# CAPITAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ISLAMABAD



# Perceived over qualification and cyber loafing: mediating role of moral disengagement and moderating role of moral identity

by

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for the degree of Master of Science

in the

Faculty of Management & Social Sciences

Department of Management Sciences

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I want to dedicate this thesis to my parents, respected teachers and friends for their love, support and care.



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# Abstract

Organizations find it challenging to hire and manage employees who perceives themselves as over qualified. For the retention of talents, it is imperative to understand the impact of perceived over qualification. Past research has shown that perception of over qualification develops feelings of moral disengagement which at last leads them towards cyber loafing. Therefore, this research aims to study the impact of perceived over qualification on cyber loafing with the mediating role of moral disengagement and moderating role of moral identity. For this purpose, data were collected online from 356 employees of Pakistani government and private sector organizations. Convenience sampling technique was used for data collection. Data was processed in SPSS 21 and Mplus 8.1. Structural equation modelling was employed to explore the relationship between variables. Most of the respondents (N=250, 70.2%) were from 19 to 30 years of age. One hundred and ninety three (54.2%) were males and 163 (45.8%) were females. In bivariate correlation moral identity had positive and significant association with moral disengagement and cyber loafing but in a full model analysis, moral identity had negative and significant (-0.386) association as moderator of association of moral disengagement and cyber loafing. Mediation of moral disengagement was insignificant. Based on the findings managerial and practical implications are presented.

Keywords: perceived over qualification, cyber loafing, moral disengagement, moral identity

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# Chapter 1

# Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Perceived over qualification is generally considered to be an individual's own perception about his education. Perceived over qualification is basically an over qualification construct which is used by industrial- organizational psychology, as perceived over qualification provides a way in sequence to the outcomes cyber loafing etc., (Fernandes, 2016). Over qualification creates negative feelings in our mind which are related to lower job satisfaction and job related other negative attitudes (Erdogan & Bauer, 2009). Perceived over qualification indicates a poor personjob fit in which assigned duties are less than employee's qualification (Maynard & Yonova, 2013). Individuals at initial stages of their career are concerned about their over qualification, they would worry about the consequences to career trajectories (Gkorezis, Erdogan & Bellou, 2019). When employees compare their positions with their qualification, they may think that they should have a better position and they start showing negative attitudes towards their organization (Johnson et al, 2002).

It is always a challenge for an organization to hire and manage overqualified employees. Managers aim to hire over qualified persons and they strive to hire most desirable person for their organization (Erdogan, Karaemingulla, Bauer & Ellis, 2018). For the retention of talents of over qualified employees, organization should create appropriate opportunities to reduce the negative perception of over

qualification (Yang, Guan, Lai, She & Lockwood, 2019). Among the negative consequences of perceived over qualification is a rise of inequity among employees which may leads them to cyber loafing (Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang & Sun, 2019). Cyber loafing is the reason of many unethical and harmful acts which includes: a) it causes decrease in overall productivity of an organization as employees waste their productive time by surfing on the internet. b) by surfing on the internet from an organization's internet, it may results in leaking security related information so that anyone around the globe can have access to organization's secret and legal risks. c) by using company's internet for personal use an individual just waste company's resources (Finance Notes Team, 2021). It must be understood how over qualification leads to cyber loafing, so that managers can better understand management of over qualified employees (Arvan, Pindek, Andel & Spector, 2019). "Cyber loafing refers to the actions of employees who take advantage of their corporate internet access for personal use while pretending to do work" (Techslang). Cyber loafing is difficult to be observed by others as it is performed privately (Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang & Sun). When managers hire overqualified employees, they usually consider the potential benefits of their performance rather than considering any disadvantage or making a special consideration for management of such employees (Fine & Edward, 2017). Harari, Manapragade and Viswesvaran (2017) demonstrated that workers experience less anger and frustration in high power distance cultures towards their over qualification responses as compared to lower power distance cultures (Harari, Manapragade & Viswesvaran, 2017). Perceived over qualification is considered to be a barrier in continuation of job. If level of perceived over qualification is high it causes uncontrollable behaviors (like moral disengagement and cyber loafing) of employees and results in negative outcomes such as cyber loafing and as recommended by Urgin and Pearson (2013) that using email for personal use and using social media etc. Feelings of over qualification arises when employees accept some position or sometimes these feelings may arise after spending some time on that position (Sesen & Ertan, 2019). Over qualified employees have strong intentions for leaving a job and they start considering both internal and external movements (Wu & Chi, 2020). Managers who are willing to take overqualified employees to the organization are also concerned about the

ways to avoid any negative outcomes (Fernandes, 2016). Past research has shown that perceptions of over qualification develops feelings of moral disengagement and anger towards organization which at last leads them towards cyber loafing. Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun, (2018) tested a mediation and moderation model to understand pathway of impact of perceived over qualification on cyber loafing. This study provide important pathways to be studied to understand the interaction of perceived over qualification and cyber loafing. Several other studies have also indicated the importance of moral disengagement and moral identity for studying the association of perceived over qualification and cyber loafing (Sawitri & Mayasari, 2017). Studies of Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019) suggested that moral disengagement act as trigger of negative behavior for over qualified employees which further leads them towards cyber loafing. Variation in behaviors of over qualified employees is driven when they are morally disengage (Andel, Pindek & Arvan, 2021).

Negative reactions (e.g, Cyber loafing and moral disengagement) of over qualified employees are based on there is any similarity between not only on their own status but their coworkers' as well. It is the perception about over qualified employees that they are phenomenon of social unit like work groups and organizations (Chu, 2019). Erdogan et al, (2012) suggested in a research that manager who is not secure about his/her own job can never provide favorable work environment for over qualified employees, as they are insecure about their own job. Over qualified employees have much higher belief in their abilities to perform their core duties and responsibilities. Over qualified employees have developed positive self-evaluation perceptions about their job abilities (Lee, 2020). As by definition of over qualification shows that how much knowledge, skills and abilities an individual have about certain job, and over qualification can be considered as an indicator of that how a person perform a task. The reason is that over qualified employees have higher qualification, higher level of knowledge, skills and abilities (Dijik, Shantz & Alfes, 2019).

Management who is handling over qualified employees need to understand special and varying needs of over qualified employees. Organizations should organize and support needs of over qualified employees related to their careers through

which managers can utilize potential skills of over qualified employees and reduced turnover (Ma et al, 2009). Research of Ma, Lin, Chen and Wei (2020) indicated that in favorable social environment and when they get positive feedback, over qualified employees usually actively involves in tasks which requires to use their surplus capabilities. They can also bring positive change in an organization when proper work is given to them according to their qualification. It is only possible when well-designed qualification tools and personality tests of overqualified employees will be conducted during recruitment and selection.

Perceptions of employees about over qualification arise the feelings among them that they deserve better and they start behaving negatively against their employers (Schreurs, Hamstra, Jamwaha & Akkermans, 2020). As social networks are full of job opportunities, so over qualified employees easily get access to social networks and they try to get desired job which leads them towards cyber loafing (Weiss, 2020). In their study, Bussey, Aileen, Fitz, Patrick and Allison (2020) said that the level of cyber loafing is related with higher level of moral disengagement. Some studies found that there is positive relation between cyber loafing and moral disengagement. Moral disengagement is critical mechanism of mediation between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing (Yang, Wang & Lei, 2019). Perception of people about meaning full work usually associated with that how much they are satisfied and feel positive fulfillment of their work (Pratt & Ashforth, 2003). Over qualified employees are not always engaged in negative consequences rather if they have job autonomy, it help them to overcome their negative emotions due to which organizations show concern to their over qualified work force and they never want to lose them (Wu, Tian, Luksyte & Mueller, 2018). Perception of over qualification is a strong predictor for an employee to act unethically (Cardona et al, 2019).

Moral identity can be taken as motivational force as it can act as a guide to individual that he has to behave ethically (Yang, 2013). Moral identity can be addressed as a shield against a moral disengagement. According to Bandura, moral identity depends on moral disengagement and moral disengagement depends on situation (Hardy, Bear & Olsei, 2014). Studies have shown that women have strong

moral identity as compared to men, due to which women have ethical advantage (Kennedy, Kray & Ku, 2017).

During COVID-19, negative behaviors of over qualified employees were less observed as they have sense that organization is in crisis (We et al, 2022). Results of study showed that perceived over qualification not only promotes negative behaviors but it can promote negative behaviors as well at work (Dar, Ahmed & Rahman, 2022). Employees who have perception of over qualification, have to face more rejections while working with under qualified managers, which results increase in negative behaviors by them in the form of cyber loafing (Zhang, Bolino & Yin, 2022). Over qualified persons have positive association towards their career success (Aslam, Shahid & Sattar, 2022). Organizations can manipulate perceived over qualification to get positive outcomes which are helpful for organizational success. Over qualified employees can produce extra ordinary results if organization have ability to manage them appropriately. Leaders should consider over qualified employees while making decision as these people can have innovative ideas (Toker et al, 2022). Research have shown that over qualified persons shows less commitment to the organization, therefore organizations feel hesitation while hiring them as compared to those people whose qualification is sufficient for job requirement (Campbell & Hahi, 2022). Studies have shown a lot of evidences about over qualified employees' job attitudes, which include that sometimes they show low performance and sometimes high performance. On the other hand, if they have high level perception of over qualification, they show negative behaviors at work but some employees are master in such skills which are needed to perform their high level tasks. Negative behaviors by over qualified employees depend on the degree to which they have perception of over qualification regarding their job. Overqualified employees have more self-belief that they greater number of abilities to perform their core job duties, but on the other hand, these people feel demotivated as well (Lee et al, 2021).

Individual's perception of over qualification can be reduced by letting them place in organization's core responsibilities like decision making (Campbell, Carvalho, Lopes & Cesario, 2021). When an employee perceived him/herself as over qualified, he/she start hiding knowledge from his/her leaders/supervisors because he/she is

disrespectful of his/her leader (Li, Liao & Han, 2021). Over qualified employees always think about leaving the job. If they cannot leave job for the time being they get involved in in negative behaviors like cyber loafing (Vinayak, Bhatanger & Agarwal, 2021). Perceived over qualification can have positive effect on organization only if they are provide with favorable working conditions and these conditions can be provided when boundary conditions were examined (Ma et al, 2020). Over qualified employees felt insecure while working with managers. An average over qualified employee is more strongly involved in negative behaviors as they higher level of job insecurity (Erdogan et al, 2020). As over qualified employees are highly qualified, they have high level of skills and experience, they deserve those jobs that are equivalent to their qualification and if they cannot get required job, sense of unfairness has been developed in them and this is closely associated with job misfit between the person and his job. If over qualified employees are fit for their job, a lot of positive outcomes can be seen in some employees (Varma & Sandhya, 2019). On the other hand, perceived over qualification can be the reason of depressive moods and negative outcomes (Wasserman & Hoppe, 2019). Over qualification is a major cause of underemployment as well (Ma, Ganegoda & Jiang, 2018). Employees who have perception of over qualification behave rudely to their managers and coworkers which is dangerous for their social relationships. When they feel bored, their performance level decreases. According to studies, bored over qualified employees are actively engaged in negative behaviors like cyber loafing (Kim, Park, Sohn & Lim, 2021), because it is easy for them to use organization's internet for their personal use, unaware of that their actions are harming organization (Nwogb & Coleman, 2021).

Employees do not have any idea about cost of cyber loafing and they do not consider it wrong. Some studies show that cyber loafing does not always result in negative outcomes but sometimes it facilitates innovative behaviors, so it should not be eliminated completely (Derin & Gokce, 2016). Study of Al-Shuaibi, Shamsudin and Subramaniam (2013) show that performance appraisal practices (compensation, employment security, career advancements etc) in an organization helps to reduce cyber loafing at work. Employees use internet at workplace to get rid of hectic working environment (Lim & Chen, 2012). According to some studies

90% of employees engaged in minor cyber loafing (sending and receiving personal emails at work as well as surfing mainstream news and financial websites) and theory do not consider it in a negative behavior at all (Blanchard & Henle, 2008).

