



Article

# Social Support and Self-Efficacy on Turnover Intentions: The Mediating Role of Conflict and Commitment

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Abstract: Turnover intentions are a phenomenon that affects the life of organizations and causes highly negative consequences. Based on previous studies, it is possible to consider antecedents to turnover in terms of both individual and social perceived resources, which previous research does not usually examine simultaneously. The aim of this study was to explore the role of both resources (individual and social) on turnover intentions. Thus, we hypothesized that perceived social support and self-efficacy have an impact on turnover intentions and that this relationship is mediated by interpersonal conflict and Affective Commitment. A total of 392 Italian employees completed a self-report questionnaire. A structural equation model was tested. The results showed that interpersonal conflict and Affective Commitment fully mediated the relationship between social support, self-efficacy and turnover intentions. Practical implications are discussed.

**Keywords:** perceived social support; self-efficacy; interpersonal conflict; Affective Commitment; turnover intentions

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#### 1. Introduction

One of the phenomena that currently can cause serious problems to the productivity of the companies and high costs of recruitment and training is the turnover intention (Afzal et al. 2021; Alkahtani 2015; Raharjo et al. 2019), which is considered to be the greatest predictor of real turnover behavior (Griffeth et al. 2000; Kim and Kim 2021). It is defined as an individual's desire to leave the company and seek other employment options (Perumal et al. 2018) either because there is a willingness to change jobs (Tett and Meyer 1993) or as a result of uncomfortable conditions perceived by the worker (Hongvichit 2015). In both such cases, it may pose a problem for the development of enterprises. Turnover intentions are studied in relation to their consequences for organizations (Price 2001; Shaw et al. 2005) in terms of a loss of know-how (Rao and Argote 2006), decrease in job performance (Reilly et al. 2014) and less development of human resources too (Nyberg and Ployhart 2013). In addition to the financial costs that the organization has incurred to form a good employee, repercussions of turnover behaviors on other employees in terms of moral lessening that can the increase risks of turnover are also to be taken into account (Ambrosius 2018; Ahammad et al. 2018). Turnover is a behavior that does not occur suddenly, but it is the final phase of a process that matures over time and involves subjective, relational and organizational variables. On one hand, employees try to maintain the balance between their professional growth needs and attitude towards the organization, and on the other hand, the organization tries to ensure their desired growth and a good working environment to avoid abandonment (Kraimer et al. 2011; Pesch et al. 2018). Our study intends to simultaneously use Organizational Support Theory (OST) and Self-Efficacy Theory as a framework for

examining the indirect influence of perception of support (organizational and social) and self-efficacy on turnover intentions with Conflict and Affective Commitment as mediators. OST is considered an important theory underlying the perception of support and draws on the theory of social exchange (Blau 2017). Self-efficacy refers to the individual's belief in having both ability and confidence to perform specific tasks or behaviors (Bandura 1977). Although both the theory of social exchange and the theory of self-efficacy are theoretically distinct, it is interesting to note that both perspectives reinforce each other (Walumbwa et al. 2011). OST and its precursor, social exchange theory, can explain how quality relationships can lead to favorable individual and organizational outcomes without considering individual perceived resources. The theory of self-efficacy, on the other hand, considers only the individual perspective, without considering the perceptions related to relational and contextual factors. In our study, we considered both perspectives including both organizational resources and individual ones. Based on these arguments, we assume that when workers feel themselves to be supported by either the tangible and intangible goods they receive within their organization, a rule of reciprocity creates a dynamic of exchange that makes workers aligned with the organizational objectives (Eisenberger et al. 1999) such as to raise Affective Commitment, reducing the likelihood of them leaving the organization. Low support, on the other hand, could reduce reciprocity and generate Conflict by increasing the likelihood of people leaving the organization. At the same time, a low self-efficacy related to work could discourage people from investing emotionally in the organization and therefore decrease the levels of Affective Commitment, increase interpersonal conflict and lead to wanting to leave the organization (Caesens et al. 2019; Kurtessis et al. 2017). This study makes a contribution to the literature in multiple ways: (1) it considers the antecedents of turnover intentions in terms of individual perceived resources and social perceived resources; (2) it broadens the literature related to perceived support in organizations (e.g., Kurtessis et al. 2017); (3) it considers the links with Conflict, a point which has received little attention from previous studies (Caesens et al. 2019).

