



Exploratory Study Examining the Joint Impacts of Mentoring and Managerial Coaching on Organizational Commitment

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Article

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Abstract: A number of organizations have adopted coaching and mentoring interventions to discover and foster the potential capabilities of employees. These practices are seen as competitive drivers to cultivate innovation and creativity in turbulent business environments. However, the literature has not investigated the question of how coaching and mentoring are interrelated. By examining this connection, this study explores the joint effects of these practices on the organizational commitment of employees. The results from survey data of 247 employees, who were coachees as well as protégés at the same time, from 17 companies in South Korea suggested that mentoring moderates the positive relationship between managerial coaching and organizational commitment. In addition, the moderating effects also depended on the extent of the homogeneity of their coach and mentor. The positive relationship between managerial coaching and organizational commitment strongly increased with conditions of higher mentoring and lower homogeneity of coach and mentor. Conversely, the relationship became negative when both mentoring practice and the homogeneity of coach and mentor were low. These results could provide practical implications to organizations that are concurrently adopting both coaching and mentoring programs by helping managers to better understand their joint effects.

Keywords: managerial coaching; mentoring; homogeneity; organizational commitment

1. Introduction

As production and management capacities have become globally standardized, many formerly effective strategies (e.g., cost reduction, speed of technology development, and automation) no longer contribute to competitive advantage [1,2]. Recognizing these threatening environmental changes, companies are striving to achieve competitive advantages with sustainability-oriented innovations [3,4]. One source of advantage can be obtained by engaging and developing talented human resources through organizational development programs such as coaching and mentoring. These popular approaches have been used as catalysts to develop employee potential in business by building one-to-one relationships. South Korea has followed this trend by applying coaching and mentoring extensively and concurrently in the workplace [5].

Coaching is an organizational development strategy that can improve the manager-subordinate relationship [6]. The academic literature reports diverse types of coaching practices, including coaching leadership [7], executive coaching [8], and peer coaching [9]. Although each coaching type has a specific purpose and different coach-coachee relationship, they hold in common the goal to help individuals, groups, or organizations improve competence and performance. Managerial coaching (i.e., coaching leadership or manager-as-coach) is even more prevalent than the other types of coaching in South Korea [5,10]. Managerial coaching means that line managers facilitate their employees' learning as

coach in order to encourage the development of a high-performance work environment [11,12]. More than ever, managers can develop their subordinates within the organization by constructing horizontal and cooperative relationships. Thus, coaching has recently received attention as a form of leadership practiced by managers, and it has been widely applied in many companies [13].

Mentoring is traditionally defined as a developmental relationship between a mentor and protégé who have different levels of expertise and skills [14,15]. Mentors are usually competent senior employees who have rich experience in a particular field, while protégés are considered to have limited skills and experience. Mentoring may be informal or formal, but typically the primary functions associated with mentoring are vocational support, psychosocial support, and role modeling [16,17]. The successful mentor provides opportunities for the protégé to acquire new skills and challenging project assignments, while at the same time engendering psychological safety and encouragement for the protégé through friendship [18]. Furthermore, when he or she identifies with the mentor, the protégé may try to imitate the mentor's attitude, values, and behaviors [15].

Coaching is well known for playing an important role in enhancing employees' work-related performance [6], and mentoring impacts on employees' career development [19]. Coaching and mentoring are acclaimed ways to not only facilitate and support talented employees, but also to accomplish the strategic goals of the company. Accordingly, many companies have adopted simultaneous coaching and mentoring programs in South Korea [5,10]. In general, the employee, as coachee and protégé, receives different benefits from the acting supervisory coach and the non-supervisory mentor. As a result, the employees may confront complex challenges when trying to maintain both coach-coachee relationships and mentor-protégé relationships effectively.

However, most research on coaching and mentoring in organizations has conducted each practice independent of the other, without offering simultaneous or integrated perspectives on both practices in combination. While coaching and mentoring are known to have common effects on employee commitment, turnover intention, performance, and related factors, at the same time, few studies addressed the interaction between coaching and mentoring. Hence, this study focuses on the duality that an employee may experience as a coachee in a coach-coachee dyad and as a protégé in a mentor-protégé dyad. The integrated effects of coaching and mentoring were examined for any synergistic or trade-off effects using the data of 247 triadic relationships in Korean companies that carried out concurrent coaching and mentoring programs. The findings suggest practical implications to maximize the beneficial effects of coaching and mentoring and may contribute to organizations' strategic renewal by more effectively developing talented individuals.

