

# THE MEDIATING ROLE OF BURNOUT SYNDROME IN TOXIC LEADERSHIP AND JOB SATISFACTION IN ORGANIZATIONS

Olkan Budak, Nurgül Erdal

### Abstract

Today, leaders who contribute positively to businesses, as well as leaders who contribute negatively to businesses are increasing day by day. This study was conducted to investigate the mediating effect of burnout syndrome (BS) on toxic leadership (TL) and job satisfaction (JS) in businesses. The results of the SEM analysis, using a sample of 412 participants working in public hospitals in the Marmara region of Turkey in İstanbul, show that toxic leadership (TL) has negative effects on burnout syndrome (BS) and job satisfaction (JS). Although there are studies investigating the direct effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction, there are limited data testing the burnout syndrome subcomponents on the effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction. This research is critical in showing the mediating role of personal achievement burnout (PRS\_Scc) dimension in the effect of toxic leadership (TL) on job satisfaction (JS) sub-components.

Keywords: Burnout Syndrome, Hospital, Job Satisfaction, Organizations, Toxic Leadership

Jel Classification: M10, M12

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

With globalization, intense competition environment, and growing markets, businesses that want to cope with technological advances are trying to prevent situations against performance and productivity. There is an effect between leadership style in businesses and BS and JS (Uzunbacak et al. 2019). Employees are most affected by these situations. Despite working under tiring and difficult conditions, healthcare professionals always strive to perform at the highest level (Erdal and Altındağ 2020). The job requirements of healthcare workers are basically the reason for tiring and difficult working conditions. Considering this in health institutions, it is very important to determine the toxic characteristics of leaders or managers, the factors affecting job satisfaction and burnout to better motivate employee profits. Businesses can only be more successful when they identify and improve them, and they can continue their activities in an

intensely competitive environment.

While value-centered leadership has a positive effect on employees such as transformative leadership,

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ethical leadership, democratic leadership, and authentic leadership, some types of leadership such as authoritarian leadership, narcissistic leadership, destructive leadership, abusive leadership, and toxic leadership also harm employees in working life. It has been studied in many studies (Yalçınsoy and Işık 2018). TL, which is based on transformational leadership theory, is a management approach that causes severe and irreversible harm to its employees with its destructive and negative features. These leaders who have destructive aspects, exhibit negative behaviors, and create major problems in businesses are called toxic leaders (Mehta and Maheshwari 2014). Often, TL is a charismatic person who is high in physical attributes and influences their followers. To mistreat their followers, belittle them, intentionally, intimidate them by threatening them, reduce motivation, act unfairly, cheat, discourage them, to show behavioral disorders that can lead to torture and even killing are toxic leader behaviors (Erickson et al. 2015). Toxic leaders affect their employees negatively (Celebi et al. 2015). Employees' morale motivation decreases, stress and anxiety increase, burnout is seen and job satisfaction decreases.

Lipman-Blumen (2005) divided TL into intentional and unintentional. Deliberate toxic leaders deliberately harm others to increase their status. Unintentional toxic leaders are incompetent people who seriously harm the organization with their meaningless and irresponsible behavior (Mueller 2012). It is thought that the toxic and destructive behaviors of toxic leaders can cause the burnout of employees (Çetinkaya and Ordu 2017). In addition, studies support these findings (Uzunbacak et al. 2019; Yılmaz and Bakan 2019). The level of burnout syndrome created by toxic leadership in employees becomes important at this point. In other words, the psychological state of the employees is as important as their physical health.

Negative situations in the workplace turn into apathy and boredom in individuals and people begin to face failures. The continuation of this negative situation in individuals leads to the development of the syndrome defined as burnout. They define BS as an illness with emotional dimensions, including exhaustion, hopelessness, helplessness, fatigue, and indifferent and negative behaviors of the individual towards his / her job and other people (Kaçmaz 2005). BS, which develops at the end of emotional exhaustion depending on the job, is the feeling of being psychologically inadequate due to the interruption of emotional nutritional resources. As a result of all these developments, negative and cynical feelings occur in individuals toward the people they are in contact with and an unhappy picture develops (Maslach and Jackson 1981).

This study aims to determine the mediating role of burnout in toxic leadership and job satisfaction of employees in university hospitals that direct health education and research to protect and improve the health of individuals who have an important place in the economy. The study consists of two parts. In the first part, a literature review on the subject was made. In the second part, the research methodology, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are given.

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of TL (Wicker 1996) was defined for the first time, but no standard definition was made (Green 2014). There are definitions similar to this concept. Kellerman (2004) used the term "bad leadership", (Padilla et al. 2007) "destructive leadership". Today, the concept of toxic leadership has become important for many organizations. In particular, the United States military has begun to understand and evaluate TL (De Genio 2002; Reed 2004; Williams 2005). In the literature, the words toxic leader, toxic manager, a toxic culture, and toxic organization have been used frequently (Reed 2004). Analyst Gillian Flynn described the toxic manager as a bully, threatening, and shouting manager (Flynn 1999). The concept of TL was popularized by the American academic Jean Lipman-Blumen and stated that some leaders show toxic tendencies that lead to polarization and division in organizations (Heppell 2011)

TL is examined in four sub-dimensions: toxic leadership, selfish, manipulative, unappreciative, and negative mental state (Çelebi et al. 2015; Demir 2020). Although the scale developed by Çelebi et al. (2015) was examined in four sub-dimensions as ignorance, selfishness, and self-interest, Erdal and Budak (2021) examined it as a single dimension in their study with healthcare professionals. Toxic leaders prefer their interests to organizational interests and cause great harm to employees and organizations (Mehta and Maheshwari 2014). At the same time, they cause the destruction of organizations and the distress of employees (McCleskey 2013; Boddy 2011).

