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## INFORMATION SECURITY CULTURE GUIDELINES TO IMPROVE EMPLOYEE'S SECURITY BEHAVIOR: A REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES

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### ABSTRACT

This paper reviews Information Security Culture (ISC) studies published in six leading databases from year 2000 until 2016 to investigate empirical findings that could support the relationship between ISC and employee's security behavior as well as to identify the findings that could be applied as guidelines to cultivate ISC in the organization. This review discovered that there is lack of comprehensive empirical studies have been done to provide sufficient empirical findings in supporting the relationship between ISC and security behavior. The approaches of the studies in terms of conceptualization and operationalization of ISC concept also limit the applicability of the findings to be used as the guidelines for ISC cultivation. This paper provides clear justifications on these issues and indicated a clear direction on the future of ISC research to be taken.

**Keywords:** information security culture; information security policy compliance behavior; security behavior.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In organizational context, it was widely accepted that employees are the weakest link in information security chain [1-2]. Most of the time, this is because of their security behavior when dealing with information assets [2-6]. For this reason, information security scholars have recommended practitioners to establish a positive Information Security Culture (ISC) to influence employee's information security behavior so that their behavior will improve and in turn will minimize information security breaches [7-8]. In [9] has defined security behavior as a set of core information security activities that have to be adhered by end-users to maintain information security as defined by Information Security Policy (ISP). From this perspective, the implementation of ISC would influence and improve employees' behavior towards compliance with ISP in the organization.

Despite this strong recommendation by the scholars, it is still unclear regarding guidelines available to establish ISC that will significantly influence employees' security behavior. Although there are some guidelines and standards available for establishing Information Security Management System (ISMS) such as BS 7799 or ISO/IEC 27001 [10] and OECD [11], however these guidelines are not focusing on ISC and there is no proof on its effectiveness in influencing employee's security behavior. Moreover, although there are quite number of ISC-related studies available in literature, there are still no clear and comprehensive empirical findings that could be used as solid ISC guidelines by the practitioners to be applied in their organization. The issue arises as to why so many studies have been conducted but there is still lack of findings that could be used as guidelines to cultivate an effective ISC strategy in the organization. Obviously, in producing the findings that could be used as references for ISC guidelines in influencing security behavior, the studies must provide empirical findings on the relationship between ISC and security behavior. At the same time, these studies must incorporate a clear approach in conceptualizing the ISC concept by using particular aspects or dimensions so that these dimensions could be used as aspects or elements in guidelines of ISC cultivation. In addressing these two main issues, therefore, this study reviews and analyses all ISC studies in literature to answers the two specific Research Questions (RQ) as follows:

RQ1: To what extent the available empirical findings are supporting the relationships between ISC and employee's security behavior?

RQ2: To what extent the available empirical findings are providing clear guideline or strategy in terms of aspects required to cultivate ISC in improving employee's security behavior?

The next section discusses the method and process used in this study followed by results and

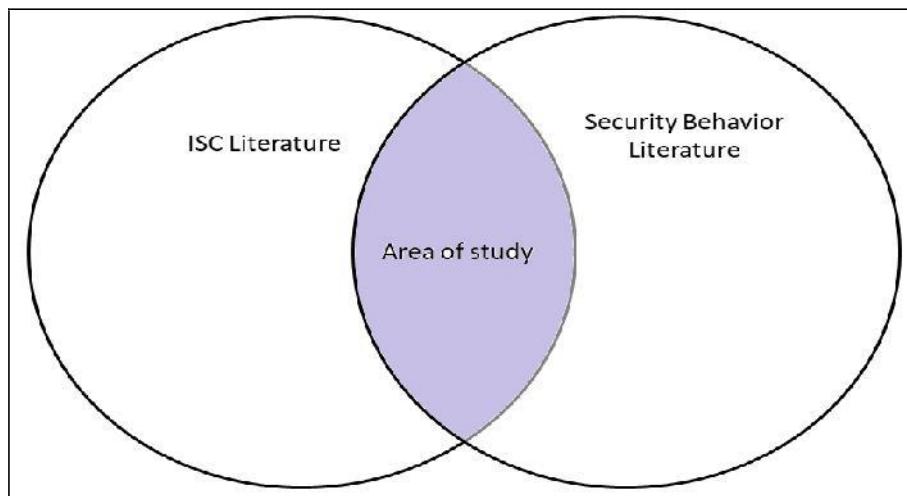
analysis pertaining in answering the two RQs. The implications of the findings are discussed in Discussions section. This paper concludes the findings by summarizing the status and issues of current ISC studies and findings towards contributing to ISC guidelines.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