### 1.2 Gap Analysis

Over the past decade, there has been significant rise in education and skill level in Pakistan. However, this has led to more and more employees being unable to fully utilize their education and skillset for performing their job duties. This is a vital indication for the upcoming "epidemic of over qualification". Thus, this may lead to overall reduction in productivity due to employees experiencing negative consequences of reduced person-job fit (Farooq, Rehmat & Ali, 2008). Thus, this study aims to understand over qualification within the Pakistani context using Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019) model for determining its pathway to negative outcomes like cyber loafing (Cheng, Zhou, Guo & Yang, 2008). Although in-depth study has already been done on perceived over qualification, there is less empirical evidence on behaviors of over qualified employees in the form cyber loafing (Wu & Chi, 2020). Previous research have mainly focused on the potential inconsistent results of over qualification but did not look at the possible value to attitudes and behaviors of overqualified employees (Ma, Lin, Chen & Wei, 2020). Although growing attention has been paid to the cyber loafing, it is surprisingly rare for organizations to research the mechanisms by which overqualified employees engage in unproductive behaviors (Deng, Liao, Liu, Zhang & Bao, 2020). As cyber loafing is a sensitive topic due to which employees may have feelings of hesitation, so we have to use such methods through which they feel safe while answering the questions (Cheng, Zhou, Guo & Yang, 2018).

## 1.3 Supporting Theory

Person-job fit (PJ) theory by Jeff Edwards used as under pinning theory for the proposed study and will help to understand the relationship between variables. Person-job (PJ) fit is defined as "the compatibility between individuals and the

job or tasks that they perform at work". In the past, the term PJ fit has been used to describe fit with occupations or vocations as well. More recently it has been distinguished from this broader form of person job fit. It has been emphasized that there should be high PJ fit while selecting employees (Deng, Liaor, Liu, Zhang & Bao, 2020). Perceived over qualification can be considered as a type of person-job misfit which arises the feelings that their knowledge and qualification is beyond the job demand (Cable & DeRue, 2002). In the mid-1990s Jeff Edwards elaborated on areas of misfit, suggesting four possible processes that can occur when job supplies do not correspond with individual needs. When excess supplies exist, individuals will benefit if they can either carry over these supplies to fulfill other needs, or conserve the excess to fulfill a later need. Alternatively, when excess supplies hinder the future fulfillment of needs (depletion) or interfere with fulfilling other needs, individuals will suffer from greater strain. Edwards (1991) proposed an advanced analytic strategy labeled polynomial regression and three-dimensional surface plot analysis to allow for closer inspection of misfit and fit relationships. These techniques were specifically proposed as alternatives to the commonly used algebraic difference scores or direct measures of the discrepancy between desired and actual job attributes (Deng, Liaor, Liu, Zhang & Bao, 2020).

According to person-job fit theory, if an individual is miss-fit for certain position, he considers himself as less worthy member of an organization and become angry toward his position (Liu et al, 2014). Over qualified employees have over abundance of knowledge, and if they managed properly, i.e. if they are fit for their jobs, they can be excellent workers (Luksyte & Spitzmueller, 2015). Poor person-job fit motivate unethical behavior (Luksyte et al, 2011). According to some studies, managers are worry that why over qualified individual apply for a certain job for which he think that he is over qualified? Results of studies have answered that this is because they do not have clarification or managers do not provide adequate explanations while posting a job. So when they are hired, they may face problems with their managers, with co-workers, they start violating company policies and get engaged in unethical behavior like cyber loafing. Due to which managers even do not consider over qualified individuals for interview or selection processes (Liu & Wang, 2012). By considering equity theory, research suggested that perceived

over qualification is an unjust situation, which increases the level of moral disengagement and leading to cyber loafing. Perceived inequity arise when there is feeling among employees that they are over qualified which also lead them to cyber loafing (Cheng, Zhou, Guo & Yang, 2020). According to person-job fit theory, perceived over qualification is actually a person-job misfit which harm wellbeing of an individual (Wassermann, Fujishiro & Hoppe, 2017). The reason of using personjob fit theory in this research is according to research person-job fit theory mainly focuses on behavioral outcomes of over qualification. Primary concern of personjob fit theory is that either abilities of individuals are compatible with their job requirements or not (Jahantab, 2020). Poor match between over qualified employees' desired and actual job characteristics may lead them to behave unethically, poor job attitudes and turnover (Nelson, 1996). Perceptions of job seekers about person-job fit are the predictions about their intentions towards important aspects of job like rewards. According to studies, most employers interview those individuals who are either been prescreened or who considers themselves as selected as they find fit between their qualification and job description. Individuals whose emphasis is on person-job fit in job choice decisions, they experience person-job fit after joining the organization (Cable, D.M., & Judge, 1996).

Studies indicated that if person is not fit for his job there are many inter and intra organizational factors which motivate him to leave the job. It is not necessary that individuals directly choose their profession according to their abilities. With time as individuals explore different occupational options, match between persons and their profession occur. Either environmental or personal factors can cause poor fit, whether this poor fit is in the form of under employed or over employed. There are certain situations in which an individual intentionally or unintentionally stay in a job that is poor fit for him, with hoping that one day he will get a better position which is best fit for his knowledge, skills and abilities (Wilk, S.L., & Sackett, 1996). Job seekers view their future jobs by weighing person-job fit in their job choices. Employers can easily predict individuals' job attitudes and job choice intentions (Cable & Judge, 1996). Studies indicated that knowledge, skills and abilities are frequently used indicators of person-job fit. As there are broad categories of applicant characteristics, it is difficult for recruiter to agree

on specific indicator which shows good fit (Brown, 2000). Selection procedures must be legal to be related to job, so that if recruiter rely on person- job fit at the final stage, they must be justifiable to relevant job performance. The degree to which new comers enter in organization with their values and goals, determine how they have understandings with those of organization (Kristof, 1996). Employees who are confident on their skills and abilities to perform a job, express more organizational attachement. People who collect relevant information about their job requirements, who carry out self-assessment, those people are able to drive a positive assessment regarding person-job fit and they may develop strong attachment towards organization. Those employees who are over qualified, fail to develop required organizational commitment at the initial period of job (Werbel, Landau & DeCarlo, 2013).

Studies suggested that profile comparison of over qualified individuals yield a useful approach for the assessment of person-job fit, that whether an individual is fit for relevant organizational outcomes or not, because fit is the "overall match between the individual's strengths and weaknesses and the job requirements" (Caldwell & Reilly, 1990). Individuals usually made those job choices upon which they fit the task requirements of the job. Job seekers select those organizations to work which are based upon their perception that there is a fit between themselves and the organization ((Rodgers, 2000). Person-job fit research has mainly focused on fit between employee desire and job supplies. Employee desire focuses on the person side of the fit index and job supplies focuses on the job side of the fit index (Hambleton & Taylor, 2000). Managers should have concerned about employees' perception of person-job fit. It is not necessary a person who is fit for organizational environment is also fit for his job. Person-job fit is also helpful for coworkers so that they can observe and evaluate each other's performance in the absence of management (Lauver & Brown, 2001). An individual's past work experience is a major determinant of how much he is fit for a job. Individuals who worked more months rather than in more companies have greater emphasis on person-job fit (Brown, Jansen & Colbert, 2002). Organizations are successful only when they provide meaningful working environment and right person for the right job in times when labor market is tight. An approach based on self-concept towards person job

fit in the selection process of human resource is suggested that job tasks must be matched with an individual's self-identity (Scroggins & Allen, 2003). When there is a meaningful position or work status rather than professional, either temporary or permanent, the relative effectiveness of person-job fit increases. At the time of hiring, there is no need of high level of person-job fit as employees may get a lot of opportunities throughout their career development to increase person-job fit (Sekiguchi, 2003; 2004). Research indicated that employees who are on appropriate job fit are more committed to the organization (Heywood, 2003). Person-job fit is the key factor of intention that a person is going to accept a job offer (Carless, 2005). Person-job fit is related to employee well-being (Hetch & Allen, 2005). Recruiters focus more on person-job when there is only one interview before final selection (Chuang & Sackett, 2005). Results shows that fit matters because attitudes and decisions are generally influenced by good or poor fit (Brwon, Zimmerman & Johnson, 2005). When recruiters try to create organizational structure which support empowerment of over qualified employees, they indirectly promote sense of fit between over qualified employees' expectations and goals and processes of organization, which leads to lower level of unethical behavior (Laschinger).

Studies have shown that there will be high person-job fit if individual have ability to be flexible so that he/she can adjust accordingly. Studies have also shown that there is a positive relationship between person-job fit and outcome of employee performance. When job matches with qualification, it fulfills employee expectations, they show more favorable performance and positive outcomes. Employees who are fit on their jobs have more tendency to handle stressful and challenging situations (Kaur & Kaur, 2020). Effects of perceived over qualification can be better explained by person-job fit theory (Ma et al, 2009). As person job fit theory revolves around the idea that every person has a specific traits which fit them according to specific job in a company. The more a person becomes fit for a job less is turnover, absenteeism, stress and poor job satisfaction (Jennifer). The reasons of using Person job fit theory in this study are, first, employees whose job involvement is high, this theory motivates them to behave innovatively. Second, person job fit is greatly and positively affected by career commitments (Huang, Yuan & Li, 2019). Testing of association between over qualification and cyber

loafing is very important because over qualification is dominant in dynamic organizations where person- job mismatch is very common due to which over qualified employees get away from their work. Previous studies have been drawn from social exchange theory (Lim, 2002) and equity theory (Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun, 2019; Cheng, Zhou, Guo and Yang, 2018) which shows the mechanism through which moral disengagement act as a trigger for over qualified employees to engage in cyber loafing. P-J fit theory provides a steady information about the negative outcomes of over qualification (Erdogan & Bauer, 2020). Organizations should have to use effective processes of selection to achieve high levels of P-J fit (Deng et al, 2020).

# Chapter 2

# Literature Review

In this section detailed theoretical analysis will be considered. This section will present research evidences for conceptualizing the association between perceived over qualification, moral disengagement, moral identity and cyber loafing in accordance with the frame work of person-job-fit theory. Both empirical and theoretical studies will be considered for developing study hypotheses and research model in the light of literature review.

### 2.0.1 Perceived Over Qualification and Cyber Loafing

"Perceived over qualification is a type of directional misfit between job and the person, such that one's ability and experience exceeds the demands of the job" (Kristof-Brown, Zimmerman, & Johnson, 2005). Those employees who are overqualified, they think that they deserve better as they have higher levels of education, skills and other experiences. If their demand is not properly met there is a chance of arousal of negative emotions which results in decrease in work efforts (Liv et al, 2015). Over qualification can be considered as a rational career investment as it has low risk factors (Brynin & Longhi, 2009). Common outcome which were under studied include absenteeism, turnover, performance, job attitudes, counter productive work behaviors and interpersonal relationships and other factors (Varma & Sandhy, 2019). It is indicated by research that over qualified employees perform a better job as compared to other employees. Good managers always try to motivate their talented employees and encourage their skills to get the best job fit

(Qadasi & Ran, 2019). Good managers always appreciate their over qualified employees as they know that these employees are always try to improve their image in an organization and for this they work hard. Under qualified managers are hesitant to hire over qualified employees due to their own low skills and abilities. They always try to protect their own image and reputation. Overqualified employees do not depend on others and timely accomplish their tasks, creative ideas are also generated by them (Qadasi & Ran, 2019). Some studies suggested that over qualification demands higher wages (Brynin & Longhi, 2009). Perceived over qualification is considered as a barrier to engagement and retention of employees (Erdogon, Karaemingullari, Bauer & Ellis, 2018). It is true that where there is a mismatch between qualification of a person and job, there is a chance of quitting that job. When a person feels unsuited on his job it increases his intention to leave that job and he feels that this job is not fully utilizing his skills and abilities and he became morally disengaged with organization (Tezi & Multu, 2013).