Lipman-Blumen (2005) states that the toxic leader is intentionally toxic, that is, deliberately harming others and unintentionally, i.e., with low intention to harm, but their relative incompetence and reckless attitude distinguishes those who harm and those who do. In toxic leadership theories, narcissism can be considered as causing harm, acting deliberately, and engaging in harmful activities (Grijalva and Harms 2014; Krasikova et al. 2013).

Table 1. Toxic Leadership and	d its Sub- Dimensions
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Authors and Year	Number of Toxic Leadership and Its Sub-Dimensions	Definition of Toxic Leadership,			
Whicker (1996).	2	Abusive to Subordinates, Narcissistic.			
Flynn (1999).	2	Abusive to Subordinates, Controlling / Stifling			
Lipman-Blumen (2005).	3	Abusive to Subordinates, Controlling / Stifling, Narcissistic.			
Wilson-Starks (2003).	2	Abusive to Subordinates, Controlling / Stifling.			
Reed (2004).	2	Abusive to Subordinates, Narcissistic.			
Schmidt (2008).	5	Abusive Control, Authoritarian Leadership, Narcissism, Self-Promotion, Unpredictability.			
Çelebi, Güner and Yıldız (2015).	4	Selfish, Manipulative, Unappreciative, Negative Mental State.			
Erdal and Budak (2021).	1	Toxic leadership.			

BS has been defined as the exhaustion of the mental and physical energy of a person who is a social problem since the 1970s (Köse et al. 2011). It was first examined by Freudenberger and Maslach. Freudenberger, who works in the field of health, observed that people around him experience emotional exhaustion and their motivation decreased and expressed this as burnout. Maslach, who researched the field of social psychology, discovered burnout while examining the emotions that activate individuals' feelings on work (Maslach and Schaufeli 1993). The feeling of BS can be considered as a loss of enthusiasm, idealism, energy, perspective, and goals. The individual who experiences burnout feels like constant stress, helplessness, hopelessness, and trapped. As a result, physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion occurs (Gürbüz and Karapınar 2018). It is stated that BS is a frequently seen situation in people who have to work face-to-face with people due to their job (Akyürek 2020). The definition of burnout, which is especially accepted today, is the definition made by Maslach et al. (Maslach 1982; Maslach and Jackson 1981; Pines and Maslach 1980) and deals with burnout as a threedimensional concept. In the literature, burnout dimensions are considered as emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and a decrease in personal accomplishment (Ergin 1992).

Exhaustion/depersonalization: In this dimension, the individual feels emotionally worn out, fatigued, and lacking energy. It is the internal dimension of burnout and is the most important determinant of burnout (Sağlam Arı and Çına Bal 2008).

- Burnout caused by problem-solving / contributing Desensitization, Depersonalization) is the second dimension of burnout and the individual consciously distanced himself from the people he/she has relationships with, disregarding them, behaving as objects, and exhibiting negative attitudes towards the people they serve (Maslach et al. 2001).
- Personal success-induced burnout: this is the third and last stage of burnout. The individual's selfconfidence decreases, he thinks that he is not sufficient and unsuccessful in his job, and this sense of failure increases over time and feels guilty by making wrong behaviors and mistakes. Self-confidence and self-esteem decrease.

BS causes both individual and organizational problems. Therefore, it is very important.

The concept of JS was first discussed in Hoppock's (1935) "Job Satisfaction" book and job satisfaction was evaluated as the level of satisfaction regarding the physical and psychological work environment of the

Authors and Year	Number of Burnout Syndrome and Its Sub-Dimensions	Definition of Toxic Leadership				
Maslach and Jackson (1981).	3	Emotional Exhaustion, Depersonalization, Personal Accomplishment.				
Ergin (1992).	3	Emotional, Depersonalization, Personal accomplishment.				
Maslach, Jackson and Leiter (1996).	3	Emotional, Depersonalization, Personal accomplishment.				
Şıklar and Tunalı (2012).	3	Emotional Exhaustion, Depersonalization, Low Personal Achievement.				
İnce and Şahin (2015).	3	Emotional Exhaustion, Depersonalization, Personal Accomplishment.				
Armağan, Baysal and Armağan (2017).	5	Emotional Exhaustion, Professional Failure, Personal Depersonalization, Professional Depersonalization Personal, Failure.				

**Table 2.** Burnout Syndrome and its Sub-Dimensions

employee (cited in You et al. 2013; Dursun 2011). The positive attitude that emerges as a result of the evaluation between the employees' expectations about their jobs and the work environment and the realizations can be explained by job satisfaction, and negative attitude by job dissatisfaction (Tuna et al. 2016). The most frequently cited definition in defining job satisfaction was made by Locke (1976). Accordingly, Locke defined job satisfaction as "the positive or positive emotional state that emerges as a result of the evaluation of one's work and work experiences" (Locke 1976).

JS is a multidimensional and complex concept. Job satisfaction affects individual characteristics, organizational characteristics, and environmental characteristics. Individual characteristics; personality, age, educational background, intelligence, abilities, interests, and experiences. Organizational features; management philosophy, organizational structure, organizational policies, relations with managers and colleagues, human resources management practices, and working conditions. Environmental features; social and social psychological factors (Özsoy et al. 2014). At the same time, job satisfaction is considered in two dimensions, internal and external (Büyükyılmaz et al. 2018). Inner satisfaction is satisfaction related to the content of the work done. Work structure, job requirements, and tasks required by the job affect

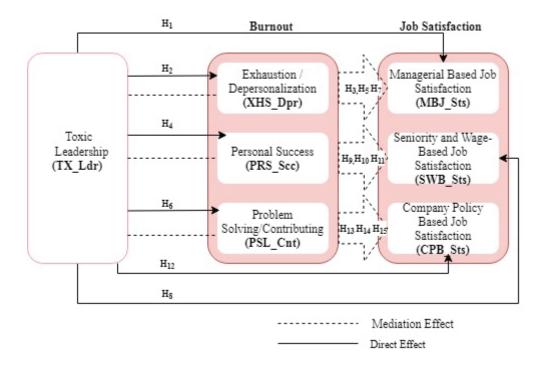
the formation of internal satisfaction (O'Reilly and Caldwell 1980). External satisfaction is the satisfaction of the factors that are not related to the job, but that can be influenced by the work environment (Shim et al. 2002). Job satisfaction plays an important role in the success of businesses and the realization of their goals (Cindiloğlu Demirer 2019).

