THE ROLE OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE ON JOB SATISFACTION THROUGH WORK ENGAGEMENT

Miranda Istikarani¹, Titik Rosnani², Dody Pratama Marumpe³, Ilzar Daud⁴) Karsim⁵ Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Tanjungpura, Pontianak¹²³⁴⁵ *E-mail: mirandaistkrni@gmail.com¹*

- This study examines the role of career development and work-life balance on Abstract: job satisfaction among healthcare workers in Kubu Rava. West Kalimantan. with a focus on work engagement as a mediating variable. Utilizing a quantitative approach, data were collected from 210 health workers through a structured questionnaire and analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) and tools AMOS to processed the data. This study uses purposive sampling technique by considering the length of service as one of the criteria in sampling research. The results of this study indicate that career development and work-life balance have a positive and significant impact on job satisfaction. Additionally, this research successfully tested the role of work engagement in mediating the indirect effect of career development and work-life balance on job satisfaction. Although the work engagement variable can mediate the relationship between career development and job satisfaction, it has not been able to mediate the relationship between work-life balance and job satisfaction. Furthermore, work engagement in this study also has a positive and significant effect on job satisfaction. These results will underscore the importance of fostering career growth opportunities and promoting a balanced work-life environment to enhance employee satisfaction and performance. The insights gained from this research offer valuable guidance for healthcare organizations and policymakers aiming to improve workforce well-being and organizational productivity.
- *Keywords:* Career Development; Human Resource Management; Job Satisfaction; Work-Life Balance; Work Engagement

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1. Introduction

In today's era, health is one of the important factors in life. The community and the country need health workers to perform well in fulfilling their duties. At this time, according to Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS, 2024), Indonesia has over 1,49 million health workers. However, according to Indonesia's health minister (sehatnegeriku.kemkes.go.id, 2023), the quality of health services in Indonesia is not yet fully equitable. Based on this statement, it is very important to encourage the quality of the performance of health workers in Indonesia. The concept of job satisfaction has been a significant area of study in the field of human resource management, as it directly impacts employee performance and organizational productivity

(Riyanto et al., 2021); (Badrianto & Ekhsan, n.d.); (Paais & Pattiruhu, 2020). Previous research has extensively discussed factors that serve as benchmarks for improving job satisfaction across various industries. For instance, a study by (Saputra et al., 2023) found that quality of work life and motivation have a positive and significant impact on increasing employee job satisfaction.

Additionally, at a government institution in Pontianak, Indonesia, it was recommended to implement positive social interactions and improve the work environment to directly enhance job satisfaction (Karsim et al., 2023). Another factor that has also been proven to have a positive and significant impact on increasing job satisfaction is a supportive work environment and adequate compensation for each employee (Submitter et al., 2021). There are additional two key factors that contribute to job satisfaction are career development and work-life balance (Suci et al., 2023); (Jessica et al., 2023) Nowadays, career development becomes one of the important factors by employee as it is describes the chances and assistance a company offers its staff to develop professionally and progress in their professions (Saleem et al., 2013). However, work-life balance is striking a balance between a person's personal and professional lives, making sure that each receives enough care and assistance (S. & S.N., 2023). Prior research has shown the importance of both career development and work-life balance in enhancing job satisfaction. In recent studies conducted, researchers discovered that career development and work-life balance significantly impact employee job satisfaction, with simultaneous effect being more pronounced than individual effects of each factor (Karjuni et al., 2024); (Fahlevi et al., 2020) (Aruldoss et al., 2021). Other studies have also emphasized the dynamic nature of work-life balance and its redefinition in the context of contemporary organizations, highlighting the growing emphasis on employee well-being and satisfaction (Leuhery et al., 2024).

Furthermore, research also conducted on the millennial generation perspective that has shown they are particularly concerned about work-life balance and career development (Purwatiningsih & Sawitri, 2021); (Farah Qistina Yusli et al., 2023)(Nurjanah & Indawati, 2021). Other than that, a study also discovered that millennial employees are more likely to stay around current employment if they have a decent work-life balance and opportunities for career development (Purwatiningsih & Sawitri, 2021). Additionally, the previous also demonstrated that work-life balance and job stress have a significant effect on employee performance, with job satisfaction acting as a mediating variable (Rizky Amelia et al., 2023).

