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COMMUNICATION IMPACT ON JOB SATISFACTION AMONG AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY IN CHENNAL **REGION**

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ABSTRACT

Communications are considered as the lifeblood of any enterprise in this information-based driven scenario. In the present context, communication acts as an essential ingredient in employer-employee relations having a direct correlation between employee communication and profitable operations of organization. In order to develop mutual understanding of organizational goals, to gain information about employees and other such activities in the workplace needs effective communication. So this stimulates every business management to concentrate on human skills which involves effective interaction with others and the quality of this interaction determines the team spirit and dedication within the organization leading to job satisfaction. This research paper focuses on the effectiveness of communication among employees in Chennai region. A descriptive research design comprising of disproportionate stratified sampling of the data collection was adopted using a well-structured questionnaire distributed to 110 respondents. This research dealt with pattern of communication, timing of communication, various important information on organizational activities, sources of communication, manager's communication skill, opportunities to express ideas and suggestions for improvement of communication to attain job satisfaction among employees in Chennai region, Tamilnadu. The collected data were analyzed using statistical tools such as Frequency and Percentage Analysis, Chi-Square Test, Charles Spearman's Coefficient of Correlation (or) Rank Correlation. The research concludes highlighting the satisfaction level of employees in communication, mutual understanding of the organizational information, and improvement in mode of communication, which leads to fulfillment of organizations future personnel needs.

KEYWORDS

communication, employer-employee relation, team spirit, employee dedication, job satisfaction,

INTRODUCTION



ommunication is the heart of modern business. It is the most important of all entrepreneurial skills in today's environment. In the corporate scenario, the destiny of any business depends on the quality of relationships and their ability to transmit information helps both management and employees feel they can communicate with each other and ultimately believe in each other, to create a trustworthy business environment.

A good communication process is the lubricant that keeps the organization running smoothly. With active and assessable communication, employees are better able to understand their job and are more connected to it. This leads to better performance and higher job satisfaction. Therefore, communication is an essential factor relating to job satisfaction since effective communication can lead to any of four end results: Productivity, satisfaction, relationship with management and profit. This study, therefore, goes on to explore the perceived communication practices and its impact on job satisfaction.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

The Indian auto industry is one of the largest in the world. The industry accounts for 7.1 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Two Wheelers segment with 81 percent market share is the leader of the Indian Automobile market owing to a growing middle class and a young population. The overall Passenger Vehicle (PV) segment has 13 percent market share. India is also a prominent auto exporter and has strong export growth expectations for the near future. Several initiatives by the Government of India and the major automobile players in the Indian market are expected to make India a leader in the Two Wheeler (2W) and Four Wheeler (4W) market in the world by 2020.

Automobile Mission Plan (AMP) 2006-16 focused broadly on five aspects: Economic growth, passenger comfort, sustainability, quality and cost competitiveness. According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) - Apex Industry Body, Indian automotive sector today is a \$74 billion industry and by 2026, the industry is expected to achieve a turnover of \$300 billion. During 2006-2016, the industry created 19 million additional jobs and saved 8.6 billion liters of fuel. 'Make in India' or 'Made in India'? Vision AMP 2016-2026 has been aligned with Make in India campaign which is essentially a Made in India initiative. Made in India initiative has brand perception challenges and could be overcome only by providing value added products and services such as improved safety features, technological enhancements and quality management.

AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS THRIVES IN SOUTH INDIA: 2016

Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala

Tamil Nadu is the largest contributor to the automobile sector in the country in terms of industrial output. Several major car companies like TVS Motor, Hyundai, Renault-Nissan, Ford India, Mitsubishi, BMW India, India Yamaha, among operate out of Tamil Nadu alone. The Chennai-Bangalore industrial corridor is a major region for automotive players in the country. There are several factors that work together towards making South India an attractive destination for automobile players. Some of them are 1. Industry-friendly government policies, 2. Proximity to ports, 3. Availability of land, 4. Strong auto component base and 5. Excellent pool of skilled talent and productive labour, "said a spokesperson of Daimler India Commercial Vehicle.

The Chennai hub is one of the largest auto hubs of the country. Component majors in the State include Lucas-TVS, Delphi, Brakes India, Bosch, Rane, Valeo, Visteon, Amalgamation Group, Samvardhana Motherson Group, etc. The distinct clusters of automobile industry in Tamil Nadu are identifiable in and around Chennai at Sriperumbudur, Oragadam Industrial Corridor and Maraimalai Nagar. Moreover, the state also has the Global Automotive Research Centre in Chennai.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Communication is a process of sharing ideas, information, and messages with others in a particular time and place. Communication includes writing and talking, as well as nonverbal communication (such as facial expressions, body language, or gestures), visual communication (the use of images or pictures, such as painting, photography, video or film) and electronic communication (telephone calls, electronic mail, cable television, or satellite broadcasts). Communication is a vital part of personal life and is also important in business, education, and any other situations where people encounter each other.

