# Management: A Study of Organizational Culture and the Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Communication Effectiveness

## (Case Study in Organizations of Iran)

Hassan Jorfi

University Technology Malaysia (UTM) Educational administration of Iran Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia E-mail: haassan\_jorfee@yahoo.com

Mohsen Jorfi

Islamic Azad University, Branch of Kerman researches and Science Education of Iran, Ahwaz-Iran E-mail: m\_jorfi@yahoo.com

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#### Abstract

In today's global complex environment, organizational culture in educational administrations plays a main role in the relationship between emotional intelligence and communication effectiveness. This paper is undertaken to understand the influence of culture in the relationship between managers' emotional intelligence and communication effectiveness with employees in educational administrations of Iran. The goal is to improve communication effectiveness in that context. Data for this study were collected through questionnaires that participants (N = 145) were managers and employees in educational administrations of Iran. The aim of this paper assesses the self-regard of emotional intelligence with communication effectiveness and organizational culture in educational administrations of Iran. Emotional intelligence plays an important role in communication effectiveness. Individuals with high



organizational culture tend to have higher emotional intelligence and this action lead to improve communication effectiveness. The result of the paper shows a strong correspondence between organizational culture, communication effectiveness and emotional intelligence in educational administrations.

**Keywords**: Emotional Intelligence, Self regard, Communication, Communication Effectiveness, Organizational Culture, Educational Administration



#### 1. Introduction

The literature indicates recent applications of emotional intelligence especially self-regard and how they can improve communication effectiveness .This manuscript describes emotional intelligence of managers and employees of educational administration have a direct role to improve communication effectiveness. According to Goleman et al (1998) the definition of emotional intelligence is the ability to handle manners so that they are expressed effectively, enabling individual to work together smoothly against their general objectives .Self-regard plays an important role in emotional intelligence .Self-regard is individuals' perception of themselves .The self concept can be an agent and motivates individuals to take on an action . Those people who see themselves positively tend to engage in communicating with others and doing a better work in connecting with others .A study showed that self-regard is positively correlated with emotional intelligence (Dong, Aden, Araisa, Armagnac, Cartwright, Domingo, Kemper, &Lamay, 2005). In other Words, individuals with high self-regard tend to have higher emotional intelligence and this action lead to improve communication effectiveness. The goal of introducing instruction emotional intelligence with communication effectiveness was to expose managers and employees to a framework that describes specific competencies needed for educational administration. People with high self-regard are likely to have good communication, and will probably be successful in anything they decide to do .On the other hand, people with low self regard are likely to have a hard time in communication with others.

#### 2. Literature Review

#### 2.1 Emotional Intelligence

Matthewas (2002) defined emotional intelligence as individuals' way that leads to experience emotions and it can manage their emotions while communicating with others .Researchers as Goleman (1995) and Matthewas (2002) assert that emotional intelligence plays an important role to perception how person carries himself and connects with others .Also Matthewas (2002) expressed that individual's emotional intelligence level reflects the value of communication with others. The term of emotional intelligence appeared by Daniel Goleman, a science writer for the New York Times and a Harvard trained psychologist in the beginning of twenty century and became famous during the 1990's .Daniel Goleman developed the term of emotional intelligence in his book in 1995's .The book was under the title :Why It Can Matter More Than IQ for Character, Health and Lifelong Achievement. Dulewicz and Higgs (2003) and Langley (2000) believe that emotional intelligence plays key role in psychology and it has direct relating with communication effectiveness for develop the organizations . Aydin et al (2005); Cherniss (1997) and Dries & Pepermans (2007) argue that emotional intelligence improved organizational performance that is relating with career development strategies in the workplace .Diggins (2004); Goleman (1995); Mayer & Salovey (1997) and Rosete and Ciarrochi (2005) show that intellectual quotient is necessary for communication effectiveness but not sufficient .Despite the vital role that emotional intelligence could play key role in communication effectiveness as well as career prospects in organizations,

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managers, employees and executives .They want to understand the term of emotional intelligence, self regard and relationship with communication effectiveness .This paper tries to answer these questions by describing a model of EI .Though the model would require more research in future to add empirical strength, the aim of this paper is to help managers, executives, employees and other career aspirants' understand relationship between emotional intelligence and communication effectiveness in educational administrations.

