



**THE EFFECT OF WORK MOTIVATION, WORK DISCIPLINE, AND COMPETENCE  
ON EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE**

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**ABSTRACT**

Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk has experienced a decline in its performance. Overall, the results in the very good category of employee performance appraisal have decreased by 8.93% from 2015 to 2016. This declining trend affected the interbranch competitiveness which also affected the competitiveness of the company compared with competitors. The objective of this study was to determine what factors can affect the decline in work performance. Of the several factors influencing the decline in work performance, the authors classified them into three (3) factors; Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence. This descriptive study used quantitative method through surveys and data collection by questionnaires. The sample of this research was 96 employees. The sample of this research was determined using Slovin's Formula, generating the sample of 96 people. Independent variables were Work Motivation ( $X_1$ ), Work Discipline ( $X_2$ ), and Competence ( $X_3$ ), and dependent variable was Employee Performance ( $Y$ ). The data collected were processed using multiple linear regression method. The findings of this study showed that the Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence variables simultaneously had a positive and significant influence on the Employee Performance. Partially, the Work Motivation variable had a positive and significant influence on the Employee Performance; Work Discipline had a positive and significant influence on Employee Performance, and the Competence had a positive and significant influence on the Employee Performance. This study concluded that an effective management in the sub-variables of Work Motivation, Work Discipline and Competence will be able to enhance the Employee Performance and ultimately also raise the competitiveness of the company and increase the branch revenues.

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**INTRODUCTION**

The effort to maintain qualified human resources is a crucial step for an organization. Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk always strives to develop and make the human resources as an essential role in the success and progress of the company. Munck *et al.* (2012:30) stated that organizations that can structure their competences into a specific management model is the starting point for developing a strategic plan geared towards the company sustainability. The employee performance appraisal in Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk is the final figure that reflects the employee's contribution to the overall results of the work unit's performance and it is called *Performance Appraisal*. Individuals performance based on a statement about the work target to be achieved that an employee has set in one period and agreed by his supervisor is called *Performance Appraisal*.

The individual employee performance at the Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk in 2015 & 2016 is categorized into excellent, very good, good, and poor. In 2016, the individual employee performance in the excellent category dropped by 0.03%. The very good category decreased by 8.93%, the good category increased by 8.79% and the poor category increased by 0.18% which means that the performance has decreased in the good and poor categories. This is an issue that should be overcome by the management because if it did not improve, their performance will affect their work targets and influenced the competitiveness of both the interbranch and the company. Based on the results of the pre-study survey questionnaires about the factors that can improve the employee performance, more respondents answered that those are the Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence factors, with the rest are affected by other factors. Therefore, the authors concluded that at the moment, Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence are the dominant factors that affected the employee

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performance of the Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk.

**Theoretical Framework**

**Work Performance**

Jasmine *et al.* (2015:58) explained that the work performance is a part of human resources management and it is an important criterion for the outcomes and success of an organization. According to Jeffrey J. Ellis *et al.* (2005:121), work performance can be characterized as physical, psychological and social functions of a person at work. Evelyn *et al.* (2013:527) suggested that work performance is defined as the degree of meeting the work demands (activities) at the current workplace (environment). Vera and Ricardo (2017:283) defined work performance as a periodic evaluation of individual behaviors displayed in their tasks and their works, where it is the result of a combination of cognitive ability, personality and learning experiences that form a belief in the organization.

**Work Motivation**

According to Patnaik (2011:88), work motivation is a process to energize employees to reach the work goals through a specific path. According to Jones & George (2008), work motivation is a psychological force that determines the direction, level of effort and level of persistence of a person. Each employee has different motivation or stimuli to be willing to work well to meet their needs. Rizwan *et al.* (2014:35) suggested that employee motivation is considered as a force that drives the employees to achieve specified organizational goals and objectives. Also, according to Mathis and Jackson (2009), motivation is the driving force that leads to goals, and it rarely comes up in vain. Kanfer *et al.* (2013:255) stated that work motivation could be defined as cognition, emotion, and behavior that lead to the job achievement.

