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## Article

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REVIEW

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# How perceived organizational politics cause work-to-family conflict? Scoping and systematic review of literature

Sumbol Fiaz\*  and Muhammad Azeem Qureshi

## Abstract

Work–family conflict is a subject of interest for researchers in the field of organizational behavior for decades because of its negative impact on an individual’s life. The existing literature identified that workplace stressors contribute to work–family conflict and Perceived Organizational Politics emerged as an aversive workplace stressor. From empirical pieces of evidence, it is observed that perceived organizational politics and work–family conflict are indirectly associated with each other, and their impact on employees is unavoidable. To explore this uncovered relationship, at first, this study used a keywords co-occurrence network mapping approach and found that perceived organizational politics and work–family conflict are associated with each through various workplace variables. Further, with the help of a scoping review identify those specific variables, and, lastly, a systematic review approach used to identify a mechanism of how these identified variables form an association between perceived organizational politics and work–family conflict. Based on the findings of the systematic review, this study proposed a conceptual framework that extends the existing literature by providing new insight into concepts of perceived organizational politics by linking it with work–family conflict. This study introduced a novel way to develop a conceptual framework by linking three distinct approaches of research. In the last, this study proposed recommendations for future research.

**Keywords:** Perceived organizational politics, Work-to-family conflict, Negative affectivity, Emotional intelligence, Psychological wellbeing, Perceived organizational support, Social support, Organizational behavior

## Introduction

Work–family conflict is the most debated construct in the field of organizational behavior that has gotten the central attention of researchers due to its negative consequences related to the workplace [47, 111]. Facing conflict at work and family domain is a burning issue for which employees mostly complain. Conflict in one domain ultimately affects the other domain. Employees are more concerned about keeping it balanced because of its impacts on their efficiency and wellbeing [88]. Work–family conflict is strongly associated with an employee’s wellbeing [101]. While wellbeing depends on the state

of emotions, positive emotions satisfy whereas negative emotions disturb wellbeing [48, 137] and strongly associated with individuals’ behavior. Employees experience several behaviors in the workplace that impacts their emotions. In the domain of organizational behavior, Perceived Organizational Politics is the most dominant and influencing work-related negative factor that impacts the employees’ behavior [114]. It is a general phenomenon in all organizations that are usually perceived negatively and results in undesirable or harmful outcomes such as stress that is one of the most prominent outcomes [29, 44, 78, 144].

Experience is an outcome of an individual’s evaluation of specific phenomena or events [102]. Employees on this basis of their experience define organizational politics as cynical and manipulative phenomena, they describe it as an evil behavior that employees strategically show

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to get the things done for their benefit by disturbing the organization's functions [38, 41, 45, 51, 79, 90] and also risking the wellbeing of other employees and organization [70]. When employees experience organizational politics they think themselves as a victim who has to suffer due to others' self-serving behavior. Consequently, this situation evokes negative emotions [128]. Employees spend most of their time at the workplace [87]. Therefore, work-related circumstances govern their emotions and behavior, experience of adverse events at the workplace predict the negative emotions and cause stress [96] that ultimately impacts the wellbeing of the employee.

Work and family are the most important factors in almost every individual's life. When the occurrence of stress due to participation in one domain become a constrain and makes it challenging to fulfill the requirement of other domain this known as work–family conflict (WFC) [54]. Work–family conflict has been a subject of interest in the field of organizational behavior for decades, a constant increase in its body of literature raising the importance of work–family conflict [120]. Currently, it has gotten remarkable attention from researchers due to its negative consequences for work and family domain [47, 111]. Existing research demonstrated that negative work-related factors such as stress predict work–family conflict [14] while Perceived organizational politics (POP) is identified as one of the most dominant and influencing negative aspects of the work environment [78, 80]. POP is an uncovered work-related factor that affects both the personal and professional lives of employees and causes WFC. To prevent this uncovered cause of WFC, it is required to identify how POP causing WFC. There is an extensive number of studies explored the consequences of perceived organizational politics related to the work domain. There is no significant predictive model for understanding how POP impacts the WFC. It is a clear research gap that needs to be addressed.

To strengthen of above argument that there are factors indirectly causing the relationship of POP and WFC, with the help of VOSviewer software [142] this study also created the keyword co-occurrence network to map out all variables that have been studied in the field of POP and WFC. VOSviewer is a software tool that creates a map based on network data retrieved through search engines or databases. Microsoft Academic (MA) database was used with VOSviewer software. MA is a huge database that allows downloading already segmented citation contexts [19]. Key terms used to get the search data were *Perceived Organizational Politics*. The map-based on keywords occurrence network, generated through option, “title and abstract network”. This function of VOSviewer retrieved the keywords that appear in the title, abstract, and citation context [146]. The setting

of VOSviewer was done in such a manner that it captured all the key variables that occurred in abstracts and titles, at least four times. Full counting of words was applied. From the retrieved keywords, before generating the map, irrelevant keywords that were not described as variables in the literature such as structural equation modeling, mediators, moderators, negative relation, were manually excluded. As argued Fig. 1 shown that the concept of POP is linking with all the work domain variables that are getting the effect of or affecting POP. This map supports our argument that existing researches focused on only work-related outcomes of POP.

