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## Assessing the influence of management commitment to diversity and inclusion on perceptions of fairness in promotion practices

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### Abstract

**Purpose:** To examine the relationship between management's commitment to diversity and inclusion and promotion orientation practices and processes. To identify the moderating role of organizational culture on the relationship between management commitment to D&I and promotion practices.

**Need for the Study:** The impact of diversity and inclusion initiatives on promotion practices is significant in addressing biases, enhancing employees' trust levels, and improving both their morale and overall performance.

**Research Methodology:** The research adopts a descriptive methodology, relying on systematic literature review and conceptual analysis. Data were collected from scholarly articles and analyzed to assess the impact of management's D&I practices on promotion processes.

**Practical implications:** The organizations need to build a transparent and inclusive promotion framework which is not only compatible to D&I organization goals but also emphasize on meritocracy and fairness.

**Theoretical implications:** This study extends the D&I literature by offering a theoretical framework that connects management commitment to D&I with the fairness of promotion.

**Keywords:** Diversity, inclusion, organisational culture, management commitment, promotion orientation, leadership engagement, resource allocation, training and development, employee involvement, communication strategies

### Introduction

Management commitment to diversity and inclusion (D&I) has become an increasingly important factor in achieving inclusive and equitable organisational outcomes. Leadership may contribute by providing strategic diversity and inclusion support to impact employee perceptions of fairness in promotion processes and fostering a culture of inclusiveness. This theoretical framework aims to examine how different aspects of management commitment (i.e. communication strategies, policy implementation, training & development, employee participation, leadership involvement and resource allocation) related to promotions impact promotion processes and practices. The organisational culture is presented as a moderator since it influences the dependent variable (the relationship between management commitment to D&I and the fairness of promotion processes).

### Management Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion have transformed from an exercise in the numbers of diversity to holistic approaches to building workplace culture where each employee feels included and respected. Research shows that organizations that engage in D&I can receive desirable benefits including increased employee engagement, greater innovation and better organizational performance (Kim *et al.*, 2022) <sup>[20]</sup>. As but one of a lot of manifestations, this commitment translates into leadership and HR policies that encourage inclusive recruitment, development, and upward career paths.

It is essential for management to cultivate the D&I culture. Leaders who promote diversity-related initiatives create an environment of diversity which also promotes the perception of organizational justice, influencing employees' perceptions regarding how fair promotion practices are (Jones *et al.*, 2016). Equity theory implies that employees determine fairness in terms of their perceived inputs and outcomes compared with others. A D&I-oriented management will change this notion with transparent promotion criterias avoiding the conscious and subconscious demographic bias that race, gender or ethnicity brings to these

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matters.

Management Commitment — the degree to which leaders from within an organization prioritize and actively advocate for D&I initiatives. In the framework, management commitment is measured by its vital constituents, which together lead to perceptions of equity in promotion practices among employees.

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **Leadership Engagement**

Engagement of the leadership means that top-level management have a role to play in D&I. The authenticity with which the leaders implement these initiatives shapes the attitude and behavior of the employees (Ayman & Korabik, 2010) and lays down the tone to be set for an organization. Psychological research indicates that leaders who use transparent and accountable behaviours and who make diversity and inclusion (D&I) practices a priority tend to have employees perceive fairness in their promotion practices.

#### **Policy Implementation**

Policies aimed at D&I, for example affirmative action and EEO practices, or anti-discrimination regulations provide an indirect path towards inclusion by establishing a formal structure that acknowledges inclusive behaviors (Sabharwal; 2014). Such policies are critical to ensuring that promotions are based on merit, not either culture-specific behaviors or demographic bias. But the success of such policies is contingent on their implementation, and how effectively they communicated across the organization (Nishii *et al.*, 2018).

#### **Resource Allocation**

This includes financial, human and technological resources dedicated to supporting D&I initiatives. Providing adequate resources for training programs, mentorship initiatives and support networks is a clear sign of the organization's commitment to developing an inclusive climate (Sabharwal, 2014). Evidence supports the theory that perceived equity in promotion is highly associated with the degree to which resources are devoted to benefit underrepresented populations.

#### **Training and Development**

D&I training and development programs are an important step to developing awareness and competence around inclusive practice. Such programs may equip employees with the tools and understanding to operate in different surroundings, as well as confront implicit biases. Groups of Organizations or companies that prioritize on ongoing learning and development efforts are more likely to be perceived as fair in their promotion processes.

#### **Employee Involvement**

Employee involvement refers to the active participation of employees at all levels in D&I decision-making and initiatives. Studies have demonstrated that engagement of employees in D&I practice construction can potentially make them perceive the promotional practices in the organization as fairer. Employee resource groups, task forces, and councils as an arena engage diverse voices, which help infuse feelings of belonging, critical for career advancement and promotion.

### **Communication Strategies**

Great communication and consistency in the organization are significant tools in showing its commitment to D&I. Excellent communication strategies allow all employees to understand the factors for promotion as well as how D&I moves forward to achieve the organizational goal as a whole (Roberson, 2006). Proper communication leads to the elimination of miscommunications and perceptions of unfairness when it comes to promotion practice.

### **Organizational Culture**

Organizational culture is the moderating variable in this relationship and has a significant influence on the way management commitment to D&I impacts the promotion practices. A positive and inclusive organizational culture is conducive to creating an open environment, respect, and equitable treatment that shape employees' perceptions of fairness during the promotion process. It has been suggested that promotion practices in organizations with a culture of inclusion are perceived more as fair and equitable (Chatman & O'Reilly, 2016). In organizations where the culture does not support D&I, even well-intentioned policies and initiatives may fail to change promotion outcomes.

An inclusive organizational culture is characterized by shared values, norms, and behaviors focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion in all organizational matters. D&I in the organizational culture upsurges the effect of management commitment on fair promotion practices. In contrast, without support from the organization for D&I efforts, even the best-designed initiatives will not have the desired effect.