### 3. RESEARCH MODEL AND HYPOTHESES

### 3.1. Conceptual Model

This study examines the mediating effect of burnout in the relationship between toxic leadership TL and JS. The TL takes his power from his status and manages his followers in line with his interests and offends the employees, reduces their motivation, sees the success of the employee as his success, and blames the employee for the problems that arise in the working environment (Demir 2020). Individual differences affect the perception of JS (Kalleberg 1977). (TL) is directly related to the behavioral style and increases the burnout of employees (Uzunbacak et al. 2019). Most of the causes of BS are related to work and work. BS often stand out for reasons related to the business environment. Studies show that the personal characteristics of the employees, as well as the workplace conditions, cause burnout. It is seen that burnout can be caused

### Figure 1. Conceptual Model



by both individual effects and organizational environmental effects. Burnout is associated with individuals' relationships with other people, attitudes towards problems, self-efficacy, and self-control (Sağlam Arı and Çına Bal 2008).

In this study, toxic leadership was examined in one dimension. Burnout is divided into three dimensions: exhaustion/depersonalization, personal success induced burnout, burnout caused by problem-solving / contributing. Employment is divided into three sections: managerial-based job satisfaction, seniority, and wage-based job satisfaction, company policy-based job satisfaction.

JS consists of salary, seniority, manager, firm policy, and customer sub-dimensions. In this study, it was considered as managerial-based job satisfaction, seniority, and wage-based job satisfaction, and company policy-based job satisfaction.

### 3.2. Toxic Leadership and Job Satisfaction

The most prominent characteristics of toxic leaders are that they benefit from uncertainties, problems, and negativities (Çetinkaya 2017; Eriş and Arun 2020). These destructive behaviors of the leader affect the concepts related to business, organization, and followers. (Ashforth 1994). A toxic leader systematically engages in attitudes and behaviors that sabotage the motivations and job satisfaction of the followers acteristics, the effect of toxic leadership behaviors have been mostly investigated on JS (Schyns and Schilling 2013; Tepper 2000; Tepper et al. 2004). In the study by Schmidt (2014), it was determined that toxic leadership also harmed group cohesion, group cohesion, self-promotion and misconduct, control and unpredictability, and a full mediating effect on group-level job satisfaction. Tezcan Uysal (2019) found a significant relationship between toxic leadership and job stress JS. Toxic leadership is a partial manager variable on job satisfaction of job stress. Lok and Crawford (2003) found a strong relationship between leadership and organizational culture, and job satisfaction. Labreguue (2020) et al. determined the negative effects of toxic leadership on job satisfaction, absenteeism, psychological distress, and intention to leave the profession. Akman found in his 2016 study that there is a significant relationship between teachers' destructive leadership perception and their professional burnout. Eriş and Arun (2020) in general, the perceived TL level of bank employees decreases their JS level. In the study, a significant negative relationship was found between TL and JS. Erdal and Budak (2021) found a negative significant relationship between toxic leadership and job satisfaction and its sub-dimensions. They also found that it affects managerial job satisfaction and job satisfaction based on company policy through organizational trust. In addition, people who are not satisfied with the job want

(Reyhanlıoğlu and Akın 2016). In terms of these char-

to leave the job. Akça (2017) found in his research that toxic leadership affects the intention to quit by 50%.

The following hypotheses have been developed based on studies showing the effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction:

H1: Toxic leadership has a negative impact on managerial-based job satisfaction.

H8: Toxic leadership has a negative impact on seniority and wage-based job satisfaction.

H12: Toxic leadership has a negative impact on company policy-based job satisfaction.

### 3.3. Toxic Leadership and Burnout

It has been pointed out that there may be a relationship between leadership styles and burnout levels. Cinnioğlu (2019) found that change-oriented leadership styles had a significant effect on burnout levels, and production-oriented leadership style had no effect on burnout levels (Cinnioğlu et al. 2019). It can be thought that TL is directly related to the behavior style and that there is a relationship between the autocratic leadership dimension and burnout perceptions of leaders who mistreat their followers. If the employee feels that the leader behaves badly BS level increases, but when he feels a situation arising from the personality of the leader, there is no change in the feeling of burnout (Uzunbacak et al. 2019). In the study conducted by Ordu (2017), a low-level significant relationship was found between all sub-dimensions of burnout and the dependability sub-dimension of toxic leadership and overall. The highest correlation was found between depersonalization (burnout) and self-interest (toxic leadership) sub-dimensions. Significantly predicted a decrease in emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and personal accomplishment along with the dimensions of depravity, selfishness, selfishness, and negative mood of toxic leadership. Bakan and Yılmaz's (2019) study showed that employees' toxic leadership perceptions significantly and positively affect their burnout perceptions. In a study conducted by Larson and Gouwens (2008), Kıyıkçı and Sezici (2017) found that destructive leadership and emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and personal accomplishment, which are sub-dimensions of burnout, significantly predicted the decrease in personal accomplishment. Uzanbacak et al. (2019) found that autocratic management style increased burnout. Koropets et al. (2020) found that toxic leadership increases work stress and cause burnout, disrupts the balance of life, and causes fatigue.

Subsequent hypotheses are proposed based on studies described showing the effect of toxic leader-ship on burnout:

H2: Toxic leadership has a negative impact on exhaustion/depersonalization.

H4: Toxic leadership has a negative impact on personal success-induced burnout.