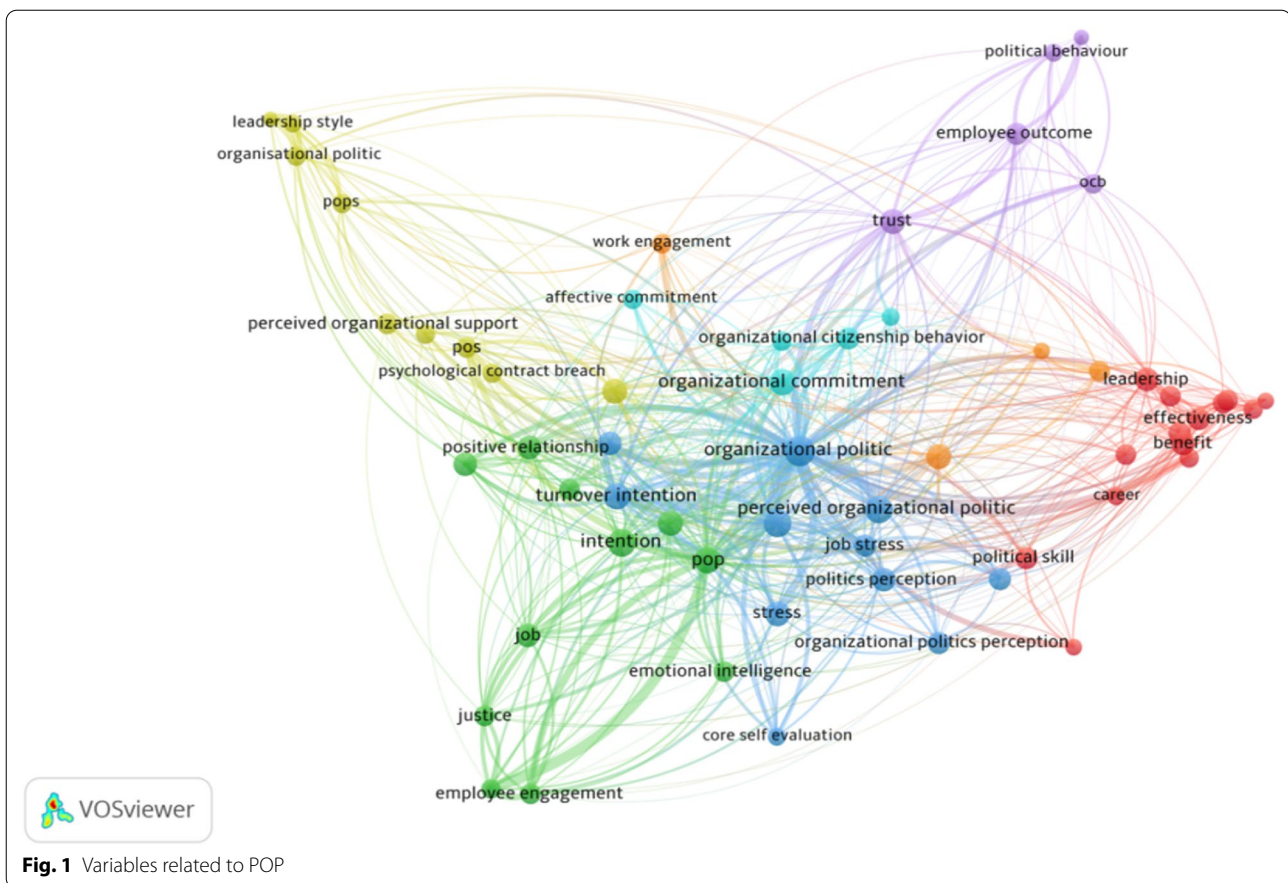
The same procedure has been followed with the key term *work-to-family conflict*, to map out the most highlighted variables that explored or examine concern to work-to-family conflict. Figure 2 reflects the variable network concerning WFC. Map 2 highlighted all the variables that have been studied in the field of WFC. From the analysis of both maps shown in Figs. 1 and 2, it can be seen that many identical variables are related to POP and WFC at the same time such as job stress, emotional intelligence, turnover intention. So, it can be argued that some of the outcome variables of POP are antecedents of WFC. Since we did not specify the key terms as an antecedent and outcome, therefore, we are unable to distinct that either linked variables are antecedents or outcomes. To address this issue and identify the specific factors that link these two vast domains of organizational behavior, i.e., POP and WFC, the present study conducted a scoping review. The purpose of the scoping review is to find out the identical variables that are outcomes of WFC and also antecedents of WFC. And also describe the reason for considering those identified variables.

### Scoping review

For this study, the scoping review aims to establish a comprehensive review of published literature and identify the key variables that can predict the relationship between OP and WFC. The scoping review is conducted by following the advanced framework of Arksey and O'Malley described in *Scoping studies: Advancing the Methodology* [82]. The methodology of scoping studies is based on six systematic phases shown in Fig. 3.

### Defining research question

WFC is a subject of interest for researchers. It is a cyclic process; conflicts at one domain trigger the conflicts at other domains. Findings of studies revealed that the predictors of work-to-family conflicts are similar across the world [6]. Factors associated with the workplace severely impact employees' lives than on family-related factors [35, 64, 138]. POP is one of the significant aspects of a workplace that influences employees' personal and



professional life. Both factors of organizational behavior are indirectly related to each other. The scope of this review is to identify:

What are the factors that bridge the association of perceived organizational politics and work–family conflict?

#### Identifying the relevant studies

To address the research question, this study considered that all the related studies reported the consequences of perceived organizational politics and antecedents of work–family conflicts. The literature search was conducted with the intent to find out the variables that bridge these two broad research areas of organizational behavior. For this purpose, this study employed the search databases, i.e., Elsevier BV, Sage Publication, Wiley Online, Springer nature, American psychological Association, Taylor and Francis., JSTOR, Frontiers Media S.A., Emerald, INFORMS, The Academy of Management, NCBI, MDPI, Public Library of Science, Cambridge University Press, EBSCO host, SSRN, PsycINFO and IEEE Xplore, to get all the relevant research articles, book sections, and dissertations (M.Phil. & Ph.D. level). This study developed two search terms for literature search are:

