

The Relationship between Transformational Leadership and Job Performance: An Empirical Investigation

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Abstract:

The main objective of the present paper is to assess the relationship between transformational leadership and job performance empirically. The study was conducted in the banking sector of Pakistan focusing on six large banks. A total number of 308 responses were collected through survey questionnaire from the bank managers. The data was then coded into SPSS for early stage analysis such as data screening. This was followed through applying SmartPLS to analyze the data and the results have been presented in its standard reporting style. The findings revealed a positive relationship between transformational leadership and job performance in banking sector of Pakistan supporting the hypothesized relationship. Finally, the paper has presented a way forward for future research.

Keywords: Transformational Leadership, Job Performance, Banks, Pakistan, SmartPLS

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1. Introduction

Leadership is considered very crucial for accelerating the improvements in the corporate settings. It also potentially influences job performance of individual employees. This is true due to the fact that leadership possesses the ability to motivate, guide followers to realize mission, vision and objectives of the organization. It also helps employees in order to be innovative and creative for the promotion of new ideas. Similarly, leadership is well recognized due to the fact that it helps employees and organizations in adapting emerging changes, building teamwork and improving their overall capabilities. Therefore, it becomes necessary to evaluate the influence of leadership over individuals as well as organizational performances.

In this vein, academic scholars have mutually agreed that the ultimate success of the business organizations depends on the connections between the leader and their followers (Chu, Yang, and Chen (2011); Lau and Tong (2008); Wang, Oh, Courtright, and Colbert (2011)). This relationship based alignment becomes critical as the leaders need to prepare their followers for adapting to the continuous change processes, face turbulent technologies, cultural changes and more importantly the ever-changing environmental challenges (Chu et al. (2011); Wang et al. (2011)). Although there is a huge stream of literature on leadership that speaks about several leadership styles, the prominent amongst them have been transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire Bass (1985). However, the recent research has revealed that transformational leadership stands more effective in influencing employee performance and has been called as a most significant benchmark in the business organizations (Levy, Cober, and Miller (2002); Sarros and Santora (2001)).

Therefore, the main objective of the present study was to replicate the influence of transformational leadership over job performance in the six large banks of Pakistan. This investigation holds importance due to several reasons. First, such an investigation has not been made in the six large banking sector context of Pakistan. As a result, there has been lack of clarity in terms of how well transformational leadership could influence the individual job performance. Second, the present study has conceptualized job performance on the basis of two important elements, namely, task performance and organizational citizenship behavior, as such an investigation has not been made earlier in the Pakistani context. Third, the findings of the present study have presented insights that have been in line with the studies that have specifically been conducted in the developed context, such results have enriched the prevailing literature on transformational leadership by providing empirical evidence on its effectiveness in the banking sector in Pakistan. Last, the literature on the proposed relationship and job performance has been reported inconsistent (Dolatabadi and Safa (2010); Mohammad Mosadegh Rad and Hossein Yarmohammadian (2006); Shah, Hamid, and Bin (2015); Voon, Lo, Ngui, and Ayob (2011)). Therefore, this has encouraged the present study to further investigate the proposed relationship under LMX theory Graen (1976).

2. Review of the Literature

The effectiveness employee's behaviors for meeting job related objectives have been denoted as job performance McCloy, Campbell, and Cudeck (1994). However, researchers have differently conceptualized the notion of job performance. However, this addressed notion has remained centrally important because it critically contributes to the overall organizational performance Organ (1977).