## 2. Theoretical Background and Hypotheses

Among the variables that can positively or negatively affect the turnover intention inside the organizations, we find: Self-efficacy (De Simone and Planta 2017; De Simone et al. 2018; Kundi et al. 2017; Lu et al. 2016), Social capital and Affective Commitment, which are identified as significant antecedents of turnover intention (Cohen 1993; Eisenberger et al. 2014; Fazio et al. 2017; Lobburi 2012; Stovel and Bontis 2002), and interpersonal conflict (Akhlaghimofrad and Farmanesh 2021; Akinyemi et al. 2022; Notelaers et al. 2018). Selfeffective people have stronger beliefs about their ability to perform a task successfully. They set more challenging goals, invest more resources, persist longer in behaviors, and are better able to cope with difficult situations (Bandura et al. 1980; Bandura and Cervone 1983, 1986; Hellervik et al. 1992; van Dinther et al. 2011). Additionally, in organizational contexts, professional self-efficacy is defined as the perceived competence to be able to successfully perform tasks related to work (Rigotti et al. 2008). High levels of professional self-efficacy are associated with increased work commitment (Guarnaccia et al. 2018). The Affective Commitment is defined as an organizational dimension in which workers accept and promote the values and objectives of the organization and have the desire to maintain an affiliation with the organization itself (Töre 2020). This study considers only Affective Commitment as described in the Meyer and Allen model (Meyer and Allen 1991): Affective Commitment, Normative Commitment and Continuance Commitment. According to Mercurio (2015), "Affective Commitment may be reasonably considered a core essence of organizational commitment" (p. 403), and for Ko (2021), "Affective Commitment is conceptually the most closely related to organizational identification" (p. 175). Many authors have argued that employees who perceive a high level of organizational support are more likely to feel the obligation to repay the organization in terms of Affective Commitment (Eisenberger et al. 1990; Eisenberger et al. 1986; Jang and

Kandampully 2018). Employees who perceive the support of the organization would reciprocate by developing an emotional attachment to it and would be committed to helping it achieve its objectives (Coyle-Shapiro et al. 2006; Eisenberger et al. 2001; Lew 2009; Setiabudhi et al. 2021). Other research confirms that social support is a good predictor of Affective Commitment. Vandenberghe et al. (2004) have studied the antecedents and results of Affective Commitment, coming to the conclusion that the perceived organizational support was the single significant predictor of affective organizational commitment. Ruiller and Van Der Heijden (2016) have linked personal support with Affective Commitment, and the results show a strong and positive correlation between the two constructs especially with regard to the support of the supervisors. Marique et al. (2013) and Caesens et al. (2014), according to the social exchange perspective and the social identity perspective, have linked perceived organizational support and Affective Commitment finding a strong correlation between the two constructs with the mediation of organizational identification. Dilla and Zainal (2022) have found a positive and significant effect of social support on Affective Commitment through the mediation of the relational attachment. Nazir et al. (2018) also identified a positive relationship between perceived organizational support and Affective Commitment, and according to ST-Hilaire and de la Robertie (2018), good relations with supervisors and colleagues can be considered antecedents of Affective Commitment. Additionally, previous research has shown that good levels of self-efficacy have a positive impact on Affective Commitment. This positive effect occurs because employees who have high self-efficacy tend to accept goals and values in the organization, unlike employees who have low self-efficacy (Tsai et al. 2011; Lin and Wang 2018). Orgambídez et al. (2019) conducted research in order to verify the effects of mediation of the work engagement between self-efficacy and affective organizational commitment. The results showed that the Affective Commitment was expected by a good self-efficacy and a strong work engagement. Oh and Wee (2016) have examined the relationship between selfefficacy, Affective Commitment, customer orientation and performance, and the results show significant positive correlations between all the above mentioned variables. Rathi and Rastogi (2009) have explored the relationship between emotional intelligence, professional self-efficacy and Affective Commitment, finding a single positive correlation only between the last two of those. In his literature review, Agu (2015) affirms that a robust sense of self-efficacy can be considered strongly related to Affective Commitment and that the interaction between these variables can account for a positive attitude of workers towards the organization and greater achievement in terms of achieved goals. In agreement with the above, it is assumed that:

**H1:** Self-efficacy, Co-worker and Supervisor support are positively related to Affective Commitment.

There are several types of conflict in organizations, such as role conflict (Soelton et al. 2020), the conflict between work and life (De Simone et al. 2022) and object of our interest the interpersonal conflict (Wright and Larson 2022). Interpersonal conflict can be defined as that process characterized by the presence of different and opposite views in terms of interests, beliefs or values between individuals or groups in mutual interaction (Rahim 2017; De Dreu et al. 1999). It is also experienced in the workplace and represents a condition that, if not managed, can generate a decrease in well-being (Tremmel et al. 2019; Yang et al. 2019b). Research suggests that negative events within organizations, such as episodes of interpersonal conflict, are more crucial than positive events in influencing levels of employee well-being (Kuriakose et al. 2019; Rook 2001). In addition to the effects on employee well-being, interpersonal conflict is studied in relation to other organizational variables and behaviors (Notelaers et al. 2018). Personality differences, lack of information, role incompatibility and work-related stress (Hauge et al. 2007) as well as organizational changes, loss of status, lack of trust, discrimination and incivility are other causes of interpersonal conflicts in the workplace (Budd et al. 1996; Namin et al. 2022; Reio

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and Trudel 2013). Studies have shown that interpersonal conflict is an important stress factor associated with increase in counterproductive work behavior (Bayram et al. 2009; Eatough 2010), with lower organizational commitment and with higher turnover intention (Giebels and Janssen 2005; Liu et al. 2007).

However, research indicates that perceived organizational support can counteract the onset of negative consequences in the presence of interpersonal conflict and maintain good levels of commitment (Mauno et al. 2006) and be a protective factor against turnover intention (Zickar et al. 2008). Similarly, the worker's perception of support may also reduce episodes of interpersonal conflict (Caesens et al. 2019; Chang 2017; De Raeve et al. 2008). Bandura (2017) states that while supportive relationships may increase levels of self-efficacy through modeling attitudes and strategies for coping with problems, providing positive incentives and resources to effectively deal with problems, in the same way, the presence of high self-efficacy can lead to a reduction in interpersonal conflicts (Alper et al. 2000; Nguyen et al. 2017). In agreement with the above, it is assumed that:

H2: Self-efficacy, Co-worker and Supervisor support are negatively related to interpersonal Conflict.

Previous studies show that high levels of Affective Commitment can positively influence employee working behavior, including reduced absence and increased enthusiasm for sharing knowledge (Jeung et al. 2017), promoting stronger organizational citizenship behavior (Ranihusna 2018), reduced work stress (Boxall et al. 2015) and decreasing turnover intention (Marescaux et al. 2013; Meyer et al. 2002). Some authors argue that workers who feel themselves as part of the organization and feel themselves to be supported by it and satisfied as well, are unlikely to leave the organization voluntarily (Luz et al. 2018; Nguyen et al. 2020). These results are confirmed by recent studies that have evidenced that Affective Commitment is negatively correlated to the turnover intention. Akinyemi et al. (2022) have looked at the relationship between job satisfaction, pay, Affective Commitment and turnover intentions in public sector and they found that Affective Commitment has a strong and negative relationship with turnover intentions. In their study, Kartika and Purba (2018) examined the mediation effects of Affective Commitment on the relationship between job satisfaction and turnover intention; the results show that this relation is completely mediated by Affective Commitment, which has a high negative correlation with turnover intention. Kundi et al. (2017) have analyzed the relationship between employees' perceived career opportunity and turnover intention with the serial mediation effect of the Affective Commitment. The results confirm this hypothesis and also show how Affective Commitment negatively predicts turnover intentions. Moreira et al. (2020) have studied the relation between the organizational practices of competences development and turnover intentions with the mediation effect of perceived internal employability and Affective Commitment. A significant and negative effect of Affective Commitment on turnover intentions was verified. Additionally, Akinyemi et al. (2022), in research carried out on a sample of nurses, highlighted that their perception of emotional commitment has a significant negative influence on the intention of turnover. In agreement with the above, it is assumed that:

**H3:** Affective Commitment is negatively related to Turnover Intention.

Interpersonal conflict is an intrinsic part of organizations, and researchers predict that the adversarial nature of organizations will be increasingly intense in the future (De Dreu et al. 2004). Because the stability of an organization depends in large part on the smooth functioning of its human resources, the derived consequences of interpersonal conflict produce effects that affect not only individuals but the entire organization. Research has highlighted the negative effects of interpersonal conflict on health, employee attitudes, work–life balance and performance (Bonaccio et al. 2019; Kuriakose et al. 2019; Notelaers et al. 2018; Ye et al. 2019).

Studies have shown that interpersonal conflict produces negative emotions in people, such as anger or fear, and experiencing these negative feelings engages people's Soc. Sci. **2022**, 11, 437 5 of 17

emotional resources, leading to emotional exhaustion (Grandey et al. 2007; Schat and Kelloway 2000). The feeling of emotional exhaustion, in turn, would lead to withdrawal behaviors, as workers would need to restore depleted emotional resources, and Donovan et al. (1998) argues that the quality of interpersonal relationships has direct consequences on turnover intention. Some researchers confirm the claim that negative interpersonal relationships can have a direct impact on the affective reactions of employees to the organization and affect their turnover intention. The aim of the study of Bhayo et al. (2017) was to determine the impact of different management styles of Conflict on turnover intention. The results show that integrating and avoiding management styles of Conflict have a positive relation with turnover intention. Shaukat et al. (2017) highlighted how interpersonal conflict is negatively related to performance and positively related to turnover intentions through job burnout mediation. Akhlaghimofrad and Farmanesh (2021) confirm that interpersonal conflict has a strong and positive impact on turnover intention in a sample of faculty members of a private higher education institutions, as does Palancı et al. (2020), as a result of a comparative study in the health sector. In agreement with the above, it is assumed that:

**H4:** Conflict is positively related to Turnover Intention.

Based on a considerable number of empirical studies, the researchers focused on the construct of perceived social support in the workplace (supervisor support and coworker support) as a predictor of turnover intentions (Jing and Yan 2022; Pinna et al. 2020; Salvador et al. 2022; Wang et al. 2020). When the employees perceive their supervisor to be interested in their general well-being, they feel greater attachment with respect to the organization and perceive a duty to return the favor to their supervisor by remaining in the organization (Afzal et al. 2019; Alkhateri et al. 2018; Arici 2018; Chami-Malaeb 2021; Fukui et al. 2019a, 2019b; Galletta et al. 2011). Similarly, peer support is also an essential factor. When workers perceive a high level of support from colleagues, they recognize the workplace as a supportive environment in which they have excellent learning opportunities and, as a result, will be willing to reciprocate that support by remaining in the organization (De Clercq et al. 2020; Ducharme et al. 2007; Maertz et al. 2007; Nazir et al. 2016; Self and Gordon 2019; Xu et al. 2018). Several studies involving numerous organizations have shown that Affective Commitment mediate the effects of perceived organizational support on turnover intentions. Tetteh et al. (2020) highlight the mediating role of Affective Commitment between perceived organizational support, job stress and turnover intentions. This study confirms how employees who perceive support from the organization are less likely to leave the workplace especially if they are guaranteed conditions of low stress and good Affective Commitment. Alkhateri et al. (2018) investigated the relationships between perceived supervisor support, job satisfaction, Affective Commitment and turnover intention. The results confirm the role of Affective Commitment as mediator between perceived supervisor support and turnover intention. Fazio et al. (2017) affirm that Affective Commitment plays a significant and complex role in the relationship between social support and turnover intention. In particular, emotional commitment only partially mediates the relationship between organizational support and turnover intention. In Khan et al. (2020), the results are in line with other previous research, wherein Affective Commitment has a positive relationship with supervisor support and negative with the turnover intention; moreover, Affective Commitment mediates the relationship between supervisor support and turnover intention. Finally, Hsu et al. (2020) have highlighted how Affective Commitment plays an important mediating role between coworker support and turnover intention. Additionally, high levels of self-efficacy can prevent withdrawal behaviors in organizations (De Simone et al. 2018; Kundi et al. 2017; Lu et al. 2016) through a greater coping capacity of workers in the face of adverse conditions such as the presence of interpersonal conflicts or in support of perceived Affective Commitment (Alper et al. 2000; Lin and Wang 2018; Orgambídez et al. 2019). Moreover, Conflict has a negative relation with perceived organizational support (Chang 2017; Mauno et al. 2006) and with Soc. Sci. **2022**, 11, 437 6 of 17

