# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN **COMMERCE, IT & MANAGEMENT**



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**OBJECTIVES** 

**HYPOTHESIS (ES)** 

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY** 

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION** 

FINDINGS

**RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS** 

CONCLUSIONS

**LIMITATIONS** 

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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- Bowersox, Donald J., Closs, David J., (1996), "Logistical Management." Tata McGraw, Hill, New Delhi.
- Hunker, H.L. and A.J. Wright (1963), "Factors of Industrial Location in Ohio" Ohio State University, Nigeria.

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS**

 Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

#### JOURNAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

• Schemenner, R.W., Huber, J.C. and Cook, R.L. (1987), "Geographic Differences and the Location of New Manufacturing Facilities," Journal of Urban Economics, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 83-104.

#### **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

Garg, Sambhav (2011): "Business Ethics" Paper presented at the Annual International Conference for the All India Management Association,
 New Delhi, India, 19–23

#### UNPUBLISHED DISSERTATIONS

• Kumar S. (2011): "Customer Value: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Customers," Thesis, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

#### **ONLINE RESOURCES**

• Always indicate the date that the source was accessed, as online resources are frequently updated or removed.

#### WEBSITES

Garg, Bhavet (2011): Towards a New Gas Policy, Political Weekly, Viewed on January 01, 2012 http://epw.in/user/viewabstract.jsp

#### STRESS AMONG IT SECTOR EMPLOYEES

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The new mantra for job opportunities among young population is "call center" A call center is nothing but a voice-based customer. ITes comprises of the following:

1. Business Process Outsourcing(BPO) 2. Knowledge Process Outsourcing(KPO) 3. Engineering Services Outsourcing(ESO) 4. Legal Process Outsourcing(LPO) 5. Games Process Outsourcing(GPO) A Stress is our bodies way of dealing with nerves and anxiety. Stress comes from a person's worries. Stress is a normal physical response to events that make usfeel threatened or upset our balance in some way. When we sense danger—whether it's real or imagined—the body's defenses kick into high gear in a rapid, automatic process known as the "fight-or-fleght-or-freeze" reaction, or the stress response. Everyone has stress. Stress is a natural part of life. Our study has focussed on the cause and sign of stress, supporting documentation and some remedy to combat stress.

#### **KEYWORDS**

role- conflict, stressors, work-life balance, absenteeism, turnover or job quit, mental illness, family support, maternity, health disorder, combat, yoga and meditation.

#### INTRODUCTION

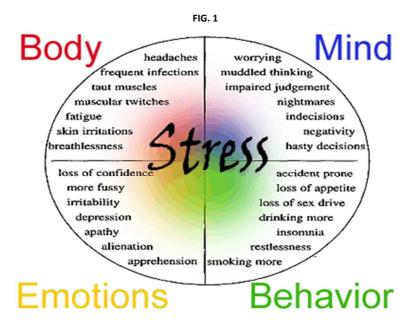
he Indian Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology enabled Services (ITeS) sectors go hand-in-hand in every aspect. The industry has not only transformed India's image on the global platform, but also fuelled economic growth by energising higher education sector (especially in engineering and computer science). The industry has employed almost 10 million Indians and hence, has contributed a lot to social transformation in the country. India is expected to become world's second-largest online community after China with 213 million internet users by December 2013 and 243 million by June 2014, according to a report by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and IMRB International. India's IT-business process outsourcing (BPO) industry revenue is expected to cross US\$ 225 billion mark by 2020. (INDIA BRAND EQUITY FOUNDATION, IT & ITeS Industry in India Last Updated: December 2013. One-third of global IT workforce is in India Around one-third of the global workforce employed in top IT companies is based in India — a sign of the fact that our country is virtually turning into the global IT headquarters. Sample this: Accenture's strength in India, at over 90,000, is more than double that in the US (its traditional home), at about 43,000. (Top global IT firms have more staff in India than home nations, Shilpa Phadnis & Sujit John, TNN Nov 6, 2013, 03.23AM IST). As the sector is engaging more human force so their stress arousal is also more which is my study area.

