

International Journal of Southern Economic Light (JSEL)

Peer Review Journal

TOWARDS ORGANIZATIONAL FLOURISHING: PRIORITIZING EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

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Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.36713/epra16230

DOI No: 10.36713/epra16230

ABSTRACT

Employee well-being is crucial for a healthy and pleasant workplace, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The definition of work has evolved, with flexible terms encompassing location and time. To foster a healthy organization, inclusive working employees' well-being is essential. Studies highlight the importance of workplace spirituality, moral leadership, and health-oriented tactics in supporting employee well-being. Integrating well-being treatments into daily routines can improve employee resilience. Ethics and social responsibility are also essential in fostering employee health. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need to address stress and family conflict at the work-family interface. A healthy work environment is essential for improving employee wellness and productivity. This study investigates the relationship between employee well-being and organizational health, focusing on employee perceptions, organizational support, and effectiveness of initiatives. The goal is to inform strategies and interventions to enhance employee well-being and organizational health.

KEYWORDS: Healthy organizations, employee well-being, leadership, inclusive environment-----

1. INTRODUCTION

The advent of the pandemic has significantly influenced the agendas of various organizations. As highlighted in the recent iteration of Microsoft's Work Trend Index, a majority, comprising 53% of employees, now demonstrate a heightened inclination towards prioritizing health and overall well-being over professional commitments compared to pre-pandemic times. Concurrently, organizations themselves are actively recalibrating their priorities, emphasizing fostering a comprehensive approach to the well-being of their workforce, encompassing mental, physical, emotional, financial, and psychological dimensions. The COVID-19 crisis has prompted leaders, organizations, and employees alike to engage in profound introspection, reevaluating the significance of various aspects and discerning between what holds importance and what does not. The epidemic has also shifted the agendas of organizations.

The importance of fostering healthy organizations cannot be overstated, serving as fundamental pillars for sustained success across diverse industries. These organizations provide conducive environments for employees to flourish both personally and professionally, resulting in heightened morale, productivity, and innovative output. Furthermore, they demonstrate reduced instances of absenteeism, turnover, and internal conflict, thereby enhancing overall performance and competitive advantage. Beyond individual benefits, healthy organizations also make positive contributions to society by championing social responsibility, ethical conduct, and community involvement. Through prioritizing the well-being of their workforce, these entities play pivotal roles in fostering a more equitable and sustainable future.



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Moreover, healthy organizations are better positioned to navigate challenges and adapt to evolving circumstances, including disruptions like those wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic. By cultivating resilience and adaptability, they can effectively manage crises while maintaining a steadfast focus on long-term objectives. In summary, investment in the health and well-being of organizations yields multifaceted advantages, extending benefits not only to employees and stakeholders but also to broader society. It underscores the imperative of establishing supportive and inclusive work environments that prioritize holistic employee development and contribute to collective advancement

1.1 Theoretical Foundations

The theoretical grounds that support the link between employee well-being and organizational health are complex. The Job Demands-Resources (JD-R) model, Conservation of Resources (COR) theory, and Socio-Technical Systems Theory are some of the most common frameworks used to describe this dynamic interplay. According to these ideas, diverse job demands and resources influence employee well-being, which in turn affects organizational outcomes such as productivity, creativity, and resilience. Furthermore, theories of organizational culture, such as the Competing Values Framework and Organizational Climate Models, emphasize the importance of cultural norms, values, and practices in determining employee well-being and organizational success

1.2 Organizational culture and leadership

Organizational culture and leadership are crucial for aiding the shift to healthy companies. A pleasant and supportive company culture based on trust, cooperation, and psychological safety promotes work-life balance, autonomy, and recognition. Transformational and genuine leadership styles have been linked to increased levels of employee engagement, job satisfaction, and organizational commitment, which all contribute to organizational health. Toxic leadership practices and dysfunctional organizational cultures, on the other hand, can have a negative impact on employee well-being and organizational performance.

1.3 Work Environment and Employee Engagement:

The work environment significantly impacts employee well-being and organizational health. Factors such as physical workspace design, job autonomy, workload management, and social support mechanisms influence employee stress levels, job satisfaction, and overall wellness. Moreover, fostering a culture of employee engagement, where individuals are emotionally invested in their work and aligned with organizational goals, enhances resilience, creativity, and organizational adaptability. Strategies such as flexible work arrangements, wellness programs, and mindfulness initiatives have been found to promote both employee well-being and organizational effectiveness

1.4 Challenges and Future Directions:

Employee well-being is increasingly recognized, yet shifting to healthy organizations remains challenging. These include opposition to change, a lack of leadership commitment, resource restrictions, and cultural hurdles. Future study should include longitudinal studies, multi-level analyses, and intervention studies to further understand the causative processes and boundary conditions of this association. Furthermore, understanding the impact of new trends like as remote work, artificial intelligence, and the gig economy on employee well-being and organizational health is critical for remaining current with changing organizational dynamics.

