The Relation between Organizational Learning Culture and Goal Orientation among Staff Nurses

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Abstract

Background: In this era of competition, organizations face challenges to retain their positions in the global market. Only such organizations which nurture a culture of continuous learning and development can stay in the forefront. Development of human resource entails a culture of learning in an organization and such development creates a competitive advantage in the dynamic business environment. Aim: This study aimed to assess the relation between organizational learning culture and goal orientation among staff nurses. **Design:** Descriptive correlational research design was used. Setting: The study conducted in all inpatients units at Medical and Surgical departments at Benha University Hospital. Subjects: Convenient sample of all available 322 staff nurses who are working in the above mentioned study setting. **Tools of data collection:** Two tools were used; Organizational Learning Culture Questionnaire, and Goal Orientation Questionnaire. Results: Showed that the (68.0%) of staff nurses reported that organizational learning culture was high, and (79.9%) of them reported that goal orientation level was moderate. Conclusion: There was highly positive statistically significant relation between total organizational learning culture level and total goal orientation level. The study recommended that nursing managers should nurture the work culture with continuous learning opportunities and effective collaboration of employees. Continuity, spontaneity and proper planning of inculcating the learning process to maintain an effective organizational learning culture. Encourage staff nurses' participation in training courses, Nursing managers should maintain proper orientation of career goals among staff nurses.

Keywords: Goal orientation, Learning, Organizational learning culture, Staff nurses

Introduction

Learning in organization is the main key and requirement factor for organizations that wants to remain in the economic modern world and competitive environment. Thus, organizations must prepare nursing staff through learning constantly to deal with changes and to have the ability to adapt with changing conditions and modern challenges and must be able to institutionalize learning within the organization. Organizational learning are strong and powerful



organizations because its determinants for success are based on its learning (Gilaninia *et al.*, 2019).

Healthcare organizations are highly knowledge-intensive foundations which need frequent learning for performance improvement. Creating learning environment is an important matter for them .As the nurses considered the nucleus of the healthcare system, and they represent powerful forces for bringing about the change to meet organizational goals .Nursing staff is significant part in continues learning process to improve their competency level and provide high quality of patient care. Moreover, nursing managers can develop a creative and efficient workplace through learning by adapting effective management tactics that influence organizational effectiveness such as being Organizational learning (Tsui, 2019).

Organizational learning culture for nursing professionals is contributing to the development of professional nurses' performance. Continuous learning helps nurses adapt to the rapid changes in knowledge as well as nursing and health care considering the important role of organizational learning in these organizations, especially hospitals, implementing and executing organizational learning management in hospitals is of particular importance. A review of literature confirms various studies on learning in educational systems and organizational learning, but little research the organizational on management of nurses (Aghdasi, 2019).

importance of organizational The learning culture in health care systems is to provide the framework for complex interconnected dynamic systems where all operational units have to learn and execute their assigned functions collectively improve safe patient care. Policies and procedures are developed in healthcare organizations to reduce errors and improve patient safety. Regulated health professional are expected to engage in continuing education to maintain and update knowledge and skills to provide safe patient healthcare as continuing education of health care professionals has shown to be related to improved patient

outcomes (Shahabi, 2019).

Organizational learning culture results in technological innovation, process improvement and product enhancement. In fact, organizational learning will lead to a higher level of competiveness and it is considered a panacea for long term organizational success and growth. It has been established that there is a positive relationship between the degree organizational turbulence and organizational learning. It means that the greater the changes in the external environment of a health care organization, the greater the need for organizational learning. In the absence of organizational learning there will be stagnation and the organization will not be able to adjust to environmental changes (Lau, Lee & Chung, 2019).

Learning organization culture has seven dimensions as follows; Create continuous learning opportunities, promote inquiry and dialogue, encourage collaboration and team learning, establish systems to capture and share learning,

empower people toward a collective vision, Connect the organization to its environment and use leaders as role model and support the learning of the staff nurses, team, and organizational levels (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2019)

Continuous Learning is designed into work so that nurses can learn on the job; opportunities are provided for ongoing education and growth. "Inquiry and Dialogue" nurse gain productive reasoning skills to express their views and the capacity to listen and inquire into the views of others; the culture is changed to support questioning, feedback, and experimentation (Mardani, 2021).

