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Research Articles

The Effect of Workload and Stress on Work Productivity in Nurses at Sabah Al Ahmad Urology Center Kuwait

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Abstract

Background: Nursing is a profession that receives a lot of pressure and has an extreme workload that can cause stress and reduce work productivity due to the heavy tasks that nurses have to perform, which in turn can result in considerable work-related tension. This is especially relevant during the current period of uncertainty that has emerged as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Objective : Toevaluate the effect of workload and stress on the work productivity of nurses. In a complex healthcare environment, nurses often face high workload demands and significant stress levels, which can affect their productivity.

Methods: This research method uses a quantitative approach with a Cross Sectional research design. Data was collected through a questionnaire given to a sample of nurses working in hospitals. This questionnaire includes a measurement scale to measure the nurse's workload level, stress level, and work productivity level. Data analysis was carried out using SEM PLS.

Results: The results of the analysis showed that there was no significant relationship between workload and nurse work productivity (p value 0.194 > 0.05) and there was a significant relationship between work stress and nurse work productivity (p value 0.0000 < 0.05). The higher the level of workload experienced by nurses, the higher the level of stress they experience, and the lower their work productivity. The implication of this study is the importance of effective workload management and stress management in an effort to increase the work productivity of nurses.

Conclusion: There is a significant relationship between work stress and nurse work productivity in SAUC. This means that the work stress felt by nurses at SAUC affects the work productivity of nurses at SAUC, when the level of stress experienced by nurses at SAUC is getting higher, it will cause a decrease in the work productivity of nurses at SAUC.

Keywords: Workload; Stress; Work Productivity; Nursing; Healthcare Management



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INTRODUCTION

A hospital is an institution that provides medical services and requires a large number of Human Resources (HR). Nurses are the largest group of healthcare workers working in hospitals. The proportion of nursing staff amounted to 40 percent of the number of other health workers. Its role and function are very influential in medical service efforts in hospitals (1).

Nursing is a profession that gets a lot of pressure and has an extreme workload that can cause stress and reduce work productivity. The discussion related to the workload in the nursing profession is an interesting topic because of the strenuous tasks that nurses have to perform, which in turn can result in considerable work-related tensions. This is especially relevant during the current period of uncertainty that has emerged as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Workload is a phenomenon that arises as a result of the interaction between various tasks and the work environment, competencies, attitudes, and perceptions of workers. In the nursing profession, workload occurs when the requirements for the quality and quantity of work exceed the sole capacity of a nurse. Quantity is related to the number of tasks that a nurse must perform, while quality concerns tasks that require special skills. Heavy workloads can stimulate the emergence of emotional responses among nurses, potentially disrupting their efficacy. The excessive work demands faced by nurses can generate work-related psychological stress (2).

According to the law on Consumer Protection in Indonesia, specifically Law Number 8 of 1999, nurses must have the ability to provide high-quality services that are in line with the established standards. To maintain professionalism, nurses are required to provide services to patients. Given their role as healthcare providers, nurses are entrusted with many responsibilities. This can be inferred from the number of patient visits and the number of nurses on duty in the hospital. As stipulated in Permenkes No. 56 of 2014, the ratio of nurses to patients is 1:2. Failure to maintain a proportionality between the number of tasks and physical abilities, skills, and time needed to perform them can lead to the emergence of work-related stress (3).

The concept of work productivity is related to the act of producing commodities or services that show an increase in both caliber and quantity over time (4). Maintaining quality work productivity requires qualified personnel. Many factors affect labor productivity, including human, material, mechanical and method factors (Martono, 2019); motivation factors and work stress (5); organizational communication, competence, and work commitment also affect work productivity (6). Other factors include: environment, work stress and work culture (7,8).

In addition, it has been affirmed by Wahyudi and Gunarto (2019) that factors such as motivation, workload, and leadership have a significant influence of 80.63% on work productivity (9). In line with that, Sutrisno et al (2019) have shown that discipline and work motivation have a considerable impact of 56.2% on employee productivity (10). In addition, Ali et al. (2019) have confirmed that work design is also a determining factor in nurse productivity (11).

Achieving high levels of productivity in the workplace provides an advantageous position for organizations in terms of their continuity. Productive employees have a positive mindset and work towards the advancement of the organization they are affiliated with. The issue of productivity is critical for leaders, as it allows them to design long-term strategic plans for the growth and improvement of healthcare, particularly nursing services.

