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HYPOTHESIS (ES)

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FINDINGS

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EMPLOYEE JOB SATISFACTION AND IT'S IMPACT ON PRODUCTIVITY – A THEORETICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Employees are the foremost assets of any organization. They play a pivotal role in the growth of the organization as long as they are satisfied with their jobs. Job satisfactions form a major part in an organization's development or otherwise as it has direct impact in the productivity. This study reveals various factors influencing an employee's job satisfaction, its effect on productivity and steps to improve the employee's level of satisfaction.

KEYWORDS

employees, job satisfaction, productivity.

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1. INTRODUCTION

n effective Organization tries to satisfy all its employees by providing the required facilities to them to lead their office and domestic lives comfortably and peacefully as it has very well understood that 'Satisfaction' is a psychological factor. If an employee is satisfied with his assigned work and can discharge it satisfactorily, it is called 'Job Satisfaction'. Job satisfaction is generally considered to be an individual's perception or emotional reaction to his work nature and work place environment.

2. JOB SATISFACTION

It is purely the personal feelings of satisfaction which an individual has about his job. DuBrins has defined job satisfaction in terms of pleasure and contentment when he says that, "Job satisfaction is the amount of happiness and contentment associated with a job. If you like your job intensely you will experience high job satisfaction. If you dislike your job intensely, you will experience job dissatisfaction".

Hoppok has defined 'job satisfaction' as the combination of emotional and environmental situation which make an employee openly say that he is satisfied with his job. Locke has defined it as a pleasurable or positive emotional state resulting from the appraisal of one's job or job experience. It is the result of employees' perception as to how well their job provides those things that are viewed as important. Job satisfaction is generally known in the organizational behavior based on the employees' attitude.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pond James (1991) in his article titled "Exploring Options in Employee Services" has remarked that in order to make employees feel more comfortable and happy, firms have started providing their workers with a number of On/Off-Site traditional benefit packages like canteen for employees, serving quality food, fitness centre for maintaining good health, day-care facilities for employees' kids, co-operative stores to cater to domestic needs at moderate costs. Group insurance to take care of medical expenses of all the family members of the employees. He has further stated in his article that those companies which provide one or more of the amenities would benefit from higher productivity, lower turnover of employees and improved morale.

Walker (1998) has stated that Companies which want to remain competitive in today's world economy need to concentrate on retaining quality employees. Recognizing good workers by rewarding them suitably will no doubt increase satisfaction and thereby productivity.

Brannigan and Zwerman (2001) Personnel Managers experimented on the effects of various conditions of work on morale and productivity. "Hawthorne Effect" denotes a situation in which the introduction of experimental conditions designed to identify salient aspects of behavior has the consequence of changing the behavior it is designed to identify. The initial Hawthorne effect revealed the observation that the productivity of the workers increased over time with every variation in the working conditions introduced by the experiments. Simply stated when employees realize that their behavior is being keenly watched by others they change their action to maintain their social image. The development of the Hawthorne studies is also based on applied psychology, as we know it today. These early studies are the pioneer for the research on job satisfaction relating to ergonomics, design and productivity.

Paul Harris (2006) in his paper states that though HR outsourcing benefits administration costs and improves employee service to increase productivity, success in meeting other key objectives could not be achieved. It was observed based on the continuing frustration with service quality and a growing realization that outsourcing alone cannot transform the HR function. "The statement is based on the firm's second annual study of HRO effectiveness and satisfaction which has found that while HR outsourcing is delivering results from a cost perspective, success in meeting other key objectives remains elusive. It is found that continuing frustration with service quality and a growing realization that outsourcing alone cannot transform the HR function."

Padhi (2007) in his book titled "Labour and Industrial Law" explains that the term welfare refers to the state of wellbeing 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 levels 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.

Randhir Kumar Singh (2009) studied the welfare measures and its impact on manpower productivity. He states that it is very difficult to arrive at the homogeneity concerning labour due to variation in scale, energy, training, environment, incentive, rates of pay etc. The ratio of output to labour is universally acknowledged to have some uniformity. He has correlated the welfare measures to manpower productivity by stating that if proper welfare measures are taken then the productivity of the employees will automatically increase and it will have positive impact on the profit of the organization. The welfare measures would no doubt enhance the morale and motivation of the employees, resulting in the growth of the organization to which they belong to.

Rane (2011) has made a study on the importance of employee Job Satisfaction. As per his observations from the study, an employee's job satisfaction is very much essential to face the dynamic and ever increasing challenges of maintaining productivity of any organization by keeping employees' work force constantly engaged and motivated. The study also found that the high Job Satisfaction correlated strongly with the feeling of having fun at work. The article further stated that performance of the employees should be enhanced by providing effective work environment, appreciating the employees' performance, giving personal recognition then and there, making them participate in decision making, providing training facility to improve their skills and potentials etc., in order to face new challenges in the competitive world. There should be a continuous process of assessment of Job satisfaction of employees by obtaining feedback in a specially designed evaluation format before and after the training programmes. He concluded that the Job satisfaction of an employee in any organisation was of paramount importance to achieve the targeted goals on a sustainable basis.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To identify the factors which influence the job satisfaction of employees.
- 2. To examine the effect of job satisfaction on employees' productivity.
- 3. To identify the factors which improve the satisfaction level of employees.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The secondary data, collected through websites, magazines, books, journals and research papers, is the base for the Research. Further, this study is based on theoretical concept aimed at finding the relationship between employee job satisfaction and productivity.

