THE IMPACT OF MOTIVATION, COMPETENCE, AND
TRAINING THROUGH JOB SATISFACTION ON EMPLOYEE
PERFORMANCE OF THE AGRICULTURE OFFICE EAST LUWU

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the impact of motivation, leadership, competence, and training on the level of job satisfaction, as well as investigate how job satisfaction affects performance. A total of 113 employees were involved as respondents in this study. Sampling was conducted using the census technique. The required primary data was collected through questionnaires using Likert scale and numerical scale. Meanwhile, secondary data were obtained from the Annual Report and Government Agency Performance Accountability Report (LAKIP) of DISTAN Luwu Timur. The analysis was carried out using descriptive analysis techniques and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) methods using Partial Least Square (PLS). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kinerja pegawai dalam komunikasi vertikal dipengaruhi secara langsung dan tidak langsung oleh motivasi, kepemimpinan, dan kompetensi. Meanwhile, training affects performance indirectly through job satisfaction. In terms of employee performance in horizontal communication, leadership, competence, and training have direct and indirect effects. Motivation also has a direct influence on performance. Job satisfaction serves as a mediator between motivation, leadership, competence, and training with performance. To improve performance through job satisfaction in horizontal communication, the main strategy that can be done is to improve employee competence through education and training relevant to duties and positions, as well as attending technical guidance, workshops, socialization, and seminars to improve professionalism.

Keywords: Performance; Job Satisfaction; Motivation; Leadership; Competence

ABSTRAK

terhadap kinerja. Kepuasan kerja berfungsi sebagai mediator antara motivasi, kepemimpinan, kompetensi, dan pelatihan dengan kinerja. Untuk meningkatkan kinerja melalui kepuasan kerja dalam komunikasi horizontal, strategi utama yang dapat dilakukan adalah meningkatkan kompetensi pegawai melalui pendidikan dan pelatihan yang relevan dengan tugas dan jabatannya, serta mengikuti bimbingan teknis, workshop, sosialisasi, dan seminar untuk meningkatkan profesionalisme.

Kata Kunci : Kinerja; Kepuasan Kerja; Motivasi; Kepemimpinan; Kompetensi

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between employees and organizations is a very important and inseparable relationship. The presence of both has a crucial role in various types of organizations, both in the government and private sectors. Every organization strives continuously to improve the quality and performance of its employees through structured development programs.

Employee performance is a complex and inseparable aspect of a company's success (Muliadi & Leman, 2021). In fact, employee performance plays an important role in determining the progress of an organization. In this case, companies can provide support through work motivation, direction from leaders, increasing employee competence and development, and training provided. These actions will facilitate the achievement of organizational goals and directly increase employee satisfaction, which in turn will have a positive impact on their performance.

Strengthening employees' work motivation plays an important role in improving their performance. When employees have strong work motivation, this will have a positive impact on their performance levels. Conversely, if employees' work motivation is low, it can have a negative impact on their performance. In this context, there is a direct link between work motivation and employee performance. The higher the work motivation, the higher the level of performance that can be achieved. Conversely, if work motivation is low, employee performance tends to decline.

In carrying out their duties, employees need to have competencies that include relevant skills, knowledge and work attitudes. These competencies are very important in human resource management. However, just having competencies and abilities is not enough to improve employee performance. It is also important to place employees in accordance with their competencies and abilities. Unfortunately, in some cases, the placement of employees is not always based on their educational background. As a result, the competence of employees in completing their tasks and roles may not fully
match their scientific background. Therefore, training is still needed to fill the gap between the competencies possessed and the demands of the job at hand. Training can help employees develop skills they lack, increase their knowledge, and adjust to their tasks and roles.

Training is a process that aims to educate employees on the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for them to improve their skills and perform their responsibilities properly. Through training, employee performance can be improved so that they can make better contributions and support the success of the organization.

An individual's perception of the job and positive attitude towards the organization are influenced by job satisfaction, motivation, competence and training. Therefore, as a leader, it is only natural to take steps and make the necessary efforts to improve employee job satisfaction.

**LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT**

**Performance**

According to (Moeheriono, 2014) Performance refers to the assessment of the implementation of programs, activities, or policies with the aim of achieving the vision, mission, and goals of the organization stated in the strategic plan.

