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OBJECTIVES

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

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AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON EMPLOYEE WELFARE MEASURES IN SELECTED PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES

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ABSTRACT

Employee is a worker who is hired to perform a job. Employee welfare is an important facet of industrial relation. After employees have been hired, trained and remunerated, they need to be retained and maintained to serve the organisation better. The term welfare suggests the state of well being and implies wholesomeness of the human being. It is a desirable state of existence involving the mental, physical, moral and emotional factor of a person. Adequate level of earnings, safe and human conditions of work and access to some minimum social security benefits are the major qualitative dimensions of employment which enhance quality of life of workers and their productivity. Employee welfare is the key to smooth employer - employee relations. In order to increase employee welfare, employers offer extra incentive in the form of employee welfare schemes and to make it possible to pursue workers to accept mechanisation. From a broad perspective, employee welfare includes all the activities carried out by employers, central and state governments, trade unions and any other agencies with the aim of enhancing the personal and work life of the employees. From a narrow perspective, the activities undertaken on its own by an organization to improve the working environment of the employees may be described as a welfare measure. This paper analyzes the welfare measures provided in selected sample public sector undertakings.

KEYWORDS

employee welfare, public sector enterprises.

INTRODUCTION

mployee Welfare measures are one of the key inputs to bring about the desired level of employee satisfaction, motivation and productivity in the organization. The basic objective of welfare measures is to ensure the physical and mental well-being of the employee. An organization must view employee welfare measures as an investment rather than an expense. This is because the profitability of an organization is directly linked to the productivity of its workforce. In turn, the employees' productivity is decided to a considerable extent by the motivational environment created by the employee welfare measures undertaken by the organization. The primary purpose of undertaking employee welfare measures is to earn and retain the goodwill and loyalty.

Employees play an important role in the industrial production of the country. Hence, organisations have to secure the cooperation of employees in order to increase the production and to earn higher profits. The cooperation of employees is possible only when they are fully satisfied with their employer and the working conditions on the job. In the past, industrialists and the employers believed that their only duty towards their employees was to pay them satisfactory wages and salaries. In course of time, they realised that workers require something more important. In addition to providing monetary benefits, human treatment given to employees plays a very important role in seeking their cooperation. Further, human resource managers realised that the provision of welfare facilities contribute a lot towards the health and efficiency of the workers. All the same, organisations need to provide various social benefits such as medical care, mortality benefits, pension etc., as specified in law. It is a fact that the provision of social security benefits is a kind of wise investment that offers good social dividends in the long run. Employee welfare measures leads to high morals and high productivity and help to raise the standards of the industry in the country.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present paper makes an attempt to study the importance of welfare facilities being extended by the selected sample public sector undertakings (PSU) viz., Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT), Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KS&DL), Bharath Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) in Karnataka.

METHODOLOGY

The present paper is based on Primary data. The primary data were collected through questionnaires consisting of both open and close ended questions. The sample of 100 employees each from four PSUs viz,. Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT), Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KS&DL), Bharath Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), and Karnataka State Road Transport Organisation (KSRTC) have been selected on randomly for the study.

INTEGRATED APPROACH TOWARDS DATA ANALYSIS AMONG THE FOUR SAMPLE PSU's

A total of 35 welfare measure items were provided to the respondents for their free, fair and frank opinion. Welfare measure items are as follows viz., Safety Equipment, Mediclaim Insurance, Periodical Medical Check-up, Injury/Accident benefits, Maturity benefits, ESI benefits, Canteen facility—Cleanliness, Canteen facility—Hygienic, Canteen facility—Serving, Canteen facility—Price, Credit facility, Transport allowance, Attendance allowance, Punctuality Allowance, Education Allowance, Infrastructural facility—Rest room, Infrastructural facility—Drinking water, Infrastructural facility—Ventilation, Infrastructural facility—Lighting, Infrastructural facility—Toilet, Infrastructural facility—First Aid, Relationship between co-workers, Relationship between supervisor and workers, Communication between supervisor and employees, Motivation given to employee, Information about management policies, Management solving grievances, Freedom to express employees ideas, Work satisfaction, Satisfaction with welfare and safety measures, Performance appraisal schemes, Job satisfaction and Retirement benefits.