### **Dependent Variable**

#### **Promotion Practices and Processes**

The dependent variable here in the framework is the promotion practices and processes which refer to the systems, criteria, and procedures followed by organizations to promote employees to higher levels of responsibility. Perceived fairness in promotion practices is essential to the satisfaction, retention, and engagement of employees. Perceived fairness in the promotion process is likely to result in higher motivation, value, and commitment to the organization for the employees. Promotion fairness can be assessed based on transparency, objectivity, and consistency in the criteria used for evaluating employees.

Fairness in promotion practices is influenced by the organization's D&I initiatives. For example, when management shows commitment to D&I through leadership engagement, policy implementation, resource allocation, and communication with employees, employees can easily feel that they have equal opportunities for promotion. On the other hand, a lack of management commitment may result in perceptions of bias, favoritism, or discrimination in promotion practices. Diversity and inclusion have expanded beyond mere demographic diversity to become overarching strategies that promote a positive work environment where employees are valued and respected. Researchers have noted that organizations that embrace D&I tend to see positive outcomes, such as increased employee engagement, higher rates of innovation, and better organizational performance (Kim *et al.*, 2022)<sup>[20]</sup>. This commitment often finds expression through leadership and HR policies promoting inclusive hiring, development, and promotion practices.

Management's role in propelling a D&I culture is very important. Active leadership through pro-diversity initiatives leads to the perception of organizational justice and influences the perception of how fair employees perceive promotion practices are (Jones *et al.*, 2016). According to equity theory, employees perceive the promotion practice as being either just or unjust by comparing their input and outcomes with their peers' input and outcomes. A management team focused on D&I will impact this perception by having promotion criteria that are transparent and not biased by demographic factors such as race, gender, or ethnicity.

### Research questions

1. How does management's commitment to diversity and inclusion (D&I) influence promotion orientation practices and processes within organizations?
2. What role does organizational culture play in moderating the relationship between management's commitment to D&I and promotion practices?
3. How do employee perceptions of fairness mediate the impact of management's commitment to D&I on promotion decisions and processes?

### Objectives

#### To examine the relationship between management's commitment to diversity and inclusion and promotion orientation practices and processes

- To identify the moderating role of organizational culture on the relationship between management commitment to D&I and promotion practices.
- To explore the mediating role of employee perceptions of fairness in the link between D&I commitment and promotion practices.
- To provide actionable insights and recommendations for organizations aiming to improve their promotion practices through a commitment to D&I.

### Review of Literature

#### Independent Variable - Management Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion (D&I)

##### Leadership Engagement

##### 1. Huy Gip *et al.*, 2023

The current research aims to construct and measure the perceived inclusion climate for leader diversity, PICLD. It discusses how organisational practices that increase acceptance of demographic diversity among the leadership may have been influencing employee perceptions of a workplace as being an inclusive climate. This scale development method consisted of five stages: construct and criterion-related validity, content validity evaluation, face validity testing, qualitative interviews, and nomological network testing. Data analysis was conducted using partial least squares (PLS) structural equation modelling (SEM) by the study. The PICLD scale provides a measure for employee impressions of an inclusive workplace culture for leader diversity, and it contributes to literature on inclusion, diversity, and leadership.

PICLD and organisational justice are positively correlated, and organisational justice mediates the correlation between PICLD and employee indicators such as employee engagement, performance, and intention to leave, in accordance with the study.

##### 2. Michelle Russen *et al.*, 2023

The research study will provide data-driven evidence-based findings on theory to elucidate how an organization may develop an even more pleasant ambiance at the very top rungs of a hotel's organizational management, with repercussions.

Using Constructivist Grounded Theory methods, data were collected and analyzed from interview responses with 20 hotel executives, in addition to company websites. According to the Leadership Inclusion Theory, organisations have to address social norms, rules, and culture in an organisation, and individual differences in order to create an inclusive workplace. Diversity follows after increased equity and inclusion; equity follows after inclusion.

##### 3. Kim 2024 <sup>[20]</sup>

The current study explores how strategic D&I leadership and motivating language contribute to a positive climate for D&I and counteract microaggressions against Asian employees. This study further seeks to understand the mechanisms of leadership communication through fostering inclusiveness and reducing biases. The survey, combined with in-depth interviews with employees and leaders from diverse industries, used a mixed-methods approach. Findings indicated that transformative D&I leadership with an empathy and inclusivity commitment together with inspiring language empowered the workplace environment by combating microaggressions through equity. Leadership communication is found to be a critical ingredient in the implementation of D&I principles toward creating psychological safety for subordinate group members.

##### 4. Helena Mateus Jeronimo *et al.*, 2021

The study aims to investigate the interaction between diversity practices and employee engagement in a telecommunication company, and how inclusive leadership and perceived inclusion affect this interaction. The researchers used simple and multiple linear regressions to examine the moderating role of inclusive leadership, the mediating role of perceived inclusion, and to determine whether the leadership facilitates the feeling of inclusion among employees. The findings from 238 responses were a positive relationship between participation and diversity practice perceptions. In addition, feelings of inclusion act as a mediator in the relationship. Although inclusive leadership is positively related to employee perceptions of inclusiveness, inclusive leadership is not a controlling influence in the relationship.

The model's representation of the roles inclusive leaders play in influencing employees' perceptions of inclusion is therefore another benefit. It may significantly affect their performance and level of involvement.

##### 5. Helen Abdali Soosan Fagan, Ph.D *et al.*, 2022

This literature review sought to identify the attributes of inclusive leaders and their effects on followers and to analyze how those effects relate to Shore *et al.*'s inclusion themes of belongingness and uniqueness. Through literature review and thematic analysis, the authors addressed three research questions. They determined seven key attributes of the inclusive leader and 24 impacts on followers and sorted these impacts into Shore *et al.*'s inclusion framework. The

authors claim that the available definitions and measures of inclusive leadership do not very well reflect diversity as its core component. The authors advocate for revisiting the concept of inclusive leadership in the context of diversity and inclusion-for instance, by establishing new measurements that reflect the identified attributes.

#### **6. Nicole Del Castillo 2022**

This article is a brief review of a session designed to introduce underrepresented minority (URM) medical trainees to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and its leadership opportunities.

