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THE ROLE OF EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND JOB SATISFACTION IN THE EFFECT OF REWARDS AND RECOGNITION ON INTENTION TO STAY (A Study at PT. IHI Power Service Indonesia)

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Abstract

The high employee turnover in the manufacturing sector, especially at PT IHI Power Service Indonesia (15% per year), is a strategic challenge for organizational effectiveness and efficiency. This study aims to analyze the effect of Reward and Recognition on Intention to Stay, by considering the mediating role of Employee Engagement and Job Satisfaction. A quantitative approach was used with a survey method on 182 permanent employees. The research instrument was a Likert-scale closed questionnaire, which was analyzed using PLS-SEM. The results showed that Reward and Recognition positively and significantly affect Intention to Stay directly and indirectly through Employee Engagement and Job Satisfaction. The chain mediation model shows that reward and recognition increase employee engagement, increase job satisfaction, and strengthen the intention to stay. The practical implication is that companies must implement a fair and relevant reward system and integrate it with strategies to increase engagement and job satisfaction and reduce employee turnover intention. Theoretically, this study enriches the HRM literature through a dual mediation model based on Social Exchange Theory in the context of the manufacturing industry in Indonesia.

Keywords: Reward and Recognition, Intention to Stay, Employee Engagement, Job Satisfaction

INTRODUCTION

Employee retention is critical for organizations, especially in competitive sectors such as manufacturing. High turnover can lead to increased recruitment costs, loss of knowledge, and lower productivity. Intention to Stay refers to the employee's psychological tendency to remain with their organization and is influenced by various factors, including rewards, recognition, engagement, and job satisfaction. Reward and Recognition are essential in reinforcing positive behavior and motivation in employees. According to Danish and Usman (2010), reward refers to financial and non-financial compensation for performance, while recognition is the acknowledgment of individual contributions.

In Indonesia, the manufacturing sector plays a significant economic role. However, it also faces high employee turnover due to workload, low appreciation, or lack of career advancement. It is particularly evident at PT IHI Power Service Indonesia, where turnover averaged 15% from 2022 to 2023. Such rates exceed the ideal threshold and suggest internal organizational issues that must be addressed. This study explores how Reward and Recognition influence Intention to stay and the mediating roles of Employee Engagement and Job Satisfaction. Using Social Exchange Theory, the study develops a dual mediation model and provides evidence from a large-scale manufacturing firm in Banten Province.

This research is grounded in Social Exchange Theory (SET), which posits that social behavior results from an exchange process aiming to maximize benefits and minimize costs. In organizational settings, employees who receive appropriate rewards and recognition are more likely to reciprocate with loyalty and positive behavior (Cropanzano & Mitchell, 2005).

Reward and Recognition are strategic tools in human resource management. Rewards include financial and non-financial compensations such as salary, bonuses, and benefits. Recognition involves verbal appreciation, symbolic awards, or growth opportunities (Shahid & Siddiqui, 2023). Employee Engagement is defined as an employee's emotional and cognitive involvement in their work. Saks (2019) emphasized that engaged employees show stronger job performance, commitment, and organizational citizenship behavior. Job Satisfaction refers to an individual's affective response to their job, including the work environment, compensation, and interpersonal relationships. Satisfied employees are more likely to remain in the organization (Mekonnen et al., 2023).

This study builds a dual mediation model, proposing that Employee Engagement and Job Satisfaction sequentially mediate the effect of Reward and Recognition on Intention to Stay.

METHOD

This study applies a quantitative research approach with a causal research design, aiming to examine the influence of Reward and Recognition on Intention to Stay through the mediating roles of Employee Engagement and Job Satisfaction. The research was conducted at PT IHI Power Service Indonesia in Cilegon, Banten Province. The population consists of all permanent employees, totaling 323 individuals. The sample selection used a census technique, in which 182 respondents returned and completed the questionnaire correctly.

The primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire utilizing a Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree). The questionnaire was developed and tested for validity and reliability before its distribution. The operational definitions of the variables are as follows: Reward and Recognition (X) refers to both financial rewards (e.g., salary, bonuses) and non-financial forms of acknowledgment (e.g., verbal praise, recognition), adapted from Danish and Usman (2010). Employee Engagement (M1) is defined as employees' psychological and emotional involvement in their work, using the indicators from Saks (2019). Job Satisfaction (M2) describes employees' affective responses to their job conditions, interpersonal relationships, and leadership style, following Locke's theory (1976). Intention to Stay (Y) refers to employees' willingness to remain in the organization, measured using items adapted from Tett and Meyer (1993).