2. Theoretical Background and Hypotheses

2.1. Managerial Coaching

Coaching generally focuses on activities that promote the learning and development of coachees. In comparison, managerial coaching is a differentiated concept that combines coaching and leadership and is defined as managers' coaching activities that lead their own subordinates to improve their performance [12]. Thus, managerial coaching is referred to as 'hierarchical coaching' or 'manager-as-coach' [7].

Managerial coaching is seen as a method to increase firm competitiveness by emphasizing the improvement of relationships between superiors and subordinates [6] and motivates both to improve [20]. Although coaching is generally conducted to reveal the individual's potential in order to maximize his or her performance, it is not the same as teaching, per se. Managerial coaching is not the same as teaching the existing solutions directly but is targeted at encouraging the self-discovery of what the coachee wants to achieve and at facilitating learning [12,13,21]. Therefore, mutual respect and trust between the coach and the coachee are critical to the effectiveness of coaching [22]. Managerial coaching has received particular attention as a core activity that must be performed by managers [23,24].

Many scholars have developed validated concepts in the domain of managerial coaching for business settings [25]. Ellinger, Ellinger, and Keller [12] defined eight types of supervisory managerial coaching behaviors; 'using analogies, scenarios, and examples to help employees learn', 'encouraging employees to broaden their perspectives by helping them to see the big picture, 'providing employees with constructive feedback', 'soliciting feedback from employees to ensure that the interactions are helpful to them', 'providing employees with resources so they can perform job more effectively', 'asking questions rather than providing solutions to help employees think through issues', 'setting expectations with employees to help them see different perspectives'. McLean et al. [26], considering situations in which leaders interact with employees, suggested five managerial skills for managerial coaching based on a careful review of the literature (e.g., [27–29]). These managerial coaching skills include 'development promotion', 'open communication', 'team approach', 'value people', and 'accept ambiguity'.

Empirical studies on the efficacy of managerial coaching have investigated outcome variables such as employee learning [30], self-efficacy [31], motivation [32], commitment to quality [33], performance improvement [12,34], and job satisfaction [35]. These same studies also noted that managerial coaching is connected to many aspects of leadership.

2.2. Mentoring

Mentoring has long been presented in the management literature as a human resource development program [36] or a resource of personal learning [16]. It is difficult to distinguish mentoring from similar terms, such as advising, counseling, and teaching. In addition to the developmental relationship between a more experienced mentor and a less experienced protégé, the unique characteristic of mentoring is to discuss the protégé's thoughts regarding future development [37].

Kram [15] classified mentoring functions into vocational support, psychosocial support, and role modeling. Vocational support by mentors helps protégés learn how to fulfill their roles appropriately and to prepare for career development in an organization. The mentor provides the protégé with support, exposure, guidance, protection, and challenging tasks for the protégé's advancement in an organization [38]. Second, psychosocial support helps the protégé have a sense of psychological stability. The mentor builds empathy for the protégé's personal concerns and establishes clarity about the protégé's ego. This psychosocial mentoring includes counseling affirmation and friendship based on a sense of trust [39]. In an early study [40], role modeling was included in the psychological functions of mentoring. A mentor with referent power can impart appropriate behavior patterns, attitudes, and values to protégés; thus, the mentor can efficiently lead the protégé to adapt to the organization. Although most researchers have attuned mentoring functions to unique contexts, they have used close variants of Kram's definition [36].

A number of studies have proclaimed that mentoring fosters protégés' wisdom when compared to non-mentored employees in the same organizations [17,18,37,41]. These previous studies revealed that mentoring positively affects both job satisfaction and organizational commitment [19]. Fostering the developmental relationship between mentor and protégé, mentoring reduces role ambiguity and turnover rates [16] and enhances resilience [38]. In particular, mentoring as a channel of informational networks is effective in knowledge management [42] and communication based on strong trust [43,44].