Given the importance of these two factors, this research study seeks to examine and investigate the role of career development and work-life balance on job satisfaction, with work engagement as the mediating variable. Previous research has found that both career development and work-life balance have a direct influence on job satisfaction. Therefore, researchers in this study use work engagement as a form of modification of the previous research model, which is also a novelty in this study. The work engagement variable in this study will provide a new perspective on the indirect relationship created between career development, work-life balance and job satisfaction, especially in the health workforce. This research will utilize a quantitative methodology to explore the direct and indirect concequences of these variables on job satisfaction. The findings of this study are expected to offer insightful knowledge for the Indonesian Ministry of Health, healthcare organizations, and companies, while also expanding knowledge in the field of human resource management to enhance health workers' job satisfaction and improve overall performance.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Career Development

In recent years, career development has become a crucial aspect of an individual's professional life, encompassing the systematic and progressive changes that occur in their career trajectory. Career development refers to the ongoing process of managing life, learning, and work to achieve personal and professional aspirations. It encompasses a variety of activities such as training, mentoring, job rotation, and career counseling, all aimed at enhancing employees' skills and competencies. According to Greenhaus et al. (2000), effective career development helps individuals align their career goals with organizational objectives, leading to mutual benefits for both employees and employees longer. Research has indicates that opportunities for advancement and skill enhancement significantly increase job satisfaction and reduce turnover intentions among employees (Saputra, 2022). Another study also states that employees who perceive their organization supports their career growth are more likely to be engaged in their work. High levels of engagement correlate with improved productivity and job performance (Rivai Zainal et al., 2023).

Through several research, it is also proven that career development significantly effects the job satisfaction of an employee in the various type of industry, including media (Wau & Purwanto, 2021), mechanical contracting (Febrianti et al., 2020), process control and instrumentation (Dewi & Nurhayati, 2021), Education-Lecturer (Permana et al., 2021), manufacturing (Sabuhari et al., 2023), etc. Based on prior research, it can be stated that effective career development is essential for employee job satisfaction and organizational performance. However, career development has a beneficial but not statistically significant impact on employee job satisfaction, according to research by Harahap and Sugiarti (2024). This gap in prior research provides an opportunity for the researcher to conduct a study, specifically in the healthcare industry. The result can be used by the company to decide, either the companies must provide support and facilities or not for employee career development in order to achieve employee job satisfaction.

2.2. Work-Life Balance

The ability of people to successfully coordinate their personal and professional lives is known as work-life balance. According to research conducted by Greenhaus, J. H., and Allen, T. D. in 2011, work-life balance is achieved when individuals can fulfill their work and family commitments without excessive conflict between the two domains. To improve general well-being and job satisfaction, this balance is crucial. A good work-life balance contributes to reduced stress levels and improved mental health. Research indicates that workers who effectively balance their personal and professional life report feeling better and experiencing less burnout (Haar et al., 2019). According to Jackson and Fransman (2018), workers are more likely to report job satisfaction when they believe they have control over their work schedules and can attend to personal obligations. According to research by Jessica et al. (2023), job satisfaction is positively and significantly impacted by work environment and work-life balance.

Work-life balance refers to how individuals prioritize their personal and professional activities and the extent to which work-related tasks are present in their home life. It also involves managing personal and professional responsibilities to promote well-being and maintain a healthy equilibrium between work and personal life, thereby preventing feelings of being overwhelmed and burnout. In recent studies conducting by the prior researchers, it is

shown that work-life balance also significantly effects the job satisfaction in the various type of industries, including banking industry (Yusdianti Tenriawali et al., 2021), CV employees (Karjuni et al., 2024), SME's employee (Susanto et al., 2022), Millennials (Tirta & Enrika, 2020), etc. Through several prior studies, it can be stated that if companies want to increase employee job satisfaction, they should pay attention to employees' work-life balance. By promoting work-life balance, companies benefit from a workforce that maintains a healthy equilibrium between work and personal life, it includes better physical and mental health, higher retention, superior employer branding, and less stress and burnout.