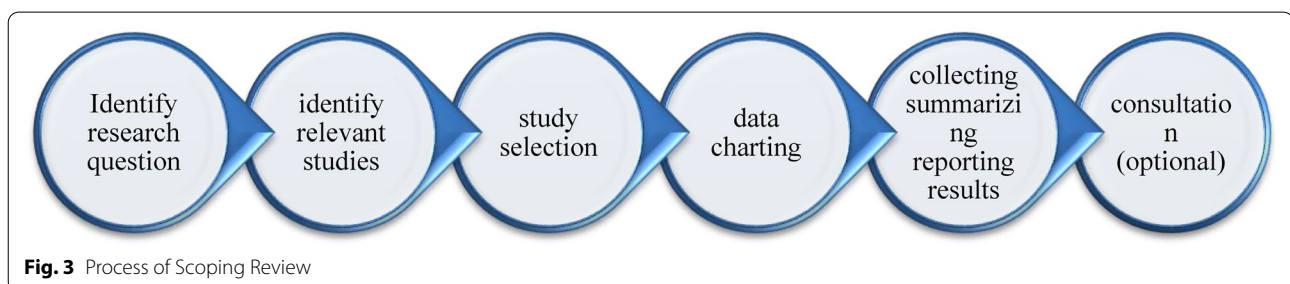
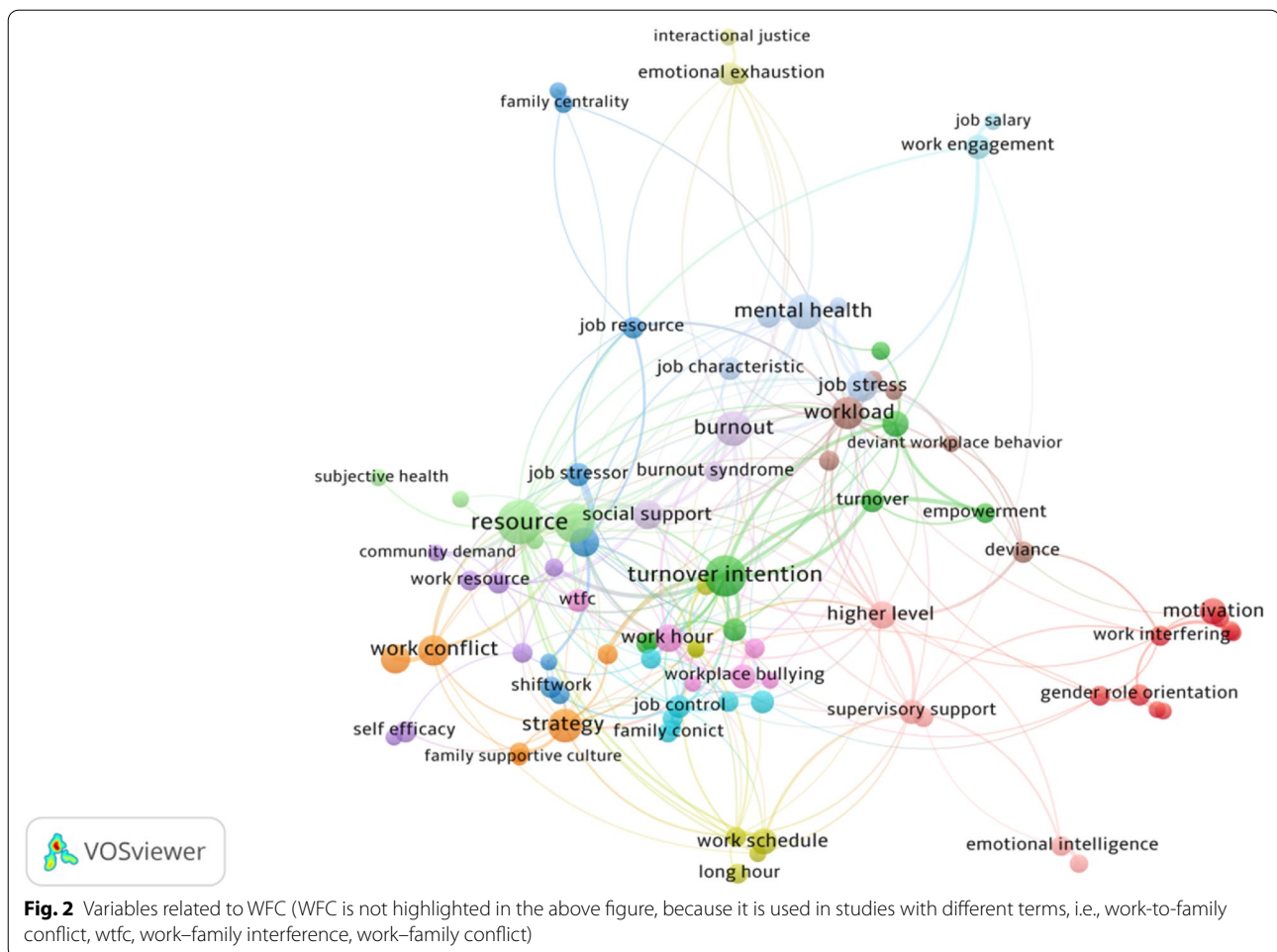
1. Consequence OR Outcomes OR relationship of OR Impact of AND Organizational Politics OR Perception of organizational politics, Office politics OR Political behavior at workplace OR Politics at the workplace.
2. Antecedents OR Predictors OR Sources of OR impact on AND work–family conflict OR work–life conflict OR work–family interference OR work-to-family conflict.

Studies containing any of these described keywords were selected. Similar search terms were used for all the databases.

#### Study selection

By following [82] guidelines for scoping review, established a team of three researchers included two independent reviewers and one arbitrator. The study selection process based on inclusion and exclusion criteria is carried out by two independent reviewers to maintain transparency and avoid uncertainty about the outcomes of the review. The same reviewers defined the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the studies that have been considered for this review with mutual understanding. In case





of disagreement while selecting studies got consultation from an arbitrator to resolve the dispute and to determine the final participation. Studies indicating the outcome variables or consequence of POP and preceding variables of WFC retained. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for study selection shown in Table 1.

The searched citations are managed through open-source citation management software Zotero. The study

selection process of identified studies is shown in Fig. 4 PRISMA Flow diagram.

#### Charting the data

Data charting is a process at which both the reviewers collectively extract the required information from the selected studies to address the research question. Data

**Table 1 Inclusion and exclusion criteria**

Focused content	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Language	English	Other than English
Year of publication	Since the inception of constructs until December 2019	–
Study type	Research articles (published by well curated databases and locally published in HEC recognized journals), with good methodological quality, thesis and dissertation (M.Phil. & PhD level) published by QS ranking universities, book chapters/section, reviews	Newspapers, magazines, the thesis of Graduate & Masters level, conference proceeding Reason: Grey Literature
Study findings	Indicating outcome variables of organizational politics and predicting variables of work–family conflict	Outcomes of work–family conflict and antecedents of organizational politics studied. Each variable separately studied POP and WFC examined as mediator or moderator Reason: not related to the objective of this review

extracted through Data Charting Form (DCF), developed with the mutual consultation of reviewers. Before starting the data charting, reviewers conducted a pilot test of established DCF on randomly selected five studies to validate that the data charting approach is appropriate for achieving the aim of scoping review. After the pilot test, DCF has refined accordingly. The data extracted in a qualitative manner, which was analyzed through the content analysis approach. Retained studies were separately analyzed to obtain the outcome variables of POP and antecedent variables of WFC. An arbitrator critically reviewed the extracted data. Following are the data items retrieved from the selected studies

- Study characteristics (Author name, Journal name, year of publication, study design, population and sample size)
- The objective of the study
- Examine or identified variables as (antecedents of WFC and Outcomes of POP)
- Findings/results/conclusion of the study