#### 2.2 Self-Regard

The concept of self-regard is individual's view of themselves .In brief it is how individual estimate themselves .According to Paradise and Kernis (2002), Self-regard divided into three categories :(a) high (positive), (b) low (negative) and (c) middle (neutral). The means of having high self-regard is that an individual has a high idea of oneself .Individuals with low self-regard observe themselves as not important and lower .They always tend to be negative.Sternberg and Vroom (2002) explained that in a successful interpersonal connection, every person has a positive self-regard .They significance themselves and identify that they have something essential to supply to the interpersonal connection .In compare, those who have a low self-regard observe everything to their sense of self. Consequently, these persons are highly reflexive to the events.Kernis, Golman, Paradise, Wheatman, & Whitaker (2000) argued that, these individual, it may appear that their self-regard is always is "on the line" and requires to be secured against apparent threats .As time development for these individual is hard and difficult to progress a sense of self that is obviously defined and steady .Gecas (1982) and Gecas & Schwalbe (1983) suggest that the term of self-regard consist of two dimensions :self-efficacy and self-worth .Degree that individuals see themselves as effective and adequate is called efficacy dimension and degree that individual felt they are an individual of worth and value is called worth dimension. According to Rosenberg (1990), there are several ways for accomplished enhancement of self-regard. (a) When self-regard has been lowered, individual might act in ways that develops their self-regard .They might make a feeling of themselves that is high positive by redefine the condition of work. This state helps the people to obtain self-regard (b) Self-verification is another way to increase self-regard. Swann (1990) express that it is probable that individual look for increase their self-regard by participating themselves with people that study or confirm their identity .Individual are more probable to keep interpersonal relationships where they are to confirm their personalities .(c) Constant challenge is another way to increase self-regard .Ability to create and maintain a positive vision about oneself is called constant challenge. This constant challenge is show on a daily base.Caldwell, Lefforge, Silver and Silverman (2004) asserted that motherly emotional support was negatively connection with criminal behavior and positively connection with emotional happiness and comfort .Aquan-Assee, Bukowski, Gauze, &Suppola (1996); Cohn & Kao (1989) and Patterson, Snyder & Patterson (1987) indicates that positive known processes can keep a teenager from engaging in discordant behaviors. Other researchers have recommended that the emotional support received from parents can serve as a barrier in periods of pressure. Individual in one way or the other ways influence their self-regard through positive and negative events .Abend, Berry, Herlocker, Kernis, McNamara and Waschull (1999) discovered the area to which the level and stability of



self-regard forecasted the influence that daily positive and negative events have on peoples' manners about themselves .

#### 2.3 Communication

The formal definition of communication displayed in the Webster's Dictionary (2001, p.134) is as follows :"the act of transmitting ideas through writing or speech; the means to transmit messages between places or persons." We give and receive messages by a process called communication .These messages impact our own behavior and self concept, and also the behavior and self concept of others .The way we communicate with others is important because that's how we let people know who we are, what we believe in, what our values are, and how we feel.Hackman and Johnson (1991) define communication as "the transfer of symbols .This transfer allows for the creation of meaning within individuals" .Symbols are anything that stands for, or represents, other things .Symbols are abstract, ambiguous, and arbitrary .Symbols have no natural or intrinsic relation to what they represent and they do not necessarily share the same meaning across individuals .Thus, the definition of communication used in this study posits that communication is an interactive and interdependent systemic process whereby meaning is generated using symbols in the form of verbal, written, nonverbal, and met communications .Luftman (2004) belief communication is the base of all human activities and relations with others .Asimov (1987) expressed that communication has been an important factor in our evolution into civilized societies. Communication plays an important and essential role in our personal and professional lives. Schermerhorn, Hunt & Osborn (2003) illustrated that at an organizational level, communication is essential in enabling an organization to complete its goals, vision and mission .The success of an organization may lie in the ability of the manager to effectively communicate to the employees in educational setting.

#### 2.4 Communication Effectiveness

Communication is the process contained with the exchange of any kind of information or data .Communication effectiveness is a success factor for managers and employees .Effective communication does not happen automatically .Communication is an art and a science whereby techniques must be learned; which for some managers, the techniques of communication may come naturally .Effective manager communication can help employees acquire skills, raise their self-image, and also assist practitioners in earning employee respect.Thamhain (1992) argued that effective communication can add value to organizations .Hersey et al (2001) suggests that there is a direct correlation between communication and effectiveness in some organizations. Helgeson (1990) belief that junction of events has happened that requests modify in the meaning of effective communication. These events need communication effectiveness such as increased diversity in the workers and the globalization of the emporium .In other words, commerce organization itself and the universe in which it competes have changed, in this state definition of effective communication is culminating in a change .Hersey et al (2001) defined communication effectiveness as person who delivers an obvious message, listens carefully, and receives and sends feedback.Fisher (1999) and Wood (2003) express that communication effectiveness has

