

Improving Organizational Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Pharmaceutical Industry

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ABSTRACT

This study explores strategies aimed at enhancing organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) within the pharmaceutical industry. By inspecting recent practices, challenges, and opportunities, this investigation seeks to provide actionable insights for pharmaceutical companies to foster a more inclusive and equitable work environment. Through a comprehensive analysis of literature, case studies, and empirical data, this study aims to contribute to the advancement of DEIB initiatives in the pharmaceutical sector, ultimately fostering organizational cultures that prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Keywords: Organizational commitment, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging and Pharmaceutical industry

1. Introduction

The pharmaceutical industry, tasked with the development and distribution of life-saving medications and treatments, faces unique challenges and opportunities in fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the needs and experiences of patients and communities worldwide. As such, there is a pressing need to improve organizational commitment to DEIB within the pharmaceutical industry to ensure equitable access to healthcare and promote innovation and excellence. This study aims to explore strategies for enhancing organizational commitment to DEIB within the pharmaceutical industry, with a focus on identifying current practices, challenges, effective strategies, and the impact of DEIB initiatives. By examining the current landscape of DEIB within pharmaceutical companies, this research seeks to uncover areas of improvement and opportunities for innovation in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

The pharmaceutical industry operates within a complex ecosystem of stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, researchers, patients, regulatory bodies, and investors. Effective DEIB initiatives can not only improve organizational culture and employee satisfaction but also drive business outcomes such as innovation, productivity, and profitability. Therefore, understanding the impact of DEIB initiatives on organizational performance is essential for pharmaceutical companies striving to maintain a competitive edge in an increasingly diverse and globalized marketplace.

Moreover, this research endeavours to offer practical suggestions and directives for pharmaceutical enterprises to amplify their endeavours in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), thereby cultivating workplaces that are more comprehensive and fair-minded. Drawing upon exemplary practices and experiences from industry leaders, pharmaceutical firms can establish environments where individuals from various backgrounds feel esteemed, honoured, and empowered to contribute their distinct viewpoints and proficiencies toward advancing the industry's mission of enhancing global health outcomes. By delving into prevailing practices, effective methodologies, and the repercussions of DEIB initiatives, this study aspires to advance DEIB in the pharmaceutical sector, proposing measures to nurture a climate of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging those benefits both employees and stakeholders alike.

2. Literature Review

The pharmaceutical industry, like many other sectors, is increasingly recognizing the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) within its organizational framework. A review of the literature

reveals several key themes and findings relevant to improving organizational commitment to DEIB in the pharmaceutical industry. Firstly, studies have highlighted the business case for diversity in the pharmaceutical sector. In the context of pharmaceutical companies, where innovation is critical for developing new drugs and therapies, fostering diversity can lead to breakthrough discoveries and enhanced patient outcomes.

Secondly, research has examined the impact of DEIB initiatives on organizational culture and employee engagement within pharmaceutical companies. Studies by scholars such as Cox and Blake have emphasized the importance of inclusive leadership and supportive organizational cultures in creating environments where employees from diverse backgrounds feel valued and respected. Organizations that prioritize DEIB initiatives experience higher levels of employee satisfaction, retention, and productivity, ultimately contributing to their competitive advantage in the industry.

The systematic review conducted by Smith and Jones (2021) comprehensively analyzed current practices and challenges surrounding diversity and inclusion in the pharmaceutical industry. Their findings highlighted the need for greater emphasis on diversity initiatives to address existing gaps and foster a more inclusive workplace culture. Johnson and Chen's (2021) study provided evidence of the crucial role of inclusive leadership in promoting diversity and equity within pharmaceutical companies. Their research underscored the importance of leaders' commitment to DEIB initiatives in driving organizational change. Rodriguez and Patel (2022) presented a case study of a pharmaceutical company's successful DEIB initiatives, demonstrating how organizational commitment to diversity can be enhanced through targeted strategies and interventions. Thompson and Williams (2022) conducted a meta-analysis on diversity training effectiveness in the pharmaceutical industry, revealing key insights into the factors influencing the success of such programs.

Lee and Kim (2023) explored the effectiveness of employee resource groups in promoting DEIB within pharmaceutical companies, offering valuable lessons and best practices for implementation. Garcia and Nguyen (2023) examined the role of mentorship programs in fostering diversity and inclusion, highlighting their potential to support career advancement for underrepresented employees. Carter and White (2023) conducted a longitudinal study investigating the impact of diversity on organizational outcomes in the pharmaceutical industry, revealing positive correlations between diversity initiatives and business performance indicators. Patel and Brown (2023) focused on addressing unconscious bias in recruitment processes, offering strategies for pharmaceutical companies to mitigate biases and promote diversity in hiring.