In general, this review followed reference process of systematic review approach as proposed by [12]. This process consists of seven phases as depicted in Table 1. In the first phase, we defined our two Research Questions (RQs) as discussed in the introduction section. These two RQs also become our scope of review and influenced our direction of activities undertaken. Based on the two RQs, this study requires the selection of articles that overlapped from two areas of literature, which are ISC and security behavior as depicted in Fig. 1. This is because we have to find and analyze the studies that specifically examined the relationship between ISC and security behavior. Therefore, in the second phase, in order to get more coverage of articles selection, we decided to do the searching process towards six leading databases in computing fields which include the Google scholar, IEEE/IEE Electronic Library, EBSCOhost, Elsevier Science Direct, ACM and Emerald Library.

**Table 1.** Phases of the reference process for a systematic review [12]

| Phase   | Output  |
|---|---|
| 1. Defining the research question   | Research Question   |
| 2. Building the Infrastructure  | Conceptual meta-model as a framework to represent the subject matter<br>Classification system |
| 3. Searching the literature   | Preliminary inclusion of studies based on database research                                   |
| 4. Selecting the studies for inclusion  | Set of final eligible studies   |
| 5. Assessing the quality of included studies and structuring of their results | Assessed and structured studies   |
| 6. Combining the results  | Representation of the gained and integrated results   |
| 7. Create a structured report   | Report on the findings and the evidence gained  |



**Fig.1.** Area of study in which articles are selected from

In the third phase, we decided to start the searching by focusing on all ISC-related articles based on keywords of “Information Security Culture” and “Security Culture”. Specifically, in this phase of literature search process, we also followed guidelines by [13] in order to establish the reliability and validity of this review. All key aspects and activities in searching the articles are recorded and described in this study. Besides using the six databases as mentioned above, we also performed forward and backward searches based on identified articles. Then, based on these ISC-related articles that we discovered, we narrow-down our search to select only ISC articles that have examined relationship with security behavior and other additional inclusion criteria. This was done by assessment on the title, abstract, and then by full-text evaluation. In summary, the inclusion criteria are as the following:

1. The article must be written in English
2. The article is peer reviewed and published in year 2000 until 2016
3. The article must reporting empirical findings on relationship between ISC and employee’s security behavior in the organizational settings
4. The ISC concept used in the study must be clearly conceptualized and operationalized

The selected articles were analyzed accordingly to answer the two research questions for this review. The inclusion criteria of articles selection above also represent the fourth phase of our systematic review. All the selected papers and justifications of selection are discussed in the following sections.

In the fifth phase, the quality of selected articles is determined by the evidences provided by the articles in answering the two RQs. For RQ1, the articles must provide statistical evidence on the relationship between ISC and security behavior. In this study, the statistical results of selected studies in terms of path coefficient,  $\beta$  and Spearman Correlation,  $r$  as these values are

representing the relationship between ISC and security behavior. As for RQ2, the articles selected also must clearly define the ISC concept used in the study so that we could identify the type of construct particularly in terms of dimension of the construct. In ISC literature, generally there are two types of ISC construct. The first one is single-level construct. It is in the form of general aspect of ISC construct measured by several reflective indicators [14-15]. The second conceptualization approach treats ISC as multidimensional second-order construct [16-17].

