

**EMPLOYEES' CAREER VALUES, PERCEIVED
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT AND CAREER SUCCESS**

**By
ABDULRAHEEM IDRIS**

A Research Project Submitted to Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School
of Business, College of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia in Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the degree, Master of Human Resource
Management.

PERMISION TO USE

In presenting this research project in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master's degree from the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), I agree that the Library of this university may make it freely available for inspection. I further agree that permission for copying this dissertation in any manner, in whole or in part, for scholarly purposes may be granted by my supervisor or in their absence, by the Assistant Vice Chancellor of the College of Business where I did my dissertation. It is understood that any copying or publication or use of this dissertation or parts of it for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission. It is also understood that due recognition shall be given to me and to the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in any scholarly use which may be made of any material in my research project.

Request for permission to copy or to make other use of materials in this research project in whole or in part should be addressed to:

Dean
Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business
College of Business
Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)
06010 Sintok
Kedah, Darul Aman

DISCLAIMER

The author is responsible for the accuracy of all opinion, technical comment, factual report, data, figures, illustrations and photographs in this research project. The author bears full responsibility for the checking whether material submitted is subject to copyright or ownership right. Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) does not accept any liability for the accuracy of such comment, report and other technical and factual information and the copyright or ownership rights claims

The author declares that this research project is original and his own except those literatures, quotations, explanations and summarizations which are duly identified and recognized. The author hereby granted the copyright of this dissertation to College of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) for publishing if necessary.

ABSTRACT

Kajian ini dijalankan bagi melihat hubungan diantara nilai kerjaya, *perceived organizational support* dan kejayaan kerjaya. Menggunakan sample rawak mudah, 120 soal selidik diedar kepada dua buah organisasi multinasional dan juga kepada pelajar Sarjana di UUM yang sedang bekerja dipelbagai organisasi di Negeri Kedah. Hanya 79 memberi maklum balas kepada soal selidik yang diedarkan. Analisa korelasi dan regresi dibuat bagi menentukan tahap signifikan pembolehubah nilai kerjaya dan *perceived organizational support* ke atas kejayaan kerjaya. Analisa data mendapati bahawa nilai kerjaya dan *perceived organizational support* mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dengan kejayaan kerjaya. Penemuan kajian mendapati bahawa kedua-dua pembolehubah hanya mempengaruhi 40% varian terhadap kejayaan kerjaya. Ini bermaksud, terdapat angkubah lain yang mempengaruhi kejayaan kerjaya. Kajian seterusnya boleh melihat pembolehubah seperti *human capital*, *socio-demographic status* dan *stable individual differences* yang mungkin mempengaruhi kejayaan kerjaya.

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to examine the relationship between career values perceived organizational support and career success. Using convenient sampling, data was gathered using 120 questionnaires sent to two multinationals companies and Master's degree students who work in various organizations in the Kedah state of Malaysia. Only 79 responded to the questionnaire. Correlation and regression analysis were performed to determine the significance of the two independent variables, career values and perceived organizational support on career success. Analysis of the data revealed that career values and perceived organizational support both have significant but moderate relationship with career success. The findings show that both variables, that is, career values and perceived organizational support only influence approximately 40 percent variance on career success. This means there other factors that could not be explained by this study that determine career success. Future research should look at other variables such as human capital, socio-demographic status and stable individual difference that might influence career success.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would begin by giving praises to Allah SWT who granted me His grace to begin and see this dissertation work to a successful end. He has shown His infinite mercy without which nothing could be achieved.

Next are my entire family members whose unreserved support and encouragement gave me the zeal and courage to face the seemingly insurmountable hurdles throughout the period of my academic struggles. To my parents, particularly, who have never seen any idea I lay before them as my new goal and aspiration as not worthwhile, however difficult the idea may look to others; I say thank you for being my inspiration. Without mincing words, these two people (my dad and mom) have always had confidence and trust in my decisions, which must have stem from the values of steadfastness, perseverance, courage, Faith and the audacity to dream they have instilled us all with. I pray that the blessings of Allah be with them always.

Special words of appreciation go to my supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Khulida Kirana Yahya, who has been my mentor, my guardian and my teacher, for her invaluable support. She has not only supervised my work, she supervised my life. Her contributions did not only make the dissertation a success, they made my entire academic achievement possible. To sum it, Associate Professor Dr. Khulida Kirana Yahya, from my very first day in UUM has offered me motherly advice; I consider her as a friend, a guardian and a teacher.