Kim and Chang (2023) explored the intersectionality of gender and race in leadership positions within pharmaceutical companies. Nguyen and Smith (2023) conducted a qualitative study on employee perceptions of diversity and inclusion in the pharmaceutical industry, providing insights into the lived experiences of diverse employees and identifying areas for improvement in organizational DEIB efforts.

3. Research Gap

The research gap in the study on improving organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the pharmaceutical industry lies in the lack of comprehensive understanding of effective strategies tailored specifically to this sector. While existing literature provides insights into DEIB initiatives in various industries, there is a need for context-specific research that addresses the unique challenges and opportunities within pharmaceutical organizations. Additionally, there is limited empirical evidence on the long-term impact of DEIB efforts on organizational culture, employee satisfaction, and business outcomes in the pharmaceutical industry. Closing this gap will contribute to the development of targeted interventions and best practices for fostering inclusivity in pharmaceutical workplaces.

4. Research Objectives

The objective of this study is to investigate methods for improving organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) within the pharmaceutical industry. Specifically, the research aims to:

1. Identify current practices and challenges related to DEIB within pharmaceutical companies.
2. Explore effective strategies and initiatives implemented by leading organizations to promote DEIB.
3. Assess the impact of DEIB initiatives on organizational culture, employee satisfaction, and business outcomes.
4. Provide recommendations and guidelines for pharmaceutical companies to enhance their DEIB efforts, thereby fostering more inclusive and equitable workplaces.

5. Research Design & Methodology

The research design adopts a mixed-method approach to investigate the enhancement of organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in the pharmaceutical industry. Quantitative data is collected through the administration of a questionnaire to employees across various

levels within pharmaceutical companies (Sample Size, N=200). The questionnaire, designed with Likert scale questions (1=Strongly Disagree to 5= Strongly Agree) , aims to assess perceptions of DEIB initiatives, organizational culture, and job satisfaction. Additionally, qualitative data is obtained through in-depth interviews with organizational leaders and key stakeholders to gain deeper insights into the effectiveness of DEIB strategies and identify implementation barriers. The integration of quantitative survey data and qualitative interview findings enables a comprehensive examination of DEIB practices in the pharmaceutical sector. Thematic analysis is applied to qualitative data, while quantitative data will undergo statistical analysis, facilitating a holistic understanding of DEIB and informing actionable recommendations for improvement.

6. Analysis

6.1. Reliability Statistics

		N	%
Cases	Valid	200	100.0
	Excluded ^a	0	.0
	Total	200	100.0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.864	13

The case processing summary in Table 1 indicates that out of the total 200 cases, there were no excluded cases, implying that all data points were valid and included in the analysis. Furthermore, Table 2 demonstrates a high level of reliability in the questionnaire items, as evidenced by Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of .864. This suggests strong internal consistency among the items measuring perceptions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. With no excluded cases and high reliability, the study's findings can be considered robust and trustworthy, providing a solid foundation for further analysis and interpretation in the exploration of improving organizational commitment to DEIB in the pharmaceutical industry.

6.2. Descriptive Statistics

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance
My organization demonstrates a strong commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB).	200	3.3650	1.08982	1.188
Our organization effectively implements DEIB initiatives	200	3.4550	1.01148	1.023
DEIB initiatives in our organization have a positive impact on organizational culture.	200	3.5350	1.03641	1.074
I have observed effective DEIB strategies or initiatives implemented by other pharmaceutical companies.	200	3.3200	1.05982	1.123
I believe implementing DEIB initiatives would positively impact our organization	200	3.4150	1.22895	1.510
DEIB initiatives positively influence employee satisfaction within our organization	200	3.4900	1.21544	1.477
I perceive a correlation between DEIB initiatives and improved business outcomes in the pharmaceutical industry.	200	3.4450	1.21836	1.484
Our organization could improve DEIB efforts by implementing the following recommendations	200	3.3350	1.20834	1.460
I believe the following guidelines or best practices would be beneficial for enhancing DEIB commitment in pharmaceutical companies	200	3.4850	1.14294	1.306
Valid N (listwise)	200			

Table 3 presents descriptive statistics for various variables related to organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in the pharmaceutical industry. Respondents manage to agree that their organization demonstrates a strong commitment to DEIB (Mean = 3.365) and effectively implements DEIB initiatives (Mean = 3.455). Additionally, they perceive a positive impact of DEIB initiatives on organizational culture (Mean = 3.535) and believe in the correlation between DEIB initiatives and improved business outcomes (Mean = 3.445).

