

**An Analysis of the Factors Affecting Turnover
Intentions: Evidence from Private Sector Universities
of Peshawar**

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Abstract. High rate of turnover is one of major problems relevant to human resource management in private sector universities in Pakistan. It is on one hand, depriving the universities from talented and qualified labour force, and on the other hand, affecting the education standard of these universities. The present study was carried out to explore the inter-relationship among the job satisfaction and turnover intentions and factors affecting them. Primary data was used for this purpose. The data was collected from a sample 150 employees of private sector universities of Peshawar. In the results, Job satisfaction and promotion opportunities appeared as significant factor affecting turnover intentions. It is recommended for the private sector universities on the basis of results of the study to give competitive salaries to the staff, increase promotion opportunities, improve leave policy, financial rewards, and make the system transparent and justified.

Keywords. Turnover Intentions, Private Sector Universities, Peshawar.

JEL. M10, M19, M52.

1. Introduction

Nobody can deny the fact that higher education is an integral part of socio-economic development of a country. Higher education needs highly qualified and talented faculty. If the faculty is not well trained and qualified, the standard of education will fall and due objectives will not be achieved. It is necessary for the university to have high quality and updated faculty to achieve higher standard of education. It has been noted in the private sector universities that mostly the faculty and non-faculty staff do not stay for longer period of time. There is high rate turnover and most of the employees have turnover intention. A trend can be seen in private sector organization that the employees rapidly change their jobs due to low salary and dissatisfaction about work, supervision, promotion, coworkers, work environment etc. According to Hugh & Feldman (1982), age, tenure, job satisfaction, and security of job influence the turnover.

Kaplan (2009) worked out the factors associated with the job satisfaction and turnover of physicians working at University of California and found that the satisfaction of the physicians was mainly associated with the perceptions of the work autonomy, work load, on the job conflicts or personal conflicts, salaries and

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the satisfaction of the community. Out of the total eight explanatory variables were found in deep relationship with the job satisfaction and turnover at university of California. In view of Yucel (2012), high satisfaction level of employs lead to better organizational commitment which in turn lowers the turnover of employs. The human resource management practices in the form of job autonomy, work environment and leadership behavior can show positive significant relationship with dependent variable job satisfaction (Hunjra et al 2010). The study took a convenient sampling technique and collected data from a sample of 120 respondents from the study area. The study used material of Mowday, Steers & Porter (1979), and Mobley, Horner, & Hollingsworth (1978) for the variables of the study. Out of the total sample, 77.5% respondents were unmarried, 20% married and, 2.5% divorced. Moreover, the results show 70.8% of the respondents had moderate level of commitment, and 50% had high level of job stress. The respondents with moderate satisfaction level were 67.5% and 42.5% were having turnover intentions. Moreover, inverse relationship in organizational commitments and employees turnover intention exists. Similarly, the study revealed inverse relationship between level of job satisfaction of employees and their turnover intentions.

In Pakistan, the share of private sector in education is increasing day by day. This trend prevails not only at elementary level but also at university level. Like the other sectors, private sector universities are also facing the problem of turnover. The present study is being conducted to know the major reasons for high turnover rate and dissatisfaction from job in private sector universities of Peshawar. The study is important in the sense because it will help in finding the reasons for high turnover and suggest remedies for out flow of talented and qualified staff from private sector universities.

2. Literature Review

This section reviews the literature relevant to the determinants of turnover intentions. Joarder, Sharif, & Ahmed (2011) carried out a study to examine the Human Resource Management practices prevailed in Bangladeshi Universities which can cause turnover intentions among the faculty staff of private sector universities. The study also took into account the role of affective role as a mediator. About 500 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members of private sector universities of Bangladesh. Out the total distributed questions about 317 questionnaires were distributed. This means 57 percent of questionnaires were distributed. The study used Multiple Regression Techniques for analysis. The results found three out of six Human Resource Management practices significant and in inverse relationship with turnover intentions.

Ahmad & Adnan (2011) investigated the voluntary turnover of doctors in Public sector medical colleges and hospitals. In Pakistan, the public sector doctors are considered as backbone in provision of health facilities to public. They are main source of providing medical education. This is the reason the major concern for the government is deployment of doctors and other medical staff in public sector hospitals and colleges of medical education. Their turnover intention is a real loss for government. The study used a sample of 231 doctors for analysis. Availability of better job opportunities, lack of distributive justice, management problems, less salary, nature of work, and behavior of higher ups are major sources of job dissatisfaction and doctors' turnover.

