

A double-edged sword: The moderating role of conscientiousness in the relationships between work stressors, psychological strain, and job performance

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Summary

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Abstract: This study examined the moderating role of conscientiousness in the relationships between work stressors, psychological strain, and job performance. A sample of 250 employees from a large Chinese company was surveyed. Results showed that conscientiousness moderated the relationships between work stressors and psychological strain, and between work stressors and job performance. Specifically, the positive relationships between work stressors and psychological strain, and between work stressors and job performance were weaker for high conscientiousness employees than for low conscientiousness employees. The negative relationship between psychological strain and job performance was stronger for high conscientiousness employees than for low conscientiousness employees. These findings suggest that conscientiousness plays a double-edged sword role in the relationships between work stressors, psychological strain, and job performance.

Keywords: conscientiousness; work stressors; psychological strain; job performance; moderation

Introduction

Conscientiousness is a personality trait that refers to the tendency to be organized, goal-oriented, and self-disciplined (McCrae & McCrae, 1988; McCrae & McCrae, 1992). It is one of the five major personality traits (Big Five) that have been extensively studied in the field of personality psychology (Barrick & Mount, 1991). B

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(... , & A ... 2010; ... , H ... & A d ... , 2006). H ...
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 B ... & J ... , 2010), ... (G ... ,
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O , 2010; & J , 2003).

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I (L , 2004; L , 2005), (C , 2000). B (L , 2004; L , 2005). D (, B , 2004; L & A , 1996; L , 2004; L , 2005; , 2007; , 2011). T (, & O'D , 2001; L & F , 1984) (J , 1998; , C , & J , 1989). E (C , L , & , 2010; , 2007). I

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I (G , 2010) T A (H , 1989, 2001), F (, L , & , 2011; & C , 2006) ; F & L , 1980, 1985). O A (L , K , & H , 2006) , M , & , 2010), (& C , 2006). A (C & M C , 1988), (C & M C , 1992). I (M D , & B , 2009; , L , , & , 2009; T B , & K , 2012). H C (B , & , 2002), (M , 2001), (J , & I ,

ot 2 C ...

... (G. & L., -F., 2007). A ...

Method

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... 30 ...

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D ... 2 ...

(... M K ... L ... & ... 2003). I ...

... I ... 2 ...

... T ...

fi ...

I ... 156 ... A ... 140 (89.74 ...)

... 140 ... 136 (97.14 ...)

... I ... 133 ... A ... 120 (90.23 ...)

... 120 ... 114 (95.0 ...)

26 ... A ...

(100 ...) ... T ...

... T ... 1 ... N ...

... T ... 250.J ...

... 25.74 (=4.24); 0.4 ... 51.20 ... 41.6 ... 8.0 ... 50.0 ... 1.47 (=1.69).

T ... (B... ,1980) ... C ... E ... F ... E ... A ... (94.7 ...) ... M ...

Challenge and hindrance stressors

C ... (2000) 11- ... E ... 1 (o t) ... 5 (t lo t). C ... (... ; C... ' α=.93) ... I ... (fi ... ; C... ' α=.83) ... I ...

Conscientiousness

... M -M ... (1994) (C... ' α=.71 ...) M -M ... G ... B, -F ... M ... (G ... ,1992), ... (... ,.54 .70) ... NEO F -F ... I ... (M ... & N ... ,1996). I ... 40 d ... C ... (...) ... " ... L ... 1 (t I , t) 5 (t I , t).

Psychological strain

d 12- ... G ... H ... (GH -12) ... L (2011) ... (C... ' α=.89 ...) GH -12 ... (1988) ... (... ,L ... , & C ... ,2013) ... 7- (1= to I ... ,7= to I ...). A ... "T ... d ... d." H ...

Job performance

E ... (1997) (C... ' α=.96 ...). ... F ... C ... (1= to I ... ,7= to I ...). A ... T ... fi ...

.96, .01. $\chi^2(25)=29.95, >.10$

.01, 1 5.5 0.2

0.8 15.3

6.8 4.2

13.1

19.7

2.

($\gamma=.19, <.01, \gamma=.15, <.05,$), H

($\gamma=-.07, >.10,$) 2 ($\gamma=.01, >.10$)

($\gamma=.49, <.05,$) (F, 2).

H ($\gamma=-.05, >.10$).

I fi ($\gamma=.22, <.01; \gamma=.20, <.01$) (F, 3 d 4).

