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EXPLORING LEADERSHIP STYLES THAT INFLUENCE PROACTIVE WORK BEHAVIOR

Bella Ghia Dimmera¹, Ramadania²

^{1,2,3} Department of Management, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Tanjungpura, Pontianak, Indonesia

b3081231011@student.untan.ac.id¹, ramadhania@ekonomi.untan.ac.id²

ABSTRACT

Employees proactive work behavior is essential in today's dynamic work environment. Leadership strongly influences the proactive work behavior of employees. The purpose of this systematic literature review is to investigate leadership styles that may influence employees' proactive work behavior. The methodology employed stringent inclusion and exclusion criteria to explore relevant journal articles within the Google Scholar database. The review showed that leadership styles such as servant leadership, inclusive leadership, empowering leadership, spiritual leadership, authentic leadership, entrepreneurial leadership, humble leadership, shared leadership, transformational leadership, paradoxical leadership, visionary leadership, authentic leadership, distributed leadership, and ethical leadership strongly influence proactive work behavior. These leadership styles motivate employees to take initiative, seek opportunities, and engage in other proactive work behaviors. Theory explains the influence of leadership on proactive work behavior. These results also have real consequences for organizations in terms of building leadership training programs that enable employees to be more proactive. We recommend conducting additional research on the moderating and mediating effects on the relationship between leadership and proactive work behavior.

Keywords: Leadership Style, Proactive Work Behavior, Systematic Literature Review

A. INTRODUCTION

Organizations increasingly rely on proactive employees to maintain competitive advantage, adapt to change, and innovate in an increasingly complex and dynamic business environment (Ahmed, 2022). Individuals and organizations have demonstrated the high benefits of proactive work behavior (ALGaraawi & Rashid, 2023), which involves taking anticipatory and change-oriented actions to improve current conditions or create new ones. Proactive employees demonstrate higher performance, creativity, job satisfaction, and organizational commitment (Zhang, 2020).

Given how important this behavior is, researchers have tried to find things that encourage or inhibit proactive work behavior. However, previous studies have investigated various antecedents of proactive behavior, such as individual characteristics such as employee-oriented human resource management (EOHRM) (Pan, 2018) and self-efficacy (J.-S. Kim, 2023) and contextual factors such as job characteristics (Nurjaman et al., 2019) and organizational environment (Rusyda et al., 2020). The role of leadership in shaping employees' proactive work behavior remains relatively less explored. This is surprising, as leaders play a critical role in determining employees' work experiences and influencing their attitudes, motivation, and behavior (Aeni & Kuswanto, 2021).

Recent studies have looked at how leadership style correlates with proactive work behavior. Research by (Boonyarit, 2023) found a positive correlation between self-leadership and proactive work behavior. However, (Anwar Ul Haq et al., 2019) looked into how psychological empowerment and leader-follower distance moderated the effects of leadership empowerment on followers' proactive behavior. These preliminary results are promising, but research on leadership and proactive work behavior is lacking and incomplete.

This systematic literature review aims to address research gaps by combining results from various studies on leadership styles and proactive work behavior published from 2018 to the present. Specifically, this review will (1) find the main leadership styles associated with employees' proactive behaviors; (2) study the research objectives; (3) study the research methods used; and (4) find the resulting research findings. This review aims to improve our understanding of how leadership shapes proactive work behavior by combining results from different studies. The review will help develop theories about leadership and proactivity. Managers will discover the best leadership methods to encourage proactive behavior in organizations.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Proactive Work Behavior

Proactive work behavior is when an employee strives to positively change their work environment, which impacts the organization's overall success and goals. Proactive work behavior is when employees strive to improve their work environment, improve procedures, share ideas for change, and prevent problems (Miselytė, 2019). Proactive work behaviors consist of employee voice, personal initiative, and responsibility-taking, influencing entrepreneurial performance in dimensions such as organizational innovation, strategic renewal, and adventure (Saihood & Al-Jader, 2021). Proactive work behavior stimulates innovation, creativity, and change within their organizations (Li, 2020) by means of self-initiated initiatives (Bohlmann & Zacher, 2021). Proactive work behavior is characterized by individuals' active efforts in identifying improvement opportunities, voicing innovative ideas, and taking concrete steps to prevent and solve problems that arise.

