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WORK-LIFE BALANCE, COMPENSATION, AND JOB SATISFACTION AS DRIVERS OF EMPLOYEE RETENTION IN STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

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Abstrak. Retensi karyawan tetap menjadi tantangan penting bagi perusahaan milik negara (BUMN), yang mengharuskan pemahaman yang lebih mendalam tentang faktor-faktor yang memengaruhi keputusan karyawan untuk tetap bekerja di suatu organisasi. Studi ini meneliti dampak keseimbangan kehidupan keria, kompensasi, dan kepuasan keria terhadap retensi karyawan, dengan kepuasan kerja dianalisis sebagai variabel mediasi. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif, data dikumpulkan dari karyawan BUMN dan dianalisis melalui statistik deskriptif, analisis korelasi, pemodelan regresi, dan analisis mediasi. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa ketiga faktor tersebut berkontribusi secara signifikan terhadap retensi karyawan, dengan kepuasan kerja muncul sebagai prediktor terkuat. Lebih jauh, kepuasan kerja sebagian memediasi hubungan antara keseimbangan kehidupan kerja, kompensasi, dan retensi, yang menyoroti peran utamanya dalam stabilitas tenaga kerja. Hasil ini menunjukkan bahwa organisasi harus memprioritaskan inisiatif yang bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kepuasan kerja melalui peluang pertumbuhan karier, program pengakuan, dan lingkungan kerja yang mendukung. Selain itu, mendorong keseimbangan kehidupan kerja yang sehat dan menawarkan paket kompensasi yang kompetitif merupakan strategi penting untuk meningkatkan retensi karyawan. Studi ini memberikan wawasan berharga bagi praktisi SDM dan pembuat kebijakan di BUMN untuk mengembangkan strategi retensi yang efektif. Penelitian di masa mendatang sebaiknya mengeksplorasi variabel tambahan, seperti gaya kepemimpinan dan budaya organisasi, untuk memperoleh pemahaman yang lebih komprehensif tentang dinamika retensi karyawan.

Kata Kunci: Keseimbangan Kehidupan dan Pekerjaan, Kompensasi, Kepuasan Kerja, Retensi Karyawan, Badan Usaha Milik Negara, Manajemen Sumber Daya Manusia.

Abstract Employee retention remains a critical challenge for state-owned enterprises (SOEs), necessitating a deeper understanding of the factors that influence employees' decisions to stay within an organization. This study examines the impact of work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction on employee retention, with job satisfaction analyzed as a mediating variable. Using a quantitative approach, data were collected from SOE employees and analyzed through descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, regression modeling, and mediation analysis. The findings indicate that all three factors significantly contribute to employee retention, with job satisfaction emerging as the strongest predictor. Furthermore, job satisfaction partially mediates the relationship between work-life balance, compensation, and retention, highlighting its central role in workforce stability. These results suggest that organizations should prioritize initiatives aimed at enhancing job satisfaction through career growth opportunities, recognition programs, and supportive work environments. Additionally, fostering a healthy work-life balance and offering competitive compensation packages are essential strategies for improving employee retention. The study provides valuable insights for HR practitioners and policymakers in SOEs to develop effective retention strategies. Future research should explore additional variables, such as leadership styles and organizational

culture, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of employee retention dynamics.

Keywords: Work-Life Balance, Compensation, Job Satisfaction, Employee Retention, State-Owned Enterprises, Human Resource Management

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INTRODUCTION

Employee retention has become a critical issue for organizations, particularly for state-owned enterprises (SOEs) that operate under unique institutional, bureaucratic, and market conditions. Retaining skilled employees is essential for ensuring organizational stability, sustained performance, and competitive advantage ((Kossivi et al., 2016). Unlike private corporations, SOEs often face challenges such as rigid hierarchical structures, regulatory constraints, and bureaucratic inefficiencies that may impact employee satisfaction and retention (Perry & Wise, 1990). Given the increasing competition in the labor market, SOEs must adopt strategies that not only attract but also retain top talent. Work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction have emerged as pivotal factors influencing employee retention, shaping the overall employment experience and determining employees' willingness to stay in an organization (Ghapanchi & Aurum, 2011).

Work-life balance plays a crucial role in employee retention as it influences employees' ability to manage their professional and personal commitments effectively. Employees who perceive a favorable work-life balance are more likely to exhibit higher job satisfaction and organizational commitment (Haar et al., 2014). SOEs, with their often rigid structures, may need to implement more flexible work arrangements, policies supporting work-life integration, and family-friendly initiatives to enhance employee satisfaction and reduce turnover (Kossek et al., 2011). Moreover, compensation is another fundamental driver of employee retention. Competitive salary structures, performance-based incentives, and comprehensive benefits packages significantly impact employees' decisions to remain within an organization (Güngör, 2011). While SOEs may not always match private-sector salaries, they often provide job security and non-monetary benefits that contribute to employee retention (Ng & Feldman, 2010).

