Impact of Employee Participation on Job Satisfaction, Employee Fairness Perception and Organizational Commitment: A Case of Nepalese Commercial Banks

Achyut Gyawali¹

Abstract

Bank is one of the major institutions in the financial sector of any economy. Banking sector plays a vital role as a financial intermediary in the economic development of the country. Among those factors, impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment, is also considered as one of the most important factors that improves the performance of commercial banks. This study deals with the fundamental issues associated with the impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment of commercial banks of Nepal. In selecting the most reliable and representative samples, stratified sampling techniques was used. The population of the commercial banks was stratified as joint ventures, non-joint ventures and public banks. 15 commercial banks were selected as the sample. The total number of observations used for this study is 200 which include 70 observations from the joint venture banks, 110 observations from the non-joint venture banks and 20 observations from the public banks. Impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment have positive significant relation. Among all three determinants organizational commitment is more influenced by employee participation as it has highest correlation coefficient. Most of the surveyed employees agreed that management gives recognition for job performance and they are satisfied with the freedom in work; every employee has opportunity to get promotion in bank, and they are willing to put in a great deal of effort beyond expected in order to help the organization to be successful.

Key words: Employee participation, Job satisfaction, Employee fairness perception and organizational commitment

Introduction

Bank is one of the major institutions in the financial sector of any economy. Banking sector plays a vital role as a financial intermediary in the economic development of the country. Among those factors, impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment, also considered as one of the most important factors that improves the performance of commercial banks. Employee participation is considered as a critical success factor for organizations because it enhances employee retention, increases productivity, reduces turnover, enhances loyalty, improves teamwork and

¹ Associate Professor, Central Department of Management, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

ultimately increases the financial performance of commercial banks (Hussain, 2010). If rules are applied fairly and consistently to all employees and if they are rewarded based on their performance and merit, then employees will perceive the evaluation process as fair. This will lead to higher organizational commitment. However, if employees perceive organizational procedures as unfair, they may take destructive actions which may lead to reduced organizational commitment. Unfair procedures will cause a reduction in organizational commitment even when an employee is satisfied with the outcome. On the other hand, employees may be dissatisfied with their outcomes, yet remain committed to an organization if they perceive procedures for their unattained outcomes to be fair (Tang and Sarsfield-Baldwin, 1996). Positive association between job satisfaction and organizational commitment is strongest for affective commitment (Mathieu and Zajac, 1990). Employees who are satisfied with their jobs may develop emotional attachments (high affective commitment) to their organizations. Participation helps management to decide in selecting the courses of action in enterprise. It gives the employee an opportunity to express their viewpoints about action. Participating in goal setting, the employees can play a vital role in achieving business target. Participation typically brings higher output and a better quality of output. It tends to improve motivation because employees feel more accepted and involved in the situation. Turnover and absences may be reduced if the employees feel that they have a better place to work (Newstrom and Davis, 2004). Job involvement and its outcomes such as job satisfaction, job commitment, and employee job performance are among the most studied areas in organizational behavior and human resource management research. Researchers showed the great interest in employee, involvement practices and their outcomes (Fenton-O'Creevy, 2001). Involvement in work and alienation from work affects the standard of one entire's life experience (Argyris, 1964). Though there are these findings in the context of different study no such findings exist on Nepalese context. Gaps in knowledge exist regarding the impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment at banking sector of Nepal. Hence there is a need to conduct similar studies on impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment in the context of Nepalese commercial banks.

Banks and financial institutions are the main stay of economic progress of a country, because the economic development highly depends upon the employee participation, extent of mobilization of resources and investment and on the operational efficiency of the various segments of the economy. Employees who are satisfied with their jobs may develop emotional attachments (high affective commitment) to their organizations (Ketchand and Strawser, 2001). Job satisfaction is, therefore, likely to be positively associated with affective organizational commitment. Employees' participation refers to the direct involvement of individuals in decisions relating to their immediate work organization and to indirect involvement in decision making, through representatives in an organization (Agrawal, 2005). And participative management is a technique in which employees are given a voice in determining what they are to do, how they are to do it, and how they are to be appraised. It is a democratic philosophy that respects all members of an organization. The concept of employees' participation in management indicates an attempt on the part of an employer to build employees into a team which works towards the realization of a common objective. It is a mental and emotional involvement of a person in a group situation which encourages them to contribute to goals

and share responsibilities in them (Pant, 2009).