The business strategies such as employee autonomy, customer orientation, communication, job satisfaction, training and development, motivational factors, corporate social responsibility have major role to play in organizational performance, (Adegbuyi, Adunola, Worlu, Rowland & Ajagbe, 2015).

The human relations approach carries greater importance as it is the foremost time that two-way (between worker and manager) communication which is similar to a conversation was encouraged instead of unidirectional (from manager to worker) communication. Thus the human relations approach view communication as an instrument to obtain cooperation from employees, (Wrench et al, 2015).

Effective communication is a process by which sender of message, received feedback from receiver in intended, (Peter, 2015).

Education Portal (2003-2015) defined internal communication as the process of transmitting information among members of an organization within the different parts of the organization.

Extensively the present modern management methods motive is to increase employees performance by applying the power of effective communication, (Erogluer, 2011 in Asamu, 2014).

Job satisfaction is a psychological factor which is described as a type of emotional adjustment to the job requirements. This states that the employee is satisfied when the work gives ideal conditions otherwise employee begins to blame the job and quit it, (Asamu, 2014).

The change management in the business organization becomes successful only when the communication is functioned properly. Through which the key resources that is employees executive such changes in the firms. Parallely, management should address the apprehensions and issues related with them so as to get the expected change from their employees, (Husain, 2013).

Communication occurs in the form of exchange of information, needs, relationship and feedback is a valued behavior (Bolman & Deal, 2013).

Smart business persons understand that happy employees are productive employees who benefit their organizations (Waggoner, 2013).

When the information exchanged is not clear, concise, complete and accurate then breakdowns occurs in communication which results in dropping of communication satisfaction. Effective communication involves interpersonal and professional relationships developed in the workplace by being keen, courteous, attentive, active and appropriate use of gestures (Ramirez, 2012).

Among the scales used to measure communication satisfaction, Communication Satisfaction Questionnaire (CSQ) developed by Downs and Hazen (1977) having eight dimensions such as communication climate, relationship with superiors, organizational integration, media quality, horizontal and informal communication, organizational perspective, relationship with subordinates and personal feedback are the most widely used scale in various types of firms (Alsayed, Motaghi & Osman, 2012).

Neves & Eisenberger (2012) research work supports Anchor's findings specifying most of the companies apply open communication which is considered as an imperative human resource policy. In addition to the human resource practices such as pay, promotion, job security, autonomy and training (Shore & Shore, 1995), the open communication while recognizing the employees performance also leads to happiness and job satisfaction which further results in positive outcome benefiting the firm. Thus it was suggested that managers should be trained to effectively use open communication among employees and management which is the key element of organization's strategic planning. Communication in the workplace is also called as organizational communication which prevails from ancient period to modern period have undergone various modification due to technology. A lengthy path from industrialization, assembly lines, long-term employment, cross functional work teams, early years of internet and electronic mail to the present period influenced by globalization, terrorism, climate change and changing demographics (Miller, 2015).

Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) Report 2012, found the top seven factors influencing the level of job satisfaction among employees are opportunities to use skills and abilities, job security, compensation or pay, communication between employees and senior management, relationship with immediate supervisor, benefits, organization's financial stability, and the work itself.

Previous researches states open two-way communication makes employees to be happy who are highly successful in every parts of life (Eisenberger & Stinglhamber, 2011).

Effective communication supports organization in attaining higher success (Steingrimsdottir, 2011). Effective internal communication builds a healthy environment having motivation, trust, and engagement and sharing of thoughts with ideas freely (Moyer, 2011).

Effective communication has little to do with getting the message across, but more with its acceptance from the intended receivers (Office politics, HRM Review, October 2004).

Bi-directional communication promotes feelings of being valued and increases job satisfaction. Various studies have resulted in the supposition that employees develop beliefs concerning their value to the organization in order to satisfy socio-emotional needs and to determine the organization's readiness to recognize and reward increased work effort and performance (Eisenberger & Stinglhamber, 2011; Rhoades & Eisenberger, 2002; Shore & Shore, 1995).

