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## Article

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# How innovative climate leads to project success: the moderating role of gender and work culture

Role of gender  
and work  
culture

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## Abstract

**Purpose** – In modern times, innovation is considered as a vital component of sustainable competitive advantage. The purpose of this paper is to identify how innovation at the individual level [innovative work behavior (IWB)] and at the organizational level [innovative organizational climate (IOC)] affects the chances of success of a particular project. Additionally, the moderating effect of gender and work culture on the relation between innovative climate and behavior is tested in the study.

**Design/methodology/approach** – Survey technique was used to collect data from 425 employees working in project departments at the executive, middle level and senior level management in the paint manufacturing industry of Pakistan. Multiple regression, as well as Preacher and Hayes (2004) tests, were applied to test the hypotheses.

**Findings** – The result of the data analysis showed that IWB acts as a mediator between IOC and project success (PS), thereby supporting the hypothesized model of innovation and PS. Work culture was supported as a moderator; however, no moderating effect of gender was validated by the results.

**Research limitations/implications** – The management must make sure that to maximize the rate of success of projects, innovative work climate within the organizations and departments be given due importance. In addition to this, personnel's individual innovation capabilities must also be enhanced by taking steps toward improvement through training and development.



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**Originality/value** – Though attention has been given to research in innovation in light of other related variables, its relation to PS remains yet to be studied. The effect of gender and work culture on innovation in Pakistani paint industry was long over-due which has been addressed by this study.

**Keywords** Gender, Work culture, Innovative behavior, Project success, Innovative climate, Organizational climate theory

**Paper type** Research paper

## Introduction

For today's managers and leaders, the thorough management of innovative organizational climate (IOC) is a challenging and demanding job (Isaksen & Ekvall, 2010). Kissi, Dainty, and Liu (2012) depicted IOC as the organization's internal innovation encouraging environment. Schneider (1990) defined it as the subjective perception of personnel regarding the environment of workplace that encourages the generation of new thoughts, concepts, methods and procedures. The foundation of innovation rests on the advancement and execution of original concepts which boosts personnel's creativity (Van de Ven, 1986).

Innovative work behavior (IWB) consists of three interrelated activities of idea initiation, promotion and realization (Janssen, 2000). Because of the affirmative results related to personnel's IWB, researchers including Janssen (2000); Kang, Matusik, Kim, and Phillips (2016); and Ren and Zhang (2015) have demonstrated increasing attention to characteristics that have the capability to boost IWB. Nonetheless, the relationship between IWB and IOC is not studied sufficiently (Shanker, Bhanugopan, Van der Heijden, & Farrell, 2017). The strategic effect of IOC related to organizational performance (OP) has been documented in previous research studies conducted by Naranjo-Valencia, Jiménez-Jiménez, and Sanz-Valle (2016); and Nybakk and Jenssen (2012).

Some scholars have argued that IWB can expedite the process of gaining competitive advantage and can enhance OP (Hogan & Coote, 2014; Moss Kanter, 1988; Runco, 2004; Scott & Bruce, 1994; Shih & Susanto, 2011). Nonetheless, their approaches were inadequate with respect to fundamental conceptual framework (Shanker et al., 2017); and focus largely on examining the connection between IOC and OP. The present study makes a novel contribution by studying the influence of IOC and IWB on project success (PS). PS is used here as a proxy of OP because traditionally a project is thought to be successfully completed when the performance objectives, funds, budgets and deadlines are successfully fulfilled (Shenhar, Dvir, Levy, & Maltz, 2001). Approval of the client, work quality, cost, scope and time are the issues reflected upon while evaluating PS (Guide, 2001). Additionally, moderating effect of gender and work culture on the relation between innovative climate and behavior is tested in the study.

Most existing literature pertaining to innovation was found to be conducted in developed countries such as USA (Wolf & Pett, 2006), Canada (Branzei & Vertinsky, 2006), England (Edwards, Delbridge, & Munday, 2005), The Netherlands (de Jong & Vermeulen, 2006), Turkey (Ar & Baki, 2011) and New Zealand (Clark, 2010). Consequently, due to shortage of research studies in developing nations, the policymakers frequently use findings from developed nations when designing policy measures (Radas & Bozic, 2009). However, the theoretical models generated with the context of developed countries in mind and their findings might not be applicable with respect to developing countries (Najib & Kiminami, 2011).