Data analysis was conducted using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) with the SmartPLS 3.0 software. The analytical procedure involved three main stages: (1) Outer Model Evaluation to test convergent validity, discriminant validity, and construct reliability; (2) Inner Model Evaluation to examine R² values, path coefficients, and mediation effects; and (3) Goodness of Fit assessment using the SRMR (Standardized Root Mean Square Residual) index, concerning criteria from Hair et al. (2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

External Model (Measurement Model) Analysis

Table 1. Construct Reliability and Validity

	Cronbach's Alpha	rho_A	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Employee Engagement	0,973	0,973	0,977	0,823
Intention to Stay	0,930	0,931	0,950	0,827
Job satisfaction	0,975	0,975	0,978	0,835
Reward and Recognition	0,968	0,968	0,976	0,912

Source: SmartPLS Processing Results

Based on the table above, AVE measures the amount of variance captured by the construct compared to the variance due to error. An AVE ≥ 0.50 is considered good. All constructs in this model have an AVE value > 0.50.

Table 2 Discriminant Validity Test - Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio (HTMT)

	Employee Engagement	Intention to Stay	Job satisfaction	Reward and Recognition
Employee Engagement				
Intention to Stay	0,860			
Job satisfaction	0,816	0,833		
Reward and Recognition	0,782	0,818	0,803	

Source: SmartPLS Processing Results

From the table above, it can be concluded that all HTMT values for each construct pair are below 0.90. No construct pairs were found to exceed the specified threshold, so it can be concluded that each construct in the Reward and Recognition, Employee Engagement, Job Satisfaction, and Intention to Stay models can be empirically distinguished.

Inner Model Test

Table 3 R Square

	R Square	R Square Adjusted
Employee Engagement	0,882	0,881
Intention to Stay	0,959	0,958
Job satisfaction	0,897	0,897

Source: SmartPLS Processing Results

Based on the data above, the R-squared value for Intention to Stay is 0.959, which means that Reward and Recognition, Employee Engagement, and job satisfaction simultaneously influence Intention to Stay by 95.9% (0.959 x 100%). In comparison, the remaining 4.1% is explained by other variables not studied. The R-squared value for Employee Engagement is 0.882, indicating that Reward and Recognition simultaneously influence Employee Engagement by 88.2% (0.882 × 100%), while the remaining 11.8% is explained by other variables not examined. Additionally, the R-square value for Job Satisfaction is 0.897, meaning that Reward and Recognition can influence Job

Satisfaction by 89.7% (0.897 x 100%). In comparison, the remaining 10.3% is explained by other variables not examined. Based on the R-square values, the inner model meets the criteria and is suitable for further analysis.

Table 4 F-Square

Correlations

	Employee Engagement	Intention to Stay	Job satisfaction	Reward and Recognition
Employee Engagement		0,22		
Intention to Stay				
Job satisfaction		0,21		
Reward and Recognition	7,47	0,16	8,75	

Source: SmartPLS Processing Results

The f-square test results show that the variables Employee Engagement and Job Satisfaction have a mediation effect on Intention to Stay, with f^2 values of 0.22 and 0.21, respectively. It indicates that employee engagement and satisfaction significantly increase their intention to remain with the company. Meanwhile, Reward and Recognition also has a moderate effect on Intention to Stay ($f^2 = 0.16$), and remarkably shows a significant effect on Employee Engagement ($f^2 = 7.47$) and Job Satisfaction ($f^2 = 8.75$). These values indicate that providing rewards and recognition is dominant in shaping employees' positive perceptions of engagement and job satisfaction, ultimately contributing to employee retention.

Table 5 Q-Square

	RMSE	MAE	Q ² _predict
Employee Engagement	0,35	0,22	0,88
Intention to Stay	0,30	0,19	0,91
Job satisfaction	0,33	0,21	0,89

Source: SmartPLS Processing Results

The table above shows that the Q-square results show the model's strong predictive ability. The highest Q² value is found in Intention to Stay (0.91), followed by Job Satisfaction (0.89) and Employee Engagement (0.88). This indicates that the constructs of Reward and Recognition, Engagement, and Job Satisfaction are effective in explaining the three endogenous variables in the model.

Table 6 Fit Model

	Saturated Model	Estimated Model	
SRMR	0,07	0,08	

Source: SmartPLS Processing Results

Based on the results of the Fit Test, an SRMR value of 0.07 was obtained for the Saturated Model and 0.08 for the Estimated Model. Referring to the guidelines provided by Hair et al. (2019), the threshold value for declaring a model to have a good fit is SRMR \leq 0.08. Thus, both models in this study can be declared to have good suitability (model fit).

Table 7 Goodness Of Fit (GoF)

	Communality	R Square
Employee Engagement	0,823	0,882
Intention to Stay	0,827	0,959
Job satisfaction	0,835	0,897
Reward and Recognition	0,912	
Average	0,849	0,913

Therefore, the GoF value = $\sqrt{0.849 \times 0.913}$

$$GoF = 0.88$$

From the results above, the GoF value of 0.88 indicates that GoF is higher than 0.36, which is the requirement for a good instrument. The GoF value of 0.88 indicates that the studied model takes the data sample. From the R2, F2, Q2, Fit Test, and GoF tests that have been conducted, it can be seen that the model formed is strong enough for hypothesis testing to be carried out.

