# The Influence of Transformational Leadership on Employees Performance with Knowledge Sharing and Affective Commitment as Moderation

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#### **Abstract**

In an organization, the human aspect is essential in determining success in achieving the organization's vision, mission, and goals. The role of humans in the organization is as a pillar and pillar of organizational success. Recognizing the importance of human resources for the survival and progress of the company, the company must have measures to encourage optimal employee performance and be able to meet the critical performance index that has been established. Several factors need to be considered to support employee performance, including transformational leadership: knowledge sharing, and affective commitment. The study was conducted on 194 employees of manufacturing companies in Indonesia, where the study was a quantitative study by spreading questionnaires and using Linkert scales as measurements and analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). The results showed that transformational leadership is positively related to Knowledge Sharing, Affective Commitment, while knowledge sharing and affective commitment are positively related to employee performance. Transformational leadership is not positively related to employee performance. Furthermore, knowledge-sharing mediation and affective commitment can mediate Transformational Leadership relationships to employee performance.

# Keywords

transformational leadership; employees performance; knowledge sharing; affective commitment



# I. Introduction

In an organization, the human aspect is essential in determining success in achieving the organization's vision, mission, and goals. The role of humans in the organization is as a pillar as well as a driver of organizational success (Guedj et al., 2015). Recognizing the importance of human resources for the survival and progress of the company, the company must have measures to encourage optimal employee performance and be able to meet the critical performance index that has been set. Several factors need to be considered that can support employee performance, including transformational leadership, knowledge sharing, and affective commitment. (Han et al., 2016)

Based on previous researchers' research on transformational leadership, knowledge sharing and affective commitment and employee performance showed mixed results. However, previous studies only discussed employee performance, knowledge sharing, and effective relationships. Commitment and employee performance in the context of service companies, health, education and banking, and ICT, so the author tried to research automotive manufacturing companies in Indonesia in the period 2020, where conditions were currently pandemic Covid 19. In addition, the authors added knowledge sharing and affective commitment mediation variables as mediation variables in the study. The sample

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used was the employees of 10 manufacturing companies in the Jababeka area of West Java, Indonesia.

In addition, this research is an evaluation and correction material for the management of manufacturing companies in the Jababeka Area to see the influence of transformational leadership on employee's performance with knowledge sharing and affective commitment as mediation variables. The company and be able to determine the right policy. As for other parties related to this research can be used as reference material and analysis and learning to measure the influence in these variables to provide significant benefits for the community.

#### II. Review of Literature

# 2.1 The Impact of Transformational Leadership on Knowledge Sharing

Along with transformational leadership, many contemporary organizations have an active interest in knowledge management to improve employee productivity and performance through more effective knowledge gathering and sharing (Argote et al., 2003). Therefore, exploring the influence of transformational leadership on knowledge sharing plays a vital role in finding effective ways to promote knowledge sharing among company members (Phong et al., 2017). In addition, past studies have suggested significant influences between transformational leadership styles can influence knowledge sharing, such as research conducted by Analoui et al. (2012); Birasnav (2014); Riaz, M.Naveed (2014); Han et al., 2016), Who found the results that transformational leadership has a positive influence on Knowledge Sharing. Based on these arguments, the initial hypothesis of this study is:

H1: Transformational leadership has a positive effect on Knowledge Sharing.

# 2.2 The Effect of Transformational Leadership on Affective Commitment

Transformational leadership has been indicated as an important part of attachment to the organization (Khan etal., 2019), more specifically, literarys reveal a positive relationship between transformational leadership and affective commitment (Yucel et al., 2014; Kim and Kim, 2015). Motivation comes from the Latin word movere which means drive or driving force (Purba and Sudibjo, 2020). Transformational leaders act as catalysts that translate subordinates' motivations toward their commitment and commitment into exceptional performance. (Pradhan and Pradhan, 2016) transformational leaders have a tremendous effect on their employees and their success in building commitment. A transformational leader transforms and creates meaning for employees who promote affective commitment. Social exchange theory describes the relationship between transformational leadership and commitment organization (Leroy et al., 2012; Allen etal., 2017). In other words, these leaders transform employees by increasing motivation and commitment, and empowering them to achieve organizational goals (Part, 2010).