#### **Collating, summarizing, and reporting results**

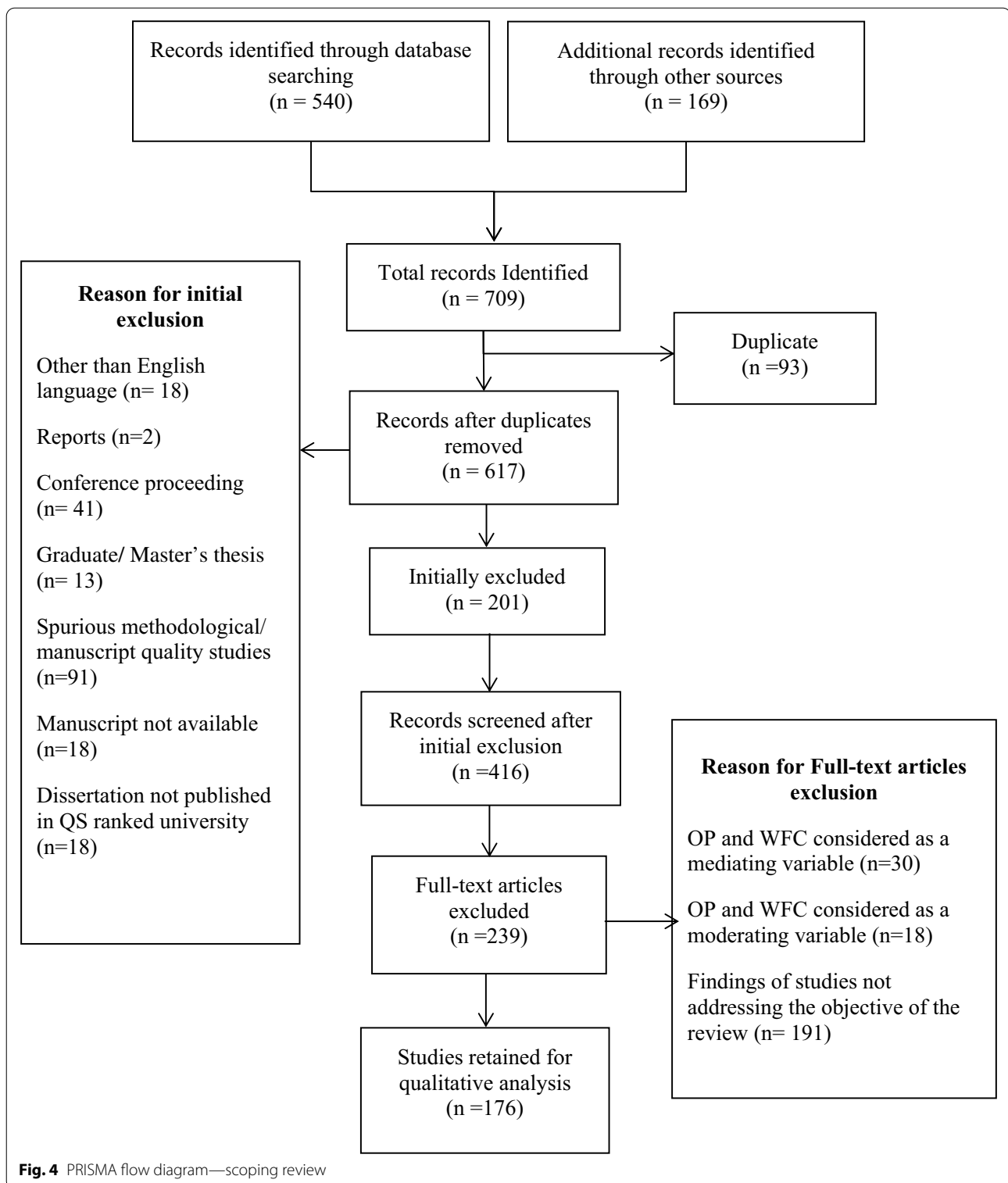
Extracted data were organized by using Microsoft excel. Separate word files created of antecedents of WFC and outcome variables of POP. Manually identified the similar variables from both the separated files. Burnout, Emotional intelligence, Job involvement, Negative Affectivity, Psychological wellbeing, Perceived Organizational Support, and Social support are variables identified from literature through scoping review that may support the relationship between POP and WFC by acting as mediator or moderator. Afterward conducted a content analysis to describe the results of the scoping review.

#### **Results**

From the search results, one research has identified that examined the impact of POP other than the work domain. A study conducted by Zhu and Li [154], based on ecological system theory [21] and boundary theory [9], examined the influence of POP on WFC. They hypothesized that WFC is an outcome of workplace environmental situations that are stressors. They consider POP as a workplace stressor that harms the boundary of work and family domain and makes it difficult for individuals to perform the family role. In line with the stimulus-responses model, they also hypothesized that organizational cynicism (Attitude) mediate (bridge) the relationship between OP (stimulus/event) and WFC (response). Little literature support was found for their research model therefore it identified as detailed research that needs to address. In this section as first defined the identified variables. Secondly, based on the content analysis of the findings of retained studies this section described the reason for considering these identified variables for further study.

#### **Burnout**

Psychological health issues harm individuals' life [104]. Burnout is a major psychological health problem around the world. It is a prolonged human response against the chronic emotional and interpersonal stressors on the job, which is expressed through exhaustion, cynicism, and professional inefficacy [94, p. 351]. Burnout is an outcome of workplace stressors that prevent employees from achieving their organizational related goals and expectation [110]. Whereas POP highlighted as a workplace stressor [22, 152] and a strong predictor of burnout [78, 91]. From the analysis of studies, it has been identified that when an employee perceive the workplace as political, it affects the psychological health of employee that intensify the burnout [16, 37]. Burnout is a dominant



workplace factor that has a strong tie with the health and wellbeing of employees [94, p. 351]. It has a detrimental impact on employees' family and professional life [129]. Studies have identified a positive association between

WFC and burnout. Studies predict burnout as a consequent factor that happens due to WFC [25, 46]. Although burnout is identified as a common variable through analysis current literature has not found any strong literature

support for burnout as an antecedent of WFC due to which this study has not considered Burnout for further examination.

### **Emotional intelligence**

Emotional intelligence is an ability to rational or unbiased identification of emotions, perceive emotions based on reality, understanding their true meaning, and manage them accordingly [97, 98]. Emotional intelligence is a strength of character that allows individuals to control emotions [122]. POP is all about the individual's perception of certain behaviors as apolitical. Due to not having emotional and intellectual skills, employees perceive certain behaviors in an organization as political, which swings the employees' emotions [37, 131]. While WFC is a resultant phenomenon of individuals' negative behavior. EI has identified as a bulbous variable in the study of POP that varies the intensity POP. Findings of the studies have revealed that emotional intelligence enhances individual emotional and intellectual capacity, lets him accurately identify the behaviors, and acts accordingly [37, 63, 89]. Similarly, studies related to WFC also highlighted EI as a factor that is strongly associated with WFC [69, 81]. Since the study found this variable as a factor that may predict the relationship between POP and WFC so it will be considered for further research to define its role.

### **Job involvement**

Job involvement is referred to as a psychological attachment of individuals with their job, and their personality well described by his nature of current work [85, 116]. A person with high job involvement would be highly concern with the job matter and put extra time and effort into a job [68]. Findings of the review identified job involvement as a consequent variable of OP and antecedent of WFC. Results of studies indicated that POP has an adverse impact on job involvement [117]. Perception of OP decreases the level of job involvement. When employees perceive the workplace as political or perceive political behavior at the workplace, it lowers their involvement in a job [11, 18, 117, 130]. In the meantime, job involvement has also been identified as a strong predictor of WFC [27]. High job involvement increases the employees' concentration toward job due to which employees pay less attention toward the performance of a role in the family domain that causes the WFC [59, 99, 111]. Although job involvement is found as a shared variable, the role of this variable is contrary. From the analysis of retained studies, it revealed that job involvement is not a factor that may lead POP to WFC. POP lowers employee job involvement [117], which may reduce the chances of WFC. Whereas high job involvement reduces negative perception about POP. Based on the above-described

analysis, role of the job involvement seems ambiguous; therefore, this study neglected the construct job involvement to consider as a possible mediator or moderator in the relationship of POP and WFC.