RESULTS

The present study is mainly concentrated on welfare items such as safety equipment, periodical medical check-up and ESI benefits. The total number of employees were selected only 100 (one hundred) each from the selected PSU's.

TABLE 1: AGE GROUP OF THE RESPONDENTS

Age		No. of Res	pondent	ts	Total	Percentage							
	HMT	KS&DL	BHEL	KSRTC									
18-25 years	04	06	08	07	25	06.25							
26-35 years	06	07	03	33	49	12.25							
36-45 years	13	5	11	20	49	12.25							
Above 45 years	77	82	78	40	277	69.25							
Total	100	100	100	100	400	100.00							

Source: Field survey

The table-1, illustrates that majority of the respondents i.e., 277 (69.25%) are of the age group of Above 45 years, 49 each (12.25% each) of the respondents are between the age 26-35 years and 36-45 years. Only 25 (6.25%) of the respondents are in the age group of 18-25 years. It indicates that most of the respondent employees are of the age 45 years and above.

TABLE 2: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS

Educational status		No. of Res	pondent	ts	Total	Percentage
	HMT	KS&DL	BHEL	KSRTC		
Below SSLC	14	9	10	0	33	8.25
Below PUC	16	10	19	13	58	14.50
Degree	60	62	41	65	228	57.00
Post Graduate	10	19	30	22	81	20.25
Total	100	100	100	100	400	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table-2 clearly depicts that majority of respondents i.e., 228 (57%) are graduates, 81 (20.25%) of the respondents are post graduates, 58 (14.50%) of the respondents are between SSLC and PUC while 33 (8.25%) of the respondents are below SSLC.

TABLE 3: JOB EXPERIENCE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Experience of the respondents		No. of Res	Total	Percentage		
	HMT	KS&DL	BHEL	KSRTC		
0-1 years	0	0	0	4	4	1.00
1-5 years	2	8	7	16	33	8.25
5-10 years	10	6	3	18	37	9.25
Above 10 years	88	86	90	62	326	81.50
Total	100	100	100	100	400	100.00

Source: Field survey

From the above table, it is clear that the majority i.e., 326 (81.50%) of the respondents are having more than 10 years experience., 37 (9.25%) of the respondents have 5-10 years work experience, 33(8.25%) of the respondents have 1-5 years of work experience and the rest of 1% have below 1 year of experience. This table clarifies that majority of the respondents were having more than 10 years of job experience in the PSU.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

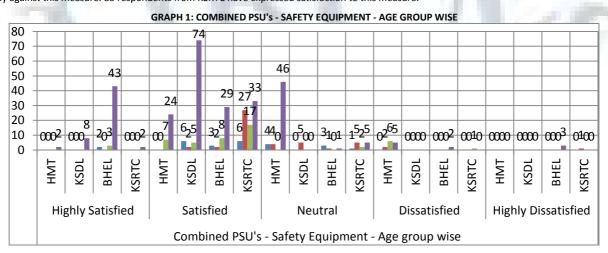
The General duties of every employer is to ensure safety, health and welfare at work of his or her employees. Every employer must provide personnel protective equipment (PPE) to the employees free of charge. Safety also covers maintenance and storage of such equipment.

TABLE 4: COMBINED PSU's - SAFETY EQUIPMENT - AGE GROUP WISE

Opinion - PSU / Age	ŀ	Highly	Satisfi	ed	Satisfied				Neutral					Dissa	tisfied		Highly Dissatisfied				Total
	TMH	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	
18-25 years	0	0	2	0	0	6	3	6	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
26-35 years	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	27	4	5	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	49
36-45 years	0	0	3	0	7	5	8	17	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	49
Above 45 years	2	8	43	2	24	74	29	33	46	0	1	5	5	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	277
Total	2	8	48	2	31	87	42	83	54	5	5	13	13	0	2	1	0	0	3	1	400
Sum total	60				243				77				16				4				400
Percentage	15.00	%			60.75	5%			19.25	%			4.00%	, 0			1.00%	6			100%

