

The relationships of structural empowerment, psychological empowerment and organizational commitment in Saudi and non-Saudi registered staff nurses in Saudi Arabia

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Statement of the problem: Organizational commitment is a critical element of nurse retention and highly associated with intent to leave and actual turnover. Nurses' commitment is influenced greatly by nurses' perceived empowerment in the workplace. In Saudi Arabia, currently there is a gap in the literature regarding staff nurses' perception of empowerment and organizational commitment. Therefore, it was imperative to conduct a research to acquire better understanding of nurses' perceptions and attitudes regarding empowerment and organizational commitment. The primary purpose of this study was to examine and compare the relationships among structural empowerment, psychological empowerment, and organizational commitment in Saudi and non-Saudi nurses working in Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the study determined the factors that predict organizational commitment among the two study populations.

Methodology & theoretical orientation: The theoretical framework was based on Kanter's Theory of Structural Empowerment and Spreitzer's Theory of Psychological Empowerment. The study used a descriptive comparative multivariate correlational research design and a self-administered, paper and pencil survey to collect data from a convenience sample of full-time nurses (N=398) working in inpatient units in three governmental hospitals in Saudi Arabia.

Findings: Statistically significant positive partial correlations were found among structural empowerment, psychological empowerment and organizational commitment. Non-Saudi nurses perceived higher levels of empowerment and commitment compared to Saudi nurses. Psychological empowerment was found to have a small moderation effect on the relationship between structural empowerment and continuance commitment.

Conclusion: Findings of this study may assist nursing authority understand the relationships between nurses' empowerment and organizational commitment and facilitate the necessary changes to improve the current working conditions. The findings may provide evidence for recommendations to use empowerment and organizational commitment as new concepts to investigate and measure commitment and improve future retention and anticipated turnover among staff nurses working in Saudi Arabia.

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Biography

Faiza Aljameez is a graduated doctoral student in 2019 with a deep passion towards improving health and medical education. Regardless her decent years of experience as advanced practice clinician and researcher, she has a great potential is to improve the image of nursing profession, create and support empowering and healthy working environment. She is currently a member of at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences National Guard Health Affairs, Saudi Arabia where she acts as an Assistant Professor and Adult critical care practitioner; Chairperson, Research Unit; Co-chair, Quality Unit; as well as Co-chair Scholarship and Alumni Unit.

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