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MEASURING OF QUALITY OF WORK LIFE IN TEXTILE INDUSTRIES - AN INTEGRATION OF CONCEPTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRODUCTIVITY

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ABSTRACT

This article reviews the meaning of Quality of work life (QWL), analyses the drastic role of QWL on employee's work performance with reference to textile mills, especially the employees of weaving mills. Many advantages derived from Quality of work life (QWL), one of which is employee's work performance. The work performance of a group of workforces is greatly affected by QWL as a result of dynamic changes in work environment and conditions. QWL includes Adequate & Fair pay, Health and well-being, Job security, Job satisfaction, Growth opportunities, Interpersonal relations and Work and non-work life balance. In this study, three major factors of Quality of work life, such as Welfare facilities, Growth opportunities and Interpersonal relationship had been used to assess the most appropriate one helps for extracting best performance of the workers. The article concludes that QWL to textile employees is challenging both to the individuals and organizations. A high QWL is radical (essential) to organization to get things done from the employees as expected. Our findings suggest that welfare measures have important implications for their performance. Interpersonal relations and Growth oppurtunities may be 'a help' to employee's work performance.

KEYWORDS

Quality of work life, Work performance and Welfare measures.

INTRODUCTION

uality of work life refers to programmes designed to create a workplace that enhances employee well-being (Thomas S. Bateman and Scott A. Snell: 2003). It is a multidimensional concept implying a concern for the members of an organization. Quality of Working Life (QWL) is a measure of how good your work is for you. Quality of Working Life is more than just job satisfaction or work happiness, but the widest context in which an employee would evaluate their job. J. Richard and J. Loy define QWL as "the degree to which members of a work organization are able to satisfy important personnel needs through their experience in the organization". Baba and Jamal (1991) listed what they described as typical indicators of quality of working life, including: job satisfaction, job involvement, work role ambiguity, work role conflict, work role overload, job stress, organizational commitment and turn-over intentions. Baba and Jamal also explored reutilization of job content, suggesting that this facet should be investigated as part of the concept of quality of working life. The basic underlying QWL is the humanization of work which means developing a work environment that ensure dignity to the employee, stimulates his creative abilities and facilitates self-growth.

EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE

The latest mantra being followed by organizations across the world being — "get paid according to what you contribute" — the focus of the organizations is turning to performance management and specifically to individual performance. Organizations are run and steered by people. It is through people that goals are set and objectives realized. The performance of an organization is thus dependent upon the sum total of the performance of its members. According to Peter Drucker, 'an organization is like a tune; it is not constituted by individual sounds but by their syntheses. The success of an organization will therefore depend on its ability to measure accurately the performance of its members and use it objectively to optimize them as a vital resource. The Employees today are different. As soon as they feel dissatisfied with the current employer or the job, it affects their work performance.

The performance of an employee is his resultant behaviour on task which can be observed and evaluated. It refers to the contribution made by an individual in the accomplishment of organizational objectives. Performance can be possible by satisfying the employee's needs, which can be fulfilled by implementing Quality of work life activities. For creating a performing organization and to sustain the performance, HR orientation needs to be top-down and should also involve the line managers to ensure sustainable peak performance. Quality of work life activities helps the employees to acquire and/or develop technical, managerial and behavioural knowledge, skills and abilities and moulds the values, beliefs and attitudes necessary to perform present and future rules.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are rising literature that tries to seek the association between quality of work life and work performance. Among the main focus included in this literature is the remuneration aspect. Remuneration aspects such as salary, salary increment, bonuses, allowances, pension and medical benefits are among the best examples that can motivate employee to give their best for their employer. A research entitled "Quality Of Work Life: Implications Of Career Dimensions" (2006) by Raduan Che Rose, LooSee Beh, Jegak Uli and Khairuddin Idris, supports the proposition that the degree of satisfaction in QWL is related to the degree to which the individual believes his or her success criteria have been met. The studies by Okpara (2004); Oshagbemi (2000) and Sloane and Williams (1996) who highlighted differences in remuneration aspects received by the employee will suddenly affect their work satisfaction and work performance. Besides the remuneration aspect, it can be noted in the literature, interpersonal communication aspects frequently are raised as one of the main factors contributing to work performance. Porter and Lawler (1968) identified three types of performance. First is concerning to productivity. Second, concerning ratings of individuals by someone other than the person whose performance is being considered. Self-appraisal and self-ratings become the third type of performance. Thus, job performance measures the level of achievement of business and social objectives and responsibilities from the perspective of the judging party (Hersey and Blanchard, 1993).