Meanwhile, (Ma & Ye, 2015) There are six criteria used to evaluate employee performance, including: (1) Quality, which measures the extent to which the process or adjustment is done well in carrying out the task or meeting the expectations that have been set. (2) Quantity, which refers to the amount of results produced, either in terms of monetary value, units, or cycles of activities completed. (3) Timeliness, which describes the extent to which tasks are completed on time and the optimization of time for other tasks. (4) Cost-effectiveness, which reflects the extent to which company resources such as labor, finance, and technology are efficiently utilized to achieve optimal results or reduce losses per unit. (5) Independence, which indicates the extent to which an employee can carry out his or her duties without requiring guidance or supervision from superiors. (6) Interpersonal impact, which describes the extent to which an employee has confidence, high motivation, and the ability to cooperate with coworkers.

**Job Satisfaction**

According to (Hasibuan, 2014), Job satisfaction is an emotional attitude that is pleasant and loves his job. According to (Anwar, 2008) Job satisfaction can be
explained as a positive or negative evaluation felt by individuals towards various factors or aspects of the tasks they perform in their job. Factors such as salary level, interactions with superiors and coworkers, work environment, and company policies can affect a person's level of job satisfaction (Tanjung et al., 2020).

Indikator-indikator kepuasan kerja menurut (Hambali & Idris, 2020) antara lain: (i) kerja yang menantang secara mental; (ii) penghargaan yang sesuai; (iii) kondisi kerja yang mendukung; dan (iv) rekan kerja yang mendukung.

Motivation

According to (Siagian, 2019), The factors that encourage organizational members to voluntarily use their skills and time in carrying out their duties and responsibilities are with the aim of achieving the organization's previously set goals and objectives.

Furthermore (Susilo Martoyo, 1992) Indicators of motivation can be explained as follows: (i) Driving force is a strong innate drive that pushes a person towards a common goal. (ii) Willingness is the motivation to do something that is influenced by external factors. (iii) Willingness is a form of agreement to the requests of others to carry out certain tasks without feeling forced. (iv) Forming expertise is the process of creating or changing one's skills in a particular field. (v) Forming skills is the ability to perform complex and well-organized patterns of behavior in accordance with the situation in order to achieve the desired results. (vi) Responsibility is the obligation to do something or behave in accordance with set rules. (vii) Obligation is a duty that must be performed. (viii) Objective is a statement of the desired state in which the organization or company aims to achieve.

Leadership

Leadership according to (Colquitt. et al., 2013) It is defined as the use of power and influence to guide followers in achieving goals (Ummah et al., 2023).

Leadership indicators according to (Burhanuddin, 2022) These are: (i) To succeed in leadership, rigor, focus, and solid courage are required as prerequisites to possessing analytical skills. (ii) A leader needs to have effective communication skills in providing instructions, guidance, direction, and advice with good mastery of communication techniques. (iii) In an organizational context, the higher one's position, the greater the challenges faced by a leader in carrying out the main tasks entrusted to him. (iv) Every leader must have the ability to listen and openness to receive opinions or suggestions
from others, especially from their subordinates. (v) Assertiveness in dealing with subordinates and overcoming uncertainty has a very important role for a leader.

**Competence**

Competencies refer to attributes or characteristics (a combination of several characteristics) that can be accurately measured and are relatively consistent in possession by an individual, team, or organization. These competencies have an impact and can be statistically predicted as a pointer to performance levels (Seran et al., 2023).

According to (Spencer, 1993) There are 5 characteristics of competence which include: (i) motivation, which refers to the reasons that drive a person to act consistently; (ii) personal traits, which are traits that influence a person's behavior or response to a situation; (iii) self-concept, which includes the attitudes and values a person believes about themselves; (iv) knowledge, which is the information a person has in a particular field; and (v) skills, which involve the ability to carry out a particular task both physically and mentally.

**Training**

Training is a planned and structured method to improve the knowledge, skills and attitudes of individuals, teams and organizations to meet performance needs and expectations (Budiningsih et al., 2023). The purpose of training is to develop the competencies necessary for individuals and companies to achieve optimal performance levels (Aguinis & Kraiger, 2009).

According to (Ragawanti et al., 2014) Training activities have several objectives, including: (i) To meet the needs of the current job, where training is required to gain the experience and knowledge necessary to complete the tasks assigned properly. (ii) Meeting the demands of other positions, where training is needed to provide experience and knowledge that exceeds one's abilities, both in the field already mastered and outside the field. (iii) Responding to the demands of change, where training is required to provide experience and knowledge beyond one's capabilities, both within one's field of expertise and beyond. (iv) Adjusting to changes in work methods and achieving optimal work results, where training is carried out with the aim of increasing an employee's ability to adapt to these changes.

