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## THE IMPACT OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF STRESS INFLUENCING FACTORS OF PRIVATE BUS DRIVERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TRICHY DISTRICT

#### Dr. P. DEVI ASST. PROFESSOR **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE** THANTHAI HANS ROEVER COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) PERAMBALUR

#### ABSTRACT

The study finds out that everybody in the universe has stress but the level may vary among individual to individual. As far as the present study is concerned, though different issues faced by drivers of private bus transport companies, personal problems are the most significant one, which lead to have more stress not only at their work place but also in their family. Among the different coping strategies, most of the drivers adopt constructive coping strategies like taking coffee or tea, watching television and listening to music, doing physical exercise and writing stress diary, etc. At the same time, the companies not forget to take care of employees who opt for destructive coping strategies like drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes. It is worth mentioning that experience, education and numbers of dependents are the major factors that determine stress among the employees. Work family conflict and family work conflict are the two major outcome of stress. Employees who have work family conflict can be managed well, but those who have family work conflict must be treated with care as they adopt destructive coping strategies. When companies implement the suggestions mentioned in this article, and thereby satisfy their employees, then the forthcoming years will be a golden period not only for the private bus transport companies, but also for their employees as well as for the Public.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Trichy district, stress-influencing factors, private bus driver.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

very human being is stressed at one time or other. Occupation could be a major area of stress creating circumstances. People are constantly pressurized to accomplish more and more works within less facility and less time. Stress occurs when people are faced with events, which they perceive as endangering their physical and psychological well-being. These events are usually referred to as stressors and people reaction to them as stress responses (Mathews, 2005). The way, one reacts will depend upon his/her vulnerability. Employees develop various symptoms of stress that can harm their job performance, as a result of external or internal pressures. External pressures result from deadlines, staffing issues and heavy workloads. Internal pressures may result from unconstructive thinking, unrealistic expectations, inability to delegate and so on (Manimaran and Harisundar, 2006). In the organisations, employee stress is an increasing problem. Work related stress has gained importance because of its implications on employee dissatisfaction, lowered productivity, lowered physical and mental health of employees.

#### 2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this article would be to identify the stress of the employees at different levels, who face in the organisation and to focus how much mentally they are fit to face this kind of stress. To learn the ways the organisation deals to handle the kind of stress the employees face. To know how the organisation gets affected due to the stress faced by the employees.

#### **3. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

This study is significant for the drivers of the private bus transport to locating the factors influencing stress among them and after locating the root cause, according to the method of stress they will be guided to identify the suitable stress coping mechanism. If they are deployed suitable stress coping mechanism, then the interrelationships or mutual understanding between them will be improved and they will be working together and the team spirit will be geared-up.

#### 4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The private bus transport is providing decent employment opportunity to the general public at the same time, the employees those who are employed and engaged in the private bus transport sectors, they are put under tremendous stress due to various reasons. That is, the employees influenced by various influencers of stress like company issues, occupational issue, road and traffic rules related issue, personal issue and co-workers issue. So it is clearly understood that, the private bus transport employees especially drivers are having more avenues for loading stress. In fact, they are rendering very important service to the society and that is why they must be treated as an important human asset of the society and they must be safeguarded from all possible threats (stress) to ensure their health, wealth and survival. So, how the employees of private bus transport is put under stress, the various influencers of stress and stress coping mechanisms are needed to address properly.

#### 5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To identify the impact of various aspects of driving on stress influencing factors.

#### 6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 6.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

The study is descriptive nature because certain available secondary data is to be collected and its characteristics are to be described without diluting its originality. 6.2. ANALYTICAL TOOL

This article is analytical in nature because application of tool becomes necessary. The following tools have been used in this article.

- 1. t-test
- 2 Freidman Test
- 3. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

#### 4. Regression Analysis

6.3. VARIABLES USED IN THIS STUDY

A brief description about the variables used in this research is given in the following paragraphs.