Embedded system Both high- and low-technology systems to share learning are created and integrated with work; access is provided; systems are maintained Empowerment nurses are involved in setting, owning, and implementing a joint vision; responsibility is distributed close to decision making so that people are motivated to learn toward what they are held accountable to do (Yang, 2020).

According to System Connection,

nurses are helped to see the effect of their work on the entire enterprise; people scan the environment and use information to adjust work practices; the organization is linked to its communities *Strategic Leadership* Leaders model, champion, and support learning; leadership uses learning strategically for business results (James, 2019).

According to Al-Juboori et al., (2021), organizational learning promotes re-building its activities in the organizational structure and work system to increase innovation capacity Moreover, the process where employees of firm a can impact the firm's development and behaviors through the usage of their shared experience and of understanding new information development would establish through organizational learning.

Goal-orientation refers to nurses' ability to develop and develop their own abilities by learning new knowledge and mastering new skills. Proving goal-oriented refers to nurses proving their abilities and obtaining positive

evaluations from others. Goal orientation refers to the nurse's attitude towards goal achievement, Goal orientation can be defined as nurse's preferences in situation, may influence achievement managerial effectiveness and psychological empowerment in the work place Goal orientation can be divided into learning goal orientation and proof goal orientation (Fisher & Ford, 2019).

Goal orientation can be categorized into learning (task or mastery) orientation, performance (ego or social) orientation, performance avoidant and work avoidant. Learning goal orientation refers to a desire to develop nurses' competence by acquiring new knowledge and skills and mastering new situations. Those with learning orientations have adaptive response patterns, thus leading to positive outcomes. They also think that ability can be changeable and developed (Bell & Kozlowski, 2019)

Nurses' goal orientation is related to their perceptions about success, competence, mistakes, and the effort exerted in the learning situation. Nurses

can be driven by different goal orientations based on the learning situation. Some nurses pursue mastery goals that focus on learning, skill development, creativity, and quick understanding. Such nurses normally have greater interest in learning and positive attitudes toward it. They look at mistakes as a consequence of lack of correct information rather than deficiencies in their abilities. They exert the due efforts to perform their tasks and persist in the face of challenges (Pintrich & Schunk, 2021).

Significance of the study

The importance of organizational learning culture in health care systems is to provide the framework for complex interconnected dynamic systems where all operational units have to learn and execute their assigned functions to collectively improve safe patient care. Policies and procedures are developed in healthcare organizations to reduce errors and improve patient safety. Regulated health professional are expected to engage in continuing education to maintain and

update knowledge and skills to provide safe patient healthcare as continuing education of health care professionals has shown to be related to improved patient outcomes (Mitchell, 2019).

The delivery of quality patient care and patient safety is dependent on the healthcare system in which care is provided (Watkins, 2020). Nurses who set both professional goals and personal goals and really consider how the two maintain each other's gain an understanding of their profession as a whole and how they fit into it. Having a list of professional nursing goals is a great way to organize their career path and to figure out exactly what nurses want from their nursing career, it's also an eyeopening exercise to find out if nurses ready for a new approach. So this study aimed to assess the relation between organizational learning culture and goal orientation among staff nurses.

Aim of the study

The current study aimed to:

Assess the relation between organizational learning culture and goal

orientation among staff nurses.

Research Questions:

- 1. What is the level of organizational learning culture as reported by staff nurses?
- 2. What is the level of goal orientation as reported by staff nurses?
- 3. Is their relation between organizational learning culture and goal orientation among staff nurses?

Subjects and Methods

Research design:

Descriptive correlational design was utilized to achieve the aim of the study.

Study setting:

The current study was conducted in all inpatients units (55) at medical and surgical departments at Benha University Hospital. It is a large educational hospital, Affiliated with a governmental university in Qalyubia Governorate, Egypt. The hospital's capacity is about 786 beds with an annual occupancy rate of 90%. The hospital is composed of three separate constructions, namely medical

construction consisting of 412 beds, surgical construction containing 231 beds and ophthalmology construction composed of 143 beds.