Source: Field survey

From the above table, it is clear that the majority i.e., 243 (60.75%) of the respondents are overall satisfied across all age groups with the safety equipments provided by the PSU's. 77 (19.25%) of respondents have remained neutral, 60 (15%) are highly satisfied while 16 (4.0%) are dissatisfied. There seems to be more ambiguity in selecting this parameter in HMT particularly in the age group of 45 years and above as 46 respondents have shared neutrality. 87 respondents among KSDL are satisfied with this measure. 43 and 29 respondents from BHEL with an age group of 45 years and above are highly satisfied and satisfied respectively against this measure. 83 respondents from KSRTC have expressed satisfaction to this measure.



Opinion - PSU /		Highly	Satisfi	ed		Sat	isfied			Ne	utral			Dissa	tisfied		Н	ighly D	issatis	fied	Total
Education	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	
Below SSLC	0	3	7	0	4	6	3	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Below PUC	0	0	9	1	4	10	10	10	10	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	58
Degree	2	5	21	1	19	52	15	53	34	5	2	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	228
Post Graduate	0	0	11	0	4	19	14	20	0	0	3	2	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	81
Total	2	8	48	2	31	87	42	83	54	5	5	13	13	0	2	1	0	0	3	1	400
Sum total	60				243				77				16				4				400
Percentage	15.00)%	,		60.75	%	,		19.25	5%	•		4.00%	6	•	•	1.00%	6	•		100%

From the above table, it is clear that the majority of the respondents are graduates. Further, 54 respondents from all age group and 34 out of this who are graduates in HMT have remained neutral. 52 out of overall 87 respondents who have said satisfied against this measure in KSDL are graduates. 48 and 42 respondents from BHEL have expressed highly satisfied and satisfied respectively. 53 respondents among the satisfied 83 respondents across education level are graduates in KSRTC.

GRAPH 2: COMBINED PSU's - SAFETY EQUIPMENT - EDUCATION WISE

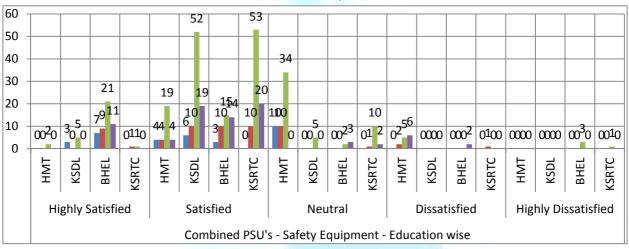
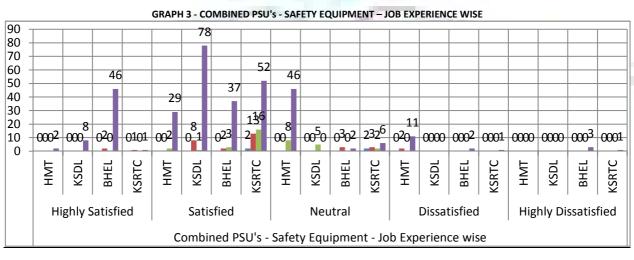


TABLE 6: COMBINED PSU's - SAFETY EQUIPMENT - JOB EXPERIENCE WISE

Opinion - PSU / Job	Highl	y Satis	fied		Satisf	ied			Neuti	ral			Dissa	tisfied			Highl	y Dissa	tisfied		Total
Experience	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	
0-1 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
1-5 years	0	0	2	1	0	8	2	13	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
5-10 years	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	16	8	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Above 10 years	2	8	46	1	29	78	37	52	46	0	2	6	11	0	2	1	0	0	3	1	326
Total	2	8	48	2	31	87	42	83	54	5	5	13	13	0	2	1	0	0	3	1	400
Sum total	60				243				77				16				4				400
Percentage	15.00)%			60.75	%			19.25	5%			4.00%	6			1.00%	6			100%

Source: Field survey

From the above table, it is clear that the 46 respondents who are having job experience of 10 years and above in HMT have remained neutral, 78 respondents in KSDL having job experience of 10 years and above are satisfied, nearly 90% of the BHEL employees are together satisfied and 52 out of 83 respondents who are satisfied in KSRTC are having job experience of 10 years and above.



PERIODICAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP

The aim of periodical medical check-up program is to help employees soon find out their illness, to have in time treatment to it which contributes much to reducing the illness's seriousness and complication. Through this program, the company can get an overall understanding about health status of each employee and to assign the best proper working tasks for him.

TABLE 7: COMBINED PSU'S - PERIODICAL MEDICAL CHECKUP - AGE GROUP WISE

Opinion - PSU / Age		Υ	'es				No			Total			
	нмт	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	нмт	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	нмт	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	
18-25 years	2	6	8	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	25
26-35 years	0	0	1	13	6	4	2	20	0	3	0	0	49
36-45 years	0	5	11	7	12	0	0	13	1	0	0	0	49
Above 45 years	11	58	73	21	66	24	5	19	0	0	0	0	277
Total	13	69	93	44	86	28	7	54	1	3	0	2	400
Sum total	219				175				6				400
Percentage	54.75%	6			43.759	6			1.50%				100%

From the above table, it is clear that the majority i.e., 219 (54.75%) of the respondents are overall satisfied across all age group with the periodical medical checkup being carried out, 175 (43.75%) have said No while 6 (1.5%) have remained neutral. Across all age group, it is found that 86 employees in HMT, 28 in KSDL and 54 employees in KSRTC have said No to this measure. It is pertinent to note that 69 employees in KSDL, 93 in BHEL and 44 in KSRTC have said that regular medical checkup is being carried out. Out of 86 employees from HMT who have said No for this welfare program, 66 employees belong to age group of 45 years and above. The age group of 45 years and above is found to be vulnerable in all the PSU's to varying degree.

GRAPH 4 - COMBINED PSU'S - PERIODICAL MEDICAL CHECKUP - AGE GROUP WISE

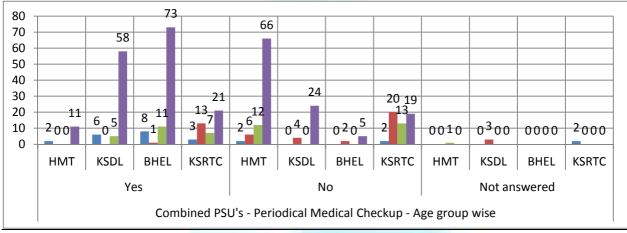


TABLE 8: COMBINED PSU'S - PERIODICAL MEDICAL CHECKUP - EDUCATION WISE

Opinion - PSU / Education		,	Yes				No				Total		
	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	
Below SSLC	0	6	10	0	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Below PUC	2	10	18	7	14	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	58
Degree	11	35	37	30	49	24	4	34	0	3	0	1	228
Post Graduate	0	18	28	7	9	1	2	15	1	0	0	0	81
Total	13	69	93	44	86	28	7	54	1	3	0	2	400
Sum total	219				175				6				400
Percentage	54.759	%			43.759	%			1.50%				100%

Source: Field survey

From the above table, it is clear that 49 respondents of HMT and 34 respondents of KSRTC who are having graduation degree are not agreeing with periodical medical check-up. 14 respondents each in HMT who are having education level at SSLC below and PUC below also agree that no periodical medical check-up being taking place. 15 respondents who are having post graduation in KSRTC also do not agree with regular periodical medical check-up taking place. The periodical checkup in BHEL is found to be done across all education level.