### **Negative affectivity**

Negative affectivity (NA) is a mental health outcome [126]. It is a dispositional tendency at which individual experiences various states of negative mood [147]. It is described as an aversive, undesirable or uncomfortable state of emotions and self-concept at which a person feels anxiety, worry, depression fear, or anger [28, 71, 119, 148]. The literature described its positive association POP [140]. Employees who perceive the workplace environment as political their level of negative affectivity is high. Because POP consider as negative workplace factor and it induces insecurity within employees as a result employees feel NA. Consequently literature also showed a positive association between NA and WFC, employees who experience NA due to workplace stressors they more likely to encounter WFC [132]. Hence NA is identified as a stimulus that bridges the relation of POP and WFC therefore NA is considered for further study.

### **Psychological wellbeing**

In the research of behavioral interventions, psychological wellbeing (PWB) has been used as an outcome variable that is affected due to adverse events [150]. Psychological wellbeing is defined as a presence of positive psychological adjustment indicators such as positive emotions, happiness, high self-esteem, life satisfaction, and absence of psychological maladjustment indicators such as negative emotions and psychopathological symptoms [62]. The emotional stability of an individual predicts PWB. POP is a negative workplace factor that disturbed the stability of emotions [79] and harms the psychological wellbeing of employees [141]. Employees with unstable psychological wellbeing due to workplace problems fail to perform their family roles and as result encounter the work–family conflict [101]. From an analysis of the scoping review, PWB has also identified as a variable that may lead POP to WFC and it is necessary to identify in what manner PWB would participate while causing this relation. Therefore, this study retained PWB for further systematic review.

### **Perceived organizational support**

Eisenberger et al. [39] described perceived organizational support (POS) as an employee's perception that his organization value his contribution and care for his wellbeing. Employee perceives that the organization will support him whenever needed to carry on the job effectively and to deal with a stressful situation [118]. POS is



workplace support. Positive perception about organizational support encourages an employee to concern for organizational welfare and objective [40]. It strongly predicts the employee's orientation toward the organization and work, employee performance, and wellbeing [76]. In contrast, the perception of OP demotes employees associated with the organization but high POS will permit employees to perceive their workplace or workplace behavior as political [17, 58, 121]. POS impacts the employees' behavior and works attitude [23, 26]; meanwhile, POS is inversely associated with WFC [55, 75]. The findings of the scoping review found a negative association between both the variables POP and WFC with POS. Hence from these findings, it is not clear how POS predicts this relation and it needs to be identified.

### **Social support**

From the analysis of retained studies, we have identified a construct of social support that has frequently been examined. Social support is an instrumental or emotional aid from work or family domain which intends to secure or enhance the wellbeing [95, 136]. Social support is broadly classified into two categories, i.e., perceived social support and received social support [139]. Findings of the studies have shown a strong association of received social support from family, supervisor, coworkers, and friends with WFC [57, 59, 66]. When employees experience conflict in either work or family domain upon receiving social support from work or the family domain conflict alleviates [49, 134]. Similarly when employees perceive workplace politics that causes stress and made them realize to get harm at that time provision of social support will reduce the adverse effects of POP that may harm his wellbeing [58, 144]. Based on the above literature support, it can be said that social support not only enables employees to overcome the WFC but also a barrier for harming the impact of POP. It is reasonable for this study to further explore the way through which social support participates in the relationship between POP and WFC. Although findings of the scoping review identified both dimensions of social support, i.e., work and family, but through the content, analysis is found that only work-related dimensions of social support reduce the aftermaths of POP [144]. Therefore, this study is considered an only work-related dimension of social support.

From the above analysis, this study has identified the variable that can predict the relationship between POP and WFC, i.e., Emotional intelligence, Negative Affectivity, Psychological wellbeing, Perceived Organizational Support, Workplace Social support. To find out how these identified variables determine the path of OP toward the WFC and to get an in-depth understanding of this hypothesized relation, it is required to analyze and

synthesize existing literature critically. Due to this purpose, this study proceed to conduct a systematic review.

### **Systematic literature review**

As the objective of this study is to explore the relationship between POP and WFC. In this study, scoping review helped to identify the variables and how these are related to POP and WFC, but findings are not enough to define the relation of these variables with each other. To conclude the findings of the scoping review and formulate, the comprehensive model to describe the way through which identified variables predict the relationship of POP and WFC systematic review for this study conducted.

The systematic review has been conducted by following the guidelines of Pollock and Berge [112]. According to their guidelines, the procedure for conducting systematic review consists of six consecutive phases, namely (i) clarify research aims and objectives, (ii) performing literature search (finding relevant research), (iii) data collection/extraction, (iv) assess the quality of studies, (v) synthesize evidence and (vi) interpret findings.

### **Clarifying the aim and objectives**

#### **Defining a research objective**

POP and WFC are two of the critical and significant concepts of organizational behavior. Through an extensive search, it has found that these factors highly influencing the organizational and personal life of employees. To cope with any conflicting matter, it is necessary to have an in-depth understanding of it. Although from the findings of two approaches, i.e., Network map and Scoping review, it is proved that POP and WFC are related to each other through specific work-related factors but there is no predictive significant model available to understand and described this relationship. Therefore, the objective of this systematic review is to define the role of all the variables to establish a comprehensive conceptual model.

#### **Formulating eligibility criteria**

This study included all the empirical studies with qualitative, quantitative, or mixed—methodology and books published in the English language reporting relationship between identified variables through scoping review since their inception. The search for the dissertation was also made to include all the published pieces of evidence. Manuscripts that provide evidence related to the research objective, either positive or negative, were considered. All the published studies and books in which any of these variables separately studied, their relationship has been examined with other variables, examine as a mediating or moderating variable, findings showing an insignificant relationship among identified variables, studies other than the English language, not considered

for this research excluded. Conference proceedings, publications with poor quality, and not published in curated journals/databases include thesis and dissertation excluded. To attain the generalizability of this review, all the studies are conducted for employees with chronic illness, patients, pregnant women, employees with physical/intellectual disabilities excluded because the mental state and environmental conditions of these employees are different from general employees and finding of these studies may impact the original findings. Grey literature was also excluded.

## Literature search

### Defining search strategy

The search considered databases that publish studies specific to organizational behavior and industrial/organizational/business psychology. The literature search conducted by using the following electronic databases: Elsevier BV, Sage Publication, Wiley Online, Springer nature, American psychological Association, JSTOR, Frontiers Media S.A., Emerald, The Academy of Management, Public Library of Science, Cambridge University Press, ERIC, EBSCO host, SSRN, PsycINFO, Taylor & Francis, ProQuest theses & dissertations, NCBI, IEEE Xplore. For an adequate literature search, it required to use broad search terms, i.e., keywords and free text words [115], The search terms used in this study for literature search are *Negative Affectivity AND Emotional Intelligence AND/OR Psychological Well-being/wellbeing AND/OR Perceived Organizational Support AND/OR Social support*. Studies containing any of these described keywords were selected. Similar search terms were used for all the databases. Social support is a multidimensional construct, and it has observed that most of the studies used a keyword “social support” as a whole so instead of pointing its dimension that has considered in the study. To include all the relevant studies or evidence, this study used a search term “Social Support.”