2.3. Managerial Coaching, Mentoring, and Organizational Commitment

Organizational commitment refers to the propensity of an individual to have a psychological attachment to an organization [45,46]. It is the force for an individual to identify his/her own values and goals with an organization [47]. Therefore, employees with high levels of organizational commitment tend to perform their duties diligently and generally show low turnover rates [48,49]. For these reasons, organizational commitment has been defined as emotional loyalty to an organization [46].

However, this one-dimensional understanding of the emotional aspects of organizational commitment has been expanded into multi-dimensional concepts. For instance, Allen and Meyer [50]

argued that organizational commitment consists of three types of commitment; affective commitment, continuance commitment, and normative commitment [51]. Affective commitment refers to employees' positive emotional attachment to their organization and the degree of involvement in the organization. Continuance commitment refers to the consideration of costs incurred when the employees leave the organization. Normative commitment is represented as the employees' sense of obligation to remain within an organization.

Coaching can increase employee efficacy, which is an important element of organizational commitment [52]. Mathieu and Zajac [53] emphasized that participatory leadership, such as coaching, is related positively to organizational commitment. According to norms of reciprocity in social exchange theory [54], employees would feel appreciated or even obligated to return beneficial behaviors and to care about the organization's success when they perceive organizational support [55,56]. Managerial coaching can be regarded as a representation of perceived organization support as well as an effective management and favorable leadership behavior [35,55]. Therefore, managerial coaching could give rise to employee's satisfaction on the job and engender a reciprocal commitment to the organization in the social exchange view [35,55–57].

Effective coaching can satisfy employees' desire for a sense of belonging, which reinforces employees' adherence to the organization [50]. A satisfactory coaching relationship can make the organization more attractive, which increases organizational commitment [58]. In particular, the managerial coaching support of direct supervisors may enable coachees to form close ties with their organization [59]. For example, most learning provided in organizations is dependent on supervisors' support as coaches. This support has been reported to have a positive effect on job satisfaction and organizational commitment [60].

Mentoring programs have also been recognized as one method of increasing employees' organizational commitment. Sosik and Lee [61] proposed the representative model, described as including the mentor's social judgment, mentoring functions, and protégés' performance. They then demonstrated that the sub-functions of mentoring have positive effects on organization performance, including increased organizational commitment on the part of employees. Joiner et al. [62] found that successful mentoring programs positively affected employees' organizational commitment and reduced turnover intentions. Ragins et al. [63] demonstrated that protégés experience a greater level of organizational commitment compared to non-mentored employees. Chun et al. [64] identified affective well being and organizational commitment as mutual outcomes of the mentoring relationship. Hartmann et al. [65] posited in detail that mentoring is positively associated with protégés' affective and normative organizational commitment.

South Korean firms, expecting the effects of coaching and mentoring as described above, have adopted and applied such combined programs simultaneously [5,10]. Due to their shared emphasis on continuous, one-to-one interaction, coaching and mentoring serve similar purposes in an organization. This study gives attention to the potential confusion and interaction surrounding these two practices when an employee simultaneously participates as a coachee in a coach-coachee dyad and as a protégé in a mentor-protégé dyad.

Nonetheless, some differences can be described between coaching and mentoring. In the mentor-protégé relationship, mentors who are older or have expertise provide psychological support and social resources to protégés who are younger and insufficiently experienced to pursue growth or career development [41]. On the other hand, coaches are not necessarily older persons or experts. They facilitate business problem-solving for their coachees and develop coachees' competence to create positive outcomes [66]. For example, middle- and senior-level managers or executives who are coachees in an executive coaching context receive help from external consultants, usually with the purpose of improving work effectiveness [8,67].

For their part, mentors need not be direct supervisors of protégés in hierarchical relationships within an organization. Instead, the mentor-protégé dyad generally forms a vertical relationship in which the mentor serves as a role model, offering advice and direction [11,68]. In coaching, direct

supervisors of coachees or external expert consultants can become coaches, but the coach-coachee dyad aims at a horizontal and cooperative relationship to provide timely feedback for work performance. The most common coaching style used in South Korea is managerial coaching [5,10], occurring between supervisors and subordinates, also called coaching leadership.