1.5 Organizational Socialization

Organization culture is a complex system of norms, terminology, and ideology that shapes daily interactions within an organization. It establishes shared criteria for judgment, social norms, and customary behaviors, influencing interactions with peers, leaders, and external parties. Despite its complexity, organizational culture can be fragmented, leading to subcultures or distinct segments within larger organizations. These cultural forms are rooted in the recurrent problems and experiences of members and become natural responses to the work environment. Organizations outlast their founders, indicating that the culture established by the initial members remains consistent over time (Chao, 2012). This leads to the formation of organizational socialization in the workplace, also known as on boarding. This process involves providing new hires with the skills, knowledge, and behavior needed for success in the company. Organizational socialization is influenced by the company's actions and the traits and behaviors of recent arrivals. It



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provides a structured perspective on professional life, organizing interpersonal connections, and establishing guidelines for daily behavior.

1.6 Healthy Organizations

An array of global economic, technical, legal, political, and socio-cultural influences have led to changes in the way work is organized, which has had a multifaceted impact on markets, organizations, and individuals. (Landsbergis, 61-72) Nowadays, most jobs are knowledge-based and come with more responsibility, greater pay, and more learning opportunities. The possible drawbacks of these organizational changes to the workplace, however, are what worry people. Employees are under a great deal of stress due to fast-paced work, the constant need to learn and utilize newer technology, and a reduction in interpersonal engagement. This puts more pressure on employees' well-being, which in turn affects the productivity and health of businesses. This is particularly valid for those employed in today's knowledge-intensive workplaces. (S Bhatt, 2008)

According to De Smet and his colleagues (2007), the metaphor "performance and health," which improves when cared for and deteriorates when disregarded, serves as a starting point for understanding the health of companies and emphasizes the significance of employees' well-being for company profitability (De Smet, 2007) the core idea of the approach to a healthy organization (Lowe, 2010) Lowe says, "Employee wellbeing is an organizational performance issue, not simply a matter of personal health." (Panneerselvam S, 2013)

Lowe provides his framework for a healthy organization as a reference for considering the fundamental causes of performance and well-being in a comprehensive, long-term way. He offers doable strategies for establishing sustained success in healthy companies, revitalizing their staff, forging new bonds with clients and the community, and enhancing or safeguarding the environment. There are two stages to Lowe's healthy organization concept.

He identifies the model's four foundational building blocks:

- 1. Positive Cultures
- 2. Inclusive Leadership
- 3. Vibrant Workplaces
- 4. Inspired Employees

Since employee and corporate health are closely related, a healthy workplace must also prioritize health promotion and protection. "For employees to apply their capabilities, they need The following introduction covers the aspects that managers must take into consideration in order:

- to protect and promote the health, safety, and well-being of all employees as well as the sustainability of the workplace
- personal health resources in the workplace;
- ways to participate in the community to improve the health of employees, their families, and other community members;
- and health and safety concerns in the physical work environment.

A safe and healthy work environment is essential for employees' health and well-being. However, businesses often exploit workers in countries with lax health and safety regulations to save money. Despite this, many companies recognize their moral obligation and exceed legal minimum standards, focusing on their own Corporate Social Responsibility Standards. This ensures a sustainable community and a safe work environment for employees. (Fielden, 2021)

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Workplace well-being refers to the application of subjective well-being inside the workplace. Improving workplace well-being and employee welfare is crucial for long-term organizational viability. Improving workplace well-being leads to better overall performance. (Sari, 2020)



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Cary L. Cooper and Ronald J. Burke's research on organizational well-being and employee well-being emphasizes creating positive work environments, fostering engagement, and addressing psychosocial risks. M. Gloria González-Morales, Sharon K. Parker, and Cary L. Cooper's study on the relationship between job design and employee well-being highlights the importance of empowering work environments.

