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Design and Validation of Career Plateau Management Model in Farhangian University

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Abstract

A career plateau occurs when managers reach a point in their career where opportunities for further development and advancement are limited or stopped. The purpose of this research was to design and validate a career plateau management model in Farhangian University. The mixed research method was exploratory and was carried out in two qualitative (phenomenological) and quantitative (descriptive-survey) parts. The participants in the qualitative field included university experts, \ \ \ of whom were purposefully selected. Data from the qualitative section were collected through semi-structured interviews and coded using the thematic analysis method. The statistical population in the quantitative field included managers and employees of Farhangian University (٤٠٠٠ people), of which The people were selected through stratified random sampling. Data was collected in the quantitative section using a researcher-made questionnaire. The questionnaire's validity was assessed through content validity, and its reliability was estimated using Cronbach's alpha and combined reliability. The validity of the model was confirmed through structural equation modeling in PLS software. The results indicated that the dimensions and components of job plateau management among Farhangian University employees included individual, organizational, and environmental dimensions. The validation of the model in the quantitative section demonstrated that the designed model is valid. In conclusion, in managing career plateaus at Farhangian University, one must consider individual characteristics and needs, organizational behavior and human resource management within the organization, as well as political, economic, social, and cultural factors originating from the environment.

Keywords: Farhangian University, career plateau management model, career plateau

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Introduction

Job plateau is a significant challenge in organizations that impacts employee performance, emotions, and commitment. This occurs when employees have developed deep knowledge and skills in their current roles but lack opportunities for advancement (Huaman-Ramirez & Lahlouh, Y.YY). In recent decades, rapid workplace changes, such as technological advancements, downsizing, and flattened organizational structures, have made job plateaus more common and garnered increased attention from researchers and practitioners (Yang et al., ۲۰۱۹). The concept of a career plateau was first introduced in the late \\9\'\\\ and is traditionally defined as "the point in a career where the likelihood of further hierarchical promotion is very low" (Fernec et al., 1977). Career plateau refers to a situation where employees experience stagnation in their career development, leading to decreased motivation and performance (Desa et al., Y·Y٤). Research has shown that individuals typically master their job within three years, and without new challenges, work can become repetitive (Rajabi Farjad et al., Y.19). Factors such as supervisor, team size, job conditions, required expertise, past success, salaries, rewards, job challenges, organizational support, and company size contribute to job plateaus. Additionally, individual factors like age, gender, social status, education, number of children, and family responsibilities are also key reasons for career stagnation (Mobasheri and Babaei, Y·) V).

Researchers have classified career plateaus in different ways. Bardwick (1947) introduced two types of job plateaus: structural (hierarchical) plateaus and content plateaus (job content). A hierarchical plateau occurs when a person lacks challenges in their job and job responsibilities. Job plateaus can be classified subjectively and objectively, with different criteria to identify each. Objective criteria include seniority, age, tenure, and salary, while subjective criteria are based on a person's perception of future promotion opportunities. Previous research has focused on the subjective importance of career plateaus and individuals' perception of future success (Mirsaidi et al., ۲۰۱۹). Studies indicate that job plateaus can negatively impact work performance and organizational commitment, leading to poor performance (Desa et al., Y.Y.). Career plateauing is associated with increased negative emotions, which can lead to deviant behaviors at work (Ng & Yang, Y·Y). Preventing career plateaus has become crucial for both employees and organizations, as it can enhance organizational efficiency and provide employees with more opportunities for career advancement (Lin, Y·YY).

Farhangian University plays a vital role in training knowledgeable and wise teachers aligned with the education system's goals. Given the job characteristics, organizational context, and centralized structure at Farhangian University, the issue of job plateau can arise and impede employees' career progression (Khanifar et al., Y·Y). Addressing career plateaus at this university can positively impact employees' attitudes, motivation, satisfaction, and job commitment, fostering a dynamic and engaging work environment. Examining job plateaus among Farhangian University employees is crucial, as it can lead to feelings of disappointment and psychological defeat within the organization. Employees may feel unchallenged in their work after reaching a career plateau, hindering their

professional development and growth opportunities (Khoshvaghti and Jafarzadeh, ۲۰۲۱).