Based on this review of the relationships among managerial coaching, mentoring, and organizational commitment, we predict that mentoring will positively moderate the relationship between managerial coaching and organizational commitment. When sources of managerial coaching and mentoring are different, as between a supervisory coach and another non-supervisory mentor, it is postulated that the impact of both on employees' organizational commitment will be complementary. That is, when the effects of mentoring increase, the effects of managerial coaching on organizational commitment are greater.

Hypothesis 1. The positive effect of managerial coaching on organizational commitment will be positively moderated by the mentor's behavior.

It is important to note that the interpersonal match within the triad involving the employee, the coach, and the mentor will influence the effects of managerial coaching and mentoring. The existing research about mentoring and coaching indicates that the employee's perceived similarity with his/her coach and/or mentor is related to more positive outcomes from the relationship. The perceived similarity of matching between coach and coachee, including temperament, personality, and other factors, is related to coaching effectiveness (e.g., [69,70]). Also, the perceived similarity between mentor and protégé is associated with more positive outcomes (e.g., [19,41]). Furthermore, we propose the following effects of the homogeneity between coach and mentor:

Hypothesis 2. The positive complementary effect of managerial coaching and mentoring on employees' organizational commitment will be moderated by the homogeneity between coach and mentor.

Although both coaching and mentoring are relational networks that help employees to develop and release their own potential, each of the two activities have different strengths and focus on distinct perspectives. According to social support resource theory [71], coaching and mentoring are social support, which means resources for employees to obtain and reserve. The employees with more resources and diverse social ties can benefit more from the social support. Coaching and mentoring ultimately would play similar roles of supplementing employees' shortcomings and helping employees' development. Therefore, when the coach and the mentor are homogeneous, they could supplement in the same areas with overlapping. Thus, the high heterogeneity between coach and mentor will build up complementary support, utilizing each different resource to compensate for a lack of social resources for employees. Figure 1 provides a conceptual research framework summarizing two hypotheses.

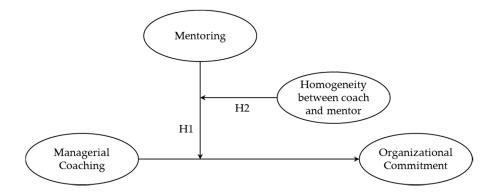


Figure 1. Conceptual research model.

3. Materials and Methods

We tested our hypotheses using a quantitative cross-sectional survey design. Drawing on Brislin's process [72], the survey was first translated from English into Korean and the equivalent meaning was verified through back-translation into English. Three independent bilingual subject-matter experts discussed the entire questionnaire in order to minimize variations attributable to language difference. The subject-matter experts included two practitioners and one professor, each of whom has at least 10 years of experience in human resource management.

The survey was conducted from 15 January to 15 March 2016. Participants were asked to respond to questions on a 7-point scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree). The data for this study were collected from 17 South Korean firms, which had each concurrently adopted both a coaching program and a mentoring program, based on a convenience sampling approach. We first contacted eight consulting service firms that had the experience to provide coaching or mentoring programs and to implement coaching or mentoring systems for their client companies. Then we were introduced to the human resource managers of the client companies. The industries of the participating firms were manufacturing, financial services, and information services with five, five, and six organizations within each of these industries, respectively.

The target population was 700 employees in the 17 firms, who had been assigned concurrently as coachee as well as protégé in the two programs. The questionnaire was distributed via the intranet in the firms and 275 completed questionnaire sheets were collected. After excluding 28 due to incomplete or inaccurate Likert scale entries, 247 sheets were analyzed finally. There was little diversity regarding gender and education. Our data of the triadic relationships consisted of 94.8% male coaches, 91.5% male mentors, and 86.3% male employees. Regarding education, the percentage of the three actors with undergraduate degrees were 81.4%, and post-graduates comprised 11.2%.