This discussion shows that literature related to innovation in Pakistan does not provide insights into the relation between IOC, IWB and PS and this perspective is yet to be studied in the paint industry where Pakistani consumers demand more innovation (Bilal, Iqra, & Javaid, 2010), which leads to their satisfactory experience and PS (Guide, 2001). Also, studying the effect of gender and work culture in IOC and IWB in Pakistani paint industry would be an added contribution of the study by examining empirical evidence linking

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innovation supportive climate, IWB, gender and culture and studying if the capacity for innovation among women and men; and public versus private sector differs with respect to the support they perceive for innovation from the organization. The findings from the current study would also be useful for other developing countries where work context is similar to Pakistan.

## Literature review

### *Innovative organizational climate and project success*

Organizational success depends on innovation (DiLiello & Houghton, 2006). Climate within an organization can have a constructive influence on innovation at individual and organizational levels (Kang et al., 2016; Nybakk, Crespell, & Hansen, 2011; Ren & Zhang, 2015; Shanker et al., 2017). The management needs to make sure that climate within the workplace boosts employee's creativity (DiLiello & Houghton, 2006; Haneda & Ito, 2018). When a support from organization is perceived by the personnel, they are expected to practice innovation (DiLiello & Houghton, 2006). Moreover, if employees perceive a facilitative workplace climate, they will be become more committed, resulting in better OP. Several studies have shown that personnel's engagement in innovation and climate for innovation result in better OP and business success (Harter, Schmidt, & Hayes, 2002; Macey & Schneider, 2008).

In contemporary literature, a good amount of research studied the relationship between innovation and PS (Olaisen & Revang, 2017; Ommen, Blut, Backhaus, & Woisetschläger, 2016). Further, Martens, Machado, Martens, and de Freitas (2018) argued that innovation helps entrepreneurs to achieve success in projects. Furthermore, IOC increases the probability of success in innovation projects (Olaisen & Revang, 2017). Recently, Leone and Schiavone (2019) investigated the direct association between innovation and PS. However, very scant research is available in existing literature that studied the direct relationship between IOC and PS as many of the research studies only considered the relationship between innovation and PS. Based on the discussion made herein, we hypothesize that:

H1. IOC is positively associated with PS.

### *The mediating effect of innovative work behavior*

The process of innovation is rooted in the organizational system as it not only occurs at group and organizational levels (Amabile, Conti, Coon, Lazenby, & Herron, 1996; De Jong & Den Hartog, 2010; Naranjo-Valencia et al., 2016; Sung & Choi, 2014) but also at individual level. Though there is limited empirical evidence of the influence of organizational climate on employee's innovative actions at individual level, Scott and Bruce (1994) showed that supportive climate within the workplace influenced employee's IWB positively. The features of workplace climate, such as independence and choice, along with the induction of dedicated and focused knowledge seems to influence IWB (Krause, 2007). Especially when employees perceive that they are autonomous, they might sense higher levels of free-will, boosting up their innovativeness (Amabile et al., 1996; Si & Wei, 2012). When failure is allowed and fear of presenting a strange concept is not there, creativity is stimulated. Likewise, Mikdashi (1999) proposed that to look for unique answers to complications, personnel must have the independence and liberty to break the norms.

A climate that has a purpose and provides support leads to the reduction of prospective risks which are apprehended by the innovative employees and this, in turn, boosts their work-related creativity. If the environment of the organization provides a feeling of being

respected and creditable to the employee then such individuals attain greater motivation for innovation directed to the attainment of preferred goals (Cohen-Meitar, Carmeli, & Waldman, 2009). When such ideas as motivation, risk-taking, dispute, liberty and trust, which all appear to influence IWB, are combined, remarkably intersect with the factors of IOC reinforcing the anticipation that IOC is expected to have a constructed influence on IWB.

