The Effect of Personality Traits on Employee Job Satisfaction with Moderating Role of Islamic Work Ethics

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Abstract

Personality factors and ethical values are considered as vital element in social and professional life. This present research aims to explore the relationship between Personality and Job Satisfaction. Further, we tried to test the moderating effect of Islamic work ethics (IWE) in the relationship of Personality traits with Job satisfaction. Convenience sampling was used in defining sample as in Pakistan there is no data base which provides information regarding number of employees. Due to moderating variable the data has been collected from respondents who identify themselves as Muslim. To collect data from respondents Self-administered, close-ended questionnaires and e-questionnaire were used in this study and respondents were targeted in the normal working environment. Correlation and regression analysis was used to analyze the data statistically. The results of study indicated that neuroticism exhibits significant negative effect on job satisfaction. Also, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness showed positive effect on job satisfaction. Whereas, extraversion exhibits no effect on job satisfaction and IWE has a negative effect on job satisfaction. However, the output indicates that IWE do not act as moderator in the relation of agreeableness and conscientiousness with job satisfaction; moderation effect of IWE is observed between the relationship of neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience with job satisfaction.

Keywords: Neuroticism, Contentiousness, Openness to Experience, Job Satisfaction, Islamic Work Ethics.

JEL Classification Code: J28, M10, C90, D90.

1. Introduction

Personality plays a major impact on human behavior. Psychologist states that there are multiple psychological factors which influences employee satisfaction and motivation within an organization (Furnham, Chamorro-Premuzic, & McDougall, 2002). To analyze employee's well-being, researchers has given importance to job satisfaction and job relating factors which influences employee level of satisfaction. Personality traits may drive the utility difference between self-employed and employed workers (Hundley, 2001; Benz & Frey, 2008). A limited amount of work has done on individual factors (personality, demography, married life, religious beliefs etc.) which are effecting job satisfaction. Staw, Bell, and Clausen (1986) provided a base for future studies by discovering a link between personality and job satisfaction.

Job Satisfaction is defined as individual positive feelings regarding his job (Warr, 2002; Robbin & Judge, 2003; Luthans, 2005). From past two decades psychologist, behavioral experts, and scientist are focusing on individual personality and its relationship with job satisfaction. Researchers are giving attention to personality big five taxonomy and its relationship with job satisfaction (Kanfer, 1990). Genetics, environmental factors influence 30% in job satisfaction. The personality big five traits have shown association of 0.41 with job satisfaction. Also strong association was observed among JS and neuroticism (-0.29), JS and extraversion (0.25), and JS and conscientiousness (0.26) (Judge, Bono, Ilies, & Gerhardt,
2. Literature Review

2.1. Job Satisfaction (JS)

JS is defined as positive feeling on one regarding his or her job (Locke, 1976; Spector, 1997; Warr, 2002; Robbin & Judge, 2003; Luthans, 2005). Previous researches shows that JS is positively associated with life satisfaction of human being (Judge & Watanabe, 1993), ethics (Viswesvaran & Deshpande, 1996), OCB (Hoffman, Blair, & Woehr, 2007), and job performance (Judge & Bono, 2001).

Massive studies has been initiated in past to determine the determinants of employee job satisfaction. Literature Evidences depicts that these causes include Job characteristics (Loher, Noe, Moeller, & Fitzgerald, 1985), perceived organizational support (POS) (Eisenberger, Basolo, & Davis-LaMastro, 1990; Eisenberger, Cummings, Armeli, & Lynch, 1997; Eisenberger, Armeli, Rexwinkel, Lynch, & Rhoades, 2001) employee supervisor relation and supervisor support (Baruch-Feldman, Brondolo, Ben-Dayan, & Schwartz, 2002), role ambiguity and role conflict, workload (Schuler, 1975; 1977; Jalal & Zaheer, 2017), and justice (Kim & Leung, 2007). A part of organizational factor minimum work has done on individual factors (personality, demography, married life, religious beliefs etc.) which are effecting job satisfaction of employees. Staw et al. (1986) provided a base for future studies by discovering a link between personality and job satisfaction. From past two to three decades psychologist, behavioral experts, and scientist are focusing on individual personality and its relationship with job satisfaction. Researchers are giving attention to Personality Big five and its relationship with job satisfaction (Kanfer, 1990).