This module aims to enhance the knowledge of URM students about the Office of DEI and the opportunities they could have with the office by acquiring faculty leadership skills. The authors developed, implemented, and assessed a 75-minute workshop that involved case discussions, reflection activities, and a PowerPoint presentation based on the Kern model. Sixty-six diverse students at three different sites completed pre- and postprogram surveys for program assessment.

#### **Policy Implementation**

#### **7. Juan M. Madera *et al.*, 2023**

The purpose of this paper is to provide a critical lens of diversity and inclusion research from the literature in hospitality and tourism. According to the authors, theory-based research contextualized in the hospitality and tourism industry can provide practitioners with practical guidance for application purposes. To this end, the authors focused on incorporating separately developed streams of literature: one which centered on the human resources perspective and the other on customer behavior. It reconciles the two viewpoints by creating a research agenda while providing three areas that are ready for further study in marketing, diversity resistance, and human resources management. The authors place great importance on theory-driven research that is to be applied in the real world in a manner that will increase workplace and user inclusivity in the hotel and tourist industries.

#### **8. Michelle Russen 2024**

This article discusses how organizations in the Asian region are struggling with embracing diversity and inclusion. It aims to bring out to attention the plights and challenges that have been met on the way to implementing successful inclusive practices within Asian workplaces.

The study used a qualitative method that relied on an interview to collect data from the respondents of the service industries in Asia. Data analyzed employed an inductive approach to find patterns and themes in connection with the set research objectives.

The findings reveal several key themes, including gender versus organizational policies, gender versus human resource policies, perceptions about patriarchal hegemony, inclusion in decision-making, and the role of feminism and HR policies in shaping inclusive practices.

#### **9. Osaro O. Agbontaen 2019**

This research will explore how anti-discrimination, equal opportunity, and inclusion policies improve the effectiveness of diversity in a multinational corporation based in a developing country. A questionnaire was used to collect data for this study by soliciting practical experiences

from staff members regarding their work with diversity management. Factor analysis is used to extract constructs from the questionnaire items, and the impact of the constructs on the degree of variety is examined through regression analysis. The findings of the study are that diversity within the foreign organization requires not only inclusivity but also a deeper understanding of other work cultures and alternative equal opportunity policies. In addition to a diversity and inclusion policy, an alternative equal opportunity policy is required to strengthen diversity because employees can spot biases in these rules.

#### **10. Lourdes Susaeta *et al.*, 2024**

This research study intends to examine the diversity management policies and practices of the four largest cruise companies. This subsector in the hospitality industry operates with one of the most diverse workforces. The study is based on an overview of the most common diversity management practices used by the leading hospitality companies, as well as a qualitative analysis of the diversity and inclusion policies and practices of the largest four cruise companies based on publicly available data. The overall findings of this study are that, although the companies claim commitment to diversity, there is a need for more structured metrics and initiatives.

#### **11. Labulle *et al.*, 2018**

The authors aim to validate the relevance of intersectionality as an analytical tool in a non-Anglo-Saxon/Scandinavian context and explore necessary adaptations for its effective application outside its original institutional setting.

The study provides empirical validation for intersectionality's relevance beyond the Anglo-American and Scandinavian context. It highlights the weaknesses of policy-oriented intersectional analysis as well as a new, locality-based approach that could be used in place of individual-focused analysis. Longitudinal field study interviews, ethnographic research, and verbatim-transcribed conversations that are subjected to qualitative coding form the basis of the study.

#### **Resource Allocation**

#### **12. Alexey Kalinin *et al.*, 2022**

This paper aims to outline a comprehensive review of the literature about HRM and TM practices in SOEs, following the evolution of the topic, paying attention to the most significant ideas to illustrate the findings, and combining the results to suggest areas for future research. Organized concepts and phenomena into discrete groups and gained an intersubjective understanding among coders by conducting a qualitative examination of a chosen number of articles, looking at each one to highlight the key ideas and contributions that would be coded independently and examined later. Through the review, it emphasizes cultural and institutional factors in determining the HRM practices of SOEs, challenges in the transferability of Western-style HRM approaches to SOEs, the role of political factors and government involvement in HRM decisions, and the emerging focus on managing diverse talents in SOEs. The review calls for further studies on the implications of diverse ownership structures of SOEs for their HRM and TM practices, on the interplay between social and business goals in shaping HRM in SOEs, and the application of qualitative and mixed-methods research to capture the



complexity of managing diverse talents in SOEs. The research findings are meant to stimulate further discussion on the topic and lay grounds for further research.

### 13. Debolina Dutta *et al.*, 2024

This article examines how organizations effectively involve the marginalized and underrepresented LGBTQ workforce to promote sustained cultural growth in diversity and inclusion via comprehensive policies and practices. The paper was split into two sections; it comprised a qualitative research design that included a single case study that demonstrated how HRM processes are properly conceived and delivered within an organization, and a validation of the findings with industry experts and recent publications by industry bodies. The study demonstrates the trend of inclusive policies. They are adopted at various phases of policy-led, institutionalized adoption, and cultural embedding, and they often start with a cisgender champion in the leadership.

### 14. Dagmar daubner *et al.*, 2017

The article conducts a literature review on talent management (TM) and diversity management (DM) to examine the paradox that arises when these two fields are considered simultaneously. The authors argue that applying a paradox lens can provide novel insights on the tensions between TM and DM, because the two fields reflect contradictory yet interrelated principles. The authors introduce the term "exclusion-inclusion paradox" since TM leads to exclusion by promoting a selected number of employees, as opposed to DM's goal, which is the promotion of the inclusion of every employee. The argument is that when the exclusion-inclusion paradox is revealed, organizational actors can then choose between an active response and a defensive response to the paradox, with the former being better than the latter.

The article concludes that a paradox lens when dovetailing TM and DM will bring out the continued contradictions between these two fields and promote a more nuanced understanding of how organizations can manage the exclusion-inclusion paradox. This would mean that TM practices will benefit from embracing the paradox perspective applied in DM.

