

## **Role of Diversity Practices in Teachers' Organizational Commitment: A Study of Elementary School Teachers**

Hina Saleem\* and Wafa Saghir\*\*

---

### **Abstract**

A great deal of study has been dedicated to “Workforce diversity”. Despite an increasing number of studies, few reliable conclusions have yet to be reached about the experiences and consequences of diversity. When we managed the ‘employee diversity’ effectively, it will encourage employees’ to add value to their organization. Through this research, we are seeking a new way of opening the so-called “black box” amongst the diversity practices and the commitment of teachers’ to their organization. The nature of this study design was basically “cross-sectional” and a “quantitative technique” was used for data analysis. The data was collected from teachers’ working in various elementary schools of Lahore, Pakistan. The data was gathered with the help of a standardized questionnaire survey. For data collection snowball sampling technique was employed. The total sample size of this research was 300 individuals. The instrument was borrowed and adapted from previous research and its reliability was tested through Cronbach Alpha. Subsequently, correlation and regression analysis were carried out in order to determine the relationship between the two variables. Findings revealed, that the various diversity practices affect organizational commitment of the teachers’ significantly which ultimately benefit schools’ performance in a favorable way.

**Keywords:** Workforce diversity, HR practices, Diversity Leadership, Diversity Climate, and Organization Commitment

---

\*Assistant Professor, IBIT, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Email: hsaleem@ibitpu.edu.pk

## Overview

This era is full of extreme competition; diversity can be seen almost in every organization no matter what the size of the organization (big and small) or what the sector of the organization (private or public). The topic of diversity has now become so popular that it gains the center of attention (Schoen, 2020). Organizations now use diverse recruiting methods and techniques for the selection of employees who have different cultural backgrounds, ethics, and principles, etc. (Emily Nyanchama Ayega, 2018). The fundamental aim of every business (organization) is to survive in the economic landscape and the only solution to this problem is that their workforce should be committed and increase competitive advantage (Martina, 2020). According to one research, the first step to bring equality and fairness in the organization is to give women their rights (Schoen, 2020). Diversity is now considering an important part of the organization (Leon Jackson, 2019). Employees belonging to dissimilar backgrounds, cultures, ethics, principles, age, sexuality, languages, knowledge, education and abilities, etc. are known as workforce diversity in the organization (Waight, 2011).

It's a critical task for the firm to fairly manage the employees of different behaviors. To fulfill the critical task, HR practices playing an important role in engaging the employees with the organization (Stephen, 2020). Diversity management practices bringing women, people of color, and members of other marginalized groups into the workplace, inclusion practices have sought to create equal access to decision-making, resources, and upward mobility opportunities for these individuals (Lynn M.Shore, 2018). In order to engage the employees of the organization, for this essential purpose "Leadership" plays an incredible role. The definition of leadership vary from person to person, different people have a different perspective regarding leadership. Leadership has the ability to encourage the employees and reshape their behaviors in order to achieve a common goal and also maintaining the organizational cultures by providing the guidelines to the employees. The next step to sustain the employees in the organization is to give them the proper working environment where they feel free. The diversity climate is that where employees and the supervisors work together by providing support to the employees, implementing fair thinking concept, providing equal opportunities to give their opinions (Chris Auld, 2015).

When employees feel comfortable in the organization only then they are committed to their organization. To bring the employees' commitment, organizations should develop a diverse set of practices only then barriers will be removed (Schoen, 2020). The term *Organizational Commitment* can be defined as "the psychological bond exists among the employee and the organization, and that bond reduces the voluntary quitting of the organization" (Allen & Meyer, 1996). The concept of *Commitment* can be explained as an employee's consistent behavior in the organization.

This research will provide a model that will help to clarify the bond between diversity practices and the employees' commitment to the organization.

### **The Problem statement**

In this explicit study, the matter to be examined is to spot how diversity practices influence organizational commitment among elementary school teachers' in Lahore.

### **The Study Interrogations**

This study aids to provide solutions to the following queries:

- What is the impact of diversity practices on the organizational commitment of elementary school teachers?  
To what extent diversity practices contribute to changing organizational commitment among elementary school teachers' of Lahore, Pakistan.

### **Importance of this Study**

- A limited number of researches on this topic so the findings and conclusions of this research will be beneficial the future researchers.
- This study will be beneficial for the education sector in forming desired HRM strategies at the school level.
- It will be useful for elementary schools to check which guidelines and strategies must be executed in order to make their teachers happy and committed to the organization. When their teachers' are happy only then they will contribute the maximum to the organization.
- This research will likely serve as a torchbearer to the school heads in how to keep their teachers committed towards their organizations.
- This research is deemed to promote a friendly environment in the workplace.