self-efficacy (Nguyen et al. 2017) and positive relation with turnover intention (Akhlaghimofrad and Farmanesh 2021; Palancı et al. 2020).

Therefore, we assume that:

**H5:** Affective Commitment and Conflict mediate the effect of Co-worker support, Supervisor support and Self -efficacy to Turnover Intention.

#### 3. Materials and Methods

#### 3.1. Research Model

This research aims to study the relationships between social support, self-efficacy, Affective Commitment, Conflict and Turnover Intention. Exogenous variables are Coworker Support, Supervisor Support and Self-efficacy. In line with previous research, these have significant direct and indirect effects on turnover intentions, such as interpersonal conflict and Affective Commitment.

#### 3.2. Measures

Social Support. The social support in the workplace was measured using two subscales (Co-worker Support and Supervisor Support) from Susskind et al. (2003) study. The Co-worker Support sub-scale consists of three items (for example: My co-workers provide me with important work-related information and advice that make performing my job easier) and Supervisor Support subscale is composed of four items (for example: My supervisor provides me with important work-related information and advice that make performing my job easier). All items were measured using a six-point Likert scale.

*Self-efficacy*. The self-efficacy was measured using Self-efficacy Scale (Borgogni et al. 2010) that consists of seven items (for example: In my work, I am confident I can solve all the conflicts that may occur with my colleagues). All items were measured using a sixpoint Likert scale.

Affective Commitment. The Affective Commitment was measured using Affective Commitment Scale, developed by Allen and Meyer (1990), in the Italian version of Pierro et al. (1995) (for example: The organization I work for has great personal significance for me). All items were measured using a six-point Likert scale.

Interpersonal Conflict at Work. Interpersonal conflict was measured using Interpersonal Conflict at Work Scale (ICAWS) developed by Spector and Jex's Scale (Spector and Jex 1998). ICAWS consists of four items (for example: How often are people rude to you at work?). All items were measured using a five-point Likert scale.

*Turnover Intentions*. Turnover intention was measured using Intention to leave Scale developed by Wayne et al. (1997) scale. This scale consists of five items (for example: I am actively looking for a job outside the organization). All items were measured using a sixpoint Likert scale.

### 3.3. Data Collection and Sample Characteristics

The sample consisted of 392 employees: 53.8% men (N = 211) and 46.2% women (N = 181). The average age of participants was 35 years ( $20 \div 64$ , SD = 9.41). In terms of their educational level, 19.4% qualified lower than high-school level, 57.9% had a high-school diploma, and 22.7% completed a bachelor's or master's degree. The average tenure was 4.3 years (SD = 5.32). The questionnaire was administered to employees who work in an Italian strategic company in the trade sector, which collaborated with us for this research. Participants completed a paper questionnaire and informed consent. So, the sampling method is non-probabilistic.

### 3.4. Data Analysis

For descriptive analyses of socio-demographic data (means and standard deviations), see Table 1. The internal consistency was measured through Cronbach's Alpha

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value, which is considered acceptable if higher than 0.60 (e.g., Ponterotto and Ruckdeschel 2007). Internal consistency was assessed through composite reliability (CR) and is considered acceptable with a value of 0.70 or higher (Fornell and Larcker 1981). The convergent validity was also calculated through average variance extracted (AVE), which should be greater than a value of 0.50. However, convergent validity is still adequate with AVE less than 0.50 and CR above 0.60 (Bagozzi and Yi 1988; Fornell and Larcker 1981). For discriminant validity, the correlation coefficients were compared with the square root of AVE (Fornell and Larcker 1981).