Edmondson's research on psychological safety and team dynamics emphasizes interpersonal relationships, communication patterns, and leadership behaviors in creating psychologically safe environments. Her book "Teaming: How Organizations Learn, Innovate, and Compete in the Knowledge Economy" emphasizes trust, openness, and collaboration for employee well-being and organizational learning. (Edmondson, 2012)

Their research highlights the crucial role of supportive leadership practices in promoting employee well-being and organizational effectiveness. By fostering positive relationships and providing guidance and support, line managers can significantly influence the well-being of their team members.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 1. To Contribute to Theory Development and Academic Literature on Organizational Well-being
- 2. To Propose Recommendations for Enhancing Employee Well-being and Building Healthy Organizations
- 3. To Explore Best Practices and Case Studies of Successful Transitions Towards Healthy Organizations
- 4. To Investigate the Relationship Between Employee Well-being and Organizational Health:

4. METHODOLOGY

The research is based on both qualitative and quantitative data. The research will provide insight into employees' perspectives on their work and organizations from various industries including defense, teaching, hoteliers etc. The study will aid human resources in future recruiting. In this study, the researcher used random sampling. The researcher supplied a questionnaire to numerous working professionals to grasp their perspectives and mental condition in their work environment.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

This paper summarizes the findings of a comprehensive data analysis that looked at the transition of employee well-being to healthy companies. The study sought to explore the relationship between employee well-being and organizational health, identifying significant variables affecting this shift and evaluating the effectiveness of organizational measures in maintaining a healthy workplace. The examination considers several aspects of organizational well-being, such as leadership effectiveness, corporate culture, work environment, and employee engagement. We got our maximum response from the professionals who were in the sector for more than 5-10 years when asked about the wellbeing programs and initiatives of their organization.

Data was gathered through surveys distributed to employees from a variety of businesses, industries, and sectors. The survey tools comprised validated measures of employee well-being, organizational culture, leadership effectiveness, and organizational performance engagement. We got our maximum response from the professionals who were in the sector for more than 5-10 years when asked about the wellbeing programs and initiatives of their organization. The results of the survey were analyzed and presented using pie charts to provide a clear representation of the data. The charts showed that most participant



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5.1 SECTION 1: EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

1. How would you rate your overall well-being in the workplace?

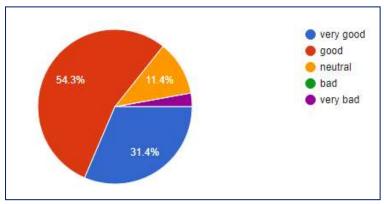


Fig 1. Ratings of overall well-being by employees

Well-being in the workplace has been consistently linked to employee performance and productivity. When employees feel physically, mentally, and emotionally well, they are more likely to be engaged, focused, and motivated to perform their best. This leads to higher levels of productivity and efficiency, contributing to organizational growth and success. To understand the level of awareness among people about their workspace we asked the first question in our survey, "How would you rate your overall well-being in the workplace? The main purpose of this question was to gauge the respondents' knowledge of this topic.

The results of the survey showed that the employees above the experience of 5-10 years were very satisfied or neutral about the well-being of the workplace comparatively to the freshers or who have been in the industry for 1-2 yrs

There could be several factors contributing to the difference in satisfaction levels regarding workplace well-being between employees with 5-10 years of experience and those with 1-2 years of experience. Here are some possible reasons:

- **Acculturation and Adaptation**: Employees with 5-10 years of experience may have developed coping mechanisms and learned to navigate challenges more effectively, leading to higher satisfaction levels.
- Career Progression and Stability: Employees with years of experience may have achieved milestones and gained stability, positively influencing their perception of workplace well-being.
- Recognition and Reward: Employees with 5-10 years of experience may have received recognition, promotions, or other rewards, enhancing their overall satisfaction.
- **Expectations and Realism**: Long-tenured employees may have more realistic expectations about the workplace and their roles, tempered by challenges and setbacks.

Whereas for the new comers there might find difficulties in:

- Lack of Familiarity: Newcomers may not understand the organization's policies, programs, and initiatives related to employee well-being.
- **Unmet Expectations**: Newcomers may have expectations about the workplace environment, culture, and support systems.
- Unclear Communication: The Company's communication about employee well-being initiatives may be unclear or insufficient.
- Inadequate On boarding: The on boarding process may not adequately address employee well-being or
 provide sufficient information and resources.



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2. What are the main factors that contribute to your well-being at work?

In the survey conducted, the second question posed to the participants regarding the factors contributing to well-being in work . The responses from all the participants were positive, indicating that they were aware of their needs or possible changes that contribute better work —life.

