# Administrative Accountability Practices, Public Trust And Career Satisfaction: The Case Of Line Agencies In Sulu

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## Abstract

This descriptive-correlational study determined the levels of administrative accountability practices and the extent of public trust and career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu during the Fiscal Year 2023. With 200 respondents, it employed frequency counts and percentage, weighted mean and standard deviation, t-test for independent samples and One-way ANOVA, and Pearson's r. This study revealed the following findings: 1) Out of 200 employeerespondents, great majority are female employees, many are within 31 to 40 years old, are casual/contractual employees, have 10 years and below of years of service, and almost all have Bachelor's degree. 2) Generally, public administrative accountability is practiced to a high extent by line-agencies in Sulu. 3) Generally, there is a high extent of public trust being practiced among line-agencies in Sulu. 4) Generally, employees of line-agencies in Sulu have extent of career satisfaction. 5) Variables gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment significantly intervene in ways how employees of line-agencies in Sulu perceive towards the levels of administrative accountability practices. 6) Except for educational attainment, variables gender, age, status of appointment, and length of service significantly intervene in ways how employees of line-agencies in Sulu perceive towards the extent of public trust. 7) Variables gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment significantly intervene in ways how employees of line-agencies in Sulu perceive towards the extent of career satisfaction. 8) Employee-respondents among line-agencies in Sulu who rated the level of Administrative Transparency as "Agree" or "High Extent" is most probably the same group of employeerespondents who perceived the extent of Public trust and Career Satisfaction as "Agree" or "High Extent". 9) This particularly study tends to support the model introduced Abu Hasanein's (2017) Administrative Accountability Model derived from Bovens (2007), AbuHasanein's (2017) Public Trust Model based on Poortinga & Pidgeon (2003); and Lee, Kyoung-Joo (2016) Concept of Career Satisfaction based on Allan and Duffy (2014). Accordingly,

accountability often covers other distinct concepts such as transparency, efficiency, responsiveness, responsibility, integrity and equity. Public trust includes the core elements, namely: perceived competence, which represents the degree of technical expertise of the source; objectivity, reflecting the absence of bias in information; fairness, or the degree to which the source takes into account all relevant points of view; consistency, or the predictability of arguments and behavior based on past experience and previous communication efforts; and faith, which reflects the perception of good will of the source.

Keywords : Administrative Accountability, Public Trust, Career Satisfaction, Line Agencies, and Sulu Province.

## INTRODUCTION

Employees in organizations bestow different meanings onto their work, such as accountability, trust and career satisfaction. Such different meanings may have a fundamental effect on how employees approach, enact and craft their work (Rosso et al., 2010 as cited in Lee, Kyoung-Joo 2016). Among these different meanings, the study of the influence of administrative accountability, pubic trust (AbuHasanein, 2017) and career satisfaction (Lee, Kyoung-Joo, 2016) has experienced notable growth.

Administrative accountability is pseudo to public accountability which can mainly be studied as a question of the hierarchical responsibility status of the organization, as well as of its duties and responsibilities. From a philosophical viewpoint, the focus will lie on the administrative aspect of accountability (de la Cruz, 2021).

Trust is the expectation that other people, groups or institutions with whom we get in to contact, interact and cooperate will act in ways conductive to our wellbeing (Paliszkiewicz, 2011 as cited in AbuHasanein, 2017). Because public trust is central for supporting the development and implementation of public policies and for effective and cooperative compliance, it is important to both public officials and employees. Trusted public employees can enhance their efficiency, responsiveness, and effectiveness (Fard & Rostamy, 2007 in AbuHasanein, 2017). Eventually, this will result in career satisfaction among employees (Lee, Kyoung-Joo, 2016).

Individuals with a strong sense of administrative accountability and public trust are strongly passionate about their work and career, thus they see their work as a way to personal fulfillment and recognize the contribution of work to community and larger society (Duffy and Dik, 2013; Lee, 2014 as cited in Lee, Kyoung-Joo, 2016).

A growing body of literature has adopted a new conceptualization to analyze how an orientation toward administrative accountability and public trust influence personal and organizational outcomes (AbuHasanein, 2017). Despite growing interest, the study of the influence of sense of administrative accountability on public trust and career satisfaction among government employees remains theoretically underexplored and empirically limited (Kyoung-Joo, 2016; AbuHasanein, 2017).

Regarding the relationship between a sense of administrative accountability, public trust, and career satisfaction among employees of government agencies is of great interest. This study adds to the growing body of research by investigating the relationship between sense of administrative accountability, public trust, and career satisfaction of employees of line-agencies.

Owing to the aforementioned claims, this study was conducted among the line- agencies in Sulu so as to gather empirical data to support or deny the assumption that administrative accountability is highly correlated with positive public trust and career satisfaction.

# STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study determined the level of administrative accountability practices and extent of public trust and career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu during the Fiscal Year 2023. Specifically, this study gathered empirical data to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of employees of line-agencies in Sulu in terms of:

1.1 Gender;

1.2 Age;

1.3 Status of appointment;

1.4 Length of service; and

1.5 Educational attainment?

2. What is the level of administrative accountability practices among line-agencies in Sulu in the context of:

2.1 Administrative transparency;

2.2 Efficiency;

2.3 Responsiveness;

2.4 Responsibility;

2.5 Integrity; and

2.6 Equity?

3. What is the extent of public trust among line-agencies in Sulu?

4. What is the extent of career satisfaction among lineagencies in Sulu?

5. Is there a significant difference in the levels of administrative accountability practices among line-agencies in Sulu when data are classified according to:

5.1 Gender;

5.2 Age;

5.3 Status of appointment;

5.4 Length of service; and

5.5 Educational attainment?

6. Is there a significant difference in the extent of public trust levels among line-agencies in Sulu when data are classified according to:

6.1 Gender;

6.2 Age;

6.3 Status of appointment;

6.4 Length of service; and

6.5 Educational attainment?

7. Is there a significant difference in the extent of career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu when data are classified according to:

7.1 Gender;

7.2 Age;

7.3 Status of appointment;

7.4 Length of service; and

7.5 Educational attainment; and

8. Is there a significant correlation between the subcategories subsumed under administrative accountability, public trust and career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu?

# **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This study is designed to meet the following objectives; thus it determined:

1. The profile of employees of line-agencies in Sulu in terms of Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment;

2. The level of administrative accountability practices among line-agencies in Sulu in the context of Administrative transparency, Efficiency, Responsiveness, Responsibility, Integrity, and Equity;

3. The extent of public trust among line-agencies in Sulu;

4. The extent of career satisfaction among lineagencies in Sulu;

5. The significant difference in the levels of administrative accountability practices among line-agencies in Sulu when data are classified according to: Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment;

6. The significant difference in the extent of public trust levels among line-agencies in Sulu when data are classified according to: Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment;

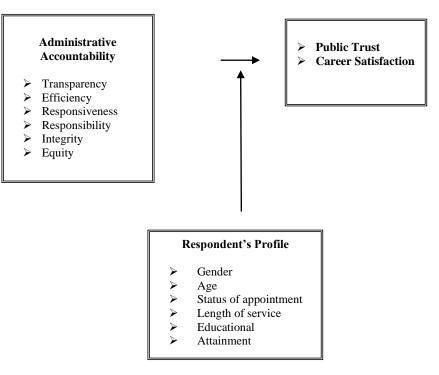
7. The significant difference in the extent of career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu when data are classified according to: Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment; and 8. The significant correlation between the subcategories subsumed under administrative accountability, public trust and career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu.

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Anchoring on AbuHasanein's (2017) Administrative Accountability Model derived from Bovens (2007), AbuHasanein's (2017) Public Trust Model based on Poortinga & Pidgeon (2003), and Lee, Kyoung-Joo (2016) Concept of Career Satisfaction based on Allan and Duffy (2014), this particularly was conceptualized as follows: Administrative Accountability practice such as administrative transparency, efficiency, responsiveness, responsibility, integrity, and equity were treated as the Independent Variable. Public Trust and Career Satisfaction were treated as the Dependent Variables. Meanwhile, respondents' demographic profile such as Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment were treated as the Intervening Variable. The interplay of these variables can be illustrated in Figure 1.

#### Independent Variable

#### **Dependent Variable**



#### **Intervening Variable**

Figure 1. The Conceptual Model of the Study

## **HYPOTHESES**

This study was guided by the following hypotheses in its quest to answer the research problems:

1. There is no significant difference in the levels of administrative accountability practices among lineagencies in Sulu when data are classified according to: Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment;

2. There is no significant difference in the extent of public trust levels among line-agencies in Sulu when data are classified according to: Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment;

3. There is no significant difference in the extent of career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu when data are classified according to: Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment; and

4. There is no significant correlation between the sub-categories subsumed under administrative accountability, public trust and career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu.

# SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The results of the study will be beneficial to each of the following entities:

Line-agencies. The findings of this study will give significant inputs to heads of the line-agencies in their needs for more inputs and data needed in the enhancement of their agencies' development programs geared toward employees' development in terms of sense of public accountability, public trust and career satisfaction.

Employees of line-agencies. Employees can be provided with inputs so that they can adjust or meet the needs of their clienteles and of their job performance. The findings of this study will serve as bases for the employees of line-agencies in coping with the required standards in public service to ensure good human relation in their own respective areas of concern.

Student-researchers. This study will trigger researchers to venture on other avenues or research areas related to this field along the framework of determining some more aspects and factors of affecting employees' work happiness and career satisfaction.