Ebrahimi et al. (۲۰۲۰) investigated the impact of organizational and superior support on teachers' occupational, content, and structural plateaus. Their results showed that higher support from superiors and the organization correlated with lower content and structural plateaus among teachers. Khanifar et al. (Y·Y) found a significant negative relationship between job structure and content plateaus with job motivation in a study on teachers. Job plateaus were associated with lower motivation levels among teachers. Research by Rotondo & Perewe (Y · · ·) revealed that positive activities, such as expanding job duties and mentoring, were linked to positive attitudes and performance among plateaued employees. Chang Boon Lee (Y·· T) found that career plateau perception and measurement had more explanatory power for work efficiency and output than objective measures. Career plateaus negatively impacted work efficiency and job satisfaction. Penkar & Agrawal (Y · YY) identified factors contributing to career plateaus in the education sector, including job turnover and low job satisfaction. Tabarsa et al. (Y·) \(\xi\) developed a model for managing occupational plateaus in the Ministry of Industry and Mines, highlighting the impact of content plateaus on job outcomes. Kargar et al. (Y·Y) outlined a career plateau model in the police force headquarters of Iran, emphasizing individual, job, organizational, and environmental factors. Shayan et al. (Y·YY) focused on moral factors in the career plateau model at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Karimianpour et al. (۲۰۲۳) identified factors influencing job stagnation among primary school teachers, highlighting the importance of training and support in addressing career plateaus.

Overall, various studies have examined career plateaus from different perspectives, emphasizing their impact on employee performance and organizational success. However, a study focusing on designing a career plateau management model specifically for Farhangian University is lacking. Given the university's significance in developing the country's education system and the importance of employee commitment and satisfaction, conducting such research can help fill a gap in this area.

Research Questions

- \. What components does the career plateau management model have in Farhangian University?
- 7. Is the career plateau management model valid in Farhangian University?

Methodology

The current research is a mixed study (qualitative-quantitative) conducted with the aim of designing and validating the career plateau management model in Farhangian University. Participants in the qualitative field included experts from the scientific community, with ' purposefully selected individuals. Data for the qualitative section was collected through semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis was used in 's steps: '. initial familiarization with the interview text, ' creating initial codes, ' searching for themes, ' browsing the themes, o defining the themes and headings, ' preparation of the report introducing basic, organizing, and inclusive themes. The analysis led to the design of the desired model. The validity of

the research findings was confirmed through a survey method with participants. Reliability of the findings was also checked using the agreement method between two coders, with a score of ., V9. In the quantitative part, the statistical population included all employees of Farhangian University (٤٠٠٠ people), with ٣٨٠ individuals selected using stratified random sampling based on the Morgan table. Data was collected using a researcher-made questionnaire based on qualitative findings. The validity of the questionnaire was confirmed content validity, and construct validity was confirmed through confirmatory factor analysis (all items had a factor loading above ','). Reliability of the questionnaire was checked and confirmed with Cronbach's alpha and Composite reliability (see Table ١).

Table \. Reliability of the questionnaire

	composite reliability	Cronbach's coefficient	alpha
Individual dimension	٠,٨٥٠	•,٧٨٧	
Organizational dimension	٠,٨٧٧	٠,٨٦٠	
Environmental dimension	٠,٨٠٥	٠,٧١٤	
Career plateau management	٠,٩٩٠	٠,٩٨٧	

The data collected in the quantitative section were analyzed using SPSS, PLS, and confirmatory factor analysis.

Research findings

The first research question was: what are the components of the career plateau management model in Farhangian University?

Semi-structured interviews were conducted to answer this question, and the data were analyzed using the thematic analysis method. After going through six stages, the extracted concepts and categories were systematically related to each other and drawn in the form of a paradigmatic model, The results are presented in Table 7.