These studies focused that the employee participation is a key factor for job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment for improving the performance of any organization. Although banking industry in Nepal is doing remarkable progress and growth. The employee participation, fairness perception, job satisfaction and organizational commitment have been average and risks are rising. The major purpose of this study is to examine the impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment in the context of Nepalese banking sector.

Literature Review

Higher job satisfaction leads to higher level of organizational commitment (Allen and Meyer, 1991). Job satisfaction and employee performance of Greek banking staff revealed the use of human resources was of particular importance since this factor was the most important asset of any bank and the successful implementation of any strategic objective depends on the inspiration and hard work of the staff. A well-managed organization usually sees an average worker as the root source of quality and productivity gains. The paper investigates the problem of job satisfaction based on the results of research conducted in the Greek banking sector. Multiple theoretical frameworks regarding job satisfaction were used as the theoretical guide. The study used a descriptive survey design. The purpose of descriptive surveys was to collect detailed and factual information that describes an existing phenomena. The target population of the study was bank personnel in Greece. The purpose of the descriptive survey was to collect detailed and factual information that describes an existing phenomena. This finding may be probably explained by the fact that the higher positions imply greater benefits, autonomy, more creative work etc. Finally, well-educated employees are characterized by the significantly lower satisfaction with their salary. Also as educational level increases the bank employees are willing to find work elsewhere (Spector, 1997). He explained the fact that the higher positions imply greater benefits, autonomy, more creative work etc. Harter, Schmidt and Hayes (2002) showed that a causal model should be developed exploring the generalized path of employee satisfaction-engagement to short-term outcomes. Khan, Jam, Akbar, Khan and Hijazi (2011) clearly indicated that those organizations that have job involvement culture, their employees are more committed with organization than those organizations who do not involve their employees. Sowmya and Panchanatham (2011) revealed that job satisfaction is dependent on supervisor behavior, coworker behavior, pay and promotion, job and working condition and organizational aspects. The employees have significant inclination towards optimistic supervisory behavior and pleasant organizational setup. Bhatti, Nawab and Akbar (2011) claim that investment in employee participation in an organization showed better results, high employees' commitment and productivity, development of desired knowledge, skills, attitudes and other behaviors, which results in higher job satisfaction and organizational performance. Oluwakemi, Michael and Tunde (2011) demonstrated that training is a tool that can assist in building a more committed and productive workforce and can lead to greater commitment and less employee turnover. A study on business-unit-level relationship between employee satisfaction, employee engagement, and business outcomes revealed that most job satisfaction studies have focused on the individual employee level as a

unit of analysis. For example, studies have found positive linkages between general workplace attitudes and individual performance outcomes. Important outcomes such as customer loyalty, profitability, productivity, employee turnover, and safety variables are typically aggregated and reported at the business-unit level. Job involvement as predictor of employee commitment evidence in the context of Pakistan showed that job involvement has been one of the most effective tools used for increasing employee productivity by enhancing employee participation and commitment (Khan, Jam, Akbar, Khan and Hijazi, 2011). Impact of employee commitment on employee satisfaction role of employee performance as a moderating variable showed that role of employee commitment has always been accepted as an active catalyst for improving organizational satisfaction (Khan, Rehman and Akram, 2012). Every organization should develop strategies that strengthen the work environment and increase the employee morale and employee satisfaction to enhance employee performance and productivity, which ultimately results in high profits, customer satisfaction as well as customer retention (Sageer, Rafat and Agarwal, 2012).

Research Plan and Design

This study has employed descriptive and causal comparative research designs to deal with the fundamental issues associated with the impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment of commercial banks of Nepal.

