ISSN (print): 2588-5731 E-ISSN: 3060-6535

# Design and Validation of Career Plateau Management Model in Farhangian University

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#### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** 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.

Methodology: 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, 10 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 (4000 people), of which 380 people were selected through stratified random sampling. Data was collected in the quantitative section using a researchermade 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.

**Findings:** 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.

Conclusion: 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, 2022). 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., 2019). The concept of a career plateau was first introduced in the late 1970s 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., 2024). Research has shown that individuals typically master their job within three years, and without new challenges, work can become repetitive (Rajabi Farjad et al., 2019). 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, 2017).

Researchers have classified career plateaus in different ways. Bardwick (1986) 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., 2019). Studies indicate that job plateaus can negatively impact work performance and organizational commitment, leading to poor performance (Desa et al., 2024). Career plateauing is associated with increased negative emotions, which can lead to deviant behaviors at work (Ng & Yang, 2023). 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, 2022).

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., 2021). 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, 2021).

Ebrahimi et al. (2020) 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. (2021) 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 (2000) revealed that positive activities, such as expanding job duties and mentoring, were linked to positive attitudes and performance among plateaued employees. Chang Boon Lee (2003) 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 (2012) identified factors contributing to career plateaus in the education sector, including job turnover and low job satisfaction. Tabarsa et al. (2014) 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. (2021) outlined a career plateau model in the police force headquarters of Iran, emphasizing individual, job, organizational, and environmental factors. Shayan et al. (2022) focused on moral factors in the career plateau model at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Karimianpour et al. (2023) 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

- 1. What components does the career plateau management model have in Farhangian University?
- 2. 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 10 purposefully selected individuals. Data for the qualitative section was collected through semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis was used in 6 steps: 1. initial familiarization with the interview text, 2. creating initial codes, 3. searching for themes, 4. browsing the themes, 5. defining the themes and headings, 6. 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 0.79. In the quantitative part, the statistical population included all employees of Farhangian University (4000 people), with 380 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 0.7). Reliability of the questionnaire was checked and confirmed with Cronbach's alpha and Composite reliability (see Table 1).

Table 1. Reliability of the questionnaire

	composite reliability	Cronbach's coefficient	alpha
Individual	0.850	0.787	
dimension			
Organizational	0.877	0.860	
dimension			
Environmental	0.805	0.714	
dimension			
Career plateau	0.990	0.987	
management			

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 2.

**Table 2 - Extracted Concepts 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	Respecting values	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		
£	Justice and fairness, employee	The internal	
	alienation, individual level,	aspect of	
	employee capabilities,	individuals for	
	motivating employees, justice	growth	
	and fairness, positive attitude,	8.0 // 1.1	
	delegation of authority,		
	•		
	$\mathcal{E}$		
	punishment, human dimension,		
	lack of decisiveness,		
	employing committed forces	<b>y</b> , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
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	iiidi (iddai)	
	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,		
	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	principies	
	actions, valuing compliance		
	with ethical principles,		
	emphasizing compliance with		
	1 1		

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 expectations interests, 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	
١.	external stakeholders, respecting and protecting people's rights, recognizing weaknesses and planning for externalization	Ability to
	Low power at the disposal of management, reducing the legitimacy and acceptability of 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 employees	resolve ethical conflicts
11	Maintaining and supporting employees, establishing healthy and humane relationships, growing collective spirit and participation, institutional participation and convergence, participation of all employees	Institutional participation and support
١٢	Self-control culture, organizational values and culture, reforming the administrative system and finalizing the Islamic organizational culture, culture of participation, culture of ethics, culture of learning	

organizat	ion, social cultur	ro	
culture of		10,	
17 Organiza		re, Organization	na1
Organiza	the administrati	•	ıuı
structure,		nd	
	ing the system		
	single thinking in t		
organizat			
dimensio	, ,		
	$\boldsymbol{c}$	the	
•		nd	
existing	relationships, payi	ng	
	to health-orient		
businesse	s, organization	nal	
health an	d authenticity		
1 Targeted	training through ma	ass Organization	nal
	cation media, traini		and
professio	nal ethics in t	the equality	
organizat	ion, ignorance a	nd	
unfamilia	rity of employed	es,	
training p	rograms, planning f	for	
	training, on-the-j		
-	raining and educati		
	oyees in line wi		
organizat	•	•	
	al and socializati		
_	, ,	an	
organizat	•		
employee	1 0	nd	
developm		of	
		nd d	
•	_	nd	
•	organizational cultur is training	re,	
	ent of hum	an Reducing	
resources		•	9 <b>1</b>
competer		•	aı
•	idvancement, care	•	
processes	,		
_	ce and administrati		
health,	seeking men		
reforming	0	nd	
	systems, recruitme		
	uitment criteria f		
human	resources, j	ob	
satisfaction	on, selecti	ng	
individua			
17 Fair and	proportionate divisi	on Performance	;
	in the organization		
	and proportionality		
workload	, justice and justic	ce-	
centeredr	and amonting a	ew	
	ess, creating a ne		
and just	ice-centered attitudes a balance in t		

