Management Research Review

Spiritual intelligence research within human resource development: a thematic review
Arshad Mahmood, Mohd Anuar Arshad, Adeel Ahmed, Sohail Akhtar, Shahid Khan,

Article information:
Permanent link to this document: https://doi.org/10.1108/MRR-03-2017-0073
Downloaded on: 05 May 2018, At: 10:29 (PT)
References: this document contains references to 76 other documents.
To copy this document: permissions@emeraldinsight.com
The fulltext of this document has been downloaded 10 times since 2018*

Access to this document was granted through an Emerald subscription provided by emerald-srm:318572 []

For Authors
If you would like to write for this, or any other Emerald publication, then please use our Emerald for Authors service information about how to choose which publication to write for and submission guidelines are available for all. Please visit www.emeraldinsight.com/authors for more information.

About Emerald www.emeraldinsight.com
Emerald is a global publisher linking research and practice to the benefit of society. The company manages a portfolio of more than 290 journals and over 2,350 books and book series volumes, as well as providing an extensive range of online products and additional customer resources and services.

Emerald is both COUNTER 4 and TRANSFER compliant. The organization is a partner of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and also works with Portico and the LOCKSS initiative for digital archive preservation.

*Related content and download information correct at time of download.
Spiritual intelligence research within human resource development: a thematic review

Arshad Mahmood and Mohd Anuar Arshad
School of Management, Universiti Sains Malaysia, George Town, Malaysia

Adeel Ahmed
School of Management, Universiti Sains Malaysia, George Town, Malaysia and University of Turbat, Pakistan, and

Sohail Akhtar and Shahid Khan
School of Management, Universiti Sains Malaysia, George Town, Malaysia

Abstract

Purpose – This study aims to synthesize the rich knowledge on spiritual intelligence (SI) research within the framework of human resource development (HRD) research.

Design/methodology/approach – Based on the search of multiple electronic databases authors conducted thematic review of the literature on SI and HRD. Themes associated with SI and HRD are extracted while employing the content analysis technique.

Findings – Five major themes emerged through the process of content analysis on the body of the reviewed literature. The themes which described the presence of SI-related research within the field of HRD, included: Conceptual connections between SI and HRD; SI Holistic Mechanism; SI and Leadership development, SI measurement tools and, finally, the impact of SI on sustainability.

Research limitations/implications – The inclusion and exclusion criteria are that the search for this review has been limited to peer-reviewed journals that are published SI-related articles. This paper excluded all articles on SI that do not explicitly discuss the valuable role of human resources. The key words used are spiritual intelligence (SI) and HRD.

Originality/value – This paper offered new-fangled value and insightful understanding on SI and its implications for other areas, more specifically HRD. It suggests that SI is an important component for organizational development. Such interventions nurture the human resources that can lead to better performance as a whole.

Keywords Spiritual intelligence, HRD, Holistic, Human resource development, Organizational theory and behavior, SI models, Thematic review

Paper type Research paper

Introduction

In recent times, spiritual intelligence (SI) is gaining great interest of scholars and practitioners (Mamman and Zakaria, 2016; Munawar and Tariq, 2017). The growing importance of SI has changed the meaning of success in organizations (Karakas, 2010). SI emerged beyond the rational and emotional abilities like intelligence quotient (IQ) and emotional quotient (Mahmood et al., 2016; Zohar, 2012). SI has the aptitude to

The authors acknowledge the support of IPS and RCMO Universiti Sains Malaysia as well as The Sumitomo Foundation, Japan in conducting this research.
re-contextualize the problems faced by organizations and employees, as it would strengthen the prior patterns and thinking being implemented in human resource development (HRD) models, Ahmed et al. (2016a) noted. It also helps employees dissolve the old and previous motivation and replace them with higher and zealous ones (Amram, 2007). Hence, SI provides the basis for meta-strategic thinking (King, 2008).