From the perspective of our study, the second approach of conceptualization of multidimensional construct will provide more comprehensive findings especially in providing clearer aspects of ISC guidelines. Since these dimensions are representing distinct aspects of ISC used in the study, these dimensions also representing guidelines in terms of aspects to be used in cultivating ISC. For example in [17], the authors used dimensions of Top Management Commitment, Security Communications and Monitoring in representing ISC concept. They found out that these dimensions were significant in forming ISC concept and could be used as a guideline to cultivate ISC in an organization. On the other hand, the studies that did not use particular dimensions in representing their ISC concept could not provide clear and distinct aspects of ISC to be used as guidelines or strategies to cultivate ISC. Instead of using particular dimensions, the ISC concept in these studies are conceptualized and operationalized as reflective constructs measured by several interchangeably indicators that usually representing the same aspect of ISC. Therefore, the findings from these studies could only provide the findings on the relationship between ISC and security behavior but could not provide particular guidelines on how to cultivate ISC. All the detail discussions regarding these two RQs are presented in the later sections as these will represent the sixth phase of our systematic review process.

### **3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

The results of searching process based on the keywords from selected databases as well as forward and backward searches are presented in Table 2. Some articles are published in more than one database. One article which is [18] has been excluded from the study because we cannot find the English version of this article. The final number of articles available is 116. However, after full text reading and analysis based on inclusion criteria, only six articles met all the criteria to be used in this review. In specific, there are only 5% articles from 116 articles found in the searching process that empirically study the relationship between ISC and security behavior. The next subsections will investigate these issues in more detail based on

the RQs.

**Table 2.** Search results

| Database        | Articles  |
|-----------------|---|
| Ebscohost       | [19-39], [3]  |
| ACM             | [20], [40-42]   |
| Google Scholar  | [3], [8], [38], [24-26], [18-19], [32], [28-30], [15], [17], [21], [40-106]   |
| Science Direct  | [30], [107], [14], [22], [25-26], [28-29], [92], [3], [38], [108], [32], [56] |
| Emerald         | [97], [17], [68], [109-110]   |
| IEEE Xplore     | [7], [82], [64], [47], [44], [84], [111-124]                                  |
| Forward search  | [125]   |
| Backward search | [16], [126-127]   |

### 3.1. RQ1

To answer this RQ, a detailed view of all empirical findings on the relationship between ISC and particular security behavior constructs need to be presented. This will provide a whole picture on the effect of ISC towards security behavior from current literature. Table 3 shows statistical findings on the relationships between ISC and particular constructs of security behavior in terms of path coefficient ( $\beta$ ) and correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) for all selected studies. It also shows the ISC concept based on dimension and particular aspects used for each dimension. The table shows that security behavior constructs consist of Attitude (ATT) and Normative Belief (NB), as well as the ultimate dependent variable of interest in the selected studies. Interestingly, despite strong recommendations from information security scholars that the cultivation of positive ISC will influence employees' security behavior in line with ISP, there is actually lack of empirical findings to confirm this relationship. As mentioned in previous section, there only 6 from 116 studies that specifically examine the relationship between ISC and security behavior. This is an indication that instead of widely recommendation of ISC establishment in guiding employee's security behavior, there is actually lack of findings available to be used as guidelines to cultivate an effective ISC.

According to Table 3, there are also some mixed findings have been produced by these six studies. Specifically, in [127] has found that there is non-significant relationship between ISC and Attitude as well as between ISC and Normative Belief in line with ISP violation. This finding also reported by [128] in their systematic literature review suggesting that security culture is a weak predictor towards dependent variables used in security behavior literature. The author in [127] has concluded that although an organization has strong ISC, the ISC

could not influence the employees in weakening their attitude and normative belief towards violating the ISP. This is because ISC concept used in his study is considered as a longer-term organizational issue that more commonly attributed to organizational culture. Consequently, according to the author, it has weaker influence compared to shorter-term organizational issues such as recent observations or experiences concerning information security in the workplace which may have stronger influence on employees' attitude and subjective norm towards intentional violations of ISP.