- Company issues
- ii. Occupational related issues
- iii. Road and traffic rules related issues
- Personal issues iv.

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#### 7. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Srivastava and Singh (1981) Occupational stress arising from various job dimensions impairs employees' favourable attitude towards job and management and makes the employees to violate the formal procedures and policies and result in negative job and management attitude. Under participation also results in dissatisfaction with job and management. These results are similar to the findings of a study among blue-collar workers. Excessive and consistent job stress results in job dissatisfaction, anxiety and depression and in some cases, even serious physical and mental disabilities ranging all the way to coronary heart diseases. Kathryn Tyler (2006), Stress is a subject of interest to researchers across fields because occupational stress is a major problem for both individuals and organisations. Stress has both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, stress motivates individuals to get more work done as in working toward a deadline. On the negative side, Stress causes the feeling of overwhelming and procreatination. Too much stress depresses the immune system and makes the individual sick. Asim Masood (2013), examined that, the relationship between Job Stress and Employee Retention and consequences of high stress on bank employees of banking sector of Pakistan. The author identified problematic customer relation is caused by creating major stress on employees. They are more focused to avoid stress at their work place, which is directly affects, their performance. If avoided, then turn -over is unusually high in this viable business world of today. Moreover, the ratio of employee and turnover of the organisation must be minimum. The study has suggested finally maintaining an amicable customer relationship to off-load the stress of employees as well as to increase the overall performance of an organisation.

#### 8. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

ANOVA - IMPACT OF HOURS OF WORK IN A DAY ON COMPANY RELATED ISSUES, OCCUPATIONAL RELATED ISSUES, ROAD AND TRAFFIC RULES RELATED ISSUES, AND PERSONAL ISSUES

TABLE 1									
Hours of work in a day		<b>Company related Issues</b>	Occupational related issues	Road and Traffic Rules related Issues	Personal Issues				
Less than 10 hours	Mean	2.258	2.661	3.076	3.061				
Less than 10 hours	SD	0.370	0.488	0.634	0.511				
10 to 12 hours	Mean	2.494	2.542	2.644	3.368				
10 to 12 hours	SD	0.539	0.330	0.821	0.537				
12 to 14 hours	Mean	2.819	2.832	2.948	3.333				
12 to 14 hours	SD	0.435	0.387	0.782	0.389				
More than 14 hours	Mean	3.173	3.271	3.750	3.022				
wore than 14 hours	SD	0.377	0.356	0.710	0.395				
	F	42.157	41.312	24.615	8.562				
	Sig.	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001				

The result shows that the hours of work in a day influences all the stress influencing factors namely company related issues (F = 42.157; p < 0.001), occupational related issues (F = 41.312; p < 0.001), road and traffic rules related issues (F = 24.615; p < 0.001), and personal issues (F = 8.562; p < 0.001).

As far as company related issues are concerned, the respondents who work for more than 14 hours (mean = 3.173; SD = 0.377) are having comparatively more company related issues than the respondents who work for less than 10 hours in a day (mean = 2.258; SD = 0.370).

With regard to occupational related issues the respondents who work for more than 14 hours in a day (mean = 3.271; SD = 0.356) are having high occupational related issues compared to the respondents who work for 10 to 12 hours in a day (mean = 2.542; SD = 0.330).

Similarly, for road and traffic rules related issues, the respondents who work for more than 14 hours in a day (mean = 3.750; SD = 0.710) are having more issues compared to the respondents who work for 10 to 12 hours in a day (mean = 2.644; SD = 0.821).

Regarding personal issues, respondents who work for 10 to 12 hours (mean = 3.368; SD = 0.537) and 12 to 14 hours (mean = 3.333; SD = 0.389) in a day are having comparatively more issues than the respondents who work for less than 10 hours (mean = 3.061; SD = 0.511) and more than 14 hours in a day (mean = 3.022; SD = 0.395).