H6: Toxic leadership has a negative impact on burnout caused by problem-solving / contributing.

### 3.4. Mediating Role of Burnout Syndrome in Toxic Leadership-Job Satisfaction Relationship

Toxic leaders may say bad words to their subordinates or followers, or even make insulting expressions, exploit them, ignore them, do bad things to them, disrupt the psychology of the employees and reduce their motivation to work, and harm both employees and the organization with their negative behaviors (Reyhanoğlu and Akın 2015). Schmidt (2008), on the other hand, evaluates toxic leadership as abusive management, narcissism, self-interest, and changeable mood. Parallel to the work of Çelebi et al. (2015), it is discussed under four main dimensions: worthlessness, selfishness, selfishness, and negative mood. As seen in all these studies, toxic leadership employees can have an impact on physical, mental, and social burnout and job satisfaction. Studies on toxic leadership are very few. No study has been found in the literature on the mediation aspect of burnout on the satisfaction of toxic leadership.

Based on studies showing the mediating role of burnout syndrome in the effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction, the following hypotheses have been developed:

H3: Toxic leadership significantly affects managerial-based job satisfaction through exhaustion/ depersonalization.

H5: Toxic leadership significantly affects managerial-based job satisfaction through personal success-induced burnout.

H7: Toxic leadership significantly affects managerial-based job satisfaction through burnout caused by problem-solving / contributing.

H9: Toxic leadership significantly affects seniority and wage-based job satisfaction through exhaustion/depersonalization.

H10: Toxic leadership significantly affects seniority and wage-based job satisfaction through personal success-induced burnout. H11: Toxic leadership significantly affects seniority and wage-based job satisfaction through burnout caused by problem-solving / contributing.

H13: Toxic leadership significantly affects company policy-based job satisfaction through exhaustion/ depersonalization.

H14: Toxic leadership significantly affects company policy-based job satisfaction through personal success-induced burnout.

H15: Toxic leadership significantly affects company policy-based job satisfaction through burnout caused by problem-solving / contributing.

### 4. SAMPLING AND RESEARCH METHOD

### 4.1. Sampling

Factors such as research methods as well as compliance with normality assumptions affect correct sampling. The main body of the study consists of hospital staff working in Istanbul. Data were collected as a result of interviews with 412 hospital employees working in different fields in İstanbul. This hospital is a university hospital in Istanbul, located in the Marmara region. This university hospital was chosen because it is one of the important universities in Turkey and because it reflects Turkey. The reason why university hospitals are chosen as research environments is that they have the opportunity to allocate more time and resources to on-the-job training and orientation than other private hospitals. When the distribution of the interviews participating in the study is examined, it represents the main population. Since the research includes thirty observed variables included in the analysis, the number of observed variables recommended is above 5 (Hair, et al. 2010). The sample size is over 384 calculated for the convenience sampling method (Yükselen 2006). The average age of the participants who answered the research questions was calculated as 37.2 (SD = 8.81) years, and the average duration of employment was 15.49 (SD = 8.72) years. 292 (70.9%) women and 120 (29.1%) men participated in this study. 108 participants in the 36-40 age group constitute the majority (26.2%). 68 (16.5%) participants in the 31-35 age group and 62 (15.0%) participants in the 46-50 age groups constitute the other weighted age groups. The sum of 60 (14.6%) participants in the 26-30 age group and 46 (11.4%) participants in the 41-45 age group constitutes 25% of the sample size. Other participant groups are 39 (9.5%) in the 21-25 age group, 17 (4.1%) in the 51-55 age group, and 4 (1.0%) over the age of 56.

### 4.2. Measures

The following scale was used in the study: toxic leadership, burnout syndrome, and job satisfaction. The validity and reliability analysis of these scales were tested. In this study, the scale of toxic leadership, burnout, and work integrity was used.

**Toxic Leadership Scale**: The "Toxic Leadership Scale" developed by Çelebi Güner and Yıldız (2015) was used. The scale consists of a total of thirty questions and four sub-dimensions: selfish, manipulative, unappreciative, and negative mental state.

**Burnout Scale**: The data of the study were developed by Maslach and Jackson (1981) and the "Maslach Burnout Scale" was used, which was adapted to Turkish by Ergin (1992). The scale, which consists of twenty-two items, was examined under three subtitles as emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and decrease in personal accomplishment.

**Job Satisfaction Scale**: (Churchill et al. 1974; Comer et al. 1989) developed by Schwepter (2001); The job satisfaction scale developed by the company is used. It consists of salary, seniority, manager, firm policy, and customer sub-dimensions.

The validation of the research questions taken from the scales of which validity and reliability were demonstrated was made through interviews with fourteen hospital staff. After the test versions were made later, data were collected through the research questions that were finalized.

### 4.3. Measurement Model Analysis

Since the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) values were greater than 0.70 and the p-value of the Bartlett Sphericity test results was less than 0.05, it was decided that the data set was suitable for factor analysis (Pallant 2005). In this study, there are 30 observed variables that define 7 latent variables. Implicit variables are: Toxic leadership (TX\_Ldr), Exhaustion / Depersonalization (XHS\_ Dpr), Personal Success Induced Burnout (PRS Scc), Burnout Caused by Problem Solving / Contributing (PSL\_Cnt), Managerial Based Job Satisfaction (MBJ\_ Sts), Seniority and Wage-Based Job Satisfaction (SWB\_Sts) and Company Policy Based Job Satisfaction (CPB\_Sts). First of all, with the significance test, it was examined whether the t-values between the observed variables and the latent variables were significant at the 95% confidence level. As a result of the analysis, it was concluded that the relationships between implicit and observed variables were significant, since all t-values were greater than 1.96. In the next step, factor weights between latent variables and observed variables were evaluated, and factor weights were