2.3. Work Engagement

According to Evitha et al. (2021), work engagement refers to a positive attitude that employees have toward their work, characterized by vigor, dedication, and a high level of concentration while performing their tasks. Absorption means being completely focused and contentedly absorbed in job tasks; vigor means having a lot of energy and mental toughness while working; and dedication means having a sense of purpose and excitement about one's work. Employee engagement increases productivity and deliver higher quality work. Work engagement currently popular to used by researcher in order to find the relation between variables. For instance, studies that were carried out by (Rahmadani et al., 2023) discuss about the role of work engagement in mediating the indirect effect of transactional leadership and workload on employee turnover intention. Furthermore, it is considered as a key factor in achieving employee well-being and organizational performance (Nurrosidah, A., & Sopiah, S. 2022.). Additionally, it is corroborated by earlier studies that indicate work engagement has a vital contribution on employee job satisfaction and employee retention (Yildiz & Yildiz, 2022); (Wei et al., 2023); (Padmavathi, 2023). It is also means that employee skills and confidence are increased when they have access to professional development and training, which raises engagement levels. In other study conducted by Kahn et al (2013) shows that a supportive work-life balance allows employees to manage personal responsibilities alongside their professional duties effectively. This balance is essential for maintaining high engagement. Therefore, through this research, it is possible to gain a deeper understanding of the contribution of employee work engagement to employee job satisfaction, particularly in the healthcare industry from the perspective of the health workforce. In addition, the dimensions that define it can help organizations develop strategies to enhance work engagement and improve overall performance of employees.

2.4. Job Satisfaction in The Work Perspective

According to Locke (1976), job satisfaction is a favorable emotional state brought on by an evaluation of one's work experiences. It encompasses various dimensions such as pay, promotion opportunities, supervision, and the nature of the work itself. Studies reveal a positive correlation between healthcare personnel job happiness and both patient satisfaction and overall quality of care (Kirkpatrick et al., 2021). High job satisfaction also linked to lower turnover rates. Supported study by Labrague et al. (2017) states that job satisfaction contributes to better mental health outcomes for employees. Dissatisfaction can lead to stress, burnout, and other negative health consequences. There are also several factors influence job satisfaction among workers. According to Kafkia et al. (2020) a supportive work environment characterized by adequate resources, safety, and a positive atmosphere significantly enhances job satisfaction. According to additional research by Jaya et al. (2023), job satisfaction is positively and significantly impacted by work-life quality, which in turn reduces the likelihood

that employees will leave their jobs. Good relationships with managers and coworkers are essential to job fulfillment. Research by Cezar-Vaz et al. (2022) indicates that cooperation and teamwork raise employee satisfaction and morale at work.

Access to opportunities for professional development and training positively impacts job satisfaction. However, when compared against their workload and obligations, healthcare personnel frequently express dissatisfaction with their pay and perks (Alharbi et al., 2019). In various type of industries, the researcher frequently uses job satisfaction as a dependent variable in order to broaden knowledge in the field of human resource management. Through those studies, companies can compile appropriate strategies to increase job satisfaction among employees in the company. In previous study found that career development, and work-life balance, are positively and significantly effects employee job satisfaction, while work engagement is also used as a strong predictor of job satisfaction (Jayasri & Annisa, 2023; Suci et al., 2023); (Rahman Rathi, 2024); (Bocean et al., 2023); (Zhang et al., 2023). Because these factors have a favorable and significant impact, additional studies have demonstrated that raising employee job satisfaction would also boost employee performance (Hendri, 2019). Therefore, this study uses job satisfaction to find out the effects of independent variables. especially for the population in healthcare industry. Furthermore, it will increase the knowledge within the field of human resource management and companies with confidence can compile the strategies to increase employee satisfaction and lower the retention rates.

Conceptual Framework

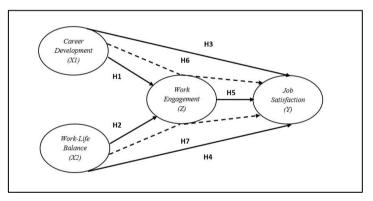


Figure 1. Research Framework

Research Hypothesis

The researcher's hypothesis is based on the previously mentioned conceptual framework.

- 1. Career development has a significant effect on work engagement.
- 2. Work-life balance has a significant effect on work engagement.
- 3. Career development has a significant effect on job satisfaction.
- 4. Work-life balance has a significant effect on job satisfaction.
- 5. Work engagement has a significant effect on job satisfaction.
- 6. Work engagement mediated the significant effect of career development on job satisfaction.
- 7. Work engagement mediated the significant effect of work-life balance on job satisfaction.