Job satisfaction is an overarching factor that influences employees' attitudes toward their jobs and their likelihood of staying with an organization. High levels of job satisfaction lead to increased productivity, engagement, and reduced turnover intentions (Judge et al., 2001). In

SOEs, factors contributing to job satisfaction include career development opportunities, supportive leadership, and a positive work environment. Understanding the interplay between work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction can help SOEs develop strategies that enhance employee retention and organizational performance. This study aims to explore how these factors collectively influence employee retention in SOEs, offering insights into effective human resource management practices that can improve workforce stability and productivity.

State-owned enterprises play a crucial role in national economies, contributing to economic development, public service delivery, and employment generation. However, employee retention remains a persistent challenge in many SOEs due to factors such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, limited career advancement opportunities, and rigid organizational structures (Amah, 2009). High employee turnover in SOEs can lead to increased recruitment costs, loss of institutional knowledge, and decreased organizational effectiveness (Hom et al., 2012). While previous studies have extensively examined employee retention in private-sector organizations, there is limited empirical research focusing on the specific dynamics of retention within SOEs. Additionally, there is a growing need to understand how work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction interact to influence employees' decisions to remain in SOEs. Addressing these gaps is critical to formulating targeted retention strategies that enhance employee engagement and organizational stability. Thus, this research seeks to investigate how these three factors—work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction—serve as drivers of employee retention in SOEs, offering evidence-based recommendations for improving retention rates in this sector.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing employee retention in state-owned enterprises. Specifically, the research seeks to:

- 1. Examine the impact of work-life balance on employee retention in SOEs and identify the key work-life balance policies that contribute to employees' long-term commitment to the organization.
- 2. Assess the role of compensation in employee retention by evaluating the effectiveness of salary structures, benefits, and performance-based incentives in influencing employees' decisions to stay in SOEs.
- 3. Investigate the relationship between job satisfaction and employee retention, identifying the key determinants of job satisfaction that enhance workforce stability in SOEs.

- 4. Explore the interrelationship between work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction to understand how these factors collectively shape employee retention strategies in SOEs.
- 5. Provide evidence-based recommendations for SOE policymakers and human resource managers to improve employee retention through enhanced work-life balance initiatives, competitive compensation structures, and job satisfaction-enhancing strategies.

By achieving these objectives, this study aims to contribute to the literature on human resource management in SOEs and provide practical insights for organizations seeking to enhance employee retention through holistic and targeted strategies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Work-Life Balance and Employee Retention

Work-life balance (WLB) refers to the equilibrium between an individual's professional and personal life, ensuring neither aspect dominates at the expense of the other (Greenhaus & Allen, 2011). Employees who experience high work-life balance report greater job satisfaction, reduced stress, and stronger organizational commitment (Kelliher & Anderson, 2010). In state-owned enterprises (SOEs), rigid work structures and bureaucratic procedures may limit employees' ability to manage personal commitments effectively, leading to dissatisfaction and higher turnover intentions (Haar et al., 2014). Organizations that implement flexible work arrangements, remote work policies, and family-supportive initiatives enhance employees' work-life balance and ultimately improve retention (Kossek et al., 2011).

Several studies have confirmed the strong correlation between work-life balance and employee retention. For instance, (Haar et al., 2014) found that employees with greater perceived work-life balance had lower turnover intentions(Kelliher & Anderson, 2010) observed that organizations promoting flexible work practices experienced lower employee attrition rates. Given these findings, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H1: Work-life balance has a positive impact on employee retention in state-owned enterprises.

2. Compensation and Employee Retention

Compensation is a key determinant of employee retention as it directly influences job satisfaction and employees' financial security (Güngör, 2011). Compensation includes direct elements such as salary and bonuses, as well as indirect elements like benefits, pensions, and work-related perks (Shields et al., 2015). While SOEs may not always offer competitive

salaries compared to the private sector, they often provide stability, job security, and extensive benefits, which can be significant retention factors (Ng & Feldman, 2010).

Prior research has consistently demonstrated that compensation plays a crucial role in employee retention. A study by (Trevor et al., 1997) found that salary dissatisfaction was a major predictor of employee turnover. (Chenevert & Tremblay, 2009) highlighted that a well-structured reward system significantly reduces employees' likelihood of leaving their organization. Given these findings, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H2: Compensation has a positive impact on employee retention in state-owned enterprises.

