

An Explorative study of the Safety Culture of the Oil Rig Personnel in an Angolan Petroleum Company

Presentation of a qualitative research findings
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Research Introduction

- The offshore oil and gas industry places a strong importance on safety due to its highly risky and hazardous operations.
- Safety culture in the petroleum and natural gas sector is one of the key factors in preventing and reducing accidents risk.
- Safety culture of an organization can be defined as shared norms or values and beliefs that controls the organization or employees' attitudes regarding safety, risk and the appropriate conduct of operational risk.
- Safety culture study on the Angolan oil rig workers because there is almost no literature about this subject on the chosen country.

Research Philosophy – Qualitative Method

- Qualitative Research is the perfect method to study a concept through interviews.
- Method of data collection used was interviews because it helps explore experiences, views and motivation of the interviewees on the subject been studied.
- Semi-structured interviews were conducted on two Angolan male oil rig workers with the aid of an exploratory interview guide.
- Inductive Approach was used as this method targets to make meanings from the data gathered to find relationships and to form a concept.

Aim and Objectives

- Aim:

To gain insight into how has the concept of safety culture been understood by the Angolan oil rig workers and how has it changed in the past five years.

- Objectives:

- How do Angolan oil rig workers conceptualise safety culture in their workplace?
- Which aspects of safety culture do they consider most important?

Research Context Setting

- This qualitative research was set as a case study to explore the concept of safety culture amongst Angolan oil rig workers.
- An interview guide was design to aid the interview and to gain a better understanding of their perspective on safety culture would be concluded, questions such as:
 - The phrase “Safety Culture Perspective” What does it mean to you?
 - What is your experience on safety culture within your company?
 - How would you characterise your experience?

Research Evaluation

- Interviews were conducted to two Angolan oil rig workers.
- Due to the assignment time constraint and the participants rigorous offshore schedules, only two oil rig workers were interviewed.
- To obtain reliable results on this type of research method a greater number of participants need to be part of the study.
- The two participants and the company they work for remain anonymous.
- The interviews were done over the phone, mostly recorded and partially note taken.

Research Evaluation Continue...

- The interviews were done in the Portuguese language and then translated to English as participants were more comfortable in native language.
- Both participants shared similar views and understanding of the phase “Safety Culture Perspective”.
- Both participants are experienced in safety culture due to their years of experience in the company.
- Both participants express the need to improve or strengthen safety culture within their company and managers need to take the lead.
- All methods of qualitative research were followed.

Research - Literature Review

- Article Citation:

Høivik, D., Moen, B.E., Mearns, K. and Haukelid, K., 2009. An explorative study of health, safety and environment culture in a Norwegian petroleum company. *Safety Science*, 47(7), pp.992-1001.

- Review:

- Article focuses primarily on a qualitative study of safety, health and environment culture in one of the Norwegian's top oil and gas corporation.

Research - Literature Review Continue...

- The authors' aims on this study were to explore both the managers and employee's concept and understanding of safety, health and environment in a single company.
- The writers wanted to know how employees with or without management tasks vary in the conceptualization of the safety, health and environment culture and how to create a simple and useful way for communication within the organisation.
- The authors failed to include an even number of female participants to promote gender equality within the industry.
- The authors failed to include an even number of non-management participants which would provide a less bias response leading to a thorough study of the participants perception of health, safety and environment culture.

Research - Conclusion

- There is a great need to create an awareness on safety culture perspective.
- There is a great need to improve the safety culture within the Angolan oil company.
- There is a great need to close the gap between regular oil rig workers and their managers regarding safety culture at work and its concept.
- There is a great need to close the gap on the lack of literature on safety culture in the Angolan oil company.

Research Recommendations

- Provide a more effective communication system between managers and offshore employees in Angola.
- Address the importance of periodical case studies in this subject to continue to identify areas of change, create solution and promote a stronger safety culture among offshore oil workers and managers in Angola.

Citations - References

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Thank You

- Thank you very much for the opportunity to make this presentation.