Nature and Sources of Data

This study has used the primary data. The primary source of data has been used to assess the opinion of bank's employees regarding the impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment of commercial banks in Nepal. The structured questionnaire survey has been conducted to collect and record the opinions and perception of employees regarding impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception, and organizational commitment. The questionnaires used for the primary survey contain general, tick mark, ranking, five point Likert scale and closed-ended questions designed to assess the impact of employee participation in different selected commercial banks.

Description of the Sample

Population of this study includes all 32 commercial banks of Nepal. In selecting the most reliable and representative samples, stratified sampling techniques was used. The population of the commercial banks can be stratified as joint ventures, non-joint ventures and public banks. 15 commercial banks were selected as a sample. The selected sample banks and the number of observations have been presented in Table 1. Total number of observations used for this study is 200 which include 70 observations from the joint venture banks, 110 observations from the non-joint venture banks and 20 observations from the public banks.

Table 1: Summary of sample banks and observations

S. No	Strata	Bank	Observations			
1	Joint Venture Banks	Nepal SBI Bank	10			
2		Everest Bank	20			
3		Nabil Bank	10			
4		Himalayan Bank	10			
5		Standard Chartered Bank	20			
6		Sanima Bank Ltd	20			
7		Bank of Kathmandu	10			
8		Prabhu Bank Ltd	10			
9	Non-Joint Venture	Machhapuchhre Bank	10			
10	Banks	Kumari Bank	10			
11		Laxmi Bank	10			
12		Mega Bank Ltd	20			
13		Global IME Bank Ltd	20			
14	Public Banks	Nepal Bank	10			
15	FUDIIC BANKS	Agriculture Development Bank	10			
Total number of observation 200						

Sampling Technique

Stratified sampling technique categories the banks in three strata namely joint ventures, non-joint ventures and public banks out of total population of 32 commercial banks. After dividing the population into three strata, 15.63 percent of joint venture banks, 25 percent of non-joint venture banks and 6.25 percent of public banks have been included in the sample based on established period (before 2002/03). Similarly, for the selection of sample respondents, systematic random sampling has been used to select the bank's branches within Kathmandu valley.

Instrumentation

Primary data were gathered by surveying the bank's employees by using the self-administered survey questionnaire in Likert scale.

Validity and Reliability

To test the reliability and validity of data Cronbach's alpha (α) is used. The value of Cronbach's alpha was 0.893 on 51 items.

Results and Discussion

Respondents' Demographic Profile

Out of the 200 questionnaires sent to the potential respondents, 160 valid respondents returned their responses to the questionnaire. Hence, the response rate was eighty percent. All the respondents were the employees of commercial banks inside the Kathmandu Valley. The percentages of male respondents was 48 and that of female respondent was 52. Regarding the age of the respondents, majority of them represented 18-29 years age group. Out of total respondents, 66 percent represents this age group. Similarly, 31 percent respondents were from 30-39 years age group, and 3 percent respondents represented 40-49 age group. It has been found that the number of unmarried respondents is greater than that of married respondents. Single respondents represent 56 percent, and married respondents represent 44 percent of total respondents. Majority of the respondents come under university level category that is 80 percent, and 15 percent respondents comes from college level and 5 percent respondent's comes under high school level. The larger pie represents university level, medium pie represents college level while the smaller pie represents high school level. Majority of the respondents of this study works in customer service department which is 20 percent and 19 percent respondents works in loan. Similarly, 18 percent, 14 percent, 10 percent, 8 percent, 4 percent, 4 percent and 3 percent of respondents work in cash, others, retail, SME, HR management, and corporate department respectively. Majority of the respondents of this study were general staff i.e. 66 percent respondents, and 17 percent respondents work as officers. Similarly, 8 percent respondents work as managers, and 9 percent work in others which includes junior assistant, management trainee, respectively. It has been found that majority of respondents (40%) had experience of 2-5 years. 25 percent of respondent had the experience of more than five years; respondents having experience of 1-2 years were 21 percent; 8 percent of respondents the experience of 1 year, and 6 percent respondents had experience of half year. Majority of the respondents (84%) had income of Rs. 20,000-30,000 and 8 percent respondents had income of Rs. 30,000 - 40,000. Similarly, 6 percent respondents had income of Rs. 40,000 - 50,000. The respondents with income of 50,000-60,000 and respondent having the salary above 60,000 were both 1 percent.