Parker, Baltes, Young, Huff, Altmann, Lacost, & Roberts (2003) showed in their meta-analysis that the association between climate within the workplace with OP is mediated by personnel's job-related attitudes. Similarly, another meta-analysis (Harter et al., 2002) demonstrated that creating a work context that boosts and facilitates innovation in personnel can meaningfully upsurge the prospects of corporate success. Additionally, some other researchers (Crespell & Hansen, 2009; De Silva, Howells, & Meyer, 2018; Nybakk & Jenssen, 2012; Shanker et al., 2017) have proposed that IOC influences OP directly and indirectly, via IWB. Such a notion is stressed by recent studies (De Jong & Den Hartog, 2010), who highlighted the role of personnel in process of innovation as their opinions and behavior are vital for constant novelty and enhancement in accomplishing better corporate success, progress and market worth.

AS OP relies to a large degree on success of individual projects that it deals with, therefore, based on the previous discussion, it can be inferred that personnel's actions are expected to affect a project's success via efficient use of their information and technical proficiencies for commencing innovative schemes with the objective of augmenting their competitiveness. Therefore, we put forward that there is an indirect influence of IWB on the association between IOC and PS:

*H2. IWB mediates the relationship between IOC and PS.*

#### *The moderating effect of gender and work culture*

The role of human capital as a catalyst of innovation (put forward mainly by Moss Kanter, 1988), has gained enormous research focus (Cropley & Cropley, 2015) and recently this interest has been diverted toward the influence and effect of women in innovation (Alsos, Ljunggren, & Hytti, 2013; Lindberg & Schiffbänker, 2013). Though a study carried out by Hülshager, Anderson, and Salgado (2009) did not get support for their proposition of a negative association between innovation and diversity, some recent and more focused research studies have provided evidence of a distinguished influence of gender on innovation (Foss, Woll, & Moilanen, 2013). Hewlett, Marshall, and Sherbin (2013) have also shown a positive impact of gender diversity on innovation. According to Foss et al. (2013, p. 299) "The gendered power aspect of business life is thus a contextual reality that is likely to affect the innovative potential of employees". Based on this discussion, we propose that:

*H3. Gender moderates the relationship between IOC and innovative behavior.*

There is a general agreement about differences between private and public sector employment (Rashid & Rashid, 2012). These researchers have mentioned that, although studies have focused on the comparison between private and public sectors, they have obtained diverse results. The culture of private versus public sector organizations vary notably with respect to job contents, their quality, task interdependence, job independence, challenge, participation in decision-making, quality of social relations, variety of work and task significance (Baldwin & Farley, 1991; as cited by Rashid & Rashid, 2012). The literature on innovation in the public sector usually portrays a comparative dearth of

innovation in this sector which is fundamentally less innovative as compared to the private sector (Albury, 2010).

In the past several years, studies and practice have built a progressively advanced and vigorous knowledge base related to innovation in the private sector (Hamel & Getz, 2004). The dispersion of innovation in the public sector is as sluggish and problematical as compared to the private sector, and the conversion of services and service delivery takes longer (Albury, 2005). Several scholars have compared public and private sector innovation (Lee, Hwang, & Choi, 2012). Bommert (2010) has linked innovation in the private sector with new product development, competitive advantage and value addition with respect to higher revenues; and innovation in the public sector with improvement in service performance and value addition with respect to public benefit.

Because private organizations confront strong international competition and fast technological transformations, adjusting to the challenging business settings has become decisive for business success (Eisenhardt & Martin, 2000). According to Perry (2000), further empirical studies are required to embrace the larger work context for understanding organizational behavior in public-private sector organizations. Hence, in this study, we have included work-culture as a moderator between IOC and IWB by taking the public-private sector as a proxy for this work culture:

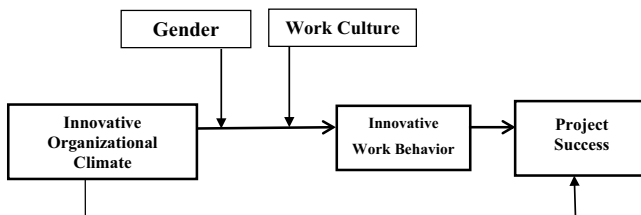
*H4.* Work culture moderates the relationship between IOC and innovative behavior.

**Research model**

**Methodology**

The target population of this research study was employees working in the projects department at executive, middle level and senior level management in the paint manufacturing industry. The paint industry of Pakistan was selected for this study because of the contextual relevance of this industry with the study variables. It is noted in literature that Pakistani consumers in the paint industry demand novelty and innovation in their choice of paint (Bilal, Iqra, & Javaid, 2010), which leads to their satisfactory experience and PS (Guide, 2001). Because innovation in this industry is in high demand therefore it is relevant to study how innovation might be enhanced in this industry leading to PS and customer satisfaction.