Table Y - Extracted Concents and Categories

Row	Basic codes (basic topics)	constructive themes	Overarching themes
1	Moral principles and ethics, moral values, personal values, good ethics, promoting personal ethics, moral abnormalities and wrong behaviors, normalizing individuals	1 0	individual factors
۲	Behavioral principles, good and good traits, behavioral	1 0	_

	patterns and code of ethics,		
	developing behavioral patterns		
٣	Feeling satisfied, strengthening	Creating	
	attachment and interest in	infrastructures	
	work, creating appropriate	for attachment to	
	platforms for human factors,	work	
	personal relationships,		
	decisions		
ź	Justice and fairness, employee	The internal	
	alienation, individual level,	aspect of	
	employee capabilities,	individuals for	
	motivating employees, justice	growth	
	and fairness, positive attitude,	8-4 11 1-2	
	delegation of authority,		
	encouragement and		
	punishment, human dimension,		
	lack of decisiveness,		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	employing committed forces	T	
٥	Learning skills and knowledge,	Improving skill	
	structure and structure of	levels through	
	competence, using actual	continuous	
	abilities and potential, level of	training	
	knowledge of individuals,		
	experience and skill gaps in the		
	administrative system,		
	employees having skills and		
	knowledge, providing training		
	Continuous		
٦	Service, trustworthiness,	Ethical	
	responsibility, kindness,	characteristics of	
	tolerance, justice, attitude,	individuals	
	intention, power, internal locus		
	of control, personal values,		
	beliefs, commitment and		
	seriousness, fading conscience,		
	lack of self-esteem, interest in		
	the job, moral virtues and good		
	ethics, moral characteristics,		
	trust, sense of equality and equity, weakness of belief,		
	1 2		
	commitment to learning,		
	adherence to moral values,		
	spirit of collectivism, moral		
	intelligence and accountability		
٧	Perfecting the virtues of	Developing a	Organizational
	morality, a system of values,	code of ethics to	factors
	commitment to Islamic and	comply with	
	organizational values, ethical	ethical principles	
	codes, performing ethical	- -	
	actions, valuing compliance		
	with ethical principles,		
	emphasizing compliance with		
	ethical principles at the		
	community and family levels,		
	community and running levels,		

performance values, ethical norms and values, moral decline and breaking of ethical boundaries, organizational value-creating principles, adaptation of behaviors and practices, level of moral development, drafting a code of ethics, application Moral practical values. the implementation of the organization's human resources in compliance with ethical and legal principles ٨ Aligning plans and decisions, Ethical decisiondecision-making process, making proper planning and benefiting medium-term from a perspective, predictability of decisions, failure to achieve goals ٩ Serving customers and people, Intraorganizational field dependence, demographics, parental characteristics influence, social capital, job characteristics, organizational culture, quality of work life, attention to creating motivation in employees, interference of managers' tastes and views, organizational climate, performance evaluation, organizational system, dialogue, establishing knowledge management, maintaining employee growth administrative and dignity, public system, interests, systemic thinking and macroscopic vision in the organization, conflict of interests, expectations and expectations in the organization, planning, nonabuse of the management position, governance of work conscience, dynamic and learning organization, recognition of damages, systematic approach and establishment of essential management processes, communication and functioning of organizational