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
TX_Ldr (1)	0.892								
XHS_Dpr (2)	0.797**	0.621							
PRS_Scc (3)	0.330**	0.474**	0.552						
PSL_Cnt (4)	0.306**	0.351**	0.498**	0.611					
MBJ_Sts (5)	-0.565**	-0.411**	0.053	-0.054	0.717				
SWB_Sts (6)	-0.328**	-0.194**	0.077	-0.049	0.773**	0.892			
CPB_Sts (7)	-0.317**	-0.222**	0.106*	-0.026	0.776**	0.723**	0.655		
	<ul><li>**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).</li><li>*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).</li></ul>								

**Notes:** Abbreviation: TX\_Ldr = Toxic Leadership, XHS\_Dpr = Exhaustion / Depersonalization, PRS\_Scc = Personal Success Induced Burnout, PSL\_Cnt = Burnout Caused by Problem Solving / Contributing, MBJ\_Sts = Managerial Based Job Satisfaction, SWB\_Sts = Seniority and Wage-Based Job Satisfaction, CPB\_Sts = Company Policy Based Job Satisfaction. Diagonal elements (in italics) are the square root of AVE between the constructs and their corresponding measures and the off-diagonal elements are the correlations between constructs

maintained at the 0.70 level. Therefore, the observed variables with the square of the factor weight less than 50% were excluded from the model. While making this decision, by looking at the  $\chi^2$  changes suggested by Anderson and Gerbing (1988), 20 observed variables in the Toxic leadership scale, nine variables in the burnout scale, and nine observed variables in the job satisfaction scale were excluded from the analysis one by one, and necessary analyzes were repeated each time. As a result, it was decided to keep a total of seven latent variables and thirty observed variables describing these variables in the structural model.

The Cronbach Alpha values obtained in the exploratory factor analysis (EFA) applied are above the Cronbach Alpha value of the model variables and sub-components. According to this result, it can be said that the scales of model variables and subcomponents are reliable. It was tested whether the model remained within the reference values in the factor analysis performed by AMOS using the covariance matrix. The model fit values obtained after the analysis are shown in Table 1, the features of the scales we use (structural items, factor loadings, Average Variance Extracted (AVE), Composite Reliability (CR), and associated fit indices.

Table 3 shows the Fornell and Larcker (1981) criteria results of the scales used in the study and the sample in the study. It is understood from the values in the table that the square root of each independent variable's AVE is greater than the correlations with other latent constructs.

When the measurement model is examined, it is seen that the results are at an acceptable level. Convergent validity has been described as the convergence of elements in the structure or sharing a high percentage of common variance (Hair et al. 2010). Cronbach's alpha, Average Variance Extracted (AVE), and Composite Reliability (CR) indicators can give an idea in terms of convergent validity. If the AVE value calculated by the author is greater than 0.5, it indicates that the AVE value of the indicators is greater than the error variance and that sufficient convergence has been achieved. Show that there is internal consistency The fact that all CR values above 0.7 support the conformity of the structural model with this basic rule (Bagozzi and Yi 1988). Although it is seen that the toxic leadership variable in the structural model has a positive and significant correlation with burnout syndrome, there is a negative and significant correlation with job satisfaction. When the correlation coefficients are examined in general, it can be said that there is no multiple linear connection problem since the tolerance values calculated for all variables do not take a value below 0.10 and VIF values above 10 (Pallant, 2005).

### Table 4. Scales Properties and Items

	Loading
<b>Toxic Leadership</b> (Çelebi, Güner and Yıldız, 2015)	
7-point Likert scale (1= strongly disagree, 2= moderately disagree, 3= slightly disagree, 4= neither agree or	
disagree, 5= slightly agree, 6= moderately agree, 7= strongly agree), AVE=0.892 and CR=0.989	
TL5 (Speaks poorly about subordinates to other people in the workplace).	0.916
TL6 (Publicly belittles subordinates).	0.908
TL16 (Puts personal interests first).	0.954
TL19 (Promotion/position is what matters most).	0.951
TL20 (Has arbitrary behavior and/or decisions).	0.963
TL21 (Thinks that he/she is more capable than others).	0.960
TL23 (He/She believes that the future and the course of the hospital will only get better with him/her).	0.954
TL25 (Believes that he/she is an extraordinary person).	0.951
TL29 (Allows his/her mood to affect his/her vocal tone and volume).	0.956
TL30 (There is instability/variability in his/her behavior).	0.960
Burnout (Ergin, 1992)	
-point Likert scale (1= strongly disagree, 2= moderately disagree, 3= slightly disagree, 4= neither agree or	
lisagree, 5= slightly agree, 6= moderately agree, 7= strongly agree), AVE=0.621 and CR=0.830	
Exhaustion/Depersonalization	
T20 (I feel like I've come to the end of the road).	0.726
T22 (I feel that the people I meet in my job act as if I created some of their problems).	0.784
T16 (Working directly with people puts a lot of stress on me).	0.850
Personal Success Induced Burnout, AVE=0.552, and CR=0.831	
T17 (I create a comfortable atmosphere with the people I come across as part of my job).	0.741
T19 (I have had many notable successes in this business).	0.779
T21 (I approach emotional problems at work calmly).	0.731
T12 (I am strong enough to do many things).	0.721
Burnout Caused by Problem Solving/Contributing, AVE=0.611, and CR=0.758	
T7 (I find the most appropriate solutions to the problems of the people I come across as part of my job).	0.764
T9 (I believe that I contribute to people's lives through my work).	0.799
	0.799
lob Satisfaction (Schwepter, 2001)	
7-point Likert scale (1= strongly disagree, 2= moderately disagree, 3= slightly disagree, 4= neither agree	
nor disagree, 5= slightly agree, 6= moderately agree, 7= strongly agree), Managerial Based Job Satisfaction, AVE=0.717, and CR=0.910	
-	0.942
IT12 (My manager expresses and praises his/her confidence in us in return for a job well done).	0.842
IT1 (My manager usually tries to get our opinion on matters).	0.820
IT3 (Management is open to development).	0.874
TT6 (The manager has always been honest about my matters).	0.852
Seniority and Wage-Based Job Satisfaction, AVE=0.892 and CR=0.989	
IT9 (In my opinion the salaries in this hospital are higher than other hospitals).	0.625
IT7 (Top management does their job well).	0.925
IT8 (There are opportunities for development in the institution).	0.904
Company Policy-Based Job Satisfaction, AVE=0.655, and CR=0.882	
IT19 (Our customers (patients) are very understanding).	0.663
IT14 (The institution runs its business well).	0.874
'IT17 (My job is satisfactory).	0.794
'IT15 (There are enough good jobs here for those who want to progress).	0.887
Fit Indices (CFA measurement model)	
If=381, CMIN/df=1.734, RMSEA=0.042, RMR=0.176, GFI=0.908, CFI=0.980, NFI=0.954, AGFI=0.888	

