

The links between authentic leadership and subordinates' work motivation

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1. Could authentic leaders provide autonomy support and therefore need satisfaction and in turn autonomous motivation to their employees?

Authentic Leadership Basic Need Satisfaction

Autonomous Motivation

2. Variables

Authentic leadership: A pattern of leader behaviour that draws upon and promotes both positive psychological capacities and a positive ethical climate...fostering positive self-development (Walumbwa et al., 2008, p. 94).

Self-awareness: self-knowledge + self-acceptance

Relational transparency: genuine, open and transparent in one's

relationship

Balanced processing of information: Considering different points of

view and being objective

Internalized moral perspective: self-regulation + ethical behaviour

Basic psychological needs: Well-being (Reis et al., 2000); Universal (Chirkov et al., 2003; Deci et al., 2001); Internalization (Deci et al., 1994); All 3 needs are important (Deci et al., 1994).

Autonomy: endorsing a behaviour Competence: feeling effective Relatedness: belongingness

Motivation: Energy, Direction, Persistence (Ryan & Deci, 2000)

Amotivation: no motivation, helplessness

Extrinsic motivation:

• External: to gain a separable outcome or avoid an unpleasant

outcome

• Introjection: out of guilt / in order to feel good

Identification: because it is important

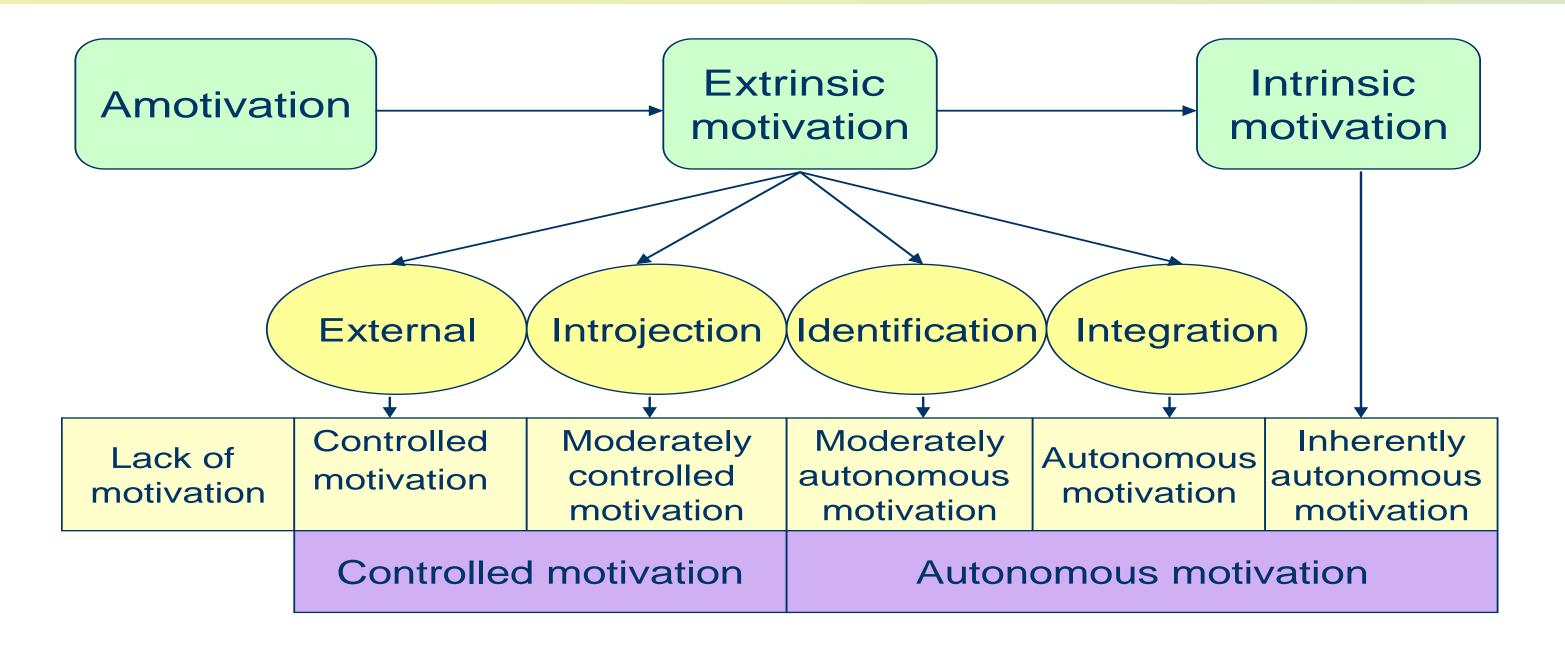
Integration: part of the person

Intrinsic motivation: doing something out of pleasure / satisfaction

Each motivation types fall along a continuum of felt control to autonomy

Controlled motivation: external + introjection

Autonomous motivation: identification + integration +intrinsic



3. Methodology:

Cross-sectional design, web-based questionnaire

Measures:

Authentic leadership questionnaire (ALQ): Walumbwa et al., 2008 Need satisfaction scale: Van den Broeck et al., 2008 Motivation at work scale (MAWS): Gagné et al., 2009

Samples: Technological organization (engineers in R & D)

Managers: 27 responded = 79.4% response rate Employees: 105 responded = 62.5% response rate

24 manager-employee matches

4. Means, Standard Deviation and Correlations for Managers

Variables	M	SD	1	2	3	4
1. Awareness	3.72	.63				
2. Transparent Relationship	4.00	.56	.40*			
3. Balance Processing	4.06	.59	.46*	.43*		