Employees who have high perceived over qualification are unable to fully utilize their skills, knowledge, abilities and experiences in their job. They try to find ways and techniques to quit from the job (Kaymaki, Gorener & Toker, 2020). Research indicated that individual with high perceived over qualification have four times more intention towards leaving job as compared to those who have low perceived over qualification. If over qualified employees feel underutilized and unchallenged for their current positions and tasks, they more likely to have left their positions (Maynard & Parfyonova, 2013). According to research, over qualified employees perform well within those teams whose members are also over qualified (Alfes, 2013). If over qualified employees think that their knowledge, skills and abilities are more than their job demand, they do not participate in extra role and then positive correlation between over qualification and cyber loafing is stronger (Sesen & Ertan, 2022). There should be high quality relationships with over qualified employees and there should be meaning full working environment for them which reduces cyber loafing (Usman, Javed, Shoukat & Bashir, 2019), because cyber loafing is a major killer of productivity for an organization (Koay et al, 2020). When moral identity is high, it weakens the relationship of moral disengagement and cyber loafing. So it can be said that moral identity act as a buffer against

cyber loafing for over qualified and morally disengaged employees (Hardy, Bean & Olsen, 2015). Findings suggested that employees who feel themself a moral person are less likely to involve in unethical behaviors because they have low tendency of morally disengaged and they feel guilt whenever they get involved in such behaviors (Kavussani & Ring, 2016). Moral thoughts, actions and feelings are encouraged by moral identity in online environment (Morgan & Fowers, 2021). Employees do not use their relevant skills and knowledge to achieve organizational goals in case when they perceive that they have more skills than job demand and these individuals' turnover intentions are also high as they have better opportunities in the business world (Onat & Eren, 2020). Those internet users who have experience in using internet have more interest towards cyber loafing. Reason is that they are aware of multiple productive opportunities which are offered by internet. They also know wide variety of loafing activities which are potential distractions from work for them. Thus, according to research, highly qualified workers usually have greater knowledge and experience about internet use, they have knowledge about positive and negative ways of exploiting the internet. So these people are more involved in cyber loafing (Batuary & Toker, 2015). Studies have shown that middle and lower level staff have lower intentions towards use of internet during working hours as compared to top level management (Andreassen, Torsheim & Pallesen, 2014).

Perceived over qualification only happens when an employee expects such type of job which utilizes their qualifications and he is unable to catch that position in organization, this leads to his un commitment to his organization and he starts immoral activities while on the job. As these employees are not satisfied with their current position and they are frustrated, they do not care anymore for the job and their organization as well. As much as they are unsatisfied with their job, they are engaged in counterproductive work behaviors (Varma & Sandhya, 2019). If organizations want to help employees to cope with over qualification, organization should seek such culture that support them (Harari, Manapragada & Viseuevaran, 2017). Mismatch reflects that over qualified employee's underutilization of their capabilities and talents, it represents that organization need a subjective assessment of control in the organization. Results suggested that as much as greater the perceived over qualification supported, the greater will be the commitment to the

organization and lower will be engagement in cyber loafing activities. Findings of studies indicated that over qualification supportive culture, either satisfies or dissatisfies over qualified employees (Johnson & Johnson; 1997, 2000). Findings suggested that to some extent, supervisors are not aware of the degree to which their over qualified employees are dissatisfied with their commitment and current position (Lobene, Meade & Samuel, 2014).

Past studies suggested that Perceived over qualification was related with low level of job satisfaction and employees are morally disengaged with organization (Maynard & Parfyonova 2013). Perceived over qualification can be a determinant factors for new comers and their adjustment, but if they have proactive personality so they can easily shield them from negative effects of over qualifications (Simon, Bauer, Erdogan & Shephed, 2018). Relationship with a leader does not matter, those employees who have high level of over qualification will always have high levels of emotional exhaustion (Yang, Wang, Sun & Hu, 2019). Lack of decision making authority by over qualified employees may lead them to behave unethically (Fida et al, 2014). When employees have a clarity about their role, perception of being over qualified which is developed in them, positively related to the engagement of work, which leads them to positive behavior (Ma, Lin, Chen & Wei, 2020).

"Cyber loafing is a term used to describe the actions of employees who use their internet access at work for personal use while pretending to do legitimate work" (Technopedia). Cyber loafing is an opaque deviant work behavior through cyber engagement (Lim & Chen, 2019). People who are highly over qualified and morally disengaged with organization, they more likely to engage in cyber loafing activities (Aghaz & Sheikh, 2016). Kermins (1995) firstly introduced the term cyber loafing to describe employee's intentional use of internet in the workplace. In an unjust situation in the relationship of employment increases anger-ness of employees and their moral disengagement, leading towards them to cyber loafing (Blau, Yang & Cook, 2006). It is commonly observed that cyber loafers use neutralize techniques to hide their cyber loafing behavior (Khansa, Barkhi, Ray & Davis, 2017). Studies suggested that older employees are more engaged in cyber loafing rather than younger ones (Restubog et al, 2011). Cyber loafing in workplace reduce the

level of stress among over qualified employees and considered to be an important driving factor in cyber loafing (Stoddart, 2016; Lukstyle et al, 2001). When employees think that they are contributing something better than others to the organization by their work, it helps them not to involve in cyber loafing activities (Usman, Javed, Shoukat & Bashir, 2019). Cyber loafing is not always harmful. It is considered to be effective mechanism of taking breaks from hectic routine work. Cyber loafing can be limited by using mental resources. Practically cyber loafing is considered to be harmful behavior due to which many companies strictly monitor activities of employees, these restrictions lead them to act negatively (Wu, Mei, Liu & Ugrin, 2020). While considering the hiring of over qualified employees, managers usually consider just potential advantage rather than considering potential disadvantage of negative outcomes (Fine & Edward, 2017).

During COVID-19, as many people worked from home, cyber loafing has also increased, but on the other hand many studies have shown that cyber loafing produced complex work place outcomes. Cyber loafing can produce those results which are unexpected by organization because it help them to take micro breaks to cope with stressful working environment (Zhong, Chen, Yan & Luo, 2022). It can be a reason of perennial losses and a lot of security threats to an organization start taking controls to manage cyber loafing behavior of employees (Luo et al, 2022). Cyber loafing can become a habit when employees believe that the way they are using organization's internet for their personal use is right. Influence of cyber loafing increases, when employees frequently access different websites at work. So those factors which have a significant and positive effect on cyber loafing are just because cyber loafing have close relationship with them due to which their overall performance decline (Shaddiq, Haryono, Muafi & Isfianaewi, 2021). Cyber loafing is predicted by variable of information technology usage, motivation and academic self-efficacy etc (Durak, 2019). One of the main reason of cyber loafing at work place is unauthorized access to the internet for workers (Saritepeci, 2019). Cyber loafing provide a way to employees to cope with workplace stress and aggression, so according to research managers should allow some degree of cyber loafing to employees so that they can cope with stress of work (Andel et al, 2019).

Unethical behavior is taking much interest among researchers in many organizations (Lian, Huai & Farh, 2020). Research have shown that moral disengagement has been seen as a prediction of cyber loafing (Nocera, 2020). Employees who get engage in unethical behavior to achieve those outcomes which are related to their high performance goals, may have unethical consequences. Within over qualified employees who are not on their desired jobs, they may have a desire to achieve a particular goal at any cost, either that is ethical or not (Welsh, Baer, Sessions & Garud, 2020). There should be targeted interventions whose core responsibility is to challenge moral disengagement with respect to over qualification (Runions et al, 2019). Moral disengagement increased unethical behavior of over qualified employees (Ring & Hurst, 2018). Higher levels of moral disengagement are also related to cyber loafing while if employees have low level of moral disengagement despite of having over qualification are less engaged in negative behaviors like cyber loafing (Luo & Bussey, 2018). Those people who are morally disengaged themselves in illegal and dishonest behavior, they use lame excuses and justifications for their unethical behavior (Sijtsema, Garofolo, Jansen & Klimstra, 2019). Studies have shown that employees who acted ethically if their moral identity is high, they felt low level of negative emotions rather than those whose moral identity is low and they are engaged in unethical acts because they think about themselves as moral persons but actually they are not (Tillman, 2018). Some employees start support ethical behaviors after learning about unethical actions (Fehr, Fulmer & Highberger, 2019).

Results of studies shows that cyber loafing by over qualified employees is due to distress and it impacts negatively on organizational environment (Akgan, 2019). Cyber loafing brings laziness, distraction from work, poor performance and increasing internet cost of organization. There is a need to manage employee stress related to workplace. There should be self-discipline, if an individual is self-disciplined they can cope with every bad situation at work (Peter, Oluwadaer, Hammed & Toyosi, 2021). Speed of internet is very fast now a days which could be an attractive reason to cyber loaf, that is why, people spend more time on non-work related internet activities. According to studies, browsing activities impact positively on emotions, while activities related to emailing impact negatively, because emailing

activities are related to sending and receiving emails from peers at work place (Lim & Chen, 2012). As more and more employees use internet, more they cyber loaf (Lieber, 1998). Companies which provide internet services to their employees they must be aware that employees will cyber loaf for some time every day. Now it depends on organizations that how much they can tolerate cyber loafing (Lim, Teo & Loo, 2001). In some organizations, employees cyber loaf just to respond their employer for their unjust behaviors as cyber loafing is difficult to detect (Lim, 2002), as employees use company owned software for personal use of emailing or for downloading licensed stuff (Lim, Teo & Loo, 2002).

Moral identity arises in an individual from his social relationships because these relationships can support moral development, moral judgment and moral actions. Moral identity is a mixture of moral judgment, self-perceptions and those actions which are necessary for the base of social opportunities and personality. Moral identity among over qualified employees can only be flourished when organization operate in a ways that their dignities are incorporated in to their identities (Lapsley & Naraez, 2004). The goal of moral identity is to match perception that hoe a person perceive himself in certain situations with his identity standards. Lack of consistency between his perception and identity standards can bring a change in what he is doing (Stets & Carter, 2006). Individuals who are on high positions, if their moral identity is low, they prefer money on time (Reed, II, Aquino & Levy, 2007). Individuals whose moral concerns are central to their own self-definition, they are more likely to use neutralization strategies after being untruthful in negotiations. Neutralization strategies might be like moral disengagement mechanisms through which they provide justifications for their unethical actions (Shao, Aquino & Freeman, 2015).

To avoid cyber loafing, employers use different monitoring devices so that they can keep track of their employees' online activities. Employees feel insecurity due to monitoring from employers and they said that due to monitoring activities our privacy is interrupted by employers which is against the ethics (Mujtaba & G., 2003). Over qualified employees not just cyber loaf themselves but they try to put others by convincing them that they deserve for all what they are doing without feeling guilty on their wrong doings. They perceives themselves having right to

surfing on the internet and waste time which should be spend on working (Lim, 2005). Individuals do not cyber loaf if they have adequate work load, but they can tend to cyber loaf if they have high expertise in using internet (Sawitri, 2012). Employees who are engaged in cyber loafing think that their misbehavior of using internet is because that they spent much time on completing their tasks. So they consider cyber loafing as a reward of completing their tasks on time. As employers fail to treat them fairly on efficient task completion, so it become too easy for employees to get engaged in cyber loafing. There should be disciplined company policies about and internet use so that employees may have understanding of what behavior is accepted by the organization (Anandarajan, Teo & Simmers, 2014). According to studies employees are more likely to cyber loaf if they feel any type of bound-ness, they cyber loaf for coping with stressors at workplace (Henle & Blanchard, 2008). Research shows that over qualified employees are the most valuable persons for an organization because they not just have extra knowledge and skills in academics but in computer use as well (Garrett & Dandziger, 2008). Researcher have found two types of cyber loafing which are related to emailing and browsing activities, but these activities depend on employee mood and work engagement (Qing, 2008). If organizations demonstrate policies which include justice and zero tolerance, employees perceives it as fair and they will less likely to cyber loaf (Henle, Kohut & Booth, 2009). When over qualified employees are not treated fairly, they think that their standards are conflicting and then they strike back with misusing of organization's internet (Lara, 2009). Employees' loafing is related to how much time they spent on using internet during working hours like emailing, instant messaging and internet surfing etc (Liberman, Seidman, MaKenna & Buffardi, 2011). It is easy for employees to convince themselves that their cyber loafing behavior is acceptable as they are mistreated by their peers (Lim & Teo, 2006).

Cyber loafing can be controlled by the managers who keep an eye on the situation and they must have an awareness of judging performance of over qualified employees (Aku, 2017). Tamunomeibi & Adim, (2020) personal use of internet on workplace settings results in increase in higher dissatisfaction of job which includes

stress, think that he or she is being treated unfairly. Employees should be satisfied from their job because if they are not satisfied this is an important factor of internet misuse by employees with the aspect that whether their job is according to their qualification or not, which arises the desire of disengaging them in other activities. Studies have shown that employees who are more satisfied with their job show low level of positivity towards internet abuse. Organizations should have to organize awareness programs and seminars for employees to know them about internet misuse and educate and trained them so all employees should know about the policies of internet use (Lee & Parsons, 2017).

