



EFFECT OF DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE ON JOB SATISFACTION OF NURSES WORKING IN RURAL AREAS OF PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Purpose of the study: The current study has explored the effect of different dimensions of organizational culture on the job satisfaction of nurses working in the rural areas of Punjab, Pakistan.

Methodology: Present study used a cross-sectional, face-to-face approach. The researcher collected data from 452 nurses working at tehsil headquarter hospitals and rural health centres across Punjab with the help of an interview schedule. The effect of culture on the job satisfaction level of nurses Investigated with the help of Multiple regression techniques.

Main Findings: The analysis showed a 52% variation in job satisfaction because of the culture. Values and belief systems, feedback systems, innovation, growth and development opportunities, relationship patterns, autonomy, work environment were the significant determinants of job satisfaction. Whereas the facilities, communication, and vision were the nonsignificant determinants of job satisfaction in the present study.

Application of this study: The current research will be helpful to understand the prevailing culture of health care organizations. That will help the administrators and policymakers to understand the different factors which are responsible for low productivity.

Novelty /originality of this study: The study is novel in organizational studies because it adopts a holistic approach to consider all the significant components of culture.

Keywords: *Organizational Culture, Job Satisfaction, Rural Health Centres, Tehsil-headquarter Hospitals.*

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is a developing country with minimal budgetary allocation for the health care system. 63.1% of the population lives in rural areas ([Population Census, 2017](#)). After the Alma-Ata declaration in 1978, Pakistan has started to expand its health care facilities to rural areas. Poverty, increasing burden of diseases, lack of quality health care facilities, and a population with a rich number of youngsters and older people are the challenges the health care system must face. Furthermore, the health care system also must face the issue of brain drain. Health care facilities have expanded many folds. But this expansion of services undermines many vital aspects of planning, management, and development of human resources. Pakistan is among the list of 57 countries facing the human resource crisis in health care services. Most of the health care service providers preferred to serve in urban areas. Currently, for 3,626 people, there is one nurse ([WHO, 2011](#)). Human resources are significant to pursue the organization's goals. Nurses are the backbone of the health care system. Globally the focus is shifting from secondary (treatment) health care to primary. Nurses could be an essential part of this critical health care workforce.

Educated and well-trained nurses can serve the best alternate to doctors in rural areas. [WHO \(2011\)](#) acknowledged that job satisfaction and motivation at the workplace are critical factors. These factors reduce turnover intentions. It is necessary to understand such factors. Job dissatisfaction has drastic impacts on employees like high turnover, low productivity. The environment in which employees performed plays a significant role in the satisfaction of the employees. The system of shared values, beliefs, and norms made the culture and affect the thinking of the employees that how they will behave and feel within that organization ([Schein, 2004](#)). The culture of an organization holds power to increase the productivity of its employees, levels of their satisfaction with their profession and provide its members with confidence that they can solve their problems at the workplace. The culture of an organization can be used as an instrument to provide direction. It helps to understand the problems and events of the organization. That will ensure a sense of order among its members. Job satisfaction is productive for the organization in which the employee works and contributes towards the employee's physical health, longevity, and mental health ([Locke, 1976](#)). **The present study was designed to explore the role of different dimensions of culture on the job satisfaction level of nurses providing services in rural areas of Punjab, Pakistan.**

LITERATURE REVIEW

Shared cognitions among the members of an organization is called its culture ([Smircich, 1983](#)). It has multiple dimensions and levels ([Tharp \(2009\)](#)). An organization's culture reflects its purpose and foundations ([Gutknecht and Miller, 1990](#)). It is reflected in the tangible things, values, and underlying assumptions of an organization ([Schein, 2004](#)) and manifested into the behavioural norms and expectations ([Balthazard et al., 2006](#)).