6. IMPORTANCE OF JOB SATISFACTION

- Productivity increases
- Maintaining and developing customer satisfaction
- Maintaining employee retention
- Reduce employee turnover, thereby saving recruiting and training time and cost
- · Reduce accidents within the factory
- Improve customer loyalty and corporate image
- Develop employee team work
- · Improve quality of work
- Employees are more committed and productive to the organization

7. FACTORS INFLUENCING JOB SATISFACTION

7.1. INDIVIDUAL FACTORS OR PERSONAL FACTORS

Personal factors like Age, Education, Gender, Marital Status, Family background, socio economic background and other related factors have positive or negative impact on job satisfaction. For example, if an individual has any problem in his social and family life, he may not have favourable climate at the work place.

7.2. OCCUPATIONAL LEVEL

Higher level jobs provide more satisfaction as compared to lower levels due to prestige issue. This happens because high level jobs carry more social status which itself becomes source of satisfaction for the job holders.

7.3. JOB CONTENT

Job content refers to the intrinsic value of the job which depends on the requirement of skills for performing it, and the degree of responsibility and growth it offers. Naturally capable workers will have higher job satisfaction.

7.4. WORKING CONDITIONS

Working conditions, both physical as well as mental work environment, like conditions of workplace and associated facilities for performing the job determine job satisfaction.

7.5. SUPERVISION

There are two types of supervisions viz. employee oriented supervision and job-oriented supervision. In the employee oriented supervision more concern is shown for people by whom the degree of job satisfaction will be higher. In the Job-oriented supervision, Management will attach more importance on the performance of job and the people become secondary, which automatically leads to lesser job satisfaction.

7.6. EQUITABLE REWARDS

Recognition and Rewards to the performing employees at the appropriate time determines the degree of job satisfaction.

7.7. OPPORTUNITY FOR PROMOTION

Opportunities for promotion in the present job fetch more job satisfaction. With less or no opportunities for higher promotion, the employees will tend to lose job satisfaction.

7.8. WORK GROUP

Employees normally work as a group, either created formally or developed on their own in order to get emotional satisfaction at the workplace. Individuals work in group either created formally or they develop on their own to seek emotional satisfaction at the workplace. As long as such groups are effective without any misunderstanding, there will be higher degree of job satisfaction. If any misunderstanding arises between them, it will have negative impact in their job satisfaction.

8. IMPACT OF JOB SATISFACTION ON PRODUCTIVITY

It is generally taken that a satisfied worker contributes much towards increase in the productivity on the basis that there is direct relationship between job satisfaction and productivity, whereby increase or decrease in the productivity is solely related to the status of the employees' job satisfaction. Rationale behind this is that a satisfied worker will perform well and naturally the increased job satisfaction leads to higher output resulting in effective productivity.

However, some recent studies reveal that this may not be true in all cases as there is variation in the satisfaction making a worker with low expectations in his job feel satisfied without contributing much towards productivity. Therefore, this view differentiates the relationship between job satisfaction and productivity.

Various research studies also support this view based on the relationship between effect of job performance on satisfaction and organizational expectations on individuals' job performance.

Job performance leads to Job satisfaction. Rewards and incentives attached with Job performance play a vital role in increasing job satisfaction. There are two types of rewards such as intrinsic and extrinsic. The intrinsic reward is in the form of growth potential, challenging job, etc. The satisfaction on such a type of reward may help to increase productivity. The extrinsic reward is in the form of salary, bonus, etc. which is being totally controlled by the Management. Any increase in these factors will have negative impact on productivity though these factors increase job satisfaction.

A happy worker need not necessarily contribute to higher productivity as he has certain technological constraints which force him to limit himself within some specified output. Further, this constraint makes the employees to fall below the expectations of the management with regard to performance. Thus, the work situation has direct relationship with the level of performance.

Let us, review some studies pertaining to this controversial topic.

1. In one study by researchers at the University of Michigan in 1950s it was found that there was not much difference between the productive groups and less productive group in respect of job satisfaction.

The above results were substantiated by two other studies, one regarding the three hundred rail road workers and second one that of six thousand workers at a tractor factory.

A review of about 20 studies by Victor Room in 1964 disclosed that is not much evidence supporting a direct like between satisfaction and productivity. As job attitudes allow discriminable relationship such as absenteeism and labour turnover, it was analysed that strong positive relationship with productivity is lacking practically.

9. VARIOUS WAYS TO IMPROVE EMPLOYEE JOB SATISFACTION

Job satisfaction plays a significant role in the organization. Therefore, managers should take concrete steps to improve the level of job satisfaction. These steps may be in the form of job redesigning to make the job more interesting and challenging, improving quality of work life, linking rewards with performance and improving overall organizational climate.

- Respectful treatment of all employees at all levels
- Trust between employees and senior management
- Benefits overall
- Compensation/pay overall
- Job security
- Relationship with immediate supervisor
- Opportunities to use skills and abilities in the work
- Immediate supervisor's respect for employee ideas
- Organization's financial stability
- Management's recognition of employee job performance
- Provide a positive working environment
- Reward and recognition
- Involve and increase employee engagement
- Develop the skills and potential of the workforce
- Evaluate and measure job satisfaction

10. CONCLUSION

No Organization can exist without human beings as human resources are the foremost thing for its effective functioning. Job satisfaction is based on personal factors, factors inherent in the job and factors controlled by management. A satisfied worker's performance is normally high. However this is denied in the Michigan University survey in 1950, stating that a Productive worker need not have greater job satisfaction. The Porter and Lawler have also explained that workers are generally satisfied mainly on intrinsic rewards such as salaries, bonus and service benefits. Employee's dissatisfaction creates employee's turnover, absences and negative publicity. Job satisfaction has no impact on productivity. A satisfied worker may not necessarily lead to increased productivity but a dissatisfied worker leads to lower productivity.

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