#### **CAUSES OF STRESS**

Following can be the real causes of stress among IT sector employees:

- 1. The technological advancements in this sector come up in short span of time with significantly high efficiencies,
- 2. This sector is very volatile and faces the problem of lack of job security and constant upgradation of skills to remain marketable.
- 3. Average working hours extended to 50 hours per week, working on Saturdays and Sundays and not being able to take leave when sick
- 4. Strict deadlines set by their customers, working in different time zones, interdependency in teams, multitasking, increased interaction with offshore clients and extended work hours
- 5. The most significant stressors reported are work overload, career opportunities, role ambiguity and role conflict and working with diversified personalities
- 6. Conditions of changing technology, redundancy, and resource inadequacy also place a high demand along with financial pressure, budget constraints, and other resource inadequacy problems

#### SYMPTOMS OF STRESS



Source: http://www.boundless.com/management/organizational-behaviour/stress-in-organizations/defining-stres/

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Trying to find out the reasons of stress among IT sector Employees
- 2. A brief about symptoms of stress among IT sector Employees
- 3. Give some supporting cases to give evidence to the fact of IT stress.
- 4. General findings of stress level among IT Sector employees
- 5. Suggestive measures to reduce stress

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Job stress has fuelled a significant, multifaceted literature. An important stream of literature starting with **Beehr and Newman defined occupational stress as "A condition arising from the interaction of** people and their jobs/work and characterized by changes within people that force them to deviate from their normal functioning."

FIG. 2 How has your job impacted your personal life? Is your job What is your biggest source of stress? as an IT administrator stressful? ve you ever considered 1-1 10.35 42.6% 6-8 10-12 17.2% 12-15 15-20 Over 20 How much stress do you think your job gives you Not enough No! 16,3% 30.9% I am the most t feel less Other 6,7% 22.1% 23.0%

Source: www.gfi.com/stress-survey

Chaturvedi et al. (2007) studied to detect stress, anxiety and depression in IT/ITeS professionals in the Silicon Valley of India. Bhuyar et al. (2008) studied the mental, physical and social health problems of call centre workers. Expert at NIMHANS, Bengaluru have reported that an increasing number of young professionals, especially in IT Sector have been reporting psychological problems. Dr. B. N. Gangadhar of the Department of Psychiatry at NIMHANS says that he usually sees half a dozen of techies on his outpatient days and most commonly reported problems are marital discord and depression. (Udai Parek Udai, Understanding Organisational Behaviour. Pg 328)

In a recent study **Babani** shows that 1 in 4 Indian executives suffer from obesity and 44% middle level executives report that job stress drives them to high level of alcohol consumption. (**Dr. S. S. Khanka, Organisational Behaviou, May,6, 2002, pg. 329,**). **Roepke et al (**2000) showed in fact, software development is a human-intensive industry and farsighted project managers recognize that the greatest impediments to success are often related to people rather than to information, technology, and systems. **Mak et al (2000)** studied the high costs associated with replacing IT staff and their experience, it makes sense for companies to invest in mechanisms designed to keep IT staff longer **G. Latha1 et al (2002)** studied that BPO sector young generation are working on continuous night shifts, which affect their biological balance. Apart from this, excessive workloads, not reachable targets and pressurizing customers are creating stress among the employees. **Carmel E. et al (2002)** studied that the maturation of Offshore Sourcing of Information Technology Work, 65-78. **Rajeshwari et al (**2003) developed an instrument to measure stress among software professionals **Aziz M. (2004)** studied Role stress among women in the Indian information technology sector. Women in Management Review. pp356–363.A study conducted by **Aziz, (**2004), investigated the intensity of organizational role stress among women informational technology professionals in the Indian private sector. **Sunita Malhotra et al (**January - July 2005) identified that women face new set of problems involving both family and profession.