2.2. Neuroticism and Job Satisfaction

Neurotic individuals are negative in nature due to which they have more negative life events experiences as compared to other individuals (Magnus, Diener, Fujita, &
Pavot, 1993). These experiences are negative because they select specific situations which result negative affect (Diener, Emmons, Larsen, & Griffin, 1985). Neuroticism arises because individual has differences in physiological mechanisms and neurological processes (Eysenck, Eysenck, & Barrett, 1985; Gray, 1970). It is related with lower well-being, and emotional instability which promotes negative emotions in such individuals (Costa & McCrae, 1991). According to Goldberg (1993) individuals who have this trait have nervousness issues, have mood swings and are insecure. Such employee’s interaction at work is less at job as compared to emotionally stable employees. Neurotic individuals encounter strong negative influence to unpleasant events (Rusting & Larsen, 1997). Neuroticism is also stigmatized as negative emotions (Connolly & Viswesvaran, 2000), and this negative affectivity generate resistance to positive mood generating events in neurotic individuals and consider tasks outcomes more negatively (Brief, Butcher, & Roberson, 1995; Necowitz & Roznowski, 1994). Judge et al. (2002) found neuroticism has significant negative relationship with job satisfaction (-0.29) and can be called as a good predictor. Similar results were analyzed in meta-analysis study of Connolly and Viswesvaran (2000). This means that lack of attention in terms of recognizing the effort s and low rewards generates low job satisfaction. Studies from Israel and Japan depicts that neurotics employees with higher level of neuroticism results in JS (Judge, Locke, Durham, & Kluger, 1998; Piccolo, Judge, Takahashi, Watanabe, & Locke, 2005).

H₁: Neuroticism has significant negative effect on job satisfaction.

2.3. Extraversion and Job Satisfaction

Whereas, Neuroticism is associated with negative life events experiences (Magnus et al., 1993), on the other hand extraversion is linked with experiencing the positive emotions (Costa & McCrae, 1991). These positive emotions generate job satisfaction (Connolly & Viswesvaran, 2000). Extraverts are highly energetic, confident, active and social (Goldberg, 1990). They are more friendly, socially active and focuses on interpersonal interactions (Watson & Clark, 1997). Extraversion is arises due to individual differences (Eysenck et al., 1985; Gray, 1970), and extraverts have more positive feelings and experiences as compared to neurotic individuals (Rusting & Larsen, 1997). Extroverts have high positive affectivity and experience job satisfaction (Magnus et al., 1993; Connolly & Viswesvaran, 2000). The experimental studies depicts that extroverts employees focuses on favorable and positive elements of tasks and their judgments are positive and they focuses on more pleasant thing than unpleasant things as compared to neurotic individuals (Bower, 1981; Forgas & Bower, 1987). Extraversion has significantly positive relationship with job satisfaction (0.25) (Judge et al., 2002).

H₂: Extraversion has significant positive effect on job satisfaction.

2.4. Openness to Experience and JS

Openness to experience (OPEX) is also known as intellectuality and defined as scientific, artistic, creative thinking (Goldberg, 1990; Feist, 1998) low level of religiosity, liberalism (Feist, 1998). Openness to experience induces one to experience good feeling and bad feeling deeply (DeNeve & Cooper, 1998). Openness to experience has significant positively associated with JS (Judge et al., 2002). However, according to Templer (2012) there is no relationship between openness to experience and job satisfaction.

H₃: Openness to experience has significant positive effect on job satisfaction.

2.5. Agreeableness and Job Satisfaction

Agreeableness is associated with trust courtesy, happiness (Goldberg, 1990; 1993; Costa & McCrae, 1991). Individuals having high level of agreeableness have courage to take risks and have positive satisfaction (Costa & McCrae, 1991; Organ & Lingl, 1995) The study conducted by Judge et al. (2002) has identified significant positive association (0.17) among agreeableness and JS. Similarly, positive correlation with job satisfaction (0.30) was observed by Templer (2012). However, correlations were variable across the studies. Agreeable employee has the values of benevolence, conformity (Roccas, Sagiv, Schwartz, & Knafo, 2002). Agreeableness is a true predictor of job satisfaction (Templer, 2012). Agreeableness varies from society to society. Collective societies have high agreeableness as compared to individualist societies (Triandis, 1989, Markus & Kitayama, 1991; Organ & Lingl, 1995; Roccas et al., 2002; Triandis & Suh, 2002; Yamagishi, Hashimoto, & Schug, 2008).

H₄: Agreeableness has significant positive effect on job satisfaction.