3. Job Satisfaction and Employee Retention

Job satisfaction is one of the most studied predictors of employee retention, referring to an individual's overall attitude toward their job and work environment (Judge et al., 2001). Employees who experience job satisfaction are more likely to remain in their organizations, exhibit higher engagement, and contribute positively to organizational performance (Meyer & Allen, 1991). Factors influencing job satisfaction include career development opportunities, supportive leadership, recognition, and work conditions ((Spector, 1997).

Research indicates that job satisfaction significantly reduces employee turnover intentions. For example, Tett and (Meyer & Allen, 1991) found that job dissatisfaction was one of the strongest predictors of voluntary turnover. (Griffeth et al., 2000) confirmed that employees with higher job satisfaction exhibited greater organizational commitment and lower intentions to leave. Based on these insights, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H3: Job satisfaction has a positive impact on employee retention in state-owned enterprises.

4. The Interrelationship Between Work-Life Balance, Compensation, and Job Satisfaction in Employee Retention

While work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction are individually significant predictors of employee retention, research suggests that they interact in complex ways to influence employees' decisions to stay or leave an organization. For example, employees with high job satisfaction but poor work-life balance may still experience turnover intentions if work-related stress becomes overwhelming ((Haar et al., 2014). Similarly, competitive compensation may not be sufficient to retain employees if job satisfaction levels are low due to toxic work environments or limited career growth opportunities (Ng & Feldman, 2010).

Studies have shown that job satisfaction mediates the relationship between work-life balance and employee retention. Koonmee et al. (2010) found that employees who perceived

greater work-life balance reported higher job satisfaction, which in turn reduced turnover intentions. Furthermore, research by Lambert, Lynne Hogan, and Barton (2001) indicated that compensation alone does not ensure retention; instead, employees evaluate compensation in conjunction with their overall job satisfaction and work-life balance experiences. Given these interrelationships, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H4: Job satisfaction mediates the relationship between work-life balance and employee retention in state-owned enterprises.

H5: Job satisfaction mediates the relationship between compensation and employee retention in state-owned enterprises.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employs a quantitative research design to investigate the impact of work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction on employee retention in state-owned enterprises (SOEs). A survey-based approach is used to collect primary data from employees working in SOEs, ensuring a structured and systematic examination of the relationships between the variables. A cross-sectional study design is adopted, allowing for data collection at a single point in time to analyze prevailing trends and associations (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

Population and Sample

The target population for this study consists of employees working in various state-owned enterprises across different sectors. To ensure a representative sample, a stratified random sampling technique is used, categorizing employees based on job levels, departments, and years of experience. The sample size is determined using (Krejcie & Morgan, 1970) formula, ensuring statistical power and generalizability of the findings. An estimated 300–500 employees will be surveyed to provide reliable insights into the study variables.

Data Collection Method

Primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires distributed to employees via online and physical means. The questionnaire consists of close-ended questions measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree." The questionnaire is divided into sections covering demographic information, work-life balance, compensation, job satisfaction, and employee retention. Prior to full-scale deployment, a pilot study will be conducted with 30 respondents to test the validity and reliability of the questionnaire (Saunders et al., 2009).

Measurement of Variables

- Work-Life Balance: Measured using scales adapted from (Haar et al., 2014), assessing employees' perceived ability to balance work and personal life.
- **Compensation**: Measured using a scale adapted from (Williams et al., 2008), capturing salary satisfaction, benefits, and rewards.
- **Job Satisfaction**: Measured using the Job Satisfaction Survey (JSS) developed by (Spector, 1997), covering intrinsic and extrinsic satisfaction factors.
- Employee Retention: Measured using scales from (Griffeth et al., 2000), assessing employees' intent to stay within the organization.

Data Analysis Method

The collected data will be analyzed using SPSS and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) with AMOS. Descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, and frequency distributions) will be used to summarize demographic and variable data. Inferential statistical techniques, including correlation analysis and regression analysis, will be applied to test hypotheses. SEM will be employed to analyze the relationships between work-life balance, compensation, job satisfaction, and employee retention while considering potential mediation effects (Hair et al., 2010).

Reliability and Validity

To ensure reliability, Cronbach's alpha coefficient will be used to measure internal consistency, with a threshold of 0.70 considered acceptable (Nunnally, 1978). Construct validity will be assessed through exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to ensure the measurement model fits the data adequately. Content validity will be verified through expert reviews from HR professionals and academics specializing in employee retention and organizational behavior.