Convenience sampling technique was used to obtain the study sample because of the geographic dispersion, cost and time constraints for conducting a survey (Jahanzeb & Fatima, 2018). Approximately, 600 questionnaires were distributed in Pakistan. Out of these, 429 questionnaires were returned and had been found complete, resulting in a response percentage of approximately 71.5%. After removing incomplete questionnaires having



**Figure 1.**  
Research model

missing responses and influential outliers, final 425 usable questionnaires were used for the analysis. Thereby, net response rate reached 70.83%.

*Scales*

All responses were collected and measured on five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree) unless otherwise specified.

- *IWB*: For measurement of the construct of IWB the questionnaire adopted from [Janssen \(2000\)](#) was used in this study which consisted of nine items. The scale asked the employees how often they performed IWBs e.g. generating original solutions for problems and mobilizing support for innovative ideas.
- *Innovative climate*: For measurement of the construct of innovative climate, the questionnaire was adopted from [Sušanjan \(2000\)](#) which consisted of 12 items. Example of some items are “How often are people expected to invent new ways of solving problems” and “How often is there pressure on the R&D process because of external demand.” The questionnaire though is reported by employees but contains items that portray the climate of innovation existing in the organization.
- *PS*: For measurement of the construct of PS, the questionnaire adopted by [Harvett \(2013\)](#) was used in this study. The measure consisted of six items.

**Data analysis**

As we aimed to investigate the indirect effect of IOC on PS through IWB, before executing the key hypotheses, various tests were conducted to check the authenticity and appropriateness of the data, i.e. data normality, reliability and correlation analysis. Further, linear regression analysis was performed to check the direct effect of IOC on IWB and PS; and [Preacher and Hayes \(2004\)](#) technique was applied to explore the mediating effect of IWB on relationship between IOC and PS; and the moderating effect of gender and work culture. Process macro was selected for analysis because of its ease of use, model’s relevance with the study hypotheses ([Hayes, 2013](#)), and similarity in results with structural equation modeling ([Hayes, Montoya, & Rockwood, 2017](#)).

*Respondent’s demographic profile*

The data were obtained from employees working on various project of paint industry in Pakistan. [Table 1](#) is reflecting the demographic statistics of the respondents. The majority of the respondents were male (i.e. 89.1%) which is reflecting the male dominance in paint

**Table 1.**  
Respondent’s  
demographic profile

Sr. no.	Description	Category	Frequency	(%)
1	Gender	Male	379	89.1
		Female	46	10.9
2	Management level	Front level	179	42.1
		Middle level	219	51.6
		Senior level	27	6.3
3	Age	Up to 25	110	25.4
		Above 25	315	74.6
4	Education	Graduation	124	29.1
		Masters	258	60.7
		M.Phil	43	10.2



industry. Further, majority of the respondents are from middle level management and having the age of above 25 years. As far as education qualification is concerned, most respondents hold master level degrees (i.e. 60.7%).

This demographic profile also represents the general population of Pakistan where most of the workforce in masculine industries like that of paint manufacturing, is of men. As usually Pakistani students complete their graduation in early 20s therefore at middle level management, the age of more than 25 years was expected. Also, because unemployment is a reality in Pakistan (Chaudhry, 2019), it is difficult to get good job without a master’s degree, which is also reflected in our sample.

*Normality test*

It is essential to run normality tests before executing the causal analysis as these are the prerequisite of the regression analysis. Otherwise, the results of the proposed relationship can be misleading. To check the normality of data, skewness and kurtosis test was carried out. The data was within the threshold values set by set by Hair, Black, Babin, and Anderson (2010). The skewness and kurtosis value lied between -1 and +1. Additionally, the plot of the values graphically showed a straight line which made evident that there was no issue of normality.

Additionally, the chances of existence of heteroscedasticity were eliminated due to the standardized residuals centrality to zero with linear relationship. The variance inflation factor (VIF) and tolerance were also checked and results lied within the acceptable limits i.e. VIF 2.13 and tolerance 0.42 (Kline, 2014). With these tests regarding heteroscedasticity, VIF and tolerance, it can be inferred that the data is free from any issue of multi-collinearity. For checking the non-existence of autocorrelation, we applied Durbin–Watson test. The results demonstrated no autocorrelation. These tests and preliminary analyses permitted us to go for the regression analysis with confidence.