	processes, individual behavior	
	and beliefs, design of system	
	mechanisms Organizational	
	commitment, organizational	
	requirements, self-control and	
	internal adherence to ethical	
	values, creating a reputation for	
	the company's commitment,	
	quick response to ethical	
	violations, correct	
	understanding of the concept of	
	ethics, creativity and	
	innovation, organizational	
	reputation, job position	
	clarification, exerting influence	
	to achieve personal interests,	
	job security, creative	
	management program,	
	legitimacy of the organization's	
	actions, compliance with ethics	
	in dealing with internal and	
	external stakeholders,	
	respecting and protecting	
	people's rights, recognizing	
	weaknesses and planning for	
•	externalization	A 1 *1*,
١.	Low power at the disposal of	Ability to
	management, reducing the	resolve ethical
	legitimacy and acceptability of	conflicts
	management, paying attention	
	to public awareness, conflict	
	between organizational goals and individual goals of	
	_	
	employees, conflict of interest,	
	employee inefficiency, creating	
	an organization of experienced	
11	employees Maintaining and supporting	Institutional
1 1	Maintaining and supporting employees, establishing	participation and
	healthy and humane	support
	relationships, growing	support
	collective spirit and	
	participation, institutional	
	participation and convergence,	
	participation and convergence,	
١٢	Self-control culture,	Institutionalizing
	organizational values and	
	culture, reforming the	culture
	administrative system and	Culture
	finalizing the Islamic	
	organizational culture, culture	
	of participation, culture of	
	ethics, culture of learning	
	canes, cantile of learning	

	organization, social culture, culture of ethics	
١٣	Organizational structure, reforming the administrative structure, improving and modernizing the system of creating a single thinking in the organization, organizational dimension of agile organization, reforming the administrative structure and existing relationships, paying attention to health-oriented businesses, organizational health and authenticity	Organizational structure
1 £	Targeted training through mass communication media, training professional ethics in the organization, ignorance and unfamiliarity of employees, training programs, planning for employee training, on-the-job training, training and education of employees in line with organizational goals, educational and socialization processes, creating an organization of experienced employees, progress and development of communication sciences and Psychological, training and learning organizational culture, continuous training	Organizational justice and equality
10	Recruitment of human resources, behavioral competencies, meritocracy, career advancement, career processes, having moral competence and administrative health, seeking merit, reforming recruitment and selection systems, recruitment and recruitment criteria for human resources, job satisfaction, selecting individuals	Reducing organizational corruption
١٦	Fair and proportionate division of affairs in the organization, equality and proportionality of workload, justice and justice-centeredness, creating a new and justice-centered attitude, creating a balance in the	Performance evaluation system

	dimensions of organizational	
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	justice	That ' 11 1
1 V	Corruption in the layers of	Ethical leaders
	governance, financial	
	corruption, creating	
	transparency in information,	
	clarifying work processes,	
	deviations in service delivery,	
	the limits and boundaries of the	
	duties and authorities of	
	organizational units and jobs, absence of administrative	
	violations, lack of ethics and	
	transparency, transparency in executive procedures,	
	organizational health,	
	superiority of relationship over	
	principle, disregard for	
	administrative and job	
	problems, reducing moral	
	corruption, reforming the	
	service delivery system and	
	providing the possibility of	
	providing more desirable	
	services to customers, high	
	Identifying and reducing	
	effective damages in the field	
	of organizational ethics,	
	utilizing the organization's	
	expert team, identifying	
	bottlenecks and critical points	
	of administrative corruption,	
	the silence of knowledge	
	workers, transparency in instructions and processes for	
	carrying out affairs, social	
	justice policies, reforming	
	cumbersome organizational	
	procedures	
1 /	Providing quality service,	Respect for labor
	effectiveness of actions and	rights
	activities, results-oriented and	
	designing a performance	
	evaluation system, serious	
	cooperation, careful	
	supervision, control and	
	evaluation, applying a control	
	and monitoring and	
	performance evaluation system	
	in the organization, benefiting	
	from the experiences of other	
	institutions, providing	
	desirable and quality services, operational measures and	
	operational measures and	