C, B (2006)

1 F

T 2. H

	J	
I	5.20** (0.17)	2.62** (0.07)
	0.02 (0.17)	-0.09 (0.13)
A	0.02 (0.02)	0.00 (0.02)
B	0.22** (0.09)	0.03 (0.09)
J	0.12** (0.04)	0.00 (0.03)
C	-1.05** (0.39)	0.54 (0.33)
C	0.01 (0.08)	0.19** (0.08)
H	-0.07 (0.05)	0.15* (0.08)
C	0.16 (0.28)	-0.46** (0.15)
C	0.49* (0.24)	0.22** (0.08)
H	-0.05 (0.17)	0.20** (0.09)
L 1	1.13	0.77
L 2	0.33	0.02
$\chi^2 (=25)$	136.25**	27.58

Not: G d "1" d "2" B d "1" "2" "3" "4" "5" "6" C d "1" "2"

* <.05, ** <.01.

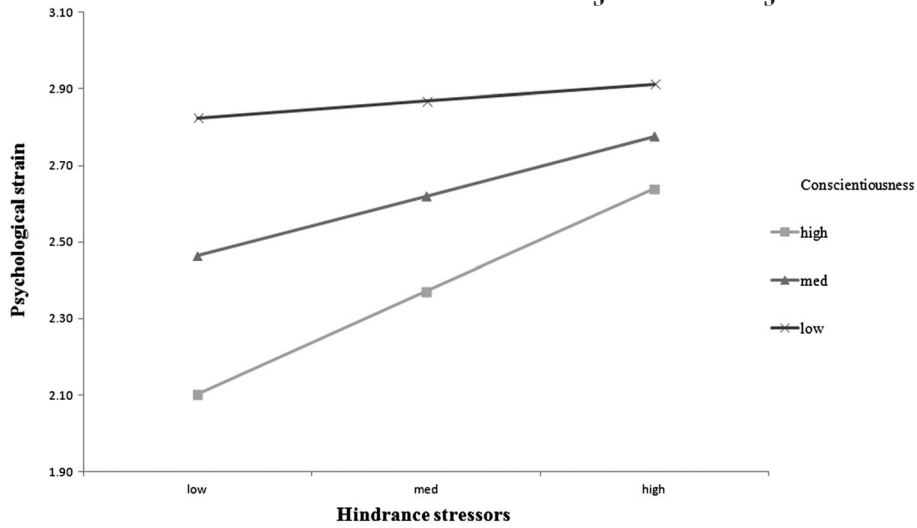


Figure 4. Interaction of hindrance stressors and conscientiousness on psychological strain.

Discussion

The present study examined the relationship between conscientiousness and psychological strain in the presence of hindrance stressors. Results showed that individuals with low conscientiousness experienced higher levels of psychological strain compared to those with medium or high conscientiousness, particularly in the presence of high hindrance stressors.

These findings are consistent with previous research (e.g., Cohen & Ledford, 2014) suggesting that conscientiousness plays a protective role against stress. The interaction effect indicates that the negative impact of hindrance stressors on psychological strain is most pronounced for individuals with low conscientiousness. This may be due to their lower ability to regulate emotions and cope effectively with stressors.

Overall, the results suggest that conscientiousness is an important trait for managing stress and maintaining psychological well-being. Individuals with high conscientiousness may benefit from the structured and organized nature of their personality, which helps them to better manage and cope with stressors. Conversely, individuals with low conscientiousness may need to develop strategies to improve their self-regulation and coping skills to reduce the negative impact of stressors on their psychological health.

2005) (L ...)

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T ... F ... H ... T ... (G ... , 2010). ... A ... C ... A ... T ... (G ... , 2010) ... A ... I ...

T ... L ... (... , 2004; L ... , 2005; ... , 2009; ... , 2009), ... B ...

F ... (E d & M , 1976) ... B ...

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I P ob t to I , 0, 337-396.

H d , G. (2001). *l t o , l , o , t t o , o to o to* .
T d O , CA: .

I , J. M., & M , M. (1983). *t o t , H T : R* .

I , J. M., M , M. , & , C. (1982). *O A d* .

J , M. (1998). *t o o o , I to o I t T d O* , CA:

J , M., & , M. (2008). *I J. B & C. L. C (E)* , *oo o to I*
o (. 498-518). *L d : .*

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to . F . J - B .

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L . T . , & A . , B. E. (1996). *A - d . o , I*
o l P ob , 1, 123-133.

L , D. G., K , K. , & E d , J. K. (2006). *A* , *d*
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A .

L , , L., & C . (2013). *A - d . o o t o , l , 4 , 764-775.*
l P ob t to I 6 2, 308-329.

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, *o o t o , l , 3 , 1057-1069.*

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