Proactive work behavior fosters the meaningfulness of work by connecting individuals to the future. It enhances meaningfulness, especially in jobs with unpredictable futures, promoting a sense of purpose and fulfillment (Fay et al., 2023). Proactive work behaviors can improve quality, project performance, time, and cost (Kapogiannis et al., 2021). Reflection on work and psychological empowerment drive proactive work behaviors like innovation and work crafting. It enhances employees' ability to adapt and succeed in the company. Proactive work behaviors are not only beneficial for individual capacity-building but also play a vital role in supporting overall organizational success. Employees can contribute to improved quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in project completion, as well as the achievement of the company's strategic goals by implementing these behaviors.

Leadership Style

Leadership style refers to the way a leader directs and motivates individuals to achieve organizational goals, which has an impact on organizational culture and employee values (Shuaib et al., 2022). Leadership style is a strategic approach that influences employee and organizational performance (Folarin, 2021). Leadership style refers to the way a leader influences members to achieve goals (Jaafar, 2022). Leadership style refers to a leader's approach to guiding and motivating their team (Sasikirana et al., 2023). Leadership style reflects a leader's ability to make decisions, overcome challenges, and encourage optimal performance from each individual he leads. With the right leadership style, a leader can shape a positive organizational culture, instill constructive values, and create a work environment conducive to the development of employee potential. Thus, leadership style becomes a crucial factor that determines the success of the organization in achieving its goals, maintaining competitiveness, and adapting to the dynamics of sustainable change.

C. RESEARCH METHODS

This study used a descriptive research design with a systematic literature review (SLR) method. SLR is the process of finding, assessing, and interpreting all available research evidence to specifically answer research statements (Kitchenham et al., 2009). This study followed the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Literature Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines (Sastypratiwi & Nyoto, 2020). Online journal articles or scientific publications provided the secondary data for this study.

We used the SLR approach to conduct database searches. Online articles provided the secondary data. The author searched for information on Harzing's Publish or Perish (PoP). However, the author used keywords such as leadership and proactive work behavior to search for related articles. According to the search results, 22 articles published in journals met the criteria. To limit the search, the author only searched for research-type articles on Harzing's Publish or Perish (PoP) and only looked at articles published between 2018 and 2024.

Articles must meet the following criteria for inclusion and exclusion in this study: a) published in an international journal; b) written in English; and c) published from 2018 to 2024 using the keywords "leadership style" and "proactive work behavior." The authors noted and checked the database for duplicates, removed duplicate journals, and deleted irrelevant studies on leadership style and proactive work behavior. To fulfill the inclusion criteria, the authors conducted a second screening by retrieving full journals that fulfilled the following conditions: a) written in English; b) were empirical studies (not essays, book reviews, letters, editorials, opinions, or journalistic articles); c) addressed the theories of leadership style and proactive work behavior as the main topic; d) quantitatively tested the theories of leadership style and proactive work behavior. We excluded journals that failed to meet the four components mentioned above in the abstract, results, or discussion sections. Furthermore, the authors retrieved additional articles that met the inclusion requirements by checking the bibliographies of the identified sources and fulfilling the referencing requirements.

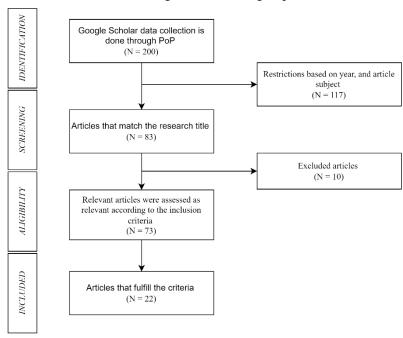


Figure 1. PRISMA Method Flowchart

D. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Examining the journals that met the inclusion criteria was essential to determining which journals were relevant to the topic of leadership styles influencing proactive work behavior. Table 1 contains the author's journal review matrix.