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the flexibility to scruple among stereotypical man or woman communication behavior as need for the condition. Gudykunst (2005) expresses that high level of communication effectiveness leads to a high degree of equalities of perceptions between the sender and the receiver .In this perception, Kuncoro (2007) states that communication effectiveness of the manager's correlates positively with maximizing understanding or minimizing misunderstanding of employees .Research by Chen and Starosta (1996) illustrates that effective communication takes into account interact ants' gender, religion, and ethnicity when determining "the ability to negotiate cultural meanings and to execute appropriately effective communication behaviors" (p.356-359). Fisher (1999) argues that effective communication is important in the place of work, in interactions, and in daily life .Thamhain (1992) illustrates that effective communication can connect the employees, strengthen shared ideas, and develop teamwork and decision making in the organizations .Even though effective communication is essential in individual relations and it can be hard to attain in the work .Communication mechanisms improve the manager's knowledge and understanding of communication effectiveness .The manager had to effectively convey individual's message in order to understand how and when to integrate into individual's communication style. Otherwise, the organization may redound to miscommunication, frustration, employee turnover, lack of communication, insufficient communication or ineffective communication causing disorder, and failure to achieve goals in organizations .In search toward power communication, Marshak (2004) recommends that the Communicator must apply certain elements to create greater effect on communication intellects such as active listening .Active listening integrates the circle of effective communication by focusing on how the message is sent and reply and feedback given to the communicator and individual's openness to that feedback.

#### 2.5 Self-Regard and Communication Effectiveness

Self-regard is the way individuals think about themselves .Low self-regard for both men and women has been recognized as one of the most important prospects of violent relationships. Learning how to make self-regard and improving interpersonal skills is one way to avoid negative or violent relationships in the all aspects of life .People by learning better communication skills and achieving personal goals that make them feel good about themselves can improve their self-regard .People with high self-regard are probable to have good communication, and will likely be successful in everything they decide to do .On the other hand, people with low self-regard are likely to have a hard time in communication with others.By seeing individual with high self esteem, we can observe how they communicate effectively with others, how they confront negative reply, the way they talk, sit, walk, how they do their work or study and so on .We can learn from these people but we mustn't be like them we will lose our own solidarity. If we lose our own solidarity, it can devastate our self esteem. This paper strongly supports a positive relationship between communication effectiveness and emotional intelligence especially self-regard (Barbuto&Burbach, 2006; Barling, Slater, &Kelloway, 2000; Ferres, Travaglione& O'Neill, 2005; Gardener &Stough, 2002; Palmer, Walls, Burgess &Stoaugh, 2001; Sosik&Megerian, 1999).Self-regard is inherently linked to communication .Self-regard is linked to thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that combine together in the process of interpersonal relations and the means by which

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interpersonal relations happen is communication. In summary, a communication view of self-regard on the interaction and relationship components of the process . The vision holds that self-regard is outcomes of the communicative process . It follows that to improve manager effectiveness requires a significant emphasis on communication effectiveness since according to this vision; it is through communication effectiveness that self-regard happen.

#### 2.6 Organizational Culture

Howard (1998) claimed that the term of organizational culture has direct relationship into the behavioral sciences of organizations' performances and scientists from the field of anthropology and sociology have been reporting the effect of organizational culture on communication effectiveness and emotional intelligence. However, the opinions supposed by Schein (1992) declared that organizational culture is an abstract and complex phenomenon, thus many definitions of organizational culture exist and that the term of organizations is ambiguous. Blake and Mouton (1985) recognize organizational culture including culture of norms and values framework, power and hierarchy, organizational membership, and having purpose. Schein (1996) claimed that characteristics as dynamic, powerful and stable are related to culture phenomenon in organizations. It is affirmed that culture impact an organization's financial performance (Rowden, 2002); internal development (O'Reilly, 2000), and strategic success (Hambrick, 1980; Harrigan, 1980; Shrader, Taylor, & Dalton, 1984; Weidenbaum, 1979; William, 1980).

#### 2.7 Organizational Culture and Emotional Intelligence

Organizational culture plays a significant role in emotional intelligence. The process of emotional intelligence for developing takes time, attempt, motivation, sustain, and the process of emotional intelligence requires repeated practice over a long period of time. According to Trabun (2002) if an organization is to place an emphasis on emotional intelligence as part of the organizational culture development process, it must provide a high level of organizational culture that supports social and emotional learning. Goleman, Boyatzis & McKee (2002) state emotional intelligence in managers has a significant effect on the culture especially organizational culture. Therefore, culture impacts the development of emotional intelligence. (Helen Y. Sung, 2007). Through the pursuit of relational coordination, emotionally intelligent managers can effectively create a clan-type organizational culture. This management style impresses upon employee members organizational values such as supportive relationships and interactive communication (Kwan, P. & Walker. 2004).

