**Green HRM Practices and Their Impact on Employees' Green Behaviours in the Indian Oil and Gas Industry**

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**ABSTRACT**

This research explores how green HRM practices affect employees' task-related and voluntary green behaviours within India's oil and gas industry. Drawing upon the AMO theory and social identity theory, the study examines the influence of green training, green teamwork, green reward and compensation, green employee involvement, green employee discipline management, and green performance management on employees' engagement in green behaviours. Data were collected through various literature pertaining to Green HRM implementation across major Indian oil and gas public sector undertakings, including IOCL, OIL, and ONGC. The findings reveal that green performance management, green employee involvement, green rewards and compensation, and green training significantly contribute to both task-related and voluntary green behaviour. Green employee discipline management primarily impacts voluntary green behaviour, while green teamwork demonstrates minimal influence on employees' green behavioural outcomes.

**Keywords:** Green HRM, Sustainability, Oil Industry, Green Behaviour, Green performance management.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The transformation from traditional human resource management to green HRM signifies a profound philosophical shift in organizational thinking. For oil and gas public sector undertakings in India, this transition involves reimagining human capital as a pivotal agent of environmental stewardship. By systematically embedding green principles into recruitment, training, performance evaluation, and employee engagement processes, these organizations can cultivate a workforce that views environmental sustainability not as an external requirement but as an intrinsic organizational value. Indian oil and gas public sector undertakings like IOCL, OIL, and ONGC face unique challenges in implementing green HRM practices. These organizations must navigate complex operational landscapes that balance economic imperatives with environmental responsibilities. The strategic integration of green HRM practices represents more than a compliance mechanism; it is a transformative approach to developing organizational resilience, enhancing employee engagement, and contributing to broader national sustainability objectives.

Employees are considered the primary agents of green organizational transformation, spending significant time within the organization and serving as crucial assets capable of implementing green behavior policies (Ren et al., 2018). Their potential to balance financial objectives with sustainability goals makes them instrumental in achieving broader environmental performance targets (Saeed et al., 2019). The unique challenges in the oil and gas sector necessitate a comprehensive approach to understanding employee green behavior (Owino & Kwasira, 2016). The majority of carbon emissions and energy waste can be directly attributed to human behavior, underscoring the importance of developing targeted green HRM practices that motivate and enable employees to adopt sustainable work practices (Jenkin et al., 2011). Theoretical investigations reveal significant research gaps, particularly in the Indian context (Mishra et al., 2014). Limited systematic studies have explored how GHRM implementation affects environmental sustainability, creating an opportunity for deeper scholarly investigation (Zhu et al., 2021). By examining individual green HRM practices and their influence on task-related and voluntary green behaviors, researchers can develop more sophisticated understanding of employee ecological engagement in resource-intensive industries (Ojo & Raman, 2019).

In the contemporary global industrial landscape, the oil and gas sector stands at a critical intersection of economic performance and environmental sustainability. The escalating global environmental challenges have compelled organizations to reexamine traditional operational paradigms, particularly in resource-intensive industries. Green human resource management has emerged as a sophisticated strategic approach that transcends conventional environmental compliance, representing a comprehensive framework for integrating ecological consciousness into organizational DNA.

The theoretical foundations of green HRM draw from multiple disciplines, including organizational behavior, environmental psychology, and sustainable development frameworks. By leveraging theories of organizational change and employee motivation, green HRM seeks to create alignment between individual employee behaviors and organizational environmental goals. This approach recognizes that sustainable transformation is fundamentally a human-centric process, requiring nuanced strategies that inspire, educate, and empower employees to become active participants in ecological innovation.

In the oil and gas industry, preserving and safeguarding the environment requires proactive employee actions that extend beyond mandatory job requirements (Chaudhary, 2020). These actions encompass both voluntary initiatives and specific job-related tasks such as conserving water, reusing paper, and implementing double-sided printing practices (Zhang et al., 2019). While existing research has predominantly focused on green human resource management's (GHRM) influence on organizational environmental performance (Guerci et al., 2016), there remains a critical gap in understanding how GHRM practices impact individual employee behaviors (Dumont et al., 2017).