Studies done by Wan (2007); Martzler and Renzl (2007) and Davies *et al.* (2001) concluded that remuneration is an important aspect if an organization wants to see their "engine" performing their best. The interpersonal communication aspect such as respecting others, working together, believing others and information sharing if emphasized by the organization, will bring benefit to both sides, the employees and the employer. Candace *et al.* (2008); Daley (2003) and Madlock

(2008) in their researches have concluded that interpersonal communication does have an impact on employees' work performance. Conversely, Litterst and Eyo (1982) have other view where they accentuate on interpersonal communication as a positive element that should be cultivated among the employees in order to reduce any problem that can be caused by miscommunication. Referring to Mastura et al. (2006), work satisfaction and work performance depend on hygiene and motivation factors. The important hygiene aspects are organization performance and interpersonal communication while the important motivation aspects are responsibility and job promotion. Work environment also has been identified as one of the important determinants for work performance. Working environment such as ergonomics, recent ICTs availability, harmony environment and safety working environment will bring comfort to employees thus providing them a better environment to perform their best. Hardin (1960) in his study had noted that work environment has an impact on work performance while Darlene and Borman (1989) proved that working environment such as physical environment, office colleague, job satisfaction and management supervision can construct work performance. A study accomplished by Luchak and Gellatly (2002) has noted that systematic and established pension scheme can enhance employees' work performance. Kim et al. (1999) has produced interesting outcomes to be shared where they concluded that aspect such as free accident work place is indeed an important key to intensify employees work performance. Another study by Vloisky and Aguilar (2009) emphasized that stable and secured job have significant and positive relationship with employee work performance. Based on the previous studies, organization policy and management style found to have influence on work performance. It is noted organization support is also an important tool to strengthen employee work performance. Employer should be reminded that if their "main engine" is left working alone without any support or supervision, their performance will be less thus affects the quality of their productivity. Another study done by James W. Westerman and Bret L. Simmons (2007) indicates that the relationship between personality, work environment, and employee outcomes is interrelated and in need of further examination. The significance of employee goal-orientation preferences in fully mediating the relationship between personality and workplace outcomes provides further evidence to support the contention that the relationship between personality and performance may not be bivariate, and that intervening variables play a substantial role. According to Loscocco and Roschelle (1991), the most common assessment of QWL is the individual attitudes. This is because individual work attitudes are important indicators of QWL. The ways that people respond to their jobs have consequences for their personal happiness, the effectiveness of their work organizations and even the stability of society. Individuals selectively perceive and make attributions about their jobs in accordance with the expectations they bring to the workplace. Studies which use widely differing samples find consistent results: older employees are more satisfied, more job-involved and more committed to their work.