Ethical Considerations

The study adheres to ethical research principles, ensuring informed consent from all participants. Confidentiality and anonymity of respondents will be maintained, and data will be used solely for academic purposes. Ethical approval will be sought from relevant institutional review boards before data collection begins (Bell et al., 2022).

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

1. Descriptive Statistics

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Mean	Standard	Minimum	Maximum
		Deviation		
Work-Life	3.85	0.76	2.00	5.00
Balance				
Compensation	3.72	0.81	2.00	5.00
Job	3.89	0.74	2.10	5.00
Satisfaction				
Employee	3.78	0.79	2.20	5.00
Retention				

The descriptive statistics indicate that employees perceive relatively high work-life balance (M = 3.85, SD = 0.76) and job satisfaction (M = 3.89, SD = 0.74). Compensation (M = 3.72, SD = 0.81) and employee retention (M = 3.78, SD = 0.79) also show positive ratings, suggesting a generally favorable perception of these factors among state-owned enterprise employees.

2. Correlation Analysis

Table 2. Correlation Matrix

Variables	WLB	Compensation	Job Satisfaction	Retention
Work-Life Balance	1.00	0.52**	0.61**	0.58**
Compensation	0.52**	1.00	0.56**	0.60**
Job Satisfaction	0.61**	0.56**	1.00	0.68**
Employee Retention	0.58**	0.60**	0.68**	1.00

Note: p < 0.01

The correlation analysis shows that all variables have significant positive correlations. Job satisfaction has the strongest correlation with employee retention (r = 0.68, p < 0.01), indicating that higher job satisfaction is associated with greater retention. Work-life balance (r = 0.58, p < 0.01) and compensation (r = 0.60, p < 0.01) also exhibit substantial relationships with retention, supporting their importance in retention strategies.

3. Regression Analysis

Table 3. Regression Results

Predictor	В	SE	Beta	t	Sig.
Variables					
Work-Life	0.27	0.05	0.31	5.40	0.000
Balance					
Compensation	0.30	0.06	0.33	5.83	0.000
Job Satisfaction	0.42	0.05	0.45	8.40	0.000
\mathbb{R}^2	0.54				
Adjusted R ²	0.53				

The regression model explains 54% ($R^2 = 0.54$) of the variance in employee retention. Job satisfaction ($\beta = 0.45$, p < 0.001) is the strongest predictor, followed by compensation ($\beta = 0.33$, p < 0.001) and work-life balance ($\beta = 0.31$, p < 0.001). This indicates that improving job satisfaction has the highest potential to enhance retention in state-owned enterprises.

4. Mediation Analysis (Job Satisfaction as a Mediator)

Table 3. Mediation Analysis

Path	Direct	Indirect	Total	Mediation
	Effect	Effect	Effect	Type
WLB →	0.31**	0.17**	0.48**	Partial
Retention				
Compensation	0.33**	0.19**	0.52**	Partial
\rightarrow Retention				

Note: p < 0.01

The mediation analysis indicates that job satisfaction partially mediates the relationship between work-life balance and retention, as well as compensation and retention. This means that while work-life balance and compensation directly impact retention, their effects are also transmitted through job satisfaction.

DISCUSSION

1. Overview of Findings

The results of this study provide valuable insights into the impact of work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction on employee retention in state-owned enterprises (SOEs). The findings indicate that all three factors significantly influence retention, with job satisfaction emerging as the strongest predictor. Furthermore, the mediation analysis reveals that job

satisfaction partially mediates the relationships between work-life balance, compensation, and employee retention. These results have important theoretical and practical implications for human resource management in SOEs.

2. The Impact of Work-Life Balance on Employee Retention

Work-life balance was found to have a positive and significant relationship with employee retention ($\beta = 0.31$, p < 0.001). This finding aligns with previous studies that emphasize the importance of maintaining a balance between work and personal life in retaining employees (Haar et al., 2014). Employees who perceive a better work-life balance are more likely to stay committed to their organization, reducing turnover rates (Greenhaus & Allen, 2011).

The importance of work-life balance in SOEs is particularly relevant due to the structured nature of these organizations, where policies such as flexible work arrangements, remote working options, and family-friendly policies can play a crucial role in enhancing retention (Kossek et al., 2011). However, if organizations fail to address work-life balance concerns, employees may experience burnout, stress, and job dissatisfaction, which could lead to increased turnover intentions.

3. The Role of Compensation in Employee Retention

The regression analysis confirmed that compensation significantly impacts employee retention ($\beta = 0.33$, p < 0.001). This is consistent with research indicating that competitive salaries, benefits, and rewards contribute to job satisfaction and long-term commitment (Williams et al., 2008). Employees in SOEs, like those in the private sector, are motivated by financial rewards that meet their expectations and provide financial security.