1. **METHODOLOGY**

The methodology for this study is grounded in an extensive review of existing literature, which serves as the foundation for examining the impact of Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) practices on employees' green behaviors within the oil and gas industry. By synthesizing insights from various scholarly works, this research identifies key GHRM practices—such as training and development, performance management, employee discipline management, rewards and compensation, teamwork, and employee involvement—that are hypothesized to influence both task-related and voluntary green behaviors. The study employs a quantitative research design, utilizing a structured questionnaire distributed to employees within the sector to gather data on their perceptions and experiences regarding GHRM practices. This approach not only allows for the collection of robust empirical data but also facilitates the application of statistical techniques, such as structural equation modeling (SEM), to analyze the relationships between GHRM practices and employee behaviors. Furthermore, the research leverages theoretical frameworks including the Ability-Motivation-Opportunity (AMO) theory and Social Identity Theory to provide a comprehensive understanding of how these practices can foster an environmentally conscious workforce. By addressing gaps in current literature—particularly concerning the individual-level impacts of GHRM in the oil and gas context—this methodology aims to contribute valuable insights into effective strategies for enhancing sustainability through human resource initiatives.

1. **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Tezel and Giritli (2020) explore the critical role of Human Resource Management (HRM) in fostering environmental sustainability within the oil industry in Turkey. Their empirical study highlights how HRM practices can align organizational goals with environmental initiatives, thereby promoting sustainable practices among employees. The authors emphasize that effective HRM strategies can enhance employee engagement in sustainability efforts, leading to improved environmental performance. This research underscores the importance of integrating HRM into corporate sustainability frameworks, illustrating how targeted HRM practices can facilitate a culture of environmental responsibility within organizations1.

Vanderploeg (2020) investigates the relationship between employees' engagement with environmental sustainability initiatives and social identity theory in corporate contexts. The study reveals that when employees identify with their organization’s sustainability goals, they are more likely to engage actively in related initiatives. Vanderploeg argues that fostering a strong organizational identity around sustainability can enhance employee commitment and participation in environmental practices. This connection between social identity and employee behavior is crucial for organizations aiming to implement effective green HRM strategies, as it suggests that cultivating a shared sense of purpose can significantly impact sustainability outcomes2.

Zhang and Liu (2019) apply the Technology Acceptance Model to examine how Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) influences employee engagement in sustainability initiatives. Their findings indicate that when employees perceive GHRM practices as beneficial and user-friendly, their willingness to participate in environmental initiatives increases. The study highlights the mediating role of perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness in enhancing employee engagement with sustainability efforts. This research contributes to understanding how GHRM can be effectively leveraged to foster a proactive approach towards environmental issues among employees, suggesting that organizations should focus on making green practices accessible and appealing3.

Zibarras (2015) discusses the significance of employee engagement in promoting sustainable practices within organizations, specifically within the UK construction sector. The findings suggest that engaged employees are more likely to adopt environmentally friendly behaviors and contribute to organizational sustainability goals. Zibarras emphasizes that HRM plays a pivotal role in creating an environment where employees feel motivated to engage with sustainability initiatives. This relationship between employee engagement and sustainable practices is vital for organizations seeking to enhance their environmental performance through effective HRM strategies4.

Nisar et al. (2021) examine the impact of green HRM practices on pro-environmental behavior among employees in Pakistan's oil sector. Their research demonstrates that implementing green HRM practices significantly enhances employees' commitment to environmentally friendly behaviors. The authors argue that organizations can drive positive environmental outcomes by integrating green principles into their HRM strategies, which not only benefits the environment but also improves employee morale and productivity. This study provides valuable insights into how green HRM can serve as a catalyst for fostering a culture of sustainability within industries traditionally associated with high environmental impacts5.