planning, ensuring and improving the level of people's satisfaction, clear regulations and instructions, effectiveness and guidance of human resources, ensuring long-term benefits, the existence of correct and proper supervision, lack of good governance, lack of a comprehensive ethical system in the culture of society, failure to receive feedback on the level of customer
satisfaction, clear regulations and instructions, effectiveness and guidance of human resources, ensuring long-term benefits, the existence of correct and proper supervision, lack of good governance, lack of a comprehensive ethical system in the culture of society, failure to receive feedback on
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of a comprehensive ethical system in the culture of society, failure to receive feedback on
system in the culture of society, failure to receive feedback on
failure to receive feedback on
the level of customer
satisfaction, establishing a
performance evaluation
system, failure to receive
feedback on the level of
customer satisfaction,
providing solutions for exit, the
type of behavior and
performance of competing
organizations, coherent and
efficient planning, determining
the organization's goals,
monitoring Effective for
complying with the framework
of the country's development
programs N How leaders behave and Interaction and
perform, leadership in the social relations
organization, the existence of with others
ethical leadership, work ethics,
the attitude of senior managers,
institutionalizing the culture of
career plateau management
Financial and career incentive Respect for labor
levers, observing the principle rights
of public interest, adjusting
salary plans, designing
incentive systems, rights and
benefits and welfare matters,
respecting labor rights
Relationship with colleagues, Interaction and
existing mechanisms in relation social relations
to customers, the type of with others
relationship between manager
and employee, the type of
relationship between the
organization and the job,
organization and the job, organizational conflicts and
individual relationships,
individual relationships, committed to customer rights,
individual relationships,

organization, the existence of drivers factor environmental stimuli, the environmental dimension, workplace conditions,	ors
workplace conditions,	
41.1	
community conditions,	
sustainable competitive	
advantage, technological	
growth and the expansion of the	
Internet, relationship with the	
environment, resources,	
ensuring long-term benefits, a	
platform for constructive	
competition	
Tr Laws and regulations, the Legalism	
obligation to implement	
organizational laws and	
regulations, internal	
organizational requirements	
and duties, external	
organizational requirements	
and duties, bureaucracy	
The overall culture governing Cultural	
Society, country culture, dimension	
acquired behaviors, customs	
and traditions	
Yo Inside the organization, society Social	
and the surrounding dimension	
environment of the	
organization, time and quality,	
corruption in the layers of	
governance, interaction of	
special status in front of	
customers	
Development of strategies, Political	
development strategies and dimension	
policies, career plateau	
management, improper use of	
power in front of colleagues,	
slogans and mission statements	
of the organization, strategies	
and major plans of the	
organization, strategic	
organizational decisions,	
policy-making and goal-	
setting, ganging, employee	
politicking	
YV Creating economic and Economic	
financial incentives, economic dimension	
driving force, financial nature,	
financial abuses, achieving	
productivity and directing	
resources, growth and	
100001000, SIOWIII WIIG	

organization, ensuring desired performance, profitability, efficiency and effectiveness, productivity, priority of individual interests over the organization, organizational profits or moving ahead of government goals

The model had a pattern of basic themes including respecting values, developing behavioral principles, creating infrastructures of attachment to work, the internal aspect of people for growth, improving skill levels through continuous learning, ethical characteristics of people, developing an ethical charter to comply with ethical principles, internal organizational characteristics, ethical decision-making, the ability to solve ethical conflicts, participation and institutional support, institutionalizing organizational culture, organizational structure, skills and knowledge of employees, progressivism and meritocracy, organizational justice and equality, reducing organizational corruption, performance system evaluation, ethical leaders, respect for labor rights, interaction and social relations with others, environmental stimuli, legalism, cultural factors, social factors, political factors, and economic factors. The organizing themes included individual, organizational, and environmental factors, with the overarching theme of career plateau management. The conceptual model of the research is shown in Figure \.

