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Organizational climate, organizational citizenship behaviour and turnover intention: Evidence from Jordan

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ABSTRACT

The present paper attempts to analyse the effect of organizational climate on organizational citizenship behaviour (OCB), as well as the effect of OCB on turnover intention. Data on organizational climate, OCB and turnover intention were obtained from a sample of 78 internal auditors of Jordanian private universities. Hypotheses were proposed and were tested using PLS-SEM, and the outcomes demonstrate the positive linkage between organizational climate and OCB. Meanwhile, OCB and turnover intention were found to have inverse linkage. Strong organizational climate should be created in Jordanian private universities since it improves and predicts OCB. OCB will in turn cause turnover intention to decrease among internal auditors. With the use of PLS-SEM method, this study adds to the extant literature.

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1. Introduction

It is common for organisations to desire employees who are collaborative, proactive, and demonstrate high commitment highperformance standards. Such employees are effective and efficient, and they would contribute to the achievement of organizational excellence. Individual employee behaviour is vital in the achievement of such excellence, and appropriately, Organizational Citizenship Behaviours (OCBs) encompass a distinctive work behaviour type, expressed as the behaviours of individuals that are deemed constructive to the organization. Notably, these behaviours appear to be discretionary, and are not acknowledged by the by the formal reward system either directly or explicitly. Expressed differently, the behaviours are motivated by personal choice, and thus, their absences usually will not bring punishment. It is believed that OCB significantly affects the effectiveness and efficiency of work teams and organizations. For this reason, Ummah and Athambawa (2018) reported that OCB contributes to the organization's overall productivity. Bateman and Organ (1983) perceived OCB as an added-role behaviour denoting the presentation of constructive propositions leading to organisational development as well as the efforts made to altruistically assist others. Rotundo and Sackett (2002) regard OCB as an essential constituent of job performance. However, OCB goes beyond the conventional measures of job performance; it manifests a behaviour type which refers to the unexpected constructive contributions of employees. The past three decades have seen OCB being regarded as a key construct within the domains of accounting, management, as well as psychology. Indeed, the relevant literature has shown significant amount of studies exploring OCB (e.g., Bateman & Organ, 1983; Boiral et al., 2015; Hammer et al., 2016; Niehoff & Moorman, 1993; Organ & Ryan, 1995; Pitaloka & Sofia, 2014; Podsakoff et al., 2000; Teimouri et al., 2015), implying its importance, particularly within the domains of service. OCB has been implemented in many organizations including restaurants and healthcare facilities. However, in the context of universities, (Farooqui, 2012) mentioned the neglect of this concept.

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Organ (1988) regarded OCB as a critical factor contributing to the continued existence of an organisation. It is therefore important to have the awareness of the variables which significantly and positively assist in the formation of this sought-after behaviour inside the organisation. As found in various studies (e.g., Alotaibi, 2001; Bateman & Organ, 1983; Chahal & Mehta, 2010; Darto et al., 2015; Foote & Li-Ping Tang, 2008; Jahangir et al., 2004; Khokhar & Zia-ur-Rehman, 2017; Organ, 1990, 1997; Organ & Lingl, 1995; Organ & Moorman, 1993; Penner et al., 1997; Shahin et al., 2014; Tang & Ibrahim, 1998), in an organization, the behaviour of citizenship is impacted by variables including employee satisfaction, leadership, leadership behaviour, motivation, organisational commitment, organisational justice, organizational climate, organizational culture, as well as personality.

As explained in Denison (1996), organizational climate encompasses a lasting quality experienced by employees, affecting their behaviour; this can be regarded as a portion of the organization's environment. Relevantly in Hughes et al. (2008), supportive climate encompasses the degree of perceived cooperation, coordination and support of direct supervisor which impact the organizational commitment of employees in a constructive manner. In fact, supportive climate has been found to have strong linkage with outcomes including innovation, employee diligence, employee performance, organizational commitment, and job satisfaction (Chory & Hubbell, 2008; Huang et al., 2010; Lambert et al., 2012). Supportive climate has also been linked to the decrease of problems including hostility, interpersonal aggression, employee burnout, obstructionism, absenteeism and deception (Chory & Hubbell, 2008; Huang et al., 2010; Lambert et al., 2012). Furthermore, climate has a strong linkage to citizenship behaviour (Qadeer & Jaffery, 2014). Hence, organizational climate is examined as OCB predictor in the present study.

