Performance Based Pay Management as a Determinant of Procedural Justice

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Abstract

The main objective of this study is to examine the relationship between performance based pay management (i.e., communication and participation) and procedural justice. A survey methods were used to collect self-report survey of employees in currier service company. The SmartPLS path model analysis revealed two main findings: first, communication was significantly correlated with procedural justice. Second, participation was significantly correlated with procedural justice. These findings demonstrate that the ability of managers to properly implement performance based pay management may invoke feelings of procedural justice among employees in the organization. This study provides three important implications: first, this study may serve great potential for understanding the effect of communication and, participation in strengthening perception of procedural justice among employees in the organization. Second, the survey questionnaire used in this study had satisfactorily met the standards of validity and reliability analyses. This may lead to produced accurate and reliable research findings. Third, this study may serve as a guide for practitioners to enhance the effectiveness of organization's performance based pay management as an important instrument to motivate employee in supporting organization's pay system, objectives and strategies. In addition, discussion, implications and conclusion are described.

Keywords: Performance based reward management, communication, participation, procedural justice

1. INTRODUCTION

There is a growing body of literature that recognizes the importance of performance based pay management in addressing the issue of employee's justice since it may attract and retain competent employees to improve efficiency and productivity of the organization (Brebels, Cremer & Dijke, 2016; Proost, 2015). There is evidence that performance based pay may enhance feeling of justice among employees and motivate employees to become more productive. For examples, research conducted by Research Institute of Economy, Trade & Industry, Japan, revealed that adoption of performance based pay among Japanese companies show a significant increase of 30% since 2000. It is interesting that the implementation of performance based pay has increased the productivity of employees between 26% to 30% (Takao and Kodaman, 2015). This practice is related to performance measures as a way of absorbing increased labour costs, while at the same time rewarding and motivating employees.

An analysis of recent literature about pay system highlights that there are two categories of pay. Those are, pay for group performance (team based pay and gain sharing) and pay for individual performance (e.g., merit pay, lump sum bonus, promotion based incentives and variable pay) (Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017a; Ismail & Razak, 2016). Even though there are various categories of pay systems, they use similar principle to distribute

pay (i.e., employees' performance, skills, knowledge and/or competency) and not by the nature of their job structure (Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017b; Martocchio, 2016; Newman, Gerhart & Milkovich, 2017).

Development of organizational pay system can be separated into two main approaches; those are conventional and contemporary approaches (Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017b; Newman et al., 2017). According to the conventional approach, allocation of pay is based on job structure (e.g., seniority, length of service and classification of work) (Azman, Fuad & Aimi, 2015; Azman, Ridwan & Zalina, 2016b). Meanwhile, for contemporary approach, pay allocation is based on skills and knowledge, performance and productivity shown by employees in performing daily tasks (Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017b; Osterloh, 2014). Pay allocation in this approach may increase the level of organization's competitiveness in the global market (Auh & Menguc, 2013; Rozila & Scott, 2015).

Implementation of performance based pay can be realized through the effective performance based pay management strategy. Performance based pay management is normally described as a procedure of allocating pay in a systematic method, based on employees' knowledge, skill, and/or performance (Newman et al., 2017; Osterloh, 2014; Webb et al., 2014). The management of performance based pay has two main components: communication, and participation (Aimi, Azman & Fatmawati, 2014; Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017b). Communication is generally defined as distributing the information about performance based pay systems from an employer to the employees (Martocchio, 2016; Milkovich, Newman & Gerhart, 2014; Newman et al., 2017). Meanwhile, participation is frequently understood as the involvement of employees in decision-making activities, information-processing and/or problem-solving activities relating to the implementation of performance based pay systems (Salim & Ismail, 2015; Shaed, Ishak & Ramli, 2015). This situation shows that the ability of managers to properly apply communication openness and strongly inspire employee participation may enhance organizational productivity (Martocchio, 2016; Newman et al., 2017).