3. Research Method

3.1. Research Approach

The study had been done with a quantitative approach, in which the researcher also distributed questionnaires to get data from the respondents. The scale used to measure each statement item was the Likert scale. The Likert scale is a measurement method introduced by an American social psychologist in 1932. The Likert scale is measured with five response options from the respondents: 1) strongly disagree; 2) disagree; 3) neutral; 4) agree; 5) strongly agree. According to Sugiyono (2006), the Likert scale is used to measure individuals' attitudes and opinions toward specific social phenomena and to break down variables into more specific indicators in research. Researcher uses google form as a tool to displays the statements in the questionnaire. Another tool is performed by researcher like Microsoft excel in order to recap the answers from the respondents before the data is processed. Structural equation model (SEM) and tools AMOS are performed by researcher to processed the data.

3.2. Questionnaire Development

To ensure the relevance and validity of the indicators for each variable, the researcher in this study designed questionnaire items for each variable based on items previously used by other researchers to evaluate the same variables. In order to get comments on the draft questionnaire items, the researcher also asked a field supervisor. The questionnaire was sent directly to research participants after being revised in response to supervisory comments and input. Since the participants in this study are native speakers of Indonesian, the questionnaire was created in that language.

3.3. Variables Measurement

The career development variable uses indicators from previous research conducted by Byars and Rue (2008). There are four indicators: career planning, career pathing, career selfmanagement, and career counseling. For the career development variable, there are eight statements that the respondents are required to answer. Some of the statements used in the career development variable include: "I have clearly set my career goals," "I have made a list of abilities and skills that need to be developed to achieve the desired position," and "I can adjust to changes in the workplace."

The work-life balance variable in this study uses the same indicators as those employed by previous researchers, namely Rondonuwu et al. (2018). There are three indicators: time balance, involvement balance, and satisfaction balance. In this study, there are also six statements that each respondent is required to answer. Some of the statements used in this variable include: "I have enough time to manage both work and personal activities," "I have time to engage in activities I enjoy outside of work," and "I am able to achieve my personal goals outside of work."

The mediating variable in this study, work engagement, uses indicators from Schaufeli, Bakker, and Salanova (2006). There are three indicators: vigor, dedication, and absorption. For this variable, there are seven statements that need to be answered related to the indicators. Some of these statements include: "I can complete my tasks quickly and effectively," "I can prioritize my work well," and "I can fully focus on my tasks."

The dependent variable in this study, job satisfaction, uses indicators taken from previous research by Mangkunegara (2009). There are five indicators for this variable: quality of work, work environment, relationships with colleagues, compensation, and leadership. For this variable, there are ten statements used, including: "My job provides me with the opportunity

to use my abilities and skills optimally," "My job has a really cozy and secure atmosphere," and "The salary and benefits I receive are well-suited to my job."

3.4. Sample and Data Collection

The study's target population is healthcare workers in Kubu Raya, West Kalimantan. The sample for this study was selected using purposive sampling. According to Sugiyono (2010), purposive sampling is a data collection technique where the sample is determined based on specific criteria. In this study, the criteria used by the researcher to select the sample included healthcare workers employed in Kubu Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, with a minimum of one year of work experience. Respondent to the survey were informed that their answers would be kept confidential and used only for research. Primary data collected by questionnaire distribution were used in this research. The questions were distributed online via Google Forms. A total of 210 respondents makes up the successfully gathered sample for this research.

3.5. Demographics

Based on the data obtained from the respondents, the demographic characteristics can be seen in Table 2.1. In terms of gender, male respondents make up 25.2%, while female respondents account for 74.8%. Furthermore, the respondents in this study are predominantly workers aged 31 years and older. As shown in the table, respondents aged 31-40 represent 34.3%, and those aged 41-50 represent 33.8%. Respondents over 51 years old account for 12.9%, while those aged 21-30 make up 19%. Additionally, looking at the respondents' educational backgrounds, participants with a high school diploma (SLTA/SMA) constitute 2.4%, while those with a diploma account for 70%. Respondents with a bachelor's degree represent 25.7%, and those with a master's degree account for 1.9%. Moreover, this study's respondents are predominantly healthcare workers who have worked for more than three years, with a percentage of 76.7%.