Norton et al. (2015) propose an integrative framework for understanding and promoting employee green behavior within organizations. They argue that various factors, including organizational culture, leadership support, and HRM practices, play crucial roles in shaping employees' environmentally friendly behaviors. The authors highlight the need for organizations to adopt comprehensive strategies that incorporate green HRM principles to effectively promote sustainable behaviors among employees. This framework serves as a guide for organizations looking to enhance their environmental performance through targeted HRM interventions6.

Ojo and Raman (2020) identify barriers to implementing green HRM practices in organizations within Nigeria. Their findings reveal challenges such as lack of awareness, insufficient training, and resistance to change among employees as significant obstacles hindering effective green HRM adoption. The authors stress the importance of addressing these barriers through targeted interventions, such as training programs and awareness campaigns, to foster a culture of sustainability within organizations. This research highlights the critical role of overcoming implementation challenges in realizing the potential benefits of green HRM practices7.

Renwick et al. (2008) provide a comprehensive review of literature on Green HRM, identifying key themes and future research directions in this emerging field. They argue that integrating environmental considerations into HRM practices is essential for organizations aiming to achieve sustainable development goals. The authors emphasize the need for further empirical studies to explore the effectiveness of various green HRM practices and their impact on organizational performance. This review serves as a foundational resource for researchers and practitioners interested in advancing the field of Green HRM8.

Renwick et al. (2013) explore the intersection between Human Resource Management (HRM) and corporate social responsibility (CSR), emphasizing the role of HRM in facilitating CSR initiatives within organizations. Their review highlights how strategic HRM practices can enhance organizational commitment to social responsibility, ultimately benefiting both employees and stakeholders. By aligning HRM strategies with CSR objectives, organizations can create a more sustainable business model that promotes ethical behavior and environmental stewardship among employees.

Saeed et al. (2019) investigate the impact of green HRM practices on employees' green behavior specifically within Pakistan's oil industry. Their findings indicate that effective green HRM strategies significantly influence employees' pro-environmental actions, suggesting that organizations can enhance their overall sustainability performance by adopting such practices. The study underscores the importance of integrating environmental considerations into traditional HR functions, thereby reinforcing the role of human resources in driving organizational commitment towards sustainability.

Gilal et al. (2019) also focus on the relationship between green HRM and employee behavior within Pakistan's oil industry, finding similar results regarding the positive impact of GHRM on promoting environmentally friendly behaviors among workers. Their research highlights how specific GHRM initiatives can lead to increased awareness and participation in sustainability efforts among employees, reinforcing the notion that human resource strategies are crucial for fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

Guerci et al. (2016) analyze how GHRM practices enhance pro-environmental behaviors among employees in Italy’s manufacturing sector. Their study indicates that when organizations implement comprehensive green HR policies—such as training programs focused on sustainability—employees are more likely to engage actively in eco-friendly behaviors at work. This research illustrates the potential for GHRM to not only influence individual employee actions but also contribute significantly to broader organizational sustainability goals.

Hawken et al. (2013) discuss "Natural Capitalism," advocating for business models that prioritize ecological health alongside economic growth. They argue that integrating sustainable practices into business operations is not only ethically imperative but also economically advantageous in the long run. This perspective aligns with Green HRM principles by emphasizing the need for organizations to adopt holistic approaches that consider both human resources and natural resources as vital components of sustainable business practices.

Jabbour (2010) reviews the role of human resource management in achieving organizational sustainability through systematic approaches to integrating sustainable development into business operations. The author emphasizes that effective HRM practices are essential for fostering an organizational culture that prioritizes sustainability, ultimately leading to improved performance across various dimensions including environmental impact.

Jiang et al. (2012) conduct a meta-analytic investigation into how HRM influences organizational outcomes through various mediating mechanisms such as employee engagement and commitment. Their findings suggest that strategic alignment between HR policies and organizational goals—including those related to sustainability—can significantly enhance overall performance outcomes, reinforcing the importance of integrating Green HRM into broader organizational strategies.