Measuring nurse productivity in the context of hospital services is a diverse task, given the complexity of their roles. In accordance with Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 38 of 2014, there are four different forms of productivity that apply to nurses, including: 1) nursing care managers, 2) counseling providers, 3) nursing service managers, and 4) researchers.

Sabah Al Ahmad Urology Center (SAUC) is a Kuwaiti government-owned hospital that provides tertiary services in the field of urology. During the Covid-19 pandemic, SAUC underwent a change in service management to a primary service that no longer focuses on the field of urology, but also accepts other medical services that are not related to gynecology. This can be seen from the conversion of several rooms into general surgical treatment rooms, even into treatment rooms for Covid 19 patients. As a result, since October 2020 there has been an increase in the number of patients received by around 90%, but it is not accompanied by an increase in the number of SAUC health workers. This results in an increased workload that can cause stress for health workers, especially nurses at SAUC. Based on a preliminary study by conducting interviews with the Head Nurse and Director of Nursing (Matron) of SAUC on January 22, 2021, observations have been made in this study revealing that the workload of nurses in the inpatient room is disproportionate to the number of available nurses. As a result, nurses experience excessive workload due to the lack of nurses on duty in the inpatient room. Matron has also received reports showing a 30% increase in the absence of nurses due to illness since the change of function. It is therefore evident that if a large number of nurses are absent, it will lead to a decrease in nurse productivity, which will further result in a decrease in the performance and quality of nursing care provided to patients.

METHOD

This study is a quantitative study that uses a scientific approach to how workload and stress affect the work productivity of nurses working at Sabah Al Ahmad Urology Center Kuwait. The data from all research variables obtained through interviews and questionnaires are then processed in the form of numbers.

This study was conducted using an analytical descriptive method using a cross-sectional study design. The data in the form of numbers was then analyzed and processed statistically using the SPSS program series 26 and data analysis using SEM (Smart PLS series 3.2.7).

The population in this study is 201 nurses who work at the Sabah Al ahmad Urology Center spread across several rooms, including Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4, Operation Theater and ICU. A group of individuals selected using the sampling method is referred to as a sample in the population.

RESULT

The following are the results of a study on the effect of workload and stress on the productivity of nurses at Sabah Al Ahmad Urology Center Kuwait.

Table 1. Overview of Characteristics of Nurse Respondents (n=74)					
It		Characteristic	Frequency	%	
1	Age	< 30 Years	16	22	
	_	30 – 50 Years	57	77	
	_	> 50 Years	1	1	
2	Gender	Male	43	58	
		Woman	31	42	
3	Citizen	Indonesian	22	30	
		Kuwaity	4	5	
		Philippines	6	8	
		Indian	30	41	
		Egyption	7	9	
		Others	5	7	
4	Marital Status	Unmarried	16	22	
		Marry	58	78	
	_	Divorce	0	0	
5	Education	D-3	26	35	
	_	S1	38	51	
		S2	10	14	
	_	S3	0	0	
6	Employment	МОН	53	72	
	Status	MOH Helmet	21	28	
7	Work Area	Ward 1	11	15	
		Ward 2	9	12	
		Ward 3	15	20	
		Ward 4	27	36	
		ICU	8	11	
	_	ОК	4	5	
8	Length of Work	Less than 1 year	6	8	
	č _	1-5 years	10	14	
		6_{-10} years	17	23	
		0-10 years	1 /	25	

Based on Table 1, the majority of respondents were aged 30-50 years old (77%), male (55%), Indian citizens (41%), married (78%), S1 education level (51%), Ward 4 work area (36%). And the working period is more than 10 years (55%).

Data Findings and Data Analysis

Based on the Research Objectives and the Methodology Chapter, the initial model of PLS in this case is as follows:



Picture1. PLS Early Models

Based on the diagram above, the structural model in this study has 1 model in it, namely: Model of the influence of workload, stress, work productivity. So, productivity is endogenous as a latent variable, while workload, stress, is an exogenous latent variable. The latent constructs or variables in this structural equation include: workload, stress, and work productivity. Each of these latent variables has an indicator or variable manifest in it.