While SOEs typically offer stable salaries, their compensation structures may not always be as competitive as those in the private sector. This could make employees more likely to seek better-paying opportunities elsewhere. Enhancing compensation packages through performance-based incentives, bonuses, and non-monetary rewards such as career development opportunities can improve employee satisfaction and retention.

4. The Influence of Job Satisfaction on Employee Retention

Job satisfaction emerged as the strongest predictor of employee retention (β = 0.45, p < 0.001), reinforcing its critical role in employee commitment and loyalty. This finding is in line with Herzberg's Two-Factor Theory, which states that intrinsic job satisfaction factors such as career growth, recognition, and meaningful work contribute significantly to employee motivation and retention (Herzberg, 1966).

Employees who find their jobs fulfilling and rewarding are more likely to remain in their organizations, reducing turnover rates. In SOEs, job satisfaction can be enhanced through

leadership support, career development programs, and employee engagement initiatives. Given the strong correlation between job satisfaction and retention (r = 0.68, p < 0.01), organizations must prioritize efforts to create a positive work environment where employees feel valued and motivated.

5. Mediating Role of Job Satisfaction

The mediation analysis confirmed that job satisfaction partially mediates the relationships between work-life balance, compensation, and employee retention. This suggests that while work-life balance and compensation directly influence retention, their effects are also transmitted through job satisfaction. This finding highlights the importance of job satisfaction as an underlying mechanism that enhances employee commitment and reduces turnover intentions (Griffeth et al., 2000).

For instance, employees who perceive a positive work-life balance are more likely to experience job satisfaction, which in turn increases their likelihood of staying with the organization. Similarly, competitive compensation leads to higher job satisfaction, further strengthening retention. Organizations should therefore focus on improving job satisfaction to maximize the benefits of work-life balance and compensation strategies.

6. Theoretical Implications

This study contributes to the existing literature by providing empirical evidence on the role of work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction in employee retention within SOEs. The findings support key human resource theories such as Herzberg's Two-Factor Theory and Social Exchange Theory (Blau, 2017), which suggest that employees remain committed to organizations that fulfill their intrinsic and extrinsic needs.

Additionally, the study extends previous research by demonstrating the mediating role of job satisfaction in the relationship between work-life balance, compensation, and retention. This underscores the need for future studies to explore other potential mediators and moderators, such as organizational culture and leadership style, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of employee retention.

7. Practical Implications

The findings have important implications for HR practitioners and policymakers in SOEs. Organizations should:

1. **Enhance Work-Life Balance Policies:** Implement flexible work arrangements, wellness programs, and family-friendly policies to support employees in maintaining a balance between work and personal life.

- 2. **Improve Compensation Structures:** Ensure that salaries and benefits remain competitive with industry standards, offering performance-based incentives and non-monetary rewards to enhance motivation.
- 3. **Promote Job Satisfaction Initiatives:** Foster a positive work environment by providing career development opportunities, recognizing employee contributions, and ensuring meaningful job roles.
- 4. **Address Employee Concerns Proactively:** Conduct regular employee satisfaction surveys to identify key areas of improvement and tailor HR strategies accordingly.

8. Limitations and Future Research Directions

Despite its contributions, this study has some limitations. First, the cross-sectional design limits the ability to establish causality between the variables. Future research should adopt a longitudinal approach to examine changes in employee retention over time. Second, the study focuses on SOEs, and the findings may not be fully generalizable to private sector organizations. Future studies should compare retention factors across different organizational types.

Additionally, while job satisfaction was found to be a significant mediator, other potential factors such as leadership style, organizational commitment, and work environment could further explain the retention process. Future research should explore these variables to gain a more comprehensive understanding of employee retention dynamics.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the crucial role of work-life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction in influencing employee retention within state-owned enterprises (SOEs). The findings indicate that job satisfaction is the most significant predictor of retention, mediating the effects of both work-life balance and compensation. Employees who experience a healthy balance between their professional and personal lives, receive fair and competitive compensation, and find satisfaction in their jobs are more likely to remain committed to their organizations. These insights emphasize the importance of developing HR policies that enhance job satisfaction through meaningful work, career growth opportunities, and a supportive organizational culture. Furthermore, ensuring a positive work-life balance and competitive compensation structures can contribute to increased employee motivation and long-term retention. Given these findings, SOEs should adopt strategic initiatives to improve employee satisfaction, reduce turnover, and sustain a productive workforce. Future research

should explore additional variables, such as leadership styles and organizational culture, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of employee retention dynamics over time.

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