According to Campbell (1990) job performance is an important construct in organizational psychology as well as in human resource management. Whereas Jamal (2007) determined job performance as an individual's function carrying out efficiently within the prevailing constraints and the resources available. The meaning of Job performance varies depending upon job to job. Some researchers including Campbell (1990) have developed broader scope of performance which can be generalized for various jobs. Campbell introduced eight factors related to job performance a) job specific proficiency, b) non-job specific task proficiency, c) Effort to Demonstrate, d) written and oral communication, e) to maintain personal discipline, f) marinating team and peer performance, g) supervision and leadership, h) administration and management. He further was of the opinion that all factors are not relevant towards all jobs and all of these factors can be used to portray job performance for any possible occupation. Moreover, all factors and content of factors varies from job to job, primarily each factor is one of motivational element. The study conducted by Hochwarter, Kiewitz, Gundlach, and Stoner (2004) has further added social worth towards all these factors. The scholars have pointed out that job performance is a multidimensional concept which consists of task related performance and contextual elements highlighting the social skills predicting as job performance. A huge amount of research has been conducted in order to understand the main variations among employees and their job performance. The studies conducted by Beck, Behr and Beck, Behr, and Guettler (2012) on gender, Ittner, Larcker, and Pizzini (2007) on salary, Ng and Feldman (2008) age, Hourani, Williams, and Kress (2006) on stress, have determined that all these variables have relationship with job performance.

More importantly, the mature literature on job performance has highlighted two core components namely, task performance and OCB (Borman and Motowidlo (2014); Motowidlo, Borman, and Schmit (1997); Organ (1988)). According to Lee, Tan, and Javalgi (2010) task performance or in role performance are those behaviors which are directly related to the responsibilities, duties and tasks which are prescribed and are documented in job description. Kanter (1988) has conceptualized task performance as innovative performance, which refers the qualities of the employees' skills like creativity and problem solving techniques at workplace. Likewise OCB or extra role behavior is important at work place to be innovative to generate, promote and to realize creative ideas to bring organizational successes (Janssen and Van Yperen (2004); Lee et al. (2010)). According to (Austin and Villanova (1992)), every individual is different in several ways in relation to job role behaviors where measures are criteria to identify

such differences. A large number of constituencies have used such criteria for measures used in applied psychology. Some of them used evaluation criteria as work behavior theories some used effective human resources administration and some used provision for feedback to the individuals. As a result, however, an index that measures the significance of the observation that most, if not all, of the pioneers of industrial-organizational psychology has addressed this issue during his career. The paper reviews the development of conceptual and methodological problems related to the standard of 1917, as the size of the organization, methods of measurement, analysis, and use the classification framework competing values from which to view performance metrics.

Regardless of an extensive history of apprehension on issues of condition, the construct of the employee performance has not yet been mapped completely. Campbell (1990), Motowidlo and Van Scotter (1994) argued that the investigation of employment complicated techniques is accessible to recognize the tasks and significant behaviors, but their focal point is mainly experimental and normally precise jobs or job families. Therefore, they have not formed reasonable hypothetically fundamental underlying dimensions which can be used to portray the performance necessities of jobs in all-purpose. More theoretical attempts to divide the area of performance are opening to confirm hopeful symbols. They adopt extremely unusual conceptual orientations, dissimilar investigative approaches to conventional employment and the other, but they unite on the difference between task performance and contextual performance (Borman and Motowidlo (1993); Borman and Motowidlo (2014); Motowidlo and Van Scotter (1994); Shah et al. (2015)). As reported in Motowidlo and Van Scotter (1994), Katz and Kahn (1978) state that theoretical scheme is more fundamental for the job performance and partitioning is tripartite splitting up between i) to join the organization and remain in, ii) to meet the expected standards or even exceeding standards as framed by organization, and iii) be innovative, and spontaneous to go ahead of the roles and actions in terms of cooperation with all members, giving suggestions to bring improvements, protection against harm, carry out personal development and building the image of organization. Further, Orr, Sackett, and Mercer (1989) have confirmed about the importance of two actions by providing empirical support on it. Their study showed that at least few supervisors are inclined to prescribed and flexible behaviors in consideration in measuring dollar value on job performance for hypothetical analyst for the programmers.

