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A Study on Work Life Balance among Female Employees in Industries

A Study on Work Life Balance Among Female Employees in Industries among Female Employee Professionals in and Nearby of Vadodara City.

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ABSTRACT:

This study looks at the work-life balance of female employees in a variety of industries, highlighting major issues, evaluating the efficacy of organizational policies, and suggesting ways to make improvements. Findings suggest that women often struggle with managing professional and personal commitments due to restrictive work schedules, inadequate family support systems, and cultural expectations. Work-life balance initiatives notwithstanding, managerial biases and loopholes in policy implementation continue to exist. Nonetheless, companies that successfully adopt gender-sensitive practices report higher levels of employee retention, job happiness, and general well-being. In order to create a more diverse and effective workforce, the study highlights the necessity of flexible work schedules, improved family assistance, and a positive company culture. To close the gap between policy and reality, suggestions include mentorship programs, childcare assistance, hybrid work arrangements, and leadership development. Industries may empower women workers, advance workplace equity, and improve employee well-being and organizational success by giving priority to these initiatives.

KEYWORDS: Work-life balance, Job satisfaction, Female employees and Family support systems.

INTRODUCTION:

In today's workplace, the idea of work-life balance has grown in importance, especially for female employees who frequently combine job commitments with personal and family duties. Women continue to encounter particular difficulties that affect their capacity to strike a healthy balance between work and personal life as sectors and employment structures change. Many women struggle to manage their multiple jobs due to a number of factors, including rigid work schedules, restrictive maternity leave legislation, inadequate childcare support, and deeply rooted societal expectations. This study intends to investigate the present situation of work-life balance among female employees in a variety of industries, evaluate the efficacy of current regulations, and suggest methods to improve general well-being and job satisfaction.

Even though the value of work-life balance is becoming more widely recognized, many businesses continue to face obstacles to advancement due to cultural barriers, managerial biases, and regulatory implementation. Although some industries have implemented family-friendly policies, remote work choices, and flexible work schedules, there are still many gaps in the development and implementation of rules. Because of workplace rigidity and a lack of comprehensive support structures, female employees often report high levels of stress, burnout, and limited prospects for professional advancement. It is essential to comprehend these obstacles in order to create a welcoming and encouraging workplace where women may flourish on both a professional and personal level.

According to research, companies that proactively adopt gender-sensitive work-life balance programs see notable increases in employee engagement, productivity, and retention. Businesses that place a high priority on mentorship programs, on-site childcare, parental leave policies, and flexible scheduling foster work environments that enable women employees to more successfully manage their personal and professional obligations. Furthermore, encouraging a work-life balance-focused company culture can boost employee enthusiasm, lower absenteeism, and enhance general wellbeing.

By identifying important issues and successful practices, this study aims to shed light on the work-life balance experiences of female employees across several industrial sectors. The study will provide useful suggestions to close the gap between policy creation and execution by assessing how organizational policies affect worker happiness and productivity. In addition to helping individual workers, work-life balance increases organizational success by cultivating a more creative, varied, and effective staff.

OBJECTIVES:

- To examine the current status of work-life balance among female employees across different industries.
 - To identify the key challenges and factors influencing work-life balance among female employees within industrial settings.
 - To examining the impact of work-life balance policies and practices on female employees' job satisfaction, retention, and overall well-being.
 - To explore effective strategies to enhance women work life balance outcomes for female employees in industries.
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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The work-life balance of female employees in a variety of industries is examined in this study, with an emphasis on the difficulties women encounter in juggling their personal and professional obligations. Long work hours, rigid scheduling, cultural expectations, and gender biases are some of the challenges that women face as they progressively pursue a variety of professions. The study is to analyze the situation of work-life balance today, pinpoint major obstacles, gauge how well present regulations are working, and suggest ways to make it better. Workplace elements that influence women's work-life experiences include company culture, job requirements, and availability of family-friendly policies. Even if programs like paid parental leave, flexible scheduling, and on-site daycare have been proved to improve employee retention and job satisfaction, implementation flaws still impede advancement.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Significant changes in Indian families' perspectives and comprehension levels have resulted from the rapid urbanization of the country, which has also modernized Indian working culture with regard to women (Hepworth, Rooney, Rooney & Strom-Gottfried, 2016). Women's involvement is becoming more noticeable in every aspect of the workforce. In contrast to a few decades ago, women are now permitted to pursue their academic goals and pursue their studies. Women's status and circumstances have altered significantly in recent years, with metropolitan environments showing the biggest shift as compared to rural ones. As a result, women now have more options, are more conscious, and are more motivated to develop personally (Hill, Hawkins, Ferris & Weitzman, 2001). Along with their male colleagues, women have also been influenced by the financial rewards of employment when making decisions about joining the workforce. Creating a work-life balance is considered to be the most difficult issue facing women today

Kaur, S., Sharma, R., Talwar, R., Verma, A., & Singh, S. (2009) "has located a study on the job satisfaction of doctors in a Delhi tertiary hospital and the elements that affect it. Data was gathered from original sources. A self-structured questionnaire was used to gather primary data from 250 doctors employed on a residence-based basis who were chosen using stratified random sampling. The data was analyzed using statistical techniques such as proportions and the chi-square test. A sizable portion of physicians were found to be unhappy with their usual work schedules and pay, it was concluded. Dissatisfaction was found to be significantly correlated with factors such as the usual amount of working hours per day and the number of night shifts per month. More research is required to determine the most effective ways to use doctors' working hours to increase their job happiness."

Jalali, F., Shamekh, N. K., & Daneshkhahi, H. (2014) "has thought about expanding and certifying an appropriate instrument to illustrate the issues with work-life balance that Iranian women administrators encounter. 26 female entrepreneurs used a basic randomization method in conjunction with a questionnaire to gather data. Primary data was gathered using a self-structured questionnaire and a basic random sample technique. Mathematical measurements like factor analysis, regression analysis, and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used to analyze the data. "Association of Iranian Women Entrepreneurs" is the statistical population. According to this survey, the main factors affecting the work-life balance of Iranian women administrators include role overload, stress management, health, time management issues, and a lack of appropriate social support."

Kamalaveni, S., & Suganya, B. (2017) "has looked at a study on the work-life balance of women employed in Tripura's garment industry. This study also seeks to identify the factors influencing work-life balance and home participation, as well as the obstacles faced by female employees in achieving it. The study employed a descriptive research design. Excellent appreciation from the respondents, attitudes, interest, beliefs, and values, among other topics, are all covered in this study. Both primary and secondary data were gathered using this methodology. Using the questionnaire analysis method, primary data was gathered. There were 100 people in the sample. Conceptual information was gathered from journals and papers. It was determined that women employees may successfully manage both their personal and professional lives. In order for female employees to be equally balanced and content with their work-life balance, it was also disclosed that they should schedule their personal and professional calendars."

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In order to evaluate the work-life balance of female employees in a variety of industries in and around Vadodara city, this study uses a quantitative research methodology. The current state of work-life balance is methodically examined, significant issues are identified, the effects of policies are assessed, and viable improvement methods are investigated using a descriptive study design.

Sample selection:

35 female employees who work in various industries in and around Vadodara city are the subject of the study. Participants are chosen using a stratified sampling process, which guarantees representation from a range of industry sectors.

Data collection:

In order to quantify participants' opinions of work-life balance, challenges, job satisfaction, and the efficacy of workplace policies, structured questionnaires are used to gather primary data. These surveys include both closed-ended questions and replies based on a Likert scale. To guarantee the highest possible participation, the survey is administered both offline and online.