**Table 3.** Findings of relationships between ISC and security behavior constructs

| Study | ISC Concept                     | Path Coefficient, $\beta$ or Spearman Correlation, $r$<br>between ISC and Particular Security Behavioral<br>Constructs |                    |                     |
|-------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
|       |                                 | Ultimate   | ATT                | NB                  |
|       |                                 | Dependent<br>Variable  |                    |                     |
| [127] | Single-level Construct          | NA   | $\beta = 0.019$ NS | $\beta = -0.015$ NS |
| [16]  | Multidimensional                | $\beta = 0.552***$   | NA                 | NA                  |
|       | 1. TMC                          |  |                    |                     |
|       | 2. COM                          |  |                    |                     |
| [17]  | Multidimensional                | $\beta = 0.636**$  | NA                 | NA                  |
|       | 1. TMC                          |  |                    |                     |
|       | 2. COM                          |  |                    |                     |
|       | 3. MON                          |  |                    |                     |
| [129] | Represented by                  | $\beta = 0.18***$ (TMC)  | NA                 | NA                  |
|       | 1. TMC                          | $\beta = 0.24***$ (ACC)  |                    |                     |
|       | 2. ACC                          | $\beta = 0.18***$ (ISA)  |                    |                     |
|       | 3. ISA                          |  |                    |                     |
| [15]  | Single-level Construct          | NA   | $r = 0.703$        | NA                  |
| [21]  | Single-level Construct          | NA   | $\beta = 0.24**$   | $\beta = 0.46**$    |
|       | * $p < 0.05$                    | ** $p < 0.01$  | *** $p < 0.001$    |                     |
|       | NA – Not Applicable             |  |                    |                     |
|       | Legend (ISC Dimension):         |  |                    |                     |
|       | TMC – Top Management Commitment |  |                    |                     |

COM – Security Communications

MON – Computer Monitoring

ACC – Accountability

ISA – Information Security Awareness

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On the other hand, in [15] has found that organizational ISC has significant influence on employees' attitude towards policy and procedures. Unlike findings by [127], in [15] claimed that an organization that has better ISC is more likely will have better employees' attitude towards ISP. Obviously, these mixed findings could be justified by two different aspects between these two studies. First, study by [15] used attitude towards following ISP as the ultimate dependent variable whereas [127] used attitude towards ISP violation as his ultimate dependent variable of interest. In security behavior literature, these two dependent variables are opposite with each other and there are also differences in terms of theories and approaches used for these two dependent variables.

Second, besides using different ultimate dependent variable, these two studies also used different ISC construct in terms of conceptualization and operationalization. These differences are among common issues in ISC literature. There are always different concept of ISC used in literature [66] and there is also no agreement on how ISC should be conceptualized and operationalized because there is lack of validated approaches in this field [97]. The ISC concept in [15] was conceptualized by conducting literature review focusing on organizational culture by [130], organizational climate, rewards and punishment. In their study, the factors or dimensions influencing ISC are Sanctions, Rewards, Job Roles and Number of Employee. In contrast, study by [127] has used conceptualization and operationalization of ISC that originated from [46]. The ISC model or concept by [46] was originally developed from a mixed-mod (qualitative and quantitative) study of developing and testing a theoretical model to demonstrate the influence of top management support on ISC and level of security policy enforcement. Therefore, by using different approaches and theories, these two concept of ISC produced are also different. Moreover, in terms of operationalization, both studies used different items to measure the ISC construct. All these differences have produced different ISC concept, which in turn have influenced the results and findings in both studies.