Subjects of the study:

The subjects included in the study consisted of all available staff nurses n=322 who are working in the above mentioned study setting and accepted to participate in the study.

Tools of data collection:

To achieve the aim of the study, the following two tools were used;

Tool I: Organizational Learning Culture Questionnaire:

It included two parts; part (1): included personal characteristics of staff nurses as; department, age, gender, educational qualifications, marital status, year of experience, and attended training courses at Hospital Training and Continuous Education Center.

JNSBU

Part (2): Organizational learning Culture Questionnaire

It was developed by Marsick & Watkins (2019) then it was modified by the investigator to assess organizational learning culture as reported by staff nurses. It contained seven dimensions covering 38 items as follows; continuous learning 4 items, dialogue and inquiry 11 items, team learning and collaboration 3 items, embedded system 3 items, empowerment 3 items, system collection 3 items, strategic leadership 11 items.

Scoring system: Nurses' responses were measured by using Three points Likert Scale as follows; Always= (3) Sometimes = (2) and Never = (1). The score of each dimension was summed, and converted into percent score. The total score of organizational learning culture ranged from 38-114.

- -The total level of organizational learning culture was categorized as follows;
- High level of organizational learning culture if the total score is $\geq 75\%$ that equals 86-114 points,
- Moderate level of organizational learning culture if the total score is 60% -

- < 75% that equals 69-85 points.
- Low level of organizational learning culture if the total score is < 60% that equals 38-68 points.

Tool II: Goal Orientation Questionnaire:

It was developed by the investigator based on reviewing related literature; Kaplan *et al.*, (2004), Anderman & Anderman (2020) to assess the level of goal orientation as reported by staff nurses.

- It contained four dimensions covering 45 items as follows; Mastery 15 items, Performance approach 18 items, Performance avoidant 8 items, and Work avoidant 4 items.

Scoring system:-

Nurses' responses were measured by Three points Likert Scale as follows; Mostly Untrue= 3 points, Somewhat True= 2 points, Somewhat Untrue = 1 point. Total score was ranged from 45-135 points.

- -The total level of goal orientation was categorized as follows;
- High level of goal orientation if the total

score is $\geq 75\%$ that equals 101-135 points.

- Moderate level if the total score is 60% -< 75% that equals 81-100 points.
- Low level if the total score is < 60% that equals 45-80.

Validity of the tools

The two tools were tested for validity (face and content) through distribution of the tool to a panel of 5 Experts of Nursing Administration as follows; two Professors from Tanta University and two assistant professors from Benha University, and one professor from Menuofia University.

- Modifications were done based on their comments such as modifying some words to give the right meaning of the phrases.

Reliability of the tools

Cronbach's Alpha test was used to check the internal consistency and homogeneity of the used tools. The reliability of the organizational learning culture questionnaire was 0.911 and the reliability of goal orientation questionnaire was 0.862.

Pilot Study

A pilot study was conducted in January 2022 to test the sequence of items feasibility, practicability, applicability of the tools, clarity of the language, and estimating the time needed for filling each It included 32 staff nurses tool. representing 10% of total study subjects. 10-20 It took about minutes. modifications were done. So, the pilot study subjects were included in the main study subjects. The tools were finalized based on the result of the pilot study.

Data Collection Procedure

Approval letters were got from the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and were forwarded to the Director of Benha University Hospital to obtain the official permission for data collection after explaining the aim of the study. The study was carried out from the start of October 2021 to the start of November 2022.

- Distribution of the questionnaires to staff nurses during work hours after explaining the nature and aim of the study. The investigator organized and arranged the studied subjects in small groups to facilitate their participation according to their units needs and activities, gave instructions about how to fill the tools, and presented with them at the previously mentioned setting two days weekly (Saturday and Tuesday) for clarifying any question and revising completeness of tools to avoid any missing data.

- It took two months from the beginning of February to the end of March 2022, the average number of collected sheets were 35-40 staff nurses per day. The time needed for filling each questionnaire was about 10–15 minutes.

