# Article information:

Advancing the field of employee assistance programs research and practice: A systematic review of quantitative studies and future research agenda - ScienceDirect
<https://wvpn.wtu.edu.cn/https/77726476706e69737468656265737421e7e056d234336155700b8ca891472636a6d29e640e/science/article/pii/S1053482222000602>

# Article summary:

1. Employee assistance programs (EAPs) have been overlooked from an HRM perspective, but they can play a strategic role in employee well-being and organizational support.

2. This systematic review of quantitative studies on EAPs identifies research themes, methods, theories, and approaches to evaluation, highlighting the need for more comprehensive research in this field.

3. The article proposes several research agendas for future investigation to advance the understanding of EAPs and their integration with HRM and organizational strategies.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Advancing the field of employee assistance programs research and practice: A systematic review of quantitative studies and future research agenda" provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of research on employee assistance programs (EAPs) from a human resource management (HRM) perspective. While the article offers valuable insights into the evolution, functions, and integration of EAPs with HRM practices, there are several potential biases and limitations that need to be considered.

One potential bias in the article is the limited focus on quantitative studies. The authors explicitly state that they conducted a systematic review of quantitative empirical studies on EAPs, which means that qualitative studies or other types of research were not included in their analysis. This narrow focus may limit the overall understanding of EAPs as it excludes important qualitative insights and perspectives.

Another potential bias is the emphasis on EAPs as a strategic tool for organizations rather than a support system for employees. The article highlights how EAPs can play a strategic role in organizational management and performance but does not give equal attention to their primary purpose, which is to provide supportive care for employees facing personal difficulties. This bias towards organizational outcomes may overlook the importance of employee well-being and may contribute to an instrumental view of EAPs.

Additionally, the article lacks a critical examination of potential drawbacks or limitations of EAPs. While it acknowledges that there are differences in how organizations provide EAPs and their connection with other HRM practices, it does not explore any potential negative consequences or challenges associated with these programs. For example, there could be issues related to confidentiality, stigma, or effectiveness that should be considered when implementing and evaluating EAPs.

Furthermore, the article does not adequately address alternative perspectives or counterarguments regarding the effectiveness or value of EAPs. It presents a largely positive view of these programs without discussing any potential criticisms or limitations raised by other researchers or practitioners. This one-sided reporting may give a skewed impression of the current state of knowledge on EAPs.

The article also lacks sufficient evidence or empirical support for some of its claims. While it provides a comprehensive review of existing literature, it does not always provide specific examples or data to support its assertions. This lack of evidence weakens the overall credibility and reliability of the article's arguments.

Finally, the article could benefit from a more balanced presentation of both the benefits and potential risks associated with EAPs. While it acknowledges that EAPs have become essential for many organizations, it does not thoroughly explore any possible risks or negative outcomes that may arise from their implementation. A more nuanced discussion of both the advantages and disadvantages would provide a more comprehensive understanding of EAPs.

In conclusion, while the article offers valuable insights into the field of EAP research and practice, there are several potential biases and limitations that need to be considered. These include a narrow focus on quantitative studies, an emphasis on strategic management over employee well-being, a lack of critical examination of drawbacks or limitations, insufficient evidence for claims made, unexplored counterarguments, and a one-sided reporting approach. Future research should aim to address these limitations and provide a more balanced and comprehensive understanding of EAPs in HRM.

# Topics for further research:

* Qualitative studies on employee assistance programs
* Employee assistance programs and employee well-being
* Drawbacks of implementing employee assistance programs
* Criticism of employee assistance programs
* Effectiveness of employee assistance programs
* Confidentiality and stigma in employee assistance programs

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