The reasons underpinning OCB are sufficiently understood. Nonetheless, the impacts of OCB on organizational effectiveness or some other measures of organizational effectiveness (e.g., employee turnover) have not been sufficiently examined, creating an empirical gap to the OCB literature. Also, from the many studies that identify OCB's impacting factors, only a handful that actually examined if these human behaviours indeed contribute to the quitting intention. Furthermore, the presently available literature shows the dearth of studies that addressed the impacts of OCB on variables such as employee turnover. In fact, only a handful has examined the linkage between OCB and employee turnover (e.g., Chen et al., 1998). As such, not much generalization can be made to the issue at hand, and this also calls for more probe and validation of the research findings.

According to Angle and Perry (1981), turnover is among the criteria for organizational accomplishment or a substitute of organizational effectiveness, and for this reason, turnover outcome is worth the scrutiny. Turnover encompasses a permanent elimination of an employee from the organization, and the elimination can be voluntary or involuntary. As indicated in Boshoff and Mels (2000), the most injurious to the organization is voluntary turnover because this type of turnover generally takes the organization by surprise. As proven by a significant number of findings, employee turnover impacts organization performance. As indicated in Koys (2003), turnover causes the costs associated with separation, replacement, and training to escalate. The factors that contribute to turnover have been explored by a lot of studies (Shaw et al., 1998). However, most of these studies were concentrating mostly on antecedents such as demographic factors, cognitive process, commitment, and job satisfaction, while the role of behavioural antecedents has not been adequately examined.

In the context of internal auditors, their retention is of an exceptional concern because as indicated in Ahmed and Shil (2015), internal auditors add value to the decisions made by management. Accordingly, the notion of value-added internal audit has been directly linked to the effectiveness of internal audit (Lenz & Hahn, 2015). Furthermore, as indicated in Ahmed and Shil (2015), internal auditors give advices on the usefulness and implementation of internal controls. Chambers (2015) further added that internal audit assists organization in accomplishing its organizational missions and visions while also making available a procedure for the assessment of risk management, control, as well as the processes of governance. Accordingly, the merit of an internal audit function has been acknowledged by the New York Stock Exchange, and due to this, Chambers (2015) reported that all listed companies are required to have internal audit function. In this regard, a successful company without an internal audit function should be a signal for warning.

For any organization, internal auditors play a crucial role, and for this reason, it is important for an organization to have the awareness of the factors impacting OCB of internal auditors to assure its financial success. Also, internal auditors work in the organization so that they could monitor and assess how well risks are being handled, the business is being run, as well as how well the internal processes are functioning. Hence, internal auditors are obliged to perform optimally to fulfil the needs of the organization. On the other hand, organization is obliged to have the appropriate strategies for retaining its employees, in this context, the internal auditors, and achieve better performance. Hence, this study attempts to find out how the organizational climate as antecedent leads to OCB of internal auditors, and how OCB affect the internal auditors' turnover intention.

In the context of Jordanian private universities, the establishment of OCB among employees is now highly crucial for the improvement of competitiveness of these universities. As can be observed in the OCB literature, a gap is present relating to the studies that explored this variable in the country's sector of higher education. In fact, most past works on OCB were carried out by industrial organizational and occupational psychologists. Hence, having the factors impacting OCB among university internal auditors examined in this study, constructive suggestions are hoped to be presented to the management in higher educational institutions. This would allow these institutions to construct the strategies which could assist them in bringing in and keeping their employees in the long term.

2. Theoretical framework and hypotheses development

2.1 Organizational climate and OCB

Organizational climate has been evidenced as a factor affecting the behaviour of members of organization (Alipour, 2011; Öz et al., 2010). Essentially, organizational climate encompasses a group containing quantifiable criteria within the working atmosphere which is understood, directly or indirectly, by those who act in such a situation, and it impacts both their motivation and behaviour. Hence, the scrutiny of organizational climate, the determination of the type, and the attempt at improving it, can improve other organizational variables as well. Meanwhile, Podsakoff et al. (2000) mentioned that organizational citizenship behaviour, which is a non-compulsory behaviour, can be more strongly affected by numerous factors associated with attitudes as well as personalities. Hence, by taking into account the effect of organizational climate on the behaviour of employees, organizations should always pursue the identification, change, and improvement of organizational climate. This will affect the employees' personal behaviour while also easing the accomplishment of organizational goals. As today's environment is highly competitive, organizational effectiveness and survival are impacted by the attitudes and behaviours of employees, increasing the importance of organizational climate among scholars of organizational behaviour. Organizational climate has in fact been examined in numerous organizational contexts, and it has been linked to several results relating to individual, group, and organization. In specific, in past studies (e.g., Ahmad et al., 2012; Bellou & Andronikidis, 2009; Dickson et al., 2006; Rahimic, 2013; Zhang & Liu, 2010), organizational climate has been linked to variables including productivity, job satisfaction, employee performance, organizational effectiveness, organizational justice, organizational commitment, work motivation, organizational alienation, predisposition to leave, as well as anxiety. However, organizational climate has been suggested to promote favorable behaviours in organizations. These favourable behaviours include OCB, as well as creative, proactive, and innovative behaviour (Lin & Lin, 2011; Moghimi & Subramaniam, 2013; Patterson et al., 2004; Peterson, 2002; Randhawa & Kaur, 2015). Considering these findings, the hypothesis below is presented;