Employee Participation Practices in Nepalese Commercial Banks

The ranking questions were prepared and the respondents were requested to fill up the rank according to their perception on participation shown on table 3. Banks where management gives recognition for job performance has the highest ranking participation which covers mean 3.49 and standard deviation 0.932. It shows organizations give most priority in encouraging employees to perform better job. On the other hand, managers encouraging employees to apply their new abilities and skills in their daily work has the lowest ranking which covers mean 2.78 and standard deviation 1.038. It is given less priority, which shows that employee using their new abilities and skills are less encouraged in organization.

Table 3: Employee participation practices in Nepalese commercial banks

Statements	Pra	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Mean	S.D	Rank
		1	2	3	4	3	Total	Mean	3.D	Kalik
My supervisor asks me for my opinions when determining my work.	n	14	43	34	56	13	160	2.9	1.053	XII
Highly motivated by work goals.	n	0	49	43	60	8	160	3.28	0.964	IV
I feel involved in important decisions in organization.	n	10	59	45	40	6	160	2.93	1.01	XI
Employees affected by decisions are asked for their inputs.	n	7	26	63	58	6	160	3.22	0.902	VII
Management gives recognition for job performance	n	9	29	42	69	11	160	3.49	0.932	I
I feel free to suggest changes in my job.	n	11	46	32	53	18	160	3.42	0.987	II
I participate in decision-making	n	2	57	29	54	18	160	3.22	0.923	VI
I have influence over the division of work	n	7	59	40	44	10	160	2.83	0.929	XIV
Employees take action when a problem or opportunity arises.	n	5	13	38	87	17	160	2.97	0.945	X
Managers encourage employees to apply their new abilities and skills in their daily work.	n	3	36	32	57	32	160	2.78	1.038	XV
Employees' suggestions are seriously taken into account.	n	3	39	58	47	13	160	2.89	1.025	XIII
I volunteer for activities beyond job requirement.	n	2	39	46	57	16	160	3.38	1.104	III
Organization is committed to professional development	n	2	26	52	61	19	160	3.27	0.969	V
Organization is financially stable.	n	13	18	32	74	23	160	3.07	0.932	VIII
Organization is committed to CSR	n	7	24	43	62	24	160	3.01	0.971	IX

Source: Field Survey, 2015

Job satisfaction practices in Nepalese Commercial Banks

The table below shows the response of the employees working in 15 commercial banks of Nepal with the sample size 160. This shows frequency, percentage of respondent, mean and standard deviation. It is measured in five point Likert scales: 1 as very unsatisfied, 2 unsatisfied, 3 don't know, 4 satisfied and 5 very satisfied. Table 4 reveals job satisfaction practices in Nepalese commercial banks.

Table 4: Job satisfaction practices in Nepalese commercial banks

Statements		1	2	3	4	5	Total	Mean	S.D	Rank
		1	_ <u></u>	3	4	3	Total	Mean	S.D	Nank
How satisfied are you with work conditions?	n	12	55	36	51	6	160	3.07	1.139	XIII
Are you satisfied with work equipment?	n	3	42	30	78	7	160	3.17	0.926	X
How satisfied are you with the task variety in your job?	n	9	47	63	28	13	160	2.83	0.998	XV
Do you feel you are valued in your job?	n	0	41	53	56	10	160	3.19	0.906	VIII
How satisfied are you with your immediate supervisor?	n	3	21	50	67	19	160	3.28	1.021	VII
How satisfied are you with your immediate supervisor's abilities?	n	0	35	46	56	23	160	3.13	1.155	XII
Are you satisfied, you don't do things against your conscience?	n	0	42	53	53	12	160	3.18	1.081	IX
To what extent does the current work reflect your abilities?	n	9	53	60	33	5	160	2.94	1.036	XIV
Are you satisfied with the freedom in work?	n	1	60	51	38	10	160	3.61	0.897	I
How satisfied are you with the banks salary?	n	13	64	32	47	4	160	3.49	1.105	П
Are you satisfied with banks benefit system?	n	12	54	36	55	3	160	3.17	0.955	XI
Are you satisfied with your coworkers do they get along?	n	12	21	42	64	21	160	3.29	0.987	VI
Are you satisfied with praise for doing a job?	n	5	32	50	61	12	160	3.43	0.943	V
Are you satisfied with career advancement opportunities?	n	3	45	60	42	10	160	3.48	1.121	Ш