**Internal Communication**
Internal communication is a type of communication carried out by companies with a focus on developing and maintaining relationships with internal parties. The goal is to create emotional bonds through dedication and participation that provide benefits in achieving company success (Welch & Jackson, 2007). According to (Yates, 2005) The more effective and faster communication is, the faster good working relationships will be established. Good cooperation between team members in an organization will help improve the performance of the organization or company positively.

**Relationship between Job Satisfaction, Motivation, Leadership and Competence with Performance**

According to (Colquitt. et al., 2013) Integrative approach in organizational behavior, performance is influenced by the level of job satisfaction. When employees are satisfied, they tend to pay greater attention to the organization and experience improvements in their performance and productivity. According to (Khan et al., 2012), employees who are satisfied with their jobs have great potential to spread a positive view of the organization, provide support to colleagues, and exceed expectations in carrying out their duties.

(Babalola, 2016) explains that if the leader is able to apply appropriate leadership, employees will experience satisfaction, which in turn will improve their performance. Furthermore (Colquitt. et al., 2013) according to the integrative model of organizational behavior, performance is influenced by a number of individual mechanisms, including job satisfaction, stress levels, motivation, integrity, fair treatment, and ethical behavior.

**Relationship between Training and Performance**

According to (Sharma & Taneja, 2018) without appropriate training, employees will face obstacles in optimizing their potential in receiving information and developing the skills needed to complete tasks at the maximum level. This is in line with research (Abozed, et al. 2009) which states that improving employee skills through training programs has become a major focus for organizations in achieving company goals.

**Hypotheses**

Based on an in-depth literature review, the following development hypotheses can be proposed:

H1: Motivation, leadership, competence, and training vertically have an influence on job satisfaction.
H2: Motivation, leadership, competence, training, and job satisfaction vertically have an influence on performance.

H3: Motivation, leadership, competence, and training horizontally have an influence on job satisfaction.

H4: Motivation, leadership, competence, training, and job satisfaction horizontally have an influence on performance.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Optimal performance at DISTAN East Luwu Regency is highly dependent on employee performance. Strategies to improve employee performance are an integral part of human resource development. Improving employee performance can be done by analyzing the factors that influence their performance. After analyzing the problems at DISTAN East Luwu Regency, several problems were identified, including: late entry of employees, employee placement that is not in accordance with their education, mismatch of positions with the training attended, and the achievement of IKPD scores that are not optimal.

For this reason, the researcher identifies motivation, leadership, competence, and training variables as exogenous variables that affect performance as an endogenous variable. Data will be collected through the distribution of questionnaires designed using Likert and Numeric scale formats. The data will then be analyzed using SEM PLS (Structural Equation Modeling Partial Least Square) to generate recommendations for stakeholders. The population in this study includes all employees who work at DISTAN East Luwu Regency, with the status of State Civil Servants, totaling 113 people. Respondents in this study will be divided into 2 groups based on internal communication: 1. vertical communication consisting of 67 people (structural with general functional), 2. horizontal communication consisting of 46 people (specific functional).

The data used consisted of two types, namely primary data obtained through interviews using a questionnaire with a Likert scale and a Numeric scale to measure responses from respondents, and secondary data obtained from the East Luwu Regency DISTAN Annual Report, Government Agency Performance Accountability Report (LAKIP), laws and regulations related to civil servant management, staffing information system data (simpeg), and employee attendance data.
RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Analysis of Respondents

Information regarding the characteristics of respondents was obtained through distributing questionnaires to Civil Servants (PNS) who work at DISTAN East Luwu Regency. The characteristics of respondents were analyzed in terms of age, gender, latest education, and work unit. Furthermore, an analysis was carried out regarding internal communication as a moderator variable. Respondents' communication was classified into two categories, namely vertical communication involving structural, general functional, or staff positions, and horizontal communication.

Cross Tabulation between Age and Education

The results of cross-analysis with the chi-square test between age and education show that the chi-square value is 0.000 < 0.05. This shows that age has an influence on the education level of respondents. In the 21-30 years age group, the majority of respondents had high school and diploma education, with a total of 2 people. In the 31-40 year age group, the majority of respondents had S1 education, with a total of 26 people. Meanwhile, in the 41-50 age group, the majority of respondents had a master's degree, with a total of 12 people. In the age group above 51 years, the majority of respondents had a high school education and a master's degree, with 14 and 9 people respectively. From this condition it can be concluded that the majority of Human Resources (HR) in DISTAN of East Luwu Regency who are of productive age have an S1 education level. With good HR management, this can contribute to achieving good performance.