A vast number of studies have been conducted in connection with the identified variables. Peer-reviewed publications, book sections, thesis, and dissertation have been identified through the electronic databases. Additional publications search through search engines, i.e., Google Scholar, Microsoft Academic Search, and Crossref, by using keywords described in the search strategy. Overall, 468 studies have identified in which 229 studies retrieved from database search and 246 studies identified through manual search via a search engine, i.e., Google scholar. Details of studies retrieved from databases are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2 Database search result**

Data bases	No. of studies identified
Ebsco host	5
elibrary.ru	21
Elsevier	24
Emerald insight.com	3
ERIC	4
frontiers in	2
JSTOR	3
NCBI	5
Proquest	25
Psych net.APA.org	11
Sage pub	23
Semantic Scholar	15
Springer	19
SSRN	3
Taylor & Francis	33
Wiley Online Library	33
Total	229

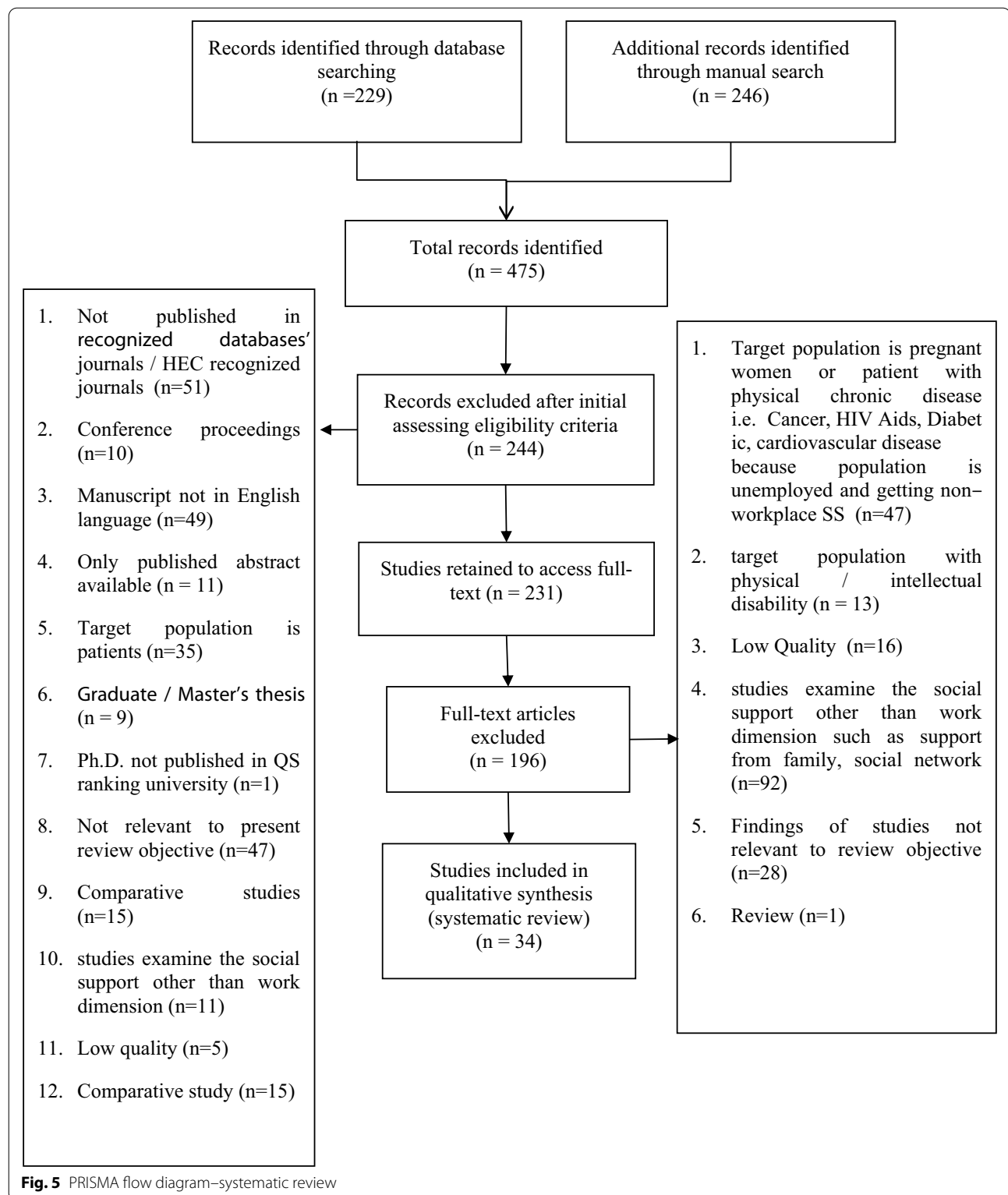
### Selection of abstract and full-text article

As per Chocrane guideline [50], selection of abstract and full-text articles was carried out by two independent reviewers to reduce bias while selecting and interpreting the content. Differences and disputes while selecting articles were discussed and resolved by the arbitrator. Studies that meet the above-described eligibility criteria were selected. Search results are managed by using free and open-source reference management software Zotero to keep an adequate record of developing a proper PRISMA flowchart.

Eligibility of identified studies based on predefined inclusion criteria initially evaluated through abstract and introductory sections of studies, i.e., study type, language, impact factor/HEC recognized journal. Two hundred forty-four studies have initially excluded (with reason) that were not meeting any of the inclusion criteria. Afterward, reviewed 231 full-text studies and an additional 196 studies excluded with documented reasons. Detailed characteristics of excluded studies are presented in the PRISMA flow diagram (Fig. 5).

### Data extraction

Data extracted from the selected studies by adopting a data extraction form of Cochrane collaboration [32]. General information of article, i.e., title, author, publication year and journal name, the objective of the research, study design, statistical techniques, results, and conclusion extracted from selected studies. Required information of all the retained studies presents through textual



description and tabulation. Detailed characteristics and extracted data of included studies are presented in the table.

#### Quality assessment

Quality assessment of all the selected studies is the key phase of systematic review because findings of review depend on it [112]. Quality assessment is a process

through which the researcher evaluates the strength of the body of evidence and establishes the transparency of findings for systematic review [145]. The quality of all the selected studies has been assessed by using the MMAT critical appraisal tool [61]. This tool/checklist was designed to appraise and describe the methodological quality of five categories of studies, i.e., qualitative, quantitative, mixed-method study, randomized control trials, and non-randomized control trials. According to the evaluation criteria, the researcher required to provide a detailed article for each defined criteria. Studies that were not clear about any of the defined criteria have excluded. In this study, the quality of the selected studies assessed while extracting the data. Overall, 16 studies have been assessed as low quality: detailed quality characteristics of included studies presented in the table.