**Work Discipline**

Mondy (2008) defined discipline as a condition of employees' self-control and orderly behaviors that show the actual level of teamwork in an organization. One of the important, but often difficult to implement, aspects of internal relationships of the employee is the application of disciplinary action. Disciplinary action imposes sanctions on workers or employees who fail to meet the established standards. In the opinion of Gitome *et al.* (2013:4), discipline is necessary because it makes people to be organized and systematic in their work. It enables one to achieve set goals in life, to respond to positive challenges and guard oneself against negative influences. According to Thomas (2008:283), conscious discipline has seven main components which are composure, encouragement, assertiveness, choices, positive intent, empathy, and consequences.

**Competence**

Spencer & Spencer (1993) defined competency as an underlying characteristic of an individual concerning the effectiveness of individual performance in their work or the basic characteristics of an individual causally related to criterion-referenced, effective or superior performance at workplace or certain situation. Chuan Lin *et al.* (2012:153) noted that the staff knowledge, experiences, and skills could be considered as the foundation of company's core competence.

On the other hand, according to Palan (2007), competency is the underlying characteristics of people that indicate ways of behaving or thinking, which generalize across a wide range of situations and endure for long periods of time. Springer and Oleksa (2017:20) added that competence is treated as a collection of knowledge, skills, and attitudes, whereas personality traits or motivation are more of conditions for building and manifesting competences.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

The research method used in this study is the descriptive research method. According to Fraenkel & Wallen (2008), quantitative research can be classified as either a descriptive or experimental study. The purpose of descriptive research is to familiarize with the phenomena, to gain new insights, and to formulate more specific research problems or hypotheses. Total population was 2416 and based on Slovin's formula for calculating sample size, the resulting sample was 96 employees with a margin error of 10%. Data were collected by distributing questionnaires.

Based on the test of research instrument that is the validity and reliability test, the results showed that the measurement of the questionnaire as a whole is valid and reliable. Hypothesis Test (F-Test and T-Test) was done after having successfully passed the classical assumption test which is the multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity, normality, and autocorrelation. The calculation of correlation coefficient and testing technique was done with computer assistance using SPSS 23.0 program.

**Research Model**

In this case, the authors want to know the relationship among Work Motivation, Work Discipline, Competence factors, and the Employee Performance at Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk. The conceptual model of the study can be illustrated schematically in the following figure:

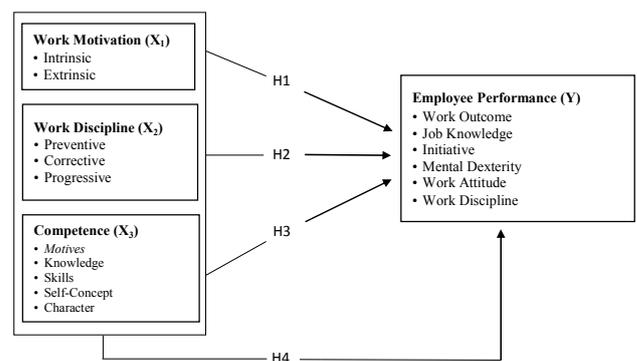


Figure 1 Research Model

**Hypotheses**

- H1: Work motivation affects employee performance
- H2: Work discipline affects employee performance
- H3: Competence affects employee performance
- H4: Work motivation, work discipline, and competence simultaneously affect employee performance