Ethical considerations

Before conducting the study, firstly official approval to conduct the research was obtained from the ethical committee of scientific research at Benha Faculty of Nursing. Confidentiality was assured to all participants and their information was used for scientific purposes only. Also, indicating that each participant has the right to withdraw from the study at any time.

IV-Statistical design:

verified before Data were computerized The **Statistical** entry. Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 26.0) was used for that purpose, followed by data analysis and tabulation. Number, frequency, Mean, and standard deviation values were reported to estimate the levels of organizational learning culture and goal orientation among staff nurses. Pearson correlation (r) test was used to assess the relationship and correlation among study variables. Significance level value was considered when P-value < 0.05 and a highly significance level was considered when P-value \leq 0.001, while P-value >0.05 indicated non-significance results

Results

Table (1): shows that less than two thirds of studied staff nurses (64.6%) were working at medical department and about less than one third of study subjects (31.7%) aged less than 35 years with M±SD 34.44±10.36. Regarding gender, most of study subjects (95.7%) were female. Concerning marital status of staff nurses, more than two thirds of them

(68.0%) were married. And about half of them (48.1%) had diploma degree in nursing. In relation to their years of experience, slightly less than two fifth of study subjects (38.5%) have less than 5 years of experience with mean ±SD (11.28±9.74). Regarding attending training Hospital **Training** courses at Continuous Education Center, more than three quarters of study subjects (78.0%) attended training courses, and nearly two thirds of them (64.3%) attended CPR courses.

Figure (1): Shows that the total level of organizational learning culture was high as reported by the highest percent (68.0%) of staff nurses. While, less than one quarter (22.4%) of them reported that organizational learning culture level was moderate.

Table (2): Shows that total mean score and standard deviation of organizational learning culture level was 89.65±12.77 that represent 78.6% of the total score. It also indicates that the highest mean score was for "dialogue and inquiry"

28.27±4.15 that represents 85.7% of total score. While, the lowest mean score was for "system collection" 6.36±1.03 that represents 70.7% of total score.

6.36±1.03 that represents 70.7% of total score.

Figure (2): Displays that the total level of goal orientation was moderate as reported by more than three quarters 79.9% of studied staff nurses. While, and (18.9%) of them reported that goal orientation level was high.

Table (3): Shows that total mean score and SD of goal orientation level was 97.88±7.87 that represents 72.5% of the total score. The highest mean score was for "Mastery" 34.56±4.74 that represents 76.8% of the total score. While, the lowest mean score was for "Work avoidant" 9.42±1.26 that represents 61.8% of the total score

Table (4): Shows that there was highly positive statistical significant relation between total organizational learning culture level and total goal orientation level

Table (1): Frequency distribution of personal data of studied staff nurses (n=322)

	Personal data	No	%	
Department	Medical	208	64.6	
Department	Surgical	114	35.4	
	<25	87	27.0	
	25:<35	54	16.8	
Age (years)	35 : <45	102	31.7	
	45+	79	24.5	
	M±SD	34.44±10.30	6	
Gender	Male	14	4.3	
Genuci	Female	308	95.7	
Educational qualifications	Diploma degree in nursing.	155	48.1	
	Associated degree in nursing.	0	0.0	
	Bachelor degree of nursing	142	44.1	
	Post-graduation studies.	25	7.8	
Marital status	Married	219	68.0	
	Unmarried	103	32.0	
Years of experience	<5 year	124	38.5	
	5 : <10 year	119	37.0	
	10 :<15 year	27	8.4	
	> 15 year 52		16.1	
	M±SD	11.28±9.74		
Attending training courses	Yes	251	78.0	
Courses	No	71	22.0	
	Quality	43	78.0	
Training courses	CPR	207	64.3	
(more than one answer)	Infection control	127	39.4	
	Code blue	ode blue 91		
	Operation	16	5.0	



Figure (1): Total levels of organizational learning culture as reported by staff nurses