To measure managerial coaching, we used eight items developed by Ellinger, Ellinger, and Keller [12]. As a popular metric for managerial coaching, this scale focuses on behavioral experiences that reflect managerial coaching [73]. The reliability coefficient was 0.64, which was below the generally accepted threshold of 0.70 [74]. Two items were excluded from the original instrument concerning alpha-if-item-deleted, and the coefficient alpha for the measure became established at 0.72. The two items excluded from original 8 items were 'my manager uses analogies, scenarios, and examples to help me learn' and 'to help me think through issues, my manager asks questions, rather than provide solutions'. We only could guess three reasons for the exclusion. First, all coaching behaviors have a certain difficulty level, so the two items could refer to the more difficult behaviors involved when managers try coaching subordinates on workplace. Second, our data were influenced by specific cultures. We found a Korean thesis [75] that studied the differences in managers' coaching behaviors among organizational cultures. The study points out the two items that are most different among culture types. Third, we inferred the effect of multidimensional managerial coaching behaviors (e.g., [24,26,32]). The two items were commonly related with indirect examples or questions.

Mentoring, the other main independent variable, was measured using 15 items developed by Scandura and Ragins [76], including three sub-functions based on the classification by Kram [40]. The questions consisted of career mentoring (six items), psychosocial mentoring (five items), and role-modeling (four items). The reliabilities were 0.79, 0.87, and 0.73, and the overall coefficient alpha was 0.79. Considering the recommended level of 0.70 [74], these values could be considered reliable.

Eighteen items based on Meyer et al.'s research [77] were used to collect data on organizational commitment. The questions were classified into three dimensions; affective commitment, continuance commitment, and normative commitment [50]. Three questions, of which alpha-if-item-deleted was high, were excluded through reliability verification. The excluded items were commonly reverse keyed like 'I do not feel emotionally attached to this organization', 'If I had not already put so much of myself into this organization I might consider working elsewhere', and 'I do not feel any obligation to remain with my current employer'. The reliability of the sub-dimensions, measured by five items per dimension, was affective commitment (0.78), continuance commitment (0.72), and normative

commitment (0.85), and the overall reliability was shown to be 0.73. These values, above the minimal acceptable level of 0.70 [74], indicated the good reliability of the measure.

Seven sets of control variables were considered on the basis of prior research. We created two 'dummy' variables, differentiating among three industries; manufacturing, financial services, and information services. We also considered two relationship lengths that were measured as the period of the mentoring relationship and coaching relationship. The perceived similarity was measured using nine items that Eby et al. [78] developed to measure the mismatch between mentor and protégé in the aspects of personalities, habits, dispositions, life priorities, and related factors. The items were reverse-coded, such that higher values represent greater similarity [41,78]. Participants reported their coach and mentor using these questions. Three matches between their coach and themselves, between their mentor and themselves, and between the coach and the mentor were measured. The coefficient alphas were 0.74, 0.78, and 0.81, respectively. Finally, the organizational tenure of each coach and mentor was included, using the number of years employed in the organization.

We examined non-response bias by comparing the first 25% and the last 25% of returned surveys in terms of all items. Using multivariate analysis of variance, we found no significant differences between the two groups on any measures or overall (p > 0.05). We therefore concluded that non-response bias was not a significant problem in this study [79]. Furthermore, we conducted one factor test for checking for common method bias raised by self-reported measures and cross-sectional study design [80]. An exploratory factor analysis of all items resulted in seven unrotated factors with eigenvalues greater than 1.0. The first factor, moreover, accounted for only 18.3% of total variance. Since a single factor did not emerge as dominant, common method bias is unlikely to be problematic in this study.

Confirmatory factor analysis was performed on four key variables; homogeneity with coach and mentor, managerial coaching behavior, mentoring practice, and organizational commitment. As items showing factor loadings lower than 0.50 were eliminated, and the reliability and validity of the measuring scales became acceptable. The excluded items with lower factor loading were the same items with lower coefficient alphas. The lowest composite reliability (CR) score was 0.71, the lowest average variance explained (AVE) was 0.62, and the lowest coefficient alpha was 0.72. These were satisfied with general cut-off scores (CR = 0.70, AVE = 0.50) [81].

As the coachee and protégé respondents were likely nested among their respective coaches and mentors, multi-level structures should also be considered. We checked the influence belonging to each coach or mentor. The unconditional model of hierarchical linear modeling was analyzed in organizational commitment. The results showed random effects to vary, but the higher-level unit was not significant ($u_{0j} = 1.075$, p > 0.05 in coach level; $u_{0j} = 1.087$, p > 0.05 in mentor level). The insignificance suggests that employees' responses were not affected by the higher-level unit. The intraclass correlations, ICC(1), were 0.041 in the coach level and 0.038 in the mentor level. ICC(2) values were 0.090 in the coach level and 0.097 in the mentor level. If accepting the effect of the higher-level unit, ICC(1) values should vary from 0.05 to 0.20 and ICC(2) values should be over 0.50 [82]. Both ICC(1) and ICC(2) were low in our data, which suggests that the effect of multi-level structures was not serious.