Rajeshwari et, al (2005) studied that the human-computer interaction factor also has an effect on work exhaustion Bhatia P, Kumar P. (2005) Part II – Clinical applications and guidelines. pp711–717. Vanitha et al (2006) studied on organizational commitment and stress among information technology professionals. Shahnawaz, (2006) studied that due to long working hours and monotonous work, the call-centre jobs have been equated to 'electronic sweat shop', 'battery hens' '19th century prison' and 'Roman slave ship'

Sunetra Bhattacharya et al, (2007) studied Distress, Wellness and Organizational Role Stress among IT Professionals pp169-178. Das et al (2008). has shown high intention to leave IT sector. Bhuyar et al (2008) studied mental, physical and social health problems of call centre workers. Das, J. K. et al (2008) studied management of occupational stress in the service sector pp.33-52 S.Subramanian et al (October 2009) studied Hardiness Personality, Self-Esteem and Occupational Stress among IT Professionals. Das, S et al (Feb2009) studied stress at work place pp.35-41.AziziYahaya, NoordinYahaya, atl (2009) attempted to find out the causes of occupational stress within the organization and the implication on job satisfaction and intention to leave and absenteeism. The finding showed that occupational stress does not have direct effect on intention to leave and absenteeism but have direct negative effect on job satisfaction. Job satisfaction has negative effect on intention to leave and absenteeism.

Guchait et al (2010) identified that, the turnover in this industry is reported as high as 80% However, in spite of such high stress levels, there are no studies that have explored the level of stress in this industry in detail. Partha Sarkar, Amir Jafar, Ranjan Sarkar Understanding Employees' discernment of fairness in workplace and Employee voice: Perspective from Indian Outsourcing Sector in the post-Recession period. Das, J. K.et al. (2011a). studied Sources of job stress among the employees of service sector in Kolkata and ways to mitigate stress, pp.1-16. Das, J. K.et al. (2011b). studied Occupational Stress and its impact on employees of service sector in pp.59-69. Das, J. K.et al. (2011c) tried to measure Occupational Stress in the service sector of Kolkata and ways to handle stress Pg.44-58. Santoshi Sengupta, (2011) studied on job and demographic attributes affecting employee satisfaction in the Indian BPO industry pp.248 – 273. N. Akbar Jan (October, 2011) conceptualized Green Health Management for employees in IT and BPO using Sharon Schema with Christina Theory K. ThriveniKumari

(**December, 2011**) has dealt about impact of stress on women work life balance. The impact of stress on work life balance of women employees with reference to BPO and education sector in Bangalore

Dr. Kalyani Kenneth (9 Dec,2011) In this conceptual paper, the author emphasized on work stress and employee counseling. In the present scenario, employees are experiencing stress due to the rapid and dynamic growth of globalization and vocationalization. Das, Nandialath and Mohan, (2011) studied on Indian call centers also showed that leadership is a key factor that affects their experiences at work and can impact their intention to leave Ankita Srivastava, et al (Nov-Dec2011) studied the root causes of attrition and retention in BPOs, analyzing the level of motivation, satisfaction and involvement, generated a model for maximizing sustenance of employees in the organization and come up with concrete recommendation. Shefali Malhotra et al (9 January 2012) The research reveals that salary, job task, colleagues, sense of purpose, career path opportunity, work environment, autonomy and workload are the major variables to introduce the stress among the employees in BPO Sector Dr. R. Uma Rani, M.Saravanan, (April, 2012) conducted Management of Stress among Employees in BPO using clustering algorithm K. Tamizharasi et al, (April, 2012) This study is concerned with the non viability of the BPO and the fact that the young generation of India is actually losing out in the BPO. Vidya Sunil Kadam (June, 2012) This study is conducted to find out the main causes behind the increase in attrition in IT Industries and to find out the ways to control attrition. Murali Patibandla (June, 2012) studied Foreign Direct Investment in India's Retail Sector. In the DQ-CRM BPO E Sat - Survey 2012, for which the findings will be published in the next issue of Dataquest magazine, the respondents have regarded travel time (37%) as the biggest reason for stress in the BPO sector.