Nevertheless, besides studies by [127, 15], there is lack of study that specifically examining the relationship between ISC and Attitude, Normative Belief as well as Self-Efficacy. Table 3 clearly shows that most of relationship between ISC and particular security behavioral factors such as Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy are still not completely and

comprehensively examined. This indicated by the NA (Not Applicable) tag in the table. Ironically, most of the studies are investigating the direct impact of ISC towards employees' intention to comply such as by [16-17, 129] as shown in Table 3. While these studies have given useful findings to practitioners and academia, the impact of ISC towards the most significant behavioral factors of Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy in security behavior literature were not comprehensively examined. In fact, these particular relationships should be investigated because these behavioral factors are proven to be the most significant factors of employees' security behavioral intention [132]. Furthermore, according to Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), an individual intention towards a particular behavior is depending on his/her Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy. Therefore, the findings on these particular relationships will provide more comprehensive knowledge and understanding on ISC effect towards security behavior and in turn will provide more convincing findings in confirming the actual influence of ISC towards security behavior.

The study by [21] is the only recent study that examined more comprehensive relationship between ISC and security behavior. Although they did not focusing only to the effect of ISC construct towards security behavior, their findings provided more comprehensive findings of relationship between ISC and employees security behavior compared to other studies. Specifically, they found that ISC has significant effect on Attitude and Normative Belief towards resisting social engineering. This knowledge is crucial in providing the comprehensive understanding on the influence of ISC towards security behavior especially from the context of Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). Since security behavioral intention is depending on these three main TPB constructs of Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy, the findings have provided additional knowledge on how significant the ISC influences these behavioral factors which in turn will influence their security behavioral intention. Additionally, in [21] also examined the mediation effect of three behavioral factors on the relationship between ISC and employee's security behavioral intention. These examination and findings are also important as they indicated the roles of three behavioral factors in influencing the relationship between ISC and employee's security behavioral intention.

Nevertheless, from the perspective of this review, instead of providing more comprehensive findings on the relationship between ISC and employee's security behavior, there are several limitations on the findings to conclusively support the relationship between ISC and employee's security behavior. First, the ultimate dependent variable used is quite different from commonly used in security behavior especially in ISP compliance behavior. In ISP

compliance behavior literature, the common used ultimate dependent variable are Intention to Comply, Attitude towards ISP Compliance, Actual ISP Compliance and Intention to ISP Violation [128, 132]. Second, there are still one behavioral factor of TPB still did not being examined in the study which is Self-Efficacy. Since TPB suggests that behavioral intention is determined by Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy, these whole set of behavioral factors need to be examined to get more deep knowledge on the relationship between ISC and employee's security behavior.

Apart from study by [21, 127] also examined the effects of three security behavioral factors of Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy towards the ultimate dependent variable of behavioural intention, Table 4 shows the relationships between these three behavioural factors towards an ultimate dependent variable in the selected studies. As depicted in the table, among six studies, there are only two studies examined these relationships, with [21] used intention to resist social engineering and [127] used intention to ISP violation as the ultimate dependent variable of interest. Consistent with security behavior literature, in general, both studies found significant relationship of these three behavioral factors towards employee's security behavioral intention. However, there are slightly different interesting findings to be noted. Among the three factors, Normative Belief is the strongest predictor in [127] whereas in [21] Normative Belief is the weakest. On the other hand, Attitude is the strongest predictor in [21] but weakest in [127]. Despite the opposite direction of ultimate dependent variable, another justification on this contradict findings could be explain by the differences of other constructs used in the model. Instead of using ISC, these two studies also used another different constructs in their models which in turn affected the regression results.