Hence based on the preceding discussion of literature it is hypothesized that:

 $H_1$ : Perceived over qualification positively relates with cyber loafing.

### 2.0.2 Mediating Role of Moral Disengagement

"Moral disengagement is term used in social psychology for the process of convincing the self that ethical standards do not apply to oneself in a particular context" (Fiske & Susan, 2004). Over qualification is one of the major source of stress and shows the misfit for a particular job (Sathyanaryana & Maran, 2010). Negative consequences can be overcome if over qualified employees are willingly choose job for which they are over qualified. Status of the work can be improved by over qualified employees (Dijk, Shantz & Alfes). Meaningful work environment is needed to reduce the employee's engagement in cyber loafing activities (Usman, Javed, Shoukat & Bashir, 2019). People are not morally engaged in reprehensible conduct if they receive justice regarding their qualification (Bandura, Carpara & Isolnai, 2000). Human conduct can be identified as whether it falls in the circle of social customs or morality (Bandhura, 2007). In the development of negative attitudes towards organization and cyber loafing activities, moral disengagement play a major role (Hymel, Henderson & Bonanno, 2001). Moral disengagement is a prediction of an unethical behavior of an organization (Moore, Detert, Trevino, Baker & Mayer, 2012). Studies have shown that moral disengagement as a mediator plays a more nuancing role (Moore, 2015).

Hadlington, Binder & Stanulewic (2020), argued that moral disengagement is not directly the reason of negative behavior such as cyber loafing. Recent studies have shown that employees who work virtually are more morally disengaged as compared to employees who work in physical work environment because there is no check and balance on them (Stuch, 2020). When employees know their worth in an organization and they know the degree according to which they identify themselves as member of an organization they will become more productive, otherwise their performance will be very low (Zhang, Waang & Li, 2021). It is believed that moral disengagement occurs when individuals perform unethical acts and they do not feel any guilt while performing them (Balven, 2018). Moral disengagement develops feelings of self-control which restrict employees from performing unethical practices (White, Bandura & Bero, 2009). Results of study by Fida et al (2014), showed that moral disengagement act as moderator and cause negative emotions. When an employee thinks that he or she is over qualified and his or her job is not permanent, he or she starts showing deviant behavior. They are actively engaged in searching of jobs which are according to their qualification, but on the other hand employees who although are over qualified but consider their current job as a career job, are less involved in negative behaviors (Dar & Rahman, 2020). Individuals who have high moral disengagement are more likely to involve in online activities which may not only affect them but other individuals as well (Yang et al., 2020). Studies have found that moral disengagement act as initiator of unethical acts (Tasa & Bell, 2015).

 $H_2$ : Moral disengagement positively mediate between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing.

# 2.0.3 Moral Identity as a Moderator between Moral Disengagement and Cyber Loafing

"Degree to which being a moral person is important to a person's identity" (Hardy & Carlo, 2011).

Moral identity of an individual depends on the extent to which he/she has sense about his/her moral values (Hardy & Carlo; 2005, 2011). Moral identity highlights

aspects of organizations, merely it warrants the structuring of work and relationships in to the workplace. Moral identity is related with the social networking structures and work settings character (Weaver, 2006). Organizations take in to consideration role of employee's moral identity while selecting employees for creative tasks (Zheng, Qin, Liu & Liao, 2017). Moral identity act as a motivational factor for over qualified employees to act ethically (Yang, 2013). Wand et al, (2017) suggested that employees respond to the initiative of organizations according to their own moral identity, whose moral identity is high, he or she will respond better. Moral identity can act as cushion between moral disengagement and cyber loafing (Handlington, Binder & Stanulewicz, 2020). Moral identity is motivating behavior so it acts as a moderator in various cognitive factors and behaviors. Moral identity is considered to be an important predictor for anti-social outcome (Hardy, Bean & Bero, 2014). Employees recognize initiatives taken by their organizations to be fair according to their own moral identity, employee whose moral identity is high, he or she respond better and vice versa. Organizations must have to focus on occupational ethics (Wang et al., 2017). Many individuals working in an organizations consider attributes (non-judgmental, open minded and understanding) an important part of their moral identity (Lefebvre & Krettenauer, 2019). For one's self concept, moral disengagement and moral identity were considered to be most important factors (Wang, Yang, Huan & Liu, 2018).

Moral identity makes a bonding between employee and his organization, which lead them towards an ethical behavior and positive outcomes (Itani, Chonko & Agnihotri, 2022). Research found that individuals having strong moral identity, capture more attention towards antisocial behaviors and those individuals quickly identify difference between antisocial and pro-social behaviors (Pletti, Decety & Paulus, 2022). Moral thoughts, feelings and moral actions are encouraged by moral identity, including being authentic (Morgan & Fowers, 2021). When moral identity is low, intensity of over qualified employees' unethical behavior (like cyber loafing) decreases (Hwang, Wang & Pasamehmetoglu, 2021). Individual's moral identity level depends on his or her personal life experiences because one may have faced difficult challenges but the other one may have ease in his life experiences (Huhtala, Fadjukoff & Kroger, 2021). Some individuals want to keep up their moral identity

high, which results in increase in their motivation, but this motivation of moral identity is not same for all (Krettenauer, 2020).

While making moral decisions ethical predispositions of individuals are influenced by internalization. Studies have shown that moral identity does not determine moral behaviors, only right direction is required to lead them towards behave morally (Xu & Ma, 2015). People who have high moral identity do not engage in organizational deviance. Employee whose moral identity is high show strong reactions towards unethical behaviors and their turnover also increases and they show resistance to negative behaviors (Greenbaum, Mawritz, Mayer & Priesemuth, 2013). Employees who have better relationships, are more likely to behave unethically, this develops moral disengagement in other individuals (Wang et al., 2017; 2019). Moral identity enhance the process of moral cleansing as it creates psychological tension. Moral identity has worked as a helping behavior from the participants from different cultures (Ding et al., 2016). Studies of Zhang et al., (2017) have shown that people feel that extra ordinary ethical behavior is irrelevant to them. Lower moral identity increases the effect of moral disengagement, for this managers must have to pay more attention on the buffering role of moral identity (Erkutlu & Chafra, 2019). Hardy and Carlo (2011), suggested that if moral identity is taken consistently as a predictor of moral actions, it may helpful in moral education efforts. Individual who have high moral identity, as their image in an organization is very high in front of others, they are motivated to act morally even when they are mistreated. Research suggested that selection of employees in administrative department of public sector is on the basis of their moral identity rather than on their knowledge, skills and abilities because it is important for administrative departments of public servants that they have high moral identity (Mingzheng, Xiaoling, Xuba & Youshan, 2014). Research indicated that moral disengagement is a construct which explains that there are possible keys through which an individual's regulatory system can be deactivated. If an individual is successful in deactivating this system, he will get freedom from any psychological discomfort which force him to act unethically (Saidon & Marzita, 2012). Moral disengagement motivate individuals to participate in those activities which are unethical and illegal. Good people are those who set aside their moral standards,

they behave ethically, no matter how much strong pressure is inserted on them from outside to disengage them. They are responsible for their actions (Johnson, 2014). Evidences through studies shows that morally disengaged individuals view ethically sensitive situations in a different manner as compared to their personal situations. Morally disengaged individuals do not change their personal moral beliefs (Radtke, 2005). Those people who are morally disengaged, they are more dissatisfied with their jobs, they have low self-esteem and depressed. To cope with these anxious situations, they start behave unethically and engaged in cyber loafing because they consider cyber loafing the only way to get rid of these situations (Boone, 2001). Not just the employers, but the other employees as well, become victim of unethical behaviors of over qualified employees (Kgosimore, 2007).

Individuals having high level of moral identity are more likely to understand the consequences of moral disengagement (Jiang, Liang, Zhou & Zhang, 2022). Moral disengagement causes ethically dangerous situations, as moral disengagement not only creates processes of unethical behaviors in the moment, but at the same time it influence how other factors lead towards ethical or unethical behavior (Moore, 2015). Moral disengagement is the most striking practice which is a threat for well-being of whole organization (Yildiz, Alpkan, Sezen & Yildiz, 2015). People who can think critically are able to cope with moral disengagement because critically thinking leads to think systematically (Tahir, Nurdin & Damayanti, 2019). When moral identity of over qualified employees is low, negative correlation between moral disengagement and cyber loafing is high, which strengthens relationship of moral disengagement and cyber loafing (Mingzheng, Xiaoling, Xubo & Youshan, 2014). Moral identity shows that individual is ready to act in ethical environment to behave ethically. Moral identity is a predictor of moral actions (Hertz & Krettenauer).

It was found that unethical decision making was indirectly affected by moral identity as it influences on moral disengagement (Aquino & Freeman, 2008). Research has found that employees only follow their leaders if they have strong moral identity (Giessner et al., 2015). People get engaged in cyber loafing activities if moral disengagement become activated in them (Yang, Wang, Huan & Liu, 2018). Moral

identity has a negative effect on moral disengagement only when individual's moral awareness is low (He & Harris, 2013).

 $H_3$ : Moral identity plays a moderating role between moral disengagement and cyber loafing, such that it weakens the relationship.

## 2.1 Significance of the Study

By considering Person job fit theory, this study discussed the mediating role moral disengagement and the moderating role of moral identity. This research draws upon the personality job fit theory to provide new and comprehensive insight to understand the underlying mechanism of the impact of over qualification on cyber loafing. This study will explore that how over qualified employees in Pakistani context are engaged in cyber loafing. Over qualified employees feel that they are not competing with their needs due to PJ misfit (Luksyte, Bauer, Debus, Erdagon & Wu, 2020). Previous research have mainly focused on potential inconsistent results of over qualification but need to look at the possible value to attitudes and behaviors of over qualified employees (Ma, Lin, Chen & Wei, 2020). This work not only provide analytical material for over qualification and cyber loafing but it will also help to understand the needs of the organization to deal with over qualified employees. This research will fulfill the literature gap and this frame work will contribute to existing knowledge. This research draws upon the person job fit theory to provide new insight for understanding the underlying mechanism of the impact of perceived over qualification on cyber loafing. Furthermore, this study contributes to research on the person-job fit theory. This study focus on the underlying mechanism that how overqualified employees respond to cyber loafing by morally disengaging and how moral identity act as moderator to weaken relationship between moral disengagement and cyber loafing.

## 2.2 Research Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are stated below:

• To understanding the role of over qualification in shaping employee perception of cyber loafing.

• To examine the mediating role of moral disengagement and anger towards organization and moderating role of moral identity.

## 2.3 Research Questions

Following research questions are proposed to be explored in this study.

**Question 1:** Does perceived over qualification is the reason of arousal of cyber loafing in employees?

Question 2: Does over qualification affects moral disengagement?

**Question 3:** Does moral identity strengthen or weaken the relationship of moral disengagement with cyber loafing?

## 2.4 Hypotheses

H<sub>1</sub>: Perceived over qualification positively relates with cyber loafing.

H<sub>2</sub>: Moral disengagement positively mediate between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing.

H<sub>3</sub>: Moral identity plays a moderating role between moral disengagement and cyber loafing, such that it weakens the relationship.

#### 2.5 Theoretical Framework

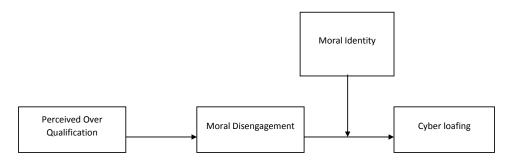


FIGURE 2.1: Association of perceived over qualification with cyber loafing, mediating role of moral disengagement and moderating role of moral identity

## Chapter 3

## Research Methodology

## 3.1 Methodology

This chapter provides information on the methods and measures used to achieve objectives of the current study. This part of research include research design, research philosophy, ethical consideration, and sampling, instrumentation and data analyses method.