This situation is very interesting when the current studies highlights that the ability of managers to properly apply communication openness and strongly inspire employee participation in pay management systems may have a significant impact on personal outcomes, especially procedural justice (Dar & Raja, 2014; Risher, 2014). In the organizations' pay management systems, procedural justice is usually interpreted as a perception of fairness about the process and methods used by managers in determining employees' pays. If employees perceived that the methods (e.g., policies, rules and regulations) that are used to determine their pay are consistent, accurate, ethical and fair, this feeling may lead to greater feeling of procedural justice among employees in organizations (Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017b; Tremblay & Landreville, 2015).

Within a performance based pay model, many researchers believed that communication, participation, performance appraisal and procedural justice are different constructs, but extremely interrelated. For instance, the ability of managers to professionally manage organizations' performance based pay system (i.e., communication, participation and performance appraisal) may enhance feeling of procedural justice in the organization (Azman, Asilah & Rahamad, 2016a; Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017a; Zhang, Long & Zhang, 2015). Although the nature of this relationship is important, little is recognized about the role of performance based pay management as an important

determinant of procedural justice in the organizational pay system research literature. Therefore, it strongly motivates the researchers to further discover the nature of this relationship.

2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study has two important objectives: first, to examine the relationship between communication and procedural justice. Second, to examine the relationship between participation and procedural justice.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Relationship between communication and procedural justice

Biddle's (1986), role theory describes that distribution of pay is an important sign of the high quality relationship between managers and employees and this situation may influent employees' positive behaviour in the organization. This idea received strong support from the performance based pay management research literature. For instance, several recent studies were conducted using a direct effects model to study communication based on different samples, such as perceptions of 236 supervisor from nine organizations in China (Zhang et al., 2015), 99 workers at public higher education institution in Peninsular Malaysia (Azman et al., 2016a) and 187 employees from three companies in Ireland (Heffernan & Dundon, 2016). The findings of these studies found that the capability of managers to openly communicate the information about performance based pay (e.g., explanations, sharing information and negotiation) had enhanced procedural justice in the organizations (Azman et al., 2016a; Heffernan & Dundon, 2016; Zhang et al., 2015). Thus, is was hypothesized that:

H1: Communication positively related to procedural justice

3.2 Relationship between participation and procedural justice

Graen and Uhl-Bein (1995) leader-member exchange theory suggest that that in-kind exchanges (e.g., morale and/or material) are a symbol of the high quality relationship between managers and employees and this practice may invoke employees' positive actions. This idea is in line with the performance based pay management research literature. For example, several studies that using a direct effect model to examine the relationship between participation and procedural justice using different sample, such as 159 employees of disaster agency in Malaysia (Azman & Ridwan, 2017a), 370 employees from 60 Islamic microfinance institution in Indonesia (Wahibur & Arif, 2012) and 187 employees from three companies in Ireland (Heffernan & Dundon, 2016). The outcomes of these studies found that the capability of managers to actively inspire employees to involve in performance based pay (e.g., suggestion and decision making) may induce feeling of procedural justice among employees in the organization (Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017a; Heffernan & Dundon, 2016; Wahibur & Arif, 2012). Thus, is was hypothesized that:

H2: Participation positively related to procedural justice

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Research Design

This study employed a cross-sectional research design which allowed the researchers to integrate the performance based pay literature and the actual survey as a means to collect data for this study. Using this data collection procedure will help the researchers gather accurate data, decrease bias and increase quality of data being collected (Cresswell, 1998; Sekaran & Bougie, 2010). This study was conducted at courier service company in Peninsular Malaysia. At the early stage of this study, a survey questionnaire was drafted based on the performance based pay literature. Then, a back translation technique was employed to translate the survey questionnaires into English and Malay versions in order to increase the validity and reliability of research findings (Cresswell, 1998; Sekaran & Bougie, 2010).

4.2. Measures

The survey questionnaire consists of three parts: first, communication had 9 items adapted from the pay communication literature (Aimi et al., 2014; Newman et al., 2017; Singh & Rana, 2015). Second, participation had 10 items adapted from the performance based pay literature (Azman et al., 2015; Ismail et al., 2011; Zhang, Lee & Zou, 2010). Finally, procedural justice had 6 items adapted from the organizational justice literature (Ismail, Rahman & Ismail, 2007; Zhang et al., 2015; Zou, Zhang & Liu, 2015). All these items were measured using a 7-item scale ranging from "strongly disagree/dissatisfied" (1) to "strongly agree/satisfied" (7). Demographic variables were used as controlling variables because this study emphasized on employee attitudes.