# **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This deals with the research methodology to be adopted in the conduct of this study. It focuses on research design, research locale, respondents of the study, sampling procedure, data gathering procedure and tools, research instrument, validity and reliability, and statistical treatment of data.

# **Research Design**

A descriptive-correlational research design was adopted in this study. In 1995, Bless and Higson-Smith introduced the concept of a research design as "a program that guides a researcher in collecting, analyzing and interpreting observed facts." (p.63). Similarly, Babbie and Mouton (2001:p.75) regard research design as the road map or blueprint by which one intends to conduct a research and achieve his/her research goals and objectives." Hence, research design method that was employed in this study, which as intended to describe, quantify, and infer as well as to discover relationships among variables and to allow the prediction of future events from present knowledge or phenomenon of employees of line-agencies, namely: The sociodemographic profile of employees of line-agencies in Sulu in terms of Gender, Age, Status of appointment, Length of service, and Educational attainment; The extent of administrative accountability in terms of administrative transparency, efficiency, responsiveness, responsibility, integrity, and equity; Public Trust; Career Satisfaction; and the correlation between among these variables.

Employees of line-agencies in Sulu were the main source of data which were quantified to answer the research questions in this study. Library and internet researches and publications were the sources of information that were used to enrich the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of this research. The data from the respondents were gathered through the use of questionnaires.

#### **Research Locale**

This study was conducted in Sulu among employees of line-agencies during the Fiscal Year 2023. Most of these line-agencies are under the direct supervision and administration of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) while some others are directly supervised by the national/central offices.

#### **Respondents of the Study**

The respondents of this study were employees of lineagencies in Sulu who are currently employed regardless of their civil status, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

Figure 2. Distribution of the samples among employees of line-agencies in Sulu

Line-agencies in Sulu	Employees
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform	20
Ministry Basic, Higher and Technical Education	20
Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy	20
Ministry of Finance, Budget and Management	20

Ministry of Health	20
Ministry of Hyman Settlement and Development	20
Ministry of Labor and Employment	20
Ministry of Interior and Local Government	20
Ministry of Public Works	20
Ministry of Science and Technology	20
Ministry of Social Services and Development	20
Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism	20
Total	240

#### Sampling Design

A none-probability sampling design through purposive sampling method was employed in this study due to resources and time constraints. The use of purposive sampling technique was to ensure the representation of gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment variables.

#### **Research Instrument**

A survey questionnaire was the main instrument to be employed to gather data on the extent of administrative accountability, public trust, and career satisfaction as perceived by employees of line-agencies. It was adapted and patterned from standardized questionnaire used in AbuHasanein's (2017) and Lee, Kyoung-Joo (2016).

The research instrument used in this study consisted of four. Part I of the questionnaire focused on obtaining the demographic profile of the respondents which include gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment. Part II geared toward obtaining data on the levels of administrative accountability with the following dimensions such as administrative transparency, efficiency, responsiveness, responsibility, integrity, and equity. Part III focused on the extent of public trust; while Part IV geared toward obtaining data on career satisfaction. A 5-point Likert-Scale was used to measure the variables subsumed under the administrative accountability, public trust, and career satisfaction.

# **Statistical Treatment of Data**

Both descriptive and inferential statistical tools wee appropriately employed in the treatment of data to be gathered for this study, namely:

- For research question number 1, frequency counts and percentages were employed to determine the profile of respondents;
- For research question number 2, mean and standard deviation were employed to determine the extent of administrative accountability;

- For research question number 3, mean and standard deviation were employed to determine the extent of public trust;
- For research question number 4, mean and standard deviation were employed to determine the extent of career satisfaction;
- 5) For research question number 5, t-test for independent samples was employed to determine the significant differences in the extent of administrative accountability when data are grouped according to gender; and One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) when data are grouped according to age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment.
- 6) For research question number 6, t-test for independent samples was employed to determine the significant differences in the extent of public trust when data are grouped according to gender; and One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) when data are grouped according to age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment.
- 7) For research question number 7, t-test for independent samples was employed to determine the significant differences in the extent of career satisfaction when data are grouped according to gender; and One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) when data are grouped according to age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment.
- 8) For research question number 8, Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (Pearson r) was employed to determine the significant correlation between sub-categories subsumed under the administrative accountability, public trust, and career satisfaction.

# SUMMARY OF RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This presents the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations based on the data collected that were properly tabulated, computed and analyzed for this study.

# **Summary of Findings**

The following are findings of this study:

# 1) On demographic profile employee-respondents;

# 1.1 On Gender:

Out of 200 employee-respondents, great majority are female employees, many are within 31 to 40 years old, are casual/contractual employees, have 10 years and

below of years of service, and almost all have Bachelor's degree.