4. Moral Perspective	4.06	.72	.33	.63**	.45*	
5. Authentic Leadership	3.96	.48	.70**	.83**	.71**	.82**

Note. n = 27.

* p < .05 (2-tailed). ** p < .01 (2-tailed).

5.HLM analyses of authentic leadership on needs*

- 1) overall authentic leadership on overall needs
 - = no significant results
- 2) overall authentic leadership on each of the three needs individually = no significant results
- 3) awareness on needs = no significant results
- 4) awareness on each individual need
- = Awareness on Relatedness B = .32 (p = .08)
- 5) relational transparency on need = no significant results
- 6) relational transparency on each individual need = no significant results
- 7) balanced processing on need= no significant results
- 8) balanced processing on each individual need
- = Balanced processing on Relatedness B = .22 (p = .20)
- 9) moral perspective on need = no significant results
- 10) moral perspective on each individual need = no significant results

6. HLM Analyses of authentic leadership on motivation*

1) authentic leadership on autonomous motivation

$$B = -.20 (p = .58)$$

2) awareness on autonomous motivation

$$B = -.05 (p = .83)$$

- 3) relational transparency on autonomous motivation
- 4) balanced processing on autonomous motivation B = .01 (p = .94)
- 5) moral perspective on autonomous motivation
- 6) authentic leadership on controlled motivation

$$B = -.35 (p = .12)$$

2) awareness on controlled motivation

$$B = -.23 (p = .10)$$

- 3) relational transparency on controlled motivation
- 4) balanced processing on controlled motivation B = -.19 (p = .19
- 5) moral perspective on controlled motivation

7. HLM analyses of need satisfaction on motivation*

- 1) Needs on Autonomous Motivation B = 1.05 (p = .00)
- 2) Needs on Controlled Motivation B = -.02 (p = .92)

* Note. For all HLM analyses n = 88 subordinates nested within 24 managers. The Gammas are standardized and centered around the grand mean. The standard errors are robust.

8. Significant findings

Awareness & relatedness

Authentic leadership & controlled motivation

Awareness & controlled motivation

Needs & autonomous motivation

9. Conclusion

In order to promote optimal employee motivation (high autonomous and low controlled motivation; Ratelle et al., 2007), a leader would need to demonstrate authentic leadership and support employees' basic psychological needs.