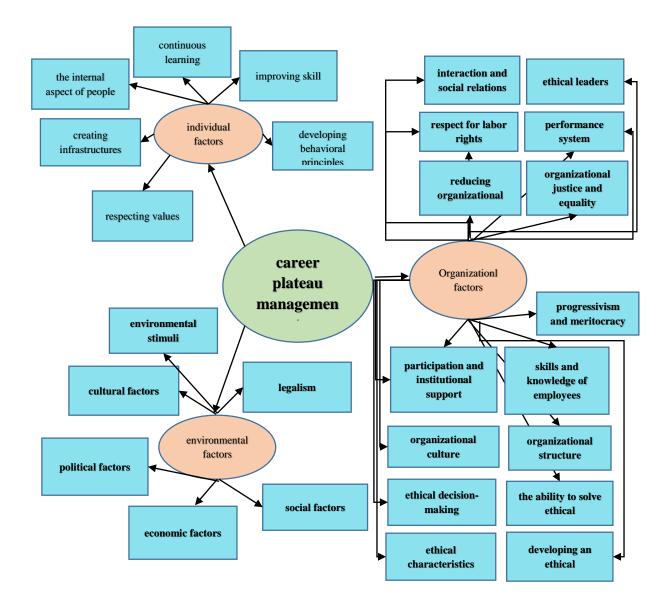


Figure \. Conceptual research model

To answer the second research question, whether the designed model of job plateau management in Farhangian University is valid? confirmatory factor analysis was used to check the measurement model and verify the validity of the questionnaire and factor structure.

Measurement model fit An important consideration in factor analysis is determining the minimum sample size. According to Table ^{\(\ceigm\)}, the Kaiser-Meyer-Elkin sample adequacy value was $\cdot, ^{\(\chi \)}$, and Bartlett's test with a chi-square score of $^{\(\chi \)}$, $^{\(\chi \)}$ was significant at $^{\(\chi \)</sup> degrees of freedom and a significance level of <math>^{(\chi \)}$. Therefore, the items of the questionnaire and the sample size were suitable for factor analysis.

Table : Confidence statistics on the data adequacy of the general model

			Sampling quality index	٠,٨٤٦
Bartlett t	est o	of	chi-square	104,04
sphericity			Degree of freedom	٦
			Significance	٠,٠٠١

Evaluation of the measurement model

Factor loading coefficients: Initially, the research model was tested based on factor loading coefficients. The research model, using standard factor load estimation, can be seen in Figure Υ . The test results showed that all factor loadings of the main components of the model, including individual $(\cdot, \wedge, \Upsilon^{\xi})$, environmental $(\cdot, \nabla, \Upsilon^{\xi})$, and organizational (\cdot, Υ^{ξ}) components, as well as the factor loadings of each sub-dimension with the main components, were above \cdot, ξ . As a result, the main and sub-components explain the career plateau management model at Farhangian University.

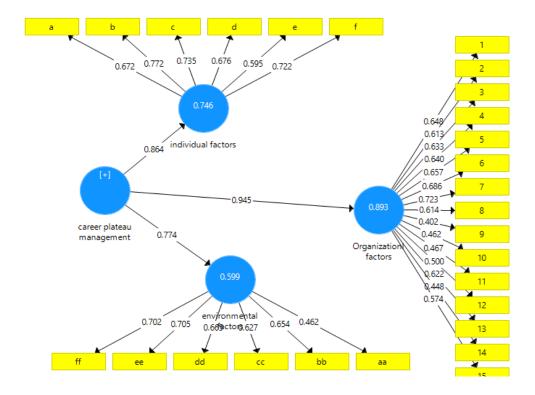


Figure 7: The structural equations model of the research using standard estimation of factor load

Convergent validity: The criterion for the average variance extracted to measure convergent validity is •,•. This means that an average extracted variance above •,• indicates acceptable convergent validity. The values for this criterion in the research model are described in Table ٤. The average

extracted variance of all variables is above ',o, confirming the convergent validity of the model.

Table 4: Mean values of extracted variance

Table . Mean value	o oi catiaci	cu vai	lance
dimension	values	of	extracted
	variance		
Individual dimension	.,011		
Organizational dimension	٠,٥٤٣		
Environmental dimension	٠,٥.٣		

Divergent validity: The Fornell and Larcker criterion was used to check the divergent validity of the model Table °. This criterion determines the relationship of a variable with its indicators compared to other variables. Acceptable divergent validity occurs when the average variance extracted for each variable is greater than the shared variance between that variable and other variables.