4.3. Sample

This study employed a convenient sampling technique to collect 100 usable survey questionnaires from the employees who work at different job categories and levels in the organization. This sampling technique was applied because the management of the organization had not given the list of registered employees to the researchers and this situation did not allow the researchers to use a random technique in choosing respondents for this study. The survey questionnaires were answered by participants based on their consent and on a voluntary basis.

4.4. Data Analysis

The SmartPLS was used to assess the validity and reliability of the instrument and test the research hypotheses. The main advantages of using this method may deliver latent variable scores, avoid small sample size problems, estimate every complex model with many latent and manifest variables, hassle stringent assumptions about the distribution of variables and error terms, and handle both reflective and formative measurement models (Henseler, 2012; Ringle, Sarstedt & Straub, 2012). The SmartPLS path model was employed to assess the path coefficients for the structural model using the standardized beta (β) and t statistics.

The value of R² is used as an indicator of the overall predictive strength of the model. The value of R² is considered as follows: 0.19 (weak), 0.33 (moderate) and 0.67 (substantial) (Henseler, 2012; Henseler & Chin, 2010). As an additional assessment of model fit in PLS analysis, we carried out a test of predictive relevance using blindfolding (Q² statistic) as suggested by Geisser (1975) and Stone (1974). According to Henseler and Chin (2010), the Q² statistic is a jackknife version of the R² statistic. It represents a measure of how well observed values are reconstructed by the model and its parameter estimates. Models with Q² greater than zero are considered to have predictive relevance. The value of Q² is considered as follows: 0.02 (small predictive relevance for an endogenous construct), 0.15 (medium predictive relevance for an endogenous construct), and 0.35 (large predictive relevance for an endogenous construct) (Hair, Hult, Ringle & Sarstedt, 2017).

5. FINDINGS

From the sample profile, the majority of respondents were males (88%), age from 35 to 44 years old (42%), Malaysia Certificate of Education holders (76%), work at branch office (90%), working experience less than 5 years (29%), permanent staff (99%), monthly salary less than RM2000 (34%), and married employees (73%).

Table 1 shows the factor loadings and cross loadings for different constructs. The correlation between items and factors had higher loadings than other items in the different concepts, as well as the loadings of variables were greater than 0.70 in their own constructs in the model are considered adequate (Henseler & Chin, 2010). Overall, the validity of the measurement model met the criteria. The values of composite reliability for all constructs were greater than 0.80, indicating that the instrument used in this study had high internal consistency (Henseler & Chin, 2010; Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994).

Table 1. The Results of Factor Loadings and Cross Loadings for Different Constructs and Composite Reliability

Construct	No. of	Cr	Composite					
	Item	1	2	3	Reliability			
Communication	9	0.725 to 0.809			0.930			
Participation	10		0.737 to 0.877		0.956			
Procedural	6			0.821 to 0.907	0.943			
Justice	6			0.821 10 0.907	0.943			

Table 2 shows the results of convergent and discriminant validity analysis. All constructs had the values of AVE larger than 0.5, indicating that they had met the acceptable standard of convergent validity (Barclay, Higgins & Thompson, 1995; Fornell & Larcker, 1981; Henseler, Ringle & Sarstedt, 2014). In addition, Besides that, the values of all concepts' AVE in diagonal were greater than the squared correlation with other concepts in off diagonal, signifying that all concepts had met the acceptable standard of discriminant validity (Henseler and Chin, 2010).

	U		3	
Construct	AVE	Communication	Participation	Procedural
				Justice
Communication	0.596	0.772		
Participation	0.686	0.535	0.828	
Procedural Justice	0.734	0.639	0.682	0.857

Table 2. The Results of Convergent and Discriminant Validity Analysis

5.1. Analysis of the Constructs

Table 3 shows the results of Collinearity and Descriptive Statistics. The means for all constructs were from 5.00 to 5.11, signifying that a majority of respondents perceived the levels of communication, participation and procedural justice range from high (5) to highest level (7) in the organization. While the values of variance inflation factor for the relationship between the independent variable (i.e. communication and participation) and the dependent variable (i.e. procedural justice) was less than 5.0, signifying that the data was not affected by serious collinearity problems (Hair et al., 2017). These results further confirm that the instrument used in this study has met the acceptable standards of validity and reliability analysis.