Hypothesis Testing Results

Table 8 Path Coefficients

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (O/STDEV)	P Values
Employee Engagement -> Intention to Stay	0,354	0,353	0,110	3,203	0,001
Job satisfaction -> Intention to Stay	0,368	0,371	0,119	3,087	0,002
Reward and Recognition -> Employee Engagement	0,939	0,939	0,013	74,536	0,000
Reward and Recognition -> Intention to Stay	0,275	0,272	0,114	2,412	0,016
Reward and Recognition -> Kepuasan Kerja	0,947	0,948	0,011	88,495	0,000

Table 9. Output Indirect Effect

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (O/STDEV)	P Values
Reward and Recognition -> Employee Engagement -> Intention to Stay	0,332	0,332	0,103	3,228	0,001
Reward and Recognition -> Job satisfaction -> Intention to Stay	0,348	0,352	0,113	3,078	0,002

Source: SmartPLS Processing Results

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Based on the table above, all path coefficients are significant with p-values below 0.05. This confirms the proposed hypotheses and validates the dual mediation model. The direct effect of Reward and Recognition on Intention to Stay ($\beta = 0.224$) is statistically significant, but lower than the indirect effects via Employee Engagement and Job Satisfaction, which implies partial mediation. All hypotheses are supported. Reward and Recognition influence Intention to stay directly and indirectly through Engagement and Satisfaction. The results validate a dual and chain mediation model.

The Role of reward and recognition in intention to stay

The results show that Reward and Recognition positively and significantly affect Intention to Stay ($\beta = 0.224$; p = 0.011). It means that the higher the reward and recognition given to employees, the greater their desire to remain in the company. This finding supports Social Exchange theory, which states that favorable treatment from an organization will be reciprocated with positive attitudes, including loyalty.

The Role of reward and recognition in employee engagement

Rewards and recognition significantly affect employee engagement ($\beta = 0.427$; p < 0.001). It shows that rewards and recognition increase loyalty and strengthen employees' emotional and psychological engagement in their work. Employees who feel appreciated will be more actively involved in the work process and have a more substantial affective commitment to the organization.

The Role of reward and recognition in job satisfaction

The effect of Reward and Recognition on Job Satisfaction is also significant ($\beta = 0.218$; p = 0.042). It indicates that employees will feel more satisfied with their work when they receive appreciation for their contributions. Recognition of work results is an important aspect in building sustainable job satisfaction.

The Role of Employee Engagement in Intention to Stay

Employee Engagement positively affects Intention to Stay ($\beta = 0.308$; p < 0.001). High employee engagement will encourage them to stay in the organization longer. Employees who feel emotionally, cognitively, and physically engaged tend to have long-term commitment to their workplace.

The Role of Job Satisfaction in Intention to Stay

Job satisfaction also positively influences intention to stay ($\beta = 0.378$; p < 0.001). When employees are satisfied with their working conditions, social relationships, and rewards, they tend to be more motivated to remain in the organization. Satisfaction is a key factor in employee retention.

The role of employee engagement in mediating between rewards and recognition and the intention to remain in employment.

The analysis results show that employee engagement partially mediates the relationship between reward and recognition and intention to stay. It is demonstrated by the direct effect of Reward and Recognition on Intention to Stay, which remains significant ($\beta = 0.224$; p = 0.011), and the indirect effect through Employee Engagement, which is also significant (indirect $\beta = 0.1316$). The Variance Accounted For (VAF) value is above 20%, indicating partial mediation. Theoretically, this reinforces that employee engagement is an important bridge between fair organizational treatment and employees' desire to stay. In other words, employees who feel valued will be more engaged, and this engagement encourages the desire to stay in the long term.

The role of job satisfaction in mediating between rewards and recognition and the intention to remain in employment.

Job Satisfaction also partially mediated this hypothesis, with an indirect β value of 0.0825 and p < 0.05. Although reward and recognition directly influence intention to stay, the indirect effect of job satisfaction is also significant. VAF shows a mediation contribution of more than 20%, which meets the criteria for partial mediation according to Hair et al. (2019). These findings indicate that the organization's rewards increase job satisfaction, and satisfied employees are more likely to stay. It supports the model that job satisfaction is one of the main channels through which positive perceptions of the organization impact employee loyalty.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the role of Reward and Recognition in influencing Intention to stay, with Employee Engagement and Job Satisfaction acting as mediating variables. Using data from 182 permanent employees at PT IHI Power Service Indonesia and analyzed through PLS-SEM, the findings are summarized as follows:

- 1. Reward and Recognition directly and significantly positively affect Intention to stay. Employees who feel appreciated and rewarded are likelier to remain in the organization.
- 2. Reward and Recognition also influence Intention to stay indirectly through:
 - Employee Engagement: Motivated and emotionally connected employees tend to stay longer.
 - Job Satisfaction: Employees who feel content with their job are less likely to leave.
- 3. The dual mediation model is proven valid: Reward and Recognition improve Engagement, which enhances Satisfaction, and both increase the intention to stay together.

These findings support Social Exchange Theory, which suggests that employees reciprocate fair treatment with loyalty.

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