Kitteruengcharn (1997) investigated the effects of job satisfaction, and, organizational satisfaction and commitment, on the turnover rate in engineers working in public sector. The data was collected from 408 sampled engineers

engaged in 16 organizations of public sector. Apart from other factors, the study also questioned the effects of expectation of self-efficacy, and pension of engineers turnover. The results show inverse relationship among the job satisfaction and commitment to organization and employees turn over.

Nor (2012) questioned the determinants of turnover intentions of operators towards the electrical and electronic sector industries. The study collected data from 800 sampled operators from electrical and electronic sector industries of Peninsular, Malaysia. No doubt the industrial sector grew at tremendous are in recent activities putting the economy on path of sustained economic growth nut at the same time, it becomes the responsibility of the management to stop the flow of talented and educated manpower from their industries particularly and from the economy as a whole. The results found skill variety, task identity and work feedback as significant determinants of turnover in the sector under study.

Adenguga, Titilola & Ayodele (2013) investigated the various aspects of organizational commitment and turnover intentions in private sector universities Nigeria. The study used survey technique for data collection. A sample of 600 employees was drawn from private sector universities of the study area. Analytical techniques correlation and multiple regressions were used for deriving results. The results showed a significant association various dimensions of explanatory variables over turnover intentions. Interestingly the variables like sex, marital status, education, nature of job and job duration are important determinants of turnover. These factors also predict organizational commitment. The study also find politics in organizations, and job satisfactions as factors significantly affecting turnover intentions of employees.

Ahmed, et al. (2012) designed a study to unveil the relationship ethics prevailed in organizations and job satisfaction. Data dor this purpose was collected from a sample of 230 bank employees belonged to both public as well as private sector. The results obtained from the data analysis show that egoistic approach to ethics and job satisfaction are related but in opposite direction.

Mehboob & Niaz (2012) studied the existence of any possible relationship between the job satisfaction of employees and organizational citizenship behavior (OCB). The aim was to explore whether or not job satisfaction of employs is a predictor of organizational citizenship behavior in the study area. A sample of 84 faculty members was drawn from three business education institutes. Job satisfaction was computed on the basis of Extrinsic and Intrinsic factor of faculty members. The results indicated the existence of relationship between the job satisfaction of employees and organizational citizenship behavior but the relationship is little bit weak.

In short, the existing literature shows that many scholars conducted studies on job satisfaction and turnover intentions in different sectors; however, no one has so far investigated this relationship in private sector universities especially in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. This has generated a gap in the existing literature. This study is an effort to fill this gap.

3. Data and Method

The population of the present study consists of seven private sector universities located in Peshawar district which is capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The universities were selected on the basis of convenience and due the fact that these are the major private sector universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The universities are given in Table 1.

The aim of the present study is to explore relationship among job satisfaction, turnover intention and the factor relevant to these two. There are 9 universities in

private sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The present study is based on the data collected from private sector universities located in Peshawar. A sample of 150 respondents was drawn from private sector universities of Peshawar through convenient sampling technique.

A questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection in the present study. The questionnaire covered all relevant and important factors. It also covered the respondents' characteristics like age, sex, education, income, and distance from their accommodation. It was discussed with experts and pre tested. It was then distributed personally among 150 employees of Private Universities for data capturing.

Turnover Intention (TI) means the decision of an employ to quit a job. It is also defined as the ratio of the employs that left the organization and total number of employs in that organization in a particular period of time (Price, 1977). Rahman et al (2008), Khatri & Fern (2001), Sarminah (2006), and Korunka, Hoonakker, & Carayon (2005) found some kind of relationship between the Turnover Intention (TI) and job satisfaction level. Keeping in view the significance of TI for organizational development, it is being introduced as dependent variable. Job satisfaction and Turnover Intention are considered as two variables which can cause each other. The job Satisfaction in Turnover Intention Model (TIM) is being treated as explanatory variable.

Similarly, promotion opportunities/Career Ladder is another variable which is perceived to affect turnover intentions of workers of private sector universities. Good promotion system will not only make the stay of current working labour force longer but also attract more qualified and talented labour force. As it can be a significant factor of turnover intentions, therefore it is kept among the set of explanatory variables. During the working hours, the faculty and non-faculty employs face many professional and personal problems which need to be discussed with the management. Similarly a number of work related problems also necessitates for contact with supervisor/manager. Therefore, Easy contact with Manager/Management has been included among the list of independent variables in Turnover Intentions Model (TIM).