4. Results

Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics for the main variables including mean, standard deviation, and zero-order correlation. The relationship length of the mentor and coach, tenure of coach, managerial coaching behavior, and mentoring practice were significantly related to employees' organizational commitment.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Industry 1 ^a	1.00											
2. Industry 2 ^b	-0.44	1.00										
3. Relationship length of Mentor	0.05	-0.11	1.00									
4. Relationship length of Coach	0.04	-0.09	0.22	1.00								
5. Tenure of Mentor	-0.06	-0.01	0.13	-0.04	1.00							
6. Tenure of Coach	0.03	-0.04	0.16	0.04	0.28	1.00						
Similarity with Mentor	-0.08	0.15	-0.05	0.12	0.14	0.15	1.00					
8. Similarity with Coach	0.03	-0.08	-0.03	0.14	-0.16	-0.04	-0.08	1.00				
9. Mentoring practice	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.18	-0.13	0.12	0.19	0.26	1.00			
10. Managerial coaching behavior	-0.09	-0.06	0.09	0.18	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.29	0.21	1.00		
11. Homogeneity of coach and mentor	-0.04	0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0.10	0.03	-0.07	0.02	-0.03	-0.03	1.00	
12. Organizational commitment	-0.02	-0.07	0.34	0.30	0.12	0.24	0.12	0.12	0.25	0.29	0.05	1.00
Mean	0.32	0.30	1.34	1.02	4.26	8.63	4.80	4.88	4.46	4.78	3.42	4.71
S.D.	0.47	0.46	0.55	0.20	1.22	1.20	1.15	1.03	1.11	1.14	1.31	1.01

Table 1. Means, standard deviations, and correlations.

N = 247. All correlations above |0.12| are significant at the 0.05 level. ^a Dummy variables: Manufacturing = 0, Information = 1; ^b Dummy variables: Manufacturing = 0, Financial = 1.

The results of the hierarchical regression analysis included four models, as depicted in Table 2. The impact of the control variables on employees' organizational commitment was significant in Model 1 ($\mathbb{R}^2 = 0.23$; F = 8.99, *p* < 0.01). In Model 2, which tested the main effects of the theoretical variables, managerial coaching behavior ($\beta = 0.183$, *p* < 0.01) and mentoring practice ($\beta = 0.131$, *p* < 0.05) were positively related to employees' organizational commitment, while the homogeneity of the coach and mentor was nonsignificant ($\beta = 0.80$, *p* > 0.05).

Table 2. Results of multiple regression analysis. ^a

Predictor Variables	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Industry 1	-0.063	-0.035	-0.047	-0.049
Industry 2	-0.046	-0.031	-0.043	-0.038
Relationship length of Mentor	0.268 **	0.259 **	0.256 **	0.255 **
Relationship length of Coach	0.208 **	0.175 **	0.181 **	0.175 **
Tenure of Mentor	0.048	0.035	0.040	0.039
Tenure of Coach	0.169 **	0.139 *	0.133 *	0.129 *
Similarity with Mentor	0.089	0.059	0.088	0.093
Similarity with Coach	0.123 *	0.033	0.030	0.028
Managerial coaching behavior (C)		0.183 **	0.166 **	0.157 *
Mentoring practice (M)		0.131 *	0.126 *	0.122 *
Homogeneity of coach and mentor (H)		0.080	0.080	0.106
C imes M			0.160 **	0.167 **
C imes H			-0.018	0.001
M imes H			-0.043	-0.044
C imes M imes H				-0.120 *
R ² (F)	0.23 (8.99 **)	0.28 (8.50 **)	0.31 (7.53 **)	0.33 (7.41 **)
$\Delta R^2 (\Delta F)$	_	0.05 (5.74 **)	0.03 (3.13 *)	0.02 (4.20 *)

* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01; ^a Standardized coefficients are shown for regression onto employees' organizational commitment.