2.6. Conscientiousness Agreeableness and Job Satisfaction

It is defined as being thorough, careful, or vigilant. It implies a desire to do a job or task well. Conscientious employees are organized, reliable, responsible and hardworking in nature (Goldberg, 1993). Researchers,
academicians and psychologists consider that of overall performance is predicted by conscientiousness (Barrick & Mount, 2005). If one will show better performance, it will result in more recognition and rewards (Judge, 2001). Judge et al. (2002) detected significant positive association (0.26) among conscientiousness and job satisfaction. Similar results were analyzed in past by DeNeve and Cooper (1998) and Templer (2012) has also found positive correlation among conscientiousness and job satisfaction. Conscientiousness has significant effect on job satisfaction (Templer, 2012).

H6: Conscientiousness has significant positive effect on employee job satisfaction.

2.7. Islamic Work Ethics (IWE) Moderating Role

IWE concept origin has been recorded, extracted and adopted from the primary sources of Islam (Quran, Hadith). Moral principles of Islam help one in distinguishing what is right and what is wrong. Islam has provided guide line for socio-economic affairs. Islamic work ethics determines what is right thing to do? What are wrong things to avoid? The idea of IWE is Quran and Sunnah (Beekun, 1997; Ali & Weir, 2005). Islamic work ethic determines how to behave at work. Quran allow one to control one life and behavior but God (Allah) control everything (Watt, 1948). The life and Personality of Prophet Muhammad Peace-Be-Upon-Him is the best example. Muslims have some moral obligations towards work and society. Parboteeah, Paik, and Cullen (2009), stated that religion has influenced the work values of its followers. IWE has significant impact on job satisfaction (Khan et al., 2015; Yousef, 2000; Koh & Boo, 2001; Viswesvaran & Deshpande, 1996).

H6: Islamic work ethics has significant positive effect on job satisfaction.

When neurotic employee believes that justice in reward distribution and performance recognition it reduces its job satisfaction. On other hand a positive thinking (extravert) hardworking, vigilant(Conscious) faithful and courteous (agreeable) and intellectual(Openness to experience) employee will just focuses in doing thing in a better way not focuses on getting big reward. According to Ali (1996) IWE forces one on bring positive change to organization. It is individual moral responsibility to do his work in a corrective and constructive manner consider his work as a holy thing which will ultimately increase the work out come. Islamic work ethics focus on same thought that work and its outcome should be considered as a moral duty for one. And Islamic work ethics moderate and create sense of righteous deeds in individual personality.

H7a: Islamic work ethic moderates the significant negative relationship of neuroticism with JS and this relationship will be stronger in those employees case who have high level of IWE values.

H7b: Islamic work ethic moderates the significant positive relationship of Extraversion JS and this relationship will be stronger in those employees case who have high level of IWE values.

H7c: Islamic work ethic moderates the significant positive relationship of Openness to experience with JS and this relationship will be stronger in those employees case who have high level of IWE values.

H7d: Islamic work ethic moderates the significant positive relationship of Agreeableness JS and this relationship will be stronger in those employees case who have high level of IWE values.

H7e: Islamic work ethic moderates the significant positive relationship of Conscientiousness with employee JS and this relationship will be stronger in those employees case who have high level of IWE values.

2.8. Research Model

Figure 1: Research Model

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Population and Sampling

This present research aims to explore the relationship between Personality and Job Satisfaction with moderating role of Islamic work ethics. Personality has an impact on individual behavior and personality traits can predict the job satisfaction in employees. Religion motivates one to achieve certain objectives (Ali et al., 1995). Also, religion determines certain values to be adopted in work and IWE forces one on bring positive change in self. To examine this particular relationship public and private sector organizations employees of Pakistan and AJK State were considered as target population in this study.
Convenience sampling technique was used in collection of data from the employees of private sector organizations of Pakistan and AJK State. As the moderating variable is Islamic work ethics so the data was collected from only Muslim employees. Self-administered, close-ended questionnaires and electronic questionnaires were used to collect data. A total number 350 questionnaires were distributed, and 150 electronic questionnaires were emailed to the respondents. Out of these 350, 290 were returned and only 271 questionnaires out of these were in usable form. Whereas, 95 respondents filled the electronic questionnaires. Out of these 95, only 90 electronic questionnaires were properly filled and in usable form. The total response rate was 72.2%. As in data collection, research ethics were strictly followed, and the responses were collected on voluntary participation basis and confidentiality and anonymity was guaranteed.

The majority of respondents were male (70.4%) with average ages 26-30 (40.4%). Most of them have MS/M.Phil. (50.4%) degree who had been working with private sector organizations (54.8%) for less than 1 year to 5 year (55.7%).