*Reliability and correlation tests*

It was ensured that all scales are reliable as Cronbach (1951) alpha’s values ranged from 0.7 to 0.8, showing average to good consistency (George & Mallery, 2016) (Table 2). Further, correlation analysis was conducted to find out the relationship among variables along with the strength of their association. The results showed that IOC has moderate positive association with IWB ( $r = 0.309$ ) and PS ( $r = 0.438$ ). Moreover, IWB has also moderate positive correlation with PS ( $r = 0.304$ ). The strength of association is showing that an upward trend in IOC leads to better IWB and higher the PS.

*Testing the hypotheses*

*Direct effects.* To check the main hypotheses regarding direct effects, linear regression analysis was performed. The results revealed that all direct effect between IOC and IWB, IWB and PS and IOC and PS have significant positive effects (Table 3). The results

Constructs	Alpha	IOC	IWB	PS
IOC	0.77	1		
IWB	0.71	0.31**	1	
PS	0.80	0.44*	0.31**	1

**Notes:** \*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$

**Table 2.**  
Reliability and correlation analysis



confirmed the significance of *H1* that IOC is positively associated with PS ( $\beta = 0.35, \rho < 0.05$ ). Further, substantial direct association between IOC and IWB and IWB and PS also set the basis for mediation effect of IWB between IOC and PS. Maximum variation was found between IWB and PS relationship ( $R^2 = 0.18, t = 5.42$ ), while the lowest was between IOC and PS ( $R^2 = 0.10, t = 3.59$ ). Moreover, the significance of these relationships sets the basis for mediation effect of IWB in relationship between IOC and PS; and moderation of gender and work culture.

*Mediating effect.* To check the mediating effect of IWB in relationship between IOC and PS, Preacher & Hayes (2004) mediation test was applied with 5,000 bootstrapping. The results demonstrated that IWB has partial mediating effect on IOC-PS relationship (Table 4). A-Path revealed that there is a positive relationship between IOC and IWB with  $\beta = 0.31$ , at 95% confidence level. Further, B-Path explained that IWB has positive relationship with PS having  $\beta$  value 0.44 with significant *p*-value. C and C'-Path showed direct and indirect relationship between IOC and PS with mediating effect of IWB. The analysis of both paths give evidence that IWB partially mediates the relationship between IOC and PS with  $\beta = 0.30$  at significant *p*-value (C-Path) and  $\beta = 0.38$  at significant *p*-value (C'-Path) at 95% confidence level (Table 4). The overall statistic of *H2* are also significant with  $R^2 = 0.23$  and S.E = 0.11 that has validated the mediation effect of IWB.

For further confirmation of mediation effect, Sobel test was executed which also confirmed the mediation effect of IWB on the relationship between IOC and PS ( $Z = 3.004, S.E = 0.054, p = 0.002$ ).

*Moderating effect of gender and work culture.* To check the moderating effect of gender and work culture in the association between IOC and IWB, PROCESS macro developed by Hayes (2013) was used with 5,000 bootstrapping samples. *H3* was not supported by our data i.e. gender does not moderate the positive relation between IOC and IWB.

Association	$R^2$	<i>f</i> -change	$\beta$	<i>t</i> -value	$\rho$
IOC → IB	0.11	14.061	0.32	3.89	**
IB → PS	0.18	28.754	0.45	5.42	**
IOC → PS	0.10	13.265	0.35	3.59	0.01

**Table 3.**  
Regression analysis

**Notes:** \*\*  $p < 0.05$ ; IOC = Innovative organizational climate, IWB = Innovative work behavior, PS = project success

Statistical descriptions	A-Path <sup>1</sup>	B-Path <sup>1</sup>	C-Path <sup>1</sup>	C'-Path <sup>1</sup> X(M)-Y
	X-M	M-Y	X-Y	
Un-standardized Beta	0.31	0.44	0.30	0.380
<i>P</i> -value	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000
<i>F</i> -change	13.021	29.14	12.581	17.477
$R^2$			0.23	
Adjusted $R^2$			0.22	
Significance value			0.000	
S.E			0.11	