ABOUT THE INDUSTRY AND RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The Indian textile industry contributes about 14 per cent to industrial production, 4 per cent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and 17 per cent to the country's export earnings, according to the Annual Report 2009-10 of the Ministry of Textiles. It provides direct employment to over 35 million people and is the second largest provider of employment after agriculture. The power loom sector occupies a pivotal position in the Indian textile industry. Though current growth of this sector has been restricted by technological obsolescence, fragmented structure, low productivity and low-end quality products, in future Technology would play a lead role in this sector and will improve quality and productivity levels. The power loom sector produces more than 60% of cloth in India and textile ministry's estimation says that more than 60% of the country's cloth exports originated from that sector. With its employment of 4.86mn workers, the power looms sector comprised approximately 60% of total textile industry employment. So, a specific study is essential to identify the need and prevailing conditions in this sector. This study is designed to explore the issue of representation of legitimate interests of workers in its entirety and make suggestion to help the policy makers to improve the quality of work life of workers of textile industry. No specific study has been so far made to identify the necessities of providing better QWL to the textile workers and their job performance. It is in this context a detailed investigation in the form of a systematic scientific study is required. In view of such concerns it is considered worthwhile to conduct the present study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of this study is identify that the quality of work life is radical to employee's work performance and to find out most appropriate factor of QWL on employee's performance.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study was confined to the permanent workers of textile sector, especially the workers of weaving mills in Tamilnadu. Workers from three sections namely Warping, Sizing and Looming were interviewed. The methodology involved collecting primary data and secondary data and analyzing the same by using percentage analysis, chi-square and Factor analysis and other tools for interpretation. A questionnaire is prepared for the purpose of collecting primary data. The questionnaire was of multiple choice types and Likert scale was used as the rating scale in the questions and survey conducted among the workers from three sections namely Warping, Sizing and Looming. The secondary data have been collected from reference books, leaflets and brochures related to this industry. The researcher used Non- probability sampling method and Convenience sampling technique has been used.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data analysis is carried out to extract meaningful information from the collected data. It could be done after the data has been collected. The collected data are first edited, coded and tabulated for the purpose of analyzing them. It is found that employees at the grass-roof level experience a sense of frustration because of unfavorable terms, treatment by their superiors, lack of freedom etc.

TABLE: 1 RESPONDENTS' PROFILE

items	Basis	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	128	64%
	Female	72	36%
Age group	18 -25 years	96	48%
	26 -35 years	48	24%
	36 -35 years	32	16%
	46 -55 years	24	12%
Educational level	Schooling	106	53
	Diploma/ ITI	046	23
	UG Graduates	028	14
	PG Graduates	020	10
Marital status	Single	138	69

062

31

Married

The findings showed that there was no significant difference in terms of gender, marital status and age group. The test (Bonferronil) showed that the Schooling group had a significantly higher factor score on welfare measure than the other group. Majority of the respondents are male (64%) and most of the respondents (48%) are in the age group of 18 -25 years.

The relationship between satisfaction on welfare measures and employee's performance was measured, in which an alternate hypothesis (H1) states that there is a significant relationship between satisfaction on welfare measures and Work performance. Here, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternate hypothesis was accepted.

TABLE: 2 RELATION BETWEEN WELFARE MEASURES AND EMPLOYEE'S PERFORMANCE (WITH THE HELP OF CHI- SQUARE DISTRIBUTION)

0	E	O-E	(O-E)2	(O-E)2/E
109	86.4	22.59	510	5.90
60	54	6	36	0.66
11	39.6	-28.59	817.38	20.64
5	8.16	-3.15	9.92	1.21
10	5.1 4.9		24.01	4.70
2	3.74	-1.74	3.02	0.80
2	7.2	-5.2	27.03	3.75
2	4.5	-2.5	6.25	1.38
11	3.3	7.7	59.28	17.96
2	9.6	-7.60	57.76	6.01
2	6	-4	16	2.66
16	4.4	11.6	134.56	30.58
2	2 8.64 -6.64 1 5.4 -4.4		44.08	5.10
1			19.36	3.58
15	3.96	11.04	121.88	30.77
				135.70

H0= There is no significant relation between welfare measures and employee's performance.

H1= there is significant relation between welfare measures and employee's performance.