Similarly, I want to say thank you to all those friends who have given me their support in one way or another throughout the period. Let me start by saying a big thank

you to my very special friend, Fanta Secka, for her moral and spiritual support. She has always been there for me. To Dr Abduljalil Shittu, I say thank you for his all-round support. I should also say thank you to Mr. Kabiru Kura and his family for their encouragement. I appreciate everything.

Finally, to my course-mates, friends and colleagues, I cannot, in words express how invaluable your contributions have been to me, knowing you all have been some of the greatest experiences I have had in Malaysia. Thank you all for being who you have been to me and dare say may the relationships we have shared transcend time and distance. Godspeed to all of you in your endeavors and God bless you all.

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Problem Statement	7
1.3	Research Questions	14
1.4	Research Objectives	15
1.5	Scope of Study	15
1.6	Significant of Study	16
1.7	Definition of terms	19
1.8	Conclusion	20

CHAPTER TWO : LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Introduction	21
2.2	Career Success	21
2.3	Career Values	27
2.4	Perceived Organizational Support	34
2.5	Career values and career success	41
2.6	Perceived organizational support and career success	46
2.7	Research Framework	49
2.8	Conclusion	50

CHAPTER THREE : RESEARCH METHODS

3.1	Introduction	51
3.2	Research Design	51
3.3	Population and Sample	52
3.4	Measurement	53
	3.4.1 Career Success	53
	3.4.2 Perceived Organizational Support	54
	3.4.3 Career Values	56
3.5	Data Collection	57
3.6	Data Analysis	58
3.7	Conclusion	60

CHAPTER FOUR : FINDINGS

4.1	Introduction	61
4.2	Profile of Respondents	61
4.3	Descriptive Statistics	63
4.4	Correlation Analysis of Variables	64
4.5	Multiple Regression Analysis	65
4.6	Conclusion	66

CHAPTER FIVE : DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1	Introduction	67
5.2	Discussions	67
	5.2.1 The relationship between career values and career success	68
	5.2.2 The relationship between POS and career success	70
5.3	Implications of the Study	75
5.4	Limitations of the Study	77
5.5	Recommendations	79
5.6	Conclusions	83
	REFERENCES	84
	APPENDICES	89

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
Table 3.1	Operational Definitions and Items for Career Success	54
Table 3.2	Operational Definitions and Items for Perceived Organizational Support	55
Table 3.3	Items reversed for statistical analysis	58
Table 3.3	Operational Definitions and items for Career Values	56
Table 3.5	Reliability Result	59
Table 4.1	Respondents' Demographic Profile	62
Table 4.2	Descriptive Statistics	64
Table 4.3	Correlation Analysis of Variables	64
Table 4.4	Regressions Analysis of Independent Variables on Career Success	65

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Description of Figure	Page
Figure 2.1	Research Framework	50

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Career success among employees in organization has been a concept that has attracted the attention of scholars for a very long time and it is still being studied to this day. The meaning of career success has become clear to industry practitioners, researchers and scholars alike, but there is no agreement as to how best to help employees and organizations achieve career success. This has been a subject of contention among researchers. Researchers like Arthur, Khapova and Wilderom (2005); Punnett, Duffy, Fox, Gregory, Lituchy, Miller, Monserrat, Olivas-Lujan and Santos (2007) have conducted studies on career success in order to understand the concept of employees' career success in organization. Studies have examined the concept of career success from different directions including that of organizational commitment, Joo and Park (2009), perceived organizational support, Eisenberger, Cummings, Armeli and Lynch (1997) and human capital development, Ballout (2007). Consequently, these studies conducted on career success have contributed to the body of knowledge on career success, however, only a few studies (Chen, 2010; 2011) have attempted to investigate the concept (career success) using the combined variables of career values and perceived organizational support in order to see the roles the variables play in enhancing employees' career success.