**Table 4.**  
Mediation test (IOC, IWB, PS)

**Notes:** \*\* $p < 0.05$ ; IOC = Innovative climate, IWB = Innovative work behavior, PS = Project success

The interaction term was found to be non-significant (Table 5). Because the confidence interval included zero in the interval and was not significantly different from zero (coefficient = 0.01, S.E = 0.039,  $p = 0.199$ , CI = -0.21 to 0.054), therefore the hypothesis  $H5$  has been rejected. However,  $H4$  of the study was fully supported, as the data analysis provided evidence of a significant moderation of work culture. The interaction term was found to be significant (Table 5). Because the confidence interval did not include zero in the interval and was significantly different from zero (Coefficient = 0.08, S.E = 0.041,  $p < 0.001$ , CI = -0.13 to -0.037), so the hypothesis  $H6$  has been accepted i.e. the positive association between IOC and IWB was found to be stronger in the private sector (private: 0.54,  $p < 0.001$ ; public: 0.22,  $p < 0.001$ ; Table 6) as compared to the public sector (Figure 2).

After getting the results from process macro, which demonstrated no moderation effect of gender and a significant moderation of work culture between IOC and IWB, the critical values and path coefficients were calculated to check the moderating role of these two sets on the aforementioned association. The values of Table 7 show that women are no different to men employees with respect to innovative behavior due to IOC. Additionally, individual's innovative behavior because of the innovative work climate is more widespread in the private sector in comparison to the private sector.

**Discussion**

One important conclusion of this research is that personnel who show IWB furthers the likelihoods of PS. This finding is like the findings of Woodman, Sawyer, and Griffin (1993) and Amabile (1988), who have put forward that personal readiness is vital for innovative firms, which guides to sustainable success of the organization (Shih & Susanto, 2011; Tushman & O'Reilly, 1996). The results are also similar to the findings of other authors

**Table 5.** Moderating effect of gender and work culture on the relation between IOC → IWB using process macro

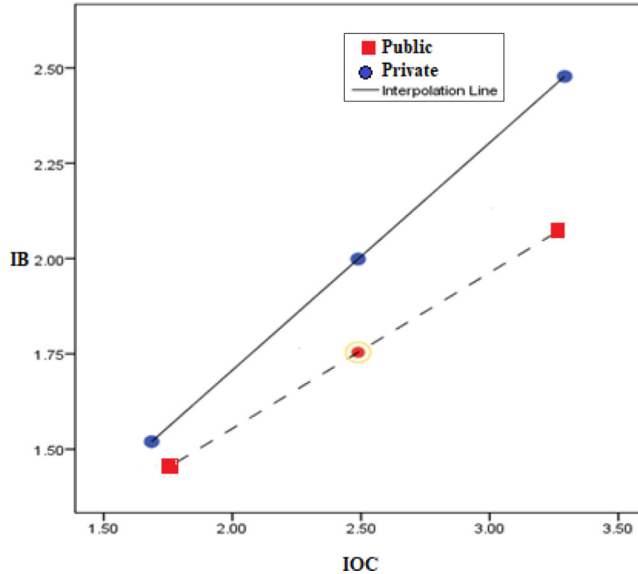
	$\beta$	S.E.	95% CI	$R^2$	$\Delta R^2$
Constant	0.79	0.363	-0.079; 1.50		
Gender (G; moderator)	0.15	0.101	-0.042; 0.355		
IOC (IV)	0.94*	0.135	0.679; 1.21		
Interaction (G × IOC)	0.01	0.039	-0.210; 0.054		
Model 1 $R^2$				0.14	0.002
Constant	0.51*	0.027	0.008; 0.097		
WC (moderator)	0.20*	0.022	-0.24; -0.156		
Interaction (WC × IOC)	0.08*	0.024	-0.131; -0.037		
Model 2 $R^2$				0.26*	0.009*

**Notes:** \* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.005$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.05$ ; WC = Work culture, S.E. = Standard error

**Table 6.** Differential effects of IOC on IB across male/female individuals; and public/ private sector

Independent variable	Moderator	IWB
IOC	Men	0.44
	Women	0.39
IOC	Public	0.22*
	Private	0.54*

**Note:** \* $p < 0.001$



**Figure 2.**  
Moderation of work culture

**Table 7.**  
Path coefficient's comparison

Path	Male	Female	CR	Public	Private	CR
IOC→IWB	0.51	0.55	3.22	0.21*	0.67*	2.187

**Note:** \* $p < 0.001$

(Amabile, 1997; George & Zhou, 2001; Oldham & Cummings, 1996; Runco, 2004; Scott & Bruce, 1994; Yuan & Woodman, 2010), who have shown that IWB is important in capturing competitive edge.