Several studies have reported a positive relationship between transformational and affective commitment of employees such as research conducted by Patiar and Wang (2016); Ashikali and Groeneveld (2015); Ali and Chin-Hong (2017), where in the results of his research explained that transformational leadership is positively related to affective commitment. In another study, Ekeland (2005) found that transformational leadership positively influences affect affective commitment. Pradhan and Pradhan (2016) stated in their research that transformational leaders positively influence affective organizational commitment and conceptual performance. Based on these arguments, the initial hypothesis of this study is:

H2: Transformational Leadership has a positive effect on affective commitment.

# 2.3 The Impact of Knowledge Sharing on Employee Performance

Knowledge sharing is the exchange ofknowledge between two individuals, one communicating knowledge, while the other is assimilating knowledge (Iqbal et al., 2015). Knowledge sharing is also an action that is basically done so that knowledge is always available to others in the organization (Kohansal et al., 2013). According to Akram and Bokhari (2011) that knowledge sharing can improve employee performance, and furthermore it is said that the flow of employee knowledge in environments outside the organization can build the reputation of the organization.

The relationship between *knowledge sharing* and performance has been observed by some previous researchers and researchers has proven that, *knowledge sharing* correlates with performance, as stated by (Matzler etal., 2008). Furthermore, research conducted by Wickramasinghe and Widyaratne (2012) explained that knowledge *sharing* is effective among workers can improve team performance, while Akram and Bokhari (2011) state knowledge *sharing*. It is positively related to the successful performance of individuals and organizations in Indonesia, where the improvement of kinerja can be influenced by the ability of employees to share knowledge (Indah H and Al Asy, 2019). *Knowledge sharing* and transfer of training based on results showed a significant positive influence on employee performance (Aksoy etal., 2016). This means that employee performance can be improvedby improving skills and knowledge according to job demands. Based on this research, the initial hypothesis of this study is:

H3: Knowledge sharing has a positive effect on Employee Performance.

#### 2.4 The Effect of Affective Commitment on Employee Performance

Organizational commitment is essential for organizations today in the competitive business world, as they always need the talents of employees. It is a measure of employee identification with his organization (Fu and Deshpande, 2014). Affective commitment can have an impact on job satisfaction. Affective commitment and job satisfaction are two distinct and varied concepts. Affective commitment emphasizes attachment to the organization; Job satisfaction emphasizes on the specific work environment in which employees perform their duties (Ana Suzete et.al., 2016; Saha and Kumar (2018). Previous research has shown a significant and positive correlation between organizational commitment and job performance For example, a meta-analysis conducted in 14 countries indicates a strong and positive relationship between ((Jaramillo et al.), 2005) organizational commitment and job performance for sales employees. Affective commitment positively and significantly affects worker performance, these findings show consistency with studies (Saragih and Harisno, 2015) and (Mohajan, 2019). Likewise, in research (Jamal, 2011), it was found that organizational commitment has a significant impact on job performance. Based on this research, the initial hypothesis of this study is: H4: Affective Commitment has a positive effect on Employee Performance.

# 2.5 The Impact of Transformational Leadership on Employee Performance

Transformational leadership encourages employees to work beyond the minimum level of organizational expectations based on a set of leadership attitudes and behaviors. Employee behavior depends in part on their perception of leadership (Aukse Endriulaitiene; Aurelija Stelmokiene, 2013). Furthermore, transformational leadership

using emotional means such as individual considerations can easily increase employee sense of belonging, thereby improving both the ongoing performance tasks and the ongoing performance relationships of the employees (Dvir T et al., 2002; Wang etal., 2005). Other results showed that perceived job performance was linked to their manager's leadership style as well as to predict their turnover intentions (Ariyabuddhiphongs and Kahn, 2017). Transformationalleadership will improve employee performance in achieving the vision and mission of the organization 's company (Nastohar and Anindita, 2019). Transformational leadership can be an effective mechanism forthe performance of employees as demonstrated by the results and literary reviews conducted by Camps and Rodríguez (2011); Tse and Chiu (2014) explained that transformational leadership has a positive relationship with employee performance. In addition, the performance factors to be achieved are influenced by transformational leadership and work motivation (Andriani et al., 2018). Based on this research, the initial hypothesis of this study is:

H5: Transformational leadership positively affects Employee Performance

# 2.6 The Influence of Transformational Leadership on Employee Performance with Knowledge Sharing and Affective Commitment as Moderation

Knowledge sharing is one of the factors that can improve the ability and knowledge of employees, in addition, the impact of these improvements will make employee performance increase. This is like research conducted by Masa'deh *et al.* (2015) which discusses the mediation of *knowledge sharing*, where in his research describes the influence of *transformational* leadership on *employee performance* mediated by knowledge *sharing*, where there is a significant influence of *transformational* leadership on *knowledge sharing*.

Based on research conducted by Dwivedi et al. (2020) shows that knowledge sharing can be a mediator of transformational leadership towards Employee Performance (Nazir and Shah, 2014). Based on the research, the initial hypothesis of indirect relationships in this study is:

H6: Transformational leadership positively affects Employee Performance by mediation by Knowledge Sharing.

H7: Transformational leadership positively affects Employee Performance by mediation by Affective Commitment

Based on the proposed hypothesis, the research framework that the researcher proposed is as follows.

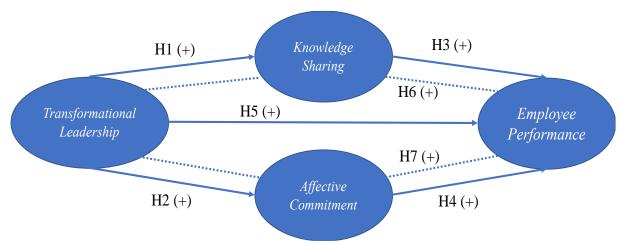


Figure 1. Theoretical Framework of Thought

### III. Research Method

This research is a study with a quantitative approach. Sugiyono (2012) suggests that quantitative research is research based on the philosophy of positivism, used to examine a particular population or sample, sampling techniques are generally done randomly, data collection using research instruments, statistical quantitative data analysis with the aim of testing against predetermined hypotheses. This research was conducted to find out the influence of transformational leadership(X) variables with idealized influence dimensions, inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation, individualized consideration and knowledge sharing (Knowledge Sharing)(Y1) with the dimensions of knowledge donating, knowledge collecting, affective commitment (Affective commitment (Y2) and employee performance (Z).

Measurements in *Transformational leadership* research use Tanachia et al. (2015) research with 13 questions, while *Knowledge sharing* uses Naim and Lenka research (2016) with 8 questions, *Affective Commitment* uses Naim and Lenka research (2016) with 7 questions, Performance using research Henttonen et al. (2016) with 5 questions. The data collection in the study was conducted through questionnaires designed in models such as the Linkert scale form. On this scale, the statement is delivered with five alternative answers. For the Linkert scale the details are: Strongly agree = 5, Agree = 4, Between Agree and Disagree = 3, Disagree = 2, and Strongly Disagree = 1. Questionnaires as research instruments are made based on the theory of a confirmed framework in the form of conceptual definitions and operational definitions which are then presented in the form of a research instrument box. The grid is further spelled out in statement points and then tested on 50 respondents using validity and reliability testing using Lisrel 8.8 software before being used for research. After that it was distributed in August-October 2020 to employees of automotive manufacturing companies with Japanese foreign investment directly related to the *principal* in Jababeka Area 1 Cikarang.

The research model to be used in this study is a tiered structure model and to test proposed hypotheses used SEM (Structural Equation Modelling) analysis techniques. The reason proposed with regard to the use of SEM is a set of statistical techniques that allow testing of a series of relatively "complex" relationships simultaneously. Modeling through SEM also allows a researcher to answer both regressive and dimensional research questions (i.e. measuring what the dimensions of a concept are) (Ferdinand, 2011). In SEM the determination of the sample uses the provisions of Hair  $et\ al.\ (2014)$  i.e. number of samples = number of indicators x 5, because each question on the questionnaire is an observable variable, then this research questionnaire contains 31 observable statements. Thus the number of samples needed is 5 x 31 = 155 respondents to answer questions on the questionnaire which is at once a minimum sample size, for the total respondents obtained is 194 respondents.