Data Analysis:

To identify trends and patterns, the gathered data is examined using descriptive statistics like mean, percentage, and standard deviation. Furthermore, correlation and regression analysis can be utilized to investigate the connections between work-life balance policies and female employees' well-being, job satisfaction, and retention.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS:

This study sheds important light on the difficulties women workers in a variety of industries confront in striking a work-life balance. One important conclusion emphasizes how women bear the dual strain of juggling work and home obligations, which causes a great deal of stress, especially for those in demanding positions. While forward-thinking businesses like media and technology have welcomed flexible work arrangements, more traditional industries like manufacturing, banking, and retail still impose strict schedules, which makes female employees more stressed and unhappy. The study also shows that although if work-life balance policies are in place at many firms, there is still a disconnect between their presence and use, frequently as a result of cultural stigmas and managerial opposition. In businesses where men predominate, women who implement family-friendly policies often worry about being seen as less dedicated to their work, which further impedes their advancement in the workplace.

Forward-thinking Sectors: Businesses in sectors including media, digital marketing, and technology have been more aggressive in adopting flexible work arrangements, such as asynchronous schedules and remote work. Better work-life outcomes for female employees have resulted from these adjustments.

• **Traditional Sectors:** On the other hand, it was discovered that sectors such as manufacturing, banking, and retail had strict performance standards and schedules, which made it challenging for female employees to strike a balance. Women in these fields frequently complained about rigid work schedules and management's unwillingness to make changes.

The study emphasizes how urgently enterprises, legislators, and stakeholders must take comprehensive steps to improve work-life balance for female employees through structural support, cultural change, and flexible policies. Effective work-life policies, such as remote work, hybrid scheduling, and outcome-based performance reviews, must be implemented by businesses. To avoid career penalties, management training and policy audits must also be provided. The implementation of gender-neutral caregiving regulations and reasonably priced childcare assistance, such as on-site daycare and financial incentives, can greatly reduce burdens. To normalize flexible employment, there must be a cultural transformation that encourages open communication, mental health awareness, and leadership commitment.

Organizations should provide leadership opportunities, job-sharing, and mentorship programs to women juggling caregiving duties in order to avoid career stagnation. Efficiency can be further increased by utilizing technology for productivity and digital wellness initiatives. It is imperative that the government step in with family-friendly laws, tax breaks, and public education initiatives. Lastly, continuous evaluation and research will guarantee that policies continue to be applicable and efficient. Organizations may foster a more welcoming, encouraging, and egalitarian workplace for women by using this all-encompassing strategy.

Recommendation for improvements:

- Adoption of Flexible Work Arrangements
- Strengthening Organizational Support Systems
- Fostering a Supportive Work Culture
- Addressing Career Development Concerns
- Leveraging Technology for Efficiency
- Partnerships with External Service Providers

CONCLUSION:

This study emphasizes the many obstacles that female workers in a variety of industries encounter while trying to maintain a work-life balance. Many women still struggle with the dual weight of work and home responsibilities, even in the face of greater awareness and workplace policies intended to

improve balance. Increased stress, poor health outcomes, and few prospects for job progression are the results of these pressures. Businesses that ignore these problems run the danger of seeing a decline in female employees' job satisfaction, increased turnover, and diminished productivity. Nonetheless, businesses that adopt accommodating practices and flexible work schedules have benefits including higher employee engagement and well-being.

The study emphasizes the significance of workplace culture change as well as policy execution. Management must actively support and integrate work-life balance initiatives like paid parental leave, flexible scheduling, and remote work into the company culture. It is crucial to promote a gender-equitable workplace where women feel empowered to take on leadership roles and caregiving obligations are shared. Employers, governments, and communities must work together across sectors to provide structural assistance, such as reasonably priced childcare and mental health services, to reduce work-life conflicts for female employees.

In conclusion, everyone involved must make a thorough and consistent effort to address work-life balance. Prioritizing these issues will help organizations develop a more devoted, diversified, and productive staff. Government assistance in the form of family-friendly laws can also advance economic fairness. In the end, society can establish a progressive and inclusive workplace where women may flourish in both their personal and professional lives by cultivating a culture that promotes work-life integration.

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