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EMPLOYEE RETENTION: MANAGING THE HUMAN RESOURCE IN EDUCATION SECTOR

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TANIA MENGI RESEARCH SCHOLAR PUNJAB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY JALANDHAR

ABSTRACT

Human resource is the most important asset of an organization and success of an organization depends upon retention of the key employees. Employee retention is a process in which the employees are encouraged to remain with the organization for the maximum period of time. The biggest challenge that organizations face now a days is to secure competent employees. Without valuable employees, a business cannot generate revenue and prosper. Also in today's competitive environment companies should do their best to find suitable employees and maintain good relations with them so that they are willing to stay with the organization and generate good returns for them. Employee retention is useful as it helps in reducing cost of turnover, prevents loss of company's knowledge and helps to avoid inconvenience in the customer service. Hence the main intent of this paper is to find how valuable employees would be retained by focusing on certain determinants in education sector. The research design for the study is descriptive. The research has been conducted using primary data collected through a structured questionnaire from 110 employees of various educational institutes in Jammu. The findings of the research indicates that educational institutes should include employees in decision making, provide job security & career growth opportunities and create satisfaction among employees so as to retain the human talent within the organization. These findings would be useful for employers to discover the right formula that should be followed to retain their competent human resource.

KEYWORDS

career growth opportunities, employee participation, employee retention, job security.

INTRODUCTION

he present business environment is so competitive and complex that companies should try their best to find appropriate employees. Efforts should be made to create good working team and environment so that key employees can stay in business and make high profits for the organization. Gberevbie (2008) has agreed that formulating and implementing strategies capable of recruiting competent employees and retaining them to achieve organizational goals is one of the main challenges being faced by the organizations. Managers spend a lot of time and money in finding and attracting responsible, innovative, knowledgeable and motivated employees to work for their organization. Having a happy and enthusiastic workforce will help managers in achieving individual and organizations performance. Raikes & Vernier (2004) stated that retaining employees is considered as a key strategy to achieve financial success.

Encouraging employees to remain in the organization for a long period of time can be termed as employee retention. It is a process in which the employees are encouraged to remain with the organization for the maximum period of time or until the completion of the project. Zineldin (2000) has viewed retention as an obligation to continue to do business or exchange with a particular company on an ongoing basis.

Employee retention is beneficial for the organizations as well as the employees. Employees today are different. They are not the ones who don't have good opportunities in hand. As soon as they feel dissatisfied with the current employer or the job, they switch over to the next job. It is the responsibility of the employer to retain their best employees. A good employer should know how to attract and retain its employees. Denton (2000) has clearly stated that employees who are happy and satisfied with their jobs are more dedicated towards their work and always put their effort to improve customer satisfaction.

The process of employee retention helps the organizations to reduce the cost of employee turnover and helps to save the amount spend on hiring, training and development of the employees. It also helps to retain the knowledge and experiences of its skilled employees as they are considered important assets of the organization and also help in maintaining the goodwill of the organization as the attrition rate will be low.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Samuel and Chipunza (2009) undertook a study to identify the key intrinsic and extrinsic motivational variables in organizations and to find out the degree to which the innovated intrinsic and extrinsic motivational variables are influencing employees' retention and turnover in the selected organizations. The results revealed that employees are influenced to stay in their own organizations by a combination of intrinsic and extrinsic motivational factors like training and development, challenging/interesting work, freedom for innovative thinking and job security.

Shoaib, Noor, Tirmizi and Bashir (2009) aimed to study the influence of career development opportunities, supervisor support, working environment, rewards and work-life policies on employee retention. The results of the study reveled that the variables like career development opportunities, supervisor support, working environment, rewards and work-life policies have positive relationship with employee retention.

Aguenza and Som (2012) in their study tried to explore the motivational factors that are essential in influencing employee retention. The findings revealed that financial rewards, job characteristics, career development, recognition, management and work-life balance are important factors that influence retention. The study suggested that strategies like building total reward system, giving constructive opinion on employee performance regularly, having flexible programs for maintaining work-life balance and recognizing improved performance of employees for rewarding them should be adopted to increase employee retention in the organization.