A culture that focuses on learning and goal orientation can increase employee's commitment and job satisfaction ([Joo and Park, 2009](#)). The culture holds the power to increase its employees' job satisfaction by improving their performance ([Kotter, 2012](#)). An organization's culture increases job commitment, bringing higher job satisfaction and improving performance ([Nahar et al., 2020](#)). The culture of an organization is the motivating force for its employees that brings excellent performance. The learning culture, feedback system, and orientation affect the employees' commitment to their job. ([Huang and Chi, 2004](#)). The culture of an organization, working environment, and leadership styles are significantly associated with job satisfaction ([Pawirosumarto et al., 2017](#)). The culture of an organization and leadership style affect the performance of the employees. A good leadership style increases Job satisfaction.

Job satisfaction is positive or negative feelings about one's job ([Schermerhorn, 2000](#)). Working conditions that allow the fulfillment of desired needs, gratitude, and equity are said to be the attributes of job satisfaction ([Liu et al., 2016](#)). Warmth among colleagues, trust, respect, and relations among employees and superiors are the most critical factors in job satisfaction ([Kennerly, 1989](#)). Financial aspects, available equipment, public appreciation, and relationships also affect job satisfaction ([Xuan Tran et al., 2013](#)). The flawed evaluation system, lack of opportunities for professional training, poor working conditions, and low wages contribute to job satisfaction ([Mengistu and Bali, 2015](#)). [Koustelios \(1996\)](#) said that conditions at the workplace, relationships with other colleagues, promotion opportunities, and institutions affect job satisfaction. Higher autonomy results in higher job satisfaction and happiness ([Hwang, 2018](#); [Liu et al., 2016](#)). [Freeborn and Hooker \(1995\)](#) reported a sense of responsibility, coworker's support, job security, working hours, supervisory support, and variety in task performance increased job satisfaction. workload, control at the workplace, and advancement opportunities decreased job satisfaction. [Ahmed et al., \(2010\)](#) reported recognition for one's job, nature of work, advancement opportunities, and a sense of responsibility as the main contributory factors of job satisfaction.

[Witter et al., \(2011\)](#) reported lower satisfaction at lower placement levels because of less sophisticated equipment, lack of opportunities for skill development, less experienced colleagues, and needy clients. Sufficient resources and flexible work environments affect the retention rates of its employees ([Kossivi et al., 2016](#)). The ability to empower others, align visions, and coordinate efficient communication strategies supports creativity and innovation ([Hynes & Mickahail, 2019](#)).

[Ahmadi and Alireza \(2007\)](#) said that lack of work-life balance, advancement opportunities, encouragement, recognition, and working environment lower job satisfaction. Job satisfaction can affect the retention rate of employees. Organizations with good culture and financial benefits ensure success in the marketplace and delighted workers with high retention rates ([Iqbal et al., 2017](#)). Feedback plays an essential role in the employees' learning and development ([Zhou, 2003](#)). And positive feedback results in increased job satisfaction by improving competency and refined ways for task performance ([Jaworski and Khol, 1991](#)). [Lok and Crawford \(1999\)](#) explored the relationship between innovation, commitment, and job satisfaction. Control over the work environment, relationship with other colleagues, and professionalism are the indicators of job satisfaction and are strongly associated with a job commitment. Loose supervision and reward achievement increased job satisfaction ([Robbins, 1996](#)). [Carriere and Bourque \(2009\)](#) reported communication as a source of variation in job satisfaction. Communication is a tool through which an organization transfers its culture to the members ([Gochhayat et al., 2017](#)). Job satisfaction is affected by an organization's communication, leadership style, and culture ([Komah et al., 2019](#)). [Arabshahi and Arabshahi \(2014\)](#) said effective communication causes a higher level of job satisfaction. Managers can popularize the collectivist culture by focusing on teamwork orientation. It will minimize the effect of individual values ([Mustafa et al., 2017](#)).