Table 2. Outer Loading Value					
	X1	X2	Y		
	Workload	Stress	Work Productivity		
X1.1	-0.143				
X1.2	0.004				
X1.3	0.239				
X1.4	0.596				
X1.5	0.274				
X1.6	0.516				
X1.7	0.611				
X1.8	0.385				
X1.9	0.166				
X2.1		0.200			
X2.10		0.567			
X2.11		0.467			
X2.12		0.614			
X2.13		0.488			
X2.14		0.635			
X2.15		0.470			
X2.16		0.523			
X2.17		0.716			
X2.18		0.826			
X2.19		0.843			

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X2.2	0.293
X2.20	0.777
X2.21	0.840
X2.22	0.796
X2.23	0.750
X2.24	0.822
X2.25	0.769
X2.26	0.860
X2.27	0.787
X2.28	0.883
X2.29	0.797
X2.3	0.166
X2.30	0.847
X2.31	0.848
X2.32	0.775
X2.4	0.355
X2.5	0.312
X2.6	0.222
X2.7	0.240
X2.8	0.519
X2.9	0.699
Y1	0.565
Y10	0.699
Y11	0.534
Y12	0.445
Y13	0.654
Y14	0.647
Y15	0.745
Y16	0.106
Y17	0.628
Y18	0.737
Y19	0.695
Y2	0.582
Y20	0.546
Y21	0.330
¥3	0.626
Y4	0.501
Y5	0.555
Y6	0.615

The purpose of assessing the reliability of indicators is related to determining the dependence of measurement indicators on latent variables. The way to achieve this is to examine the external loading results generated from each indicator. Loading values that exceed 0.7 indicates that the constructed under consideration has the potential to account for more than 50% of the variance seen in their respective indicators (12).

0.579

0.564

0.600

Y7

Y8

¥9

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From Table 2, the outer loading value above can be seen that all items or indicators of the outer loading value have > 0.7 which means > 0.7 which means that it is valid. So based on the validity of the outer loading, it is stated that some indicators < 0.7, the Outer Loading value limit > 0.5 is still acceptable as long as the validity and reliability of the construct meet the requirements. So based on the validity of the outer loading, it is stated that some indicators are invalid in terms of convergent validity, for example in the X1.1, X2.1, X2.2 and other constructs, then the next step is to delete the items that < 0.6. So it is necessary to re-analyze by deleting invalid items. Here is a more detailed explanation:

	Table 3. Second Stage Outer Loading Value							
	X1	X2	Y					
	Workload	Stress	Work Productivity					
X1.4	0.769							
X1.6	0.717							
X1.7	0.711							
X2.12		0.637						
X2.14		0.668						
X2.17		0.744						
X2.18		0.825						
X2.19		0.840						
X2.20		0.779						
X2.21		0.824						
X2.22		0.813						
X2.23		0.757						
X2.24		0.809						
X2.25		0.790						
X2.26		0.858						
X2.27		0.786						
X2.28		0.882						
X2.29		0.795						
X2.30		0.849						
X2.31		0.849						
X2.32		0.785						
X2.9		0.700						
Y10			0.718					
Y15			0.727					
Y17			0.619					
Y18			0.839					
Y19			0.694					
Y6			0.691					
Y9			0.788					

From table 3 above, the outer loading value above can be seen that all items or indicators have > the outer loading value to 0.7 (Marked in green which means > 0.7 which means it is valid. The Outer Loading value limit > 0.5 is still acceptable as long as the validity and reliability of the construct are met. So based on the validity of the outer loading, it is stated that all indicators have been valid in convergent validity.

So the next step is to examine whether there is multicollinearity at the outer model level. The result is based on the VIF Outer Model values in the table below:

Table 4. Values of VIF Outer Model				
	VIF			
X1.4	1.068			
X1.6	1.645			
X1.7	1.580			
X2.12	3.753			
X2.14	4.091			
X2.17	4.370			
X2.18	6.302			
X2.19	4.354			
X2.20	5.215			
X2.21	5.958			
X2.22	6.567			
X2.23	3.893			
X2.24	5.968			
X2.25	3.771			
X2.26	4.851			
X2.27	5.912			
X2.28	8.215			
X2.29	3.428			
X2.30	5.999			
X2.31	5.463			
X2.32	3.735			
X2.9	3.073			
Y10	1.625			
Y15	1.948			
Y17	1.865			
Y18	2.662			
Y19	1.648			
Y6	1.489			
¥9	1.922			

Table 4, pictured above, illustrates that no indicator shows the value of the VIF model exceeds 5, or even 10. So, if the VIF value exceeds 10, the multicollinearity problem arises at the outer model level. This phenomenon is caused by a significant correlation between variable indicators. Given the absence of a VIF indicator exceeding 10, there is no multicollinearity problem at the outer model level.