	Means	SD	α	CR	AVE	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Co-worker Support	4.7	0.85	0.70	0.73	0.49	0.701					
2. Supervisor Support	4.6	1.09	0.89	0.89	0.67	0.56 ***	0.819				
3. Self-efficacy	4.6	0.66	0.83	0.84	0.44	0.32 ***	0.28 ***	0.666			
4. Conflict	2.5	0.76	0.80	0.80	0.50	-0.65 ***	-0.59 ***	-0.19 **	0.710		
5. Affective Commit-	- 10	0.88	0.83	0.84	0.57	0.55 ***	0.52 ***	0.30 ***	-0.32 ***	0.760	
ment	4.8										
6. Turnover Intention	2.1	1.12	0.81	0.84	0.52	-0.42 ***	-0.52 ***	-0.26 ***	0.48 ***	-0.66 ***	0.72

Table 1. Means, standard deviations, internal consistencies and correlations.

Notes. \*\* = p < 0.01; \*\*\* = p < 0.001. SD = Standard deviation. CR = Composite Reliability. Diagonal elements (in bold) are the square root of the average variance extracted (AVE).

In order to test our Research Model, we conducted a Path Analysis using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) with AMOS 24 (Maximum Likelihood estimation). The choice to use SEM based on covariance (CB-SEM) derives from the non-exploratory nature of the present study (Hair et al. 2017) and is permitted from the reflective nature of all items (Hair et al. 2011). The Maximum Likelihood estimation method was used. For SEM, the following indices were used: CFI, TLI, RMSEA, GFI, AGFI, IFI, PGFI, PNFI, PCFI. The CFI, TLI and IFI are acceptable if they are greater than 0.90; RMSEA is acceptable if it is equal to or smaller than 0.08 (Bentler and Bonnet 1980; Steiger 1990). GFI and AGFI are acceptable if their value is greater than 0.80 (Baumgartner and Homburg 1996; Doll et al. 1994). PGFI, PNFI, PCFI are acceptable if they are greater than 0.50.

The ratio of  $\chi^2$  with degrees of freedom is considered acceptable when this value is smaller than 3 (Schermelleh-Engel et al. 2003).

## 4. Results

#### 4.1. Measurement Model

CFA was performed for the measurement model revealing acceptable fit indices:  $\chi^2/df = 2.279$ , CFI= 0.92, TLI = 0.90, RMSEA = 0.57, GFI= 0.88, AGFI = 0.86, IFI = 0.92, PGFI = 0.72, PNFI= 0.76, PCFI = 0.81.

## 4.2. Descriptive Analyses, Correlations and Reliability

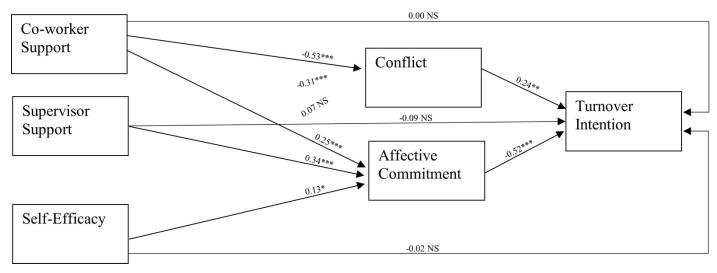
The values of AVE, CR and Cronbach's alpha ( $\alpha$ ) are presented in Table 1. All correlations (see Table 1) are statistically significant. The correlations between the turnover intention and the other variables are all negative except Conflict dimension. None of the squared correlations was close to 0.80. This means that there are no multicollinearity problems (Hair et al. 2010).