Akila (2012) undertook a study to understand the dissatisfaction of the employees with the retention program in BGR Energy Systems Ltd, Chennai. For data collection, a questionnaire was prepared and 109 executives were taken as respondents. The results of the study revealed that comfortableness in working hours was the most important factor for employee retention and was given highest weightage by the employees. On the other hand dissatisfaction with the annual increments provided was given minimum weightage. Other factors that had a greater influence on employee retention were career opportunities, work life balance and recognition.

Rao (2012) stated that retaining skilled and efficient employees in an organization is the most challenging task for human resource department. For this purpose employers need to attract employees with different monetary and non —monetary benefits. In this paper the researcher has made an attempt to bring out different strategies which could help HR managers to retain people in the organization. The researcher suggests that HR should come up with the strategies which are focused on employee benefits and should involve them in decision making process by open communication. The policies of the top management should be employee focused which should be depicted in HR practices.

Balakrishnan, Masthan and Chandra (2013) examined the drivers of the employee engagement and studied the relationship between employee engagement and employee retention. The data analysis was done using the response given by 185 employees. The results of the study revealed that improvement in retention can be done by increasing the level of employee engagement and giving due consideration to non-financial drivers. The study suggests that retention can be improved without financial expenditure by designing good practices and retaining their highly skilled and specialized human resources.

Das and Baruah (2013) tried to review the existing literature on employee retention so as to find out the factors influencing employee retention and job satisfaction of the employees in the organization. The research concluded that the factors like compensation practices, leadership and supervision, career planning and development, alternative work schedule, working conditions, flexible working hours etc are the most influencing factors for employee retention which motivate them for not changing their work places and continue in their own organizations.

Nazia & Begum (2013) tried to document the practices followed by select Indian MNC's in retaining their employees and also highlighted the opinion of the employees about such retention strategies. 10 MNC's namely; Oracle, Accenture, SAP, CICSO, Microsoft, INGRAM, IBM, HP, Dell and Intel were selected for the purpose of the study. The study concluded that organizations must take initiative to relive their employees from the workload through job rotation, change in work location and other recreational activities. It was also observed that implementation of three R's i.e. respect, recognition and rewards would increase retention.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 1. To explore the impact of employee satisfaction, career growth opportunities, work content & role clarity, job security and employee participation on employee retention.
- 2. To identify the dominant factors that influence retention of employees.

PROPOSED HYPOTHESES

- H1: Increased Employee Satisfaction has significant impact on employee retention.
- H2: Increased Career Growth Opportunities leads to higher employee retention.
- H3: Good Work Content & Role Clarity leads to higher employee retention.
- H4: Increased Job Security has significant impact on employee retention.
- H5: Increased Employee Participation leads to higher employee retention.

PROPOSED RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

In order to make contribution to the existing literature this study proposes a conceptual framework presented in figure 1.

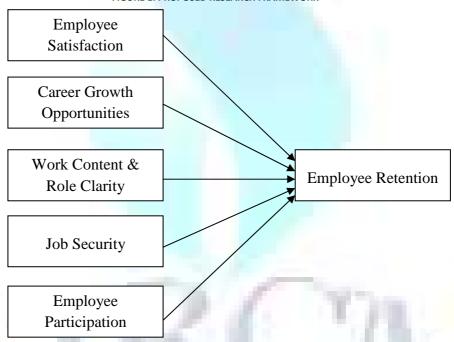


FIGURE 1: PROPOSED RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

Source: Developed for the purpose of research

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study tries to determine the factors that affect employee retention. Hence the research design for the study is descriptive. The employees in various educational institutes of Jammu region constitute the sampling unit for the study. A structured questionnaire is prepared to collect the data from the respondents and they were asked to indicate their opinion on a five point Likert scale. In total 110 questionnaires complete in all respects were received and hence this constitute the sample size for the study.

DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

The present study aims to determine the factors that have significant effect on employee retention in the education sector. In order to address the issue regression analysis was conducted by considering employee satisfaction, career growth opportunities, work content & role clarity, job security and employee participation as five independent variables and employee retention as dependent variable. The results of same are presented in tables 1 to 3. Table 1 reveals that the five independent variables account for 34.9% of variation in employee retention. Further, the Durbin-Watson value is within the acceptable limit (1.5-2.5) indicating that auto correlation is not a problem in the regression model under consideration.