The next step is to conduct an analysis of Contruct Reliability. Contruct Reliability is a measure of the reliability of latent variable constructs. The value that is considered reliable must be above 0.70. Construct reliability is the same as cronbach alpha.

	Cronbach's Alpha	rhoA	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
X1	0.606	0.600	0.776	0.537
Workload				
X2	0.967	0.974	0.969	0.626
Stress				
Y	0.856	0.869	0.887	0.530
Work				
Productivity				
Taken from the Outer	Stage data			

 Table 5. Construct reliability

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Internal Consistency Reliability Internal Consistency Reliability Assessment of latent construct ability to be measured by indicators is an important task (13). The evaluation of this ability was carried out through the use of two tools, namely composite reliability and Cronbach's alpha. A composite reliability value between 0.6 and 0.7 is considered a good indication of reliability (14). In addition, for Cronbach alpha, the expected value is above 0.6 (15).

Based on table 5 above, it can be seen that all constructs have a value of Cronbach's Alpha > 0.6 and even all of them, so it can be said that all of these constructs are reliable. For example, Cronbach's Alpha of the latent variable (Workload of 0.606 > 0.6 then (workload) is reliable.

Next, a Unidimensionality Model Analysis is an important aspect of the measurement that seeks to ensure that no problems arise. This is achieved through the application of composite reliability indicators and cronbach alpha in the undimensionality test. It is important to note that both indicators have a cut value of 0.7. As shown in the table above, all constructions have successfully qualified for unidimensionality due to the fact that their composite reliability value exceeds 0.7. For example, the Latent variable Workload (X1) with a composite reliability of 0.776 > 0.7 can be considered reliable.

Convergent validity, a concept that relies on the principle that the size of a construct must be highly correlated, is an important factor in determining the validity of a construct (15). Reflective indicators, in particular, are evaluated using Average Variance Extracted (AVE) to determine convergent validity. The AVE value must be equal to or greater than 0.5. In essence, an AVE value of 0.5 or more indicates that a construction can account for at least 50% of the variance of its items (16).

Based on the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) criteria to assess convergent validity, all constructions show convergent validity because the AVE value exceeds the threshold of 0.50. Specifically, the working benan latent variable (X1) indicates convergent validity because the AVE value of 0.537 exceeds the specified threshold.

Validity of discrimination is an important analytical tool to ensure the accuracy of reflective indicators in measuring appropriate construction. It is based on the basic principle that each indicator should show a high correlation with its respective construction separately. Conversely, different construction sizes should not show a high correlation (15). In the SmartPLS 3.2.7 application, the evaluation of the validity of discrimination requires the use of cross-loading, Fornell-Larcker Criteria, and Heterotrait-Monotraite (HTMT) values (17).

The purpose of the validity of discrimination is to evaluate the extent to which the original latent construction differs from other constructions. When the validity value of the discrimination is high, it indicates that the construct is singular and is capable of explaining the phenomenon being measured. The validity of the construct can be confirmed by comparing the root value of the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) using the Fornell-Larcker Criterion with the latent variable correlation value. The root value of AVE must be greater than the correlation between the latent variables.

To evaluate the validity of discrimination, one can make use of the Fornell Larcker Criterion, a conventional technique that has been used for more than three decades. This method involves comparing the square root of the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) of each construction with the correlation between other constructions in the model (18). If the square root value of AVE for each construct exceeds the correlation value between the construction and other constructions in the model, then the model is considered to have a commendable value of discriminatory validity (19).

Table 6. Discriminant validity				
	X1	X2	Y	
	Workload	Stress	Work Productivity	
X1 Workload	0.733			
X2 Stress	-0.005	0.792		
Y Work Productivity	0.201	0.528	0.728	

Taken from the Outer Stage data

Based on table 6 above, all the roots of the AVE (Fornell-Larcker Criterion) of each construct are greater than their correlation with other variables. For example, Workload (X1): the AVE value is 0.537 then the AVE Root is 0.733. The assessment of the cross-loading value of each construct is essential to ensure that the correlation of the construct with the measurement item exceeds that of the other construction. It is estimated that the cross-loading value will be higher than 0.7 (15).

Cross-loading is a method to determine the validity of discrimination by evaluating the value of cross loading. This approach entails comparing the loading value of each item to the construction that corresponds to its cross-loading value. Identifying a loading value greater than its cross-loading value signifies the validity of the discrimination. The next table presents the results of cross loading.