	Mean	Std. Deviation	VIF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
TX_Ldr (1)	4.410	2.112	2.791	1							
XHS_Dpr (2)	4.424	1.608	3.184	0.797**	1						
PRS_Scc (3)	5.377	1.229	1.561	0.330**	0.474**	1					
PSL_Cnt (4)	5.277	1.408	1.371	0.306**	0.351**	0.498**	1				
MBJ_Sts (5)	4.328	1.651	-	-0.565**	-0.411**	0.053	-0.054	1			
SWB_Sts (6)	3.486	1.795	-	-0.328**	-0.194**	0.077	-0.049	0.773**	1		
CPB_Sts (7)	4.338	1.692	-	-0.317**	-0.222**	0.106*	-0.026	0.776**	0.723**	1	
	<ul> <li>**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).</li> <li>*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).</li> </ul>										

### Table 5. Correlation Matrix (Model Constructs)

**Notes:** Abbreviation: TX\_Ldr = Toxic Leadership, XHS\_Dpr = Exhaustion / Depersonalization, PRS\_Scc = Personal Success Induced Burnout, PSL\_Cnt = Burnout Caused by Problem Solving / Contributing, MBJ\_Sts = Managerial Based Job Satisfaction, SWB\_Sts = Seniority and Wage-Based Job Satisfaction, CPB\_Sts = Company Policy Based Job Satisfaction.

### 4.4. Structural Model Analysis

Direct and indirect effects were tested through the structural model created. It is expected that the p-value, which is one of the goodness-of-fit values, is less than 0.05 (Munro, 2005). In the structural model, the p-value was found to be 0.000. CMIN/DF value below 5 indicates the acceptability of the test (Hooper and Mullen 2008). The CMIN/DF value of the structural model was calculated as 2.53. When the CFI value is

above 0.90 and close to 1, it means that there is no relationship between the variables in the model (Munro 2005). The CFI value was determined as 0.958. The fact that NFI, one of the other fit indices, is close to 1 explains that the fit is higher (Marsh and Grayson, 1995). The result of the NFI value was obtained as 0.932. Similarly, TLI values of 0.952 and IFI values of 0.958 are also within the reference ranges of the goodness-offit. Unlike other indices, the RMSEA value is expected to be less than 0.80, and the level of significance

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### **Figure 2. Structural Model**

increases as it approaches 0 (Schumacker and Lomax 2010). It has been observed that the RMSEA value, which was calculated as 0.061, has a result converging to 0. It has been observed that the structural model meets the reference values in the compatibility indices. As a result of the analysis in which the results were tested with the transformed data, the hypotheses developed were retested and the same results were obtained.

### 5. DISCUSSION

This study, it is aimed to reveal the effects of toxic leadership characteristics on burnout syndrome and job satisfaction. In addition, the mediating role of burnout syndrome in the effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction was tried to be revealed. It was aimed to determine the effects of toxic leadership behaviors of middle and lower-level managers working in the hospital on different components and to make suggestions to upper-level managers, health policy developers, and practitioners. Although the toxic leadership scale (Çelebi, Güner and Yıldız 2015) is considered as a variable whose negative effects on job satisfaction are known, the mediating effect of burnout syndrome, which was not included in other studies, was tried to be tested. The analysis unit of this research consists of hospital staff such as doctors, nurses, caregivers, technical and administrative staff. The said employees included in the study work under a lower or middle-level manager. From this point of view, it can be said that toxic leadership, burnout syndrome, and job satisfaction, which are the 3 main components examined in the research, only reflect the hospital staff. With this feature, the work design gives employees the chance to produce concrete suggestions about the managers to which they are affiliated.

### The effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction

The effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction was tested with the suggested H<sub>1</sub>, H<sub>8</sub>, and H<sub>12</sub> Hypotheses. As shown in Table 3, all 3 hypotheses were accepted. Toxic leadership appears to have a significant negative effect on managerial based job satisfaction (p = 0.000, = -0.467), seniority and wage-based job satisfaction (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = -0.247) company policy-based job satisfaction (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = -0.208). This result is in parallel with the results obtained by other studies (Paltu and Brouwers 2020; Mehta and Maheshwari 2013; Kusy and Holloway 2009; Schmidt 2014). According to the coefficient of determination, toxic leadership explains 35.1% of managerial-based job satisfaction, 17.1% of seniority and wage-based job satisfaction, and 3.3% of company policy-based job satisfaction (p <0.001). It is expected that toxic leadership has more negative effects on managerial-based job satisfaction when the literature is examined.

In the study of Eriş and Arun (2020), a moderately significant negative relationship was found between toxic leadership and job satisfaction. In the study conducted by Schmidt (2008), a medium-level negative relationship was determined between Job Satisfaction and Toxic Leadership.