The transformational leadership style is the one that seeks to uplift the wishes of the individual followers for their desired achievements and also for self-development. On the other hand, it promotes development for the group as well as the organization Bass and Avolio (1990) and motivating the followers to produce the output more than it is desired originally expected Bass (1985). More specifically, transformational leaders influence their followers, and they operate as a role model for succeeding leaders. They provide encouragement and inspirational motivation to the subordinates. They also exhibit individualized consideration, acting as coaches and mentors, contribute to the

development of their subordinates to reach high skills and goals, and make struggle to meet up their subordinates' requirements for development and success. Finally, transformational leaders present intellectual stimulation by cheering and inspiring to become innovative and creative to see their issues from different angles, and to form diverse ways for resolving those issues. They give confidence to their subordinates to face challenges and try different approaches to achieve success Bass and Riggio (2006). Therefore, the transformational leaders build up a strong stand to transport a transformational change in organization. The study conducted by Alimo-Metcalfe and Alban-Metcalfe (2005) considered as an extensive study which is based on more than 3,500 respondents in United Kingdom by using 360 degree feedback method reinforced the argument that the ability of the leader, specifically transformational leader is crucial at all levels of organization and very critical to cope up changes for organizational development.

2.1. Transformational Leadership and Job Performance

Literature provides sufficient evidence that leadership positively influences organizational outcomes (Bass, Avolio, Jung, & Berson, 2003; Luthans, Avey, Avolio, and Peterson (2010)). More specifically, scholars have empirically suggested that leadership styles influence job performance significantly Howell & Avolio, (1993). Further to this notion, the past researchers have also been interested in investigating the individual influence of each of the leadership style over job performance. In doing so, the researchers have revealed that out of many varying leadership styles the most prominent variables have been transformational and transactional leadership styles (Avolio, Bass, and Zhu (2004); Ehrhart (2004); Whetstone (2002)). Further to these evidences from the literature, it has also been reported in the past studies that transformational leadership alone holds greater influence over job performance when compared to transactional leadership style Gardner and Stough (2002). The same assertion of the effectiveness of transformational leadership over transactional leadership has been conferred by several studies. Refer for example, (Bass et al. (2003); Dvir, Eden, Avolio, and Shamir (2002)). Similarly, while investigating transformational leadership along with organizational and individual job performance, studies have provided strong empirical evidence (Argyris and Schön (1996); Glynn (1996); Hurley and Hult (1998)). The transformational leadership has also been regarded as an important variable in the literature of leadership due to the fact that it drives the followers in setting and meeting their respective job related objectives Kelman (1958).

Apart from the above evidence on the influence of transformational leadership over job performance, the literature has also suggested findings that are inconsistent (Dolatabadi and Safa (2010); Mohammad Mosadegh Rad and Hossein Yarmohammadian (2006); Voon et al. (2011)). Therefore, the present study, in the light of leader member exchange (LMX) theory Graen (1976) aimed at investigating the postulated relationship between transformational leadership and job performance in the banking sector of Pakistan.

3. Methodology

3.1. Sample and Population

The data was collected from branch managers for reporting an appropriate description of the role of leadership over job performance. For this reason, 302 responses were collected from a total 1314 population of branch managers of six large banks of Pakistan. The sample for the population was drawn following Krejcie and Morgan (1970). Further, the present study used the proportionate random sampling technique, after initial screening 297 cases were used for the final analysis.

3.2. Instrumentation

The dependent variable job performance that consisted of task and OCB as a sub-components, was measured using job performance scale developed by Williams and Anderson (1991) with 37 items and Transactional leadership was measured using Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ) developed by Bass and Avolio (1995) with 12 items. The survey participants were asked to self-evaluate perceived job performance and transactional leadership style on a five point Likert scale with 1 indicating (strongly disagree) and 5 as (strongly agree) was employed.