Respondent Characteristi	c	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	53	25,2%
	Female	157	74,8%
Age	21 - 30 years old	40	19%
-	31 - 40 years old	72	34,3%
	41 - 50 years old	71	33,8%
	> 50 years old	27	12,9%
Educational Background	Diploma	147	70%
	Bachelor Degree	54	25,7%
	Master Degree	4	1,9%
	High School	5	2,4%
Tenure	1-2 years	31	14,8%
	2-3 years	18	8,6%
	> 3 years	161	76,7%

 Table 1. Demographic Characteristic of The Respondent

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Results

Measurement Models

The outcomes of the Goodness of Fit Index test in this study are presented in Table 4.1, which indicate the influence of each tested model.

Tuble 2. Goodness of The Index Test					
Goodness of fit Index	Cut of value	Result	Criteria		
Absolute Measures					
RMSEA	<0,08	0.020	Model Fit		
RMR	<0,05	0.021	Model Fit		
Incremental Fit Measure					
TLI	\geq 0,90	0.990	Model Fit		
IFI	\geq 0,90	0.992	Model Fit		
CFI	\geq 0,90	0.992	Model Fit		
Parsimonious Fit Measure					
CMINDF	<2,00	1.085	Model Fit		
PNFI	A higher value (closer to 1)	0.754	Model Fit		

Table 2.	Goodness	of Fit	Index	Test
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Based on Table 4.1, the Goodness of Fit Index test results indicate that all measurement indices of the model meet the fit criteria, meaning that the tested model aligns well with the empirical data. In other words, the model examined in this study shows a good fit with the data used.

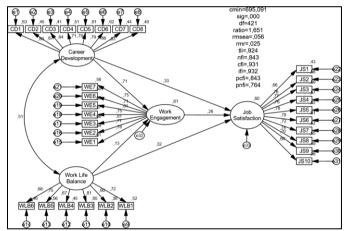


Figure 2. Full Model Testing

Hypothesis Testing

The outcomes of the hypothesis testing in this study are presented in Table 2, which illustrates the influence of each tested variable.

Hypothesis	Path	Estimate	S.E.	C.R	Р	Conclusion
H1	Career Development → Work Engagement	0,635	0,076	8,409	0,000	Supported
H2	Work-Life Balance → Work Engagement	0,145	0,067	2,175	0,030	Supported
Н3	Career Development \rightarrow Job Satisfaction	0,254	0,068	3,742	0,000	Supported
H4	Work-Life Balance \rightarrow Job Satisfaction	0,259	0,058	4,464	0,000	Supported
H5	Work Engagement \rightarrow Job Satisfaction	0,186	0,070	2,665	0,008	Supported

Table 3. Hypothesis Testing

Overall, all the tested hypotheses indicate a positive and significant influence between the researched variables. The estimated values for each hypothesis are positive, and the p-values for each hypothesis also show results below 0.05, meaning that these results support each of the proposed hypotheses.

Hypothesis	Path	Sobel Test Statistic	Two-tailed Probability	Conclusion
H6	Career Development \rightarrow Work Engagement \rightarrow Job Satisfaction	2,5321	0,011	Supported
H7	Work-Life Balance \rightarrow Work Engagement \rightarrow Job Satisfaction	1,6780	0,093	Not Supported

 Table 4. Sobel Test – Significance of Mediation

The results in Table 4.3 indicate that work engagement (WE) can mediate the relationship between career development and job satisfaction. The generated probability value is 0.011, which is lower than the established threshold of ($\alpha = 0.05$), thus this hypothesis is considered positive and significant. However, in Table 4.3, it is also explained that the work engagement variable is unable to mediate the relationship between work-life balance and job satisfaction, as evidenced by the probability value of 0.093, which is above the alpha value ($\alpha=0.05$). Therefore, Hypothesis 7 in this study is rejected, as the data analysis results are positive but not significant.

4.2. Discussion

Career Development and Work Engagement

Career development and work engagement have a favorable and significant relationship, according to the data in Table 4.2. A coefficient value of 0.635 and a p-value less than 0.05 support this. These findings imply that good career development can raise workers' job satisfaction. According to research by Nurhayati, M. et al. (2024), career development support can improve work engagement and fortify the bond between employees and the company through organizational commitment. These results align with a study by Robianto & Masdupi (2020), which found that career development significantly and favorably affects work engagement. Furthermore, a recent study by Wiyanto et al. (2024) also found that career development positively and significantly affects employee job satisfaction. In light of these results, it may be said that companies need to enhance effective career development programs for employees so they can acquire new skills and improve their competencies in their work. If the percentage of employee work engagement in a company increases, employees in that company will tend to be more loyal, which means the company simultaneously reduces its employee turnover rate. Additionally, when employees have a high level of engagement, they will be more motivated to contribute new ideas and innovative solutions for the company's sustainability. Therefore, employee career development should remain a key focus for the company so that the positive relationship between career development and work engagement can have a significant impact on the company.