### 15. Deniz Palalar Alkan *et al.*, 2024

This study explored how multinational corporations in Turkey, a developing nation with few equity frameworks and voluntarism-based diversity laws, manage individuals with disabilities. The exploratory character of the study, which aimed to explore how multinational corporations in a developing nation employ diversity management strategies to manage individuals with disabilities, led to the adoption of the abductive approach. The findings of the research suggest that the human resources departments of neoliberal multinational organizations have two drastically different views of individuals with impairments: (i) social exclusion and (ii) inclusivity as a result of legal demands. Without coercive regulation, voluntary acts will result in negative effects and often exclude people with impairments.

### 16. Rifat Kamasak, *et al.*, 2023

The study investigates the actual interest and trends in the use of Industry 4.0 technologies, such as AI, machine learning (ML), and natural language processing (NLP), for

EDI implementations through web analytics and big data analysis. The research utilizes web analytics methodology, SERP, based on the big data collected in the Google search engine. The results show high interest by users in the use of AI for EDI, especially in equality and diversity areas. On the other hand, other Industry 4.0 technologies such as ML and NLP for applications in EDI processes are still at the preliminary stage. The study suggests the need for further empirical investigations to better understand the actual adoption and implementation of Industry 4.0 technologies, beyond AI, in EDI interventions and practices.

### 17. Simran Khanuja *et al.*, 2022

The paper discusses an evaluation framework in terms of diversity, equity, and inclusion for evaluating NLP technologies. This paradigm is applied to assess the state of current NLP technologies for Indian languages, which represent a linguistically diverse and low-resource setting. The diversity of NLP technology is quantified based on the utility of the technology weighted by its demand across speaker populations. Finally, the authors introduce the Gini coefficient as a measure of performance disparity across languages. Efficiency, in terms of throughput and memory usage, is used to gauge the inclusion of NLP technologies in resource-constrained environments. The paper calls for representative evaluation datasets and discusses the trade-off between multilinguality and regionality in NLP technologies. Multi-faceted evaluation in the development of linguistically diverse and equitable technologies is called for by the authors.

### 18. Wudan Han *et al.*, 2023

In resource assignment, it will meet the attainment of fair Quality of Service (QoS) satisfaction levels for all users by considering their respective QoS requirements, channel conditions, and varying resource usage prices. Furthermore, in terms of an operational cost, it will attempt to enhance network EDI metrics. The problem of resource allocation is stated as a stochastic mixed-integer nonlinear nonconvex problem in this paper. The authors use Lyapunov theory to address this NP-hard problem by transforming it into a deterministic optimization problem and constructing a virtual queue of the Base Station's operating costs. The EDI-driven inclusive resource allocation strategy can adequately satisfy users' quality of service, attaining a greater average utility with less inequality and disparity. The study, therefore, presents great importance to consider the EDI principles in the resource allocation of future 6G networks to achieve equitable and representative services provision for all users.

### Training and Development

#### 19. Joyce Yen 2023

The intention of this article is to describe the history and development of the ADVANCE program for leadership at the University of Washington, which was specifically devised to empower department chairs with the knowledge, networks, and skills needed to become agents of change in the academic world. Thus, the program developed into nationwide workshop modules (LEAD), allowing institutions to carry out their on-site leadership workshops inspired by UW ADVANCE, and eventually into an online set of tools (LiY!). Each phase in the development of the model speaks to the credibility of the program and

increasing nature of its impact.

#### **20. Michelle Russen 2023**

Drawing on a critical constructionist lens, this review addresses how social norms have changed from the past to the present and shaped the meaning and work of DEI initiatives in research and at work in the hospitality organization. The review lays out that inclusion should be the starting point for organizations, then followed by equitable practices. This would lead to an organization having more diversity and diverse representation to be evident. New vision on how diversity, equity, and inclusion are positively correlated and were unknown previously. It suggests organizations must begin by building an inclusive climate and ensure equitable practices are in place, and thus diversity will come through enacted and espoused values. It further reveals some gaps in equity and inclusion research in the hospitality industry. The practical implications are that organizations should focus on creating an inclusive setting, assessing their IED reputation, and embedding IED across all their policies and procedures to encourage employees' feelings of belonging.

#### **21. Julita Majczyk 2022**

The objective of this research was to examine LDPs by the perspective of their owners within the frame of diversity management. The study employed a qualitative methodology wherein 26 in-depth interviews were conducted with active managers of LDPs. The data were analyzed reflexively, using thematic analysis, leading to three major themes: (1) "Leadership Development," which justifies handling diversity and diversity-related activities; (2) "Inclusion in Role," which addresses the perception of diversity in program recruitment; and (3) "Policy," which relates to the notion and understanding of common diversity actions at organizational level. The research provides insights and suggestions into how diversity is understood and suggests the advantages of the same within leadership development program.

#### **Employee Involvement**

#### **22. Wenny Desty Febrian 2024 <sup>[14]</sup>**

The research work aims to upgrade the workplace culture through involvement, talent management, and training and development. This research tries to explore human resource practices that work well to create a good culture in the workplace. The study has adopted a mixed-methods approach merging case studies with numbers while analyzing the effects of human resource strategies on workplace culture. On the other hand, to some extent, the study showcases improvement of employee engagement due to better talent management by increasing inclusion, motivation, and innovation into the organizational culture. Training and development should be the primary tools used to help employees improve their skills so they become open to cultural change. Conclusion: Human resource practices are a two-way effect on creating cultural changes. Research shows a place where the long-term effect and the use of technology in human resource practices is limited.

#### **23. Poppy Sofia Koeswayo 2024 <sup>[15]</sup>**

The study explores how corporate governance and internal control combined with corporate reputation influence employee engagement, using leadership style as the moderating factor. The research uses a quantitative

methodology and applies surveys and statistical analysis on data obtained from companies within different sectors. The results further reveal that robust corporate governance, adequate internal controls, and an effective corporate reputation have positive relationships with employee engagement. While the latter can be amplified or diminished by leadership style, depending on the context, this study concludes that alignment of leadership styles with organizational policies and culture is critical for maximizing employee engagement. The gap in discussing these industry-specific variations and the specific role of digital transformation in corporate governance and internal control as an area of future research is noted in the paper.