## **Literature Review**

### **Diversity**

Many studies have been done on the issue of diversity, but no one giving attention to the issue of how this diversity will affect employee attitudes and behaviors towards the organization. *Diversity* can be explained as a somewhat noteworthy difference that differentiates one individual or person from the other (Kreitz, 2008). According to Ms. Kim's perspective, diversity in an organization is that creating a workplace culture that allows all individuals to convey their full potential, which is going to improve organizational performance (Norbash, 2020). Now in many organizations, diversity management replacing the concept of equal employment opportunities programs

and affirmative action programs (Schoen, 2020). For the survival of the business, the organization must have to pay attention to its business strategy in order to bring creativity and innovation (Mukherjee, 2016).

### **Diversity HR Practices**

Before this era, employees' were struggling for a superior job but in this era, organizations are struggling to get the best employees' in fewer resources and want to make them stay committed. The concept of Diverse HR practices is introduced in the organization not only to admit diversity in the organization but also to use the diverse workforce to achieve the organizational goals (Manoharan & Singal, 2017). Employees of the organization will be cared for and valued when they perform very well with their attitudes and behaviors. This concept is known as social exchange theory (Stephen, 2020).

### **Diversity Climate**

A bad working environment known as workplace bullying has been found to have a negative impact on employees (Stephen, 2020). Diversity climate has been linked to positive business consequences which include employee retention, the satisfaction of customers, and sales performance (McKay, Avery, & Morris, 2011). According to the concept of the author, the diversity climate depends on two individual modules. Firstly, it will provide that kind of environment to the employees where they can liberally discuss their social behaviors and background. Secondly, it is based on the belief that this diverse workforce will bring value to the squad and the organization as well (Dwertmann, 2016).

### **Diversity Leadership**

Diversity-oriented leaders are those who accept the employees having diverse backgrounds, ethics, and principles and appreciate their contributions to the organization. Employees see their managers as a role model for them (Kranabetter & Niessen, 2017). Leaders having diversity orientation lead employees' of the organization by implementing fair goals for the workers' of dissimilar backgrounds, and by implementing the example of caring about their workers' work performance and by appreciating the contribution of employees' notwithstanding their differences (Edmondson's & Nembhard, 2006).

## Organizational Commitment

*Organizational commitment* was the main topic for research during the 1990s and different theories were developed during that time. Now it has become the most popular topic. Every organization wants to survive in the economic landscape and the only solution to this problem is that its workforce should be committed and increase competitive advantage (Martina, 2020). Different authors suggested that commitment is like give and take. Commitment does not only depend on the employee at work but it also includes the leader who will encourage or discourage the employee at work. Both the employee and the leader depend on each other. In 1984, Meyer and Allen suggested three-dimensions of organizational commitment (normative, continuance & affective) described that these three dimensions of organizational commitment relate differently to different work behaviors.