The equation of the Turnover Intentions Model is given below.

$$TI = \beta_0 + \beta_1 JS + \beta_2 Pr + \beta_3 ECM + U_i \quad (2)$$

In equation (2)

TI = Turnover Intentions

JS = Job satisfaction

Pr = Promotion opportunities

ECM = Easy Contact with Management and U_i is a random term

More over in order to further robust the results, Chi Squares techniques has also been use.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Distribution of Respondents

The questionnaire was distributed among employs of private sector universities located in Peshawar. The respondents were diverse in the positions they held. The sample included employs of different grades from faculty and non-faculty staff. The sample included 129 faculty members of private universities in Peshawar while 21 employs were working on other positions. Out of total 10 respondents 111 were working in grade 18 as lecturers in different subjects while 18 were Assistant Professors in Grade 19. Similarly, 21 respondents were working in different grades

between 11 and 17, and all of them were among non-teaching staff. As a whole one respondent was working in Grade 1, and 2 were in Grade 12. Similarly, 17 were in the range of Grade 14 to 17. Likewise, 111 respondents were working in Grade 18 and remaining in Grade 19.

4.2. Education Level of Respondents

As the study is relevant to higher education sector, it was therefore necessary to ask about their education level. If faculty is highly educated then good outcomes are expected and good returns for higher education. It is obligatory to know the education level of the faculty staff. It is important to note that most of the respondents were highly qualified. The education level of the respondents is given in the following Table 2.

According to the results obtained from the results of the study, the highest qualification which the respondents had was Ph.D. The survey results show that 8 faculty members among the respondents were Ph. Ds. the second highest education level was M. Phil. Among the faculty members, 95 respondents held M. Phil degrees while in other staff 4 respondents were M. Phil. interestingly, 26 respondents among the faculty members attained M.A/M.Sc degrees. Out of total 21 non faculty respondents, 17 were M.A/M. Sc or less.

4.3. Gender Classification of respondents

Gender is considered as an important variable in socioeconomic studies. Therefore, the study also took into account this variable. The data was collected from employs of both sexes. This included 34 female respondents and 116 male respondents.

This variable is necessary to study because Khyber Pakhtunkhwa mainly consists of Pakhtun tribe where female employment is not considered good. However, the results obtained are encouraging so far female employment is concerned which is welcomed. The figure shows that the female respondents were comparatively less in number because the female working women are fewer in the study area.

4.4. Reasons for leaving the previous Job

After asking the last job duration, the employ respondents from different private sector universities located in Peshawar were asked for reasons of quitting the last job. This was necessary to ask because, by removing these reasons, the level of job satisfaction can be increased and rate of turnover can be controlled. Among the possible reasons for quitting a job, salary is the most powerful reason. If the employs don't get a good and timely return of their hard work then the level of job satisfaction is expected to be low.

Human body can tolerate burden according to its capacity. If the burden exceeds this capacity, it will not only cause health problems but also affect the social economic system worsely. The employ may not feel easy if he is overburdened. Excessive work will also reduce his efficiency to work properly. Good relationship between the employ and employer also play a significant role in job satisfaction, reduction of turnover rate and organizational development. A worse relationship can lead to lower job satisfaction.

Similarly, fewer benefits can be another possible cause of job dissatisfaction. Therefore, keeping these reasons the respondents were asked to disclose the major reason for leaving the previous job. They were given six options, low salary, excessive work burden, worse relationship with employer, less financial benefits, no job earlier and other reasons. The results obtained are given in figure2.

4.5. Choosing the Same Job Again

During the survey the respondent employs of private sector universities were asked if they get an opportunity to start a job, whether they will again join the same

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job. This was asked to know the job satisfaction level of the employs. They were given five options to state their opinion. The options included strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. According to the results 28% of the employs strongly disagreed/disagreed the statement that they will rejoin the same organization. 27.3% of total employs remained neutral and did not show their agreement or disagreement. Moreover, 30.7 % of the employs agreed the statement that if they are given a chance, they will again join the same department/organization. Similarly, 14% of the employ respondents strongly showed their consent for rejoining the job if they are given an opportunity which shows that they were highly satisfied from their job. This shows that 27.3 % remained neutral and out of the remaining respondents, majority of respondents (44.7%) seemed satisfied of their current job. The results are shown in the Table 3.