H1: There is a positive relationship between the organizational climate and the levels of OCB.

2.2 OCB and turnover intention

OCB is a concept that has been debated by scholars. For instance, Danayifar et al. (2010) viewed OCB as the reflection of how employees voluntarily act towards their work and the act is clearly not part of their job descriptions. There are employees who would do good deeds willingly, while others would not. In this regard, OCB can be illustrated as a performance of certain good deeds towards the organization with no anticipation of retribution of any kind from the involved third party. Relevantly, Khalid et al. (2013) describe OCB as voluntary and discretionary unexpected behaviours for assisting the peers in achieving success. Also, OCB causes the work culture of cooperation to increase, and it also incidentally forms an entity in organization classified under unprompted behaviour. Hence, OCB impacts the image and reputation of the organization. The linkage between OCB and turnover intention is currently a subject of interest among scholars (Chen, 2005; Chen et al., 1998; Mossholder et al., 2005; Paillé, 2013; Saraih et al., 2017). In Chen et al. (1998; 2005), the authors found behavioural antecedents as crucial predictors of turnover intention and actual turnover. Accordingly, OCB can justifiably be employed in predicting turnover intention. Several past works (e.g., Chen et al., 1998; Chen, 2005; Podsakoff et al., 2009) have also scrutinized the linkage between OCB and turnover intention. Furthermore, Chen et al. (1998) found that the intensities of OCB denote the true willingness and inclination of employees, how much involvement they would like to have with their organization, or how much they want to steer clear from the organization. Here, the key argument is that lower OCB level denotes stronger reluctance signal of the employee in being part of the organization, which can be translated into higher likelihood of employees to leave the organization. The linkage between OCB and turnover intention has been examined in past studies. Oren et al. (2012) for instance, reported an adverse linkage between both variables, and regard OCB as a behaviour that is advantageous to the organization. On the other hand, the authors classed turnover intention under a withdrawal reaction in a non-favourable manner towards the organization. Also, employees with high level of OCB are less inclined to be eliminated from their present workplace as opposed to those with low level of OCB (Sharma et al., 2010). Interestingly, in the context of hotel industry employees, Khalid et al. (2009) reported a positive linkage of OCB to turnover intention. Notably, low intentions of employees to leave the organization are signified by a high level of OCB, and according to Khalid et al. (2013), it constantly fashioned other constructive attitudes and behaviour at workplace. Considering these findings, the hypothesis below is presented;

H2: There is an inverse relationship between the level of OCB and turnover intention.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Respondents

Internal auditors employed at Jordanian private universities were chosen as respondents in this study. As at 2019, Jordan has 20 private universities (Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, 2019) and these universities were chosen as this study's population. The sample determination in this study was based on Hair et al. (2011). In particular, the authors suggested selecting sample size of at least 10-20 times more than the required variables in order that it will be appropriately sufficient for the analysis. As such, a total of 130 respondents were chosen, and questionnaire was the method employed for data gathering. The 130 sets of questionnaires were personally handed to the respondents. This is to assure that sufficient amount of responses would be obtained. Accordingly, this study obtained 74% response rate (96 returned questionnaires), but due to

incompletion of 18 sets of the returned questionnaires, only 78 sets of questionnaires underwent further analysis. The study period started in July 2019 and ended in September, 2019. From the responses obtained, most respondents were aged 30 and below (67%), were male (88.3%), were married (53%), were holder of Master's degree (12%), and had been employed as internal auditor for 1-3 years (71%).

