Quality of Work Life and its Role in Employee Retention: An Empirical study

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Abstract

Employee retention is greatly influenced by the quality of work life (QWL). Businesses that place a high priority on work-life balance, job security, a supportive workplace culture, opportunity for professional advancement, and employee appreciation generate an atmosphere where employees feel satisfied and engaged. Higher retention rates are the result of this. Organizations may save money by keeping their current staff members, which both boosts productivity and protects institutional knowledge. Organizations can use tactics like employee engagement programmes, work-life balance initiatives, training and development opportunities, competitive pay and benefits packages, effective leadership and communication, employee well-being initiatives, and ongoing feedback mechanisms to improve QWL and encourage retention. By prioritizing employee satisfaction and providing a supportive work environment, organizations can cultivate a motivated and committed workforce, leading to long-term organizational success.

Keywords: Employee retention, Work- life balance, Job security, organizational culture, Employee performance

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Introduction

Companies around the world completely depend on their employees to get work done effectively. For any corporation to survive and exist, it needs its workers to perform their duties well. No company can produce a meaningful product if the workers are not giving their best day to day and are happy with the work they are doing. Hence, in other words, for employees to produce good work, the quality of their work life balance is extremely crucial. It is important that workers get time outside of work to enjoy things they love. Having a good work-life balance protects an employee from burning out (Deery & Jago, 2015). The integration and harmony of a person's job obligations and their personal responsibilities, such as family, leisure, and personal well-being, is referred to as work-life. It includes the capacity for efficient time management and resource allocation to both work-related obligations and personal activities, facilitating the peaceful coexistence of the two worlds. The idea of work-life balance emphasizes the significance of finding fulfilment and happiness in a variety of spheres of life, even outside of work (Horst et.al, 2014). It emphasizes how important it is for people to balance their personal and

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professional lives by making time for hobbies, family time, and self-care. The idea of quality of work life (QWL) has drawn a lot of attention in recent years as businesses attempt to give their staff members a supportive and rewarding work environment, which is important for their productivity. The term "qualitative well-being" (QWL) refers to the general health and contentment of people at work, and it includes several aspects such work-life balance, job security, organizational culture, career advancement, and employee recognition. More and more companies nowadays are recognizing the importance of work life balance. From recent research, it has been found that QWL directly impacts employee retention rates in an organization (Yamamoto, 2011). Organizations are realizing the value of retaining competent and talented personnel as the fight for talent heats up. Employee retention is essential for an organization's performance since it prevents institutional knowledge from being lost and increases expenses associated with hiring new employees. The accomplishment of organizational goals is crucial to the development of every industry. But it cannot be done without the help of capable and motivated people. Such workers can be produced if every industry accepts responsibility for giving its workers better working conditions, which in turn leads to higher employee performance.

Literature Review

Any organization's capacity, competency, and effectiveness as an active organization depends significantly on the workers who make up its workforce. No organization can conceive of its existence and effectiveness without the proper utilization of its human resources. Human resources are therefore the most crucial resource and are regarded as the foundation of every organization. Hence every organization should make sure that not only its employees are happy, but they also have a proper work life balance (Erdogan et.al, 2012). The term "quality of worklife," or QWL, refers to the overall standard of an employee's working environment. QWE is related to both contented employees and enhanced business results. When work-life balance is solid and of high quality, productivity will unavoidably increase. The degree of staff retention also increases with stable work-life balance. Overall, it aims to benefit the company, the workers, and their families. For employee well-being, finding a healthy balance between work and personal life is essential (Grant et.al, 2013). Positive work-life balance is fostered by organizations that enable flexible work schedules, offer options for leave and time off, and support employees' personal obligations, which increases job satisfaction and lowers turnover. There are several factors that make up successful work life balance. One such factor is Job satisfaction. The term "job satisfaction" refers to how happy a worker is with their employer (Haar et al., 2014). The workload, coworkers, job security, and working conditions all have a big impact on how unhappy someone feels at work. A better job is correlated with an improvement in work-life satisfaction. An employee who enjoys their job is more likely to produce high-quality work and stay with the company. Thus, job dissatisfaction increases the risk of lower employee engagement and higher turnover rates. Job security is another crucial factor. Employees look for consistency

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and security in their employment. Companies that offer a dependable and encouraging work environment, fair pay, and long-term career potential are more likely to keep their employees. Employees can concentrate on their work and make more valuable contributions to the success of the organization when their jobs are secure, which also fosters loyalty (Owens et.al, 2018). Another important factor for promoting good work- life balance is financial reimbursement. Any work is done with the intention of receiving a substantial salary in return. Benefits, pay, and incentives raise organizational QWL. When workers are paid more, they are more engaged. Unless the employer provides extrinsic motivation (in the form of higher financial advantage), employees are less likely to go above and beyond the call of duty. After obtaining fair remuneration, workers are more inclined to be satisfied with their jobs and to be more committed to achieving the company's goals. They are less inclined to quit their organizations if they are paid well. Employee retention and happiness are greatly impacted by an inclusive and supportive organizational culture. A sense of belonging and engagement are fostered by a culture that celebrates diversity, supports open communication, stimulates cooperation, and values employee contributions. Employees are more inclined to stick with their employment if they feel appreciated and a part of the company (Tayfun& Çatır, 2014). Lastly, most workers want to advance in their jobs. Organizations that support employee development do so by investing in employee development programmes, offering chances for training, mentorship, and advancement, and coordinating individual goals with organizational goals. Such programmes not only improve employee abilities but also raise their dedication to the company and loyalty, increasing the retention rate for the organization.