According to the literatür Kırbaç (2013) 's research; In fact, we see that all organizations potentially contain more or less toxicity and gain a rapid increase, cost the success achieved by subordinates, and exhibit unethical behavior. Thus, it may be more deadlocked in administering (Bektaş and Erkal, 2015). Toxic leadership has the highest negative Beta coefficient on managerial-induced job satisfaction, which is one of the subcomponents of job satisfaction. Therefore, it can be said that one unit increase in the toxic leadership variable affects managerial job satisfaction with a coefficient of -0.467.

### The effect of toxic leadership on burnout syndrome

Supporting the studies conducted, the effect of toxic leadership on burnout syndrome is supported by the acceptance of the proposed  $H_2$ ,  $H_4$ , and  $H_6$  hypotheses. As a result of testing the proposed hypotheses, toxic leadership had a negative significance on exhaustion / depersonalization (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = 0.512), personal success induced burnout (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = 0.208) and burnout caused by problem solving / contributing (p = 0.000,  $\beta$  = 0.207) appears to have an effect. When the obtained R<sup>2</sup> values are examined, toxic leadership explains 62.0% of exhaustion/depersonalization, 15.2% of personal success induced burnout, and 12.9% of burnout caused by problem-solving / contributing (p < 0.001). It is expected that toxic leadership has more negative effects on burnout syndrome when the literature is examined. No study has been found on the mediating role of burnout in the effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction.

Studies have shown that toxic leadership increases employees' burnout syndrome. In their study, Çetinkaya and Ordu (2018) found a low-level significant relationship between all sub-dimensions of burnout and the depravity sub-dimension of toxic leadership and overall. All dimensions of toxic leadership together significantly predict emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and a decrease in personal accomplishment. Bakan and Yılmaz (2019) found that toxic leadership perceptions in their employees significantly and positively affect their burnout perceptions.

When the results are examined, it is seen that toxic leadership has the highest positive beta coefficient on exhaustion/depersonalization. In other words, it can be said that a one-unit increase in the toxic leadership variable affects exhaustion/depersonalization with a coefficient of 0.512.

## The mediating role of burnout syndrome in the effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction

There are studies in the literature showing the mediating role of burnout syndrome in the effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction In the structural model created, the mediating role of burnout syndrome in the effect of toxic leadership on job satisfaction sub-dimensions was tested. While the H<sub>5</sub>, H<sub>10</sub>, and H<sub>14</sub> hypotheses were supported, the H<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>7</sub>, H<sub>9</sub>, H<sub>11</sub>, H<sub>13</sub>, and H<sub>15</sub> hypotheses were not accepted.

# The mediating role of personal success induced burnout

The effect of toxic leadership on managerial-based job satisfaction was found to be statistically significant (p = 0.000, B = -0.467). A positive path and regression coefficient were obtained between toxic leadership and personal success-induced burnout (p = 0.000, 0.208). The indirect effect between toxic leadership and managerial-based job satisfaction was obtained as 0.133 and a 95% confidence interval of 0.049-0.133, since this range does not contain a value of 0, the indirect effect was found to be statistically significant. According to the coefficient of determination, toxic leadership explained managerial-based job satisfaction through personal success induced burnout at a rate of 41.8% (adjusted  $R^2 = 0.418$ ). For this reason, the H<sub>5</sub> hypothesis that "toxic leadership significantly affects managerial-based job satisfaction through personal success induced burnout" was accepted. On contrary to the current studies, it can be said that thanks to the mediating role of personal success induced burnout, middle and lower-level managers with toxic leadership provide managerial job satisfaction in employees with burnout syndrome due to personal success. While it is a result that hospital

employees who provide health care services can be expected to experience burnout syndrome due to personal success due to managers who have toxic leadership characteristics, the mediating role undertaken by personal success burnout syndrome can be explained directly by the professional requirements arising from the provision of health services.

For the H<sub>10</sub> hypothesis where the mediating effect of personal success induced burnout is tested, the effect of toxic leadership in the structural model on seniority and wage-based job satisfaction was tested and found significant (p = 0.000, B = -0.247). At the same time, a positive path and regression coefficient was obtained between toxic leadership and personal success-induced burnout (p = 0.000, 0.209). The indirect effect between toxic leadership and job satisfaction was obtained as 0.048 and 95% confidence interval 0.021-0.082. The indirect effect can be said to be significant since the range found does not contain the value 0. According to the calculated coefficient of determination, toxic leadership explains seniority and wage-based job satisfaction through personal success induced burnout with a rate of 20.7% (adjusted  $R^2 = 0.207$ ). In line with this result, the H<sub>10</sub> hypothesis of "toxic leadership significantly affects seniority and wage-based job satisfaction through personal success induced burnout" was supported. Supporting the mediating role of personal success-induced burnout tested for this hypothesis can be explained by the average working years of the hospital staff in the profession (mean=15.49) and the institution (mean=14.46). Hospital staff can achieve seniority and wage-based job satisfaction due to their long years of work in the profession and institution.

In the structural model tested, the effect of toxic leadership on company policy-based job satisfaction was found to be statistically significant (p = 0.000, B =-0.208). However, as stated before, a positive path and regression coefficient were obtained between toxic leadership and personal success-induced burnout (p = 0.000, 0.209). The indirect effect between toxic leadership and company policy-based job satisfaction was obtained as 0.068 and a 95% confidence interval of 0.036-0.106. Since this confidence interval does not contain a 0 value, the indirect effect was found to be statistically significant. According to the coefficient of determination, toxic leadership explains company policy-based job satisfaction through personal success-induced burnout at a rate of 18.4% (adjusted R<sup>2</sup> = 0.184). In line with this result, the  $H_{14}$  hypothesis of "toxic leadership significantly affects company policy-based job satisfaction through personal success