## 4.3. Hypothesis Tests

The results are shown below in Figure 1. The model demonstrates a good overall fit ( $\chi^2/d=2.28$ , CFI = 0.919, TLI = 0.90, RMSEA = 0.57, IFI = 0.92, PNFI= 0.76, PCFI = 0.81). As can be seen in Figure 1, Co-worker Support and Supervisor Support were negative related with Conflict ( $\beta$ = -0.53 and -0.31, respectively) and positive related with Affective

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Commitment ( $\beta$  = 0.25 and 0.34, respectively). Self-efficacy was positive related with Affective Commitment  $\beta$ = 0.13). Conflict was positively related with turnover intention ( $\beta$  = 0.24) and Affective Commitment was negative related to turnover intention ( $\beta$ = -0.52). As illustrated, Conflict served as a full mediator between Co-worker Support, Supervisor Support, and Turnover Intention. In the same way Affective Commitment served as a full mediator between Co-worker Support, Supervisor Support, Self-efficacy and Turnover Intention.



\* = p < 0.05; \*\* = p < 0.01; \*\*\* = p < 0.001. NS = not significant

Figure 1. Empirical Model.

Finally, we used bootstrapping to examine the significance of the role of the mediators. MacKinnon et al. (2004) show via simulations that the performance of bootstrapping is better than the traditional Sobel test (Sobel 1982). We have performed 2000 resamples. As shown in Table 2, all indirect effects are significant.

Table 2. Indirect effects.

Indirect Path	Standardized Estimate	Lower	Upper	<i>p</i> -Value	
Co-worker Support> Conflict>	-0.131 **	-0.278	-0.066	0.003	
Turnover Intention	0.151	0.276	0.000	0.003	
Co-worker Support> Affective	-0.133 **	-0.273	-0.074	0.001	
Commitment> Turnover Intention	0.155				
Supervisor Support> Affective	-0.178 ***	-0.285	-0.096	0.001	
Commitment> Turnover Intention	0.170				
Supervisor Support> Conflict>	-0.076 **	-0.142	-0.033	0.002	
Turnover Intention	-0.070	-0.142	-0.033	0.002	
Self-efficacy> Affective Commit-	-0.068 *	-0.200	-0.025	0.033	
ment> Turnover Intention	0.000	0.200	0.023	0.033	

Notes. \* = p < 0.05; \*\* = p < 0.01; \*\*\* = p < 0.001.

#### 5. Discussion

This study examined the relationship between social support, self-efficacy and turnover intentions with Conflict and Affective Commitment as mediators. In addition to considering the antecedents of turnover in terms of perceived individual resources and perceived organizational contextual resources, this is the only study, to our knowledge, that has considered these variables simultaneously. Then, our study confirms the importance of simultaneously studying both organizational variables, such as supervisor support and Soc. Sci. **2022**, 11, 437 9 of 17

employee support, and individual variables such as self-efficacy. In this way it is possible to analyze all the aspects that impact on the turnover intentions. Examining the antecedents of turnover intentions both in the perspective of social exchange and in the individual perspective of self-efficacy gives an added value to the research and emphasizes the element of originality of the work.

The hypotheses have been partially confirmed.

The findings indicated that all variables are related to each other, and the correlations examined are all negative except that between interpersonal conflict and Turnover Intention. In line with previous studies, the noteworthy and positive correlations found between supervisor support, co-worker support, self-efficacy and Affective Commitment indicate that employees who feel supported or perceive elevated levels of self-efficacy in the presence of a high Affective Commitment are less willing to leave the company (Chami-Malaeb 2021; De Clercq et al. 2020; De Simone et al. 2018; Lin and Wang 2018; Nguyen et al. 2017; Orgambídez et al. 2019; Tetteh et al. 2020; Hsu et al. 2020).

Moreover, the positive correlation between the intention to turnover and Conflict indicates an increased risk of abandonment in the presence of higher levels of interpersonal conflict at work (Akhlaghimofrad and Farmanesh 2021; Chang 2017; Nguyen et al. 2017; Palancı et al. 2020).

Among the results obtained in the model presented, there is the absence of a significant direct correlation between co-worker support, supervisor support, self-efficacy and turnover intention. This suggests the need for further analysis to understand the possible mediating role of Affective Commitment and interpersonal conflict. The results show a complete mediation of Affective Commitment between co-worker support, supervisor support, self-efficacy and turnover intention. Additionally, interpersonal conflict acted as a complete mediator between co-worker support, supervisor support and turnover intention.