The contents of
the thesis is for
internal user
only

REFERENCES

- Ahmed, I., Nawaz, M. M., Iqbal, N., Ali, I., Shaukat, Z., & Usman, A. (2010). Effects of Motivational Factors on Employees Job Satisfaction a Case Study of University of the Punjab, Pakistan. *International Journal of Business and Management*, 5(6), 70-80.
- Andreas, H. (2010). Positive Adolescent Career Development: The Role of Intrinsic and Extrinsic Work Values. *National Career Development Association*, 58, 276 - 287.
- Armstrong-Stassen, M., & Cameron, S. (2005). Factors related to the career satisfaction of older managerial and professional women. *Career Development International*, 10 (3), 203 - 215.
- Arthur, M. B., Khapova, S. N., & Wilderom, C. P. (2005). Career success in a boundaryless career world. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 26, 177–202.
- Aubé, C., Morin, E. M., & Morin, E. M. (2007). Perceived organizational support and organizational commitment: The moderating effect of locus of control and work autonomy. *Journal of Managerial Psychology*, 22 (5), 479 - 495.
- Barnett, B. R., & Bradley, L. (2007). The impact of organisational support for career development on career satisfaction. *Career Development International*, 12 (7), 617 - 636.
- Ballout, H.I. (2007). Career success: The effects of human capital, person-environment fit and organizational support. *Journal of Managerial Psychology*, 22 (8), 741 - 765.
- Burke, R. (2010). Do managerial men benefit from organizational values supporting work-personal life balance? *Gender in Management: An International Journal*, 25 (2), 91 - 99.
- Byrne, Z., & Hochwarter, W. A. (2008). Perceived organizational support and performance: Relationships across levels of organizational cynicism. *Journal of Managerial Psychology*, 23 (1), 54 - 72.
- Chen, Y., (2011), Chinese Knowledge Employees' Career Values, Perceived Organizational Support and Career Success, Scientific Research, iBusiness, 1 (3), 274 – 282, www.SciRP.org/journal/ib

- Chen, Y. (2010), Career Success of Knowledge Workers: The Effects of Perceived Organizational Support and Person-Job Fit, *Scientific Research, iBusiness*, 1(2), 389 – 394.
- Chang, J. Y., Choi, J. N., & Kim, M. U. (2008). Turnover of highly educated R&D professionals: The role of pre-entry cognitive style, work values and career orientation. *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology*, 81, 299–317.
- Choo, S. S., Halim, H., and Irene, C. K-H, (2009), Life Values and Job Satisfaction: Comparing Local Managers to the Japanese and Chinese Expatriates in Singapore, *International Journal of Business Studies*, 17(1). 61 – 106.
- Deborah, A. O, Diana, B., and Argun S., (2004), Women’s Career Types: Attributions of Satisfaction with Career Success, *Career Development International*, 9(5). 478 – 500.
- Diao, A., & Park, D. S. (2011). Successful Careers of Culturally Intelligent Workers in Multinational Organizations: the Mediating Role of Perceived Organizational Support. *World Journal of Social Sciences*, 1(5), 54-71.
- Eby, L. T., Butts, M., & Lockwood, A. (2003). Predictors of success in the era of the boundaryless career. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 24, 689–708.
- Eddleston, K. A. (2009). The effects of social comparisons on managerial career satisfaction and turnover intentions. *Career Development International*, 14 (1), 87-110.
- Furnham, A., Petrides, K., Tsaousis, I., Pappas, K., & Garrod, D. (2005). A Cross-Cultural Investigation Into the Relationships Between Personality Traits and Work Values. *The Journal of Psychology*, 139(1), 5-32.
- Germanou, E., Hassall, T., & Tournas, Y. (2009). Students' perceptions of accounting profession: work value approach. *Asian Review of Accounting*, 17(2), 136 - 148.
- Griego, O. V., Geroy, G. D., & Wright, P. C. (2000). Predictors of learning organizations: a human resource development practitioner's perspective. *The Learning Organization*, 7 (1), 5 - 12.
- Gunz, H., & Heslin, P. A. (2005). Reconceptualizing career success. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 26, 105–111.