GRAPH 5 - COMBINED PSU's – PERIODICAL MEDICAL CHECKUP – EDUCATION WISE

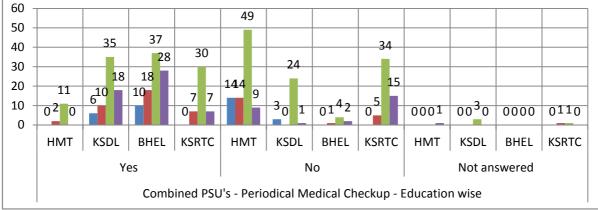
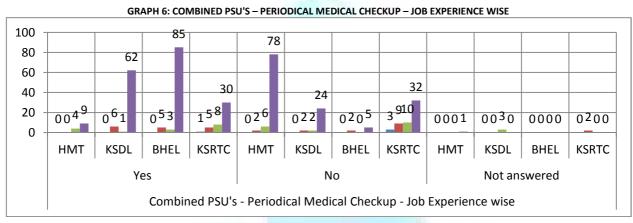


TABLE 9: COMBINED PSU's -	DEDICAL MADDICAL	CULCULID IOD EVDEDIENI	T VALLET
TABLE 9: CUIVIBLINED PSU S -	PERIODICAL WIEDICAL	L CALCKON — JOB EXPERIENC	F VVI.3F

TABLE 5: COMBINED F30 3 - FERIODICAL MIEDICAL CHECKOF JOB EXPERIENCE WISE														
Opinion - PSU / Experience		١	'es			No				Not answered				
	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC		
0-1 years	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	
1-5 years	0	6	5	5	2	2	2	9	0	0	0	2	33	
5-10 years	4	1	3	8	6	2	0	10	0	3	0	0	37	
Above 10 years	9	62	85	30	78	24	5	32	1	0	0	0	326	
Total	13	69	93	44	86	28	7	54	1	3	0	2	400	
Sum total	219				175				6	400				
Percentage	54.759	6			43.759	6			1.50%	100%				

From the above table, it is clear that the 85 employees of BHEL agree with an experience of over 10 years agree with regular check-up, while it is 62 and 30 in KSDL and KSRTC respectively. As most of the employees have experience over 10 years and above , the impact of less experienced respondents are minimal. 78 respondents from HMT, 32 respondents from KSRTC and 24 respondents from KS&DL who are having job experience of 10 years and above do not agree with regular periodical medical check-up being attended too.



FSI RENFFITS

Employees State Insurance Scheme of India, is a multidimensional social security system tailored to provide socio-economic protection to worker population and their dependants covered under the scheme. Besides full medical care for self and dependants, that is admissible from day one of insurable employment, the insured persons are also entitled to a variety of cash benefits in times of physical distress due to sickness, temporary or permanent disablement etc. resulting in loss of earning capacity, the confinement in respect of insured women, dependants of insured persons who die in industrial accidents or because of employment injury or occupational hazard are entitled to a monthly pension called the dependants benefit.

Opinion - PSU / Age Yes Total No Not answered нмт KSRTC KSRTC BHEL KSRTC KSDL BHEL HMT **KSDL** BHEL **HMT** KSDL 4 5 0 25 18-25 years 3 2 2 0 0 0 6 0 3 26-35 years 6 0 8 0 20 0 2 5 49 1 1 0 36-45 years 13 5 5 0 0 6 13 0 0 0 1 49 6 Above 45 years 68 28 24 5 50 25 32 4 29 4 277 Total 91 45 32 23 5 51 34 67 4 4 34 10 400 157 Sum total 191 52 400 Percentage 47.75% 39.25% 13.00% 100%

TABLE 10: COMBINED PSU's - ESI BENEFITS - AGE GROUP WISE

Source: Field survey

From the above table, it is clear that the 191 (47.75%) of the respondents have agreed with available ESI benefits, 157 (39.25%) do not agree and 52 (13.0%) have remained neutral. Out of this, 68 respondents from HMT who are aged 45 and above said yes to available ESI benefits. This is not so in KSRTC as only 23 respondents across all age group said Yes to this facility. The employees of BHEL are not sure of the available facility as 34 respondents have Not answered this measure. Majority of respondents at 51 persons in KS&DL have said No to this measure being offered.