Employee retention rates are directly impacted by the quality of the work environment. High levels of work satisfaction increase employees' likelihood of staying with the company, which lowers turnover rates for the company (Larasati et.al, 2019). Retaining an employee is important for the organization as it helps save the organization money. Due to the costs associated with finding, employing, and training new personnel, organizations that have high turnover rates may find that it is expensive. Therefore, organizations may drastically lower recruiting and onboarding expenses by investing in QWL activities and keeping staff. Apart from this, longterm workers have important organizational knowledge and expertise. By keeping these workers on board, the company may maintain institutional knowledge that is important for stimulating innovation, avoiding costly mistakes, and preserving operational efficiency. Hence a company should heavily invest in enhancing the work - life balance of its employees for good retention. There are several ways to achieve this. One such method is employee engagement programmes. Employees that are engaged in their work are more likely to stick with it. Programmes to monitor and improve employee engagement can be implemented by organisations. This might entail adopting feedback channels, conducting routine employee satisfaction surveys, and providing chances for employee participation in decision-making processes. Additionally, encouraging a healthy workplace culture through team-building exercises, rewards systems, and social gatherings may have a big impact on employee engagement and retention. Work-life

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balance policies and procedures can also be implemented by organizations to retain employees (Warren, 2015). Offering flexible work hours, remote work choices, and paid time off programmes may all be part of this. Organizations may increase employee satisfaction and retention by catering to workers' personal needs and enabling them to successfully balance work and personal obligations. Finally, A pleasant work environment and staff retention depend on effective leadership. Strong leaders should communicate clearly, offer frequent feedback and appreciation, and foster an environment of openness and trust. Organizations may build a sense of loyalty and dedication by fostering strong relationships between leaders and staff.

Objective:

To Find the Quality of Work Life and Its Role in Employee Retention

Methodology:

The nature of the study is descriptive where data is collected from the 180 respondents to examine the quality of work life and its role in employee retention. A checklist technique was used to examine and depict the data. In a checklist technique, respondents designate "Yes" or "No" for all the questions.

Data Analysis and Interpretations:

SL No.	Quality of Work Life and its Role in Employee Retention	Yes	% Yes	No	% No	Total
1	Employee engagement programmes	163	90.56	17	9.44	180
2	Work-life balance initiatives	172	95.56	8	4.44	180
3	Training and development opportunities	166	92.22	14	7.78	180
4	Competitive pay and benefits packages	154	85.56	26	14.44	180
5	Effective leadership and communication	169	93.89	11	6.11	180
6	Employee well-being initiatives	156	86.67	24	13.33	180

Table 1 Quality of Work Life and its Role in Employee Retention

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7	Ongoing feedback mechanisms	158	87.78	22	12.22	180
8	Prioritizing employee satisfaction and providing a supportive work environment	175	97.22	5	2.78	180

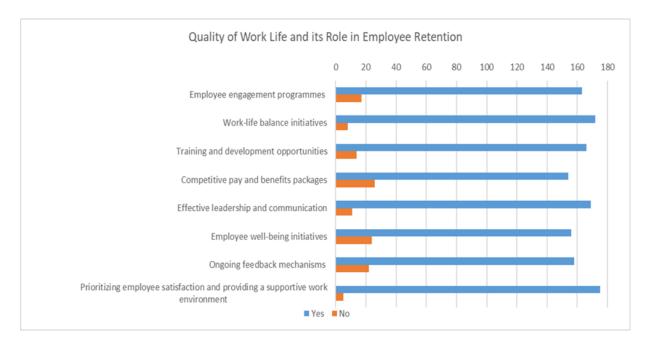


Figure 1 Quality of Work Life and its Role in Employee Retention

Table 1 and Figure 1 show the quality of work life and its role in employee retention. It was found that around 97.2% respondents believe that prioritizing employee satisfaction and providing a supportive work environment, providing work-life balance initiatives (95.5%), Effective leadership and communication (93.8%), Providing training and development opportunities (92.2%), Initiating employee engagement programs (90.5%), Ongoing feedback mechanisms (87.7%), Employee well-being initiatives (86.6%) and Competitive pay and benefits packages (85.5%).

Conclusion

In conclusion, employee retention is greatly influenced by the quality of the work environment (QWL). Employee satisfaction and engagement are fostered by organizations that value work-life balance, job security, a positive company culture, career advancement, and employee recognition. Enhancing QWL and fostering retention may be accomplished by putting into practice techniques like employee engagement efforts, work-life balance initiatives, competitive remuneration, effective leadership, and employee well-being programmes. Organisations gain a lot from keeping people, including cost savings and higher output. Organisations may build a motivated and devoted staff that will contribute to long-term organizational success by putting a

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priority on employee happiness and offering a supportive work environment. For businesses looking to keep brilliant people and guarantee their general wellbeing, investing in QWL is essential.

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