3.2. Variables of Study

A 5 point Likert scale has been used in this study where 1 represented Strongly Disagree and 5 represent Strongly Agree. Cronbach’s Alpha was used to check the reliability of scales.

**Neuroticism**
To measure Neuroticism Costa and McCrae (1991), 5 item scale has been used. Sample item included, “When I’m under a great deal of stress, sometimes I feel like I’m going to pieces.” The reliability for this scale was found to be 0.819.

**Extraversion**
To measure Extraversion Costa and McCrae (1991), 4 item scale has been used. Sample item included, “I am a cheerful, high-spirited person.” The reliability for this scale was found to be 0.784.

**Openness to experience**
To measure Openness to Experience Costa and McCrae (1991), 5 item scale has been used 1 item was dropped due to its low reliability. Sample item included, “I have little interest in speculating on the nature if the universe or the human condition.” The reliability for this scale was found to be 0.740.

**Agreeableness**
To measure Agreeableness Costa and McCrae (1991), 4 item scale has been used. Sample item included, “I generally try to be thoughtful and considerate.” The reliability for this scale was found to be .717.

**Conscientiousness**
To measure Conscientiousness Costa and McCrae (1991), 5 item scale has been used. Sample item included, “I’m pretty good about pacing myself so as to get things done on time.” The reliability for this particular scale was 0.709.

**IWE**
To measure IWE Ali (1992), 17 item scale has been used. Sample item included, “Justice and generosity in the workplace are necessary conditions for the society’s welfare.” The reliability for this scale was found to be 0.842.

**Job Satisfaction**
To measure “JS” Brayfield and Rothe (1951), 6 item scale has been used. Sample item included “Most days I am enthusiastic about my job”. The reliability for this scale was found to be 0.759.

**Control Variables**
To control out variation in job satisfaction due to demographic variables of this particular study One-way ANOVA test was performed. The results depicted that significant differences in job satisfaction across qualification (F=4.451, p<.01), organization (F=10.41, p<.01) and experience (F=3.09, p<0.05). However, gender and age do not cause any changes in JS mean value. Thus, qualification, organization and experience was controlled in this study.

4. Results

The Table 1 depicts that neuroticism has positive association with job satisfaction (r = 0.731, p<0.001) which is contrary to Hypothesis 1. Whereas, a strong positive correlation among extraversion and job satisfaction (r = 0.729, p<0.001) is observed, which provide base for the initial support to Hypothesis 2. Also openness to experience has strong positive association with JS (r = 0.951, p<0.001), which provide initial support to Hypothesis 3. Similarly, agreeableness has strong positive correlation with job satisfaction (r = 0.760, p<0.001) and it initially support Hypothesis 4. And Conscientiousness and job satisfaction has a strong positive correlation (r = 0.750, p<0.001) which supports Hypothesis 5). On the other hand Islamic work ethics has positive association with job satisfaction (r = 0.217, p<0.001).
Also moderation effect of (β = 0.162, p<0.01), which leaded to the acceptance of hypothesis 7b. Similarly, it was found that IWE also significantly moderates the relationship of openness to experience with job satisfaction, thus hypothesis 7c is supported.

However, in moderated regression analysis it was found that, IWE has no moderating effect on the relationship of agreeableness and job satisfaction (β = 0.092, p = ns) which leads toward no support of hypothesis 7d. Whereas, similar result observed i.e. IWE has no Interactive effect on the relationship of conscientiousness with JS (β = -0.018, p = ns), which leaded towards the conclusion that hypothesis 7e is not supported.

Table 2: Moderated Regression Analysis

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<td>Step 2</td>
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<td>OPEN</td>
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<td>AGREE</td>
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<td>IWE</td>
<td>-0.276&quot;</td>
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<td>Step 3</td>
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<td>NEU x IWE</td>
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<td>OPEN x IWE</td>
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<td>AGREE x IWE</td>
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<td>CONS x IWE</td>
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n = 361. NEU = Neuroticism, EXT = Extraversion, OPEN = Openness to Experience, AGREE= Agreeableness, CONS = Conscientiousness, IWE = Islamic Work Ethics, JS = Job Satisfaction.

*p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001 and ns = not significant.

Cohen, West, and Aiken (2014) interactive regression technique has been used to test hypothesis 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, and 7e.

Table 3, depicts the results of moderated analysis. IWE moderate the relationship of neuroticism and job satisfaction (β = -0.276, p<0.001) hence hypothesis 7a is supported. Also moderation effect of IWE on the relationship of extraversion and job satisfaction was found to be significant (β = 0.162, p<0.01), which leaded to the acceptance of hypothesis76b. Similarly, it was found that IWE also significantly moderates the relationship of openness to experience with job satisfaction, thus hypothesis 7c is supported.