ConstructMeanStandard DeviationVariance Inflation FactorCommunication5.11.811.401Participation5.10.961.401Procedural Justice5.00.93

Table 3. The Results of Collinearity and Descriptive Statistics

5.2. Outcomes of Testing Hypotheses 1 and 2

Figure 1 shows that the inclusion of communication and participation in the analysis had explained 57 percent of the variance in the dependent variable. Specifically, the results of testing the research hypothesis showed two significant findings: first, communication is significantly correlated with procedural justice (β = 0.383; t = 3.374), thus H1 is supported. Second, participation is significantly correlated with procedural justice (β = 0.477; t = 3.931), thus H2 is supported. Therefore, the result confirms that communication and participation are an important determinant of organizational commitment.

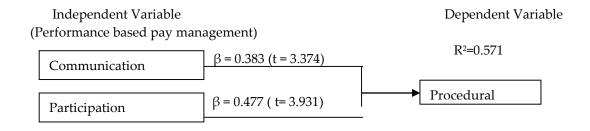


Figure 1: The Outcomes of Testing H1 and H2

Note: Significant at *t > 1.96

A test of predictive relevance for the reflective endogenous latent variable was further conducted based on Stone-Geisser's Formula: q2=Q2included-Q2excluded/1-Q2 included=0.387, indicating that it was greater than zero for the reflective endogenous latent variable. This result has predictive relevance.

6. CONCLUSION

The findings of this study prove that performance based pay management highly interrelated with procedural justice in the studied organizations. In the context of this study, managers focus on matters related to managers' role in managing performance based pay. Majority respondents view that the levels of communication, participation and procedural justice are high. This situation posits that the ability of managers to properly implement effective communication style and encourage employees' participation in managing performance based pay may invoke feeling of procedural justice among employees.

This study provides three important implications: theoretical contribution, robustness of research methodology and practical contribution. In terms of theoretical contribution, the findings of this study have provided great potential for understanding the effect of communication and participation in strengthening employees' feeling of procedural justice in the organization. This outcome also has supported and extended studies by (Azman et al., 2016a; Azman & Mohd Ridwan, 2017a; Risher, 2014; Zhang et al., 2015).

With respect to the robustness of research methodology, the survey questionnaire used in this study had satisfactorily met the standards of validity and reliability analyses. This may lead to produced correct and dependable research findings.

With regards to the practical contribution, the findings of this study can be used as guidelines by practitioners to improve the effectiveness of performance based pay management. This objective can be achieve if management consider to the following aspects: first, the important elements of performance based pay management should be identified appropriately in line with the organizational objectives and strategies as well as employees' expectations. Perfection in this aspect may help employees to acquire prodigious procedural justice in their daily job and motivate them to continually support organizations' goal and strategy. Second, training content and approaches should be restructured by focusing on strengthening manager's creativity and problem solving skills. These skills will inspire managers to practice effective and efficient management style in their daily job, respect employee's needs, and share the organization interests with employees. Therefore, it may increase the capability of managers to practice comfortable pay management styles in resolving employees' grievances, demands and needs. Finally, performance based pay management should be used as an important tool to improve employees' potential and talent. For example, managers need to recognize employee needs, offer material and moral support in enhancing employees' competency, and propose the best methods to enhance employees' wellbeing in the organization. If these ideas are deeply considered, this may stimulate employees to increase their productivity and will enhance organizations' competitiveness in global market.

This study confirms that performance based pay management (i.e., communication and participation) has an impact on procedural justice. This finding has also strengthened and widened performance based pay management research literature, mostly published in western. Consequently, existing research and practice within performance based pay model needs to consider communication and participation as an important elements in performance based pay management domain. This study further proposes that the capability of managers to manage employees' pay perfectly will strongly induce positive employee outcomes (e.g., productivity, performance, job satisfaction and commitment). Further, these positive outcomes may lead to maintain and supported organizational competitiveness in a global economy era.

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