## 3.2 Study Design and Philosophy

A cross sectional research design was employed. Employees of governmental and nongovernmental organizations were invited to participate through sharing link of online questionnaire. Both upper level employees which include CEOs, top managers etc., and lower level employees which include supervisors and part time workers etc., were included in the study. The model proposed by (Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang & Sun, 2018) has been empirically tested in public and private setting in Pakistan using positivism and a deductive reasoning approach. Quantitative tools and analyses were used for data collection and to test that hypothesized relationships. This study would investigate the hypothetical deductive reasoning approach, which is explicitly focused on the determinism point of view of discovering the truth using evidence in which the above reasoning and prevailing hypotheses were used to test and endorse the expected hypothesis, which would

then be empirically tested for the proposed theory to be validated. A projected example of the empirical method is the hypothetical deductive method. For this research analysis, this research model is ideally adapted since it focuses on a vital emphasis on results. In order to fail or pass the test, the findings required from the hypothesis are correlated with experimental evidence. Conferring to this methodology, experimental investigation promises to use a theory in a method that may be created accurately by a test on empirical statistics. The idea is verified by a test which is not oppositional to the hypothesis. The informative importance of competing theories is then predicted to be related by checking how deeply their predictions are real. Quantitative approaches are used to cover a broad scale of society generally in study. For this purpose, this analysis would also leverage the technique of quantitative analysis to collect consistency data to compare variables with each other and to show the essence of the connection between the variables used in the study.

#### 3.3 Ethical Consideration

This research has been conducted after getting approval from proposal review committee of Capital University of Science and Technology Islamabad. Permission through phone calls has also been obtained from organization's head to let their employees participate in the study after showing the university reference letter and giving the brief information about the purpose of study as well as questionnaires to be administered.

## 3.4 Sample

The sample was collected from public and private sector organizations. The information of the respondents was kept confidential and was only used for research purpose. Owing to the time and other resource restrictions convenient sampling method was be used. Minimum sample size was 356.

#### 3.5 Time Horizon

For this research data collection was completed in around one month from 05/09/2021 to 09/11/2021.

#### 3.6 Instrumentation

To measure the variables, close ended questionnaires from various sources was used. Questionnaire for all variables were adopted from previous work established by researchers. English language was used as a medium of data collection. Participants were required to fill the five sections of questionnaire: demographic variables (age, gender, qualification, current position, experience and working hours per week), perceived over qualification, cyber loafing, moral disengagement and moral identity.

Table 3.1: Description of Variables

Variables	Authors of Instruments	No. of items
Perceived over qualification	Johnson and Johnson, 1996	4
Moral Disengagement	Moore et al, 2012	8
Cyber loafing	Lim, 2002	11
Moral identity	Aquino and Reed, 2002	13

#### 3.6.1 Perceived Over Qualification

Perceived over qualification was measured by using a standardized scale of 4 items (adopted from Johnson and Johnson, 1996). The answers were obtained by expanding the 5-point likert scale from "1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree". The Cronbach's alpha for this scale is 0.87.

## 3.6.2 Moral Disengagement

Moral disengagement was measured by using standardized scale of 8 items (Moore et al., 2012). The answers were obtained on the 5-point likert scale from "1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree". The Cronbach's alpha for this scale is 0.89.

#### 3.6.3 Cyber Loafing

Cyber loafing was measured by using standardized scale of 11 items (adopted from Lim, 2002). The answers were obtained by expanding the 5-point likert scale from "1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree". The Cronbach's alpha for this scale is 0.93.

#### 3.6.4 Moral Identity

Moral identity was measured by using standardized scale of 5 items (adopted from Aquino and Reed, 2002). The answers were obtained by expanding the 5-point likert scale from "1- strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree". The Cronbach's alpha for this scale is 0.91.

## 3.7 Data Analyses

Quantitative data collected through online questionnaires was entered, cleaned and processed by using Software Package for Social Science-20 (SPSS-20). The distribution and variance of data were computed through descriptive statistics. For categorical variables, frequency and percentages were calculated while mean, median, mode, standard deviation and skewness were computed for continuous variables. Spearman product moment correlations of all independent variables i.e. 'perceived over qualification' with outcome variable i.e. 'cyber loafing' were calculated. To check the relationship between variables correlations were calculated. In structural equation modelling factor analysis of each variable was measured. In full structural equation modelling (Step 1) moral identity used as predictor and in full model (Step 2) moral identity used as predictor and moderator.

## Chapter 4

## Results and Analysis

## 4.1 Results and Analysis

In this section, results of the study are presented. It constitutes descriptive statistics for all variables including demographics, perceived over qualification, moral disengagement, moral identity and cyber loafing. Rreliability analysis is conducted for all scales. Bivariate correlations among variables (perceived over qualification, moral disengagement, moral identity and cyber loafing) are calculated. Structure Equation Model of relationship of perceived over qualification, moral disengagement, and cyber loafing and moral identity is also presented in this chapter. The following section describes the sample characteristics of the study.

## 4.2 Sample Characteristics

A total of 410 individuals were approached for data collection. Out of these, 408 responded. Among 408 respondents, only 356 responses were eligible to be included in the study according to the inclusion criteria of the study. Fifty two filled questionnaires were discarded either due to missing information or lack of alignment to study inclusion criteria.

The demographic variables explored in this study are age, gender, qualification, working experience and working hours of employees. Employees from both public and private sector organizations located in Islamabad and Rawalpindi were invited

to participate in the study. The descriptive statistics for demographic variables are given in table 4.1.

Among 356 participants, there were more males (N= 193, 54.2%) than females (N=163, 45.8%). The reason of lower ratio of female's response is that according to survey of International Growth Center, Pakistan is one of those countries whose female labor force participation is low in South Asia because females in Pakistan have lack of access to safe transport, social norms and a lot of house hold responsibilities. Age has 1.43 mean and 0.789 standard deviation. Both median and mode were 1. Skewness and Kurtosis values of age are 2.066 and 4.111 respectively. Age was categorized in accordance with the decade of life. Most of the respondents (N=250, 70.2%) were in first decade of life (19-30 years of life). Pakistan has man dominant society. At an early age man have to take care of house hold responsibilities. Due to which they start their job or business at an early stage and that is why this study's response rate consists of 19-30 years of age group. There were only (N=2, 6%) participants 61 and above years of age. Among 356 respondents, (N=140, 39.3%) were on management positions. These management positions include area manager, junior manager, HR manager, outreach manager, recruitment associate, chief executive officers, customer services representative, assistant manager network operations, HR executive, general managers, accountants and supervisors. With respect to qualification status, graduation was the most frequently reported qualification level (N=256, 71.9%). The least reported qualification level was high school (N=2, 0.6%). Most of the respondent reported experience of 1 to 5 years (24.2%) of the total sample. Among 356 participants (N=131, 36.8%) working hours were in between 41-50 hours per week. The next section will present reliability of scales.

## 4.3 Reliability of Scales

Reliability analysis was conducted for perceived over qualification, moral disengagement, and cyber loafing and moral identity. The result of reliability analyses are presented in the following table.

Table 4.1

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	193	54.20%
Female	163	45.80%
$\mathbf{Age}$		
19-30	250	70.20%
31-40	67	18.80%
41-50	21	5.90%
51-60	11	3.10%
61 and above	2	0.60%
Qualification		
Matric	2	0.60%
Intermediate	11	3.10%
Graduation	256	71.90%
MS/Mphill	73	20.50%
Phd	14	3.90%
Work Experience		
Less than 1 year	58	16.30%
5-Jan	86	24.20%
10-Jun	89	25.00%
15-Nov	46	12.90%
16 and above	58	16.30%
Working hours		
0-10	95	26.70%
20-Nov	12	3.40%
21-30	22	6.20%
31-40	41	11.50%
41-50	131	36.80%
51 and above	55	15.40%
Current position		
Students	40	11.20%
Management	140	39.30%
Administration	88	24.70%
Medical staff	16	4.50%
Engineers	1	0.30%
Educationist	63	17.70%
Others	7	2.00%

Missing values of age, work experience and current position are 4, 19 and 1 respectively

Table 4.2: Reliability of Scales

	Range							
Scale	$\mathbf{N}$	Mean	SD	$\alpha$	Potential	Actual	Skewness	Kurtosis
Perceived over qualification	4	12.9	3.39	0.72	20-Apr	20-Apr	-0.337	-0.176
Moral disengagement	10	21.44	6.74	0.85	Aug-40	Aug-40	0.065	0.329
Cyber loafing	8	24.38	5.53	0.79	Oct-40	Oct-40	-0.184	-0.266
Moral identity	13	48.4	7.97	0.82	13-65	13-65	-0.154	0.486

N= Total number of items, M= Mean score, SD= Standard deviation, a= Cronbach's alpha reliability.

The value of Cronbach's alpha for all variables is good (Perceived over qualification= 0.716, Moral disengagement= 0.845, Cyber loafing= 0.785, Moral identity= 0.817).

# 4.4 Descriptive Statistics for Perceived Over Qualification, Moral Disengagement, Cyber Loafing and Moral Identity

Descriptive statistics of the scales are presented in the following table.

Table 4.3: Descriptive Statistics of Scales

Scale	Mean	Median	Mode	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis	K-S	P
Perceived over qualification	12.9	13	16	3.388	-0.337	-0.176	0.09	0
Moral disengagement	21.44	22	23	6.739	-0.065	-0.329	0.05	0
Cyber loafing	24.38	24.5	30	5.53	-0.184	-0.266	0.07	0
Moral identity	48.4	49	52	7.971	-0.154	0.486	0.06	0

The values are significant of Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for all variables of this study which shows good fit of model.

Following are the graphical representation of distribution of scales:

#### 4.5 Correlations

The following table present correlation between study variables:

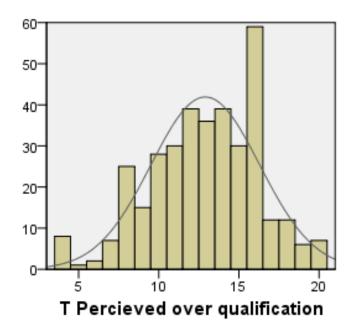


Figure 4.1: Distribution of perceived over qualification scale (N=356), Mean= 12.90 and SD= 3.338

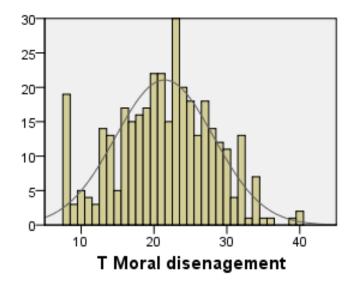


Figure 4.2: Distribution of moral disengagement scale (N=356), Mean= 21.44 and SD= 6.739

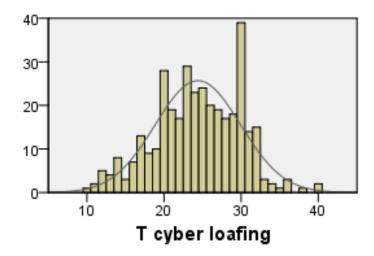


Figure 4.3: Distribution of cyber loafing scale (N=356), Mean= 24.38 and SD= 5.530

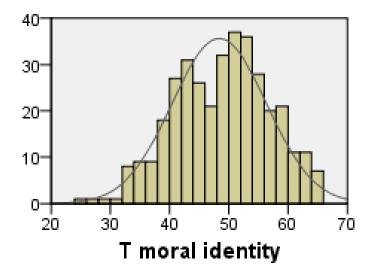


FIGURE 4.4: Distribution of moral identity scale (N=356), Mean= 48.40 and SD= 7.971

## 4.6 Structural Equation Modeling

#### Measurement Model

#### 4.6.1 Factor Analysis of Perceived Over Qualification

The study of perceived over qualification was measured by using a standardized scale of 4 items developed by Johnson and Johnson, (1996). The answers were

Scale	1	<b>2</b>	3	4
Perceived Over Qualification	1	0.238**	0.001	0.190**
Moral Disengagement	0.238**	1	0.059	-0.056
Cyber Loafing	0.001	0.059	1	0.051
Moral Identity	0.190**	-0.056	0.051	1

Table 4.4: Correlations

Note \*\* Significant correlations at the 0.01 level (two-tailed), \*Significant correlations at the 0.05 level (two-tailed)

obtained by expanding the 5-point Likert scale from "1= strongly disagree" to "5= strongly agree".