The research highlights the importance of understanding the antecedents of turnover intention in organizations in order to prevent the abandonment by workers with all the consequences that this behavior entails (Afzal et al. 2021; Alkahtani 2015; Raharjo et al. 2019). Therefore, it is crucial for organizations both identifying and studying the variables that decrease the chances of turnover.

The results of the study underline the importance of perceived co-worker support and supervisor support and of good levels of self-efficacy in order to prevent turnover intention in conditions of high Affective Commitment and low interpersonal conflict.

Rhoades et al. (2001) and Eisenberger et al. (2001) confirm that perceived organizational support impacts on turnover intention with the mediation of Affective Commitment and this turns out to be interesting above all their effects combined. However, not all authors who have studied this interaction have concluded that the combined effect of perceived organizational support and Affective Commitment on turnover intention is superior to their individual direct effects (Tian et al. 2014; Allen and Shanock 2013). For example, Nichols et al. (2016) and Fazio et al. (2017) show that the turnover intention turned out to be lower in the presence of greater levels of supervisor support and Affective Commitment and both were meaningful predictors of the turnover intention, but only the first study has also confirmed the role of fully mediation of the Affective Commitment between perceived support and turnover intention. These different results require further study of the relationships studied and the possible mediating effects of other variables such as job satisfaction (Alkhateri et al. 2018) or task performance (Afzal et al. 2019).

The findings of this research offer implications for practice. First, the results give indications on the importance of building a leadership process that can support workers in order to prevent turnover behaviors and promote organizational commitment (Ribeiro et al. 2020; Ugboro 2006) through specific training that will teach supervisors how to provide supportive supervision to workers (Allen and Meyer 1997; Rooney and Gottlieb 2007; Stinglhamber and Vandenberghe 2004). Secondly, they suggest great attention to the relationships among colleagues, as both the perception of self-efficacy and the presence of

Conflicts within the work teams can positively or negatively affect the intention of turnover (Nguyen et al. 2017). There are different strategies to develop self-efficacy (Bandura 1997): experiences of active mastery of the task; vicarious experiences, which involve the observation of successful behavioral models; experiences of verbal persuasion, from credible sources, which strengthen individual beliefs about having the skills necessary to manage specific situations; experiences of controlling one's emotional and physical states. These strategies could be used in the development interventions of people in the organization studied, and also taught to supervisors so that they can implement them with their collaborators. Developing effective methods for Conflict management, such as cooperative approaches, can support workers to interact constructively (Alper et al. 2000; Tjosvold and Tjosvold 1994, 1995) because feeling empowered and confident in the organizational teams is not an automatic process (Kirkman and Rosen 1999; Spreitzer et al. 1997). In addition, the belief in self-efficacy in teams is one of the strongest predictors of engagement especially in heterogeneous groups. It is therefore important to avoid Conflict conditions, and managers should be careful when building teams, promoting an open and tolerant environment, and giving the team time to get to know each other, as well as developing cohesion and implementing skills and competencies in order to avoid turnover (Baker 2001; Bayazit and Mannix 2003).

Finally, implementing the levels of Affective Commitment is fundamental given the important role that mediation plays among perceived organizational support, self-efficacy and turnover intentions. Promoting adherence to the values and objectives of the organization is fundamental to prevent turnover behavior (Alkhateri et al. 2018; Fazio et al. 2017; Khan et al. 2020; Hsu et al. 2020). The actions that can be put in place to positively influence the Affective Commitment also concern, in this case, the deployment of a transformational leadership that can increase the commitment of workers to the organization and, consequently, also the performance (Lee and Cho 2018; Njoroge et al. 2015). Moreover, workers with high job matching are less likely to have low levels of Affective Commitment; in this sense, organizations should build an effective personnel selection process, provide adequate support in the phase of adaptation to the organizational context and implement training moments in order to reduce turnover behaviors (Yang et al. 2019a).

This study has several limitations. First, this study used a cross-sectional design and self-reporting measures. Second, this study relied on data from only Italy, and for future research, it is recommended to extend the study to other contexts. It would also be interesting for future research to carry out a longitudinal study and test the actual staff turnover. Future research could also use a nested, multilevel design that includes other actors involved, for example, by measuring the perceptions (such as satisfaction) of the recipients of the services provided by the organization.

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