Operational Research Variables

Table 1 Operational Variable Definition

Variable	Dimension	Indicator	Scale/Type of Data	Question Number		
<b>Work Motivation (X<sub>1</sub>)</b> Jones & George (2008) work motivation is a psychological force that determines the direction, level of effort and level of persistence of a person.	1. Intrinsic	1. Development 2. Responsibility 3. Recognition	Likert/Ordinal	1,2 3,4 5,6		
	2. Extrinsic	1. Company Policy 2. Interpersonal Relationship 3. Work Environment		7,8 9,10 11,12 13,14		
	1. Preventive	1. Compliance with applicable rules 2. Exemplary Leader 3. Adherence to company policies		15,16 17,18		
	<b>Work Discipline (X<sub>2</sub>)</b> Mondy (2008) discipline is a condition of employees' self-control and orderly behaviors that show the true level of teamwork in an organization.	2. Corrective		1. Application of Order 2. Reward & Punishment	Likert/Ordinal	19,20 21
		3. Progressive		1. Imposing strict sanctions 2. Sense of justice in the application of punishment		22,23 24 25 26
		1. Motives		1. Work achievement orientation 2. Impact and influence of the work		27
<b>Competence (X<sub>3</sub>)</b> Spencer & Spencer (1993) competency is an underlying characteristic of an individual with regard to the effectiveness of individual performance in their work or the basic characteristics of an individual causally related to criterion-referenced, effective or superior performance in a workplace or certain situations.	2. Knowledge	1. Attention to work procedures 2. Job's technical	Likert/Ordinal	28		
	3. Skills	1. Analytical thinking 2. Customer service		29 30,31		
		1. Confidence 2. Flexibility		32 33		
	4. Self-Concept	1. Initiative 2. Establishing work relationships 3. Teamwork		34 35 36 37		
	5. Character			38		
	1. Work Outcome	1. Work quality 2. Work quantity		39 40		
	2. Job Knowledge	1. Understanding the job 2. Understanding the procedures		41		
	<b>Employee Performance (Y)</b> Vera & Ricardo (2017) work performance is a periodic evaluation of individual behaviors displayed in their tasks and their works, where it is the result of a combination of cognitive ability, personality and learning experiences that form a belief in the organization.	3. Initiative		1. Working without any commands 2. Taking the appropriate measures to deal with problems	Likert/Ordinal	42
		4. Mental Dexterity		1. Accept work instructions 2. Job demands flexibility		43 44
	5. Work Attitude	1. Working with passion 2. Willingness to cooperate		45 46		
1. Work punctuality 2. Attendance		47 48				
6. Discipline						

Source: various of references

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent Characteristics

Most of the respondents were men, totaling 60 people (62.5%), while the women totaling 36 respondents (37.5%). The data of respondent characteristics by their positions were; Manager of 1 respondent (1%), Coordinator of 9 respondents (9%), Officer of 17 respondents (18%), Staff of 50 respondents (52%), and Clerk/Crew of 19 respondents (20%). The studied respondent's level of education varied from high school to bachelor degree.

They composed of 12 respondents with bachelor's degree (13%), 2 respondents with diploma degree (D-3) (2%), and 82 respondents with high school degree (85%). Regarding their working period, the majority of the respondents were in the working period of ≥0-6 years with 67 respondents (70%), followed by those working period of ≥6-12 years with 21 respondents (22%), and the rest was in the working period of ≥12 years with 8 respondents (8%).

Descriptive Analysis

The descriptive analysis aims at describing describe the frequency distribution of respondents' answers based on the

questionnaires distributed to the 96 respondents. This analysis showed that the employees responded appropriately to the three variables of work motivation, work discipline, and competence. The employee work motivation was well-received by the respondents, in which they felt that they were given an opportunity to grow and get support from their supervisors. The employee discipline was also good, the average employee has implemented the current company regulations, and the given sanctions were already appropriate and applied fairly. The employee competence was already good where the employees were capable of mastering their field of work and responded quickly to meet the needs of consumers or colleagues. The employee performance also received good responses from several aspects, especially regarding the ability to quickly adapt to new tasks and new responsibilities and always prepared for instructions given by supervisors.

**Hypothesis Test Results**

**Partial Test (T-Test)**

The statistical test (T-Test) aimed at determining whether partially Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence significantly or not affected the employee performance of Bitung Branch of PT Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk.

**Table 2** Statistical Analysis Results of Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence Variables on Employee Performance

Variables	Determination Coefficient		t-Test	
	R	R <sup>2</sup>	T	Sig
Work Motivation	.532 <sup>a</sup>	.283	6.096	.000
Work Discipline	.431 <sup>a</sup>	.186	4.636	.000
Competence	.778 <sup>a</sup>	.606	12.022	.000

Source: primary data processing with SPSS Version 23, 2017

**Hypothesis 1: The Effect of Work Motivation (X<sub>1</sub>) on Employee Performance (Y)**

Table 2 shows that the t-count value for the Work Motivation variable was 6.096 and the significance value was 0.000. The t-count value of the Work Motivation variable must be compared with the t-table value. The t-table value was measured by calculating the degrees of freedom (df) which is equal to the number of samples minus the number of variables, hence 96 - 4 = 92 and, the next step was to see from r-table what was its value with the df = 92 and level of significance of 5%. The r-table values obtained from the t-table = 1.986. After finding out the value of t-count and t-table, then compare them to determine which one was of greater value. Thus, it was known that t-count value > t-table value. The significance value was 0.000 and 0.000 < 0,05 so for the motivation variable was obtained t-count value > t-table value (6.096 > 1.986). These results indicated that the improvement of the employee performance could be directly influenced by the work motivation variable. Table 2 also showed that the number of the correlation coefficient was 0.532. It means that there was a strong connection between variable X<sub>1</sub> (Work Motivation) and variable Y (Employee Performance). Whereas the determinant coefficient was 0.283, which indicated that there was a contribution from Work Motivation to Employee Performance in the value of 28.3%, and the remaining 71.7% was explained by other factors.