#### 2.8 Organizational Culture and Communication

Organizational culture plays a key role in communication. According to Conrad & Poole (2005) communication is the method of creating, sustaining, and managing meaning among individuals. Communication helps people to develop culture. Thus, communication and culture are inseparable and are always together, so that communication acts affect and are affected by culture. The traditional vision of effective communication is that it supports organizational culture and individual by reinforcing desired patterns of manners, shared values, and ideas (Tucker, et al, 1996; Goodman, 1998). Luftman (2004) proposes that it is



essential for organization be able to sustain a culture that supports effective communication for achieve to success and goals of organization.George (2000) belief that managers who can more skillfully extract the emotions from the organizational values may be at an advantage in communicating the organizational culture in a powerful and precise method .Also, Gray and Robertson (2005) state that the communication can and will impact the direction, behavior of subordinates, and organizational culture. Culture is shared through communication. Communication is the method of creating, sustaining, and managing meaning among individuals (Conrad & Poole, 2005). Van Maanen and Kunda (1989) claimed that organizational culture shows strong form of control that informs and guides the emotions of employees and contributes to shared emotional intelligence.

#### 2.9 Educational Administration

The administration of higher education is connected by law and policy to the Iranian government by the concept of *velayet-i-faqih*, but the tight control over educational administration is a reflection of the power that student movements have traditionally had in Iranian politics .To a large degree, the revolution itself was a student movement, and, especially in the 1990s, unrest and protest against restrictive government policies were centered on university campuses .So the strong connection between the university system and the government has been a political necessity .Any decisions made at the institutional level must be approved by either The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and its Supreme Council on Higher Education Planning or the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, depending on the nature of the institution .Decisions regarding the policies of higher education are made by these organizations under the approval of the Islamic Parliament, the Cabinet, and the Higher Council of Cultural Revolution .University administration is undertaken by the Board of Trustees, affirmed and appointed by the Higher Council of Cultural Revolution .By law, these trustees set university budgets, research finances, and teaching salaries, subject to the approval of the council .They are also responsible for supervision of the effective administration of educational research, cultural affairs, student, official, financial, construction, and discipline affairs, scientific services, all national and international relationships of the university or institution, and the coordinating and leading of different units and departments. The Educational Council forms the second institutional level of university administration.

#### **3.** Conceptual Framework

The model for this paper is composed of three key constructs (see Figure2) including emotional intelligence, self-regard, communications effectiveness, and organizational culture. Based on the existing literature-as stated earlier- there is a positive relationship between emotional intelligence and self-regard; on the other hand, self-regard and communication effectiveness. Also, reviewing the literature showed that organizational culture serving as a moderator of this relationship and can help communications effectiveness. Therefore, we can propose that organizational culture moderator the link between self-regard and communications effectiveness. From the model, the following hypothesis is derived:

• H1: Emotional intelligence will have a significant relationship with self-regard.



• H2: Self-regard will have a significant relationship with communication effectiveness.

• H3: Organizational culture will mediate relationship between self-regard and communication effectiveness.

#### 4. Materials and Methods

#### 4.1 Sample

The managers and employees who participated in this study came from a group of educational administrations of Iran.

#### 4.2 Procedure

This was a descriptive correlation study carried out in 2009-2010 educational years, assessing the self-regard of managers and employees in the educational administrations of Iran and the role of moderator factor in it. The study population included all the managers and employees in the educational administrations of Iran (145) all selected by sample using census method. To assess the relationship between self-regard and communication effectiveness, we used a three-part questionnaire .First part was Bar On EQ-i, which includes 133 questions in 5 categories and 15 scales .The five categories are intrapersonal (self-Regard, emotional self-awareness, assertiveness, independence, and self-actualization), interpersonal (empathy, social responsibility, and interpersonal relationship), stress management (stress tolerance and impulse control), adaptability (reality testing, flexibility, and problem solving), and general mood Scale (optimism and happiness). Second part was Communication Effectiveness Questionnaire which was completed by managers and employees of educational administrations .Third part was organizational culture, Questionnaire which was completed by managers and employees of educational administrations .The questionnaires were multiple-response questionnaire that response is measured on 5-point Likert-type scales and range from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree." The total score was the sum of all 14 scales scores .The minimum and maximum scores for each scale were 6 and 30 respectively and the maximum and minimum total score was 90 and 450 respectively (Bar-On, 2006). These questionnaires were standardized to be used in Iran; its content validity was reported to be acceptable and its reliability was 0.93 by Cronbach's alpha. The Questionnaires were distributed among managers and employees in their administration or office environments and after explaining the aims and methodology of the study, they were asked to take the questionnaire home and return them back after completing .They had the option to complete the questionnaire or not and they were assured of the privacy of their personal data .Data were analyzed using SPSS-16. For each manager and employee, the total score of self-regard and the score of each scale were calculated .To analyze data, descriptive statistics (frequency, mean scores and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (independent t-test, ANOVA and Pearson correlation coefficient) were used.