The ranking questions were prepared and the respondent were requested to fill up the rank according to their perception on job satisfaction. Their responses are shown on table 4 where, the question are you satisfied with the freedom in work has the highest ranking which covers mean 3.62 and standard deviation .897, which shows that employees are satisfied with the freedom given to use their judgment in work. On the other hand, the question, how satisfied are you with the task variety in your job, has the lowest ranking with mean 2.83 and standard deviation .998, which shows that employee are not satisfied with the task variety that means organization lacks job rotation.

Employee Fairness Perception Practices in Nepalese Commercial Banks

The table below shows the response of the employees working in 15 commercial banks of Nepal with the sample size 160. This shows frequency, percentage of respondent, mean and standard deviation. It is measured in five point Likert scales as 1 strongly disagree, 2 disagree, 3 don't know, 4 agree and 5 strongly agree. Table 5 reveals employee fairness perception practices in Nepalese commercial banks.

The ranking questions were prepared and the respondents were requested to fill up the rank according to their fairness perception in organization as shown on table 5 where, every employee has opportunity to get promotion in bank has the highest ranking, which covers mean 3.33 and standard deviation 1.092, which shows that employees get promoted in bank according to their merit. On the other hand, the question, bank provides equal benefits for every employee, has the lowest ranking, which covers mean 2.41 and standard deviation 1.006, which shows that there is inequality in benefit system in organizations.

Table 5: Employee fairness practices in Nepalese commercial banks

Statements			2	3	4	5	Total	Mean	S.D	Rank
betternents		1		3	7	3	Iotai	Mican	5.D	Italik
Every employee is treated equally in the bank.	n	17	68	49	24	2	160	2.54	0.917	IX
I get respect from other employees.	n	3	43	26	75	13	160	3.33	1.019	II
Bank has fair evaluation system.	n	15	32	76	33	4	160	2.87	0.932	VII
Bank manager is fair in communicating with employees.	n	11	29	53	54	13	160	3.18	1.045	IV
Same level of employees receives same salaries.	n	12	38	48	41	21	160	3.13	1.144	V
Bank exist different work hour for different employees.	n	17	74	36	30	3	160	2.55	0.976	VIII
Promotion is fair in bank.	n	32	51	54	21	2	160	2.44	0.995	X
Bank provides equal benefits for every employee.	n	22	83	28	21	6	160	2.41	1.006	XI
Bank emphasizes fair competition in workplace.	n	5	23	73	50	9	160	3.22	0.874	III
Every employee has opportunity to get promotion in bank.	n	7	31	49	48	25	160	3.33	1.092	I
Job performance evaluations done by my supervisor is fair and based on performance.	n	10	45	59	29	17	160	2.99	1.07	VI

Organizational Commitment Practices in Nepalese Commercial Banks

The table 6 shows the response of the employees working in 15 commercial banks of Nepal with the sample size 160. This shows the frequency, percentage of respondents, mean and standard deviation. It is measured in five point Likert scales as 1 strongly disagree, 2 disagree, 3 don't know, 4 agree and 5 strongly agree. Table 6 reveals organizational commitment practices in Nepalese commercial banks.