**Hypothesis 2: The Effect of Work Discipline (X<sub>2</sub>) on Employee Performance (Y)**

Table 2 above showed that the t-count value for the Work Discipline variable was 4.636 and its significance value was 0.000. The t-count value of the Work discipline variable should be compared with the t-table value. From the r-table, t-table value was obtained with significance 5% = 1.986. After finding out the value of t-count and t-table, then compare them to determine which one was of greater value. Thus, it was known that t-count value > t-table value. The significance value was 0.000 and 0.000 < 0,05 so the motivation variable was obtained as t-count value > t-table value (4.636 > 1.986). These results indicated that the improvement of the employee performance could be directly influenced by the work motivation variable. Table 2 above also showed that the number of the correlation coefficient was 0.431. It means that there was a strong enough connection between variable X<sub>2</sub> (Work Discipline) and variable Y (Employee Performance). Whereas the determinant coefficient was 0.186, which indicated that there was a contribution from Work Discipline to Employee Performance in the value of 18.6%, and the remaining 81.4% was explained by other factors.

**Hypothesis 3: The Effect of Competence (X<sub>3</sub>) on Employee Performance (Y)**

From the table shown above, it shows that the t-count value for the Competence variable was 12.022 and its significance value was 0.000. The t-table value with df = 92 and the degrees significance of 5%. From the r-table, it was obtained that t-table value = 1.986. After finding out the value of t-count and t-table, then compare them to determine which one was of greater value. Thus, it was known that t-count value > t-table value. The significance value was 0.000 and 0.000 < 0,05 so the motivation variable was obtained as t-count value > t-table value (12.022 > 1.986). These results explained that the improvement of the employee performance could be directly influenced by the competence variable. According to Table 2 above, it also showed that the number of the correlation coefficient was 0.778. It means that there was a very strong connection between variable X<sub>3</sub> (Competence) and variable Y (Employee Performance). Whereas the determinant coefficient was 0.606, which indicates that there was a contribution from Competence to Employee Performance in the value of 60.6%, and the remaining 39.4% was explained by other factors.

**Simultaneous Test (F-Test)**

**Table 3** The F-Test Results of Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence on Employee Performance

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1090.470	3	363.490	48.788	.000 <sup>b</sup>
1 Residual	685.437	92	7.450		
Total	1775.906	95			

a. Dependent Variable: Employee\_work\_performance  
 b. Predictors: (Constant), Competence, Work\_discipline, Work\_Motivation

Source: primary data processing with SPSS Version 23, 2017

Data in Table 3 of Anova test showed F-count value was 48.788 while for the F-table with a significance level of 5% and the df numerator = the number of variables minus 1, thus 4 - 1 = 3, and df denominator = population number - the number of variables, thus 96 - 4 = 92, hence, the measured F-table value was 2.70. If the F-count value was compared with the F-

table value, it will show that the value of  $F_{count} > F_{table}$  ( $48.788 > 2.70$ ). The decision taken based on the above data was that  $H_0$  was rejected and  $H_a$  was accepted. Based on the F-test above, it means that Work Motivation ( $X_1$ ), Work Discipline ( $X_2$ ), and Competence ( $X_3$ ) had a significant effect on Employee Performance (Y) simultaneously.

**Table 4** Multiple Linear Regression Test Result of Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence on Employee Performance

Model	Coefficients <sup>a</sup>			t	Sig.
	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients			
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	11.890	3.448		3.448	.001
1 Work_Motivation	.107	.089	.112	1.212	.229
Work_discipline	-.093	.082	-.101	-1.134	.260
Competence	.745	.086	.769	8.691	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Employee\_work\_performance

Source: primary data processing with SPSS Version 23, 2017

In this study, the authors used Multiple Linear Regression where it was used to connect the dependent variable (Y) with the three independent variables (X) in the following equation,  $Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3$ . The resulting value from that equation is:

$$Y = 11.890 + 0.107 X_1 - 0.093 X_2 + 0.745 X_3$$

**Table 5** Coefficient of Determination Values for Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence on Employee Performance