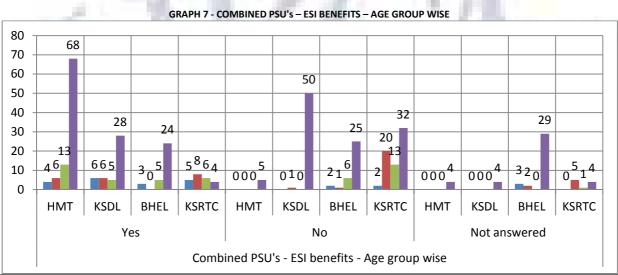


TABLE 11: COMBINED PSU's –	ESI BENEFITS – EDUCATION WISE

TABLE 11: COMBINED 130 3 EST DENETTIS EDUCATION WISE														
Opinion - PSU / Education		١	′es			No				Not answered				
	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC		
Below SSLC	14	0	0	0	0	9	6	0	0	0	4	0	33	
Below PUC	16	1	6	3	0	9	9	9	0	0	4	1	58	
Degree	52	33	16	17	4	25	14	42	4	4	11	6	228	
Post Graduate	9	11	10	3	1	8	5	16	0	0	15	3	81	
Total	91	45	32	23	5	51	34	67	4	4	34	10	400	
Sum total	191				157				52	400				
Percentage	47.75%				39.25%				13.009	100%				

It is seen from the above table that 52 respondents from HMT having graduation to their background agree with ESI benefits extended to them, while it is 33 in KS&DL, 16 in BHEL and 17 in KSRTC. 42 respondents from KSRTC who are degree holders do not agree with ESI benefits extended to them. The same measure is found in KS&DL as 25 respondents too do not agree. The response against this measure in BHEL is scattered as across all education level 32 and 34 respondents have said Yes and No respectively while 34 have remained neutral.

GRAPH 8: COMBINED PSU'S - ESI BENEFITS - EDUCATION WISE 60 52 50 42 40 33 30 25 146 20 11 11 10 9 99 9 8 10 1 0^{1} 0 00 00 00 0 0 **KSDL** BHEL **KSRTC HMT KSDL BHEL KSRTC HMT KSDL BHEL KSRTC** HMT Yes Nο Not answered Combined PSU's - ESI benefits - Education wise

TABLE 12: COMBINED PSU's - ESI BENEFITS - JOB EXPERIENCE WISE

Opinion - PSU / Experience		١	'es		No					Total			
	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	HMT	KSDL	BHEL	KSRTC	
0-1 years	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
1-5 years	2	8	0	6	0	0	2	8	0	0	5	2	33
5-10 years	10	5	3	4	0	1	0	11	0	0	0	3	37
Above 10 years	79	32	29	11	5	50	32	46	4	4	29	5	326
Total	91	45	32	23	5	51	34	67	4	4	34	10	400
Sum total	191				157			52				400	
Percentage	47.759	%			39.25%			13.00%	100%				

Source: Field survey

It is seen from the above table that majority at 326 of respondents from all PSU's are having job experience at 10 years and above. Out of this, good response is found in HMT with 79 respondents of job experience of 10 years and above agree to ESI benefits extended. The respondents having above 10 years of job experience in KS&DL with 50, 32 in BHEL and 46 in KSRTC do not agree with this facility available in their respective PSU's. Ambiguity exits in BHEL as 29 respondents above 10 years of job experience have not answered this measure.

SUGGESTIONS

Following suggestions are made among the public sector undertakings.

- ✓ Safety equipments should be adequately ensured in HMT as majority of the employees who are found in the age group of 45 years and above, predominantly graduates and few post graduates and also are having job experience of 10 years and above have remained neutral to this parameter.
- Periodical medical check-up should be regularly carried out and concentrated on employees who are aged 45 years and above in HMT and KSDL.
- ✓ ESI benefits should be extended and mass awareness needs to be created in KSDL, BHEL and KSRTC.

CONCLUSION

The study on effect of welfare measures on employee morale helps the management to know the satisfaction level of the employees about the welfare measures provided by the company. From this study, we can infer that the majority of the employees are above 45 years and above and are mostly satisfied with the welfare measure. However, lacuna should be bridged up upon the selected welfare measures in the respective PSU's to boost the employee morale.

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