SI is significantly relevant in obtaining positive organizational outcomes such as organizational performance (Mahmood et al., 2015; Marques, 2008), organizational citizenship behavior (Hunsaker, 2016; Ryan, 2002), sustainability (Akhtar et al., 2015; Collins, 2010; Stead and Stead, 2016) organizational learning (Hawkins, 1991; Howard, 2002; Pluta and Rudawska, 2016) job satisfaction (Roof et al., 2017) and organizational commitment (Markow and Klenke, 2005; Rego and Pina e Cunha, 2008). SI associated to a set of learned abilities that are much needed for human resources. According to Zohar (2012), SI is ultimate intelligence that is non-cognitive and non-logical. The role of SI is to improve employee performance and develop themselves for organizational development (George, 2006). Such characteristics of SI have established an impressive consideration for researchers and practitioners in the field of HRD. HRD has been defined and conceptualized in various contexts or ways; in the context of present research, HRD could be defined as a process of developing and/or unleashing human expertise through organizational development and personnel training and development for the purpose of improving performance (Swanson, 1995).

HRD plays a key role in the development of organizations in an era of rapid and continuous change (Jacobs, 1990). HRD recognizes that organizations merely depend on their employees and consider them as prime assets of the organization (Wilson, 2014). As a discipline, HRD is significantly related with creating a conducive workplace that foster employee self-awareness, sincerity, trust and engagement at work to improved performance (Garah et al., 2012). Such workplace environment need spiritually intelligent individuals "who are able to behave with values and compassion, while maintaining inner and outer peace, regardless of the situation, and are able to successfully cope with the demands of daily life" (Wigglesworth, 2006). Therefore, there is an immediate need for investing in human resources through well-framed SI interventions. Nevertheless, the relevance of SI has established in the body of knowledge with relation to the discipline of HRD. The aim of this article is to offer a thematic review and synthesize the findings of main stream literature of SI and HRD.

Studies within HRD Field

The objective of this research is beyond framing descriptive knowledge on the literature of SI that appears within the discipline of HRD. In this study researchers attempted to integrate the results of thematic categories that have proven the existence of SI-related knowledge in HRD. This logical approach of knowledge exploration within a particular area with the goal for incorporating various independent studies could be considered as an innovative technique which was not taken as a whole in incorporating such mechanism in the past studies.

Further, researchers put an attempt to recognize that studies have dealt with and analyzed in depth the contents of SI literature with respect HRD, thus, confirming the necessity for the present study.

SI theories and definitions

SI is a fast-developing construct in literature. The first book on SI was published in 1997 by Zohar and Marshall, and since then, the academia has encountered major shift in studying the concept of SI, its models and issues of measurements. Emmons (2000) published a highly acclaimed paper entitled “Is Spirituality an Intelligence? Motivation, Cognition, and the
Psychology of Ultimate Concern”. The turn of the millennium saw an explosion of publications on the topic of spiritual intelligence. Most notable was a series of articles published in the *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* that devoted an entire issue to the subject in 2000. SI was introduced to the academic world by Howard Gardner (1983, p. 10) in his book “Frames of Mind: The theory of multiple intelligences” wherein he defined SI in five core components:

1. capacity for transcendence;
2. ability to enter into heightened spiritual states of consciousness;
3. ability to invest everyday activities, events, and relationships with a sense of the sacredness;
4. ability to utilize spiritual resources to solve life problems; and
5. capacity to engage in virtuous behavior or to be virtuous (to show forgiveness, express gratitude, be humble and display compassion).

Based on Howard Gardner’s conceptualisation, SI represents critical problem-solving ability involving spiritual aspects. Moreover, scholars explored a broader perspective and explained SI with its significant characteristics and aspects in Table I.

Till date, three main theoretical models provide a strong base of research on SI. These include Wigglesworth (2012), SQ21: the 21 skills of spiritual intelligence; Ahmed et al. (2016a), Holistic human resource development model; and Fry (2003), Model of spiritual leadership.