TABLE 1: MODEL SUMMARY ^b							
Model R R Square		Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson			
1	.591 ^a	.349	.318	.53329	1.630		

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Employee Participation, Satisfaction, Career Growth Opportunities, Job Security, Work Content & Role Clarity
- b. Dependent Variable: Employee Retention

Source: Analysis of data collected for this research

The F value in table 2 is statistically significant at 1% level (Sig. = .000) meaning that the overall regression model is a good fit for the data.

ΤΔΒΙΕ 2· ΔΝΟΥΔ^a

TABLE 2. AIVOVA							
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	
1	Regression	15.878	5	3.176	11.166	.000 ^b	
	Residual	29.577	104	.284			
	Total	45.455	109			_	

- a. Dependent Variable: Retention
- b. Predictors: (Constant), Employee Participation, Satisfaction, Career Growth Opportunities, Job Security, Work Content & Role Clarity Source: Analysis of data collected for this research

TABLE 3: COEFFICIENTS^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
		В	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	203	.550		369	.713		
	Satisfaction	.225	.093	.192	2.405	.018	.986	1.014
	Career Growth Opportunities	.225	.094	.190	2.390	.019	.993	1.007
	Work Content & Role Clarity	.166	.099	.141	1.676	.097	.886	1.129
	Job Security	.194	.062	.255	3.114	.002	.933	1.072
	Employee Participation	.311	.078	.334	3.966	.000	.883	1.132

The last two columns of table 3 indicate that multicollinearity is not a problem in the selected regression model because the maximum value of variance inflation factor (VIF) is 1.132 and tolerance value for all variables is greater than 0.1. This indicates that the selected independent variables are not correlated.

Further, the conclusion regarding the proposed research hypotheses is drawn by analyzing the significance value of t statistics in table 3. The results reveal that employee participation (beta = .334 and sig. = .000) and job security (beta = .255 and sig. = .002) have positive significant impact on employee retention at 1% level. Among the remaining three variables, job satisfaction (beta = .192 and sig. = .018) and career growth opportunities (beta = .190 and sig. = .019) make significant positive contribution to employee retention at 5% level. However, work content & role clarity failed to establish significant relationship with employee retention due to a high level of significance (sig. = .097). This indicates that H1, H2, H4 & H5 are accepted while hypothesis 3 is rejected. Hence, increased employee satisfaction, increased career growth opportunities, increased job security and increased employee participation lead to higher employee retention. So in order to retain the employees, educational institutes need to focus on the above stated four variables.

MANAGERIAL IMPLICATIONS

Human resource management is a strategic issue being faced by majority of the organizations. Intelligent employers always realize the importance of retaining the best talent. So there is need for development of strategies that would relate to the employees and help in their effective management. This paper tries to throw light on factors that educational institutes in Jammu need to consider in order to retain their talent. Our study shows that giving decision making power to the employees and letting them share their ideas at work really seem to influence the retention of employees in the education sector. It is also observed that providing recognition, rewards and satisfying facilities to the employees will increase retention. Furthermore, job security and career growth opportunities of the employees should not be neglected as they also turned to be motivating factors for employee retention.

Employee retention is more than just keeping employees on the job. It is also about sustaining employees, primarily by enhancing their job satisfaction. So the findings of the study would help the educational institutes to know the key factors responsible for retaining the talent in the organization. HR must take steps to be aware of employee problems and try to solve them, creatively. The results of the study suggest that educational institutes should try to involve the employees and provide congenial amenities to their employees. Also, organizations should invest heavily in the training and development of their employees. Employees' performances are enhanced through training and development and this encourages retention. Providing training to the employees indicates organizations' intention to build long term relationship with the employee and also help in employees' career progression. The above stated practices would make employees more innovative and improve the performance.

CONCLUSION

One of the difficult tasks faced by organizations is to satisfy and retain the human resource. Given this increasing need to retain the good employees, the present study tries to explore the variables that are vital in influencing employees' choice to be a part of the organization or leave the organization. The study proposes that increased employee satisfaction, increased career growth opportunities, good work content & role clarity, job security and increased employee participation persuades employees to stay in the organization. In order to achieve the objectives, a structured questionnaire was prepared and data was collected from 110 employees of various educational institutes in Jammu. The research concludes that employee participation, job security, employee satisfaction and career growth opportunities reduce employee turnover. But the results cannot be generalized as the study was limited to specific region and few respondents. Also, still much scope remains for more exploration in the field of employee retention by considering factors like leadership and supervision, working hours, peer relations, management, working conditions etc.

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