Table 7. Cross Loading						
	X1	X2	Y			
	Workload	Stress	Work Productivity			
X1.4	0.769	0.055	0.189			
X1.6	0.717	-0.135	0.090			
X1.7	0.711	0.001	0.130			
X2.12	-0.025	0.637	0.181			
X2.14	-0.055	0.668	0.256			
X2.17	-0.113	0.744	0.221			
X2.18	0.086	0.825	0.419			
X2.19	0.037	0.840	0.507			
X2.20	0.057	0.779	0.377			
X2.21	0.036	0.824	0.497			
X2.22	0.002	0.813	0.337			
X2.23	-0.113	0.757	0.351			
X2.24	-0.022	0.809	0.461			
X2.25	-0.054	0.790	0.419			
X2.26	-0.084	0.858	0.435			
X2.27	-0.108	0.786	0.354			
X2.28	-0.119	0.882	0.488			
X2.29	0.083	0.795	0.533			
X2.30	0.023	0.849	0.480			
X2.31	0.021	0.849	0.488			
X2.32	0.133	0.785	0.444			
X2.9	-0.011	0.700	0.337			
Y10	0.032	0.377	0.718			
Y15	0.290	0.238	0.727			
Y17	0.191	0.082	0.619			
Y18	0.127	0.437	0.839			
Y19	0.285	0.287	0.694			
Y6	0.131	0.514	0.691			
¥9	0.060	0.493	0.788			

Taken from the Outer Stage data.

From the data presented in Table 7, it is evident that all loading indicators show values that exceed their cross loading corresponding to the construction. To illustrate, in the case of workload construction (X1), the loading value of all its indicators is greater than all its cross loading to other constructions. Specifically, for the X1.4 indicator, the loading value is 0.769, which is greater than the cross loading to other constructions, namely 0.055 to stress (X2) and 0.189 to Work productivity (Y). This pattern was also observed for all other items, where the value of loading into the construction exceeded the value of cross loading to other constructions. Given that the value of its loading indicator against the construct is greater than its crossload, the model meets the requirements for discriminatory validity.

DISCUSSION

After being explained in detail in the outer and inner model stages above, the summary shows that all the p values of the indicators to the latent variables are less than 0.05 so that all indicators are declared valid and reliable for their construction.

Effect of Workload on Work Productivity

Based on the hypothesis testing conducted in this study, it was determined that the workload had a negative and insignificant impact on work productivity, with a P value of 0.194, which was greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This finding is congruent with the test results of Yanna Dwi Saptarani et al. (2022), which revealed that the value of the p path coefficient of 0.108, is also greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates that workload has no direct effect on work productivity (20). This is in line with the theoretical perspective of Laeham and Wexley (1982), who affirmed that work productivity is not only about achieving as much work as possible, but rather prioritizing the quality of work performed (21). Expressed differently, an individual's work productivity is determined by how effectively they carry out their work, rather than the number of jobs assigned to them. Therefore, it can be argued that excessive workload does not necessarily lead to a decrease in work productivity.

The Effect of Work Stress on Work Productivity

Based on the hypothesis testing conducted in this study, it was found that work stress has a positive and significant impact on work productivity. In particular, the work stress experienced by the staff at the Sabah Al Ahmad Urology Center turned out to affect the work productivity of the nurses at the center, as evidenced by the P value obtained of 0.000, which is less than the alpha of 0.05. These results show that the increase in stress levels experienced by nurses in SAUC will result in a decrease in nurse productivity in SAUC. The results of this study are in accordance with research conducted (22). The p-value between work stress and work productivity is 0.011, and the r-value is -0.422. Therefore, this study reveals a correlation between work stress and nurses' work productivity. According to the results of Tawarka's research (2019), work stress is one of the factors that have an impact on work productivity (23). Work stress has the potential to affect a person's emotions, mental state, and daily behavior, leading to a lack of clear and effective thinking due to impaired rational and reasoning abilities. Such incidents have a direct influence on work performance and productivity (24). Work stress arises due to the demands of work that can cause stress. It is a state of tension that gives rise to an impactful physical and psychological imbalance.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

There was no significant relationship between workload and nurse work productivity. This means that the workload owned by nurses at SAUC does not have a major impact on the productivity of nurses at SAUC.

There is a significant relationship between work stress and nurse work productivity at SAUC. This means that the work stress felt by nurses at SAUC affects the work productivity of nurses at SAUC, when the level of stress experienced by nurses at SAUC is getting higher, it will cause a decrease in the work productivity of nurses at SAUC.

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