Cross Tabulation Between Gender and Position Levels

In the cross analysis between gender and position level, a chi-square value of 0.602 > 0.05 was obtained. This shows that gender has no influence on the level of positions for respondents. This means that the opportunity to move up for employees or respondents is not influenced by gender. This means that both men and women have the same opportunity to get promoted to higher positions.

Cross Tabulation between Gender and Education

The results of cross-analysis with the chi-square test between gender and education show that the chi-square value is 0.708 > 0.05. This shows that gender has no influence on the education level of respondents. This factor is due to the equal opportunity in
obtaining higher education between male and female employees. Both are given the same opportunity to pursue higher education.

**Cross Tabulation between Education and Position**

The results of cross-analysis with the chi-square test between education and position show that the chi-square value is 0.000 <0.05. This proves that education has an influence on positions. Respondents who have a master's degree predominantly occupy certain functional and structural positions, with 20 and 3 people respectively. Respondents who have a bachelor's degree predominantly occupy certain functional positions as widyaiswara and extension workers, with a total of 22 people. Respondents who have a high school education predominantly occupy general administrative positions, with a total of 30 people. Meanwhile, respondents who have junior high school and elementary school education predominantly occupy technical positions as security guards and technicians, with a total of 6 and 7 people. This phenomenon occurs because there is a positive relationship between a person's level of education and the opportunity to occupy a higher position. The higher the level of education, the greater the opportunity to achieve higher positions.

**Results of Analysis of Factors Affecting Performance**

**Validity and Reliability Test**

The reliability test was carried out by comparing the calculated item coefficient ($r_{alpha}$) with the value ($r_{table}$) of 113 samples using the Croanbach's Alpha correlation method. If the value ($r_{alpha}$) > ($r_{table}$), which is a value of more than 0.60, then the instrument item is considered valid. In this study, all variables tested for reliability using the Croanbach's Alpha method have a value ($r_{alpha}$) greater than 0.60, so the questionnaire is considered reliable.

**SEM-PLS Results**

**Measurement (outer) Model Test**

Based on the Outer Model analysis, the results obtained show that all indicators have met convergent validity (reliability), where all loading factors have a value above 0.50.

**Construct Validity Test**

The construct validity test is carried out by paying attention to the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) value. To state that the construct is valid or good, the AVE
value of each construct must be more than 0.50. The test results show that the AVE value of each construct has a value greater than 0.50, which indicates that the construct can be considered valid and good. Furthermore, the results of hypothesis testing show that significant variables have an influence on job satisfaction and employee performance, both through vertical communication and horizontal communication.

Construct Reliability Test

There are two measurement criteria that can be used to test construct reliability, namely composite reliability and Croanbach's Alpha of the indicator block that measures the construct. Constructs are considered reliable if the composite reliability and Croanbach's Alpha values are greater than 0.70. The test results for each construct show that the composite reliability and Croanbach's Alpha values are all above 0.70. Thus, it can be concluded that the constructs have good reliability.

Structural Model Test (Inner Model)

Testing of the structural model is done by analyzing the R-Square value as an indicator of goodness-of-fit model. The purpose of this stage is to analyze the level of estimation between the independent variables (Motivation, Leadership, Competence, and Training) with the intervening variable Job Satisfaction on the dependent variable (Performance). The results of the analysis for factors in both communication categories are as follows:

1. Vertical Communication
   a. Motivation, leadership, competence, and training have an influence on job satisfaction with an R-Square value of 0.761. This means that 76.1% of the variability of job satisfaction constructs can be explained by the variability of motivation, leadership, competence, and training constructs, while 23.9% is explained by other factors not examined.
   b. Motivation, leadership, competence, training, and job satisfaction have an influence on performance with an R-Square value of 0.939. This means that 93.9% of the variability of the performance construct can be explained by the variability of the motivation, leadership, competence, training, and job satisfaction constructs, while 6.1% is explained by other variables not studied.