Subechhya Haldar1 et al (August, 2012) studied Employees perception on Employee Day- Shift v/s Night Shift – Shift Jobs with special reference to BPO Sector in Hyderabad. Steve (August, 2012) studied stress in call centres

Anita D'souza (August, 2012) identified in today's modern 24/7 economy, night shifts are becoming more common. Previously, night shift jobs were a relative rarity, confined to particular businesses or skeleton crews that kept a bare minimum of a functions operating until morning. Datta Damayanti (September, 2012) has experienced a 57% rise in stress over the past two years. Pp-51, INDIA TODAY.

#### **DATA ANALYSIS**

I have taken up the study relying on Secondary Data only. Case studies, publications, journals have helped me a lot.

#### CASE TO SUPPORT THE FACTS OF STRESS AMONG IT SECTOR EMPLOYEES

#### CASE 1

Source: Exploring the Lives of Youth in the BPO Sector

Findings from a Study in Gurgaon

#### Monisha Vaid, Fellow

Paper No. 10 Health and Population Innovation Fellowship Programme(http://popcouncil.org/asia/india.html)

The study, conducted in 2006, in a location of Gurgaon, one of India's major outsourcing hubs. Approximately 42 Indian and international BPOs operate in Gurgaon, of which some 20 BPOs serve international clients (Call Centre Association of India, verbal communication). The study was conducted among unmarried young people working in the BPO sector in Gurgaon. Many BPO employees acknowledged high levels of stress associated with their jobs and while acknowledging that this is a competitive and demanding sector, BPOs need to consider measures that would alleviate some of this stress.

#### CASE 2

Source: International Conference on Technology and Business Management March 28-30, 2011

**Job Stress of Call Centre Employees** 

Meera Sharma R. L. Raina

**Ravindra Sharma** 

Shri Guru Ram Rai Institute of Technology & Science, Dehradun

Abhav Kumar Tiwari

ICFAI. IBS. Dehradun

The sample size was 50 and the data was collected from various call centres of Dehradun (Uttarakhand). It is found that customer service departments are most stressful areas to work. Poor ergonomics, irregular sleeping / working hours, time pressure, high call volume and low job security are the main stressors found among Call Centre employees. Findings showed that total maximum respondents believe that their 50-75% productivity decreases due to various stressors at work place. Hence it has become imperative for the system to take measures to reduce the workplace stress and its impact on productivity increasing the Job satisfaction and Job Performance of the employees.

#### CASE 3

Source: IJRIM Volume 2, Issue 1(January 2012) (ISSN 2231-4334) International Journal of Research in IT & Management 24 http://www.mairec.org

Stress in the context of Job satisfaction: An empirical Study of BPO

Shefali Malhotra\*

#### Omesh Chadha\*\*

To conduct this study, total 300 questionnaires were distributed among the employees working in the call centers of Mohali, Panchkula and Chandigarh. This study was conducted during Dec. 2010- April 2011. But after the completion of the survey only 256 employees gave their response, but only 250 questionnaires are included in this study. So, the response rate was 83%. Results discussed that 68.4% employees agreed that working environment of the organization is the main source of the stress. 74.44% employees responded that Employee must be given a proper job task in the organization, if must be given a job task as per his knowledge, experience and interest, if proper job task is not given to the employee in the organization, then employee will be frustrating because every human being can excel in one field in the organization. On the other hand, 67.6% employees responded that job task and working environment is not the cause of stress among the employee they said that work load the reason to raise the stress among the employees. 67.2% employee assumed that bungling colleagues are the main source of stress, they believed that when the employees are corrupted, political and diplomatic in nature, then it is very difficult for an employee to work in that environment.