### **Analyze and synthesize evidence**

After data extraction, analysis and synthesis are another vital phases of a systematic review. An analysis is a process through which the researcher examines the characteristics of individual studies, identifies its related component, and extracts the possible reasoning [20]. Whereas synthesis is a process that brings together the findings of all the included studies and establishes a knowledge that cannot be interpreted through the findings of individual study [34]. Extracted data are analyzed and examine through narrative synthesis. A narrative synthesis is an approach of systematic review which described as a process of exploring the relationship within and between the studies [8]. Popay et al. [113] identified four key elements for the narrative synthesis process, i.e., developing a theoretical model, developing a preliminary synthesis of findings of included studies, exploring relationships within and between the studies, and assessing the robustness of synthesis. According to the guideline, it is not mandatory to follow these elements sequentially for conducting narrative synthesis. These could be done iteratively.

### **Narrative review**

#### ***Developing a theoretical model***

The development of a theoretical model for synthesis is referred to as developing the “theory of change” to report the systematic review [113]. It is an element of a systematic review as a whole that defines the objective of the review and it needed to be done before synthesis, and it further contributes while interpreting the review’s findings [8, 113]. By following this guideline, this study described the objective of the systematic review above and in this section focused on three elements of the synthesis process.

#### ***Developing a preliminary synthesis of findings of included studies***

This step aimed to conduct an in-depth analysis of retained studies to find out how the association among considered variables has been established and examined in different studies. For this purpose, required information of all the retained studies, extracted with the help of an adapted data extraction form [32] and present through textual description and tabulation.

#### ***Assessing the robustness of the synthesis***

This step is referred to as the methodological quality of all the retained primary studies because the strength of synthesis of the literature depends on this step [113]. The trustworthiness of synthesis based on methodologies employed to assess the quality of included and measures that have taken to minimize the bias. As mentioned above, all sequential performance of key elements is not necessary; it can be rearranged according to the study. In the present study, description of inclusion and exclusion and techniques to assess the methodological quality of retained studies is a preliminary step of systematic review before proceeding for synthesis that has been described and done. Therefore, to avoid repetition, this element has not been considered here.

#### ***Exploring relationships within and between the studies***

At this phase, the researcher describes how the relationship among the variables has been identified or examines across the studies. One of the basic description and tabulation relationships among variables has been concluded and hypothesized to develop the conceptual framework of the study.

### **Findings**

In line with the objective of a systematic review synthesis of the literature aimed to develop a conceptual framework for the study by analyzing the role of each identified variable and review their association with each other. From the results and conclusions of retained studies, identified relationship among variable has discussed as follows

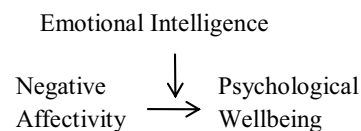
#### ***Perceived organizational politics, negative affectivity, and psychological wellbeing***

Negative affectivity is the combination of different unstable emotional states such as anxiety, depression, sadness, and unpleasant mood [28, 71, 119]. It is an emotional response to the experience of unpleasant events or the environment. According to affective events theory, employees’ experience at the workplace about certain events or environments shapes their attitudes and behavior [149]. Experience depends on perception; employees

judge and interpret their experience based on perception. Organizational politics is a perceived phenomenon that shapes employees' work-related attitudes and behaviors [1]. As OP is perceived as a negative workplace factor that impacts employees' emotions and negative affectivity has been identified as an outcome emotional state of employees that occurs due to POP [140]. Negative affectivity is strongly predicted by negative experiences and it is highly associated with the individual's physical and psychological health [53]. Perceived organizational politics evokes the negative affectivity that harms the physical and psychological health of employees.

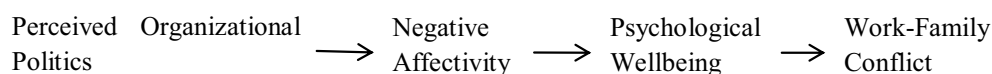
Similarly, employees' psychological wellbeing also depends on their perception and the way they appraise a particular situation [106]. When employees perceive certain situations positively, it enhances their PWB and vice versa. Studies described that psychological wellbeing has a negative association with negative emotions that occurs due to a negative work environment or condition [133]. When employees perceive workplace events negatively, they experience anxiety, depression, and unpleasant emotions that, as a consequence, harm their psychological wellbeing. From the analysis of retained studies, it has identified that perception of OP causes the negative affectivity that, as a result, affects the psychological wellbeing of employees. Negative affectivity channels the negative impact of POP on the psychological wellbeing of employees. Employees' psychological wellbeing is also highly associated with WFC, higher PWB reduces the WFC [2, 3, 105]. Stable PWB enables employees to happily participate in both domains of life, i.e., work and family domain. Employees with deteriorated psychological wellbeing due to work role or negative workplace environment pay less attention to their family role that causes WFC. In light of the above arguments, it can be argued that negative affectivity and psychological wellbeing sequentially mediate the relationship between POP and WFC.

86]. Satisfaction or happiness level of emotionally intelligent employees is high because they can neglect negative emotions and prolong the positive/pleasant state of emotions [42, 56]. PWB is a pleasant or satisfied state of mind [125]. Emotional intelligence controls the negative affectivity by lowering its symptoms such as aggression and anger [56]. The theory of Salovey and Mayer [124] claims that emotional intelligence positively predicts the PWB of employees because it holds the flow of negative emotions and nourishes optimism [12, 30, 33, 127]. The finding of studies has also shown that emotional intelligence moderates the impact of negative emotions that occurs due to negative experience [43, 77]. High emotional intelligence increases the level of PWB by reducing stress, which is a component of negative affectivity [42]. The presence of emotional intelligence enables an individual to overcome adverse effects. It protects and predicts the psychological wellbeing of employees [5, 12, 67, 93, 100, 123]. Based on the findings of studies, it can be conceptualized that emotional intelligence acts as a moderating variable that alleviates the impact of negative affectivity and safeguards the psychological wellbeing of employees.