**Leading theoretical models of SI**

**SQ21: The 21 skills of spiritual intelligence**

Wigglesworth (2012) integrated the 21 psychological concepts of spiritualism and intelligence into a new concept identified as “Spiritual intelligence”. She defines the 21 skills that comprise spiritual intelligence and in doing so, teaches you the steps to begin developing your own spiritual intelligence. Wigglesworth refers to her method as spiritual weightlifting, a process whereby we work to develop our muscles to shift away from thinking with our self-focused ego to behaving from our more loving and peaceful higher self. Her model is both faith-friendly and faith-neutral, and SQ21 offers a way for atheists, people of faith and those who are spiritual but not religious to understand each other and discuss our universal concerns. Based on the model, SI consists four abilities, as given below (Figure 1):

1. higher self/ego self-awareness;
2. universal awareness;
3. higher self/ego self-mastery; and
4. social mastery/spiritual presence.

**Holistic human resource development model**

The concept Ahmed et al. (2016a) on SI paid more attention to HRD compared with that of Wigglesworth (SQ21 model). According to Ahmed et al. (2016a), current theoretical and practical base of HRD model missed a spiritual dimension in its application. However researchers have the opinion that an holistic approach was better than the traditional model for HRD. Whereby, in the new world economy, human spirit is a core issue of business paradigm. Moreover, the significance of individual spiritual attributes and competencies in organizational life was treated as a missing attribute in the literature. It is strange that
employee ethical and spiritual motives have been neglected, resulting in the worse effect on an employee’s motivation. Hence, spiritual values are a central driving force in adult learning and development. In fact, employee’s SI is a key contributor or predictor of work performance and helps build structural relationships among different variables (Rani et al., 2013). Certainly, SI strengthens human integrative perception of wholeness and thinking beyond materialism, which pushes people toward a spiritual path and helps them cope with painful circumstances (Ronel and Gan, 2008).
A holistic HRD (HHRD) model should incorporate the elements of IQ, EQ and SQ as their main contents in enhancing the quality and worthy of employees in the organization. The proposed figure of the HHRD model in an organization is presented in Figure 2.

Model of spiritual leadership
Fry presented a model of spiritual leadership used to determine employees’ success in the organization. Indeed, spiritual leadership is necessary for the transformation and continued success of a learning organization (Fry et al., 2017). Spiritual leadership taps into the fundamental needs of both leader and follower for spiritual survival so they become more organizationally committed and productive. Model of spiritual leadership consisted of two domains (Figure 3):

1) Creating a vision wherein organization members experience a sense of calling in that their life has meaning and makes a difference.
MRR

(2) Establishing a social/organizational culture based on altruistic love whereby leaders and followers have genuine care, concern and appreciation for both self and others.

Key Questions of the Research
Present study implied an integrative and in-depth review of literature to describe the presence of SI-related scholarly research within HRD literature. Three important questions guided the study:

Q1. What SI studies are published in HRD literature?
Q2. What topics of SI are established and what findings are obtained?
Q3. What are the major implications for research and practice?

Searching process
To obtain and enrich our knowledge, appropriate studies with keywords on the area multiple electronic databases were searched. For example, Human Resource Abstracts, Education Source, SocINDEX, PsycINFO, Business Source Complete, Education Information Resources Centre, Education Full Text, Academic Search Complete, Central and Eastern European Academic Source, Professional Development Collection, Vocational and Career Collection, Business Abstracts and British Education. These databases were searched using the keywords “Spiritual Quotient” and “HRD” or “Human Resource Development”. The term “Spiritual Quotient” was used instead of “Spiritual intelligence” to capture all SI-related studies.

Inclusion criteria
The initial search resulted in 150 entries, which were saved, assigned identification numbers and reviewed. For inclusion in this study, an article had to be:

- Published in a peer-reviewed journal;
- Focused on SI within the context of HRD; and
- Written in English.

Only 33 (21.5 per cent) articles found in the initial search, met the inclusion criteria (refer Table II).