3.2 Measuring Instrument

Organizational climate: This construct was measured using the modified scales of Kao (2015, 2017). In particular, Kao's (2015) scales were grounded upon the Organizational Climate Questionnaire (LSOCQ) created by Litwin and Stringer (1968). In the questionnaire, this construct is represented by 9 items as detailed as follows: interpersonal relationship (4 items), structure climate (3 items), and responsibility climate (2 items) (Kao, 2015). Cronbach's Alpha was used to determine the instrument's reliability and, in this study, the value obtained was 0.834.

Organizational Citizenship Behaviour: This construct was measured using the modified scales of "Organizational Citizenship Behaviour (Individual)" by Lee and Allen (2002), which contains a statement leading to interpersonal facilitation (Van Scotter & Motowidlo, 1996), interpersonal harmony (Farh et al., 1997; Okeke & Nwankpa, 2018) and interpersonal helping (Graham, 1991). In responding to the items of this construct, the participants were asked to denote how often they would be engaged in the identified behaviours. For the responses, the construct employs the 7-point scale (1 = never, 7 = always). Cronbach's Alpha was used to determine the instrument's reliability and, in this study, the value obtained was 0.799.

Turnover Intention: This construct was measured using 6 items obtained from Bothma and Roodt (2013). These items particularly evaluate the intent of the respondents to leave his/her current job. This measure has been previously employed in the literature relating to auditors and turnover (e.g., Al-Shbiel et al., 2018). For the responses, the construct employs the 7-point Likert scale. For the items of this construct, the previously achieved Cronbach's alpha was 0.911, and according to Bothma and Roodt (2013), the obtained value denotes that the internal reliability and construct validity of the items are acceptable.

3.3 Analytical method

Partial least squares (PLS) structural equation modeling (SEM) technique run with SmartPLS version 3.0 was used in this study for data analysis. As a SEM method, PLS assists in the analysis of the models of structural measurement and the associated paths. This method also offers factor loadings that are identical to the principal of component analysis (see Sosik et al., 2009). Hence, the use of PLS enables the examination of the research model in terms of its validity and the analysis of the empirical model in regards to the hypothesized relationships along with their significance. As mentioned in past studies (e.g., Hair et al., 2013), the application of PLS is advantageous over other possible methods related to structural modeling. To begin with, the use of PLS enables the scrutiny of variables that have non-normal distributions (e.g., measures of turnover intention). Another advantage is that, for estimations of path model, PLS appears to work. It is also appropriate for small sample sizes in relation to the complexity of the research model (n = 78). Also, PLS is appropriate for exploratory studies such as this study. In the context of this study, previous knowledge regarding the relationships between OCB and turnover intention in the domain of auditing is very little.

4. Results

4.1 Measurement model

Construct reliability is affirmed by checking the item loadings and values of composite reliability. In particular, for the reliability of individual item, the loadings are checked. In general, loadings should at least 0.7 (Hair et al., 2017). Still, Hulland (1999) mentioned the possibility of some items in an estimated model to have lower loadings, particularly for newly constructed scales or the presently available scales that were transferred to a different context. Meanwhile, Hair et al. (2017) stated that loadings between 0.40 and 0.70 would only cause removal to the given items if their removal would increase the composite reliability or average variance extracted (AVE). Hence, 2 items from organizational climate, 2 from OCB, and 1 from turnover intention were eliminated as their loadings were lower than 0.4 and were also suitable to be eliminated. The elimination increased the composite reliability and AVE values. Meanwhile, the rest of the items were retained. In the use of PLS-SEM, Hair et al. (2017) suggested the use of the composite reliability score for construct reliability, even though the more common measure of internal consistency is Cronbach's alpha. As opposed to Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability does not presuppose the equal reliability of all indicators. Cronbach's alpha also demonstrates sensitivity to the number of items within the scale (Hair et al., 2011; Hair et al., 2017). Based on the outcomes shown in Table 1, for all latent variables, the composite reliability appears to be higher the commended threshold of 0.7. As for this study's convergent validity measure, it employs AVE, which should be higher than 0.5 as suggested in Hair et al. (2017). In this study, the lowest AVE is 0.63, implying the fulfilment of the requirement for all constructs. In terms of the internal consistency of each construct, it is deemed sufficient. As assurance of discriminant validity, each construct also must share more variance with its measures as opposed to with any other constructs, and this is signified by a higher square root of the AVE for each construct in comparison to its correlations with other constructs (Fornell & Larcker, 1981; Hair et al., 2017). Furthermore, it is required that the square root of the AVE is no less than 0.7 (Chin, 1998). In this study, all the constructs met these criteria (see Table 2), implying the existence of discriminant validity.