In this study, the pretest was conducted in two ways, namely: validity test and reliability test. The validity test uses produce moment correlation analysis, to speed up calculations with a significance level of 5%. This test was conducted using a small sample or trayout data as many as 50 respondents. Significance tests are performed by comparing the value of the calculated r with the table r for *the degree of freedom* (df = n-2) and the significance level of *Alpha* ( $\alpha$ ) 5%, or r calculate > r of the table. Guided by the sample number of 50 respondents can be seen the value of the table r of 0.284. Based on the results of the calculation of the correlation coefficient (rxy) all have a calculated r greater than the table r (0.284) and the probability of < 0.05. Thus it can be concluded that all questionnaire items are declared valid. Reliability test using *Cronbach's* Alpha. *Cronbach's* Alpha value.

> 0.6 then the instrument can be declared reliable. Reliability test results show *Cronbach's Alpha*. 0.948 then all questionnaire items are declared reliable.

# **3.1 Respondent Profile**

In this study there is some information related to consumer demographics such as age, work, education to work experience. It is seen that 57 percent of respondents are female and the rest are male. The majority (72%) of them are still aged in the range of 21-35 years and have studied D3. A total of 7.8 percent had status as a permanent worker and another 2.2 percent as contract workers. In terms of working life, 20.6% 1 -3 years, 21.6% 4-6 years, 36.6% between 6 to 8 years and 21.1% others have reached > 9 years.

# 3.2 Descriptive Analysis

The data used in this study is primary data obtained through the division of questionnaires divided into 31 indicators / statements representing 4 latent variables. The scale used uses the likert scale and has been filled by 194 respondents. To find out the top category of the respondent's average answer, it is necessary to calculate the class interval for each category. Where intervals 1.0–1.8 strongly disagree,1.8-2.6 disagree, 2.6-3.4 neutral, 3.4-4.2 agree, 4.2-50 Strongly agree. In the next stage, tabulation will be done on each respondent's answer to each latent variable of the study. The results of the questionnaire processing showed that the statement that had the highest average value on the Transformational Leadership variable was TL4 (3.99) which meant that respondents agreed to the statement "My leader emphasizes the importance of having a sense of shared mission". The results of the questionnaire processing showed that the statement that had the highest average value on the knowledge sharing variable was KS5 (4.21) which meant that respondents strongly agreed with the statement "My coworkers share knowledge and expertise with me when I ask them". The results of the questionnaire processing showed that the statement that had the highest average value on the affective commitment variable was AC2 (4.05) which means that respondents agreed to the statement "I feel there is an attachment to the company". The results of the questionnaire processing showed that the statement that had the highest average value on the employee performance variable was EP5 (4.31) which meant that respondents strongly agreed with the statement "I am able to work well with my co-workers".

# IV. Results and Discussion

#### 4.1 Results

Before conducting a path analysis using *Structural Equation Modeling*, then first we need to test the validity and reliability of 50 respondents first.

#### a. Validity and Reliability

The validity test is used to measure the validity or validity of a questionnaire. A questionnaire is said to be valid when the question on the questionnaire is able to reveal something that will be measured by the questionnaire. The test was conducted using *pearson correlation*. Based on *the Pearson correlation* value of all indicators, it shows that all indicators of each variable show a valid value. Reliability tests are tools for measuring indicators of variables or constructs from a questionnaire so that they can be said to be reliable or reliable if a person's answer to a question is consistent or stable over time. The test statistic used is *Cronbach Alpha*.

**Table 1.** Reliability Test

| Variable                    | Cronbach Alpha |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Transformational Leadership | 0,956          |
| Knowledge Sharing           | 0,920          |
| Affective Commitment        | 0,897          |
| Employee Performance.       | 0,901          |

Source: Research Processed Data, 2021

*Cronbach Alpha* is greater than 0.6. This indicates that all variables are declared reliable and can be continued for structural testing.

# b. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) Analysis Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

To assess the fit, suitability or *unidimensional* of the indicators that make up dimensions or variables is done with *Confirmatory Factor Analysis* (CFA) on each indicator. Mforeign each factor loading value on the latent variable will produce a LISREL *output* where the *loading* value of factors in each latent variable(*transformational leadership, knowledge sharing, affective commitment and employee performance)* shows a value above 0.5. It can be concluded that all latent/construct variable forming indicators have represented data analysis.