An organization's culture positively and significantly affects employee performance and job satisfaction ([Maulidiyah, 2018](#)). [Kim et al., \(2016\)](#) also assert that the organization's culture, marital status, age, experience, and nurse's job commitment all affect the job satisfaction level of nurses. So, assessment of the culture helps leaders highlight areas where improvement is needed ([McElory et al., 2016](#)). In the present study, it is supposed that different dimensions of culture affect the job satisfaction level of nurses of rural areas of Punjab, Pakistan.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data

The present study used a cross-sectional, face-to-face approach. The researcher collected data from 452 nurses working at tehsil headquarter hospitals and rural health centres across Punjab with the help of an interview schedule. All the nurses working at Tehsil headquarter hospitals and Rural health centres of Punjab province, Pakistan, was the population. Punjab is the most populous province and has 36 Districts and 127 tehsils and towns. Total 318 Rural health centres and 128 Tehsil headquarter hospitals are working. Out of which, the present study selected 12 Tehsils

headquarters hospitals and 45 Rural Health centres. To meet the minimum criteria of the sample. Interview conducted with 452 nurses. This study used an interview schedule with three parts, socio-demographic features, and variables to assess organizational culture and job satisfaction. Table 1 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the nurses who participated in the study.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic characteristics

		Frequency	Percentage
Qualification	Matric	243	53.8%
	Intermediate	75	16.6%
	Bachelor	116	25.7%
	Masters	16	3.5%
	Above	2	.4%
professional qualification	Diploma Nursing	391	86.5%
	Postgraduate diploma	25	5.5%
	R N nursing	34	7.5%
	MS nursing	2	.4%
Marital status	Single	130	28.8%
	Married	319	70.6%
	Widow	1	.2%
	Divorced	2	.4%
Age	Under 20 years	18	4.0%
	21 to 30 years	220	48.7%
	31 to 40	149	33.0%
	41 to 50	43	9.5%
	51 to 60	22	4.9%
Length of service	1-5 years	207	45.8%
	6-10 years	142	31.4%
	10-15 years	48	10.6%
	16-20 years	8	1.8%
	21-25 year	27	6.0%
	Above	20	4.4%

Data and Data analysis

Bartlett's test of sphericity and Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin tests were performed. The KMO value of .93 is superb (Hutcheson and Sofroniou, 1999) and support factor analysis. Principal component analysis grouped the 50 items related to the organization's culture into ten factors. The significance level of .000 of chi-square suggests the correlation of construct items and supports factor analysis. Data were analyzed through SPSS 16.0 version.

Table 2: Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin and Bartlett's Test

Construct	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin	Bartlett's test of sphericity	
		Chi-square	Sig.
Organizational culture	.936	1225	.000

The dimensions of the organization's culture assessed in the present study include physical settings and facilities, autonomy, relationship patterns, vision and mission of the organization, communication system, growth and development opportunities, innovation, feedback system, values, and beliefs. Each concept contains several variables, the index scale developed for each concept. The details of each scale are: Physical settings and facilities scale contains five items each. The concept of autonomy was assessed through six questions. The vision and mission construct used three sub-items. Communication scale developed with two items. The concept of growth and development opportunities were assessed through nine questions.

Relationship patterns and innovation within cultures were assessed on five items for each. The feedback system was assessed through five items, and three variables assessed the values and beliefs system. All the items were measured on a five-point Likert scale from 1 to 5. Respondents were asked to rate how much each item is practised in their workplace. The job satisfaction section contains twelve items on both external and internal aspects of job satisfaction of nurses. The responses were collected on five points Likert scale. Numbers assign from 1 to 5 to rate how much they are satisfied. One for strongly disagree, 2 for disagree, 3 for neutral, 4 for agree, and 5 for rating to strongly agree.

Cronbach's alpha values were also calculated to ensure the internal validity of the construct.

Table 3: Reliability

Scale variable	N	No of Items	Cronbach's alpha value
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Organizational culture	452	50	.904
Job satisfaction	452	12	.889

Empirical Findings and Discussion

The results of the study are reported in two parts. Descriptive statistics used mean scores, standard deviations, and midpoints. Scores of each subject on a particular variable are calculated by averaging the subject's ratings on the set of items corresponds to that variable. The "scale midpoints" values correspond to the centre of the rating scale used for items in that scale. The second part used the principal component analysis and Regression analysis to determine the effect of each component of organizational culture on job satisfaction levels among nurses.