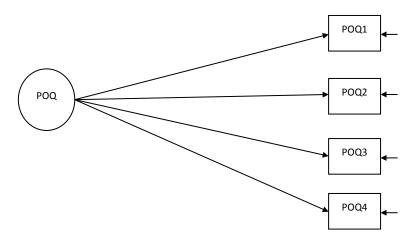


FIGURE 4.5: Hypothesized factor structure of perceived over qualification

#### Hypothesized / Final Model

Hypothesized model had a good fit with  $\chi^2$  190.144 and df = 6. The value of CFI is 1.00 and RMSEA was 0.00 (C.I = 0.000 – 0.080). RMSEA value showed poor fit to data. The smallest standardized estimate was (0.06, p = 0.00) of POQ2. The remaining standardized regression estimates ranged from 0.06 of POQ1 to 0.07 of POQ3. POQ1 had lowest value of R<sup>2</sup> statistic (0.281, p = 0.00). Hypothesized model had a good fit and reasons behind this good fit are might be due to less number of items of perceived over qualification. The general model fit measures show that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically important. In the following diagram and chart, the variation measured by each indicator and graphic presentation of the final model having uniform loadings is presented.

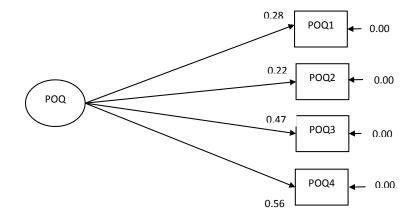


FIGURE 4.6: Final Model

Table 4.5: Variance accounted for (R2) by POQ items (N=356)

Indicators	R2	SE
POQ1	0.281	0.062
POQ2	0.282	0.06
POQ3	0.478	0.078
POQ4	0.566	0.074

R2= variance, SE= standard error, \*\*= p<0.001

#### 4.6.2 Factor Analysis for Moral Disengagement

The study of moral disengagement was measured by using a standardized scale of 10 items developed by (Moore et al, 2012). The answers were obtained by expanding the 5-point Likert scale from "1= strongly disagree" to "5= strongly agree".

## Hypothesized Model

The model  $\chi^2$  was 728.188, with df = 28. The value of CFI is 0.958 and RMSEA was 0.043 (C.I = 0.006–0.071). RMSEA value showed poor fit to data.

#### Final Model

The  $\chi^2$  of the final model was 06.603\*, df = 16, CFI = 0.985, p =0.00 and RM-SEA = 0.04 (C.I = 0.006 - 0.0071) which shows good fit to dataset. The smallest

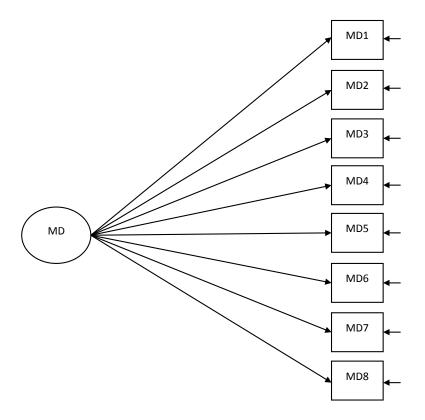


FIGURE 4.7: Hypothesized factor structure of moral disengagement

standardized estimate was (0.37, p = 0.00) of MD3. The remaining standardized regression estimates ranged from 0.048 of MD6 to 0.051 of MD1. MD3 had lowest value of  $R^2$  statistic (0.100, p = 0.00). Remaining indicators similarly had significant  $R^2$  statistic, range from 0.286 (MD2) to 0.592 (MD7). The general model fit measures show that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically important. In the following diagram and chart, the variation measured by each indicator and graphic presentation of the final model having uniform loadings is presented.

#### 4.6.3 Factor Analysis of Cyber Loafing

The study of cyber loafing was measured by using a standardized scale of 8 items developed by (Lim, 2002). The answers were obtained by expanding the 4-point Likert scale from "1= hardly ever" to "5= frequently".

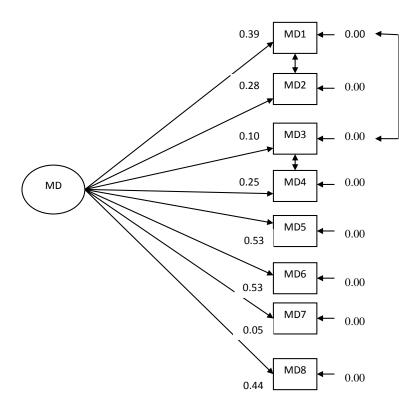


Table 4.6: Variance accounted for (R<sup>2</sup>) by moral disengagement items (N=356)

Indicators	${f R}^2$	SE
MD1	0.39	0.05
MD2	0.29	0.05
MD3	0.1	0.04
MD4	0.25	0.05
MD5	0.53	0.05
MD6	0.53	0.05
MD7	0.59	0.05
MD8	0.45	0.05

 $R^2$  = variance, SE = standard error, \*\*= p<0.001

## Hypothesized Model

The model  $\chi^2$  was 659.275, with df = 45. The value of CFI is 0.956 and RMSEA was 0.050 (C.I = 0.030– 0.070). RMSEA value showed poor fit to data.

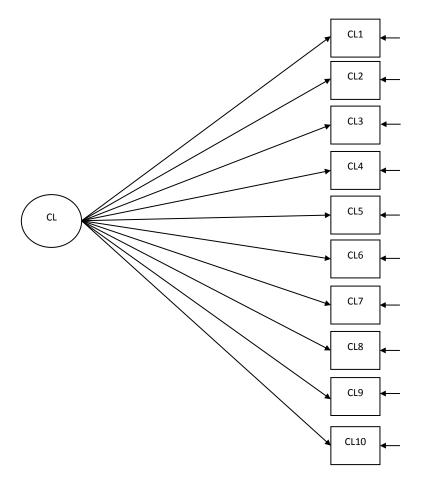


FIGURE 4.8: Hypothesized Model of Cyber Loafing

#### Final Model

The  $\chi^2$  of the final model was 0.56.95, df = 30, CFI = 0.956, p =0.00 and RMSEA = 0.050 (C.I = 0.030 - 0.070) which shows good fit to dataset. The smallest standardized estimate was (0.037, p = 0.00) of CL7. The remaining standardized regression estimates ranged from 0.039 of CL2 to 0.060 of CL8 and CL9. CL2 had lowest value of R<sup>2</sup> statistic (0.088, p = 0.00). Remaining indicators similarly had significant R<sup>2</sup> statistic, range from 0.098 (CL4) to 0.399 (CL7). The general model fit measures show that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically important. In the following diagram and chart, the variation measured by each indicator and graphic presentation of the final model having uniform loadings is presented.

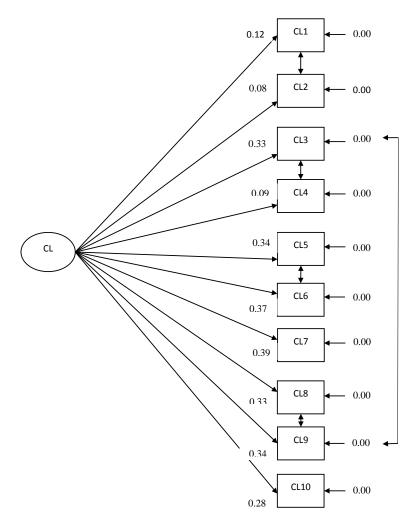


FIGURE 4.9: Final model of Cyber Loafing

Table 4.7: Variance accounted for  $(R^2)$  by Cyber Loafing items (N=356)

Indicators	${f R}^2$	SE
CL1	0.122	0.045
${ m CL2}$	0.088	0.039
CL3	0.336	0.058
CL4	0.098	0.037
CL5	0.342	0.051
CL6	0.373	0.057
CL7	0.399	0.053
CL8	0.33	0.06
CL9	0.342	0.06
CL10	0.281	0.058

 $R^2 = variance, SE = standard error, **= p < 0.001$ 

#### 4.6.4 Factor Analysis of Moral Identity

The study of moral identity was measured by using a standardized scale of 13 items developed by (Aquino & Reed, 2002). The answers were obtained by expanding the 5-point Likert scale from "1= absolutely unnecessary" to "5= absolutely necessary".

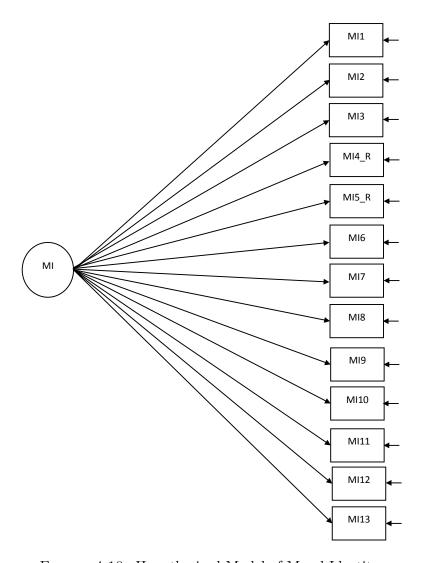


Figure 4.10: Hypothesized Model of Moral Identity

## Hypothesized Model

The model  $\chi^2$  was 1012.87, with df = 78. The value of CFI is 0.913 and RMSEA was 0.064 (C.I = 0.050– 0.077). RMSEA value showed poor fit to data.

#### Final Model

The  $\chi^2$  of the final model was 0.56.95, df = 30, CFI = 0.956, p =0.00 and RM-SEA = 0.050 (C.I = 0.030 - 0.070) which shows good fit to dataset. The smallest standardized estimate was (0.009, p = 0.00) of MI4\_R. The remaining standardized regression estimates ranged from 0.015 of MI5\_R to 0.063 of MI10 and MI11. MI4\_R had lowest value of R<sup>2</sup> statistic (0.005, p = 0.00). Remaining indicators similarly had significant R<sup>2</sup> statistic, range from 0.015 (MI5\_R) to 0.569 (MI10). The general model fit measures show that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically important. In the following diagram and chart, the variation measured by each indicator and graphic presentation of the final model having uniform loadings is presented.

TABLE 4.8: Variance accounted for (R<sup>2</sup>) by Moral Identity items (N=356)

Indicators	${f R}^2$	SE
MI1	0.107	0.038
MI2	0.187	0.049
MI3	0.171	0.043
$MI4\_R$	0.005	0.009
$\mathrm{MI5}_{-}\mathrm{R}$	0.015	0.015
MI6	0.167	0.046
MI7	0.225	0.047
MI8	0.408	0.053
MI9	0.343	0.058
MI10	0.569	0.063
MI11	0.446	0.063
MI12	0.401	0.06
MI13	0.344	0.055

 $R^2 = variance$ ,  $SE = standard\ error$ , \*\*=  $p < 0.00\ and\ *=p < 0.001$ 

#### Hypothesized Model

The model 2 was 728.188, with df = 28. The value of CFI was 0.958 and RMSEA was 0.043 (C.I = 0.006 - 0.071). RMSEA value showed poor fit to data.

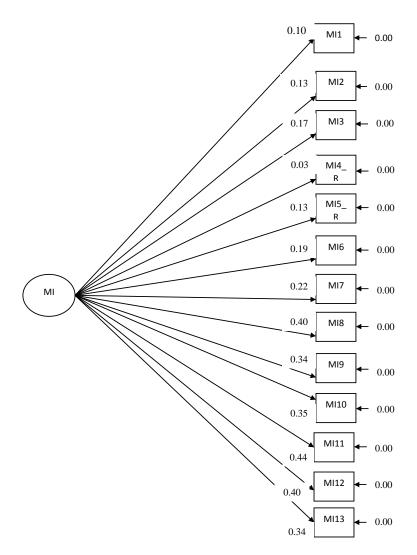


FIGURE 4.11: Final model of moral identity

#### Final Model

The  $\chi^2$  of the final model was 0.56.95, df = 30, CFI = 0.956, p =0.00 and RMSEA = 0.050 (C.I = 0.030 - 0.070) which shows good fit to dataset. The smallest standardized estimate was (0.037, p = 0.00) of CL7. The remaining standardized regression estimates ranged from 0.039 of CL2 to 0.060 of CL8 and CL9. CL2 had lowest value of  $R^2$  statistic (0.088, p = 0.00). Remaining indicators similarly had significant  $R^2$  statistic, range from 0.098 (CL4) to 0.399 (CL7). The general model fit measures show that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically important. In the following diagram and chart, the variation measured by each indicator and graphic presentation of the final model having uniform loadings is presented.