Categorization of themes
The reference information and identification codes for each of the articles were put in an excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet included columns representing author’s name,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Volume (Issue, Year)</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HRMID</td>
<td>14(5), 2006</td>
<td>Mike George</td>
<td>Practical application of spiritual intelligence in the workplace</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>JTP</td>
<td>40(1), 2008</td>
<td>Natti Ronel</td>
<td>The Experience of Spiritual Intelligence</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>JMSR</td>
<td>13(4), 2016</td>
<td>Richard Peregy</td>
<td>Toward a further understanding of work as Spiritual</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>IJPR</td>
<td>10(1) 2000</td>
<td>John D. Mayer</td>
<td>Spiritual Intelligence or Spiritual Consciousness?</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>JMD</td>
<td>28(5) 2010</td>
<td>Jose Luis Daniel</td>
<td>The effect of workplace spirituality on team effectiveness</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>JMP</td>
<td>17(3) 2002</td>
<td>Howard, S</td>
<td>A spiritual perspective on learning in the workplace</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>JBE</td>
<td>78(4) 2008</td>
<td>Gotsis, G. and Z. Kortez</td>
<td>Philosophical foundations of workplace spirituality: A critical approach</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>JMD</td>
<td>25(9) 2006</td>
<td>Joan F. Marques</td>
<td>The spiritual worker An examination of the ripple effect that enhances quality of life in- and outside the work environment</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Themes</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>Volume (Issue), Year</td>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>JSMH</td>
<td>12(1) 2010</td>
<td>Martin Rovers PhD &amp; Lucie Kocum</td>
<td>Development of a Holistic Model of Spirituality</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI and Leadership</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>LQ</td>
<td>14(1) 2003</td>
<td>Louis W. Fry</td>
<td>Toward a theory of spiritual leadership</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>IJLPS</td>
<td>9(3) 2013</td>
<td>Peter Hyson</td>
<td>The spirited leader: the potential of spiritual intelligence to improve leadership</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>LQ</td>
<td>22(1) 2011</td>
<td>L.W Fry et al.</td>
<td>Impact of spiritual leadership on unit performance</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>Quantitative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>JCM</td>
<td>3(4) 2002</td>
<td>Roger Gill</td>
<td>Change management or change leadership?</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>PI</td>
<td>19(1) 2017</td>
<td>Eleftheria Egel &amp; Louis W. Fry</td>
<td>Spiritual Leadership as a Model for Islamic Leadership</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>LODJ</td>
<td>35(2) 2014</td>
<td>Eugene Z. Geh</td>
<td>Organizational spiritual leadership of worlds “made” and “found” An experiential learning model for “feel”</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>LODJ</td>
<td>31(7) 2010</td>
<td>Joanna Crossman</td>
<td>Conceptualising spiritual leadership in secular organizational contexts and its relation to transformational,</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Volume (Issue), Year</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>HRMR</td>
<td>17(1) 2007</td>
<td>Scott A. Quatro, David A. Waldman b, Benjamin M. Galvin</td>
<td>servant and environmental leadership Developing holistic leaders: Four domains for leadership development and practice</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>LQ</td>
<td>16(1) 2005</td>
<td>Laura Reave</td>
<td>Spiritual values and practices related to leadership effectiveness</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>JMSR</td>
<td>2(1) 2005</td>
<td>David A. Cowan</td>
<td>Translating Spiritual Intelligence into Leadership Competencies</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>JMSR</td>
<td>12(4) 2015</td>
<td>Matthew R. Fairholm &amp; Taylor W. Gronau</td>
<td>Spiritual leadership in the work of public administrators</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI Measurement</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>IJTS</td>
<td>28(1) 2009</td>
<td>King, David B</td>
<td>A Viable Model and Self-Report Measure of Spiritual Intelligence</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>JRH</td>
<td>55(1) 2016</td>
<td>Mohammad-Elyas Amirian, Masoud Fazlif-Pour</td>
<td>Simple and Multivariate Relationships Between Spiritual Intelligence with General Health and Happiness</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>JMSR</td>
<td>6(3) 2009</td>
<td>Thomas N. Martin &amp; John C. Hafer</td>
<td>Models of emotional intelligence, spiritual intelligence, and performance: a test of Tischler, Biberman, and McKeage</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Volume (Issue), Year</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>JMI</td>
<td>9(2) 2000</td>
<td>Ashmos, D. P., &amp; Duchon, D</td>
<td>Spirituality at work: A conceptualization and measure</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>IJNS</td>
<td>44(1) 2007</td>
<td>Ke-Ping Yang, Xiu-Ying Mao</td>
<td>A study of nurses' spiritual intelligence: A cross-sectional questionnaire survey</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>Quantitative</td>
<td>Taiwan &amp; China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>IJEM</td>
<td>31(2) 2017</td>
<td>Ramachandaran, S. D. et al</td>
<td>Effectiveness of the use of Spiritual Intelligence in Women Academic Leadership Practice</td>
<td>Empirical</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>WF</td>
<td>66(5) 2010</td>
<td>Mick Collins</td>
<td>Spiritual Intelligence: Evolving Transpersonal Potential Toward Ecological Actualization for A Sustainable Future</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>JMSR</td>
<td>11(2) 2014</td>
<td>Jean Garner Stead &amp; W. Edward Stead</td>
<td>Building spiritual capabilities to sustain sustainability-based competitive advantages</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>SBR</td>
<td>12(1) 2017</td>
<td>Katelin Barron &amp; Shih Yung Chou</td>
<td>Toward A Spirituality Mode of Firm Sustainability Strategic Planning Processes</td>
<td>Conceptual</td>
<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
publication year, journal title, study type (conceptual vs empirical), research method (qualitative, quantitative or mixed), study purpose, study findings, SI model used, implications for research and practice and recommendations for further research. To assess the addressed topics and obtained findings, the authors thematically categorized the articles. Five major categories emerged through a process of content analysis describing the presence of SI-related research in HRD. The themes included the following:

1. **Conceptual connections between SI and HRD**: Discussions on the links between SI and the theory and practice of HRD.
2. **SI and holistic mechanism**: A holistic approach to consider the role and function of human resources in organization with the inclusion of SI in the formulation of HRD programs.
3. **SI and leadership**: The role of SI in building leadership capacity and its links to leadership performance.
4. **SI Measurement**: Descriptions, analysis, discussions and criticisms related to measuring SI.
5. **SI and Sustainability**: The impact of SI training on the sustainability.

**Results**

**SI articles in HRD**

The 33 SI-related articles were published between 2000 and 2017 across 23 peer-reviewed journals (Table II). The publishing journals included *Journal of Management, Spirituality & Religion* (five articles, 16 per cent), *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* (three articles, 10 per cent), *The Leadership Quarterly* (three articles, 10 per cent), *Journal of Management Development* (two articles, 6 per cent), *Leadership & Organization Development Journal* (two articles, 6 per cent), *Human Resource Management International Digest* (one article, 3 per cent), *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology* (one article, 3 per cent), *Journal of Managerial Psychology* (one article, 3 per cent), *Journal of Business Ethics* (one article, 3 per cent), *Journal of Human Values* (one article, 3 per cent), *Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health* (one article, 3 per cent), *Administration & Public Management Review* (one article, 3 per cent), *The International Journal of Leadership in Public Services* (one article, 3 per cent), *Journal of Change Management* (one article, 3 per cent), *Public Integrity* (one article, 3 per cent), *Human Resource Management Review* (one article, 3 per cent), *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* (one article, 3 per cent), *Journal of Religion and Health* (one article, 3 per cent), *Journal of Management Inquiry* (one article, 3 per cent), *International Journal of Nursing Studies* (one article, 3 per cent), *International Journal of Educational Management* (one article, 3 per cent), *World Futures* (one article, 3 per cent) and *Society and Business Review*, (one article, 3 per cent) (Refer Figure 4).

*Journal of Management, Spirituality & Religion* was the most consistent publisher of SI-related research, containing 16 per cent of the total articles. Further, 60 per cent of the articles were conceptual, and 40 per cent were empirical. The empirical studies were quantitative and qualitative for the measurement of SI. Authors also categorized SI articles by countries (Refer Figure 5).