2. Horizontal Communication
a. Motivation, leadership, competence, and training have an influence on job satisfaction with an R-Square value of 0.822. This means that 82.2% of the variability of job satisfaction constructs can be explained by the variability of motivation, leadership, competence, and training constructs, while 17.8% is explained by other factors not examined.

b. Motivation, leadership, competence, training, and job satisfaction have an influence on performance with an R-Square value of 0.895. This means that 89.5% of the variability of performance constructs can be explained by the variability of motivation, leadership, competence, training, and job satisfaction constructs, in the presence of internal communication moderator variables. The remaining 10.5% is explained by other factors or variables not included in this study.

**SEM-PLS Analysis Results**

The results of hypothesis testing show that there are variables that significantly affect job satisfaction and employee performance through vertical and horizontal communication, as shown in Figure 1.

From the results of further testing related to the indirect effect and total effect of motivation, leadership, competence, and training variables on performance with job satisfaction as a mediator, the following findings were found for employees with vertical communication:

a. There is a mediating effect of job satisfaction in the effect of motivation on performance. This suggests that high levels of motivation in employees contribute to the creation of job satisfaction, which in turn improves their performance.

b. There is a mediating effect of job satisfaction in the effect of leadership on performance. This finding indicates that proper leadership by leaders plays an important role in creating job satisfaction among employees, which has a positive impact on their performance.

c. There is a mediating effect of job satisfaction in the effect of competence on performance. This result indicates that the higher the competence of employees, the higher the level of job satisfaction they feel, which in turn affects performance improvement.
There is a mediating effect of job satisfaction in the effect of training on performance. The benefits derived from training by employees have a positive impact on their job satisfaction, which also contributes to improved performance.

Based on the results of direct, indirect, and total effects on horizontal communication, the following findings were found:

a. There is a mediating effect of job satisfaction in the effect of leadership on performance. This suggests that it is important for leaders to apply appropriate leadership, as this will create job satisfaction among employees and have a positive impact on their performance.

b. There is a mediating effect of job satisfaction in the effect of competence on performance. This finding proves that the higher the competence of employees, the higher the level of job satisfaction they feel, which in turn has an impact on improving performance.

c. There is a mediating effect of job satisfaction in the effect of training on performance. The benefits derived from training by employees have a positive impact on their job satisfaction, which also contributes to improved performance.

Based on SEM-PLS analysis, it was found that in employees with vertical communication, the largest total effect was shown by the effect of motivation on performance with a coefficient value of 0.433. In this context, the priority strategy that can be done is to increase employee motivation through the following steps: (1) Implement a fair compensation system based on employee performance and skills. (2) Provide clear opportunities for employees to develop their careers. (3) Building harmonious relationships among all employees. It is also important to avoid making compensation decisions that are subjective and discriminatory. In addition, it is important to provide opportunities for outstanding employees to get promotions or better job assignments.

In employees with horizontal communication, the largest total effect is seen in the effect of competence on performance with an influence coefficient of 0.435. Therefore, the priority strategy that can be done is to improve employee competence through education and training relevant to their duties and positions.

Some steps that can be taken include: (1) Organizing education and training programs that are in accordance with the needs and roles of employees. (2) Encouraging
employees to attend technical guidance, workshops, socialization, and seminars that can improve their competence. (3) Identify and provide opportunities for employees to develop the expertise and skills required in their work. (3) Establish cooperation with educational institutions or other institutions to facilitate employee competency development. By improving employee competencies through relevant education and training, it is expected that employee performance in the context of horizontal communication can be improved. This is in line with research (Satriya et al., 2013) which shows that human resource development (HR) is carried out through various methods, such as internships, mentoring, job rotation, education and training (Diklat), and continuing formal education.

CONCLUSION

From the data analysis conducted, there are differences in factors affecting performance in employees who communicate vertically and horizontally. From these results, several conclusions can be drawn: (1) In employees with vertical communication, motivation, leadership, and competence factors have a significant influence on performance, both directly and through job satisfaction. In addition, training also significantly affects performance through job satisfaction. (2) For employees with horizontal communication, motivation, leadership, and competency factors also have a significant influence on performance, both directly and through job satisfaction. In particular, motivation has a significant direct effect on performance. (3) For employees with vertical and horizontal communication, job satisfaction has a significant influence on performance. Thus, it can be concluded that factors such as motivation, leadership, competence, and job satisfaction play an important role in influencing employee performance, depending on the type of communication that occurs (vertical or horizontal).

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**Figure 1.** PLS SEM Analysis