# c. Model Conformity Testing (Goodness of Fit Model)

Research model conformity testing is used with the value of several assessment indicators such as *absolute fit measure (Chi-Square*,RMSEA, GFI), *incremental /relative fit measure* (AGFI, NNFI, NFI, RFI, CFI, IFI), and *parsimonious / adjusted fit measure* (PNFI, PGFI).

**Table 2.** Test Goodness of Fit

| Tuble 2. Test Goodness of Th |             |         |              |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Model Match Test</b>      |             |         |              |  |  |  |  |
| <b>GOF size</b>              | Requirement | Result  | Match Level  |  |  |  |  |
| Chi Square                   | Small Value | 1461,53 | Poor Fit     |  |  |  |  |
| P-Value                      | $\geq 0.05$ | 0,00    | rooi rit     |  |  |  |  |
| RMSEA                        | < 0.08      | 0,11    | Marginal Fit |  |  |  |  |
| NNFI                         | ≥0.90       | 0,94    | Good Fit     |  |  |  |  |
| NFI                          | ≥0.90       | 0,93    | Good Fit     |  |  |  |  |
| PNFI                         | ≥0.90       | 0,85    | Marginal Fit |  |  |  |  |
| CFI                          | ≥0.90       | 0,94    | Good Fit     |  |  |  |  |
| IFI                          | ≥0.90       | 0,94    | Good Fit     |  |  |  |  |
| RFI                          | ≥0.90       | 0,92    | Good Fit     |  |  |  |  |
| GFI                          | ≥0.90       | 0,67    | Poor Fit     |  |  |  |  |
| AGFI                         | ≥0.90       | 0,62    | Poor Fit     |  |  |  |  |
| PGFI                         | ≥0.90       | 0,58    | Poor Fit     |  |  |  |  |

Source: LISREL Processed Data, 2021

Based on the results of processing for the suitability of the model obtained results that 5 results show *good fit* and 2 results show marginal *fit* at SEM evaluation. To see the relationship between each variable is done by path*analysis* of each variable bothdirect relationships and indirect relationships. The results of the test can be seen in the table below.

# d. Direct Relationships

The magnitude of the influence of each latent variable directly(*standardized direct* effect) can be shown in the following table.

**Table 3.** Test Path analysis

| Hypothesis | Relationship Path   | Coefficient | t-Stat<br>(>1.97) | Conclusion            |
|------------|---|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| H1         | Transformational Leadership has a positive effect on knowledge sharing.     | 0,66        | 9,04              | Significant<br>Effect |
| H2         | Transformational leadership positively affects affective commitment.        | 0,77        | 10,95             | Significant<br>Effect |
| НЗ         | Knowledge sharing has a positive effect on employee <i>performance</i> .    | 0,19        | 2,13              | Significant<br>Effect |
| H4         | Affective Commitment has a positive effect on employee <i>performance</i> . | 0,36        | 3,19              | Significant<br>Effect |
| Н5         | Transformational leadership has a positive effect on employee performance.  | 0,16        | 1,28              | No significant effect |

Source: LISREL Processed Data, 2021

To find out the results of hypothesis testing is done by looking at the value t of the interrelationship of each research variable. A significant path is one that has a *t-stat* value greater than 1.96. Based on the *output* of the table above, it can be concluded that: There is a positive and significant influence on *transformational leadership* relationships with *Knowledge sharing*. There is a positive and significant influence on transformational *leadership* relationships with *affective commitment*. There is a positive and significant influence on *Knowledge sharing* relationships with Employee *Performance*. There is a positive and significant influence on the relationship of *Affective Commitment* to *Employee Performance*. There is a positive and insignificant influence between *Transformational Leadership* on *Employee Performance*. This suggests that one in five hypotheses in influence are directly rejected and the rest accepted. Furthermore, testing is carried out on indirect relationships that can be seen in the discussion below.

#### e. Indirect Effects

The magnitude of the influence of each latent variable indirectly (*standardized indirect effect*) can be shown in the following table.