#### 5. Results

All 145managers and employees in educational administrations of Iran completed the emotional intelligence, communication effectiveness, and organizational culture questionnaires .The mean age of managers and employees were  $21.03 \pm 2.17$ . 106 managers



and employees {73.6%} were male and 90 {62.5%} were female .Table 1 shows the mean of total scores and scale scores of the emotional intelligence .Table 2 explains the effects of personal and social variables in the managers and employees' emotional intelligence scores . This table shows that there is no significant difference between emotional intelligence of female and male managers and employees {p = 0.33} and manager and employee {p=0.78}. Further evaluation also showed no significant difference among managers and employees' emotional intelligence categories with communication effectiveness.

However, further evaluations showed a significant difference between the self-regard and organizational culture,  $\{p=0.004\}$ . Also, there was a significant difference between managers and employees' emotional intelligence in all categories except empathy, responsibility, flexibility, self regard, interpersonal relationship and emotional self-awareness.

The emotional intelligence of managers and employees in educational administrations of Iran was compared by ANOVA, which showed no significant difference between them {f = 1.31, p =0.26}. Also, ANOVA showed no significant difference among the emotional intelligence of managers and employees in different birth ranks {f = 1.59, p =0.20}. Moreover, the Pearson correlation coefficient showed no significant relation between age and emotional intelligence {r = 0.06, p =0.45}.

#### 6. Conclusion

Over results have shown there is a significant and positive relationship between independent variable (emotional intelligence) with dependent variable (communication effectiveness) in Educational Administrations of Iran. From the results of the study, we can conclude that the Educational Administrations of Iran should pay much attention to both emotional intelligence and organizational culture as they could lead to maintain communication effectiveness we encourage future research to replicate our findings in wider samples in organizations of Iran. It is important to note that prior researches have ignored the link between emotional intelligence especially self-regard and communication effectiveness and also moderating of organizational culture in relationship between self-regard and communication effectiveness that the current study was developed with the intention of filling the research gap.

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| Category                   | Mean ±SD         |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Happiness                  | $22.96 \pm 4.35$ |
| Stress Tolerance           | $19.34 \pm 4.95$ |
| Emotional Self-Awareness   | $22.23\pm3.65$   |
| Interpersonal Relationship | $23.59\pm3.40$   |
| Self -Regard               | $22.95 \pm 3.50$ |
| Flexibility                | $19.43\pm3.81$   |
| Empathy                    | $24.79\pm3.07$   |
| Problem Solving            | $23.15 \pm 3.18$ |
| Independence               | $21.97\pm3.17$   |
| Self-Actualization         | $23.08\pm3.37$   |
| Reality Testing            | $20.16\pm3.96$   |
| Optimism                   | $22.91 \pm 3.94$ |
| Impulse Control            | $19.22 \pm 5.24$ |
| Responsibility             | $25.76\pm2.66$   |
| Assertiveness              | $20.47\pm3.85$   |
| Total Score                | $332.08\pm39.80$ |

Table 1. Mean scores and SD of emotional intelligence and its scales

Table 2. Comparison between emotional intelligence of managers and employees in educational administrations based on their demographic characteristics

| Variables  | Groups   | Mean and SD      | Scales           |
|------------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Sex        | Male     | $337.50\pm33.62$ | t =0.97, df =142 |
|            | Female   | $330.14\pm41.77$ | P =0.33          |
| Individual | Manager  | $333.27\pm42.62$ | t =0.28, df =142 |
| Туре       | Employee | $331.36\pm38.24$ | P =0.78          |

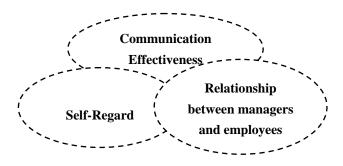


Figure1. Communication effectiveness View of managers and Self-Regard



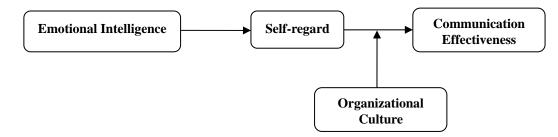


Figure 2. Conceptual Framework