Employee well-being is essential for maintaining productivity, engagement, and overall satisfaction in the workplace. This report examines the main factors that contribute to well-being at work based on insights gathered from employee feedback and research findings. By understanding these factors, organizations can develop strategies to foster a positive work environment and support employee well-being. Some of the common views were:

- i. **Transparency and Quick Decision Making:** Transparent communication and efficient decision-making processes contribute to a sense of trust and empowerment among employees. Clear communication channels and swift resolution of issues enhance job satisfaction and reduce stress levels.
- ii. **Work-life balance**: Work-life balance is essential for employee well-being, requiring flexible arrangements and time management. Regular exercise promotes physical health and mental well-being, boosting morale and promoting a healthier workforce.
- iii. **Power breaks:** proper breaks in work are crucial for productivity and overall well-being in the workplace. Breaks provide opportunities for divergent thinking and creative insights. Stepping away from work tasks allows the brain to make new connections and generate fresh ideas, fostering creativity and innovation in problem-solving and decision-making processes.
- iv. **Work Environment:** A positive and supportive work environment, characterized by camaraderie, respect, and collaboration, significantly impacts employee well-being. A culture of teamwork and mutual support fosters a sense of belonging and fulfillment in the workplace.
- v. **Surprise events or trips:** Surprise events or trips foster team bonding and camaraderie among coworkers, improving communication and collaboration. These experiences, especially unexpected ones, create a sense of unity and solidarity, leading to increased motivation and productivity in the workplace.

Incorporating proper breaks into the workday is essential for promoting productivity, well-being, and overall job satisfaction among employees. Organizations should encourage a culture that values and prioritizes breaks, providing employees with the necessary support and resources to take regular, rejuvenating breaks throughout the workday. By recognizing the importance of breaks and their positive impact on employee performance and well-being, organizations can create healthier and more productive work environments for their employees.

3. How satisfied are you with the work-life balance provided by your organization?

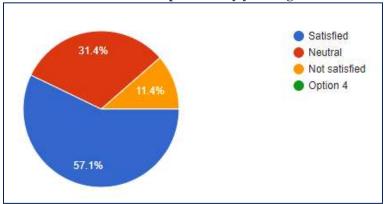


Fig 2. Work-life balance provided by your organization

This question is intended to determine if they were happy with the efforts and programs given by their employer for better work-life balance and a healthy condition of mind and body. One of the survey's significant findings was that more than 57.1% of respondents had a favorable attitude about satisfaction, while 31.4% were indifferent and 11.4%



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were dissatisfied. The high number of favorable replies implies that individuals are willing to try new things and are taking advantage of the organization's activities.

Offering efficient solutions to staff development and progress ensures improved productivity in organizations as well as a competitive advantage and attracts more consumers for company. Overall, the survey results offer useful insights into the various industries' efforts and possible changes needed to make better initiatives and provide strong support as a healthy organization

4. Do you feel that your organization supports your mental health and emotional well-being?

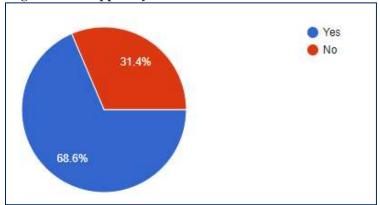


Fig 3. Organization supports your mental health and emotional well-being

The fourth question in our survey sought insights into respondents' perceptions of whether their employers and management consider their teams' mental and emotional well-being to be an important element for the business. Mental health support can help to retain employees and reduce turnover. Employees who feel supported and appreciated by their employer are more likely to stay interested and devoted to their jobs.

In contrast, untreated mental health concerns can lead to absenteeism, presenteeism, and, eventually, employee turnover. By investing in mental health programs, firms may create a supportive atmosphere that encourages workers to remain and thrive within the company.

Overall, the positive results demonstrated that most respondents think that their management and organization care about their mental health and provide the essential assistance for their well-being.

5. Have you experienced any stress-related issues in the workplace in the past six months?

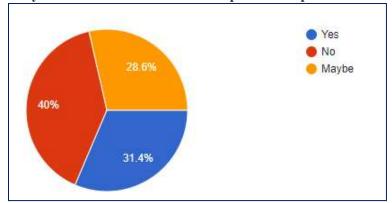


Fig 4. Stress-related issues in the workplace in the past six months



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The purpose of this question in our survey was to get insights into respondent perceptions and stress levels over the previous 6 months in order to gain an overview of professional well-being and the ability to manage events skillfully without jeopardizing one's health or emotional life. Around 40% did not encounter any recent stress in the workplace, while 28.6% were unsure about the stress and 31.4% reported stressful events in their work lives due to work commitments

SECTION 2: ORGANISAIONAL HEALTH

6. How would you describe the overall organizational culture of your workplace?

The questioned aimed to comprehend the various professional industries' cultures, which vary in terms of stress levels due to work pressure, management commitment, and satisfaction levels. The majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with their organization and management's assistance.