	dimensions of organizational justice	
۱۷	Corruption in the layers of governance, financial	Ethical leaders
	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,	

	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, 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	
19	How leaders behave and	Interaction and
	perform, leadership in the	social relations
	organization, the existence of	with others
	ethical leadership, work ethics,	With others
	the attitude of senior managers,	
	institutionalizing the culture of	
	career plateau management	
۲.	Financial and career incentive	Respect for labor
1 *	levers, observing the principle	rights
	of public interest, adjusting	1181113
	-	
	incentive systems, rights and	
	benefits and welfare matters,	
<b>~</b> • •	respecting labor rights	Intomostics 1
۲١	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,	
	organizational conflicts and	
	individual relationships,	
	committed to customer rights,	
	magnilating malationships	
	regulating relationships	
	between humans	

۲۲	The environment outside the	Environmental	individual
	organization, the existence of	drivers	factors
	environmental stimuli, the environmental dimension,		
	workplace conditions,		
	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		
۲۳	Laws and regulations, the	Legalism	_
	obligation to implement	8	
	organizational laws and		
	regulations, internal		
	organizational requirements		
	and duties, external		
	organizational requirements		
	and duties, bureaucracy		
۲ ٤	The overall culture governing	Cultural	_
	Society, country culture,	dimension	
	acquired behaviors, customs		
	and traditions		_
40	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	D 1'.' 1	-
77	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		
	and major plans of the organization, strategic		
	organizational decisions,		
	policy-making and goal-		
	setting, ganging, employee		
	politicking		
7 7	Creating economic and	Economic	_
	financial incentives, economic	dimension	
	driving force, financial nature,		
	financial abuses, achieving		
	productivity and directing		
	resources, growth and		
	development of the		

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 1.

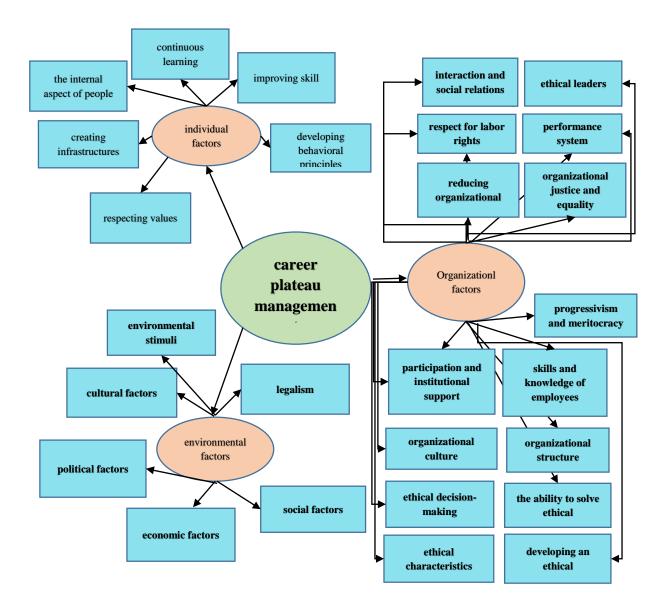


Figure 1. Conceptual research model

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 2, the Kaiser-Meyer-Elkin sample adequacy value was 0.846, and Bartlett's test with a chi-square score of 853.052 was significant at 6 degrees of freedom and a significance level of 0.001. Therefore, the items of the questionnaire and the sample size were suitable for factor analysis.

Table3: Confidence statistics on the data adequacy of the general model

		Sampling quality index	0.846
Bartlett test	of	chi-square	853.052
sphericity		Degree of freedom	6
		Significance	0.001

# 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 2. The test results showed that all factor loadings of the main components of the model, including individual (0.864), environmental (0.774), and organizational (0.945) components, as well as the factor loadings of each sub-dimension with the main components, were above 0.4. As a result, the main and sub-components explain the career plateau management model at Farhangian University.