Work-Life Balance and Work Engagement

In accordance with the data analysis shown in Table 4.2, the coefficient value is 0.145 and the p-value is 0.030 < 0.05. This suggests a strong and favorable relationship between work-life balance and work engagement. The results of Aliasah, M.W., Abdullah, Z., & Shafee, S. (2020), who discovered that work-life balance significantly affects job satisfaction among non-

academic staff at Malaysian higher education institutions, offer validity to this study. Furthermore, Hayashi, K., & Nagata, T. (2018) studied Japanese workers and discovered that work-life balance elements, including subjective health and greater satisfaction with time management, were associated with increased work engagement. These findings are consistent with a study by Marumpe et al. (2023), which likewise found that work-life balance significantly and favorably affects work engagement. In his research, it is also mentioned that when there is perceived organizational support and flexible working arrangements, it will help improve employees' work-life balance (Marumpe et al., 2023). A good work-life balance can enhance employee engagement in their work. By focusing on and improving work-life balance, companies can help employees feel happier and more engaged in their jobs, ultimately boosting productivity and employee loyalty. One approach related to work-life balance in the workplace is to promote a culture that respects employees' personal time, such as limiting work-related communication outside of working hours or on weekends, so employees can have time to rest and spend with their families.

Career Development and Job Satisfaction

Based on Table 4.2 data, career development has a positive and significant effect. Seen from p value below 0.05 and coefficient value 0.254. It means the better career development provided by the company to its employee, the higher the job satisfaction. This is consistent with Febrianti et al. (2020) which states that career development has an effect on job satisfaction. Permana et al. (2021) also found that career development has a substantial and favorable effect on job satisfaction. Additionally, investigation by Sinambela, E.A., et al. (2023) discovered that job satisfaction is significantly impacted by the career development variable. It is further explained that these results are expected to serve as a reference for leaders to understand the needs of each employee in enhancing job satisfaction. In work perspective, Career development can be defined as the ongoing process of managing life, learning and work to achieve personal and professional goals. This development includes various activities such as training, mentoring, job rotation and career counseling to improve employee skills and competencies. Theoretically, career development can be understood as a continuous process involving the planning and development of skills necessary to achieve career goals. Based on the results of this research, companies should seriously consider focusing on the career development of their employees, as it has been proven that employee career development can increase job satisfaction, which, in turn, can have a substantial impact on the company itself. For instance, satisfied employees tend to be more motivated to maintain productivity, which will naturally help the company operate more efficiently and effectively.

Work-Life Balance and Job Satisfaction

The data analysis in this study demonstrates that work-life balance positively and significantly impacts job satisfaction. The data in Table 4.2 show a p-value of less than 0.05 and a coefficient value of 0.259. This finding implies that workers are more likely to be content with their positions if they believe their personal and professional lives are balanced. This finding aligns with previous research conducted by Aruldoss, A., Kowalski, K. B., & Parayitam, S. (2021), which states that work-life balance has a substantial and favorable impact on job satisfaction. Additionally, a study by Fahlevi, M., Irma, D., Maemunah, S., Mahfud, I., & Dhyan Parashakti, R. (2020) also indicates that work-life balance significantly positively affects employee job satisfaction. Another study conducted by (Syal et al., 2024) also shown a positive and significant effect between work-life balance and job satisfaction. Furthermore, it

is stated that improving work-life balance among employees will lead to an increase in job satisfaction. Work-life balance plays a crucial role in a company, as it helps create a healthier and more positive work environment. If a company places greater emphasis on maintaining the balance between employees' work and personal lives, employees will be less likely to experience stress and burnout. Instead, they will enjoy better mental and physical health. This allows employees to remain productive at work, ultimately leading to increased job satisfaction.