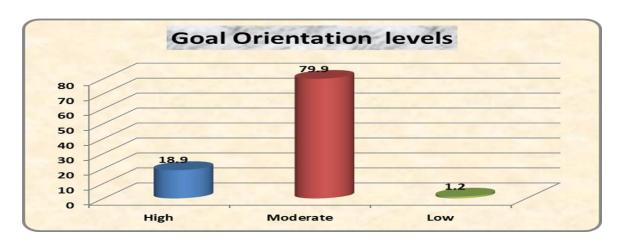


Figure (2): Total levels of goal orientation as reported by staff nurses

Table (2): Mean scores and standard deviation regarding total organizational learning culture as reported by staff nurses (n=322)

Dimensions	Total score	Minimum	Maximum	M±SD	Mean percent %	Ranking
Continuous learning	12	4	12	8.82±1.87	73.5%	4
Dialogue and inquiry	33	20	33	28.27±4.15	85.7%	1
Team learning and collaboration	9	3	8	6.64±1.13	73.8%	3
Embedded system	9	5	8	6.57±0.81	73.0%	6
Empowerment	9	4	9	6.59±1.54	73.2%	5
System collection	9	5	9	6.36±1.03	70.7%	7
Strategic leadership	33	14	33	26.36±5.39	79.9%	2
Total organizational learning culture	114	61	112	89.65±12.77	78.6%	

Table (3): Mean scores and standard deviation regarding total goal orientation as reported by staff nurses (n=322)

Dimensions	Total score	Minimum	Maximum	M±SD	%	Ranking
Mastery	45	22	45	34.56±4.74	76.8%	1
Performance approach	54	32	50	37.87±4.59	70.1%	2
Performance Avoidant	24	11	19	16.02±2.69	66.75%	3
Work Avoidant	12	7	11	9.42±1.26	61.8%	4
Total goal orientation	135	85	117	97.88±7.87	72.	5%

Table (4): Correlation between total organizational learning culture and total goal orientation

Total organizational	Total goal orientation	
learning culture	r	p-value
	0.236	0.000**

^{*}Statistically significant at p < 0.05

Discussion

It becomes critical for health care organizations to develop strategies that aim to design new work practices and to manage knowledge. The introduction of learning organization culture is seen as a promising choice for better knowledge management and continuing professional development in health care. The learning organization culture seemed to affect daily nursing work in a positive manner. These changes were particularly pronounced with respect to knowledge transfer, support for nursing practices that reflect quality of health care (Gagnon et al., 2020).

Achievement of goal orientation represents a critical field within the literature. It has established much attention due to their effective role on Nurses' nurses' performance. motivation especially for achievement of goal orientation is related to learning strategies, help-seeking behaviors. acquisition persistence, and and utilization of skills and metacognitive thinking (AL-Baddareen, Ghaith, & Akour, 2022)

This study aimed at assessing the relation between organizational learning culture and goal orientation among staff nurses.

Discussion of the study results is presented in the following sequence; The first part concerned with personal data of studied staff nurses. The second part concerned with levels of organizational learning as reported by staff nurses, The third part concerned with levels of goal orientation as reported by staff nurses, The fourth part concerned with relation between the study variables

I: Personal data of studied staff nurses

The current study findings indicated that less than two thirds of studied staff nurses were working at medical departments and about less than one third of study subjects aged less than 35 years.

Regarding gender, most of study subjects were females, regarding marital status more than two thirds of them were married. In relation to the level of education, about half of them had diploma degree in nursing. Regarding to their years of experience, slightly more than two thirds of study subjects had less than 5 years of experience. Considering attending training course, more than three quarters of study subjects have attended training courses at Hospital Training and Continuous Education Center. And nearly two thirds of them attended CPR courses.

Part II: Levels of Organizational Learning Culture as reported by staff nurses

The findings of the current study revealed that the total level of

organizational learning culture was high as reported by staff nurses. From investigator's point of view, this result may be due to training courses that hospital provides continuously for staff nurses, encourages continuous learning and rewards them and gives bounce for participating in training courses, these efforts help to build effective learning culture within the organization.

This result was in agreement with Elhoseney et al., (2020) who stated that the majority of staff nurses works at Assiut University Main Hospital reported that total level of learning organization culture was high.