We live in a world filled with other people. We live together, work together, and play together. In our personal lives, we need each other for security, comfort, friendship, and love. In our working environment, we need each other in order to achieve our goals and objectives. None of these goals can be achieved without communication. Communication is the basic thread that ties us together. Through communication we make known our needs, our wants, our ideas, and our feelings. The better we are at communication, the more effective we are at achieving our hopes and dreams (Alessandra, Hunsaker, 1993).

Chester I. Barnard, viewed communication as the means by which people are linked together in an organization to achieve a common purpose. This is still the fundamental function of communication (Harold Koontz / Heinz Weihrich, Essentials of Management).

R.N. Gupta, Principles of Management states, Communication as a process, by which human behavior is modified and shaped for organizational purposes and good results are expected of the members of the organization.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ${\bf 1.} \hspace{0.5cm} \hbox{To identify the employees level of understanding with regard to the organizational information.} \\$
- 2. To determine the job satisfaction level of employees regarding accessible and active communication in the work environment.
- 3. To identify the efforts taken by the organization in maintaining quality relationship in fulfilling its future personnel needs.
- To suggest suitable measures based on the results of the study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The locale selected for the study was Chennai region, Tamilnadu. Descriptive research was applied for the study as it attempts to obtain a complete and accurate description of situation, and with some definite purpose with help of questionnaire to gather primary information. For the research purpose, 110 employees were taken as the sample size. The method adopted for the survey was probability sampling, disproportionate stratified sampling method has been chosen from the access. A well-structured questionnaire consists of both open-ended, in which rating scales comprising category scale, likert scale and also ranking scale comprising forced choice as well as close-ended questions were used in the organizational research. Finally, the information gathered is analyzed by using the following tools such as:

- 1. Frequency and Percentage Analysis
- 2. Chi-Square Test
- 3. Charles Spearman's Coefficient or Correlation (or) Rank Correlation

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- 1. The study was restricted to only male employees.
- 2. There was a general apprehensions and reluctance on the part of the respondents initially while responding to the questionnaire.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE I: GENERAL PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Aspects	Percentage of respondents (N: 110)
Age (in yrs)	
21-25	0
26-35	41
36-45	19
Above 45	50
Educational Qualification	
10 th	30
12 th	10
Graduate	40
Post Graduate	13
Professional Course	07
Experience (in yrs)	
1-5	07
6-10	36
11-20	20
Above 20	47

Source: Primary data

The above table depicts that 46 percent of the respondents were in the age group of above 45 years. It shows that the workplace receives the expertise of employees under above 45 years age category in line with the remaining age group of employees in the company. It was found that 36 percent of the respondents were graduates and 27 percent of the respondents were 10th qualified. The data also reveals that young blood graduates were given an opportunity to serve and employees with lesser educational qualification were also entertained based on their skill sets as required by the company. This implies states that higher educational qualification does not act as a constraint for potential and skilled persons. As far as the work experience is concerned, 43 percent of the respondents had above 20 years of experience, which shows that the organization has a right mixture of employees with adequate experience who have a good long time serving record in the company and fresher's with dynamic energy.

TABLE II: MANAGERS COMMUNICATION SKILL BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE

Communication Skill / Experience	1 – 5 yrs	6 – 10 yrs	11 – 20 yrs	Above 20 yrs	Total
Excellent	07	13	07	24	51
Very Good	0	13	10	20	43
Good	0	10	03	03	16
Poor	0	0	0	0	0
Total	07	36	20	47	110

Step 1: Setting up of Null Hypothesis.

H₀: There is no significant association between employees experience and managers communication skill.

Step 2: Setting up of Alternate Hypothesis.

 H_1 : There is a significant association between employees experience and managers communication skill.

Step 3: Level of significance is 5%

Step 4: $\chi^2 = (O_i - E_i)^2/E_i$

Step 5: Degrees of freedom

= (r-1)(c-1)

= (4-1)(4-1)

= 3 × 3

= 9

Step 6: The calculated value is 17.301.

Step 7: The table value with 12 degrees of freedom is 16.919.

Result: Here the calculated value is 17.301 and the table value is 16.919. This shows that the calculated value is greater than the table value. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

Inference: There is a significant association between employees experience and managers communication skill.

TABLE III: RANK CORRELATION ON IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS FOR INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Information	Staffs	Workers
Company strategies for the future	1	1
Products and services	2	4
Human resource process	3	2
Key customer business issues	4	6
Technology development	5	3
Competitive activities	6	5
Issues and trends affecting business	7	7

r ₁	r ₂	$d = r_1 - r_2$	d ²
1	1	0	0
2	4	-2	4
3	2	1	1
4	6	-2	4
5	3	2	4
6	5	1	1
7	7	0	1
			$\Sigma d^2 = 15$

r = 1-
$$\frac{6(\sum d)^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

r = 1- $\frac{6(15)}{7(48)}$
r = 1- $\frac{90}{336}$
r = 1- $\frac{6(15)}{336}$

Result: The calculated value shows that the rank correlation r = 0.732. Thus the two variables are positively correlated. **Inference:** Both staffs and workers opinion on prioritizing and receiving the important information's are similar.