#### **24. Janina Myr  2022**

The paper seeks the impact of Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) on employer branding and whether it was a determinant factor in building an organization's reputation as a "Great Place to Work." A meaningful D&I initiative will help an organization to have a positive employer image, able to recruit diverse talent. In this study, a qualitative methodology is used with interviews and case studies of organizations recognized for D&I efforts. Findings D&I has positive impacts on employer branding through inclusive culture development, satisfaction, and attracting job seekers who are socially responsible. Conclusion The study concludes that having D&I as a part of core organizational value is necessary for achieving sustainable brand success in the process. However, to fill this gap in the area of research focused on the long-term impacts of D&I initiatives and their measures, future research work will have to strive on quantifying the direct impacts of D&I on organizational performance and employee retention.

#### **Communication Strategies**

#### **25. Mohamad Sud 2024**

The study aims to discover organizational culture and communication skills influences on the performance of administration in higher education institutions in East Java, identify interactions of those factors to improve efficiency and effectiveness of administration. Their research methodology was quantitative in nature where they carried out a survey of administrative staff and analyzed the outcome with statistical methods concerning their correlations and impacts. They discovered that an organizational culture is important to administrative performance as it is supportive to the work environment and actually enhances the execution of tasks and collaboration.

#### **26. Daniel Wolfgruber 2023**

The paper examines how internal communication contributes to diversities and inclusions or embracing an inclusive workplace. This study aims to indicate ways through which effective communication strategies can contribute to D&I initiatives and develop an inside sense of belonging. Adopting a qualitative methodology, it uses case studies, interviews, and content analysis to study the practices of companies known for their inclusive workplaces. Such findings suggest that transparent, consistent, and culturally sensitive internal communication contributes significantly to the success of D&I programs through awareness, reduction of bias, and cooperation. Study is that internal communication is an essential means through which inclusivity is anchored into organizational

culture.

### Dependent Variable

#### Promotion Orientation Practices and Processes

##### 27. Shoma Bakre 2024 <sup>[18]</sup>

This paper explores the impact of D&I on organizational performance. It focuses on how diverse teams lead to innovation and employee satisfaction and, consequently, business success. In this respect, the objective of this paper is to analyze the relationship of D&I practices with the possible outcome of organizational performance, gaining insight into just how inclusivity drives competitive advantage. This approach adopts a vast review of literature and case study analysis on organizations considered successful in the application of effective D&I strategy, enriched with statistical data that links performance measures such as productivity, innovation rates, and profitability. It concludes that D&I is indeed a strategic imperative for sustainable growth, although its effectiveness lies in leadership commitment and conducive organizational cultures.

##### 28. Michael P. Cary 2020

The paper reports on an action-oriented framework toward encouraging diversity and inclusion in nursing schools. In particular, the purpose of the paper is reporting practical strategies to implement D&I in nursing education while noting the important role it can play in preparation for production of culturally competent healthcare professionals. The development framework will be based on a mixed-methodology of literature review; analysis of institutional best practices; and feedback from nursing educators and students. Findings emphasize the role of leadership commitment, curriculum redesign with cultural competencies, mentorship programs, and the creation of safe spaces to dialogue on diversity-related issues. The paper concludes that having a proactive approach to D&I enhances educational outcomes and prepares nursing graduates who are empowered to effectively counter health disparities. One gap, however, is the lack of deep evaluation of the long-term outcome and hence longitudinal studies must be conducted in evaluating long-term implications that the D&I frameworks may pose on educational environments as well as professional practices.

##### 29. Chidozie Umeh 2023

The paper emphasize more the requirement for an approach that is sensitive to context in addressing specific concerns to cultural and ethnic diversity needs that equality, diversity, and inclusion create within multi-ethnic environments. The paper examines, to some extent, how the contextual factors, which are based on local norms of culture, historical inequality conditions, and socio-economic conditions, influence EDI programs at design and delivery stages. The method used is qualitative research, and it involved interviews and focus groups with relevant stakeholders across different organizational contexts; it is thus supplemented by case studies in selected multi-ethnic workplaces. Findings suggest that the generic EDI strategies adopted commonly fail in multi-ethnic settings because approaches should be fitted to specific cultural and institutional dynamics. Conclusion: Context-sensitive EDI practices engender inclusion, fair opportunity, teamwork, and productive workplace environments.

### Moderating Variable

#### Organizational Culture

##### 30. Chineye Gbemisola Okatta 2024 <sup>[22]</sup>

This is an integrative review paper that integrates all empirical studies found on the role of D&I initiatives in enhancing organizational performance. The paper assesses the relationship that D&I initiatives have with key performance indicators, including employee satisfaction, innovation, and profitability, and factors that would mediate or moderate these relationships. The applied methodology is systematic review and quantitative synthesis, using statistical tools for combining data from studies covering a range of industries and geographies. Findings show that, when D&I programs are undertaken well, there are strong positive effects on organization performance, especially when the commitment of leadership and inclusive organizational culture are robust. Overall conclusion drawn from the study: The success of D&I initiatives depends on the organizational context - organizational size, sector, and cultural environment.

One of the key gaps identified is that there is a lack of studies on the long-term effects of D&I initiatives, and how intersectionality affects results. This actually calls for the need to have more detailed and long-term research.

##### 31. Temitayo Oluwaseun Jejenia 2024

This paper looks at how diversity and inclusion practices are different in the USA and Nigeria. It considers the cultural, social, and economic factors that influence these initiatives at work. The aim is to study the similarities and differences in D&I methods in these two different places and understand how global best practices can be adapted locally. In their research, the authors employed comparative qualitative methodology to analyze policy documents, case studies about organizational behavior from both countries, and other literature. Findings: USA The USA uses legal rules and fairness-based policies to boost diversity at the workplace. Nigeria is highly driven and guided by cultural traditions, ethnicity, and other social and political factors. Taking the direct differences, effective strategies of diversity and inclusion will depend on what culture and institutions of each country entail. Much information about how diversity and inclusion practices work in Nigeria is scanty compared to current research. This implies a need for more direct research and fact-based views regarding the effects that these initiatives have on organizations in developing countries.