Degree of freedom = (r-1) (c-1)

$$= (3-1)(5-1)$$
 $= 2*4 = 8$

Tabulated value at 8 degree of freedom and 5% of significance is =9.488 and the calculated value (Chi-square) 135.70. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected at 5% level of significant. It is interpreted that the Chi-square value is greater than table value, so there is a significant relationship between level of satisfaction on welfare measurers and work performance.

TABLE NO.3: EMPLOYEE'S PERFORMANCE

Opinion	No. of respondent	Percentage
Highly	94	47%
Neutral	62	31%
Not at all	44	22%
Total	200	100%

Source: Primary data

The above table No. 3 interpreted that 47% of the respondents are strongly agreed that if they are given good QWL facility, they can improve their performance, 31% of the respondents have the opinion neutral and 22% of the respondents stand with the view 'not at all'.

From this study it is found that most of the employees agreed that they are satisfied with their overall Quality of Working Life, which is very close to the average for the textile sector. Majority of the employees report slightly lower levels of satisfaction with Home-Work Interface compared to the benchmark data. This area may warrant further consideration and respondents reported greater satisfaction with Working Conditions in comparison to the benchmark data. It is observed that majority of the respondents accepted that the better working condition will helps for work performance and reduce fatigue. 45% of the respondents accept that welfare measures motivate them towards better performance, 26% accept it is by Inter personal relations, 19% said that they perform well due to growth opportunities and rest of them are due to some other reasons. It is found that supervisor's support, working condition are the most essential factor for employee performance. The major reasons for low performance is that 24% of respondent said due to power shutdown and lack of training and 08% said due to in adequate welfare measures, 13% of the respondents are saying that due to personal reasons and remaining people have some other reasons for their low performance. In general QWL factors are the most influencing factors for employees work performance.

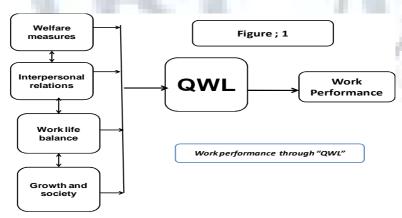


Figure: 1 clarifies that there is an inter dependency between three factors and which are the QWL indicators and has the significance on employees' work performance of the employees.

TABLE: 4 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOUR DIMENSIONS AND OVERALL WORK PERFORMANCE

Relationship between four Dimensions and Overall Work performance			
Dimensions	β	Beta	Sig. T
Welfare measures	0.423	0.412	0.001
Interpersonal relations	0.170	0.177	0.004
Growth and Security	0.210	0.195	0.003

Table: 3, explain the relationship between three dimensions and its influence on work performance. As per the results of Multiple regression model shown in the Table No:3, the relationship between three dimensions and quality of work life are inter-related, the Welfare measures was statistically significant (Sig. T < 0.05). In addition, Welfare measures had a greatest influence towards Quality of Work life.

SUGGESTIONS

The research has suggested that the company may adopt an enlightened policy of frequent training and the promotion of welfare facilities will contribute to make the labour force to perform well. And it is suggested that there must be a proper understanding between supervisors, because the workers are expecting more understandable and care taking supervisors. It is found that the workers performing well even in poor working conditions. Our findings suggest that welfare measures have important implications for their performance. Inter personal relations and Growth opportunities may be 'a help' to employee's work performance; workers who work for joy or pleasure appear to perform better than those who do not. Finally it is suggested that, the company may adopt a regular system to assess the grievances and problems of the employees.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to find out the importance of quality of work life on employees work performance, especially the employees of weaving mills in Tamilnadu. For that, textile mills workers are surveyed with a questionnaire. The different factors and causes that affect the employee's performance were found. From the results of these factors obtained from respondents of are analyzed and interpreted. It is hoped that, the QWL plays a radical role on employee work performance. The textile mills expected to introduce more innovative systems and frequent training to bring out the better performance. It can be concluded that the mills must concentrate more on welfare facilities and grievances handling. Importance must be given more on welfare facilities. If so, the employee work performance will be satisfactory.

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