Table 1. Journal Review Matrix

Reference	Title	Objectives	Methods	Results	Source
(Varela et al., 2019)	Servant Leadership, Proactive Work Behavior, and Performance Overall Rating: Testing a Multilevel Model of Moderated Mediation	Investigate whether salespeople's proactive behavior mediates the relationship between sales managers' servant leadership and salespeople's overall performance ratings.	Multilevel Structural Equation Modeling (MSEM) was used to analyze the relationships between sales managers' servant leadership, salespeople's proactive behavior, and salespeople's overall performance ratings.	Sales managers' servant leadership is positively related to salespeople's overall performance ratings through proactive behavior, especially when salespeople's customer orientation is high.	Journal of Business-to- Business Marketing
(Chang et al., 2022)	Inclusive Leadership and Employee Proactive Behavior: A Cross-Level Moderated Mediation Model	Investigate the relationship between inclusive leadership (IL) and employee proactive behavior, with a focus on the mediating role of employee trust and the moderating role of procedural justice.	This study used quantitative research methods. The author conducted confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to compare different models, thus supporting the discriminant validity of the measurement.	Inclusive leadership (IL) significantly influences employee proactive behavior, with employee trust mediating this relationship.	Psychology Research and Behavior Management
(Wang & Yang, 2021)	Why and How Does Empowering Leadership Promote Proactive Work Behavior? An Examination with a Serial Mediation Model among Hotel Employees	Examining the relationship between leadership empowerment and employees' proactive work behavior in the context of sustainable human resource management.	Quantitative research methods. Data screening, preparation, and analysis using SPSS 24.0 and AMOS 24.0.	Empowering leadership positively influences job characteristics and proactive work behavior.	International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health
(S. Chen et al., 2019)	Spiritual Leadership on Proactive	Investigated the relationship between spiritual leadership and	This study used hierarchical multiple regression to test	Spiritual leadership had a significant positive effect on proactive behavior	Frontiers in Psychology

Reference	Title	Objectives	Methods	Results	Source
	Workplace Behavior: The Role of Organizational Identification and Psychological Safety	proactive behavior at work, exploring the mediating roles of organizational identification and psychological safety.	a conceptual model that integrates spiritual leadership with proactive workplace behavior.	at work, with organizational identification and psychological safety mediating this relationship.	
(Smithikrai & Suwannad et, 2018)	Authentic Leadership and Proactive Work Behavior: Moderated Mediation Effects of Conscientious ness and Organizational Commitment	Examining the mediating role of organizational commitment in the relationship between authentic leadership and proactive work behavior	A large public university in Thailand conducted an anonymous survey to gather data from 375 individuals.	Organizational commitment was found to mediate the relationship between authentic leadership and proactive work behavior.	The Journal of Behavioral Science
(Awad et al., 2024)	Entrepreneuria I leadership, nurses' proactive work behavior, and career adaptability: a structural equation model	Developed a structural equation model to examine the relationship between entrepreneurial leadership as the independent variable and nurses' proactive work behavior and career adaptability as the dependent variable.	Selected 450 nurses from two private hospitals using a non-probability convenience sampling technique.	Nurses perceived moderate average scores for entrepreneurial leadership, proactive work behavior, and career adaptability.	BMC Nursing
(Bilal et al., 2021)	Entrepreneuria l Leadership and Employees' Proactive Behaviour: Fortifying Self Determination Theory	Investigate the relationship between entrepreneurial leadership, job uncertainty, proactive personality, and proactive work behavior in the context of small and medium-sized enterprises in Pakistan.	This study used a self-administered quantitative survey questionnaire to collect data from employees and their supervisors at small and medium-sized enterprises in Pakistan.	Entrepreneurial leadership reduces job uncertainty, which leads to increased proactive work behavior among employees.	Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity
(Boudrias et al., 2023)	Are Wellbeing Dimensions Differentially Related to	Investigate the conditions under which work-related	This study included a three-way interaction analysis to	The study found that knowledge work demands and leadership	Archivio istituzionale della ricerca