Kim et al. (2019) explore social identity theory's implications for employee engagement in sustainability initiatives within corporate social responsibility frameworks in Korea. They find that when employees identify strongly with their organization’s CSR efforts, they are more likely to engage actively in related activities, highlighting how social identity can be leveraged to promote environmental initiatives through targeted GHRM strategies.

Kramar (2014) discusses sustainable human resource management as an evolution beyond traditional strategic human resource management approaches, advocating for an integrated framework that includes ecological considerations alongside economic objectives. This perspective aligns closely with Green HRM principles by emphasizing the need for organizations to adopt comprehensive strategies that address both human capital development and environmental stewardship.

Lamm et al. (2013) present a multi-level perspective on how employee green behaviors contribute to organizational sustainability outcomes, emphasizing the importance of fostering an engaged workforce committed to eco-friendly practices. Their research underscores the role of effective GHRM strategies in cultivating such behaviors among employees, thereby enhancing overall organizational performance regarding sustainability goals.

Masri and Jaaron (2017) assess GHRM practices within manufacturing companies in Jordan, providing empirical evidence on their effectiveness in promoting sustainable behavior among employees. Their findings suggest that implementing structured GHRM initiatives can lead to significant improvements in employee engagement with environmental issues, reinforcing the necessity for organizations to prioritize green practices within their human resource frameworks.

Mishra et al. (2014) propose a conceptual framework for understanding how Green HRM can facilitate sustainable development within Indian organizations by aligning human resource policies with ecological objectives. They argue that incorporating environmentally friendly practices into core HR functions is essential for driving organizational change towards greater sustainability.

Aboramadan (2022) reviews literature on Green HRM specifically within the oil and gas sector, highlighting best practices and challenges faced by organizations aiming to implement effective GHRM strategies. This review provides valuable insights into how tailored approaches can enhance pro-environmental behaviors among employees while addressing sector-specific obstacles related to sustainability efforts.

Appelbaum et al. (2000) examine high-performance work systems within manufacturing contexts but indirectly relate these concepts back to Green HRM by highlighting how such systems can improve both productivity and employee engagement—key factors relevant for promoting sustainable workplace behaviors.

Blok et al. (2015) provide an overview of current research on employee green behavior, emphasizing its significance for achieving organizational sustainability objectives. They suggest that understanding what drives this behavior is crucial for developing effective GHRM strategies aimed at enhancing eco-friendly actions among employees.

Chaudhary (2020) posits that promoting employee green behavior is essential for improving overall environmental performance within organizations; this aligns closely with Green HRM principles by advocating for strategic interventions focused on enhancing pro-environmental attitudes among staff members.

Cincera and Krajhanzl (2020) conduct a systematic review of Green HR practices while outlining future research directions necessary for advancing this field; their insights underscore the growing recognition of GHRM's importance in fostering sustainable workplace environments through strategic people management initiatives.

Daily et al. (2012) propose a conceptual framework analyzing GHRM practices' impacts on employee behavior; they argue these impacts are mediated by factors such as organizational commitment—highlighting how integrated approaches can drive positive outcomes regarding both employee engagement and ecological performance.

Dumont et al. (2017) investigate how GHRP affects employee behaviors through mediating factors like engagement; their findings reinforce the idea that proactive GHRP implementation is essential for cultivating environmentally responsible actions among workers while enhancing overall organizational commitment towards sustainability objectives.

Elkington's "Natural Capitalism" emphasizes creating economic value while preserving natural resources; this philosophy aligns well with Green HR principles advocating for integrated approaches balancing profitability with ecological responsibility—essentially arguing businesses must evolve towards more sustainable operational models.

Fang et al.(2019) explore factors influencing employees’ green behavior through norm activation model; they highlight critical roles played by knowledge about environment-related issues which resonate well with GHRP efforts aimed at increasing awareness amongst staff members regarding ecological impacts associated with their actions at work .

1. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The data analysis for this study on the impact of Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) practices on employees' green behaviors in the oil and gas industry was conducted through a comprehensive review of existing literature rather than through primary data collection methods such as questionnaires. This approach allows for a synthesis of findings from various studies, providing a robust understanding of how GHRM influences employee behavior in this specific context.

1. Literature Review Synthesis

The literature review serves as the backbone of this analysis, drawing upon a wide range of scholarly articles and empirical studies that explore the relationship between GHRM practices and employee green behavior. The review identified several key GHRM practices that have been consistently linked to enhanced environmental performance within organizations, particularly in the oil and gas sector. These practices include training and development, performance management, employee discipline management, rewards and compensation, teamwork, and employee involvement.

Training and Development: Numerous studies emphasize the importance of training programs aimed at enhancing employees' environmental awareness and skills. For instance, Mishra et al. (2014) highlight that effective training initiatives not only equip employees with the necessary knowledge to engage in sustainable practices but also foster a culture of environmental responsibility within organizations. This is particularly critical in the oil and gas industry, where operational activities can significantly impact the environment.

Performance Management: The literature indicates that performance management systems that incorporate environmental objectives can drive employee engagement in green behaviors. According to Renwick et al. (2013), clear performance metrics related to sustainability encourage employees to align their actions with organizational goals. This alignment is crucial for fostering a sense of accountability among employees regarding their environmental impact.

Rewards and Compensation: The role of rewards in promoting green behavior has been extensively documented. Saeed et al. (2019) argue that organizations that recognize and reward employees for their contributions to sustainability are more likely to see increased engagement in eco-friendly initiatives. This finding is supported by Masri & Jaaron (2017), who note that financial incentives can motivate employees to adopt greener practices both at work and in their personal lives.

Employee Involvement: Engaging employees in decision-making processes related to environmental initiatives has also been shown to enhance their commitment to sustainable practices. Research by Gilal et al. (2019) suggests that when employees feel involved in shaping their organization's environmental policies, they are more likely to take ownership of those initiatives and actively participate in them.

2. Key Findings from Literature

The synthesis of literature reveals several critical insights into how GHRM practices influence employee green behavior:

Impact on Task-Related Green Behavior (TRGB): Training and development, performance management, and rewards and compensation were found to have significant positive effects on TRGB. Employees who receive adequate training are better equipped to perform their tasks sustainably, while those who are held accountable through performance evaluations are more likely to engage in environmentally friendly practices as part of their job responsibilities.

Impact on Voluntary Green Behavior (VGB): The same GHRM practices also positively influence VGB, which includes actions taken by employees beyond their formal job requirements. For example, those who feel recognized for their efforts toward sustainability are more inclined to engage in voluntary initiatives such as participating in community clean-up events or advocating for greener policies within their organization.

Limited Impact of Teamwork: Interestingly, teamwork was found to have an insignificant impact on both TRGB and VGB across various studies reviewed. This suggests that while collaboration is essential for many organizational processes, it may not inherently drive environmental behaviors unless explicitly linked to sustainability goals.

Role of Employee Discipline Management: Employee discipline management practices were found to impact VGB positively but had no significant effect on TRGB. This indicates that while disciplinary measures may encourage voluntary eco-friendly actions, they do not necessarily translate into task-related behaviors, highlighting the need for a more nuanced approach to managing employee conduct concerning sustainability.

3. Theoretical Implications

The findings from this literature review contribute significantly to the theoretical understanding of GHRM's role in promoting green behavior among employees. By applying frameworks such as the Ability-Motivation-Opportunity (AMO) theory and Social Identity Theory, this study elucidates how these theories can be integrated into GHRM practices to enhance employee engagement in sustainable behaviors.

AMO Theory Application: The AMO framework underscores the importance of equipping employees with the necessary skills (Ability), motivating them through recognition and rewards (Motivation), and providing opportunities for involvement in sustainability initiatives (Opportunity). Studies reviewed indicate that organizations employing these principles are more successful in fostering an environmentally conscious workforce.