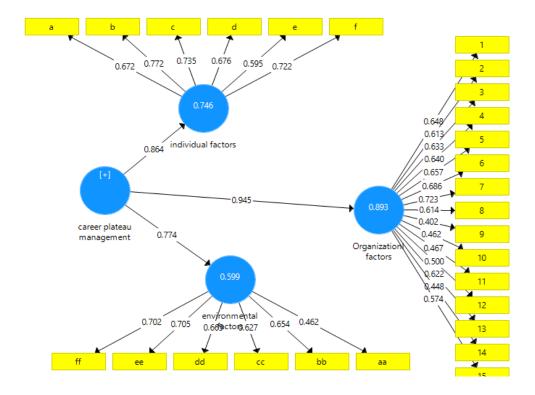


Figure 2: The structural equations model of the research using standard estimation of factor load

Convergent validity: The criterion for the average variance extracted to measure convergent validity is 0.5. This means that an average extracted variance above 0.5 indicates acceptable convergent validity. The values for this criterion in the research model are described in Table 4. The average

extracted variance of all variables is above 0.5, confirming the convergent validity of the model.

**Table 4: Mean values of extracted variance** 

	9 01 01101 WC		
dimension	values	of	extracted
	variance		
Individual dimension	0.511		
Organizational dimension	0.543		
Environmental dimension	0.503		

Divergent validity: The Fornell and Larcker criterion was used to check the divergent validity of the model Table 5. 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 5: Fornell-Larker index

	Individual	Organizational	Environmental
	dimension	dimension	dimension
Individual	0.864		
dimension			
Organizational	0.546	0.641	
dimension			
Environmental	0.763	0.585	0.783
dimension			

Significant t-values: The significant t-values indicate the relationship between variables in the model. If these values are greater than 1.96, it confirms the relationship between the variables at a 95% confidence level. Figure 3 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 1.96, confirming the dimensions in the structural equation model.

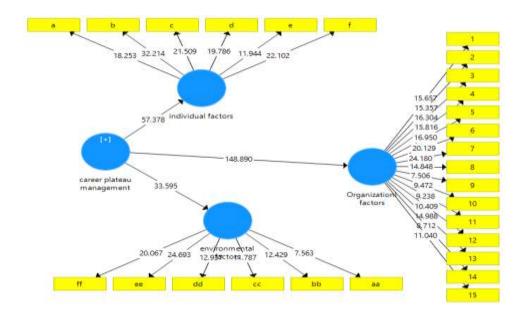


Figure 3: Research significance model

Criterion R2: The coefficient of determination related to the dependent variable indicates the fit of the model. Values of 0.19, 0.35, and 0.67 are considered weak, medium, and strong R2 values, respectively. (Table 6) shows the coefficient of determination values for the research variables.

Criterion Q2: The Q2 index evaluates the predictive power of the model. Values of 0.02, 0.15, and 0.35 indicate weak, medium, and strong predictive power, respectively. The Q2 values for the dependent variables in the model are at a medium to high level. (Table 6)

Overall model fit: The overall model fit is assessed using the Goodness of Fit (GOF) index. A GOF value of 0.63 indicates a strong and appropriate fit for the model. (Table 6)

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

Table 6: Report on R2 criterion, Q2 criterion, and GOF criterion

variable	R2	Q2	GOF criterion
	0.33 Average 0.19 Weak	0.35 Strong 0.15 Average 0.02 Weak 0.67 Strong	0.36 Strong 0.25 Average 0.01 Weak
Individual dimension	0.746	0.338	0.63
Organizational dimension	0.893	0.285	-
Environmental dimension	0.599	0.221	

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 learning, moral characteristics, improvement through 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. (2021) also mentioned individual, organizational, and environmental dimensions as components of the career plateau management model, which aligns with the research findings. Shayan et al. (2022) 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 (2000), Chang Boon Lee (2003), Penkar & Agrawal (2012), Khanifar et al. (2021), Ebrahimi et al. (2020), Tabarsa et al. (2014), and Karimianpour et al. (2023). 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, 2005). But employees value job security, stability, and predictability over job challenges (Salami, 2010). 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, 2009). 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. (2021) and Shayan et al. (2022) 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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