Model Summary <sup>b</sup>				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.784 <sup>a</sup>	.614	.601	2.730

a. Predictors: (Constant), Competence, Work\_discipline, Work\_Motivation

b. Dependent Variable: Employee\_work\_performance

Source: primary data processing with SPSS Version 23, 2017

Table 5 showed the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of 0.614, which means that the ability of the regression equation in predicting the dependent variable value was 61.4%. Furthermore, the number of 61.4% indicated that the contribution of work motivation ( $X_1$ ), work discipline ( $X_2$ ), and competence ( $X_3$ ) to employee performance (Y) was about 61.4%, while the remaining 38.6% was explained by other variables that are not included in the regression equation model.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### The Effect of Work Motivation on Employee Performance

Based on the research conducted, the results indicated that the Work Motivation ( $X_1$ ) variable has a significant influence on the Employee Performance (Y) variable. The results of this study are consistent with Ali & Ahmed's theory (2009:271), motivation is operationally defined as the inner force that drives individuals to achieve personal and organizational goals. Therefore, each employee will be able to achieve high performance by having good motivations from both within themselves and others. The results of this study support the Jakfar's empirical study (2014) in which it states that the work motivation has a positive and significant influence on performance.

### The Effect of Work Discipline on Employee Performance

Based on the research conducted, the results indicate that the Work Discipline ( $X_2$ ) variable has a significant influence on the Employee Performance (Y) variable. The results of this study are consistent with Gitome *et al.*'s theory (2013:4) that discipline is necessary because it makes a person to be organized and systematic in their work. It enables one to achieve set goals in life, to respond to positive challenges and guard oneself against negative influences. Therefore, employee discipline should be applied to direct the employees to work in a structured manner so they can improve their performance. The results of this study support the empirical study of Thaief *et al.* (2015) which states that the work discipline has a positive and significant effect on performance.

### The Effect of Competence on Employee Performance

Based on the research conducted, the results indicate that the Competence ( $X_3$ ) generates a significant effect on the Employee Performance (Y). The results of this study are consistent with Spencer and Spencer's theory (1993) which stated that competence refers to the underlying characteristics of behaviors that describe the motives, personal characteristics (traits), self-concept, values, knowledge, and skills brought by a superior performer at work. Every employee fundamentally has different competencies because of their nature and gained knowledge. Competence is capable of improving an employee performance through the person's basic capabilities in performing tasks or jobs. The results of this study support Ainhua and Imanol's empirical study (2012) proclaiming that such competence produces a positive and significant influence on employee performance.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### Conclusion

According to the research findings and discussion on the influence of Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence on Employee Performance, it can be concluded that:

1. The results of the conducted hypothesis test found that Work Motivation generates a positive and significant influence on Employee Performance at the Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk and the Work Motivation and Employee Performance have a strong correlation.
2. The results of the second hypothesis test found that Work Discipline has a positive and significant influence on Employee Performance at the Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk and the Work Discipline and Employee Performance have a strong enough correlation.
3. The results of the third hypothesis test found that Competence has a positive and significant influence on Employee Performance at Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk and the Competence and Employee Performance have a very strong correlation.
4. The results of the fourth hypothesis test found that Work Motivation, Work Discipline, and Competence have a positive and significant influence on Employee Performance at the Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk and the Work Motivation, Work

Discipline, Competence, and Employee Performance have a very strong correlation.

### **Suggestion**

In this study, the authors have several recommendations to improve the Employee Performance at Bitung Branch of PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk. The recommendations are as follows:

1. The company has to make continuous changes in the employee motivations by involving them in activities carried out by the company such as gatherings, company anniversaries or engaging the employees in trainings or seminars done both inside and outside of the company.
2. The company should increase the enforcement of employee discipline by applying *Reward and Punishment* system that still need to be applied fairly by looking at the actual conditions, such as categorized attendance apart from the back office employees and the often off-site employees. Not only that, sustainable and transparent socialization should also be done so the employees can understand and enforce the applicable rules of the company.
3. The company must be committed to continuously building up the competence of the employees per the expected competencies of each division or the individual competence demands of their position, especially about the competence of customer services which is the core competency in retail companies such as PT. Midi Utama Indonesia, Tbk. The way is to conduct regular evaluation and training along with conducting assessment center periodically to get a good plan of employee competency development.

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