Reference	Title	Objectives	Methods	Results	Source
	Employee	dimensions of	examine the	empowerment	
	Proactive	well-being	relationship	interact with well-	
	Behavior? The	(calmness, social	between	being dimensions to	
	Joint	harmony, and	dimensions of	predict proactive	
	Moderating	engagement) are	well-being and	behavior among	
	Effects of	beneficial to	proactive	employees.	
	Knowledge	employees'	behavior. A two-		
	Job Demands	proactive	wave study		
	and	behavior.	collected data		
	Empowering		from Canadian		
	Leadership		employees.		
(S. Chen et	Spiritual	Investigating the	Hierarchical	Spiritual leadership	Frontiers in
al., 2019)	Leadership on	impact of spiritual	multiple	has a significant	Psychology
	Proactive	leadership on	regression	positive effect on	
	Workplace	proactive	analysis to test a	proactive workplace	
	Behavior: The	workplace	conceptual model	behavior, with	
	Role of	behavior through	that integrates	organizational	
	Organizational	the mediating	spiritual	identification and	
	Identification	factors of	leadership with	psychological	
	and	organizational	proactive	safety mediating	
	Psychological	identification and	workplace	this relationship.	
	Safety	psychological	behavior.	1	
	J	security.			
(El-Gazar	Effect of	Determining the	A descriptive	There is a	Wiley
et al.,	humble	effects of humble	cross-sectional	significant positive	J
2022)	leadership on	leadership on	study was	correlation between	
,	proactive	nurses' proactive	conducted at all	humble leadership,	
	work	behavior in the	nine Universal	psychological	
	behaviour:	workplace	Health Insurance	empowerment, and	
	The mediating	through	hospitals in Port	proactive work	
	role of	psychological	Said, Egypt, to	behavior.	
	psychological	empowerment.	collect data.		
	empowerment	1			
	among nurses				
(Fu et al.,	The Cross-	The goal is to	The study	Shared leadership	Sustainability
2020)	Level Effect	establish a multi-	collected data	positively	J
,	of Shared	level framework	through a	influences team	
	Leadership on	that incorporates	questionnaire	reflexivity,	
	Tourism	shared leadership,	survey with a	proactive behavior,	
	Employee	team reflexivity,	valid sample of	and adaptive	
	Proactive	and employee	301 employees	performance in the	
	Behavior and	performance in	from 31 work	hospitality industry	
	Adaptive	the hospitality	teams in China's	in China.	
	Performance	industry in China.	hospitality		
			industry.		
(Hu et al.,	Authentic	Investigating the	A paper survey	Authentic	Frontiers in
2018)	Leadership	impact of	collected data	leadership has a	Psychology
	and Proactive	authentic	from 445	significant positive	, 6,
	Behavior: The	leadership on	employees of	correlation with	
	Role of	subordinates'	Chinese	subordinates'	
	Psychological	proactive	companies. Using	proactive behavior.	
	Capital and	behavior, with a	structural	Psychological	
	Compassion at	focus on the	equation models	capital fully	
	Work	mediating role of	to analyze the	mediates the	
	1101K	medianing fole of	to analyze the	mediates the	