3.3. Demographics

A larger proportion of the survey participants were male (94.9%). However, the majority of respondents were in 31 to 40 years of age group with 39.1% and lowest percent falls in 51 or above age group that is with 8.1 percent. 84.2% managers were married and 15.8% are unmarried. A larger portion of managers comprised graduates with 91.2% whereas, undergraduate were 7.4%. The major two groups of the managers have salaries PKR 40,000 or less with 21.5% and PKR 80,000 or above with 21.2%. The detailed demographics of the respondents are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	282	94.9
Female	14	4.7
Age		
20-30 years	74	24.9
31-40 years	116	39.1
41-50 years	82	27.6
51 and above	24	8.1
Position		
Branch Manager	155	52.2
Operations Manager	141	47.5
Experience		
Less than five years	46	15.5
5 to less than 10 years	117	39.4

10 to Less than 15	49	16.5
15 to less than 20	32	10.8
20 to less than 25	17	5.7
25 to less than 30	15	5.1
30 and above	21	7.1
Qualification		
Undergraduate	22	7.4
Graduate	271	91.2
Post Graduate	4	1.3
Monthly Income		
40K or less	64	21.5
41 to 50 K	56	18.9
51 to 60K	51	17.2
61 to 70K	33	11.1
71 to 80K	30	10.1
81 to above	63	21.2
Marital Status		
Married	250	84.2
Unmarried	47	15.8

4. Analysis and Results

The present study employed Partial Least Square (PLS) path modeling Wold, (1974) for the analysis of the study variables. In this connection specifically the study used (Smart PLS) Ringle, Wende, and Will (2005) due to its user friendly nature and robust results.

4.1. Measurement Model Results

The individual item reliability, internal consistency reliability and discriminant validity were ensured for reporting reliability and validity of the study. First, for assessing individual item reliability the outer loadings were used Hair, Sarstedt, Ringle, and Mena (2012).

Table 1: Measurement Model Results

Latent Variables	Items	Loadings	AVE	CR
OCB	JPOCB28	0.635	0.507887	0.877521
	JPOCB32	0.6434		
	JPOCB33	0.7902		
	JPOCB34	0.759		
	JPOCB35	0.7744		
	JPOCB36	0.6335		

	JPOCB37	0.7325		
Task	JPTSK1	0.8404	0.568272	0.793599
	JPTSK2	0.8201		
	JPTSK3	0.571		
TRFIC	LS26	0.6936	0.542949	0.702952
	LS28	0.7778		
TRFIIA	LS16	0.7393	0.589992	0.741363
	LS23	0.7968		
TRFIIB	LS12	0.784	0.650021	0.787785
	LS30	0.8278		
TRFIM	LS24	0.8256	0.629303	0.772284
	LS7	0.7592		
TRFIS	LS27	0.7374	0.632447	0.774052
	LS29	0.849		

Table 2: Discriminant Validity

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
OCB	0.712						
TRFIC	0.347	0.736					
TRFIIA	0.299	0.332	0.768				
TRFIIB	0.356	0.414	0.327	0.806			
TRFIM	0.309	0.408	0.453	0.383	0.793		
TRFIS	0.328	0.501	0.356	0.445	0.326	0.795	
Task	0.298	0.362	0.376	0.431	0.368	0.404	0.753

Note: Bold diagonal figures are the square root of AVE while others represent correlations.

The present study retained 0.5 and above loadings (Barclay, Higgins, and Thompson (1995); Chin (1998)) refers Table 1. Moreover, for determining the internal consistency reliability the composite reliability coefficients were used (Bagozzi and Yi (1988); Hair, Ringle, and Sarstedt (2011)). Accordingly, the composite reliability should be at least 0.7 or above (Table 1). Hence, the present study successfully met the internal consistency reliability.

Next, the discriminant validity was ascertained using AVE following Fornell and Larcker (1981). According to whom, the square root of AVE should be greater than the correlations among latent variables.

4.2. Structural Model Results

The bootstrapping approach was used for assessing path coefficients with 5000 bootstraps and 297 cases Hair et al. (2012). The results of the bootstraps are provided in Table 3 and Figure 1.