The results of our study are also in line with some recent studies carried out in various cultural contexts. For instance, the study of Shanker et al. (2017), who showed a link between IOC, IWB and OP in the Malaysian context. Additionally, Vincent, Bharadwaj, and Challagalla (2004) claimed that there is positive relationship between innovation and better performance of personnel and that it significantly boosts the performance of an organization. For attaining a better personal and OP, it is imperative that the behaviors be directed to the execution and improvement of ideas, in addition to idea generation (De Jong & Den Hartog, 2010). The results of current study would also benefit other developing nations, as studies related to innovation in such countries are scarce.

We also expand the efforts of Parker et al. (2003), who demonstrated the association of IOC and OP to be mediated by work-related attitudes of personnel. Finally, as stated before, earlier research studies have shown mixed findings related to the influence of gender (Cropley & Cropley, 2015; Hülshager et al., 2009; Foss et al., 2013; Hewlett, Marshall, & Sherbin, 2013) and work-culture (Albury, 2010; Hamel & Getz, 2004; Lee, Hwang & Choi, 2012; Foss et al., 2013), in relation to innovation. Our findings have demonstrated that, in the Pakistani paint industry, gender does not play any role, whereas work-culture does. Women

in this industry are no different than men in IWB arising from innovative organizational culture, however, differences prevail with respect to the said relationship between the public and private sectors where IOC affects the employees IWB more in the private sector, as compared to the public sector.

The existing literature about some sectors of developed economies show that, though they are usually considered as the cradles of economic strength and innovation, they continue to be dominated by men (Cropley & Cropley, 2017). This seems to suggest that innovation is men's business (Cropley, 2002). However, our results have shown that if women are provided with the supportive innovation climate, they are not inferior to men in displaying IWB, if not better. Moreover, the reason behind the prevalence of innovative behavior in private sector as compared to the public sector might be the job security offered by the public sector jobs in Pakistan (Saidan, 2019). As it is not easy to lose a public sector job under normal conditions, the employees here might be less inclined to spend their energies in innovation and not even the innovation supportive climate provided by the organization would affect their innovative abilities much as compared to the private sector.

#### *Theoretical implications*

This study contributes to the literature significantly by deepening the comprehension of personnel's IWB and PS. Drawing on the organizational climate theory, within the domain of industrial and organizational psychology, our study puts forward that IOC plays a significant role in effecting personnel's IWB which contributes toward the success of project. The results of this research are in line with researchers like Yeoh and Mahmood (2013), who demonstrated a positive link between IOC and personnel's IWB, yet they overlooked the analysis between interaction and PS.

Additionally, we contribute to the extant literature of organizational climate (Kang et al., 2016; Kuenzi & Schminke, 2009; Nybakk & Jenssen, 2012; Patterson, Warr, & West, 2004; Ren & Zhang, 2015; Senge, 1991) by showing that the management and leadership having the skills and ability to properly manage the climate aspects of workplace such as ideation leadership and support; would have better chances of stimulating innovation among employees. Odoardi, Battistelli, and Montani (2010) have put forward that feeling of support and encouragement in terms of generating, practicing and improving novel innovative ideas might give a boost to personnel's efficacy for initiating and sustaining IWB. For this it is also vital to concentrate on the IOC aspects.