### Conceptual Diagram

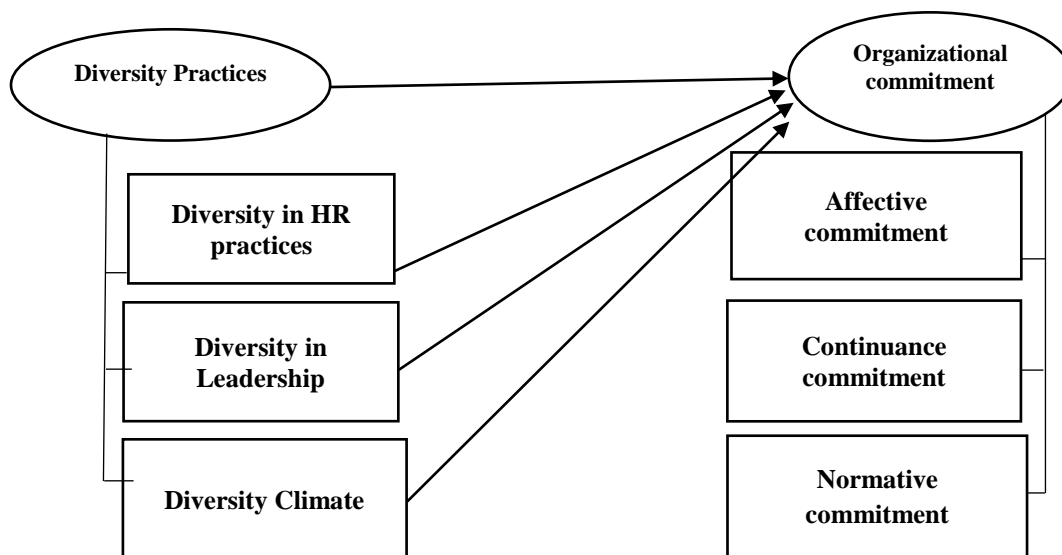


Figure1. A conceptual framework

## Research Methodology

### Sampling

The nature of this study design was basically “cross-sectional” and a “quantitative technique” was used for data analysis. The data was collected from different teachers who are currently working in the elementary schools of Lahore, Pakistan. The data was gathered with the help of a standardized questionnaire survey. For data collection “snowball sampling technique” was applied. The total sample size of this research was 300. The environment for the study was “*natural and uncontrolled*”.

## Measures

5 point Likert scales were used to measure the opinion of employees. An instrument for the measurement of **Diversity Practices** was borrowed from different authors which are D'Netto, and Tang (2010), McKay, Avery and Morris (2008), Pugh et al. (2008), Fernandez, Cho, and Perry (2010), Nembhard and Edmondson (2006), and Dietz, Brief and Wiley (2008). An instrument for the measurement of **Organizational Commitment** was borrowed from Stephen and Stephen Jaros (2007), Mayer and Allen (1984)

## Data Analysis

### Scale Reliability

Table 1

*Overall Scale Reliability*

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.877	40

From table 1, as the Cronbach's Alpha" value is .877 which is above 0.7 this means that the instrument is reliable.

### Correlation Analysis

Table 2

*Correlation among the dependent variable and the dimensions of independent variable*

Correlations

	OC_CUM	HR_CUM	LD_CUM	CLI_CUM
OC_C Pearson Correlation	1	.304**	.328**	.278**
UM Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
N	300	300	300	300
HR_C Pearson Correlation	.304**	1	.374**	.408**
UM Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
N	300	300	300	300
LD_C Pearson Correlation	.328**	.374**	1	.457**
UM Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000
N	300	300	300	300
CLI_ Pearson Correlation	.278**	.408**	.457**	1
CUM Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
N	300	300	300	300

\*\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

### Hypothesis 1

- H<sub>1</sub>. There is an association between the dimensions of Diversity practices (diversity-HR practices, diversity Leadership, and diversity climate) and Organizational Commitment.
- H<sub>0</sub>. There is no association between the dimensions of Diversity practices (diversity-HR practices, diversity Leadership, and diversity climate) and Organizational Commitment.

From Table 2, as the value of Pearson Correlation for all dimensions of diversity practices (.304), (.328), and (.278). The level of significance for all dimensions of diversity practices is 0.000 which is less than 0.01, therefore H<sub>0</sub> is rejected and H<sub>1</sub> is accepted. All values of correlation are approx. equals to 0.3 which means that it shows a moderate and positive relationship.

Table 3

*Overall Regression between the Dependent Variable and the Independent Variable*

#### Model Summary<sup>b</sup>

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R2	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				Durbin-Watson	
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2		Sig. F Change
1	.378 <sup>a</sup>	.143	.140	.426	.143	49.601	1	298	.000	1.435

a. Predictors: (Constant), Div\_Cum

b. Dependent Variable: OC\_CUM

From Table 3, as the value of R is .378 this means that a moderate relationship occurs between the two variables. It also shows the R square value which is .143, this means that 14% change in the dependent variable because of the independent variable. The value of Durbin-Watson is 1.435 which is less than 2 which indicates a positive correlation between the two variables. The F value is 49.601 with a significant value that is .000 which is less than 0.01, therefore H<sub>0</sub> is rejected and H<sub>1</sub> is accepted.

### Conclusion

Diversity in HR practices has shown a moderate and positive relationship with the Organizational Commitment. One study has shown that the greater the practices the greater will be the employee's commitment to the organization (Schoen, 2020). One study has shown that HRM is positively associated with employees' organizational commitment (Moshabaki, 2013).

Diversity in Climate has shown a moderate and positive relationship with the Organizational Commitment. Previous research has revealed that the environment where employees work not only makes the employees feel conformable with the organization but also it helps the organization to sustain their employees and reduces the turnover intentions organization (Madera, Dawson, & Neal, 2017).

Diversity in leadership has shown a moderate and positive relationship with Organizational Commitment which means that diversity in leadership plays an important part in engaging the employees towards their organization.