**Topics addressed and findings obtained in the SI-related research within HRD**

The five key themes that emerged from the content analysis of the reviewed articles described the presence of SI-related research within HRD. Each theme is discussed in detail in the following sections.
Figure 4.
SI articles by journals

Figure 5.
SI articles by countries
Conceptual connections between HRD and SI

In the new world economy, the human spirit is a core issue in the business paradigm (Mayer, 2000). Also, SI improves workplace productivity. HRD is a field dedicated to unleashing human expertise to improve performance (Emmons, 2000). HRD has moved beyond training and development to encompass an array of needs for preparing, recruiting, developing, supporting and terminating employees and professionals within organizations (Luis Daniel, 2010). Appropriate training programs and activities performed by the organization in line with the SI definitions and scopes are predicted to be the best solution to the said phenomenon (Ronel and Gan, 2008). SI is the ultimate intelligence (Zohar and Marshall, 2004) that is required in the development process of the HRD model. However, there is lack of understanding of SI in the organization (King and DeCicco, 2009; Ronel and Gan, 2008). The reason behind this is that organizations do not have awareness about the value of SI (Dalcher, 2014). The existence of SI in the organization will develop self-awareness, behavior, judgment of self-control, decision power, flexibility, adaptability, vision, consciousness, value, sense and intuition of the employee. Therefore, SI helps employees evolve toward betterment of the organization. In organizational development, the inclusion of SI in the HRD model will provide significant and effectual role of employees in progressing the organization. In addition, at present, it is claimed that SQ-related trainings have not been practiced in the organization (Zohar and Marshall, 2004).

SI holistic mechanism

According to Kuchinke (2013), previous HRD research and theories generally are not based on the holistic and self-directed approach for employees’ development at work. However, HRD literature shows that there is lack in holistic understanding of human resources in coming out with a holistic HRD program (Ahmed et al., 2016b). Therefore, there is a great call for redesigning HRD philosophy in a holistic manner to establish greater satisfaction for all stakeholders (Marques, 2005). Rovers and Kocum (2010) perceived that the holistic viewpoint was fundamental to humanistic psychology and existentialism that support organization development, employee training and development in prior theories. The holistic development of employees and building learning communities where the organization exploits spiritual needs of people is considered as a new initiative in the HRD process (Ahmed et al., 2016a; Fenwick and Lange, 1998).

However, to be a successful company in today’s world, a combination of both EQ and IQ programs might not be sufficient in producing good results for employees (Cherniss, 2001; Goleman, 2006) because in this age of knowledge and creativity, other intelligence, which is SQ, might be a determining factor (King, 2010).

In the present scenario, the presence of knowledgeable employees in the industry was discovered to be overwhelmed with cognitive capabilities. Employees are becoming better in coping with their emotion while dealing with a chaotic situation, stressful working environment and over demanding tasks. Additionally, there are still organizations struggling with unethical act or behavior of their employees, reckless decisions-making and serious misconduct of their staff, which contributed to a great loss to the organizations’ income. These kinds of issues strongly associated with the issues of employee’s SQ disparity (Vasconcelos, 2015). This argument was supported by Zohar and Marshall (2000) that SI is evolving as a unique approach in developing and molding higher quality of holistic employees yet getting serious attention of the employers. Despite the view of Goleman (1995), which claimed that organizational success depends on the establishment of 80 per cent EQ and 20 per cent IQ, Zohar and Marshall (2004) further argued that IQ and EQ are not
the only predictor of organization’s success because computers have IQ and animals can have EQ. However, SQ would differentiate the abilities of human beings. As a conclusion, organizational sustainability has been proved to fail due to negligence to the SQ element in the organizational development program. The employees who are the main asset of the organization need to holistically develop (IQ, EQ and SQ) in ensuring the organizational sustainability.