7. How effective do you think the communication channels are within your organization?

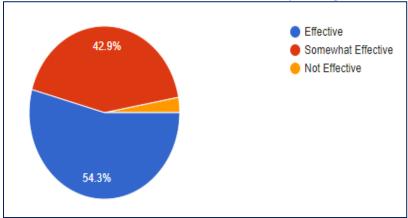


Fig 5. Effectiveness of communication channels are within your organization

The findings demonstrated that the majority of respondents were content with their management's communication channel for improved workplace culture and seamless operation. Improved communication between management and staff is essential for developing a positive workplace culture, raising productivity and performance, motivating and engaging employees, resolving conflicts, encouraging creativity, successfully managing change, and promoting employee well-being.

Businesses that put a high priority on communication and establish avenues for candid discussions between staff and management are better positioned to accomplish their objectives and thrive in the fast-paced business world of today



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8. Do you feel that there are adequate opportunities for career growth and development within your organization?

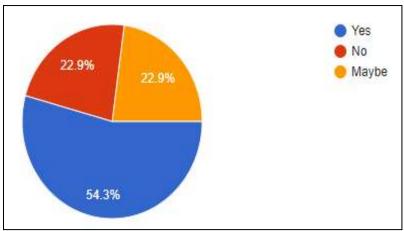


Fig 6. Career growth and development within your organization

In order to find out what people thought about opportunities and the development of organizations, the results revealed that the majority of respondents—54.3%—thought there were plenty of chances for growth in their respective industries because of the incentive scheme, adequate training provided, regular empowerment programs, availability of higher education, periodic managerial courses, and other factors. In contrast, 22.9% of respondents thought there were fewer opportunities for growth because of the unstable nature of the industry or poor management.

SECTION 3: TRANSITION OF EMPLOYEE WELL BEING TO ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

9. In your opinion, how does employee well-being contribute to the overall health of the organization? The question aimed to gauge respondents' understanding of employee well-being's importance to the company. Results showed that employees believe that higher well-being have better performance, increased work satisfaction, and retention. This also leads to better team dynamics and communication. Prioritizing employee well-being saves time and money, reduces attrition rates, and reduces recruiting expenses. It also enhances an organization's reputation, attracts top talent, strengthens its employer brand, and improves client relationships.

10. What specific initiatives or practices could your organization implement to improve employee well-being and promote organizational health?



Fig 7. Practices by organization implement to improve employee well-being and promote organizational health



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When queried about strategies to improve workplace culture and foster organizational well-being, participants suggested various initiatives. These proposals encompassed activities such as providing opportunities for regular physical exercise, establishing channels for open communication to encourage idea-sharing, maintaining consistent provision of benefits and recognition, and so forth.

By utilizing metrics such as task-to-resource ratios, scales, or feedback mechanisms, organizations can mitigate the development of cultures characterized by excessive conformity or fear of making mistakes. This approach enables adherence to established standards while also ensuring alignment with resource constraints and predefined scales or ratios.

6. FINDING AND ANALYSIS

Through this questionnaire survey data collected from employees across different industries and organizations, we gain valuable insights into the progress companies are making, particularly in the post-COVID era, to promote growth and improve the well-being of both the organization and its employees, who are considered the core of the company. Well-being in the workplace is crucial for employee performance and productivity. Employees with 5-10 years of experience are generally more satisfied or neutral about their workplace well-being compared to those with 1-2 years of experience. Factors contributing to this difference include acculturation and adaptation, career progression and stability, recognition and reward, and expectations and realism.

For newcomers, there may be difficulties such as lack of familiarity, unmet expectations, unclear communication, and inadequate on boarding. Employees are aware of their needs and potential changes that contribute to better work-life. A Healthy organization is essential for maintaining productivity, engagement, and overall satisfaction. Factors contributing to it at work include transparency, quick decision-making, work-life balance, power breaks, a supportive work environment, and surprise events or trips. Transparent communication and efficient decision-making processes foster trust and empowerment among employees, while work-life balance requires flexible arrangements and time management. Power breaks provide opportunities for divergent thinking and creative insights, while a positive and supportive work environment fosters a sense of belonging and fulfillment of commitment to complete the given task.