Table 1
Measurement model

Construct	Items	Loadings	CR	C. Alpha	AVE
Organizational Climate	OC1	0.703	0.835	0.834	0.633
	OC3	0.724			
	OC4	0.767			
	OC5	0.813			
	OC6	0.921			
	OC7	0.775			
	OC9	0.863			
	OCB1	0.875	0.804	0.799	0.671
	OCB2	0.933			
	OCB3	0.778			
	OCB5	0.797			
Ouganizational Citizanshin Pahaviauu	OCB7	0.798			
Organizational Citizenship Behaviour	OCB8	0.938			
	OCB9	0.788			
	OCB10	0.811			
	OCB11	0.736			
	OCB12	0.764			
Turnover Intention	TI1	0.911	0.916	0.911	0.741
	TI3	0.737			
	TI4	0.902			
	TI5	0.847			
	TI6	0.722			

Table 2 Discriminant validity

	Organizational Climate	Organizational Citizenship Behaviour	Turnover Intention
Organizational Climate	0.795		
Organizational Citizenship Behaviour	0.542	0.819	
Turnover Intention	0.694	0.528	0.860

4.2 Structural model

In this study, the structural model is evaluated using the values of R² of the dependent variable as follows: 0.38 for OCB and 0.49 for turnover intention. These values are all greater than the commonly tolerated thresholds mentioned in Falk and Miller (1992), Chin (1998) and Hair et al. (2011). Moreover, these values appear to correspond with the values mentioned in PLS research in accounting and auditing (e.g., Al Shbail et al., 2018a, 2018b; Obeid et al., 2017). In this study, the significance of the coefficients is decided based on 5000 bootstrap samples (Hair et al., 2011). Accordingly, the hypotheses testing results are displayed in Table 3 below.

Table 3
Structural model results

Structural path	D-41 CC -i (T C4-4i-4i)	Percentile 95% confidence intervals		Camaluaian
	Path coefficient and (T-Statistics)	95% LL	95% UL	Conclusion
H1: OC→OCB	0.385 (4.262)*	(0.103; 0.498)Sig		Supported
H2: OCB→TI	-0.288 (3.896)*	(-0.433 : -0.046)Sig		Supported

Note: * |t| ≥ 3.09 at p 0.001 level (based on t(4999), one tailed test); OC= Organizational Climate, OCB= Organizational Citizenship Behaviour, TI= Turnover Intention

Consistent with hypothesis H1 established in this study, organizational climate imparts a positive impact on OCB (β = 0.385, p < 0.05). This result is also in agreement with the past models of research which posit organizational climate as OCB antecedent. Also, as posited in H2, OCB appears to have a significant negative impact on the turnover intention of internal auditors (β = -0.288, p < 0.05).

5. Conclusions

Among internal auditors, the deterioration rate is high, and it is now a global issue, while also causing great challenges for business leaders. Turnover among internal auditors has both direct and indirect costs, implying high cost of turnover to the organization. As found in this study, OCB of high level was the general reason why internal auditors remain in their job. In addition, organizational climate appears to be the OCB antecedent. This study further plays a significant role in the evaluation of the factors known to increase OCB among internal auditors. As such, in the context of private universities, internal auditor empowerment should be improved by way of work environment. Systematic assessment of work environment should be made for monitoring as well as evaluating the physical work condition, the communication climate, as well as how appropriate the rules and procedures correspond with the strategies of the organization. Hence, the internal auditor's psychological empowerment and performance could be enhanced. Furthermore, competence-based performance appraisals should be implemented, and employees should have the awareness regarding their roles, competences, as well as the performance output expected. As proven in this study, with OCB fostered, the university will have employees that are loyal, and this will decrease the problem

of turnover. At the same time, the quality of work displayed by the employees will increase organizational performance and competitive advantage. Nonetheless, several limitations to this study should be pointed out as well. Firstly, this study is a cross-sectional study since conducting longitudinal studies on this subject is difficult. Another limitation is the uniqueness of the sample which brings to the question of whether public universities have similar characteristics. Notably, the proposed model may be tested in other economic professions and sectors as well. The measurement of turnover using future intentions is another limitation in this study. It should be noted that even though the scale employed in this study has been employed in many past works, it is essentially a subjective behaviour measurement. As a final point, the model proposed in this work does not consider the linkage between organizational climate and the turnover intention of internal auditors.

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