# 2) On the level of administrative accountability practices:

Employee-respondents rated the Administrative Transparency, Efficiency, Responsiveness, Responsibility and Equity as "Agree" and interpreted as "High Extent". Line-agencies in Sulu are adept in practicing the administrative accountability.

# 3) On the extent of public trust;

Employee-respondents rated the extent of public trust as 'Agree". Line-agencies in Sulu are perceived to high degree of technical expertise of the source; objectivity, reflecting the absence of bias in information; fairness, or the degree to which the source takes into account all relevant points of view; consistency, or the predictability of arguments and behavior based on past experience and previous communication efforts; and faith, which reflects the perception of good will of the source.

# 4) On the extent of career satisfaction:

Employee-respondents rated the extent of career satisfaction as "Agree". Line-agencies in Sulu have high of clear idea of work success, where employees are actively engaged in personal development activities. Employees have high self-confidence based on personal development which linked to progress in achieving goals, which evokes personal feelings of success and satisfaction with a career.

# 5) On Differences in Administrative Accountability Practices

Generally, there is a significant difference in the extent of administrative accountability practices among lineagencies in Sulu when data are classified according to gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment. Employee-respondent who are within 31-40 years old, with casual/contractual status of appointment, and who have been in service for 10 years & below are better perceivers of the levels of administrative accountability.

### 6) On Difference in the extent of Public Trust:

Generally, except for educational attainment, there is a significant difference in the extent of public trust among line-agencies in Sulu when data are categorized according to gender, age, status of appointment, and length of service. Employee-respondent who are within 31-40 years old, with casual/contractual status of appointment, and who have in service for 10 years & below are better perceivers of the extent of public trust.

#### 7) On difference in the extent of Career Satisfaction:

Generally, there is a significant difference in the extent of career satisfaction among line-agencies in Sulu when data are categorized according to gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment. Employee-respondent who are 31-40 years old, with casual/contractual status of appointment, and who have been in service for 10 years & below are better perceivers of the extent of career satisfaction.

# 8. On Correlation among levels of Administrative Accountability Practices, public Trust, and Career Satisfaction

Generally, there is a very high positive correlation among the levels of administrative accountability practices, extent of public trust and career satisfaction among lineagencies in Sulu. Employee-respondents among lineagencies in Sulu who rated the level of Administrative Transparency as "Agree" or "High Extent" is most probably the same group of employee-respondents who perceived the extent of Public trust and Career Satisfaction as "Agree" or "High Extent".

# CONCLUSIONS

This study concludes that:

1) In this study, employee-respondents of among line-agencies in Sulu are sufficiently represented in terms of gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment.

2) Generally, public administrative accountability is practiced to a high extent by line-agencies in Sulu.

3) Generally, there is a high extent of public trust being practiced among line-agencies in Sulu.

4) Generally, employees of line-agencies in Sulu have extent of career satisfaction.

5) Variables gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment significantly intervene in ways how employees of lineagencies in Sulu perceive towards the levels of administrative accountability practices.

6) Except for educational attainment, variables gender, age, status of appointment, and length of service significantly intervene in ways how employees of line-agencies in Sulu perceive towards the extent of public trust.

7) Variables gender, age, status of appointment, length of service, and educational attainment significantly intervene in ways how employees of lineagencies in Sulu perceive towards the extent of career satisfaction. 8) Employee-respondents among line-agencies in Sulu who rated the level of Administrative Transparency as "Agree" or "High Extent" is most probably the same group of employee-respondents who perceived the extent of Public trust and Career Satisfaction as "Agree" or "High Extent".

9) This particularly study tends to support the model introduced Abu Hasanein's (2017) Administrative Accountability Model derived from Bovens (2007), AbuHasanein's (2017) Public Trust Model based on Poortinga & Pidgeon (2003); and Lee, Kyoung-Joo (2016) Concept of Career Satisfaction based on Allan and Duffy (2014). Accordingly, accountability often covers other distinct concepts such as transparency, efficiency, responsiveness, responsibility, integrity and equity. Public trust includes the core elements, namely: perceived competence, which represents the degree of technical expertise of the source; objectivity, reflecting the absence of bias in information; fairness, or the degree to which the source takes into account all relevant points of view; consistency, or the predictability of arguments and behavior based on past experience and previous communication efforts; and faith, which reflects the perception of good will of the source.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

This study recommends the following:

1) Administration of line-agencies in Sulu should continue in upgrading administrative accountability practices of its employees to ensure efficient delivery of basic services.

2) Administration of line-agencies in Sulu should ensure and uphold the promulgation of public trust in public offices.

3) Administration of line-agencies in Sulu should continue in providing employees with safe, convenient and efficient workplaces so that employees' career satisfaction is ensured.

4) Student-researchers in the field of public administration are enthused to conduct study parallel to this one but to include other variables such as employees' work morale, leadership efficacy, and use of ICT in the workplaces in some other settings.

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