SI measurement
Many instruments of varying value have been developed to measure SI. The three ecumenical instruments that, from the author’s viewpoint, are valid and worthy tools for assessing SI are King’s Spiritual Intelligence Self-Report Scale (SISRI-24), Amram’s Integrated Spiritual Intelligence Scale (ISIS) and Wigglesworth’s SQ21 – The Twenty-One skills of Spiritual Intelligence. The most comprehensive work on testing SI was by King (2008); this work developed a self-report measure, the Spiritual Intelligence Self-Report Inventory (SISRI-24) with a psychometric and statistical support.

SI and leadership
Leadership is a top priority for organisations and one of the most researched and debated topics in organisational sciences (Crossman, 2010; Fry et al., 2017). The Leadership Quarterly journal served as a vehicle for advancing the field of spiritual leadership as a focused area of inquiry within the broader context of workplace spirituality (Fry, 2005). Based on Fry et al. (2017), SI highlighted the role of spiritual leadership effectiveness and confronted the conventional thinking that spiritual capabilities had no place in leadership excellence. In addition, Zohar’s (2016) published book “The Quantum Leader: A Revolution in Business Thinking and Practice” is observable within the academic literature. While some scholars argued that SI is meaningfully related to the most effective styles of leadership (Hyson, 2013), there are others who argued that the reported associations between SI and leadership are exaggerated (Ramachandaran et al., 2017). Both perspectives were demonstrated in articles within this review.

Taking a contradictory perspective, Fry et al. (2017) supported the role of SI in leadership and explained how SI was needed for leaders to get along with the employees and increase their engagement in the workplace. The positive role of SI in leaders’ performance was empirically supported by Benefiel et al. (2014) who reported a significant association with certain SI abilities.

SI and sustainability
Sustainability suggests resource conservation and protection of the natural and social environment. However, to reach a sustainable society, it is crucial to take into account the significance of a variety of social issues such as social values, contentment, sharing, goodwill for all and so on (Stead and Stead, 2014). In the competitive world today, we need to have a spiritual basis for the realization of sustainable development in organizations (Barron and Chou, 2017). Organizational sustainability requires a true revolution of our basic values, the development of a spiritual core to our organization and building of institutions that direct our actions in harmony with these values (Collins, 2010). We need an overview, which recognizes the interrelation of things, and view the organization in the most holistic way possible. A spiritual element, which is almost diminished these days in our organizations can help develop a foundation, carrying specific values for these systems, and can motivate us to be sustainable (Akhtar et al., 2015; Collins, 2010) (Refer Figure 6).
Discussion
Scholarly evidence proved that individuals embracing SI are able to contribute in a meaningfully effective way toward the organization in creating the host of positive organizational outcomes. In contrast, the function of HRD is to enhance employee wisdom, their commitment and motivation in organizations. In fact, it is argued that there is a well-established link between the SI and HRD constructs (Brooks and Muyia Nafukho, 2006; Nafukho, 2009). The great pursuit of HRD researchers in identifying SI through learning activities led to the application of quasi-experimental studies. According to the findings, it reveals that individual engagement in SI trainings does not build higher SI among employees (Luis Daniel, 2010; Ronel and Gan, 2008). However, when these trainings are integrated by learning activities with greater coordination, the possibility of change in the system is much higher (Kuchinke, 2013).

Training transfer is a target for any training intervention including SI. Notwithstanding the existence of SI development programs and the implication of such trainings transfer, the exploration in this domain is minimal. The training design and inputs are also essential but missing in the scholarly works. However, researchers failed to design and incorporate SI values in their studies that are not able to depict the details of training interventions communicated to the individuals for the process of spiritual development (Rego and Pina e Cunha, 2008).

The validity and reliability of integrating SI together with the training processes in organizations are rational as SI traits are found strong connection with having certain career development opportunities in organizations. For example, SI has several number of spiritual values of managers required for participants necessary criteria for professionals’ development (Rego and Pina e Cunha, 2008).