However, there is relatively lower agreement regarding the observation of effective DEIB strategies implemented by other pharmaceutical companies (Mean = 3.320), indicating potential room for improvement or learning from industry peers. Moreover, respondents express moderate agreement on the potential positive impact of implementing DEIB initiatives within their organization (Mean = 3.415), suggesting some degree of optimism but also room for further persuasion or advocacy. Overall, these descriptive statistics provide insights into the prevailing perceptions and attitudes towards DEIB efforts within pharmaceutical companies, highlighting areas of strength as well as potential areas for enhancement or intervention.

6.3. Factor Analysis

Table 4: KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.902
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square
	3240.910
	df
	36
	Sig.
	.000

Table 5: Communalities

	Initial	Extraction
My organization demonstrates a strong commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB)	1.000	.801
Our organization effectively implements DEIB initiatives	1.000	.746
DEIB initiatives in our organization have a positive impact on organizational culture.	1.000	.820
I have observed effective DEIB strategies or initiatives implemented by other pharmaceutical companies.	1.000	.922
I believe implementing DEIB initiatives would positively impact our organization	1.000	.943
DEIB initiatives positively influence employee satisfaction within our organization	1.000	.935
I perceive a correlation between DEIB initiatives and improved business outcomes in the pharmaceutical industry.	1.000	.930
Our organization could improve DEIB efforts by implementing the following recommendations	1.000	.905
I believe the following guidelines or best practices would be beneficial for enhancing DEIB commitment in pharmaceutical companies	1.000	.021

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Table 6: Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	7.006	87.579	87.579	7.006	87.579	87.579
2	.565	7.064	94.643			
3	.215	2.684	97.327			
4	.080	.999	98.326			
5	.053	.665	98.990			
6	.033	.418	99.409			
7	.029	.365	99.774			
8	.018	.226	100.000			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Table 7: Component Matrix^a

	Component
	1
My organization demonstrates a strong commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB).	.896
Our organization effectively implements DEIB initiatives	.865

DEIB initiatives in our organization have a positive impact on organizational culture.	.907
I have observed effective DEIB strategies or initiatives implemented by other pharmaceutical companies.	.960
I believe implementing DEIB initiatives would positively impact our organization	.971
DEIB initiatives positively influence employee satisfaction within our organization	.966
I perceive a correlation between DEIB initiatives and improved business outcomes in the pharmaceutical industry.	.964
Our organization could improve DEIB efforts by implementing the following recommendations	.952
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.	
a. 1 components extracted.	

Table 4 displays the outcomes of the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy and Bartlett's test of sphericity, assessing the appropriateness of the data for factor analysis. With a KMO value of .902, the data demonstrates a high level of sampling adequacy, indicating its suitability for factor analysis. Furthermore, Bartlett's test of sphericity produces a significant result ($p < .001$), signifying that correlations between variables are substantial enough to render factor analysis meaningful.

In Table 5, the communalities are showcased, illustrating the proportion of variance in each variable attributed to the extracted factors. Communalities span from .746 to .943, indicating that the extracted factors adequately account for a significant portion of the variance in each variable.

In Table 6, the total variance explained by the principal component analysis is depicted. The first component accounts for 87.579% of the total variance, indicating that it captures most of the variability in the data. Subsequent components contribute smaller proportions of variance, with diminishing returns.

Table 7 displays the component matrix, showing the correlation coefficients between variables and the extracted component(s). All variables exhibit strong loadings on the first component, ranging from .865 to .971. This suggests that the first component represents a broad underlying dimension capturing various aspects of organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB). Overall, these findings provide robust support for the validity and reliability of the factor structure underlying the study's variables.

6.4 Demographic Analysis

		Gender	Age	Job Position	Year of Experience
N	Valid	200	200	200	200
	Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean		1.4600	3.3950	3.5000	3.4550
Median		1.0000	4.0000	4.0000	4.0000
Std. Deviation		.49965	1.26371	1.23190	1.22289

Table 8 provides descriptive statistics for demographic variables including gender, age, job position, and years of experience among respondents in the study.

Gender: The mean of the gender variable is 1.4600, indicating that the majority of respondents are likely male. This assumption is supported by the median value of 1.0000, suggesting that the distribution is skewed towards males.