In Models 3 and 4, the interaction terms were added in sequence to test the moderating effects of mentoring practice and the homogeneity of coach and mentor. Following Aiken and West [83], the variables involved in the product terms were mean-centered to avoid multicollinearity. The variance inflation factor (VIF) scores of all variables in Models 3 and 4 varied from 1.03 to 1.48, indicating little distortion of the regression results.

Model 3 contained two-way interaction terms generated by each combination of managerial coaching behavior, mentoring practice, and the homogeneity of coach and mentor. Hypothesis 1 was supported because mentoring practice moderates the positive relationship between managerial coaching behavior and employees' organizational commitment ($\beta = 0.160$, p < 0.01). The simple

slope analysis suggested by Aiken and West [83] of this moderating effect is revealed in Figure 2. The relationship between managerial coaching behavior and employees' organizational commitment was positive for conditions of high mentoring practice, but neutral for conditions of low mentoring practice. As we anticipated, the other interaction effects were not significant ($\beta_{C\times H} = -0.018$, p > 0.05; $\beta_{M\times H} = -0.043$, p > 0.05).

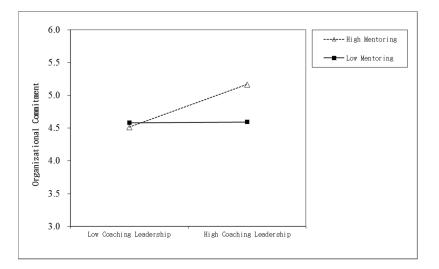


Figure 2. Mentoring practice as a moderator in Hypothesis 1.

In Model 4, we entered three-way interaction terms to examine Hypothesis 2. The interaction terms consisted of managerial coaching behavior, mentoring practice, and the influence of the homogeneity of coach and mentor on employees' organizational commitment. The coefficient was both negative and significant ($\beta = -0.120$, p < 0.05) in support of Hypothesis 2. Figure 3 illustrates the relationship between managerial coaching behavior and employees' organizational commitment under high or low conditions of mentoring practice and homogeneity of coach and mentor. Managerial coaching behavior had the strongest positive relationship with employees' organizational commitment, if mentoring practice was high but the homogeneity of coach and mentor was low. However, the relationship between managerial coaching behavior and employees' organizational commitment was negative when both mentoring practice and the homogeneity of coach and mentor are low.

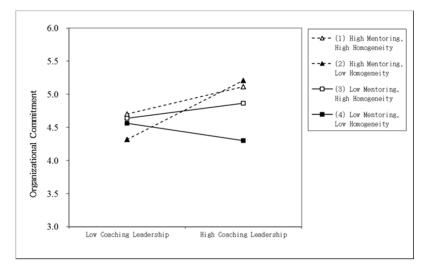


Figure 3. Mentoring practice and the homogeneity of coach and mentor as moderators in Hypothesis 2.

5. Discussion and Limitations

Prior research [18,22,34,65] has suggested that managerial coaching and mentoring have a critical impact on developing employees' potential capabilities. As uncertainty makes predicting the future impossible and complexity increases, the sustainability of enterprises has become dependent on finding ways to realize and improve employees' potential capabilities. Therefore, enterprises striving for new competitive drivers have great interest in managerial coaching and mentoring. However, researchers have shown scarce interest in the effects of simultaneously implementing managerial coaching and mentoring. The present study aims to fill the gaps of previous research by examining the interactions between managerial coaching and mentoring. We not only confirmed the results of previous studies related to managerial coaching and mentoring, but also found the following implications.

This study focused on the viewpoint of each employee as both a coachee and protégé in their organization's concurrently implemented coaching and mentoring programs. Previous studies were limited to coaches and mentors as main actors but overlooked employees who are both coachee and protégé. However, the present study investigated the effects of an interaction between managerial coaching and mentoring. Thus, we anticipate that it will contribute to a more practical enhancement of employees' organizational commitment.

The first finding of our study is that the positive impact of managerial coaching behavior on the organizational commitment of employees is moderated positively by mentoring practices. Although managerial coaching behavior is positively associated with employees' organizational commitment at high levels of mentoring practice, the relationship is not significant at low levels of mentoring practice. The interaction effects of managerial coaching and mentoring offer important implications for organizations that have adopted managerial coaching and mentoring with vague expectations of their effectiveness. In order to maximize the effect of managerial coaching, organizations should carefully consider the integrated dynamics of managerial coaching and offer mentoring to employees within positive managerial coaching relationships.