Table 6: Organizational commitment practices in Nepalese commercial banks

Statements		1	2	3	4	5	Total	Mean	S.D	Rank
I am willing to put in a great deal of effort beyond expected in order to help this organization to be successful	n	0	21	20	87	32	160	3.81	0.906	I
I talk up this organization to my friends as a great organization to work for	n	0	25	37	85	13	160	3.54	0.853	Ш
I would accept any type of job assignment in order to keep working for this organization	n	3	31	65	49	12	160	3.23	0.911	VI
I find that my values and this organization's values are very similar	n	8	65	43	36	8	160	2.82	1.002	IX
I am proud to tell others that I am part of this organization	n	6	20	49	66	19	160	3.45	0.983	IV
This organization really inspires the very best in me.	n	3	53	43	45	16	160	3.11	1.04	VII
I am extremely glad that I chose this organization to work for over others	n	3	41	35	64	17	160	3.32	1.03	V
I really care about the fate of this organization	n	3	19	43	64	31	160	3.63	0.988	П
For me, this is the best of all organization to work	n	11	53	54	29	13	160	2.87	1.051	VIII
I would be very happy to spend the rest of my career with this organization.	n	9	63	48	29	11	160	2.81	1.023	X

Summary of Dimensions

The descriptive statistics shows that organizational commitment has the highest mean of 3.26 with standard deviation 0.697 followed by employee participation with mean 3.25 and standard deviation 0.616, and the variable job satisfaction with mean 3.11 and standard deviation 0.596 is followed by employee fairness perception with lowest mean of 2.91 and standard deviation 0.618. It shows that compared to fairness perception and satisfaction, employee participation has more impact on organizational commitment. Table 7 shows the descriptive statistics of the variables used in the study.

Table 7: Descriptive statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation					
Employee Participation	160	1.80	4.80	3.25	.617					
Job Satisfaction	160	1.73	4.80	3.11	.596					
Employee Fairness Perception	160	1.45	5.00	2.91	.619					
Organizational Commitment	160	1.40	4.90	3.26	.697					

Relationship Between the Variables

Correlation among employee participation with job satisfaction, employee fairness perception, and organizational commitments are explained in this section of study. Correlation analysis, using Pearson Correlation Coefficient was conducted on all independent and dependent variables. The sample size for this research study was 160 participants. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect some kind of statistically significant relationship among these pairs of variables. Table 8 shows the Pearson Correlation Coefficient between the independent variable employee participation with dependent variables job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment. There is correlation between the independent variable employee participation with dependent variable job satisfaction. This table contains the correlation information needed to answer the first hypotheses of this research study. Here, p<.01. It shows significant relationship between employee participation and job satisfaction at 1 percent level, which implies that higher the employee participation higher will be the job satisfaction.

There is correlation between the independent variable employee participation with dependent variable employee fairness perception. This table contains the correlation information needed to answer the second hypotheses of this research study. Here, p<.01. It shows significant relationship between employee participation and employee fairness perception at 1 percent level, which shows higher the employee participation higher will be the fairness perception among employees.

There is correlation between the independent variable employee participation with dependent variable organizational commitment. This table contained the correlation information needed to answer the third hypotheses of this research study. Here, p<.01. It shows significant relationship between employee participation and organizational commitment at 1 percent level, which further implies higher the employee participation higher will be the organizational commitment.

Organiza-Employee Job Employee tional Com-Participation Satisfaction Fairness Perception mitment 1 r **Employee Participation** N 160 .690** 1 r Job Satisfaction N 160 160 .637** .678** 1 r **Employee Fairness Perception** N 160 160 160 .718** .701** .638** 1 r

160

Table 8: Pearson correlation coefficient

N

160

160

Organizational Commitment

160

^{**.} Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Conclusion

The major conclusion of this study is that the impact of employee participation on job satisfaction, employee fairness perception and organizational commitment have positive significant relation. Among all three determinants organizational commitment is more influenced by employee participation as it has highest correlation coefficient. The most of the surveyed employees agreed that management gives recognition for job performance and they are satisfied with the freedom in work, every employee has opportunity to get promotion in bank, and they are willing to put in a great deal of effort beyond expected in order to help the organization to be successful.

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that much awareness is required in the area of employee's involvement in organizational decision making. The three research hypotheses were formulated and tested to test the relationship, and the result showed positive significant relationship and rejected all three null hypotheses. Likewise, it can also be concluded that the employees of Nepalese commercial banks are highly motivated by employee participation.

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