#### 4.7 SEM: Structural Model

For testing the hypothesized relationships, Structural equation modeling was performed two steps as per recommendations of Sardeshmukh and Vandenberg (2017). In step 1, full equation modelling was performed with mediating pathways only. Moral identity was entered only as a predictor as shown in the following figure 4.12 Sardeshmukh & Vandenberg (2017). In step 2, moderating role of moral identity was introduced in the model tested in step 1 (Figure 4.12).

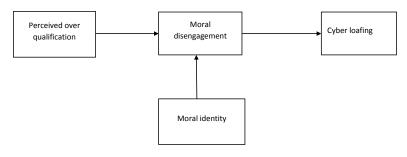


Figure 4.12

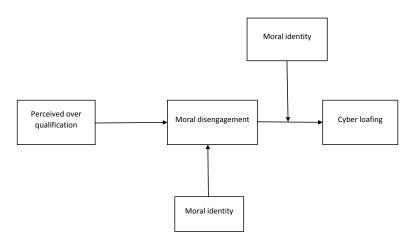


Figure 4.13

#### Final Model

Since a comparison of model 1 and 2 is required to address the aims of this research, only non-standardized estimates are presented here as Mplus provides only non-standardized estimates and AIC values for moderation-mediation (model 2). The results of the two Models are presented in the following two subsections.

# 4.8 STEP 1: Structural Model 1 with Moral Disengagement as Mediator and Moral Identity as Predictor.

The  $\chi^2$  value of the model was 34.92 with RMSEA 0.024 (CI 0.037-0.049) with CFI 0.900 which indicated poor fit. Number of free parameter was 122. The AIC value for this model was 31602.246.

In this model perceived over qualification had direct influence on cyber loafing. Results also indicated that moral disengagement did not mediates this relationship of perceived over qualification with cyber loafing. The mediating pathway indicated that there is no effect on relationship of perceived over qualification and cyber loafing by increasing or decreasing moral disengagement and it is statistically insignificant, and then this increased or decreased moral disengagement statistically significantly predicted no effect on cyber loafing. The model also indicated that moral identity predicted moral disengagement insignificantly negatively.

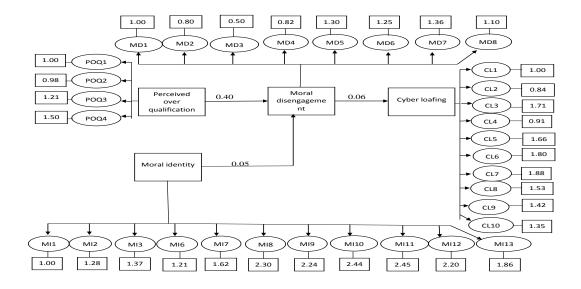


Figure 4.14: Diagrammatical representation of step 1

## 4.8.1 STEP 2: Structural Model 2 with Moral Identity as Moderating the Relationship of Moral Disengagement (Mediator) with Cyber Loafing

The AIC value of the model was 31588.801 and number of free parameters in this model were 123. According to Burnham and Anderson (2002) the difference of AIC can be calculated as per the following formula and the AIC (AICi – AICmin), (31602.246 – 31588.801 = 13.445). The difference of Model 1 and Model 2 was 13.445, which shows good fitting model.

In this model perceived over qualification had direct influence on cyber loafing. Results also indicated that moral disengagement did not significantly mediates the relationship of perceived over qualification with cyber loafing. The mediating pathway indicated that there is no significant effect on relationship of perceived over qualification and cyber loafing by increasing or decreasing moral disengagement, and then this increased or decreased moral disengagement statistically significantly predicted no effect on cyber loafing. The model also indicated that moral identity predicted moral disengagement insignificantly negatively. This model also showed negative significant impact of the moderating role of moral identity on relationship of moral disengagement with cyber loafing.

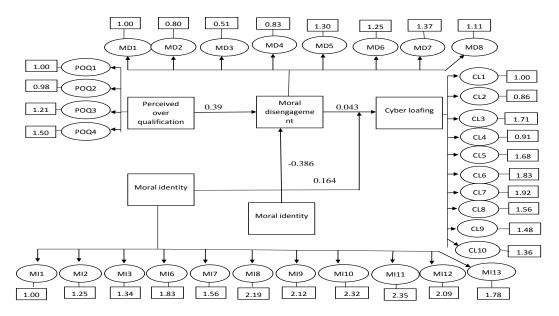


Figure 4.15: Diagrammatical Representation of Step 2

## Chapter 5

## Discussion

#### 5.1 Discussion

This study was conducted to explore the relationship between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing, in which moral disengagement was taken as mediator and moral identity was taken as moderator. This chapter will discuss the results which were reported in Chapter 04. It will also include theoretical and practical implications, limitations of the study and future research directions as well. The results with reference to previous studies.

## 5.2 Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Out of the total 410 responses, only 356 responses were testable. Fifty four were not testable because they were not fulfilling the required criteria. Among 356 responses, 193 (54.2%) were males and 163 (45.8%) were females, no one was transgender. Overall ratio of males exceeds than females. Out of total 356 respondents, 14 had PhD degree, 73 had master's degree, 256 had Bachelors degree and 13 were below graduation (which includes intermediate 3.1% and matric 0.6%). Among 356 respondents maximum age was in between 19 to 30 years which comprises 70.2% of total sample and minimum age was 61 and above which comprises 0.6%. A total of 356 respondents, maximum working hours were 41 to 50 (131-36.8%) hours per week and minimum working hours were 11 to 20 (12-3.4%). Working

experience included maximum of 6 to 10 years (25%) and minimum of 11 to 15 years (12.9%). Out of 356 respondents, 40 were students, 140 were on management position, 88 were on administrative position, 16 were belong to medical, 1 was engineer, 63 were educationists and 7 were on other positions.

## 5.3 Structure Equation Modelling

In this section structure equation modeling will be discussed in the form of discussion of factor analysis of variables.

#### 5.3.1 Measurement Model

Four measurement models were built by using Confirmatory Factor Analysis approach for perceived over qualification, moral disengagement, and cyber loafing and moral identity. Each of these models are discussed here.

#### 5.3.1.1 Factor Analysis of Perceived over Qualification

The hypothesized model of Perceived over qualification was measured by using a standardized scale of 04 items developed by Johnson and Johnson, (1996). Original scale has basically total of 11 items but Johnson and Johnson modified that scale in two labels. First label is Perceived Mismatch (which has 04 items), and second one is Perceived No Grow (which has 06 items). We have taken Perceived Mismatch's scale having four items because in this study we have discussed bout Perceived over Qualification by relating with Person-job fit theory. The final model of perceived over qualification showed that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically significant. The internal consistency of the scale in the current study ( $\alpha=0.71$ ) is comparable to  $\alpha=0.87$  reported in Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019). The overall model fit of the current study (RMSEA= 0.00, CFI= 1.00) was also slightly lower but is comparable to Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019) model's RMSEA = 0.045 and CFI= 0.969 values; indicating appropriate fit of the model.

#### 5.3.1.2 Factor analysis of Moral Disengagement

The study of moral disengagement was measured by using standardized scale of 08 items developed by Moore et, (2012). The answers were obtained by 5-point likert scale from "1= strongly disagree" to "5=strongly agree". The final model of moral disengagement showed that the model matches well with the data and the loading of the factor is statistically significant. In moral disengagement final model correlations were found between MD4-MD2 (r = 0.44, p = 0.00), MD8-MD3 (r =0.29, p = 0.00), MD2-MD1 (r = 0.18, p = 0.00) and MD3-MD2 (r = 0.25, p = 0.00). The reason of this correlation could be that these items were related to morally disengage over qualified employees. The final model of moral disengagement showed that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically significant. The internal consistency of the scale in the current study (a = 0.84) is comparable to a = 0.89 reported in Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019). The results of the final model of cyber loafing (RMSEA = 0.043, CFI = 0.985) found that model was well matched with the data and loading of the factor is statistically important.

#### 5.3.1.3 Factor Analysis of Cyber Loafing

The study of cyber loafing was measured by using a standardized scale of 11 items developed by Lim, (2002). Because of the inappropriateness of individual item, I eliminated one item – "Adult oriented (sexually explicit) websites". The answers were obtained by expanding the 04-point likert scale form "1= hardly ever" to "4= frequently". The final model of moral disengagement showed that the model matches well with the data and the loading of the factor is statistically significant. In moral disengagement final model correlations were found between CL2-CL1 (r =0.27, p = 0.00), CL3-CL8 (r =0.10, p = 0.020), CL4-CL3 (r = 0.16, p = 0.001), CL6-CL5 (r = 0.16, p = 0.00) and CL9-CL3 (r =-0.20, p = 0.00). The reason of this correlation could be that same wordings have been used in these items which were related to cyber loafing activities. The final model of cyber loafing showed that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically significant. The internal consistency of the scale in the current study

 $(\alpha=0.78)$  is comparable to a = 0.93 reported in Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019). The results of the final model of cyber loafing (RMSEA = 0.050, CFI = 0.956) found that model was well matched with the data and loading of the factor is statistically important.

#### 5.3.1.4 Factor Analysis of Moral Identity

The study of moral identity was measure by using a standardized scale of 05 items developed by Aquino and Reed, (2002). The answers were obtained by expanding the 05-point likert scale from "1= absolutely unnecessary" to "5= absolutely necessary". The final model of moral disengagement showed that the model matches well with the data and the loading of the factor is statistically significant. In moral disengagement final model correlations were found between MI5\_R-MI4\_R (r = 0.84, p = 0.00) the reason of this correlation could be that these items were reverse coded and respondents did not gave feedback after carefully reading these items. MI2-MI1(r = 0.47, p = 0.020), MI7-MI6 (r = 0.29, p = 0.001), MI9-MI8 (r = 0.22, p = 0.001), MI3-MI2 (r = 0.28, p = 0.00), MI1-MI3 (r = 0.29, p = 0.00)0.00), MI5\_R-MI3 (r =0.19, p = 0.00), MI6-MI1 (r =0.21, p = 0.001), MI6-MI2 (r = 0.16, p = 0.007). The reason of these correlations could be that these items were related to person's willing ness of having characteristics which shows their moral identity (and those characteristics were caring, compassionate, fair, friendly, generous, helpful, hardworking, honest and kind). The final model of moral identity showed that the model matches well with the data and that the loading of the factor is statistically significant. The internal consistency of the scale in the current study ( $\alpha = 0.81$ ) is comparable to  $\alpha = 0.91$  reported in Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019). The results of the final model of moral identity (RMSEA = 0.064, CFI = 0.913) found that model was well matched with the data and loading of the factor is statistically important.

## 5.4 Discussion of Structural Model and Correlations

## 5.4.1 $H_1$ . Perceived over Qualification positively relates with Cyber Loafing

According to the final hypotheses, perceived over qualification was directly linked with cyber loafing. The results of the hypotheses were significant and a positive relationship was identified in bi-variant correlation. Similar result were found by (Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang & Sun, 2019). Studies of Cheng, Zhou, Guo and Yang, (2020) have indicated a positive association between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing. As per the results of SEM, perceived over qualification linked with cyber loafing and through mediation of moral disengagement having values (r = 0.398, p = 0.00) and there is no significant role of moral disengagement as a mediator.

## 5.4.2 H<sub>2</sub>. Moral Disengagement positively mediates between perceived over Qualification and Cyber Loafing

According to the second hypotheses of the study, the mediation of moral disengagement was measured. The results of hypotheses (r=0.398, p=0.00- MD on POQ and r=0.043, p=0.223- CL on MD) proved that there is no significant mediational role of moral disengagement for the relationship of perceived over qualification with cyber loafing. Study of Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun, (2019) were found that moral disengagement mediates the relationship between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing. Morally disengaged over qualified employees support cyber loafing and encourage cyber loafing activities but according to results of this study moral disengagement have no effect on the relationship between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing. Hence, as per the findings of the results our second hypotheses moral disengagement positively mediates between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing rejected.