The result shows a “significant positive relationship between the two variables in the “Pearson Correlation. But climate value is less as compared to leadership and HR. the reason here might be that, employees need more justice in HR practices and Leadership rather than in climate. Diversity in HR practices and Leadership makes the employees’ committed to their organization rather than a climate. The result indicates that the dimensions of diversity practices display a positive moderate relationship with the organizational commitment rather than a strong relationship. The reasons for showing a moderate relationship could be, lack of training, lack of networking programs, lack of giving importance to employees’ lack of fairness, lack of giving freedom to employees, lack of respect, lack of leadership qualities, and lack of giving opportunities to employees.

#### **Limitations & Future Recommendations:**

- The nature of this current research is “*cross-sectional*” but “*longitudinal research study*” can be applied in the upcoming researches.
- In future research, the sample size can be much bigger than this sample size.
- The sample size of this study includes only elementary schools of Lahore. In the future, researchers can remove the geographical restriction by covering more cities.
- This research has involved only the elementary schools of Lahore, however in the future different sectors can be involved. For example “civil servants, hospitals, wapda and law enforcing agencies”.
- During the questionnaire survey, they were some employees’ who were not willing to fill the questionnaire because of their working loads.
- During the questionnaire survey, they were some employees who were even biased when they were asked about diversity practices.
- Different tests were applied in this study diversity practices have shown a moderate relationship with organizational commitment. Future research can investigate through the “qualitative study” to discover the high correlation between the variables.

#### **References**

Allen, & Meyer . (1996). *Affective, Continuance, and Normative Commitment to the Organization: An Examination of Construct*. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 252-276.

Diversity management and the effects on employees’ organizational commitment: Evidence from Japan and Korea. (2009). *Journal of World Business*, 31-40.



- Abaker, M. A.-T.-N. (2019). "Organizational policies and diversity management in Saudi Arabia", *Employee Relations*. 454-474.
- Chris Auld, E. M. (2015). perceived Organizational diversity and employee behavior. *hospitality Management*, 102-112.
- Dwertmann. (2016). Disentangling the fairness & discrimination and synergy perspectives on diversity climate: moving the field forward. *Journal of management*.
- Emily Nyanchama Ayega, S. M. (2018). . Critical Review of Literature on Cultural Diversity in the Work Place and Organizational Performance: A Research Agenda. . *Journal of Human Resource Management*. 9-17.
- Hicks-Clarke, I. (-3. (n.d.).
- Jabbour, C. d. (2017). Unlocking the circular economy through new business models based on large scale data.
- Jaros. (2007). Meyer and Allen Model of Organizational Commitment: Measurement Issues. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*.
- Kalargyrou, V. C. (2017.). Diversity management research in hospitality and tourism. *journal of hospitality management*, 68-114.
- Kim, S. &. (2017). Diversity management and fairness in public organizations.
- Kreitz. (2008). best practices for managing organizational diversity. *Academic Librarianship*, 101-120.
- Leon Jackson, M. H. (2019). Exploring organisational diversity climate with associated antecedents and employee outcomes. *Journal of Industrial Psychology*.
- Lim, C. &. (2008). Planning for diversity .
- Lynn M.Shore, J. N. (2018). Inclusive workplaces: A review and model. *human resource management*, 176-189.
- Madera, J. D. (2017). Managers'psychological diversity climate and fairness. *Journal of Human Resources in Hospitality & Tourism*, 288-207.
- Manoharan, &. S. (2017). a systematic literature review of research on diversity and diversity management in the hospital literature. *Hospitality Management*, 77-91.
- Martina, P. (2020). The influence of job resources on platinum mineworkers' work engagement and organisational commitment: An explorative study. 146-152.

- McKay, Avery, & Morris. (2011). Does diversity climate lead to customer satisfaction? it depends on the service climate and business unit demography. *Organ Sci*, 788–803.
- Mohammad, A. &. (2016). Role of Organizational Climate in Organizational Commitment. *The Case of Teaching Hospitals*. , 96-100.
- Mukherjee. (2016). Diversity Management: A Business Imperative Human Capital, 20(1), 79-81.
- Nembhard, &. E. (2006). the effects of leader in clusivesness and professionals status on sychological safety and improvement efforts in health care teams. *Organizational Behavior*, 941-966.
- Norbash, A. &. (2020). The Business Case for Diversity and Inclusion. *Journal of the American College of Radiology*.
- Schoen, &. R. (2020). What really works?! Evaluating the effectiveness of practices to increase the managerial diversity of women and minorities. *European Management Journal*.
- Stephen, T. B. (2020). Psychosocial work environment, work engagement, and employee commitment: A moderated, mediation model. *International Journal of Hospitality Management*.
- Waight, M. (2011). diversity training:examining minority employees organizational attitudes. 365-376.