##### 32. Ferdy Leuhery 2024 <sup>[19]</sup>

The paper finds strategies for the effective implementation of D&I policies in workplaces and their effects on organizational culture. The core objective of the paper is an identification of actionable ways to build D&I strategies in organizational structures and mention benefits such as collaboration, innovation, and employee engagement. To this end, the methodology consists of a literature review, qualitative interviews, and case studies conducted on different organizations. Findings suggest that, for D&I at work to occur, leadership support from the top-down, as well as regular communication of D&I goals, integration of diversity metrics into performance evaluation systems, and having a regular training program, are integral. In conclusion, encouraging workplace culture to be inclusive yields concrete organizational benefits, such as boosting

employee morale and productivity. A key gap in this regard is that the focus has been on small and medium-sized enterprises, which only the strategies of larger corporations appear to fit, opening up an open window for research on scalable D&I models at a smaller organization scale.

33. Amy Corneli 2023

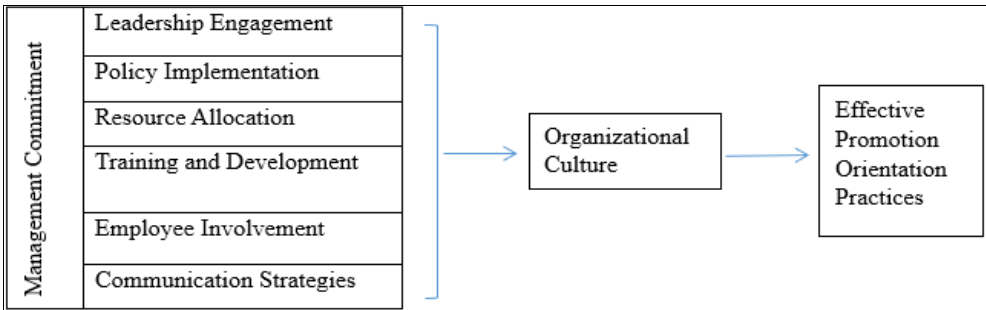
The paper studies Strategies to Increase Diversity and Inclusion in Clinical Trials: Redressing Marginalization and Health Disparities An introduction and discussion paper on issues of diversity and inclusion in clinical trials identifies barriers and suggests actionable strategies to make clinical research more inclusive of diverse groups. Literature review, policy analysis, case studies from existing clinical trials will be conducted with an interview of the stakeholders by understanding participants', investigators', and community leaders' opinions. Findings indicate that mistrust, logistical concerns, and cultural insensitivity related barriers limit diversification, whereas targeted outreach, community engagement, flexible trial designs, and good communication with clear transparency can improve this. In a nutshell, incisive inclusion in clinical research increases not only generalizability but also trust in health systems. A gap identified is that there is a paucity of longitudinal

evidence regarding the sustained impact of these strategies; therefore, more work needs to be done in assessing their long-term effectiveness and scalability.

34. frank d 2021

This chapter advances a Context-Levels-Culture (CLC) framework for the diagnosis of DEI challenges within organizations from a systems perspective. The framework underscores the need to consider both internal systems, policies, and procedures, and, crucially, external environment drivers, while carrying out DEI research and practice. It does provide for analysis at micro (individual), meso (team), and macro (organizational) levels, from which to derive an understanding of DEI dynamics and build interventions. Underlying norms, assumptions, and taken-for-granted beliefs, thus, constitute an essential but hitherto inadequately addressed area of the framework in relation to the creation, reinforcement, and perpetuation of DEI-related behaviors in the workplace. The framework is further amplified through a case example of a consulting engagement with a professional services firm struggling with DEI challenges.

Conceptual framework: Model



Model Development

Leadership Engagement impacts on Organisational culture

Sadeli (2012) <sup>[9]</sup> assert that leadership engagement greatly influences organizational culture by creating an environment in which collaboration, innovation, and employees' satisfaction are facilitated. According to Alateeg and Alhammadi (2021) <sup>[8]</sup>, leaders engaged in practice effectively contribute to shaping organizational culture by promoting strategic initiatives and fostering an innovation- and collaboration-friendly environment within the organization.

Policy Implementation Impact on Organizational culture

The study by Ludenyo and Shitseswa (2020) <sup>[6]</sup> demonstrates the effective implementation of human resource policies promotes organizational culture, which is vital for service delivery improvements and employee engagement. Olawale *et al.* (2023) <sup>[7]</sup> submits that implementation of sound policies, like remote work policies, positively influences organizational culture and enhances adaptability, inclusiveness, and greater employee satisfaction in a changing nature of the job.

Resource allocation moderates on Organizational culture

Lee (2021) <sup>[10]</sup> postures that appropriate resource allocation

considerably contributes to organizational culture by providing efficiency, transparency, and shared purpose in healthcare organizations. Khalayleh *et al.* (2022) <sup>[11]</sup> have focused on the fact that strategic resource allocation builds a positive organizational culture as it promotes digital transformation, supports innovation, and brings about adaptive work environment within the manufacturing sector.

Training and Development

Almarashdah (2021) <sup>[12]</sup> has mentioned that the positive influence of effective training and development programs indicates organisational culture through a learning culture and improving the skills of people within an organisation and shared commitment to the collective goals of the organisation. Azhari *et al.* (2022) <sup>[13]</sup> shows the influence of effective training and development initiatives on organizational culture through a culture of continuous improvement, enhancement in skills, and value alignment.

Employee Involvement

According to Febrian and Solihin (2023) <sup>[14]</sup>, employee involvement greatly improves the organizational culture due to collaboration, ownership, and stronger employee behavior in line with the organization's values. Employee involvement would promote organisational culture, according to Koeswayo *et al.* (2022) <sup>[15]</sup>. There is a need for developing such abilities with a sense of belonging



alongside being responsible and collaborative to improve the organisational values and practices.

### Communication Strategies

According to Sudi *et al.* (2023)<sup>[16]</sup>, effective communication strategies drive organizational culture because they bring about clarity, collaboration, and shared understanding of institutional goals for better overall performance. Hendriati *et al.* (2022) argue that good communication strategies positively impact organisational culture because they enhance transparency, trust and alignment with organizational objectives, which in turn leads to better employee engagement and retention.

