

Knowledge and attitudes of workers towards Safety Culture in the Maritime Industry in Nigeria

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Research proposal

1. Introduction

In the maritime industry of the globe, the safety culture had become one of the main priority. This is because, when essential safety culture is practised in the maritime industry, the performance of the industry increases. Further, the effective practice of safety culture in the maritime industry provides an intense level of competitive advantage to the chosen industry. In the maritime industry of Nigeria, the main focus of management is to develop, and maintain such level of safety culture that provides effective protection and support to the environment and the workers of the industry at the similar time (Altinpinar, and Basar, 2018).

This effective level of safety measure implication can only be performed when the workers of Nigerian Maritime industry have enough level of knowledge about the issues that are being experienced in the past and present so that they can be aware of such safety issues in future. The current research proposal is been developed for determining and analysing the level of knowledge and attitude of workers towards the safety culture that had been practised among the maritime industry of Nigeria. While identifying the safety culture in the maritime industry of Nigeria, the current researcher has come across the problem.

1.1 Problem statement

In the maritime industry, human errors are made while recording the safety issue that is been experienced by Seker, and Zavadskas, (2017) for making an effective study on analysing the safety culture. These human errors in recording the safety issues are being made due to the lack of knowledge among the workers of maritime industry. This lack of knowledge and understanding of workers for addressing the safety issues of maritime industry develops a

problem for the organisations in delivering the effective safety culture in the industry for the vessels and its workers. This makes the maritime companies powerless in delivering effective safety culture to their workers (Seker, and Zavadskas, 2017).

2. Research aim and objectives

2.1 Research aim

The developed aim of the current research proposal is to analyse the knowledge level and attitude of the workers and other staff members towards the safety culture in the Maritime industry of Nigeria so that the maritime industries can solve the mentioned problem of human errors in recording the safety culture of the maritime industry in an effective manner.

2.2 Research objectives

With the above-developed research aim, the following research objectives were identified.

Objective#1: To critically analyse the practices of the maritime industry in delivering effective safety to the workers from work-related hazards.

Objective#2: To critically identify the knowledge level of workers for safety issues while performing their assigned tasks in the maritime industry.

Objective#3: To critically analyse the hazard reporting practices of companies working maritime industry of Nigeria.

Objective#4: To critically discuss the safety culture in the maritime industry of Nigeria.

Objective#5: To critically indicate the processes followed in the safety culture of the maritime industry of Nigeria.

3. Research questions

Question#1: What safety practices are used in the Maritime industry of Nigeria?

Question#2: What level of knowledge is practiced by the workers of Maritime Industry while experiencing different safety issues?

Question#3: What type of hazard reporting practices are been followed in Maritime industry Nigeria?

Question#4: What type of safety culture is supported in the Nigerian maritime industry?

4. Literature review

According to Ogbonna, and Harris, (2015), the culture can be described as the complex framework used for expressing the professional and national attitudes of the individuals who are working or are living in the society. With respect to the term of culture been explained above, the corporate culture can be described as the process that is used in a corporation for attaining the committed goals of the organisations. The corporate culture is been developed by the corporate heads of the organisation for increasing the overall commitment of the organisational workers for attaining the organisational goals (Nazarian, Atkinson, and Foroudi, 2017).

It had been criticised by Komu, and Kibe, (2019) that culture plays an important part in the development of the society and the industry as well. Therefore, the organisational culture can be explained as the collection of activity performance patterns that are followed by the organisational employees belonging to various ethnic groups. With respect to the organisational

culture, the safety culture that exists in the maritime industry can be explained as the processes that are performed by the management of the industry for delivering effective safety to the workers so that they can perform their assigned tasks effectively (Dyson, 2019). On the basis of the workers belonging to different ethnicities, the safety culture is also developed by the shared values of every ethnicity in a manner that does not contradict with the main organisational culture (Hiekkataipale, and Lämsä, 2019).

Moreover, Abeywardhane, *et al.*, (2016) had explained the impact of knowledge in developing the attitude towards resolving the safety issues experienced by the Maritime workers. The level of knowledge acquired by the workers while their training can support them in reducing the level of issues of safety. Further, it had been identified by Håvold, and Oltedal, (2018) that knowledge about safety issues at workplace can support an increment in the performance of the workers. This is because, with less safety issues, the workers feel free in performing their assigned tasks. This freeness in performing the activities by the workers of the maritime industry can also support the growth in the performance of workers and industry on the whole. It had been also notified by different researchers that knowledge about safety issues in the industry helps the workers in performing their assigned tasks effectively and efficiently (Relling, *et al.*, 2018).

5. Methodology

The methodology is the most important part of the research that is been conducted on any given topic. The methodology helps the researchers in identifying the research philosophy through that helps the research in defining the research approach for collecting and analysing the data for producing and explaining the results (Quinlan, *et al.*, 2019).

5.1 Research philosophy

Alston and Bowles, (2018) had identified three main types of research philosophies that are used in social sciences research. These are interpretivism; positivism, and realism. All these mentioned research philosophies will be explained in the third chapter of the research. The developed proposal is using the positivism research philosophy. This type of research philosophy will help the current researchers in acquiring the factual knowledge deduced from the reality-based events (Hughes, and Sharrock, 2016).

5.2 Research approach

Research approaches are the practices used by the researchers for learning more about their chosen research topic in a specified manner. There are three main research approaches that are generally been used in different types of researches. These are qualitative research approach; quantitative research approach; and, mixed approach (Bullock, Little, and Millham, 2017). All these approaches are explained in detail in the third chapter of the current thesis. But, for the sake of the current research proposal, it is stated that the current research will be using mixed methods for collecting and analysing the data.

5.3 Data collection and analysis

5.3.1 Data collection

For the current research proposal on the topic of analysing the workers' knowledge and attitude towards the safety culture in the maritime industry of Nigeria; the data collection will be based on the primary technique of data collection. These primary techniques are related to doing

surveys with the vessel employees and taking interviews from the managers of the maritime industry. The sample size will be based on doing an interview from 15 maritime industry managers, and the survey will be conducted from 200 vessel employees. The attitude of workers will be measured using attitudinal scale that will be developed using Likert method of summative scaling based on “strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree”. Moreover, the knowledge will be measured through the mix of direct and indirect methods of knowledge measurement. That is, use of direct approach of developing association and indirect knowledge measuring approach of using performance reports and work experiences of the workers will be used for measuring the knowledge.

5.3.2 Data analysis

The collected data from the interviews of managers will be analysed through the help of thematic analysis. And, the surveys among the 200 employees will be analysed through the descriptive statistics gathered from the use of statistical tools.

6. Research Limitations

From the selected topic of the research, it can be identified that the main limitation of the current research is for studying the safety culture in the Maritime Industry of Nigeria. This means that the study is been limited to the specific country and industry. The study had other limitations that are based on the scope of conducting research. That is the researchers of current study are unable to collect and analyse a broad data that can help in broadening the socpe of their research.

7. Research timeline

Tasks	Time duration in weeks								
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
Designing a research proposal									
Submitting the research proposal									
Collecting the literature									
Writing chapter 1									
Writing chapter 2									
Writing chapter 3									
Approval of survey and interview questions									
Collecting the data									
Analysing the data									
Writing chapter 4									
Writing chapter 5									

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