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics

Scale	Mean Score	Standard Deviation	Scale Mid-point
Physical settings	2.513	.58	2.5
Facilities available	2.433	.59	2.5
Autonomy	2.57	.629	2.5
Relationship patterns	2.42	.589	2.5
Vision and mission	2.86	.377	2.5
Communication	2.57	.608	2.5
Growth and development opportunities	2.62	.526	2.5
Innovativeness	2.55	.557	2.5
Feedback system	2.43	.563	2.5
Values and beliefs system	2.85	.370	2.5
Job satisfaction	2.55	.565	2.5

The mean score and standard deviation for each scale are calculated. The values of available facilities, relationship patterns, and feedback systems are below the midpoint of the rating scale. It indicates that nurses scored low on these dimensions of the culture of their organizations. The mean score for job satisfaction level (2.55) is also among the midpoint of the rating scale.

Principal component analysis performed. Total 10.0 factors retained with greater than 1.0 Eigenvalue criteria.

Table 5: Factor Loadings

Culture Dimension	Item	Factor Loading
Work Environment	Physical settings	.686
	Cleanliness	.674
	health-related Safety measures	.657
	Weather	.707
	Personal safety measures	.724
Facilities	Equipment	.750
	Ventilation	.750
	Workspace	.717
	Power supply	.717
	Drinking water	.676
Autonomy	Change of office settings	.605
	Decision making	.629
	Participation in decision making	.721
	Decision's incorporation	.740
	Problem sharing with supervisor	.709
Relationship patterns	Supervisor response to the shared problems	.734
	Sharing with other nurses	.675
	Sharing with supervisor	.774
	A friendly and collaborative work environment with other nurses	.635
	A friendly and collaborative work environment with doctors and paramedics	.609
Vision and Mission	Understanding the expectations of head nurse	.677
	Response of the colleagues to the individual differences	.580
	Core values and work-related ethics	.728
Communication system	Preferences for quality care	.686
	Quality care as a motivational force	.670
Communication system	Timely discharge of orders	.667

	Periodical meetings for sharing and learning purposes	.681
Personal growth and development	Personal competence	.557
	Expressions of professional skills	.682
	Appreciation from the head nurse	.690
	Appreciation from patients and their relatives	.764
	Appreciation from other staff	.695
	Hospitals support learning and mastering of new skills	.714
	Fear for reporting of mistakes	.618
	Response to mistakes for future	.633
	Sharing of mistakes with others so they can learn from experience	.617
	The attitude of learning rather than blaming	.605
Innovation	Out of box thinking	.694
	Application of new knowledge and skills	.608
	The response of head nurses towards new skills	.650
	The response of other staff nurses towards new skills	.564
	The response of doctors towards utilization of new knowledge and skills	.700
Feedback System	A well-established evaluation system	.721
	The reward for best performance	.676
	Fair and impartial feedback	.663
	Regular feedback from supervisor	.638
	Ideas and involvement for the better work environment	.539
	The attitude of problem-solving rather than blaming	.719
Values and Beliefs	Teamwork for the attainment of objectives	.660
	Sense of personal responsibility for duty	.485

Total ten factors retained. Retained factors accounted for the 66.72% variance. The detail of each factor loading is mentioned in the table: 5 above—all items related to 10 principal components of organizational culture range from .774 to .485. Regression analysis was performed to see the effect of each factor related to organizational culture on job satisfaction levels.

Table 6: Model Summary

R	R square	Adjusted-R square	Std. Error	F. statistics	Prob.
.722	.522	.512	.395	53.590	0.000

Predictor: Organizational Culture

Dependent Variable: Job Satisfaction

In the above table of model summary, the R-square value of .522 explains that all the ten independent variables related to organizational culture explain 52% variation in the dependent variable of job satisfaction level. The F-value of 53.590 and P-value of 0.000 shows the combined effect of all components of organizational culture on job satisfaction.