Hence, it is concluded from the above results that the respondents who work for more hours are prone to have all the stress creating issues namely company related issues, occupation related issues, road and traffic rules related issues, and personal issues.

#### t-TEST - IMPACT OF RESPONDENTS' OPINION ON WAGE FIXATION ON COMPANY RELATED ISSUES, OCCUPATIONAL RELATED ISSUES, ROAD AND TRAFFIC RULES RELATED ISSUES, AND PERSONAL ISSUES

TABLE 2										
Wage fixation based on		Company re-	Occupational re-	Road and Traffic Rules	Personal					
collection of the bus		lated Issues	lated issues	related Issues	Issues					
Yes	Mean	2.750	2.764	3.106	3.242					
fes	SD	0.711	0.426	0.894	0.535					
No	Mean	2.935	3.066	3.400	3.120					
NO	SD	0.461	0.470	0.838	0.427					
	t	2.061	3.831	2.022	1.590					
	Sig.	0.041	0.000	0.044	0.113					

The respondents' opinion about wage fixation is given in the above table in terms of mean values with respect to various stress influencing variables called stress influencers. t-test has been performed to find out the mean difference among the respondents who agree that their company fix the wage based on the collection of the bus and the respondents who do not agree for the above statement. On performing the test it is noted that except personal issues (t = 1.590; p = 0.113), all the other stress influencing factors namely company related issues (t = 2.061; p = 0.041), occupational related issues (t = 3.831; p < 0.001), and road and traffic rules related issues (t = 2.022; p = 0.044) are having significant outcome.

As far as company related issues are concerned, the respondents who do not agree that wage fixation is based on collection of the bus (mean = 2.935; SD = 0.461) significantly different from the respondents who agree for the statement (mean = 2.750; SD = 0.711). However, the mean score is not high but it is moderate. With regard to occupational related issues the respondents who do not agree that wage fixation is based on collection of the bus (mean = 3.066; SD = 0.470) significantly different from the respondents who agree for the statement (mean = 2.764; SD = 0.426). However, here too, the mean score is not high but it is moderate.

Similarly, for road and traffic rules related issues also, the respondents who do not agree that wage fixation based on collection of the bus (mean = 3.400; SD = 0.838) significantly different from the respondents who agree for the statement (mean = 3.106; SD = 0.894).

Hence, it is concluded from the above results that the respondents who accept that their company fix the wage based on the collection of the bus are having low company related issues, occupation related issues, and road and traffic rules related issues.

#### 9. FINDINGS

- 1. Hours of work in a day, influences all the stress-influencing factors namely company related issues, occupational related issues, road and traffic rules related issues, and personal issues. That is, the respondents who work for more hours are prone to have all the stress creating issues namely company related issues, occupation related issues, road and traffic rules related issues, as well as personal issues.
- 2. It is found that 78 per cent of the respondents do not accept that they get wage fixation based on collection of the bus, which shows that the collection is not a main criteria for fixing the wage for private bus drivers.

#### **10. CONCLUSION**

Everybody in the universe has stress but the level may vary among individual to individual. As far as the present study is concerned, though different issues faced by drivers of private bus transport companies, personal problems are the most significant one, which lead to have more stress not only at their work place but also in their family. Among the different coping strategies, most of the drivers adopt constructive coping strategies like taking coffee or tea, watching television and listening to music, doing physical exercise and writing stress diary, etc. At the same time, the companies not forget to take care of employees who opt for destructive coping strategies like drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes. It is worth mentioning that experience, education and numbers of dependents are the major factors that determine stress among the employees. Work family conflict and family work conflict are the two major outcome of stress. Employees who have work family conflict can be managed well, but those who have family work conflict must be treated with care as they adopt destructive coping strategies. When companies implement the suggestions mentioned in this article, and thereby satisfy their employees, then the forthcoming years will be a golden period not only for the private bus transport companies, but also for their employees as well as for the Public.

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