	Model Pathways	Beta Value	Std. Error	R squared	Indirectly Estimated	95% Cl Lower Upper		Results
H1	TX_Ldr → MBJ_Sts	-0.467	0.037	0.351***				Supported
H2	TX_Ldr → XHS_Dpr	0.512	0.350	0.620***				Supported
H3	TX_Ldr → XHS_Dpr → MBJ_Sts	-0.558	0.670	0.357*	0.910	-0.25	0.244	Not
	XHS_Dpr → MBJ_Sts	0.177	0.105					Supported
H4	TX_Ldr $\rightarrow$ PRS_Scc	0.208	0.290	0.152***				Supported
H5	TX_Ldr $\rightarrow$ PRS_Scc $\rightarrow$ MBJ_Sts	-0.556	0.410	0.418***	0.133	0.049	0.133	Supported
	PRS_Scc → MBJ_Sts	0.412	0.780					
H6	TX_Ldr → PSL_Cnt	0.207	0.350	0.129***				Supported
H7	TX_Ldr $\rightarrow$ PSL_Cnt $\rightarrow$ MBJ_Sts	-0.508	0.410	0.367*	0.041	0.030	0.082	Not
	PSL_Cnt → MBJ_Sts	0.196	0.760					Supported
H8	TX_Ldr → SWB_Sts	-0.247	0.033	0.171***				Supported
H9	TX_Ldr $\rightarrow$ XHS_Dpr $\rightarrow$ SWB_Sts	-0.297	0.057	0.175	0.050	-0.054	0.144	Not
	XHS_Dpr → SWB_Sts	0.097	0.087					Supported
H10	TX_Ldr $\rightarrow$ PRS_Scc $\rightarrow$ SWB_Sts	-0.296	0.037	0.207***	0.048	48 0.021	0.082	Supported
	PRS_Scc → SWB_Sts	0.231	0.065					
H11	TX_Ldr $\rightarrow$ PSL_Cnt $\rightarrow$ SWB_Sts	-0.262	0.036	0.175	0.015	0.015 -0.014	0.046	Not
	PSL_Cnt → WB_Sts	0.070	0.061					Supported
H12	TX_Ldr → CPB_Sts	-0.208	0.033	0.115***				Supported
H13	TX_Ldr → XHS_Dpr → CPB_Sts	-0.267	0.059	0.121	0.059	-0.031	0.155	Not
	XHS_Dpr → CPB_Sts	0.115	0.093					Supported
H14	TX_Ldr $\rightarrow$ PRS_Scc $\rightarrow$ CPB_Sts	-0.277	0.036	0.184***	0.068	0.036	0.106	Supported
	PRS_Scc → CPB_Sts	0.327	0.071	]				
H15	TX_Ldr $\rightarrow$ PSL_Cnt $\rightarrow$ CPB_Sts	-0.229	0.036	0.123	0.021	-0.007	0.054	Not
	PSL_Cnt → CPB_Sts	0.096	0.064					Supported

Table 6. Significant Findings of Direct/Indirect Effects among Model Variables

**Notes:** \*\*\* p< 0.01 (2.33) \*\*p< 0.05 (1.645) \* p< 0.10 (1.282). Abbreviation: TX\_Ldr = Toxic Leadership, XHS\_Dpr = Exhaustion / Depersonalization, PRS\_Scc = Personal Success Induced Burnout, PSL\_Cnt = Burnout Caused by Problem Solving / Contributing, MBJ\_Sts = Managerial Based Job Satisfaction, SWB\_Sts = Seniority and Wage-Based Job Satisfaction, CPB\_Sts = Company Policy Based Job Satisfaction.

induced burnout" was accepted. Based on this result, it can be concluded that even if they work with managers who have toxic leadership characteristics, hospital staff may feel company policy-based job satisfaction depending on the type of burnout syndrome they experience. Burnout personal success-induced burnout stands out as one of the subcomponents of burnout syndrome that draws attention to the accepted mediation hypotheses and provides an opportunity to make inferences for the dimensions of job satisfaction.

### 6. CONCLUSION

### 6.1. Theoretical Implications

With this research, the effects of TL on BS and JS have been tried to be revealed. The studies carried out revealed the direct effects of TL on the JS level (Uzunbacak et al. 2019; Çetinkaya and Ordu, 2018). The research findings of previous studies also support the research findings in terms of the direct effect of TL on JS. However, it is seen that the mediating role of BS on this direct effect is not included in the literature.

Therefore, this study fills an important gap in the literature. From this point of view, the research conducted in terms of revealing the mediating role of the personal success-induced burnout dimension is critical. With the research done, it may be possible to make the following theoretical suggestion: The TL scale can be leveled for different leadership types. Although it requires a very comprehensive study, there will be a chance to measure TL levels according to different leadership profiles with the new scale to be obtained.

### 6.2. Managerial Implications

In terms of the mediation effect of personal success induced burnout, three critical suggestions can be made: The first of these suggestions is to create rational business processes by deducing that the personal success focus of hospital staff is high in terms of personal success induced burnout, which has an intermediary effect in all dimensions of job satisfaction and training the lower and middle-level managers they work with in terms of leadership requirements. The second suggestion is that employees who have a longer working year in the profession than other employees should be given additional responsibilities and authority to increase their job satisfaction level compared to other employees. In university hospitals, additional duties and responsibilities can be added to the employees with various additional assignments in case of need. Since long-term employees know the institution and employees better, their decisions will be more efficient and job satisfaction will be provided.

Finally, it can be measured and rational performance and reward systems can be developed to contribute to job satisfaction dimensions to increase the personal success focus in personal success induced burnout, which acts as an intermediary in all sub-dimensions of job satisfaction.

### 6.3. Limitations

One of the important constraints of the study is that only hospital workers are included. More explanations about managerial-based job satisfaction and company policy-based job satisfaction dimensions can be provided with a study including hospital managers. In addition, with the data to be obtained in higher sample numbers, different suggestions can be made to increase the job satisfaction levels of the employees.

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