Table 3: Path Coefficients and Hypothesis testing

Relationship	Beta	SE	t-statistics	Decision
Transformational Leadership -> Job-Performance	0.11111	0.033051	3.361784	Supported

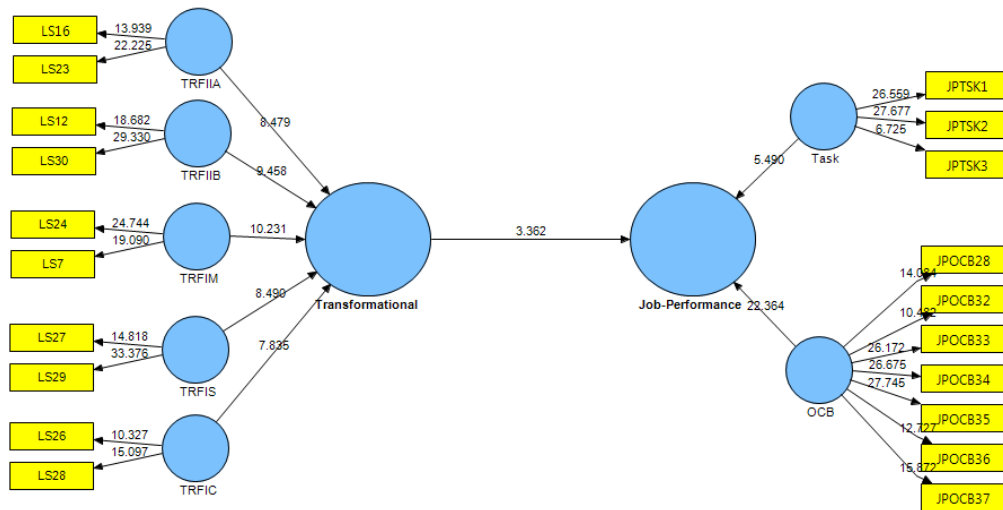


Figure 1: structure model assessment

The results of the bootstraps have revealed a significant relationship between transformational leadership and job performance (beta=0.11, t=3.36), thus, supporting the proposed hypothesis. Next, the present study provides the r-square assessment. According to the results provided in Table 4, it is suggested that the transformational leadership has explained a variance of 8.7 percent.

Table 4: Variance Explained in the Endogenous Variable

Latent Variable	Variance Explained
Job performance	8.7%

5. Discussion

The main objective of the study was assessing the transformational leadership and job performance relationship in the six large banks of Pakistan. The result of the study has revealed that transformational leadership is positively associated with job performance. This assertion informs that the branch managers in the six large banks of Pakistan perceive that their leadership uplifts their desires and wishes for overall accomplishments and the self-development of individuals Bass and Avolio (1990). This positive empirical evidence also provides that the leadership of the six large banks of Pakistan attempts to motivate the individual followers for producing expected outputs. Based on this empirical evidence, it could be stated that the leadership of these banks acts as their role models, provides individualized considerations, acts as coaches and mentors and is contributing in the overall development of the individuals Bass and Riggio (2006).

In addition, the results of the present study have revealed that 8.7 percent of the variance is explained by the transformational leadership in the job performance of branch managers of six large banks of Pakistan. This suggested that the transformational leadership plays a positive role in enhancing the individual job performance in the investigated settings. These results are also in line with other studies that support the positive association between transformational leadership and job performance (Dolatabadi and Safa (2010); Mohammad Mosadegh Rad and Hossein Yarmohammadian (2006); Shah et al. (2015); Voon et al. (2011)). In the light of Leader Member Exchange (LXM) theory Graen (1976), this study provides empirical evidence that transformational leadership contributes positively in the increasing the job performance of bank managers. The investigation of transformational leadership and job performance relationship was mainly conducted in the six large banks of Pakistan. Therefore, the future researchers may increase the scope of this investigation for further confirming the results of the present study, preferably at the country level by incorporating the public and private banks and other financial institutions. It shows that there are other factors which are more than 90 percent, that can influence to enhance job performance additionally, the present study used cross-sectional design. Therefore, it is suggested that in future a longitudinal based analysis may be performed.

6. Conclusion

The objective of the present study was to assess the results pertaining to the effectiveness of transformational leadership and job performance relationship in the light of LMX theory. This assessment has provided empirical evidence in the Pakistani context suggesting that transformational leadership is perceived important by the bank managers in the six large banks of Pakistan.

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