Table 7: Regression Coefficients

Regressor	Beta Coefficients	Std. Error	t-Ratio	Sig.
Constant	-.214	.174	2.045	.219
Work environment	.095	.046	0.829	.408
Facilities	.037	.045	2.476	.014
Values & beliefs	.156	.063	2.157	.032
Feedback	.095	.044	4.024	.000
Innovativeness	.204	.051	3.086	.002
Growth & development	.166	.054	1.920	.056
Communication	.094	.049	1.875	.061
Vision and mission	.116	.062	-2.044	.042
Relationships	-.085	.042	3.338	.001
Autonomy	.145	.046	3.417	

The work environment of the nurses shows a significant effect on the job satisfaction level with a beta value of .095. [Applebaum et al., \(2010\)](#) also reported that stressors in the surrounding environment result in decreased job satisfaction among nurses. The findings are in line with [Mengistu and Bali \(2015\)](#), [Koustelios \(1996\)](#), and [Tumulty et al., \(1994\)](#). Available facilities at the workplace have a nonsignificant effect (.037).

Beta value (.156) indicates a significant relation of the values and belief system with the job satisfaction level of nurses. Commonly held values and beliefs systems enhance the job satisfaction of nurses.

The beta value (.095) indicates a significant and positive relationship between feedback and the job satisfaction level of the nurses in the current study. An efficient and up-to-date system of feedback is affecting the job satisfaction of nurses. [Joo and Park \(2009\)](#); [Mengistu and Bali \(2015\)](#) reported consistent findings. Hackman and Oldman (1975) suggest further the dimension of feedback and its effect. Job's features and employee's behaviour are affected by three psychological aspects: the meaningfulness of their work, how much they are responsible for the outcomes of their work, and the result-related feedback. [Zhou \(2003\)](#) report the role of feedback from the supervisor on the development. It helps the employees to learn, develop and improve his/her skills related to the job, which will bring satisfaction from the job. [Jaworski and Kohl \(1991\)](#) study reported that the supervisors provide their employees with positive feedback. Their employees were more able to learn how to do things better, reinforce proper behaviours, improve incompetence, and raise their satisfaction for performance in sales marketing.

The beta value of .204 indicates a significant and positive association between the innovativeness feature of the organizational culture and job satisfaction level among nurses. Nurses are satisfied with their work within organizations having innovativeness features. The findings are in line with [Parker and Sprigg \(1999\)](#). They reported that the presence of a support system and innovation in subcultures of an organization has a significant correlation with job commitment which leads towards greater job satisfaction. [Lok and Crawford \(1999\)](#) also reported that innovation and support in subcultures significantly correlate with the commitment that leads to job satisfaction. [Zhang and Bartol \(2010\)](#) said that a harmonious relationship between leader and employee could contribute to the organization's innovation, survival, performance, and effectiveness. So, the leader plays an instrumental role. [Amabile \(1998\)](#) and [West \(2002\)](#) said that innovation is the implementation of sound and novel ideas, the production process of these novel and valuable ideas are called creativity. [Woodman et al., \(1993\)](#) reported that the control stimulates creativity at the job place one holds. A supportive environment from colleagues and supervisors and creativity increased the employee mental well-being ([Warr, 1994](#)), which will bring more satisfaction.

The beta value of .166 is indicating a significant and positive association between the growth and development opportunities and job satisfaction level among nurses. [Joo and Park \(2009\)](#) reported "commitment of the employee with his or her organization strongly affected by the learning culture within the organization, and it leads toward the greater satisfaction. [Mengistu and Bali \(2015\)](#) reported the lack of professional training opportunities as a contributing factor of dissatisfaction with one's job. [Robbins \(1996\)](#) also reported the organization which rewards achievement and loose supervision causes higher satisfaction.

