the model of interest improves the fit by 99.9% relative to the independence model; while the Comparative Fit Index (CFI) value equals 1.000 indicating a goof fit, thereby making the model acceptable. As cited in Hooper et al (2008), The Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) that is referred to as the second fit statistic says how well the model, and it was obtained that an RMSEA value below 0.08 shows a good fit (MacCallum, Browne, and Sugawara, 1996), therefore the RMSEA value obtained from this analysis is .000 which makes it perfect and acceptable fit.

Table 2: Model Fit Summary

Model Fix index	Score	Recommended cut-off value
Chi-square/Degree of Freedom	.330	
Comparative Fix Index (CFI)	1.000	Values greater than 0.9 (Bentler and Bonnet, 1980)
Normed Fit Index (NFI)	.999	Values greater than 0.9
Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA)	.000	Values lower than 0.08 (MacCallum, Browne, and Sugawara, 1996)
CMIN	.330	
Degrees of Freedom (DF)	1	
Probability Level	.566	

Source: Survey, 2013

Hypotheses Testing Results

The results of the path analysis, presented in Table 3, shows that Job satisfaction appears to be positively influenced by variables such as: Work roles (H₁); Organizational climate (H₃); Job security (H₅); and Work-family interface (H₇). Evidently, organizational climate and job security tend to be more significant than other variables tested against job satisfaction. By implication, organizational climate and job security are observed to be great determinants of workers satisfaction in rendering their services. While on the other hand, workers' commitment appeared to be positively influenced by work roles (H₂); Job security (H₅); and Work-family interface (H₇).

Table 3: Hypotheses Testing Results

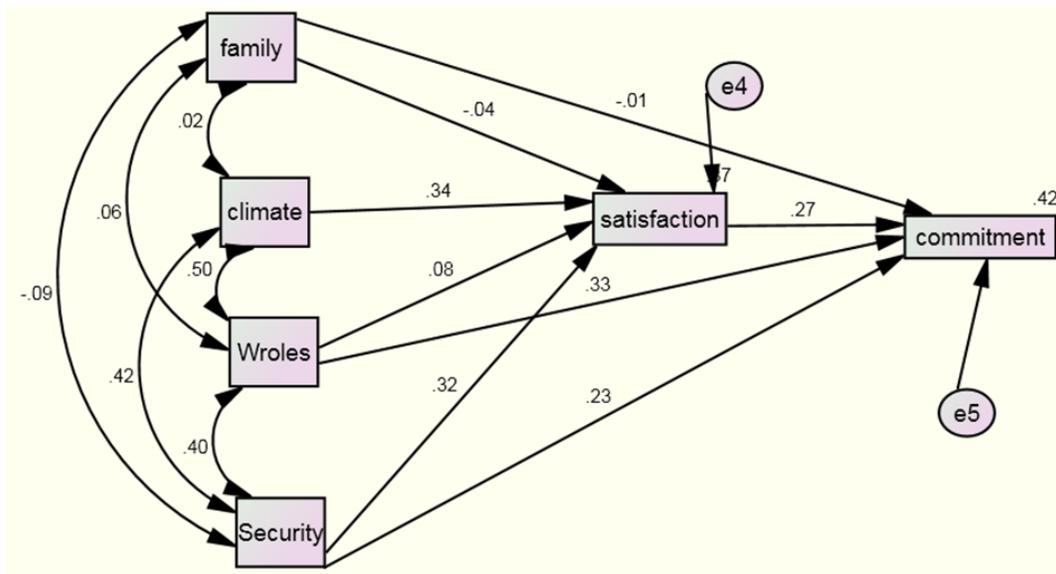
Hypotheses	Path Coefficient	Remark
Work role (Wroles) → Satisfaction	.08	Accepted
Work role (Wroles) → Commitment	.33	Accepted
Climate → Satisfaction	.34	Accepted
Security → Satisfaction	.32	Accepted
Security → Commitment	.23	Accepted
Work-family interface → Satisfaction	-.04	Accepted
Work-family interface → Commitment	-.01	Accepted

Note: All path coefficients are significant at the $p < 0.001$

Source: Survey, 2013

The results of Model Fit for Job Environment and Job Satisfaction and Commitment is depicted in Figure 2. It is evident that close association exists among the variables observed under job environment construct. The path coefficient between job security and organizational climate is .42, which indicates positive and significant correlation; similarly, work roles and organizational climate (.50) also displays high correlation; also job security and work roles with coefficient value of .40.

Figure 2: Results of Model Fit for Job Environment and Job Satisfaction and Commitment



FINDINGS

The survey examined the impact of job environment on job satisfaction and commitment among Nigerian nurses; and the study was limited to Lagos Southwest Nigeria. All the relationships proposed among the variables in the research model were tested and it was found that strong association exists amongst the variables, having subjected the collected data to empirical analysis with the use of structural equation modeling. However, the results of the findings indicated that nurses are less satisfied with the current job environment, which implies that nurses can be more satisfied if there is improvement in job environment with particular emphasis on variables (family-life interface, climate, work roles, and security) studied. The overall analysis showed that proposed hypotheses tested are accepted and the goodness of fit indexes showed a good fit. It is therefore evident that job satisfaction and commitment among nurses in Nigeria can be boosted by providing an environment that is conducive, adequately secured, and ensure that there is balance between

work and family, also the task be performed should not be above workers' capacities. It could be suggested that for nurses in Nigeria and developing nations to be satisfied and committed to their jobs, there is need for the decision makers to provide a better job environment in order to have committed and satisfied workforce, which tends to increase organizational performance and also save lives and cost.

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This survey was self-administered and self-sponsored; which was conducted at the general hospitals in Lagos, Southwest Nigeria. This reduces the possibility of generalizing and implementing the findings in other parts of Nigeria, which implies that the findings should be interpreted with caution taking the diversity that exists in Nigeria into consideration. Nigeria comprises of six-geopolitical zones, it is therefore suggested that such research should be sponsored and replicated in these geopolitical zones for stakeholders and decision makers in the Nigerian health sector to be able to make adequate recommendations and implement these suggestions thereof.

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