**Table 4.** Relationship between ATT, NB and SE towards an ultimate dependent variable of interest in selected studies

| Study | Ultimate Dependent Variable Used       | Path Coefficient, $\beta$ with Dependent Variable |                     |                     |
|-------|--|---|---------------------|---------------------|
|       |  | ATT   | NB                  | SE                  |
| [127] | Intention to Violate ISP               | $\beta= 0.201^*$                                  | $\beta= 0.471^{**}$ | $\beta= 0.148^{**}$ |
| [16]  | Security Compliance                    | NA  | NA                  | NA                  |
| [17]  | ISP Compliance Intention               | NA  | NA                  | NA                  |
| [129] | Information Security Compliance        | NA  | NA                  | NA                  |
| [15]  | Attitude towards Compliance            | NA  | NA                  | NA                  |
| [21]  | Intention to Resist Social Engineering | $\beta= 0.57^{**}$                                | $\beta= 0.08^{**}$  | $\beta= 0.09^{**}$  |

\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

Analysis of findings on the relationship between ISC and particular constructs of security behaviour also could be explained by using  $R^2$ . Table 5 shows the  $R^2$  values of endogenous constructs of all selected studies involving the relationships between ISC and Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy as well as the ultimate dependent variables used in selected studies. In the table, the constructs that appear in the bracket represent the exogenous constructs involved in the regression. Since  $R^2$  value is the variance of the endogenous constructs explained by the exogenous constructs, therefore different set of exogenous constructs will produce different regression results. The table clearly shows that there is lack of solid findings on the actual effect of ISC towards security behavior in terms of Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy and other dependent variables of security behavior. From the six selected studies, only two security behavioural constructs that have the absolute proportion of variance explained by the only ISC construct which are Normative Belief by [127, 21] and ultimate dependent variable of Security Compliance by [16]. This means that there are many more security behavior constructs that still not being examined its effect in relation with ISC. Besides that, the table also shows slightly mixed findings. The proportion of variance of ISC explained in Normative Belief in [127] is weak whereas it is more stronger in [21]. According to [133], the  $R^2$  values of 0.26, 0.13 and 0.02 are considered as substantial, moderate and weak respectively. Moreover, from a wider perspective, these two findings are too little to conclude the actual effect of ISC towards security behavior. Referring to Table 5, it is clear that there are still several security behaviour constructs that not being exclusively explained by the ISC. Moreover, there are also obvious differences in dimensions used to conceptualize ISC in both studies which raised another issues of what is the most comprehensive dimension that could be used to conceptualize ISC.

As from theoretical perspective of TPB that Intention is predicted by Attitude, Normative Belief and Self-Efficacy, the current studies also could not provide strong empirical findings on these relationships. In Table 5, although studies by [127, 21] show the  $R^2$  for ultimate dependent variables explained by the three behavioural factors, both ultimate dependent variables are not exactly the intention to comply with ISP. As depicted previously in Table 4, study by [127] used Intention to Violate and [21] used Intention to Resist Social Engineering. Although these two variables are basically represent intention which is consistent with TPB context, however the exact variable of ISP Compliance Intention will provide more clear findings as [9] defines that information security behaviour is a set of core information security activities that have to be adhered by end-users to maintain information security as defined by ISP. Furthermore, since ISC concept used in both studies are single-level construct, the findings

could not provide particular aspects of ISC cultivation. This issue will be discussed later in RQ2. Therefore, in answering RQ1, we conclude that there are still no solid empirical findings to explain the influence of ISC towards the three behavioral factors of TPB which in turn will explain how these factors will affect intention to comply.