## 5.4.3 H<sub>3</sub>. Moral identity plays a moderating role between moral disengagement and cyber loafing such that it weakens the relationship

In this study the moderating effect of moral identity between moral disengagement and cyber loafing was explored, such that if moral identity of over qualified employees is high although they are morally disengage then they will not get involved in cyber loafing. Moral disengagement is basically a process which convince people to follow unethical standards and if a person's moral identity is high, he will not be convinced by moral disengagement. It means moral identity weakens the relationship between moral disengagement and cyber loafing. The results of the hypotheses (correlation MI7-MI2 r =0.252, p = 0.00, correlation MI7-MI1 r = 0.270, p =0.00, correlation MI13-MI12 r =0.137, p =0.017) proved the existence of moral identity significantly moderates the relationship between moral disengagement and cyber loafing and weakens this relationship. However, when the mediation is moderated by moral identity the POQ-MD-CL pathway significantly predicts cyber loafing. This implies that when an employee perceiving oneself as over qualified will morally disengage when his or her moral identity is low and this will ultimately lead to cyber loafing.

But as per the results of SEM full model, where moral identity used as a predictor and moderator, the value of the results (r=-0.386, p=0.003) indicated that moral identity negatively and significantly moderates the relation between moral disengagement and cyber loafing. As per the results, individually moral identity had positive and significant association with moral disengagement and cyber loafing (r=0.146, p= 0.066), but in full model it had negative and significant association as moderator between moral disengagement and cyber loafing. Hence, as per the findings of the results, moral identity negatively and significantly moderates the relationship between moral identity and cyber loafing in final model.

## 5.5 Structure Model 1: Moral Disengagement as a mediator and Moral Identity as a Predictor

In full model structural equational model (SEM) was performed. In first model moral disengagement was used as a mediator and moral identity as predictor. As per the results of the first model, the mediation effect of moral disengagement was not found, there is no effect with increase or decrease of moral disengagement among employees on the relationship between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing. As per the study of Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019) there is a significant and positive relationship between moral disengagement and cyber loafing. The model also indicated that as predicator moral identity had significant positive relation with moral disengagement. 5.6. Structural Model 2: Moral identity as mediator and Task interdependence as predictor and moderator In second model of SEM moral identity used as predictor and moderator. Moderating effect of moral identity checked between moral disengagement and cyber loafing. In second model positive and significant association was found between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing and non-significant relationship was found between perceived over qualification, moral disengagement and cyber loafing. Which indicates a poor mediating effect between perceived over qualification, moral disengagement and cyber loafing. As per the results, in this model, negative and significant moderating effect of moral identity was found.

Overall, this research is aimed at extending existing literature on perceived over qualification by considering P-J fit theory. According to the study viewing perceived over qualification as P-J fit, even after controlling moral disengagement, perceived over qualification leads to cyber loafing (Kim, Park, Sohn & Lim, 2019). Suggested by P-J fit theory that organizations can get favorable responses only when there is match between employees' qualification and their job (Jahantab, 2020). Moral disengagement as mediator between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing has also been demonstrated in this study. It further addresses the moderating effect of moral identity between moral disengagement and cyber loafing. Data were collected through questionnaire which were circulated to the employees working in public and private organizations of Pakistan through Google

docs. This study and hypothesis proposed are being supported through P-J fit theory. Minimum of 410 questionnaires were circulated, but only 356 were completed and used for research. Three hypotheses in the context of Pakistan were examined.

## 5.6 Practical Implications

- The results of this study may have some practical implications for the selection and management of the employees who perceives themselves as over qualified. It can have positive and negative effects of employees' behavior because when they start thinking that they are over qualified, it leads them to start behaving unethically (Lee et al, 2020.
- This study shows that when morally disengaged employees perceives themselves as over qualified, they start showing less energy toward their work, distract from their work and engaged in cyber loafing.
- Managers should consider the mood changes of their subordinates and help them to bring positive emotions which are helpful for their work and this is helpful to prevent from the adverse effects of perceived over qualification as well (Cheng, Zhang, Guo & Yang, 2018).
- Managers should know about over qualified employees. They should have understanding of performance appraisal so that they can easily judge that a person is over qualified or not. However, organizations should offer more organizational support to over qualified employees so that they can fully utilize their skills and abilities. Managers can allow them to involve in decision making. Ethical environment is very necessary for an employee to act ethically.

## 5.7 Managerial Implications

• Hiring managers must focus more on recruitment and selection of those employees which are highly fit for the job. Managers must develop employment

strategies by taking into account the experience, expertise, talents and personality characteristics of the people doing those specific jobs. A balance between workers interests and organizational resources, and individual perceptions of over qualification and skills should be maintained by managers. This match results in positive outcomes.

- Managers accept their work not only to produce concepts, but their creative methods (like making connections, making observations, networking etc) should also be implemented. Our findings indicated that when an individual is good fit for his work it would lead to good behaviors. Over qualified employees can be a benefit for an organization if they really match of their job (Sawitri & Mayasuri, 2017).
- Findings of this study are helpful for both managers and employees about those processes that a person experiences and feels that he or she is over qualified and under which over qualified employee is more likely to involve in cyber loafing. When an employee dissatisfied with his job that does not mean that he is dissatisfied from the company as well, there is still time for the managers and organizations to retain its human capital in the form of over qualified employees (Wu & Chi,—).
- Managers and organizations should take practical steps to prevent and control cyber loafing in order to reduce its level in organization. Managers should create and promote guidelines and rules that cyber loafing is not tolerated in organization at any cost.
- Organizations can also reduce levels of cyber loafing of over qualified employees by their timely promotions and trainings and by giving them a chance in decision making process (Cheng et al, 2020), because it would be particularly important for organizations to motivate over qualified employees (Zheng, Akhtar, Zhang & Sun, 2019).

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#### 5.8 Research Limitations and Future Directions

Every research ends with some limitations so there are some limitations to this research as well. No one can address all aspects in one study. In this study some research gaps have been filled by adding some well-informed literature. But on the other hand, there are several limitations in this study due to time and resource constraints. First, only one moderator and mediator were checked in this study due to time constraints. Future research should however, extend the model and check the other moderators and mediators as well. As per directions of Zhang, Akhtar, Zhang and Sun (2019), future research can be conducted by taking ethical leadership and ethical climate as a moderator.

Second, this work only indicates the negative relationship between perceived over qualification and cyber loafing, but it can also be possible to examine positive relationship for further research. This can be a limitation for this research but it motivates potential researcher to explore the positive dimensions of perceived over qualification, moral disengagement and cyber loafing.

Third, culture and values may vary from country to country. There are variations in demographics. This study has been conducted in the culture of Pakistan, but it yields different results when same study will be conducted in other country. So future research can be conducted in another country.

Fourth, sample size is small for current study and it has a significant effect on results of this research. Future research should take large number of sample size for testing the model. Due to COVID-19, data collection method was very affected, because there was no face to face data collection, due to which we collected data by using Google docs' method. In future face to face coordination was recommended for data collection.

#### 5.9 Conclusion

Hiring managers should focus on the recruitment process through which they can select those candidates who are best fit the job rather than being over qualified. Especially HR department should know a deep understanding and clarification

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hiring strategies and jobs. Organizations should keep an eye on their employees and if their mindset changes they should make quick adjustments to other positions. This study also shows that this is not always necessary that over qualified employees who are morally disengage involve in cyber loafing. To some extent perceived over qualification acts as a motivator for over qualified employees to involve in cyber loafing. HR managers should keep in mind that perceptions of over qualification is just a symptom, this is not actually a cause of negative attitudes of employees (Arvan, Pindek, Andel & Spector, 2019).

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# CAPITAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISLAMABAD

#### Department of Management Sciences

### Questionnaire

Dear Respondent,

My name is Zaheer Abbas. As a MS research student at Capital University of Sciences And Technology, Islamabad, I am collecting data for my research paper titled as "Shared leadership in teams: The moderating effect of LMX Differentiation and intermediating role of Team Monitoring, on perceived team performance". It will take your 10-15 minutes to answer the questions and to providing the valuable information. I assure you that data will be kept confidential and will only be used for academic purposes.

Thanks a lot for your help and support!

Sincerely,

Capital University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad.

1	Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Shared Leadership					
	1-Task leadership orientation	1	2	3	4	5
1	As a team we clearly assign tasks	1	2	3	4	5
2	As a team we clearly communicate our expectations.	1	2	3	4	5
3	As a team we provide each other with work relevant	1	2	3	4	5
	information.					
4	As a team we ensure that everyone knows their tasks	1	2	3	4	5
5	As a team we monitor goal achievement.	1	2	3	4	5
	2-Relation leadership Orientation	1	2	3	4	5
1	As a team we take sufficient time to address each	1	2	3	4	5
	other's concerns					
2	As a team we recognize good performance.	1	2	3	4	5
3	We promote team cohesion.	1	2	3	4	5
4	We support each other in handling conflicts within	1	2	3	4	5
	the team					
5	As a team we never let each other down	1	2	3	4	5
	3-Change leadership orientation	1	2	3	4	5
1	We help each other to correctly understand on-going	1	2	3	4	5
	processes in our team					
2	As a team we help each other to learn from past	1	2	3	4	5
	events					
3	As a team we help each other to correctly understand	1	2	3	4	5
	current company events.					
4	As a team we can inspire each other for ideas.	1	2	3	4	5
5	As a team we support each other with the implemen-	1	2	3	4	5
	tation of ideas.					

	4-Micro political leadership orientation	1	2	3	4	5
1	We use networks in order to support our team's work.	1	2	3	4	5
2	We ensure that our team is supported with necessary	1	2	3	4	5
	resources to full fill the task					
3	As a team we assist each other to network	1	2	3	4	5
4	We establish contact with important experts valuable	1	2	3	4	5
	for our team					
5	As a team we are open to external assistance in the	1	2	3	4	5
	case of internal team problems.					

S.No.	Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	LMX Differentiation	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Do you know where you stand with your leader? Do you usually know how satisfied your leader is with what you do? (Does your member usually know)	Rarely	Occasionally	Sometimes	Fairly Often	Very Often
2.	How well does your leader understand your job problems and needs? (How well do you understand)	Not a Bit	A Little	A Fair Amount	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal
3.	How well does your leader recognize your potential? (How well do you recognize)	Not at All	A Little	Moderately	Mostly	Fully

4.	Regardless of how much formal authority he/she has built into his/ her position, what are the chances that your leader would use his/ her power to help you solve problems in your work? (What are the changes that you would)	None	Small	Moderate	High	Very High
5.	Again, regardless of the amount of formal authority your leader has, what are the chances that he/ she would "bail you out," at his/ her expense? (What are the chances that you would)	None	Small	Moderate	High	Very High
6.	I have enough confidence in my leader that I would defend and justify his/ her decision if he/she were not present to do so? (Your member would)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
7.	How would you characterize your working relationship with your leader? (Your member)	Extremely Ineffective	Worse than Average	Average Then Better	Average	Extremely Effective

S.No.	Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Team Monitoring	1	2	3	4	5
1	In this team we check whether everyone meets	1	2	3	4	5
	their obligations to the team.					
2	In this team we watch whether everyone com-	1	2	3	4	5
	pletes their work on time.					
3	In this team we keep close track of whether ev-	1	2	3	4	5
	eryone performs as expected.					
4	In this team we check whether everyone is doing		2	3	4	5
	what is expected of him/her.					
5	In this team we carefully monitor each other's	1	2	3	4	5
	progress on his/her work.					

S.No.	Items	Poor	Low	Medium	High	Very High
	Team Performance	1	2	3	4	5
1	Performance Compared with the very best team	1	2	3	4	5
	you are working with or have worked with in the					
	past, please rate the performance of the TEAM					
	on the following dimensions.					
a.	Efficiency	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Quality	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Technical innovation		2	3	4	5
d.	Adherence to schedule/budget	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Work excellence	1	2	3	4	5

# Gender

1	2
Male	Female

# Age

1	2	3	4	5
18-25	26-33	34-41	42-49	50 and above

# Qualification

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Metric	Inter	Bachelor	Master	MS/M.Phil.	PhD	Post PhD

# Experience

1	2	3	4	5	6
0-5	6-10	11-16	17-22	23-28	29 and above