#### *Implications for practice*

The results of this study offer various practical implications for PS. The leadership should contemplate to stimulate creativity and innovation in their employees and organization. Employee's behavior at work is influenced by the level of support they sense from management and workplace climate (Eisenbeiss, van Knippenberg, & Boerner, 2008). It is important for the employees to feel safe among work group members at job to avoid any reluctance in terms of idea generation, articulation and sharing (Shanker et al., 2017). Human resource (HR) and project managers, must understand the importance of aligning HR policies with goals of improving innovative climate which can encourage individual's innovative behavior e.g. fresh structures, policies, procedures, autonomy, reward and recognition programs. Organizations should train project managers to be supportive toward new ideas. Particularly, this study has provided a vital steppingstone to Pakistani project managers for nurturing a workplace innovative climate and behavior which can augment the rate of their PS. Due to the social, economic and environmental pressures, private organizations are required to innovate and try novel practices and paths of nurturing

innovation to counteract stagnation (Foss et al., 2013) as compared to the public sector organizations. This means that the influence of organizational structures and work environment (Amabile et al., 1996) on innovation is more pertinent than ever before.

The gender asymmetry found in industries such as the paint industry have several consequences regarding innovation. First, some male-dominated organizations might be under-performing in innovation but would be ignorant about it because they benchmark against equally asymmetric organizations. Second, a vicious cycle of gender-induced under-performance regarding innovation might be created because of the male-dominated environment and organizational culture that actively drive women away from these organizations. Third, the strong prevailing stereotypes about “typical female” are the opposite of the psychological prerequisites for innovative behavior (Cropley & Cropley, 2015). When such stereotypes are instilled in women’s minds, they might not only drive them away, but would also hamper the innovation capacity of the ones who stay, and subsequently of the entire organization. Such discussion though might purely mirror and strengthen the gendered nature of innovation research (Robb & Coleman, 2014), however, our study has shown that a handful of women working in the Pakistani paint industry are not influenced by the male domination and innovate in similar capacities when provided with supportive environment for innovation.

#### *Study limitations and recommendations*

Despite the contributions showed herein, our study presents some limitations. First, the cross-sectional nature of the study does not permit to make causal conclusions. For addressing this, future researchers need to focus on longitudinal or experimental designs. Second, the data was collected from paint manufacturing companies operating in Pakistan, therefore generalizations should be cautiously made. Therefore, the study might be replicated in other regions, sectors and industries. Moreover, the current research has studied the direct association between IOC and IWB. It is quite possible that this relationship might be more multifaceted and moderated by other variables. Therefore, it would be logical to include other mediators, such as job engagement or motivation (Amabile et al., 1996; Carmeli & Spreitzer, 2009; Yuan & Woodman, 2010).

Additionally, our study has offered country-neutral arguments while developing the hypotheses, but some factors such as cultural settings might interfere with the generalizability of our study model. For instance, the study context (Pakistan) of this research is characterized by high uncertainty avoidance (De Clercq, Haq, & Azeem, 2017), due to which employees might be principally sensitive to events that create uncertainty in their lives (Hofstede, 2001), such as innovation. Also, Pakistan is marked by collectivism (Hofstede, 1991; Jahanzeb & Fatima, 2018) as manifested through key roles played by family and kinship structures; and power distance (Jahanzeb, Fatima, Bouckenooqhe, & Bashir, 2019). Earlier it has been shown that uncertainty avoidance (Shane, 1993; Swierczek & Ha, 2003; Shane, 1995) is related to lower innovation rates, however, collectivism and power distance (Shane, 1993) are related to higher rates of innovation. This suggests that further cross-national studies might provide deeper insights into the studied variables. Additionally, replicating our model for studying the moderating role of cultural characteristics might also be fruitful to better comprehend the phenomenon under study.

The theoretical framework of this study also aids in identifying IWB as a positive predictor of PS. Our findings, in line with several other studies (Shanker et al., 2017; Shih & Susanto, 2011) has shown IWB to influence OP positively and therefore result in attainment of competitive edge. It is possible that the association between the two variables might be

more complex in nature, as the relationship might be direct or indirect with the presence of other potential mediators which may affect the chances of PS.

### Conclusion

The present research contributed to literature by studying the direct and indirect relationship between IOC and PS through IWB; as well as the moderating role of gender and work culture between IOC and IWB. The hypothesized model was tested through SPSS. The results showed a significant association between IOC and PS; and that IOC had a significant and positive effect on IWB. This shows that the presence of innovation in supportive climate plays significant role in improving IWB. Additionally, the study also provided support for the fact that individuals in private sector are more affected by IOC with respect to IWB as compared to public sector employees. However, no such difference was found between male and female employees.

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