Next, the positive moderating effects of mentoring practice were extended to incorporate the homogeneity of coach and mentor in the research model. The positive moderating effect of mentoring practice is significantly strong if the homogeneity of coach and mentor is low. Conversely, the moderating effects of mentoring practice are less negative when both mentoring practice and the homogeneity of coach and mentor are low. When employees come to view coaching and mentoring as complementary resources, a high heterogeneity between coach and mentor could play a role in constructing more diverse social ties according to social support resource theory [71]. Thus, these complementary effects could extend the explanatory power from the previous research concentrated on the similarity between coach and coachee (e.g., [84–86]) or between mentor and protégé (e.g., [41,87]).

When the functions provided by a mentor are high, the homogeneity of coach and mentor would not matter in general. By contrast, it would become very critical to ensure a high homogeneity of coach and mentor under the condition that the capabilities of mentor were low. These second findings highlight that companies need to be more careful in selecting mentors and coaches, as well as in optimizing the two practices rather than maximizing their application out of a mistaken assumption that 'more is better'. Similarly, Ellinger et al. [88] insisted that the practical effects of empowerment on an employee's performance could be higher or lower in contexts where the levels of managerial coaching or formal training are substantially higher or lower. Companies should take into account the need to not only understand the functions of coaching and mentoring but also to optimize the homogeneity of coach and mentor.

Despite these findings and implications, this paper has the following limitations that future research can address. First, the effects of managerial coaching and mentoring were measured according to the subjective perception of employees. It is necessary to analyze the opinions of coaches and mentors together in order to enhance the explanatory power of the studies. Second, this study was cross-sectional, so the causality of effects could not be inferred from our findings. The possibility that the organizational commitment of employee leads their interpretation of homogeneity with their coach

or mentor, and vice versa, was not ruled out perfectly. Moreover, organizational commitment increased by coaching or mentoring would be developed over time through dynamic interactions. Thus, in order to control the effect of duration in coaching and mentoring, longitudinal or experimental designs need to be employed.

Third, the sample was very male dominated because of a specific characteristic of the workforce structure of Korean companies. It is possible that the research results would be an artifact of the sample. Fourth, it is necessary to apply multi-level analysis in our research model, because the respondents are nested among their respective coachees and mentors. We checked the random effect in the null model and the intraclass correlations as recommended by Bliese [82], but the effect of the higher-level unit was not statistically significant in our data. The small sample size of each subgroup may cause the insignificance. In our data, the coach had 3 coachees as the maximum and 2.3 coachees on average, and the mentor had 4 protégés as the maximum and 2.7 protégés on average.

Therefore, future research would need to test the proposed relationships by preplanning the designed data to conduct multi-level analysis. Moreover, comparative studies using other outcome variables would be valuable in verifying the differences in the results. For example, organizational satisfaction, promotion, career competencies, turnover intention, and related factors are essential outcomes related to managerial coaching and mentoring in human resource management.

6. Conclusions

In South Korea, mentoring and coaching have been recognized as the important management tools for organizations to achieve the sustainable competitive advantage by developing employees' capabilities. Therefore many South Korean firms adopted concurrently both coaching programs, with the acting supervisory coach, and mentoring programs, with the non-supervisory mentor. This study aims to discover the complex interaction effect of the two practices observed in the companies.

The final results supported the hypothesis that mentoring activities increase the positive impact of managerial coaching on employees' organizational commitment. Furthermore, the moderating effect of mentoring was varied according to the extent of the homogeneity of coach and mentor. Although the moderating effect under the condition of higher mentoring was enhanced when the homogeneity of coach and mentor was low, it was enhanced under the condition of lower mentoring when the homogeneity was high. This study will offer progressive contributions to the literature by integrating the preceding academic results with mentoring and managerial coaching. Also the findings will give practical implications that firms have to consider in the triadic fit between employee, mentor, and coach, whereas most previous studies focused on the dyadic fit between employee and mentor or between employee and coach.

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