Organizations should encourage a culture that values and prioritizes breaks, providing employees with the necessary support and resources to take regular, rejuvenating breaks throughout the workday. By recognizing the importance of breaks and their positive impact on employee performance and well-being, organizations can create healthier and more productive work environments for their employees.

6.1 Recent development in various companies in India have set standard for the transition of employee wellbeing to healthy organization

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), one of India's leading fast-moving consumer goods firms, prioritizes employee well-being in its corporate strategy. The organization provides extensive health and wellness benefits, including as on-site clinics, exercise centers, and mental health support services. HUL also encourages staff growth and engagement with initiatives such as leadership development programs, feedback channels, and regular performance assessments. By investing in employee well-being and development, HUL hopes to foster a healthy corporate culture that promotes creativity, cooperation, and long-term company growth.

Another business is Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a worldwide IT services and consulting corporation headquartered in India, prioritizes employee well-being and work-life balance. The corporation provides a variety of health and wellness initiatives, including medical insurance, stress management classes, and employee support programs. TCS also encourages an inclusive and varied culture through programs that help workers from various backgrounds and develop a sense of belonging. By putting employee well-being first, TCS hopes to recruit and retain top talent, increase employee engagement, and foster a healthy organizational culture that promotes business success. One more industry adding to the list is Infosys Limited, a renowned IT services company in India, prioritizes employee well-being as part of its corporate culture. The organization has developed a number of measures to improve



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employees' physical, mental, and emotional wellness. For example, Infosys provides extensive healthcare benefits, including as wellness programs, mental health support services, and on-site medical facilities.

Furthermore, the firm stresses work-life balance with flexible work arrangements and programs such as 'InfyFlex,' which allows employees to choose their own work schedules. By emphasizing employee well-being, Infosys hopes to establish a healthy company culture that promotes productivity, creativity, and employee happiness towards a better and healthier future.

6.2 The health of the organization affects company growth

In contrast to the past, when the majority of the obstacles—such as new technology, supply chains, etc.—were usually external, 94% of business growth issues that firms confronted are now largely internal, according to Bain & Company. Therefore, to achieve optimal operational excellence for increased revenue growth, profitability, and customer and employee happiness, firms must identify their problematic areas and monitor the entire health of the organization.

An approach to all facets of work that is people-centric is the foundation of a thriving organization. It means putting less focus on customary perks for employees and more on a track record of ensuring psychological safety and equity, along with fostering a listening culture among staff members. Organizations that are in good health typically foster a culture, environment, and procedures that support worker well-being and productivity. It becomes essential for organizations to recognize the value of enhancing the atmosphere and culture that supports and motivates their staff to prioritize their mental, social, and physical well-being. The growth of healthy businesses is a key trend in today's corporate landscapes, indicating a rising awareness of the necessity of prioritizing employee well-being and establishing supportive work environments.

The goal of organizational health is to make your business financially sustainable by boosting operational profitability and assisting staff in overcoming obstacles in the market. As a result, company owners need to focus on strengthening their capacity to try and adopt different approaches from those of their rivals. To address the challenges of the competitive environment and preserve overall operational performance, it is equally important to monitor the health of your business (How to Boost Company Growth by Monitoring Organizational Health, 2023)

CONCLUSION

The transition of employee well-being to a healthy organization is a multifaceted process that requires careful consideration of various factors within the organizational context. Principal findings indicate that the demands inherent in job roles, such as workload, time constraints, and interpersonal tensions, pose significant challenges to employees, resulting in heightened stress levels, burnout, and a decline in well-being. Nonetheless, the availability of sufficient job-related resources, such as interpersonal support, autonomy in decision-making, and avenues for professional development, serves to alleviate the adverse effects of these demands. This facilitates the cultivation of resilience among employees and contributes to an overall enhancement of their well-being.

Furthermore, this study emphasizes the imperative nature of proactive measures geared towards the management of job demands and the augmentation of job resources, with the aim of fostering a conducive organizational milieu. Strategies such as the effective distribution of workloads, transparent communication practices, initiatives focused on skill enhancement and career progression, alongside the cultivation of a culture that fosters mutual support, have been identified as pivotal in nurturing employee well-being and fortifying the organizational fabric.

In summary, this study highlights the importance of comprehending and effectively addressing the shift towards fostering employee well-being within organizations. By cultivating environments that promote the thriving and resilience of employees, organizations can play a pivotal role in ensuring sustained success over the long haul.



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