Work Engagement and Job Satisfaction

The findings are also displayed in Table 4.2, which shows that there is a p-value of 0.008 < 0.05 and a coefficient value of 0.186 between work engagement and job satisfaction. This implies that work engagement has a favorable and considerable impact on job satisfaction. Previous studies have shown that work engagement itself is a reflection of employees' good attitudes about their jobs, which are typified by their vigor, dedication, and high level of attention while working on tasks (Evitha et al, 2021). Previous investigation performed by Huaman, N., et al. (2023) found a significant relationship between work engagement and job satisfaction among nurses in Peru. Another study by Hidayat, W.G. (2023) also stated that work engagement has a significant impact on employee job satisfaction. Given that work engagement has a substantial and favorable effect on job satisfaction, companies need to take strategic steps to enhance employee work engagement to improve their job satisfaction. These strategic steps may include providing clear goals, constructive feedback, and recognition and rewards for good employee performance. Additionally, companies can assign greater responsibilities to employees, aiming to increase their involvement. When employees feel trusted to make decisions and face challenges, they have a higher chance of being involved and content with their employment.

Career Development, Work Engagement and Job Satisfaction

The Sobel test findings for the hypothesis test in Table 4.3 indicate a two-tailed probability value of 0.011 and a Sobel test statistic value of 2.5321. This indicates that work engagement significantly mediates the effect of career development on job satisfaction. The conclusion of this investigation reinforce previous findings that demonstrate a substantial and favorable relationship between career development, work engagement, and job satisfaction (Sariwulan, T., et al. 2019; Sun, L., & Cheng, N.C. 2021; Aziza, M., & Syahrizal, S. 2022). In other words, effective career development enhances employees' work engagement, which ultimately has a positive impact on job satisfaction. Workers incline to be satisfied with their professions if they feel invested in their work, especially when they perceive that their career development is well-supported by the company. Several studies also state that employees who believe their organization supports their career growth are more likely to be engaged in their work. High levels of engagement correlate with improved productivity and job performance (Rivai Zainal et al., 2023).

Work-Life Balance, Work Engagement and Job Satisfaction

The results of this study show that work engagement has not been able to significantly mediate the relationship between work-life balance and job satisfaction. In other words, the effect of work-life balance on job satisfaction can occur directly, without the need to go through work engagement. Previous studies have also discussed an insignificant relationship between work-life balance and work engagement (Pramana & Putra, 2022). In other words, having a

good balance between work and personal life does not necessarily make a person feel more engaged or motivated in their job. Although work-life balance itself has a positive impact on job satisfaction, as explained by Yusnani, E. & Prasetio, A. P. (2018) in their research, It claims that employee job satisfaction is positively and significantly impacted by work-life balance. This is further supported by the research of García-Salirrosas, E.E., & Rondon-Eusebio, R.F. (2023), who argue that work-life balance has a direct, positive, and significant effect on job satisfaction. However, work engagement has not been able to mediate the effect of work-life balance on job satisfaction. In other words, employees with a good work-life balance may feel satisfied with their jobs because they are able to manage their time and energy effectively, without necessarily feeling emotionally involved or engaged with their work. Although in other studies, work engagement has a positive and significant influence on both job satisfaction and work-life balance (Susanto, A.J. 2023; Fukuzaki, T., et al. 2021), in this study, there may be other variables that better explain the relationship between work-life balance and job satisfaction, such as physical or mental conditions, recognition from superiors, or opportunities for growth.

5. Conclusion

According to the research, career development, work-life balance, and work engagement the variables examined in this study—have a favorable and noteworthy effect on employee job satisfaction. In this study, the employees in question are healthcare workers in the Kubu Raya region, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Furthermore, this research has successfully tested the function of work engagement in mediating the indirect relationship between work-life balance and career development and employee job satisfaction. Although the work engagement variable can mediate the relationship between career development and job satisfaction, it has not been able to mediate the relationship between work-life balance and job satisfaction. It is hoped that the findings of this study will be useful effectively by stakeholders within companies to consider the importance of employee career development and work-life balance. These two aspects not only affect work engagement but also continuously contribute to improving employee job satisfaction in the workplace.

The limitation of this study lies in the sample used, as it is restricted to healthcare workers in the Kubu Raya region, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. It is anticipated that future studies will increase the sample size, either by continuing to explore the healthcare industry or by investigating employees in other sectors such as manufacturing, services, or IT. Additionally, future researchers are encouraged to explore other factors beyond career development and work-life balance, so that studies addressing factors influencing employee job satisfaction can be broadened. This will provide further insights within the scope of human resource management, which can also be useful for stakeholders in making strategic decisions in the future.

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