![Interactive effect of NEU and IWE JS.](image_url)
The figure 2, 3 and 4 shows low and high values of the moderating variable i.e. IWE. Figure 1 indicates that when IWE in an employee are high, the relationship between NEU-JS will be weaker, which supports hypothesis 7a. Similarly, in case of those employees who have higher IWE values they have stronger EXT-JS relationship which ultimately supports hypothesis 7b. Also, Figure 3 depicts that when IWE was high, positive openness to experience-JS relationship is observed, which supports hypothesis 7c.

5. Discussion

In this study it was found positive associations between job satisfaction and extraversion, conscientiousness, agreeableness and openness to experience. These results are similar to the meta-analysis on FFM and job satisfaction results by Judge et al. (2002), Templer (2012) and Costa and McCrae (1991). However, results indicate positive association among neuroticism and JS, which deviates from the findings of Judge et al. (2002) and Connolly and Viswesvaran (2000). This may be due to the fact that Judge et al. (2002) has used only minority studies in their meta-analysis which were using direct measures like this particular study. Furthermore, to determine the influence of each of big five trait on job satisfaction, regression analysis was performed.

The regression analysis depicts that except extraversion all remaining big five traits had a significant influence on job satisfaction which contradicts from the findings of Hauber and Bruininks (1986), Costa and McCrae (1991), Knoop (1996), Judge et al. (2002), Templer (2012), Furnham et al. (2002). The most interesting fact of this present study is that extraversion didn’t predicted job satisfaction which is contradictory with prior research (Magnus et al., 1993; Tokar & Subich, 1997; Connolly & Viswesvaran 2000; Judge et al., 2000). This may be due to the composition of the various samples. Also this may due to the fact that prior researches and meta-analysis has used minority studies and small sample size. The neurotic employee is insecure and anxious and show moody in behavior such employees have low interaction at work and have unpleasant feelings regarding their job. Whereas, employees who have higher agreeableness are satisfied with their job this may be due to the rewards they are getting. Employees, who are conscientious, considered as reliable in their work and perform in a better way and recognized for their effects.

Also the present study focuses to explore the moderating effect of IWE on the relationship of big five traits of personality with job satisfaction. IWE is significantly positively associated with job satisfaction as reported in past. Similar results were observed in the prior research (Khan et al., 2015; Yousef, 2000; Koh & Boo, 2001; Viswesvaran & Deshpande, 1996). Surprisingly, the regression analysis indicates that IWE has significant negative impact on job satisfaction which contradicts from past studies (Yousef, 2000; Koh & Boo, 2001; Viswesvaran & Deshpande, 1996). This may be due the reason that the majority of data is collected from private sector and from financial services performing organizations (banks and insurance companies) in these organizations profit making matters a lot and in Pakistan majority number of financial sector organizations are working on conventional finance principles and practices i.e. interest based activities which contradicts from Islamic finance and Islamic values in such organizations Islamic ethics are not given important and employee with high Islamic values are misfit and that’s why IWE has negative impact on job satisfaction.

6. Practical Implication

Practitioners are recommended to add personality identification tests as part of selection and recruitment.
Organizations should recognize the efforts of employees by intrinsic and extrinsic means, such practices will boost the job satisfaction in employees and especially in case of neurotic employees such practices will increase their confidence in organization and their job satisfaction will be increased. Also, management should involve agreeable and conscious employees in strategic planning and decision making related activities as their risk taking and carefulness will strengthen the organization decision and will help in increase the performance. Also, Management should focus those employees who belongs to Muslim faith and provide them an environment to practice the Islamic values this will increase their commitment for organization and significant impact will be observed in the performance of the organization.

7. Limitations

The data of this study was collected from financial services providing organizations of private sector and public sector organizations and departments (i.e. Universities, Public Works department, Social welfare department, Government banks). Researchers are recommended to carry out same pattern research in telecom companies, healthcare organizations, NGOs, Police department in order to boast generalizability of our findings.

The sample size of 361 respondents was selected by using convenience sampling technique. It is recommended to the researchers to use random sampling and a large sample size and more diverse sample size. In order to minimize the chances of bias, future researchers should use multi-source data collection and longitudinal design. It is suggested that future studies should study other variables such as organizational, commitment, self-efficacy, self-esteem and psychological wellbeing.

Reference