**Table 5.** Coefficient of determination,  $R^2$  of particular security behavioral constructs in selected studies

| <b>Study</b> | <b>Attitude<br/>(Exogenous<br/>Constructs<br/>Involved)</b>   | <b>Normative Belief<br/>(Exogenous<br/>Constructs<br/>Involved)</b> | <b>Self-Efficacy<br/>(Exogenous<br/>Constructs<br/>Involved)</b> | <b>Ultimate<br/>Dependent<br/>Variable<br/>(Exogenous<br/>Constructs<br/>Involved)</b>          |
|--------------|---|---|--|---|
| [127]        | 0.228 (ISC,<br>Perceived<br>punishment<br>certainty, Perceived<br>punishment severity,<br>Organizational<br>commitment) | 0.022 (ISC)   | NA   | 0.417 (Attitude,<br>Normative Belief,<br>Self-Efficacy)   |
| [16]         | NA  | NA  | NA   | 0.31 (ISC)  |
| [17]         | NA  | NA  | NA   | 0.45 (ISC, Job<br>Satisfaction,<br>Perceived<br>Organizational<br>Support)                      |
| [129]        | NA  | NA  | NA   | 0.48 (Top<br>Management<br>Commitment,<br>Accountability,<br>Information Security<br>Awareness) |
| [15]         | NA  | NA  | NA   | NA  |
| [21]         | 0.19 (ISC,  | 0.21(ISC)   | 0.24   | 0.42 (Attitude.   |

|                                 |                                  |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Information Security Awareness) | (Information Security Awareness) | Normative Belief, Self-Efficacy) |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|

### 3.2. RQ2

As discussed in previous section, there are only six studies that empirically examined the relationship between ISC and security behavior. This number is decreased significantly when considering the findings that could be used as guidelines and strategies to cultivate ISC in the organization. This is because we believe that in order for ISC findings of a study to have the ability in providing guidelines especially in terms of aspects or elements to be applied in ISC cultivation, obviously the study must use particular dimensions in representing the ISC concept. This is because these dimensions are representing aspects or elements of ISC. For example, study by [17] used three dimensions which are Security Communication (COM), Top Management Commitment (TMC) and Computer Monitoring (MON) to represent the concept of ISC in their study. According to authors in [17], these three dimensions are representing information security efforts that could be done by practitioners in cultivating organizational ISC. Therefore, the findings from this type of study particularly the relationship of ISC based on particular dimensions towards ISC compliance behavior could be used as guidelines or strategies to establish ISC in the organization.

Unfortunately, there is lack of study that conceptualized ISC based on particular dimensions in examining the relationship of ISC towards security behavior. Referring back to Table 3, there are only three studies that fall into this category which are [16-17, 129]. Specifically, in conceptualizing the ISC concept, in [16] used two dimensions which are Top Management Commitment (TMC) and Security Communications (COM). In their next study [17], they used three dimensions by adding one more dimension which is Security Monitoring (MON) into the existing two. Ironically, in [129] has used three ISC dimensions which two of them are totally different with [17]. As depicted in Table 3, instead of using TMC as used in [16-17, 129] used two dimensions of Information Security Awareness (ISA) and Accountability (ACC) which are very different aspects of dimensions compared to [16-17]. While these additional and different dimensions has provided new insights on the concept of ISC, it also leads to a new issue in terms of determining the most comprehensive dimensions in representing ISC concept. Consequently, since these dimensions are representing information security aspects and guidelines on establishing ISC, this scenario has created some problems for practitioners in

selecting the most comprehensive guidelines to be applied in their organization. Moreover, there is still no mutual agreement on the definition, number and formation of dimensions that should be used to represent the ISC concept available in literature [83, 113]. Therefore, as conclusion for RQ2, all these arguments and issues suggest that there is still lack of clear and holistic guidelines of ISC cultivation in improving security behavior available in literature.

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS**

Based on the two RQs, it is clearly shown that there is lack of guidelines available to be used by practitioners in establishing an effective ISC strategy in the organization. Despite strong suggestions by the scholars, there are actually very limited findings and empirical evidences on the relationship between ISC and the security behavior of employees in the organization. Although there are quite number of ISC-related studies have been conducted, only few studies have produced empirical findings that could be used as references to establish ISC. Unfortunately, these few studies also could not provide conclusive findings to confirm the relationship. As a result, there is still lack of comprehensive guidelines to be used by practitioners in cultivating effective ISC strategies in order to improve employees' security behavior in the organizations.