Reference	Title	Objectives	Methods	Results	Source
		psychological capital and the moderating effect of workplace compassion.	relationships between authentic leadership, psychological capital, workplace compassion, and proactive behavior.	relationship between authentic leadership and subordinates' proactive behavior.	
(Javed, 2019)	Influence of Transformatio nal Leadership on Proactive Work Behavior: The Mediating Role of Psychological Empowerment	Testing the relationship between transformational leadership and proactive work behavior through the mediating role of psychological empowerment.	Quantitative research methods to investigate the influence of transformational leadership on proactive work behavior.	Psychological empowerment plays a mediating role in the relationship between transformational leadership and proactive work behavior.	Governance and Management Review
(Steinman n et al., 2018)	The Path Is the Goal: How Transformatio nal Leaders Enhance Followers' Job Attitudes and Proactive Behavior	This study investigates how transformational leadership influences followers' work attitudes and proactive behavior through goal attributes.	A quantitative research approach to investigate the influence of transformational leadership on followers' work attitudes and proactive behavior through goal attributes.	Transformational leaders influence followers' work attitudes and proactive behavior through goal attributes, with goal importance and goal achievement playing different roles in outcomes.	Frontiers in Psychology
(J. E. Kim, 2021)	Paradoxical Leadership and Proactive Work Behavior: The Role of Psychological Safety in the Hotel Industry	Identifying the influence of paradoxical leadership on proactive work behavior mediated through psychological safety in the hospitality industry.	The study employs a quantitative research approach, utilizing survey data and structural equation modeling for analysis.	Paradoxical leadership subvariables such as distance and closeness, uniformity and individualization, and decision control all have a positive impact on psychological safety.	Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business
(H. Chen & Song, 2021)	Visionary Leadership's Effect on Employees' Proactive Behavior: A Moderating and Mediating Model	Investigate the relationship between visionary leadership and employee proactive behavior in organizations.	Paired tracking method for data collection. Hierarchical regression analysis for hypothesis testing.	Job satisfaction moderates the mediating role of perceived organizational support between visionary leadership and employee proactive behavior.	Panyapiwat Journal
(Qiang et al., 2023)	Does paradoxical leadership influence	Exploring the influence of paradoxical leadership on	The study used quantitative methods, including	Paradoxical leadership positively influences	Frontiers in Psychology

Reference	Title	Objectives	Methods	Results	Source
	employees'	employees'	questionnaire	employees'	
	proactive	proactive work	surveys with 540	proactive work	
	work	behavior in	employees in	behavior in Chinese	
	behavior? A	Chinese state-	Chinese state-	state-owned	
	study based on	owned .	owned .	enterprises.	
	employees in	enterprises.	enterprises.		
	Chinese state-				
	owned				
(D) :/	enterprises	T1 20 1		T 1 ' 1 1 1 '	G
(Rogozińs	Inclusive	Identify the	Quantitative	Inclusive leadership	Sustainability
ka-	Leadership	relationship	approach, using	is positively	
Pawełczyk	and	between inclusive	survey methods to	associated with	
, 2023)	Psychological	leadership,	collect data from	psychological	
	Contract	psychological	1000 knowledge	contract fulfillment,	
	Fulfilment: A	contract	workers in Polish	which in turn is	
	Source of	fulfillment,	companies in the	associated with	
	Proactivity	dimensions of	business services	proactive work	
	and Well-	well-being, and	sector.	behavior and	
	Being for	proactivity among		knowledge worker	
	Knowledge	knowledge		well-being.	
(W)	Workers	workers.	A14.*	A 41 4	E
(Wen et	Influence of	Investigate the	A multi-source	Authentic	Frontiers in
al., 2021)	Authentic	influence of	sample of 146	leadership	Psychology
	Leadership on	authentic	direct supervisors	positively	
	Employees'	leadership on	and 328	influences	
	Taking Charge Behavior: The	employees'	subordinates in mainland China	employee	
	Roles of	responsibility-		responsibility-	
	Subordinates'	taking behavior	provided the data.	taking behavior, with subordinate	
	Moqi and	and explore the role of		moqi mediating this	
	Perspective	subordinate moqi		relationship.	
	Taking	and perspective-		relationship.	
	Taking	taking.			
(Xu et al.,	Distributed	Exploring the	Three-stage	Distributed	Frontiers in
2021)	Leadership	mechanisms by	research method	leadership	Psychology
,	and New	which distributed	of supervisor and	positively	, 2,
	Generation	leadership	employee pairs to	influences the	
	Employees'	influences the	collect data from	proactive behavior	
	Proactive	proactive	26 supervisors	of new-generation	
	Behavior:	behavior of new-	and 304 new-	employees, with	
	Roles of	generation	generation	preferential	
	Idiosyncratic	employees in an	employees.	dealings and job	
	Deals and	organization.		meaningfulness	
	Meaningfulnes			mediating this	
	s of Work			relationship.	
(Zehir &	The mediating	Investigating the	Collected survey	Leadership	International
Celebi, 2022)	role of explicit	mediating role of	data from defense	empowerment	Journal of
	knowledge	explicit	industry	positively impacts	Research in
	sharing in the	knowledge	companies in	proactive work	Business and
	relationship	sharing in the	Turkey through	behavior and	Social Science
	between	relationship	face-to-face and	explicit knowledge	
	empowering	between	electronic	sharing.	
	leadership and	leadership	methods using a		
	proactive	empowerment and			