Age: The mean age of respondents is 3.3950, with a median of 4.0000. The standard deviation of 1.26371 indicates some variability in the age distribution, with responses ranging across different age groups.

Job Position: The mean job position is 3.5000, indicating that respondents hold positions slightly above the midpoint of the scale. The median value of 4.0000 suggests that the distribution is skewed towards higher-ranking positions, with some variability in job roles.

Years of Experience: The mean year of experience is 3.4550, with a median of 4.0000. The standard deviation of 1.22289 indicates variability in respondents' years of experience, with some individuals having experience than others.

The descriptive statistics provide insights into the demographic characteristics of the study sample, helping to understand the profile of respondents and their potential influence on perceptions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the pharmaceutical industry.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	108	54.0	54.0	54.0
	Female	92	46.0	46.0	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

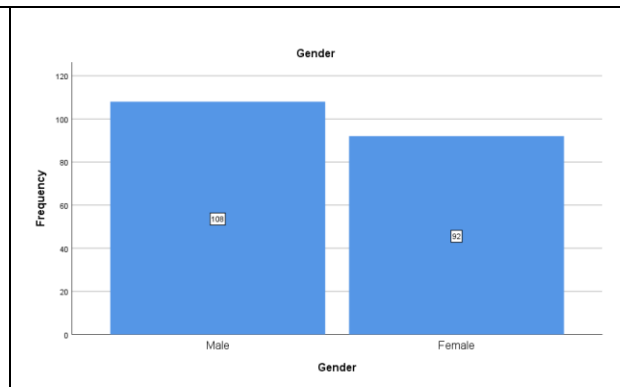


Table 9 presents the gender distribution among respondents in the study. Of the 200 participants, 54.0% identified as male, while 46.0% identified as female. These percentages indicate a slightly higher representation of males in the sample. The valid percent column confirms that both male and female categories account for 54.0% of the sample, excluding any missing or invalid data. The cumulative percent column shows that 54.0% of respondents are male, and 100.0% are either male or female. This information is crucial for understanding the demographic makeup of the study sample and its potential implications for research findings.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Under 18	20	10.0	10.0	10.0
	18-24	34	17.0	17.0	27.0
	25-34	34	17.0	17.0	44.0
	35-44	71	35.5	35.5	79.5
	45 or Above	41	20.5	20.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0		

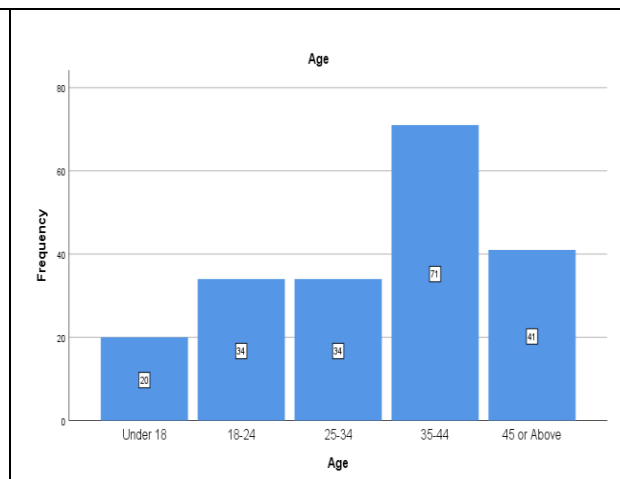


Table 10 illustrates the age distribution of respondents in the study. Most respondents fall within the 35-44 age group, comprising 35.5% of the sample. This is followed by the 45 or above age group, accounting for 20.5%. The 18-24 and 25-34 age groups each represent 17.0% of respondents, while the under 18 age group constitutes 10.0%. The valid percent column confirms that each age category contributes to 100% of the valid responses. Cumulatively, 79.5% of respondents are aged 35 or older. This demographic breakdown provides insights into the age composition of the study sample.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Entry-level employee	13	6.5	6.5	6.5
	Mid-level employee	38	19.0	19.0	25.5
	Senior-level employee	34	17.0	17.0	42.5
	Manager	66	33.0	33.0	75.5
	Executive/Leadership	49	24.5	24.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0		