From the perspectives of this review, this issue is related to two aspects or approaches of ISC studies that have been conducted. The first aspect is due to the lack of studies that examine the comprehensive relationship between ISC and security behavior. There are many more important aspects of relationship between ISC and particular security behavior constructs that still not being examined. Moreover, these studies also did not incorporate and examine the relationship based on theoretical behavioral framework such as TPB. Since TPB is one of the most significant behavioral theory and factors in security behavior literature [128, 132], the findings on how ISC influence these behavioral factors or constructs of TPB will provide useful knowledge to academician especially practitioners as it shows the actual detail and complete ISC effect on particular employees security behavior. These knowledge are beneficial to practitioners in customizing ISC strategies to get the desired security behavior in terms of Attitude, Normative Belief, Self-Efficacy as well as their employees' intention towards security. Furthermore, since the ultimate objective of ISC is to guide employee's security behavior [28-29, 53], the approach of study that incorporated theoretical behavior will produce more deep understanding and richer explanation on the relationship between ISC and employee's security behavior.

As for the second aspect, it is regarding the approach used in conceptualizing the ISC

construct. There are very few studies that conceptualized and operationalized the ISC concept based on dimensions in the examination of its relationship towards security behavior. This fact is consistent with [115], which argued that ISC is always conceptualized as a single-level constructs in the literature. As discussed in RQ 2 section, the conceptualization and operationalization of ISC concept as multidimensional construct is important since the dimensions are actually representing the strategy and guidelines in terms of aspects to be used in establishing ISC in the organization. The best examples of ISC studies that used this approach are by [16-17]. By using this approach, the findings produced could be directly referred and used by the practitioners and academicians as clear guidelines for ISC establishment. As for the studies that did not use particular dimensions to represent ISC concept, their ISC concepts are in general forms without specifically defined each aspect of ISC. The ISC construct used in this type of study is usually a reflective construct with several interchangeably items to measure only one aspect of general ISC definition such in [46, 15]. Consequently, this type of conceptualization could not provide findings that could be used as a clear guideline or strategy of ISC establishment. Therefore, there is a very demanding situation to conduct studies using the first approach so that more findings could be applied by the practitioners in assisting them to cultivate effective ISC strategies.

## **5. LIMITATION AND FUTURE WORKS**

Although we believed that this review study has revealed some important issues and gaps in ISC literature, however there are some limitations that we want to highlight. Most of the concern of this type of study is relating to the rigorousness of searching process. Although we have followed guidelines and recommendations by [13] in searching and identifying articles from six selected databases, we believed that more databases should be included in order to make sure all articles that meet the criteria for this study have been considered. Nevertheless, the use of Google Scholar database has maximized the selection of important articles because this database contains all articles from various other databases, conferences and publishers.

Another limitation might be is in terms of analysis used in this study. Since the analysis in this review are done based on content analysis, more thorough analysis such as meta-analysis using effect size could be done to get more insight of the particular findings and relationships. Based on the findings in this review, we believe that the future work is very crucial as it contributes to ISC field especially in providing new insights in an attempt to produce a holistic model of ISC cultivation to be used as guidelines for practitioners and reference model for academicians. We intend to formulate a new model of ISC based on comprehensive

dimensions that could represent a holistic concept of ISC and test this model to examine the appropriateness of dimensions proposed.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Despite number of studies available in ISC literature, there is actually lack of guidelines that could be used to effectively establish ISC in improving security behavior in the organizations. While most of the studies did not focus on examining the relationship between ISC and security behavior, few empirical studies that examined this relationship also could not provide enough empirical evidences on the actual effect of ISC towards security behavior. This was due to the approaches taken in terms of conceptualization and operationalization of ISC, as well as lack of integration with theoretical behavioral framework. Therefore, the conceptualization of ISC as multidimensional concept and the adoption of behavioral theory should be considered and incorporated for this type of study. It will produce more focused, holistic and comprehensive findings on the relationship which in turn could be used as effective strategies of ISC cultivation in improving security behavior of employees in the organizations.

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