#### CASE4

Source: Suicide among Software Engineers/Heavy Stress in Indian IT Industry by: Bharat, Category: India Post Date: 2010-01-19

Article Source: http://www.saching.com

According to National Crime Records Bureau at least 35 in every 1,00,000 people in Bangalore commit suicide due to stress. Citizens are unable to cope with Bangalore's quick growth

References, who committed suicide in Bangalore are as follows:

- 1. 1. Prince Singla (2010), Software Engineers, Age :27, a Native of Rajasthan
- 2. 2.Lakshmi Nair (2010), Software Engineer, Age: 23, A Native of Thiruvanantapuram and many others

#### CASE 5

Source: Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology,

July 2008, Vol. 34, No.2, 215-220. Mental Health and Stress among Call Center Employees

#### Sushma Suri and Saba Rizvi

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

The study aimed to find out the stress and mental health among call center employees. For this purpose, a total of 100 employees were selected from two different call centers i.e. Domestic (N=50) and International (N=50). The sample included both male and female employees in equal number. Two scales namely Life Stress

Scale and Mental Health Inventory were administered to all the subjects. Interview conducted personally on employees revealed that international call center employees have more work stress as compare to domestic one. This is due to heavy work load, no limited time for social interaction and completion of work

#### **FINDINGS**

- Stress exists among IT employees like normal schedule.
- The engagement of staff is in the age group of 20-30 years.
- The engagement of employees in IT sector is due to the high pay structure
- Excessive workload and tight deadlines are major causes of stress.
- The Signs of stress include feelings of hopelessness, agitation, anxiety (heart palpitations, shortness of breath), making mistakes, forgetfulness, poor communication, being easily angered, and increased intake of alcohol or drugs.
- The stress is occurring due to excessive work load, odd schedules and poor adjustment of personal and professional life.
- Remedial measures are there but some are following, some are not following
- Organisations need to help employees to come out of stress

#### STRESS BUSTERS

There are certain organisational and extra organisational stress busters to combat the ill effect of stress:

#### ORGANISATIONAL STRESS BUSTERS

- 1. RECREATION ACTIVITIES: Plan a recreation day for your colleagues where you can play games, sing aloud, dance and do what eases you out.
- 2. WORK 'N' PLAY! Stress buster at work range from corporate games and events, to music lessons and video games. Shashank Venkat, who works with a news portal says, "Our office has everything possible to keep the employees relaxed and stress-free. We have equipments including a punching bag, fuss-ball table, XBOX, guitars, violins and lots more. (Source: Corporate stress busters for you, Chaitrali Sardesai, Mumbai Mirror Nov 24, 2013, 12.00AM IST)
- 3. **EMPLOYEES DAY OUT!** A popular corporate stress buster is to take the employees for an outdoor trip. Playing outdoor games and sports is usually the agenda on such days.
- 4. **GET PAMPERED**: What can be better than a relaxing massage when your tensions are at soaring levels at work? Needless to mention, this is an excellent way to kill stress. Some offices have massages and spa treatments on specific days of the week for whoever wants to be pampered. Acupressure and acupuncture experts are in demand in many offices.
- 5. **SNACK ON**: This is an interesting one to get rid of the tension. One of the worst side effects of stress is ignoring the meals and being at the desk for hours without realising that they have just skipped their lunch. To avoid this, offices have now started stacking up their pantries with delicious snacks which one can nibble on. Munchies like sandwiches, puffs, rolls, pastries and many more are made available at any time in office. Coffee machines, cotton candy and popcorn vending machines are also kept at some workplaces to keep the employees in a light mood throughout the day. Snacking on eatables at regular intervals can keep you active and energetic.

#### **INDIVIDUAL STRESS BUSTERS**

- Physical Exercise
- 2. Relaxation
- Bio-feedback
- Meditation
- 5. Behavioural Self-Control
- 6. Cognitive therapy
- 7. Networking (source: Organizational Behaviour, Concept and Cases, Dr. Mrs. Anjali, Ghanekar, Everest publishing House, ISBN 81-86314-12-1)

#### CONCLUSION

Stress being the natural outcome of daily activities are present in our everyday life. This sector, being the most populous industry with high economic return is one of the stressful sector of economy. India being a labour intensive economy, just to cater to the needs of upcoming youth, for their economic engagement IT sector has to be nurtured well so that it gets removal from worse effect of stress.

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