Implications for future research
This thematic review has offered number of future directions in the area of SI and HRD. Mainstream literature revealed that SI studies focus on the results of pre-tests and post-tests
training interventions. Within the discipline of training and development, scholars could ascertain some emerging techniques, redesigning the methods of program that assist the expansion of SI. Therefore, conducting research on reframing the content of the learning intervention bring major contribution to the body of knowledge. For instance, such practices must be incorporated in SI interventions to assess and evaluate their larger impact on HRD. Additionally, these practices trigger further research that accounts for individual capacity enhancement through SI training interventions as these antecedents might be significant in boosting the performance of overall programs. Furthermore, there is a strong rationale for employing a meta-analysis mechanism concentrating on the studies that have utilized such interventions in organizations. In fact, present research would contribute to the SI literature and offer a precise evaluation of the reported conclusions to enrich the existing arguments over human development and their spiritual values for organizational growth.

Future researchers might study longitudinal methods that could determine some interesting findings for progress and prosperity of the human resources. Nonetheless, the scarce amount of empirical research on SI and the impact on trainings at workplace also demands more studies (Antunes et al., 2017). Moreover, it also worth noting that the empirical findings on the relationship among SI, leadership and performance are contradictory. Thus, future research might deal with the existing discrepancies and contradictions. To make a major contribution to literature, empirical investigations should incorporate a more solid and accurate methodology. Beside this, the issue with the measurement of concept is still vague as their various definitions and conceptualizations has given. Keeping in mind such prevailing contradictions, future studies should frame a valid and reliable measurement of SI. Another plausible implication of SI is that it requires conducting qualitative inquiry for obtaining detailed and interesting findings. Lastly, in future, qualitative research can capture the role of gender in evaluating the worth of SI within organizations through the experiences of practitioners.

Implications for practice
Given the significance of SI in improving the performance of employees, HRD professionals are encouraged to design SI modules. Undoubtedly, such changes would improve productivity of employees who require higher levels of SI skills, i.e. managerial and service job positions (Dimitriades, 2007). Additionally, SI can be used in the context of ethics and self-awareness initiatives to assist capacity development.

While integrating SI interventions, HRD practitioners are suggested to employ a strong and effective program that must be based of SI principles. Based on such inputs, the development of human resources with team-based learning might be more efficient. However, HRD practitioners engaged in SI training interventions must have details of their target audience that is being benefited from SI interventions. They should also be careful to defend employees against facing any unconstructive outcomes based on the obtained implications of SI interventions. In addition, HRD practitioners should be mindful of what are the pros and cons of SI program in the larger interest of the organization.

Limitations of the study
It is worth mentioning that this study was limited to the articles related to SI within area of HRD. The limitation is concerning our selection of SI papers; although authors tried their best to keep more papers in our study, the discipline of HRD includes a
wide range of sub-areas and there might be related publications, which did not hold the keywords of the paper.

Conclusion
This paper discusses the use of SI interventions in HRD field. However, it should be noted SI component in training programs in organizations would bring steady positive outcomes for all stakeholders. Rather, the improvement of performance is a time-consuming process for organizations to reap the benefits of investing and employing SI interventions. Additionally, SI has been criticized for being inconsistent as per definitions, concepts and theoretical base. Resultantly it has diverse outcomes for researchers as well as practitioners. Despite having the criticisms and ambiguities on the concept of SI, HRD academicians and practitioners are encouraged to promote the notion of SI as creating spiritually intelligent workplaces, perhaps that is a challenging part for HRD to develop research and practice.

References


King, D.B. (2008), Rethinking Claims of Spiritual Intelligence: A Definition, Model, and Measure, ProQuest, Ann Arbor, MI.


Schuller, P.A. (2005), Spiritual Intelligence, AuthorHouse.


Further reading


Corresponding author

Arshad Mahmood can be contacted at: arshadchat@gmail.com

For instructions on how to order reprints of this article, please visit our website: [www.emergalgrouppublishing.com/licensing/reprints.htm](http://www.emergalgrouppublishing.com/licensing/reprints.htm)

Or contact us for further details: [permissions@emergaldinsight.com](mailto:permissions@emergaldinsight.com)