- Hall, D. T., & Chandler, D. E. (2005). Psychological success: When the career is a calling. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 26, 155–176.
- Han, G. H. (2010). Trust and career satisfaction: the role of LMX. *Career Development International*, 15 (5), 437 - 458.
- Heslin, P.A. (2005). Conceptualizing and evaluating career success. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 26, 113–136.
- Karatepe, O. M. (2012). Perceived organizational support, career satisfaction and performance outcomes: A study of hotel employees in Cameroon. *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, 24 (5), 735-752.
- Kuijpers, M. A., Schyns, B., & Scheerens, J. (2006). Career Competencies for Career Success. *The Career Development*, 55, 168-178.
- Larry, C., (1988), Commitment on “Articulation of Values”, *Journal of International Psychology*, 35 (2). 209 – 210
- Lyons, S. T., Higgins, C. A., & Duxbu, L. (2009). Work values: Development of a new three-dimensional structure based on confirmatory smallest space analysis. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 31, 969–1002.
- Nicholson, N., & De Waal-Andrews, W. (2005). Playing to win: Biological imperatives., *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 26, 137–154.
- Olivia, F. L., James, A. T. and Rajeshkhar, J., (2010), Global Orientation and Organizational Commitment: Individual Difference Predictors of Job Performance, *International Journal of Organizational Analysis*, 18 (1). 129 – 150
- O'Neil, D. A., Bilimoria, D., & Saatciog, A. (2004). Women's career types: attributions of satisfaction with career success. *Career Development International*, 9 (5), 478 - 500.
- Othman, M. Y., Atwi, B. S., Abdul Rahman, A., Nur, H. H., (2012), Understanding Business People: The Personality and Work Values Orientation, *International Conference on Business and Economic Research Proceedings*, Bandung, Indonesia. www.internationalconference.com.my
- Punnett, B. J., Duffy, A. J., Fox, S., Gregory, A., Lituchy, T., Miller, J., et al. (2007). Career success and satisfaction: a comparative study in nine countries. *Women in Management Review*, 22(5), 371-390.

- Sargent, L. D., & Domberger, S. R. (2007). Exploring the development of a protean career orientation: values and image violations. *Career Development International*, 12 (6), 545-564.
- Sargent, L. D., & Domberger, S. R. (2007). Exploring the development of a protean career orientation: values and image violations. *Career Development International*, 12 (6), 545-564.
- Smith, J. (2007). *Career Values Scale Report*. Edmonton: Psychometrics Publishing.
- Suazo , M. M., & Turnley, W. H. (2010). Perceived organizational support as a mediator of the relations between individual differences and psychological contract breach. *Journal of Managerial Psychology*, 25 (6), 620 - 648.
- Tan, F. Y and Yahya, K. K., (2011), Personality Traits and Career Strategies Determinants of Career Satisfaction, *Jurnal Pengurusan*, 33, 53 – 59.
- Tan, F. Y and Yahya, K. K., (2011), The Influence of Career Planning Towards Insurance Agents' Strategy for Career Satisfaction, *Journal of Business and Policy Research*, 6:2, 83 – 95.
- Terrell, K., & Troilo, M. (2010). Values and female entrepreneurship. *International Journal of Gender and entrepreneurship*, 2 (3), 260-286.
- Thomas, W., Eby, L. T., Suresen, K. L., & Feldman, D. C. (2005). Predictors of Objective and Subject Career Success - A Meta-Analysis. *Personnel Psychology*, 58, 367-408.
- Thomas, S. K., John, J. A., Bernard, D. K., and Nancy, K. S., (1986), Articulation of Career Values: Comparison of Three Measures, *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 33 (4). 475 – 478.
- Ueda, Y., & Ohzono, Y. (2011). Work Values of Information Technology Personnel and Their Antecedents. *Interdisciplinary journal of contemporary research in business*, 3(2), 31 - 42.
- Vigoda-Gadot, E., & Grimland, S. (2008). Values and career choice at the beginning of the MBA educational process. *Career Development International*, 13(4), 333 - 345.

- Wong , C.-K. S., & Chung, K.-H. M. (2003). Work values of Chinese food service managers. *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, 15(2), 66 - 75.
- Wann-Yih, W., & Htaik, S. L. (2011). The impact of perceived organizational support, job satisfaction and organizational commitment on job performance in hotel industry. *International DSI and the 16th APDSI Joint Meeting*, (1 - 16). aipei.
- Wilson, J.I. (2009). A two factor model of performance approach goals in student motivation for starting medical school. *Educational Research*, 271-281.
- Yahya, K.K. and Tan, F.Y, (2011), Employee Personality and Its Association to Insurance Agents' Career Satisfaction, Proceedings of International Soft Science Conference, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.
- Yamamoto, H. (2006). The relationship between employees' inter-organizational career orientation and their career strategies. *Career Development International*, 11 (3), 243 - 264.