TABLE IV: RANK CORRELATION ON PRESENT MODE OF ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Present Mode	Staffs	Workers
Company e-mail	1	5
Bulletin board	2	1
Meetings	3	3
Immediate supervisor	4	2
Local company publications	5	4

r ₁	r ₂	$d = r_1 - r_2$	d ²
1	5	-4	16
2	1	1	1
3	3	0	0
4	2	2	4
5	4	1	1
			$\Sigma d^2 = 22$

Result: The calculated value shows that the rank correlation r = -0.1. Thus the two variables are negatively correlated. **Inference:** The staffs reveal that the present modes of organizational communication are quite different from that of workers.

TABLE V: RANK CORRELATION ON PREFERENCE IN MODE OF ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Present Mode	Staffs	Workers
Company e-mail	1	5
Immediate supervisor	2	2
Middle management	3	3
Bulletin board	4	1
Senior Management	5	4

r ₁	r ₂	$d = r_1 - r_2$	d²
1	5	-4	16
2	2	0	0
3	3	0	0
4	1	3	9
5	4	1	1
			$\Sigma d^2 = 26$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & \frac{6(\sum d)^2}{n(n^2-1)} \\ r & = & 1 \\ \text{where,} & & d=r_1-r_2 \text{ and } n=5 \end{array}$$

r =
$$\frac{6(26)}{5(24)}$$

$$\frac{156}{120}$$
r = $\frac{1}{100}$

Result: The calculated value shows that the rank correlation r = -0.3. Thus the two variables are negatively correlated. **Inference:** The preference in mode of organizational communication for staffs and workers varies.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 1. Majority of respondents (64%) are fully satisfied with the pattern of communication existing in the company.
- 2. Maximum numbers of employees are satisfied with their job.
- 3. It is clearly stated that (55%) employees receive adequate information. Thus employees have only moderate knowledge about the ongoing process of the company.
- 4. The study shows that majority of respondents (61%) agree that they receive information at appropriate timings.
- 5. Employees (100%) are satisfied with their manager's communication skill.
- 6. It is concluded that majority of the employees (85%) always believe the information they receive.
- 7. The study authenticates that both staffs and workers rank the company strategies as important.
- 8. Majority of the staffs state that they receive information by means of company e-mails and bulletin board.
- 9. Majority of the workers state that they receive information by means of bulletin board and through supervisor.
- 10. The study indicates that (58%) employees have more opportunities to express their ideas to senior management.

SUGGESTIONS

The majority of the findings have proved that the communication is effective, however few suggestions are provided for consideration.

- 1. It is suggested that the management can provide the employees with adequate information about the ongoing process and keep them informed about the changes of tomorrow and to make them prepare for it. Thus strive them for accomplishment of organizational goals.
- 2. It's further suggested that periodical meetings are to be conducted at regular intervals to invite constructive ideas from the employees for improving the effectiveness of communication which will pave way in building a good employee employer relationship.
- 3. In the era of information technology employees should be encouraged to use and have the accessibility to modern modes of communication to have a better understanding of their organization and its setup.
- 4. Self-Development Programmes should be initiated by the management from time to time which in turn satisfies organization's communication needs in the long run.

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The study is restricted to only male employees and moreover at present, an employee working is subject to variation over a period of time. So, the results of this study though relevant now may not be applicable after a period of time. Therefore, there is a scope for further research.

CONCLUSION

Communication is central to the success of all organizations. And when change is occurring in an organization, communication is even more essential to implement that change effectively. However, one problem for many modern organizations is that change is not always communicated effectively. Ineffective communication during organizational change is reported to negatively impact the way an organization functions. Ineffective change communication can lead to resistance to the change, rumors, and promote exaggeration of the negative aspects associated with the change as well as to act as an overall negative influence on corporate culture. The purpose of this study is to investigate effective communication in the workplace. The attempt to measure the effectiveness of communication reveals that the organization is committed. For an esteemed and well established organization, it is not an upheavan task to challenge this widely forced obstacles with commitment and determination of the organization can successfully overpower this obstruct and surpass the other existing competitions to reach the aim of success.

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