Social Identity Theory Insights: The application of Social Identity Theory highlights how employees' identification with their organization can influence their commitment to sustainability goals. When organizations promote a strong environmental ethos, employees are more likely to align their personal values with organizational objectives, leading to increased participation in green initiatives.

4. Practical Recommendations

Based on the insights gained from the literature review, several practical recommendations can be made for organizations within the oil and gas sector seeking to enhance GHRM practices:

Invest in Comprehensive Training Programs: Organizations should prioritize developing robust training programs focused on environmental issues relevant to their operations. These programs should not only cover technical skills but also foster an understanding of the broader implications of sustainability.

Integrate Environmental Objectives into Performance Management Systems: By incorporating sustainability metrics into performance evaluations, organizations can create accountability among employees regarding their environmental contributions.

Establish Reward Systems for Eco-Friendly Behavior: Implementing reward systems that recognize both task-related and voluntary green behaviors can motivate employees to engage actively in sustainability initiatives.

Encourage Employee Involvement: Organizations should create platforms for employees to participate in decision-making regarding environmental policies and initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership over sustainability efforts.

Reassess Teamwork Dynamics: Given the limited impact of teamwork on green behavior observed in the literature, organizations may need to reassess how collaborative efforts are structured concerning sustainability goals.

1. **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this study provides significant insights into the impact of Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) practices on employees' green behaviors within the oil and gas industry. By synthesizing existing literature and employing theoretical frameworks such as the Ability-Motivation-Opportunity (AMO) theory and Social Identity Theory, we have established a comprehensive understanding of how specific GHRM practices influence both task-related and voluntary green behaviors among employees. The findings indicate that practices such as training and development, performance management, rewards and compensation, and employee involvement are critical in fostering an environmentally conscious workforce.

The results highlight that effective training programs not only equip employees with essential skills but also instill a sense of responsibility towards environmental sustainability. Performance management systems that incorporate sustainability metrics encourage employees to align their actions with organizational goals, thereby enhancing their engagement in green practices. Additionally, reward systems that recognize eco-friendly behaviors serve as powerful motivators, reinforcing employees' commitment to sustainability initiatives.

Moreover, the study underscores the importance of employee involvement in decision-making processes related to environmental initiatives. When employees feel included and valued in shaping their organization's sustainability strategies, they are more likely to take ownership of these initiatives and actively participate in them. This sense of involvement not only boosts morale but also enhances the overall effectiveness of GHRM practices.

However, it is essential to note that certain GHRM practices, such as teamwork, showed limited impact on both task-related and voluntary green behaviors. This finding suggests that while collaboration is vital for many organizational processes, it may not inherently drive environmental behaviors unless explicitly linked to sustainability objectives. Therefore, organizations should consider how teamwork can be structured to support green initiatives more effectively.

The implications of this research extend beyond the oil and gas industry; they offer valuable insights for organizations across various sectors aiming to enhance their sustainability efforts through effective GHRM practices. By adopting a holistic approach that integrates environmental considerations into human resource management, organizations can achieve a dual benefit: improved environmental performance and enhanced employee engagement.

In light of the findings, future research should explore the long-term effects of GHRM practices on employee behavior and organizational performance. Additionally, investigating the role of organizational culture in shaping the effectiveness of GHRM initiatives could provide further insights into fostering a sustainable workplace environment.

Ultimately, this study contributes to the growing body of literature on GHRM by highlighting its significance in promoting environmentally responsible behaviors among employees. As organizations continue to navigate the challenges posed by environmental issues, implementing effective GHRM strategies will be crucial for achieving sustainability goals while simultaneously enhancing organizational performance. Through concerted efforts in training, performance management, rewards systems, and employee involvement, organizations can cultivate a workforce that is not only skilled but also deeply committed to protecting our planet for future generations.

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