**Table 4.** Indirect Influence Analysis Path Test

|    | Hypothesis   | Coefficient | t-Stat<br>(>1.97) | Conclusion            |
|----|--|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Н6 | Transformational Leadership positively affects Employee Performance Through Knowledge Sharing    | 0,2         | 2,18              | Significant<br>Effect |
| Н7 | Transformational Leadership positively affects Employee Performance Through Affective Commitment | 0,3         | 2,56              | Significant<br>Effect |

Source: LISREL Processed Data, 2021

Based on the table above it is known that the standard indirect mediated effect of *transformational leadership* on employee *performance* through *knowledge sharing* of 0.2 with a t-statistic of 2.18 indicates that there is a significant indirect influence on this relationship. It is also similar to the indirect relationship of *transformational leadership* to

*employee performance* which shows a coefficient value of 0.3 with a t-statistic of 2.56 (>1.96).

#### 4.2 Discussion

In the results of the first hypothesis (H1) test, it was found that the influence between transformational leadership on knowledge sharing was found. This shows that the stronger transformational leadership will increase knowledge sharing so that the increase in knowledge will change along with strongleadership. The results of this study further corroborate the results of previous research conducted by Analoui et al. (2012), Birasnav (2014) which has stated a significant influence between transformational leadership styles can affect knowledge sharing. In the results of the second hypothesis (H2) test, it was found that the influence between transformational leadership on affective commitment wasfound. This means that the better the attitude of the leader to implement transformational leadership the more affective commitment of its members to the company. The results of this study confirm previous research conducted by ((Patiar & Wang), 2016); Ali and Chin-Hong (2017) who stated a positive influence between transformational leadership and affective commitment.

In the results of the third hypothesis (H3) test, it was found that the influence between *knowledge sharing* on *employee performance* wasfound. This means that there is a positive relationship between knowledge *sharing* and significant *employee performance*. These results confirm previous research conducted (Akram and Bokhari, 2011; Aksoy *et al.*2016). Who consistently found that *knowledge sharing* has a positive effect on *employee performance*. In the results of the fourth hypothesis test (H4), found influence between *affective commitment* to *employee performance*, this means showing that there is a stronger *affective commitment* will be Improved *employee performance* in this study. This is in accordance with previous research conducted by Jamal (2011) and Mohajan (2019) which showed that *affective commitment* has a significant effect on employee *performance*.

As for the results of the fifth hypothesis (H5) test, there was no influence between transformational leadership on employee performance, this means that there is no significant influence between transformational leadership and employee performance. So that the results of this study do not support the research (Tse and Chiu, 2014; Ariyabuddhiphongs and Kahn, 2017; Nastohar and Anindita, 2019) explained that transformational leadership has a positive effect on employee performance. This is because the research object used is the employees of manufacturing companies that have the most education is D3 which has motivation tends to meet basic needs that are material such as salaries and bonuses, so that in this study there is or is not transformational leadership. It will not be important to improve employee performance. This research is in line with research conducted by Cahyono et al. (2015); Susilowati (2021), who explained that transformational leadership has no effect on employee performance.

Based on the results of hypothesis tests and indirect relationships of *knowledge* sharing moderation variables and affective commitment shows that both variables can mediate transformational leadership to employee performance, so that the results of this study are in line with research conducted by Masa'deh et al. (2015) which discusses transformational leadership to employee performance mediated by knowledge sharing, where there is a significant influence between transformational leadership and employee performance mediated by affective commitment. Furthermore, the results of this study are in line with the results of research conducted by Dwivedi et al. (2020); Nazir

and Shah (2014) who explained that knowledge *sharing*, can be a mediator of *transformational leadership* towards *Employee Performance* (Nazir and Shah, 2014).

#### V. Conclusion

The result of the findings in this study is that *transformational leadership* has a significant effect on knowledge *sharing, affective commitment* and employee *performance*. The hypotheses built into this study have supported the results of previous and proven research. While *transformational leadership* in employee *performance* indicates an absence of relationships and is insignificant, the hypotheses built up in this study do not support the results of previous and unproven studies. In addition, *knowledge sharing* is proven to partially mediate the relationship between *transformational leadership* and employee *performance*, while *affective commitment* is also proven to mediate transformational *leadership* to employee *performance*.

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