Table :: Fornell-Larker index

	Individual	Organizational	Environmental
	dimension	dimension	dimension
Individual	٠,٨٦٤		
dimension			
Organizational	٠,0٤٦	٠,٦٤١	
dimension			
Environmental	٠,٧٦٣	٠,٥٨٥	٠,٧٨٣
dimension			

Significant t-values: The significant t-values indicate the relationship between variables in the model. If these values are greater than 1,97, it confirms the relationship between the variables at a 90% confidence level. Figure 7 displays the test results of the conceptual model in terms of the significance of the t coefficients. All t-values in the figure are above 1,97, confirming the dimensions in the structural equation model.

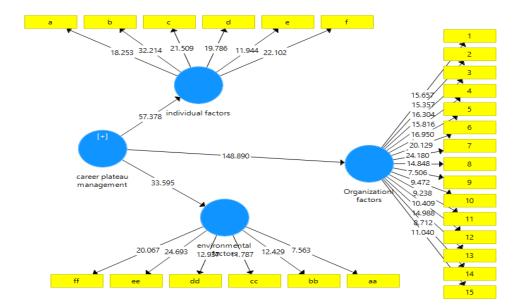


Figure 7: Research significance model

Criterion R^{γ} : The coefficient of determination related to the dependent variable indicates the fit of the model. Values of \cdot , $^{\gamma}$, $^{\gamma}$, and $^{\gamma}$ are considered weak, medium, and strong R^{γ} values, respectively. (Table $^{\gamma}$) shows the coefficient of determination values for the research variables.

Criterion Q^{γ} : The Q^{γ} index evaluates the predictive power of the model. Values of $\cdot, \cdot, \cdot, \cdot, \cdot$, and $\cdot, \cdot, \cdot, \cdot$ indicate weak, medium, and strong predictive power, respectively. The Q^{γ} values for the dependent variables in the model are at a medium to high level. (Table $^{\gamma}$)

Overall model fit: The overall model fit is assessed using the Goodness of Fit (GOF) index. A GOF value of ', ', ' indicates a strong and appropriate fit for the model. (Table ')

$$GOF = \sqrt{\left(\overline{communality}\right) \times \left(\overline{R\ square}\right)}$$

Table 7: Report on R7 criterion, Q7 criterion, and GOF criterion

variable	R۲	Q۲	GOF criterion
	Average	Strong ,,) o Average ,, \range Weak ,, \range ,, \range	Strong ,, Yo Average ,, 1) Weak
Individual	٠,٧٤٦	٠,٣٣٨	٠,٦٣
dimension			_
Organizational	٠,٨٩٣	٠,٢٨٥	
dimension			_
Environmental	٠,٥٩٩	٠,٢٢١	-
dimension			

Based on the construct validity, reliability indices, and validity indicators, the measurement model shows strong fit and validity. The model consists of three dimensions: individual, organizational, and environmental.