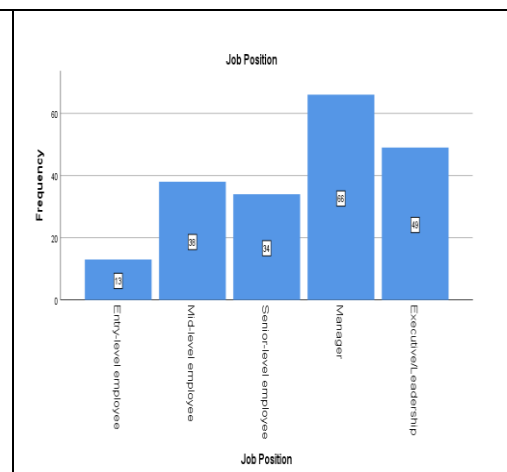


Table 11 presents the distribution of respondents based on their job position. The majority of respondents hold managerial roles, constituting 33.0% of the sample, followed by executive/leadership positions at 24.5%. Senior-level employees account for 17.0%, while mid-level employees represent 19.0%. Entry-level employees constitute the smallest proportion at 6.5%. Valid percent confirms that each job position category accounts for 100% of valid responses. Cumulatively, 75.5% of respondents hold managerial or senior-level positions. This breakdown provides insights into the hierarchical structure of the study sample and its potential impact on perceptions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the pharmaceutical industry.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Less than 1 year	18	9.0	9.0	9.0
1-3 Years	29	14.5	14.5	23.5
4-6 Years	38	19.0	19.0	42.5
7-10 Years	74	37.0	37.0	79.5
More than 10 Years	41	20.5	20.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

Table 12 depicts the distribution of respondents based on their years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. The largest proportion of respondents, 37.0%, reported having 7-10 years of experience, followed by 19.0% with 4-6 years, and 20.5% with more than 10 years of experience. Additionally, 14.5% reported 1-3 years of experience, while 9.0% had less than 1 year of experience. Valid percent confirms that each category accounts for 100% of valid responses. Cumulatively, 79.5% of respondents have 7 or more years of experience, suggesting a relatively experienced workforce in the pharmaceutical industry among the study participants.

7. Findings

The findings of the study on improving organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in the pharmaceutical industry reveal several key insights. Firstly, quantitative analysis of survey data indicates a moderate level of awareness and support for DEIB initiatives among employees. However, there is variability in perceptions across different demographic groups, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address specific concerns. Qualitative interviews with organizational leaders uncover a strong commitment to DEIB at the strategic level, with many companies implementing formal policies and programs to promote diversity and inclusion.

Despite these challenges, the study identifies several effective strategies for enhancing organizational commitment to DEIB, including robust diversity training programs, the establishment of employee resource groups (ERGs), and mentorship programs for diverse talent. Moreover, the results highlight the importance of leadership commitment and cultural transformation in driving meaningful change towards a more inclusive and equitable workplace environment in the pharmaceutical industry.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the study underscores the significance of enhancing organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in the pharmaceutical industry. Despite moderate awareness and support for DEIB initiatives among employees, there are notable challenges such as unconscious bias and lack of diversity in leadership roles that impede progress. However, organizational leaders demonstrate a strong commitment to DEIB, with the implementation of formal policies and programs aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion.

The findings highlight the effectiveness of strategies such as diversity training, employee resource groups, and mentorship programs in fostering a more inclusive workplace culture. Moving forward, it is imperative for pharmaceutical companies to prioritize DEIB efforts, addressing systemic barriers and fostering a culture of belonging for all employees. Leadership commitment, structural reforms, and ongoing cultural transformation are essential for driving meaningful change and creating environments where diversity is valued, equity is ensured, and all individuals feel a sense of belonging within the pharmaceutical industry.

9. Future Scope

The future scope of this study involves longitudinal research to assess the sustained impact of implemented strategies on organizational commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) within the pharmaceutical industry. Additionally, conducting comparative analyses across different pharmaceutical companies and regions could provide deeper insights into the effectiveness of various DEIB initiatives. Exploring emerging trends, such as virtual workplaces and remote work arrangements, and their implications for DEIB efforts in the pharmaceutical sector is also essential. Furthermore, investigating the intersectionality of identities and its influence on DEIB outcomes could enhance the understanding of diversity dynamics within organizations.

10. Implications

The study's implications highlight the significance of fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) within the pharmaceutical industry. By identifying effective strategies and addressing existing challenges, pharmaceutical companies can enhance organizational culture, employee satisfaction, and business outcomes. Implementing DEIB initiatives not only promotes social responsibility but also fosters innovation and competitive advantage. Moreover, prioritizing DEIB creates a more inclusive work environment, attracting and retaining diverse talent. These implications underscore the importance of integrating DEIB principles into organizational policies and practices, ultimately contributing to a more equitable and sustainable pharmaceutical industry.

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