4.6. Looking for other Job

Turnover intentions arises due to job dissatisfaction, less financial/non-financial benefits, leave problems, over burden, less interesting job structure and many other reasons. 4.7 percent of respondents strongly disagree the statement , “I am looking for opportunities in other organizations”. 12 percent disagree it and 24.7 percent remained silent. Similarly, 25.3 percent of the employs agree the statement which shows their turnover intentions. Interestingly, 33.3 percent of the respondents strongly agree the statement that they are thinking of opportunities in some other organization. In other words, 58.6 percent of respondents appeared as the employs having turnover intention with more or less intensity. The results are displayed in the Table 4.

4.7. Leaving Job

When a person is not satisfied from his job in one way or other way, then he may definitely think about leaving that job. The respondents were asked to express their views regarding the statement, “I often think of leaving this job”. 10 respondents strongly agreed the statement and 33 disagreed it. However 38 out of total respondents remained silent. Similarly, 38 employs agree the statement and 31 employs strongly agree the statement that they often think about leaving this job.

4.8. Regression Results

In Turnover Intentions Model (TIM), Turnover Intentions is a dependent variable while Job Satisfaction (JS), Promotion opportunities (Pr) and Easy Contact with Management/Supervisor (ECM) are among the set of explanatory variables.

The regression results derived through the method of Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method show Job Satisfaction (JS) to be a significant determinant of Turnover. The coefficient of JS is -0.265 . The negative sign of the coefficient indicates the inverse relationship between the TI and JS. If the satisfaction level of employs regarding their job is high, the turnover intention will be low. On other hand if the level of JS is low, the turnover intention will be higher. The value of the coefficient of JS is comparatively low which shows the strength of relationship. Moreover, the variable is statistically significant at 1% level of significance.

A promotion opportunity is another explanatory variable of the Turnover Intentions Model (TIM). It appeared as a statistically significant variable with coefficient -0.172 . The negative sign of coefficient show inverse relationship between ‘Pr’ and TI. If in the structure opportunities, sufficient opportunities are provided for promotion, it will increase the level of job satisfaction among the employs of the private sector universities of Peshawar. This will result in lower Turnover Intentions. The finding is logical in nature. The result is significant at 5% level of significance.

Easy contact of employs with the management is another explanatory variable of Turnover Intentions Model. The results of the regression model show that the

variable ECM has inverse relationship with the turnover intentions. The coefficient bears negative sign as expected but it is statistically insignificant.

5. Conclusion

This paper focused on the factors affecting turnover intention of employees in private sector universities in Peshawar. It is concluded on the basis of results of study that Turnover intentions is inversely related with the job satisfaction. Moreover, promotion opportunities are another significant determinant of Turnover Intentions with negative sign which shows its inverse relationship with Turnover Intentions (TI). Similarly, easy contact with management inversely affects TI but the result is insignificant. The survey results show low salary, worse relationship with the employer, extensive work load and fewer benefits are also causing the turnover in the selected universities.

Appendix

Table 1. List of Private Sector Universities

S.No	Name of the University
1	Iqra University
2	City University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar
3	CECOS University of Information Technology & Emerging Sciences, Peshawar
4	Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar
5	Abasyn University
6	Qurta University of Science & Information Technology
7	ICMS

Source: Higher Education Commission of Pakistan

Table 2. Education Level of Respondents

Grades	Position Held		Total
	Faculty	Non Faculty	
FA/FSc	0	03	03
BA/BSc	0	03	03
MA/MSc	26	11	37
MS/Mphil	95	04	99
PhD	08	0	08
Total	129	21	150

Source: Field Survey

Table 3. If I am given Opportunity to Start a Job Again, I will Choose the Same Job Again?

Option of Scale	Frequency	Percentage
strongly Disagree	8	5.3
Disagree	34	22.7
Neutral	41	27.3
Agree	46	30.7
Strongly Agree	21	14.0
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Survey

Table 4. I am looking for opportunities in other organizations.

Option of Scale	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	7	4.7
Disagree	18	12.0
Neutral	37	24.7
Agree	38	25.3
Strongly Agree	50	33.3
Total	150	100.0

Source: Field Survey

Table 5. Regression Results of the Turnover Intentions Model

Variable	Turnover Intentions (Dependent Variable)				
	Coefficient	St. Error	T	Prob	
Constant	5.127	.384	13.357	.000	
JS	-.265	.088	-2.994	.003	
Pr	-.172	.087	-1.977	.050	
ECM	-.011	.078	-.136	.892	
R-Sq	0.69				

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