The beta value of .094 indicates a nonsignificant relationship between the communication systems prevailing in the tehsil headquarter hospitals and Rural health centres and job satisfaction level among nurses. It shows that the efficiency of the communication system had little impact on the level of job satisfaction among nurses in the present study. [Carriere and Bourque \(2009\)](#) study showed that the communication practices contributed 23.4% variations in job satisfaction. [Pincus \(1986\)](#) study also showed the strongest association among different aspects of communication and job satisfaction. [Arabshahi and Arabshahi \(2014\)](#) also reported that a more effective communication system causes a greater level of satisfaction among its employees.

The beta value of .116 indicates a positive but nonsignificant relationship among the understanding with the vision and mission of the culture and job satisfaction level. Understanding the vision and mission of the organization's culture has the least significant effect on the job satisfaction level of nurses. At the same time, [Testa \(1999\)](#) study results showed that vision accounts for 33% and 21% of the variance in job satisfaction. [Fachrunnisa and Adhiatma \(2014\)](#) stated that its employees play a crucial role in achieving the organization's vision and mission, and spiritual leaders understand the culture by calling. Membership will bring the organization's vision and mission vision, and value congruence. [Fry \(2003\)](#) proposed that a spiritual leader is a leader who bears a higher spirit and inspires his employees to achieve the vision and mission of the organization. [Redding \(1997\)](#) suggests that a learning organization is a collective form of activity through which the organization reached its shared vision.

The beta value of -.085 explains the negative and significant relationship between nurses' relationship patterns and job satisfaction levels. So, the more individualistic and distant relationship patterns an organization results in decreased job satisfaction levels among nurses. [Lok and Crawford \(1999\)](#) also reported relationships among colleagues as indicators of job satisfaction level. [Kennerly \(1989\)](#) is also reported an association between colleagues and job satisfaction. [Koustelios \(1996\)](#) also reported that the relationship with other colleagues is one factor that affects the satisfaction level of the job. [Tumulty et al., \(1994\)](#) reported that a group with close ties act as a compensatory mechanism for the other frustrations, and the supportive attitude of the manager act as a buffer for nurses from being affected by the less desirable environments.

The beta value of .154 explains the significant and positive relationship between the autonomy permitted within the premises of an organization and the satisfaction nurses felt within that organization. The more autonomous nurses were more satisfied with their jobs. [Lok and Crawford \(1999\)](#) also reported a strong association between job satisfaction and control over the work environment. [Daniels and Bailey \(1999\)](#) reported that participatory decision-making increase job

satisfaction. [Johnson and McIntye, \(1998\)](#) reported empowerment as a factor had significant impact on job satisfaction. learning and use of new knowledge and skills stimulated by control one has at its job place ([Parker and Sprigg,1999](#)).

CONCLUSION

Overall, the organizational culture has a substantial impact on the job satisfaction level of nurses. The multivariate analysis suggests innovativeness and opportunities for personal growth and development have a highly significant association with job satisfaction. Values and beliefs system, feedback system, relationship patterns, autonomy, and work environment are significant predictors of job satisfaction among nurses. Facilities, communication systems, and vision and mission have a nonsignificant role in the job satisfaction of the nurses working in rural areas of Punjab, Pakistan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Comparison and exploration of the culture and job satisfaction among tertiary care hospitals need to be assessed to formulate a complete picture of the health care organizational culture and job satisfaction.
- Policymakers and hospital administration should pay keen interest towards conscious creation of a culture that focuses not only on service delivery oriented approach but also on employee well-being.
- We need to popularize the learning culture among nurses by creating a supportive environment.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The current study is limited to the nurses' perceptions about different dimensions of organizational culture of health care organizations and their effect on job satisfaction level.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

Study design: Iqra Nawaz, Ashfaq Ahmad Mann. Data collection: Iqra Nawaz. Data analysis: Iqra Nawaz. Manuscript preparation: Iqra Nawaz, Ashfaq Ahmad Mann, Izhar Ahmad Khan, Babar Shahbaz. Study supervision: Ashfaq Ahmad Mann, Izhar Ahmad Khan, Babar Shahbaz.

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