In addition to El Desoky, (2021) stated that majority of nursing staff have high level of perception about organizational learning culture. Moreover, Joo & Park (2019) found out that the highest percent of staff stated that the level nurses of organizational learning culture was high. While this result disagreed with Egan, Yang & Bartlett (2019) they stated that nurses reported that the level of organizational learning culture was

moderate.

Regarding the highest mean score and standard deviation of organizational learning culture domains, the present study findings showed that it was for "dialogue and inquiry", followed by "strategic leadership" finally the lowest mean score and standard deviation was for "System collection".

From the investigator's point of view, this result may be explained by the fact that to enhance learning culture among staff nurses, it is important to listen to their point of views and their inquiry and open two ways of communication. Also staff nurses reported that their leaders always listen to their opinions during discussion regarding the work.

This result was supported with **Bhattacharya** *et al.*, (2019) who found that "inquiry and dialogue" came out be the key defining factors for learning organization in hospital and healthcare.

While, this result disagreed with **Akhtar** *et al.*, (2021) who highlighted that system connection achieved the highest

mean score among all organizational learning culture domains

Part III: Total Level of Goal Orientation as reported by staff nurses:

The current study findings indicated that the total level of goal orientation was moderate as reported by the majority of staff nurses. From the investigator's point of view, this result may be due to, the highest number of nurses had attended training courses which increased their level of awareness and perception of themselves and their abilities and became more oriented of their goals.

This result was consistent with Jirsea, (2021) who stated that the total level of goal orientation was moderate. On the other side, the current result contradicted with Mardani, (2021) who found through his study that the total level of goal orientation among nurses was low.

Concerning the highest mean score and standard deviation of goal orientation domains, the findings of the

current study revealed that it was for "Mastery" followed by "Performance approach" finally the lowest mean score and standard deviation was for "Work avoidant".

From the investigator's point of view, this may be explained as nurses to achieve goal orientation need firstly to have mastery over their performance to build their own personality, gain self-confidence and be able to do their work effectively.

Also, this study was supported by Somuncuogl & Yildirim (2020) who stated that nurses need to have mastery over their performance firstly to recognize their abilities. While, the current result was inconsistent with Yang, (2020) who found that through his study that the highest mean score and standard deviation was for "Work avoidant".

Part IV: Correlations among study variables

The current study results revealed that there was a highly positive statistical significant relation between the total level of organizational learning culture and the total level of goal orientation.

From the investigator's point of view, this result may be due to good organizational learning culture promotes the desire for acquisition of knowledge and encourages continuous learning among staff nurses, which improves motivation to develop and achieve competence and as a result their goal orientation improves.

This result was supported with Ames, (2020) who stated that learning goal orientation is occurring as an individual difference, a learning goal orientation state can be significant when value is placed on the process of learning. Also, Park & Sunyoung, (2021) found through their study that the level of goal orientation was positively related to workplace learning.

In the same line, **Egan**, (2021) stated that nurses had higher levels of goal orientation when they perceived that their organization has a better learning culture. Moreover, **Chetana& Mohapatra**, (2016) stated that there was

significant relationship between organizational learning culture and goal orientation which influences effective career development.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the current study, it can be concluded that Benha University Hospital had high level of organizational learning culture moderate level of goal orientation as reported by staff nurses. Also, there was highly statistically significant positive relation between organizational learning culture and goal orientation. So, nursing managers can help their nurses to improve goal orientation their through establishing positive organizational learning culture.

Recommendations

- Nursing managers should nurture the work culture with continuous learning opportunities and effective collaboration of employees
- 2. Continuity, spontaneity and proper planning of inculcating the learning process results in bringing an effective organizational learning

culture

- 3. Learning opportunities should be maintained through effective communication and support to effectively enhance organizational learning culture.
- 4. Ensure an effective learning culture among staff nurses using training programs, knowledge sharing and work team behaviors
- 5. Nursing managers should maintain proper orientation of career goals
- 6. Nursing managers need to empower staff nurses to participate in achieving organizational goals.
- Nursing managers need to allow staff nurses to participate in decision making and solving problems.
- 8. Continuous assessing of factors that negatively affects nurses' participation in training courses.

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