#### ***Perceived organizational support, negative affectivity, and psychological wellbeing***

The occurrence of negative affectivity and stability of psychological wellbeing is associated with the cognitive abilities of individuals [84, 143]. Cognitive ability is referred to as individuals' mental capability to perform various psychological activities. A negative experience



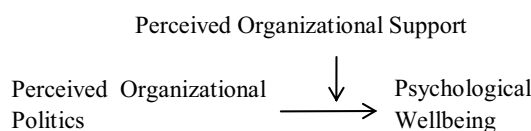
#### ***Emotional intelligence, negative affectivity, and psychological wellbeing***

Emotional intelligence allows an individual to perceive and interpret certain events and react accordingly correctly. It is highly associated with positive emotion and has an inverse relation with negative affectivity [13, 42,

of employees at the workplace induces negative emotions and interrupts their psychological wellbeing [10]. Nevertheless, their perception that their organization as supportive reduces the occurrence of various negative work-related emotions such as anxiety, depression, and job insecurity, and raise positive feelings within them [24]. When employees sense a particular environment or



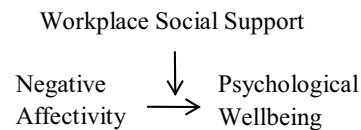
behaviors at the workplace as political and as an unjust that may cause the loss in terms of pay, appraisal, and performance in front accountable authority, it arises the negativity and affects the PWB of employees. However, in the meantime, their perception that the organization is supportive for them, values them, and will never let them suffer from injustice, alleviates the negative consequences of employees' perception about OP and protect PWB [107]. Studies described POS as a cognitive factor that relieves the negative impact of employees' perceptions about OP [23, 36]. It is positively associated with employees' PWB [103]. Employees' perception of their organization as supportive when they will have conflict at the workplace, it reduces anxiety, depression, and fatigue [92]. POS is an organizational construct that acts positively to enhance the PWB [108, 151]. Findings of retained literature have not highlighted the association between POS and negative affectivity, but from the support of the above-described literature, it can be argued that POS has a moderating impact on the relationship between POP and PWB.



#### **Workplace social support, negative affectivity, and psychological wellbeing**

Emotions and perceptions are psychological factors of individuals that drive their attitudes, behaviors, and actions [65] p.10). Psychological factors refer to the measure that relates psychological phenomena to the social environment [60]. These factors occur and escalate within individuals but have an influencing impact of external factors such as social support [136]. It influences the experience of negative and positive emotions [4]. Individuals having social support experience positive emotions and pleasant mood [15]. The presence of social support mitigates the impact of negative and perception and emotions such as stress [7]. From the findings of studies, it has been identified that social support is positively associated with psychological wellbeing [5, 31, 52, 135]. According to social support theory, the presence of social support reduces the negative impact of stressful events and protects the psychological and physical health of individuals. Perception of OP is itself a workplace stressor that induces negative emotions and affects the PWB of employees. The presence of social support from coworkers at the workplace reduces the negative impact of POP [144]. The literature identified that the workplace

social support enhances the PWB of employees [109] and shelters it from the effect of adverse, stressful events, and workplace stressor [105]. This study identified only a single study that denied the importance of emotional intelligence concerning the PWB [13]. In the light of the above arguments, it can also be hypothesized that workplace social support act as a moderator in such a manner that it reduces the intensity of POP and protects the employees PWB.



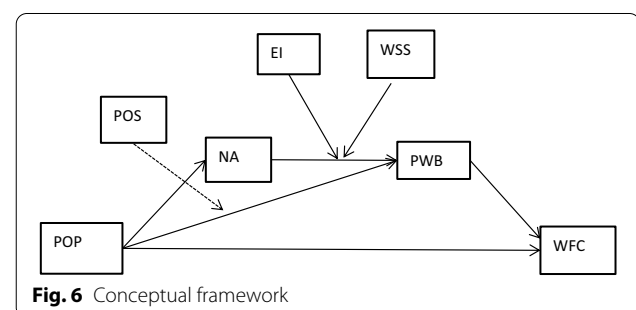
Studies also identified employees with high emotional intelligence are more inclined toward getting social support from the concerned domain [7, 73, 74, 83] to protect the PWB from stress [153].

Based on the above synthesis and hypothesized relationships, the conceptual model for further examination is shown in Fig. 6.

#### **Conclusion**

Perceived organizational politics is known as a critical workplace factor. Existing literature highlighted several insights of POP in which most of the researchers examined and extended the existing model of POP proposed by Ferris and Kacmar [45]. These studies only identified the work-related possible outcomes of POP to understand this phenomenon. This study aimed to examine the existing literature to explain its relationship with a critical non-work-related factor, i.e., WFC.

This study introduced a new insight by systematically combining three literature review approaches to develop a novel conceptual framework. At first, with the help bibliographic co-occurrence network map, this study proved an argument that there are variables that predict the relationship between POP and WFC. But the findings of the bibliographic co-occurrence network map are not enough to identify those specific variables. Therefore, this



study is required to conduct a scoping review. Through the scoping review approach, this study comprehensively reviewed all published literature related to antecedents of WFC and outcomes of POP. At first, this study identified the variables that can translate the impact of POP toward WFC. Then through a content analysis, this study further explores and defines those identified variables and also explains the manner through which these variables can logically predict the relationship between POP and WFC. For the variables, no logical literature support was available were ignored. The result of the scoping review revealed five variables that predict the relationship of POP and WFC, i.e., emotional intelligence, negative affectivity, psychological wellbeing, workplace social support, and perceived organizational support. The findings of the scoping review were not sufficient enough to explain how these variables related to each other and form a mechanism through which POP can cause the WFC.

To define the relationship of identified variables with each other and describe how these variables build the relationship of POP and WFC, this study conducted a systematic review. Through this, another comprehensive literature review approach this study proposed hypothesis and formulated a conceptual framework. The findings of the systematic review offered theoretical reasoning to logically define the occurrence of each relationship in the framework. Each identified relation was strongly supported by theories but overall hypothesized mediating mechanism receives support from the conservation of resource (COR) theory. According to theory loss of resources cause stress and harms PWB, employee perceive organizational politics as an unjust behavior at the workplace that can cause loss of resource in term of benefits receiving or will receive at the workplace. This sense of resource due to POP induces negative affectivity in employees [72, 140] that harms their PWB [106]. Due to deteriorated PWB, employees fail to participate in the family domain and experience WFC [101]. Furthermore review also identified that the presence of social support at work, the higher level of emotional intelligence, and perception about the organization as supportive eliminate the spillover of POP toward WFC.

The findings of this study articulated a new area of inquiry in the field of organizational behavior. It also provided new insight for conducting systematic review by systematically combining three approaches to answer the research objective. This is the first study that assesses the relationship between POP and WFC based on scoping and systematic review and presented a new framework by reviewing all the previous research. This research approach may be adopted for conducting a systematic review according to the research objective. Furthermore,

the findings of this study are relevant enough to consider a new area for future research. This model can empirically examine to assess the validity and predictive power of the model and also find that if the proposed relationships are consistent over time.

#### Abbreviations

COR: conservation of resource; DCF: data charting form; EI: emotional intelligence; MA: microsoft academy; NA: negative affectivity; OCB: organizational citizenship behavior; OP: organizational politics; POP: perceived organizational politics; POS: perceived organizational support; PWB: psychological wellbeing; WFC: work-to-family conflict; WSS: workplace social support.

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#### Authors' contributions

Ms. SF carried out this research as a first author, Dr. MAQ supported the research as a supervisor. All authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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#### Availability of data and materials

The data that support the findings of this study are available at would be provided upon request.

#### Data availability

The data sets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

#### Compliance with ethical standards

#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Ethical approval

All procedures performed in studies were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional research committee (Dr. Adnan Bashir, adnan.bashir@iobm.edu.pk) and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards."

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