### Analysis and Interpretation

#### Organisational Culture Promotion Orientation Practices and Processes

##### How does management's commitment to diversity and inclusion (D&I) influence promotion orientation practices and processes within organizations?

Managing diversity and inclusion (D&I) assures significant commitment to promotion orientation practices and processes in the organization. According to Okatta *et al.* (2023)<sup>[17]</sup>, it is only when leadership prioritizes D&I that equitable policies promoting meritocracy over biases can be guaranteed. This alignment with diversity goals ensures that talent development and progression reflect an inclusive organizational ethos and align with the betterment of morale and performance at work. According to Okatta *et al.* (2023)<sup>[17]</sup>, organizational commitment to D&I enhances the promotion processes by embedding fairness, transparency, and inclusivity into management practices. Management's commitment toward D&I has a wide-ranging impact on the practices and processes of promotion orientation in organizations. According to Bakre *et al.* (2022)<sup>[18]</sup>, D&I becomes the management priority since it leads to the construction of fair and open promotion practices. It is a step that assures valuation of diversified talent and advancement based on merit leading to higher organizational equity and reduced biases to achieve higher engagement and satisfaction. Bakre *et al.* (2022)<sup>[18]</sup> hold that proper D&I focus by management promotes the inclusiveness of the promotion practice aligned with the said organizational equity and performance.

##### What role does organizational culture play in moderating the relationship between management's commitment to D&I and promotion practices?

Organisational culture is an important mediator that may strengthen the link between commitments to D&I of management to promotion practices. Okatta *et al.* (2023)<sup>[17]</sup> argue that a culture of inclusivity, fairness, and meritocracy amplifies the impact of D&I initiatives by encoding these values in promotion policies and practices, thus fostering transparent promotion policies, reduces biases and provides fair channels of advancement that are aligned with organisational diversity goals. Okatta *et al.* (2023)<sup>[17]</sup> suggest that an inclusive organizational culture strengthens the promotion practices to be better aligned with D&I objectives, ensuring equity and fairness in the promotion process. Organizational culture is a significant moderator in the relationship between D&I commitment on the part of the management and organizational promotion practices. According to Leuhery *et al.* (2023)<sup>[19]</sup>, a genuine culture of

inclusion creates fair promotion practices by incorporating D&I values into daily organisational practices. This enables the promotion process to be transparent, fair, and non-discriminatory as talent development and retention can be achieved in such an environment. An inclusive organizational culture, according to Leuhery *et al.* (2023)<sup>[19]</sup>, strengthens management D&I commitment by ensuring that their promotion practices are fair and just.

##### How do employee perceptions of fairness mediate the impact of management's commitment to D&I on promotion decisions and processes?

Perceptions of fairness among the employees serve as intervening variables between the commitment of management towards D&I and the processes and decisions involving promotions, ensuring that the emotions of employees are acknowledged and dealt with fairly. According to Kim (2024)<sup>[20]</sup>, "when a more authentic commitment to D&I is perceived by management, employees are more likely to evaluate relevant organizational practice as fair, specifically related to promotion-related decisions." These perceptions are therefore very important to genuinely influence the trust and confidence within the system. This will consequently promote inclusivity and remit specific biases or discriminatory challenges that may result from promotion. Kim (2024)<sup>[20]</sup> also notes that "perceived fairness serves as the connection between diversity and inclusion practices and equitable promotion practice, resulting in enhanced employee trust and organizational coherence." Gund and Swaroop (2023)<sup>[21]</sup> argue that employee perceptions of fairness are the direct mediator between managerial commitment to D&I and the policies and practices surrounding promotion. The planned activities of management, through which it actively pursues D&I, influence employees' perceptions of fairness; these are supposed to influence employees' assessments of whether the promotion system is legitimate. Such explanations make it possible for an employee to view the promotion decision as just, thereby alleviating them of discontent originating from prejudices and fostering an organizational culture of more abundant trust and inclusion. According to Gund and Swaroop (2023)<sup>[21]</sup>, "employees' perceptions of fair

### Social Identity Theory in DEI

The Social Identity Theory, or SIT, as defined in the previous contexts, is central in explaining how employees understand as well as respond to, issues of DEI within the organizations. Ruth Sessler Bernstein's study posits that social identity groups determine psychological outcomes for interventions that aim to achieve DEI. The way people view the implementation of DEI strategies influences the level of acceptance they may have for the agenda going forward. For example, while some channels may be operative in portraying an inclusive atmosphere, such attempts may be met with resistance as employees may feel that such attempts lead to exclusion or even favoritism. This means that there is a need for DEI systems which not only address prior injustices and inequalities but also promote reconciliation within all the groups. Torrence E. Sparkman claims that "SIT theorizes that such DEI practices and initiatives that deliberately or unintentionally privilege one group's identity over the others will unearth pre-existing conflicts of interest in diversity and inclusion and widen the

perception of distributive injustice and weaken organization identity and solidarity.” Wolbring in his scoping review also advances this statement that there are complexities in the emphasis of efforts focusing on the approach of power system on the EDI frameworks interaction with the focus of

social identity.