Reference	Title	Objectives	Methods	Results	Source
	work behavior	proactive work	random sampling		
	in defense	behavior in	approach.		
	industry	defense industry			
	enterprises	firms.			
(Zheng, 2022)	Ethical Leadership and Proactive Work Behavior: Role of Psychological Safety and Chinese Traditionality	This study used matched questionnaire data from 203 supervisor-subordinate dyads from 69 teams to analyze the relationships between ethical leadership, psychological safety, and proactive work behavior.	This study examines the impact of ethical leadership on employees' proactive work behavior, with a particular focus on the mediating role of psychological safety and the moderating effect of Chinese traditionality.	Researchers found a positive relationship between ethical leadership, psychological safety, and proactive work behavior.	Forest Chemicals Review

This systematic literature review explores the influence of various leadership styles on employees' proactive work behavior. There are 22 papers in total that match the inclusion requirements for this review after a thorough search of the Google Scholar database. The results of the review show that different leadership styles, such as servant, inclusive, empowering, spiritual, authentic, entrepreneurial, paradoxical, visionary, and distributed leadership, are positively associated with increased employee proactive behavior. Several studies have shown that factors such as employee trust, organizational commitment, organizational identification, psychological safety, psychological empowerment, and knowledge sharing influence the relationship between leadership style and proactive behavior. Furthermore, several moderators, including customer orientation, procedural justice climate, knowledge work demands, and traditionality, influence the strength of the relationship between leadership and proactive work behavior.

These findings provide empirical support for the importance of leadership in transforming employees to be proactive in the workplace. It appears that leadership styles centered on empowering, supporting, and developing employees have more potential to encourage proactive work behavior. Factors such as increased trust, commitment, identification, and psychological safety can explain how leaders influence employees' desire and ability to engage in proactive work behaviors. However, employee traits and the organizational environment can influence how well a leader acts. Overall, this review emphasizes that the leadership-proactivity relationship is complex and multi-phased, with different routes and boundary conditions influencing how it emerges in different work contexts.

Organizations should train leaders with leadership styles that encourage proactive work behavior. Leadership training that focuses on empowerment, support, and development can help leaders create a work environment that encourages workers to participate. In addition, organizations should consider contextual factors that can facilitate effective leadership and create solutions that fit the characteristics of employees and corporate culture. Theoretically, this analysis helps us understand the leadership antecedents of proactive work behavior in greater depth. However, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of this review, which primarily focuses on quantitative studies and cross-sectional methods. To better understand the temporal dynamics and contextual aspects of the leadership-proactivity relationship, future research could utilize longitudinal designs and qualitative methods. Future research can address

these differences and increase knowledge on how leaders can build proactive work behavior in modern organizations that are increasingly complex and dynamic.

E. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

The results of the systematic literature review indicate that there are fourteen leadership styles that can influence employees' proactive work behavior. These leadership styles include servant leadership, inclusive leadership, empowering leadership, spiritual leadership, authentic leadership, entrepreneurial leadership, humble leadership, shared leadership, transformational leadership, paradoxical leadership, visionary leadership, authentic leadership, distributed leadership, and ethical leadership. Overall, this review shows that leadership plays an important role in shaping proactive work behavior. It also shows that this relationship is complex and multifaceted.

Suggestion

Organizations should have leadership development programs that focus on leadership styles that encourage proactive action, such as transformational, empowering, and inclusive leadership. In addition, managers should be responsible for creating a supportive work environment that fosters trust, mental security, and commitment among employees. To maximize proactive outcomes, companies should also consider the fit between cultural context and employee leadership styles.

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