Discussion and Conclusion

The present research aimed to design and explain the career plateau management model at Farhangian University. In the qualitative part, the dimensions and components of career plateau management at Farhangian University were identified using theme analysis. In the quantitative part, the validity of the career plateau management model at Farhangian University was investigated and confirmed through confirmatory factor analysis. The designed model includes the Qordi dimension with components such as respect for values, development of behavioral principles, creation of work attachment infrastructure, internal growth aspects of people, continuous improvement through learning, moral characteristics, organizational dimensions with components like a code of ethics, organizational characteristics, ethical decision-making, resolving ethical conflicts, institutional support, organizational culture, skills and knowledge of employees, progressiveness, organizational justice and equality, reduction of corruption, performance assessment systems, ethical leadership, compliance with labor rights, social interactions, and environmental dimensions with components like environmental stimuli, legalism, cultural, social, political, and economic dimensions. Kargar et al. (Y·YI) also mentioned individual, organizational, and environmental dimensions as components of the career plateau management model, which aligns with the research findings. Shayan et al. (Y·YY) listed various factors affecting career plateau, including individual, organizational, environmental factors, in line with the research findings. The results of this research align with previous studies by Rotondo & Perewe ($^{\prime}$...), Chang Boon Lee (۲۰۰۳), Penkar & Agrawal (۲۰۱۲), Khanifar et al. (۲۰۲۱), Ebrahimi et al. $(7 \cdot 7 \cdot)$, Tabarsa et al. $(7 \cdot 7 \cdot)$, and Karimianpour et al. (۲. ۲۳). Service organizations, such as universities, are under pressure to provide desirable services to citizens. They often place less emphasis on employee satisfaction, expecting employees to continuously develop themselves to adapt to technological and environmental changes. This, in turn, allows them to provide better services to citizens. Many individuals begin their careers with aspirations of reaching the highest levels within an organization. They seek power, growth, and advancement. However, a significant number of them will encounter a career plateau before achieving their goals. A career plateau is a point in an individual's career path that significantly reduces the likelihood of advancing up the organizational hierarchy in the future. Various individual factors, such as employees' job values, can moderate the negative impact of a career plateau. Employees whose job values focus on achievement and progress tend to react more negatively to limited advancement opportunities, task monotony, and a lack of job challenge (Davis, Y...). But employees value job security, stability, and predictability over job challenges (Salami, Y. 1.). The effectiveness of an organization depends on how it properly manages and utilizes its human resources. A successful organization is one that can achieve its goals through experienced managers. Therefore, the improper and unregulated selection of managers is a common issue in current organizations. Various studies have shown that a lack of attention to meritocracy leads to demotivation, a loss of dynamism in employees, a desire for stagnation, a decrease in creativity and innovation, and ultimately a decrease in organizational productivity. Inefficient management practices, such as appointing or dismissing managers based on personal criteria, organizational injustice, low organizational support, lack of policy coherence, lack of transparency in goals, policy variability, and neglecting employee needs, are key factors in creating career plateaus in organizations. Setting clear career goals, developing strategies, and implementing feedback programs can help reduce career plateaus within an organization (Mayasari, Y., 9). Another factor that management can focus on to reduce the phenomenon of job burnout is addressing the social, cultural, and economic needs of employees. Improving environmental conditions can lead to increased happiness, better physical and mental health, and overall comfort for employees. The benefits of a suitable work environment include cost reduction, decreased absenteeism due to illness, improved productivity levels, and enhanced employee comfort. When employees feel at ease in the workplace, they are less likely to experience job burnout. Kargar et al. (Y·YY) and Shayan et al. (Y·YY) have also highlighted the importance of environmental factors in relation to job burnout.

According to the results of the research, it can be said that it is appropriate for organizations to recruit expert employees and managers based on individual qualifications, rather than work politics, personal tastes, or superficial judgments. It is important to design and implement career path planning, adopt career enrichment strategies such as policies that facilitate intra-organizational transfers, redesign organizational jobs, establish an inservice training system, design a performance-based payment system, and improve job skills. Taking steps to create a positive image of the organization in society, fostering a realistic attitude towards the organization through the socialization process, establishing a system to combat administrative corruption, and providing organizational support such as emotional, informational, and instrumental support during performance evaluations are crucial. Establishing a coaching system within the organization with the aim of sharing job information and knowledge, helping individuals implement new skills, and strengthening their sense of competence and self-confidence is also important. Moving towards creating a balance between work activities and personal lives by changing work methods, effectively delegating tasks, and establishing non-financial incentive programs can also be beneficial. Implementing any of the above strategies can lead to improved working conditions in the organization and prevent job plateaus.

The most important obstacles and limitations of this research include: poor cooperation from some experts in interviews and answering questions, the longer duration of the activity, the absence of a research-oriented and scientific view of the experts on the subject under study, and the lack or absence of accessible and usable scientific resources. There are very few and limited scientific resources (at least in Persian) in this field that are directly related to the subject of study and research. For this reason, the researcher needed to use Latin resources, which itself brought other

problems such as limited time to use the Internet in the faculty, correct translation of Latin texts into Persian, and their unification. Another challenge was the lack of necessary budget to carry out and advance the work. Every research work requires financial expenses at different stages, and student research is certainly not exempt from this issue due to the specific circumstances of the researcher

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