### **A table showing global perspectives of Management Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion on Perceptions of Fairness in Promotion Practices**

No.	Global Perspective	Research Paper 1	Research Paper 2
1	North America (USA)	Adeniyi, A. O., <i>et al.</i> (2024). Gender equality initiatives in USA have played a crucial role in the fair treatment of people and systematic HR practices emphasizing gender equality disparities especially within leadership groups.	Jejenywa, T. O., <i>et al.</i> (2024). Perceptions of fairness within the USA are supportive through sound judicial frameworks combined with policies of the workplace, therefore, ensuring fair promotion practices among all employees
2	Europe (Portugal)	Pinho, M. 2024. Management's D&I efforts influence judgments of psychological safety and perception of fairness. Inclusivity and transparent promotion choices occur in promotion decisions	Silva, M. E. 2024. Europe-based supplier diversity metrics suggest that management's commitment to D&I associated with greater organizational fairness perceptions extends from internal to external partnerships and procurement processes
3	Asia (India)	Jha, I. N., <i>et al.</i> 2024. Impact of the influence of inclusive leadership on fairness in promotional opportunities within Indian IT firms: importance when workers attribute perceptions of being purely merit-based and underpinned by more formidable D&I policies	Ambarwati, R., <i>et al.</i> 2024. D&I practice management in the province of South Kalimantan of Indonesia enhances fairness through inclusive career advancement opportunities, especially in government sectors.
4	Africa (South Africa)	Daya, P., & April, K. (2024). South African organizations leverage D&I initiatives to address systemic inequalities, with fairness perceptions improving through targeted leadership training and policy revisions.	Adeniyi, A. O., <i>et al.</i> (2024). African practices highlight the challenges of achieving fairness in promotion due to socio-economic disparities; however, management commitment has led to incremental progress in reducing biases.
5	Australia	Dawson, N. E. A., <i>et al.</i> (2024). Australian employees perceive fairness in promotions when D&I initiatives are employee-centered, addressing both inclusion and exclusion dynamics effectively.	Wilson, J. D., & Chen, Y. J. (2024) <sup>[4]</sup> . Accountability mechanisms implemented in Australian organizations strengthen employees' trust in equitable promotion processes, underscoring management's commitment to D&I.
6	Middle East (UAE)	Jha, I. N., <i>et al.</i> (2024). The role of inclusive leadership in UAE firms fosters fairness, particularly in multinational corporations where D&I practices align with global standards.	Martinez, E. F., & Robinson, P. Q. (2024) <sup>[5]</sup> . Employee involvement in UAE's D&I initiatives significantly enhances perceptions of fairness, with management adopting participative approaches to decision-making.
7	Latin America (Brazil)	Silva, M. E. (2024). Brazilian organizations improve perceptions of fairness in promotions through supplier diversity metrics, indicating broader applications of D&I principles beyond internal HR practices.	Martinez, E. F., & Robinson, P. Q. (2024) <sup>[5]</sup> . Inclusive leadership in Brazil ensures fairness in promotion decisions, particularly in addressing gender and racial disparities through organizational justice frameworks.
8	Asia (Indonesia)	Faruk (2024). Inclusive HR practices in Indonesia's private sector lead to perceptions of fairness in promotions, particularly through policies that actively engage underrepresented groups.	Ambarwati, R., <i>et al.</i> (2024). Governmental initiatives in Indonesia focus on fairness by implementing measurable D&I policies, creating opportunities for historically marginalized employees.
9	Africa (Nigeria)	Jejenywa, T. O., <i>et al.</i> (2024). In Nigeria, traditional biases remain a challenge; however, management's commitment to D&I has improved perceptions of fairness in promotions, particularly for gender inclusivity.	Adeniyi, A. O., <i>et al.</i> (2024). Nigerian organizations adopting global D&I practices report gradual improvements in employee perceptions of fairness, particularly in multinational firms operating within the region.
10	Europe (France)	Silva, M. E. (2024). French organizations leveraging supplier diversity metrics contribute to improved perceptions of fairness in HR practices, promoting inclusivity in career advancements.	Wilson, J. D., & Chen, Y. J. (2024) <sup>[4]</sup> . Accountability in D&I frameworks within French firms ensures fairness in promotion practices, addressing employee concerns regarding transparency and equity.

### **Challenges**

Often, gender inequities form the starting point from which people draw conceptions of fairness and commitment within various organizational contexts. The absence of psychological safety intensifies the difficulties associated with achieving equity within organizations. Pinho (2024) identifies that leaders frequently encounter obstacles when attempting to adopt inclusive methodologies that reconcile organizational justice with the distinct needs of individual employees. According to Jha, Pal, and Sarkar (2024a), subtle biases, particularly those aimed at minority populations, persist as significant barriers to inclusive practices, especially affecting Asian workers. Kim (2024) <sup>[20]</sup> highlights that the challenges in quantifying diversity, equity, and inclusion within supplier networks obstruct advancement in these areas. Silva (2024) notes that disparities in cultural interpretations of equality complicate

the establishment of standardized diversity and inclusion policies across various regions, including the USA, Africa, and Asia. discuss that inconsistent application of diversity and inclusion strategies results in inequities and discontent among the workforce.

### **New practices Global perspectives**

Psychological Safety Frameworks Organizations are developing frameworks for psychological safety, thereby increasing affective commitment among both men and women. 2024: A study with Pinho Inclusive Leadership Training Learning programs for leaders that help create an inclusive workplace and deliver greater justice perceptions. Jha, Pal, & Sarkar 2024b Strategic HR practices for Equality: Practices in hiring, training, and promotion as part of addressing HR departments' inclusions to counteract bias. Faruk, 2024 Scale Development to Measure DEI Impact

Develop empirically valid scales that could measure the effects of DEI initiatives, most importantly in supply relationships. Silva, 2024 Cross-Cultural Comparisons Comparing D&I approaches across cultures can help in tailoring various strategies to cultural differences, for example, comparative studies between USA and Nigeria or South Africa. Jejenywa *et al.* (2024); Daya & April (2024) Employee-Centric Inclusive Efforts Focus on the understanding of employee motivation towards engagement with inclusion efforts, which leads to greater commitment Dawson *et al.* (2024)

## Conclusion

The organizations need to build a transparent and inclusive promotion framework which is not only compatible to D&I organization goals but also emphasize on meritocracy and fairness. Start personalized Inclusive Leadership programs, which would help in sensitizing leaders with D & I principles, thus creating a fair decision making system. Establishing frameworks for psychological safety that increase individual levels of trust and commitment among employees from a variety of backgrounds Develop employee-centric D&I initiatives to drive motivation and participation in inclusion efforts, to enhance the commitment to the cause.

This study extends the D&I literature by offering a theoretical framework that connects management commitment to D&I with the fairness of promotion. Finally, it highlights the importance of organizational culture as a moderator and employee perceptions of fairness as a mediator in this relationship.

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