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Factors Affecting Job Satisfaction Among Female Educators In India

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Abstract: This study examines the factors affecting job satisfaction among female educators in India, highlighting their vital role in the educational system. Job satisfaction is critical for a positive learning environment and educators' well-being. Key factors include work-life balance, professional development, supportive leadership, fair compensation, and societal attitudes toward gender roles. The research identifies significant gaps, particularly regarding regional disparities and unique challenges female educators face. The findings call for targeted interventions and policies to enhance job satisfaction, emphasising the need for a supportive and fulfilling work environment. Improving job satisfaction for female educators is essential for the overall quality and effectiveness of education in India. The study concludes with recommendations for practical strategies and solutions to improve job satisfaction, aiming to empower female educators and ultimately strengthen the educational system.

Keywords: Job satisfaction, Female Educators, India

Introduction:

The educational system in the present day is in the hands of the teachers in building a successful education system. The function of teachers is to help students learn by imparting knowledge to them and by setting up a situation in which students can and will learn effectively. The students' outcomes of the results are totally in the hands of the teachers it may be positive or negative. There might be many reasons for that but we sum up with teachers' performance in the class, which might also be true. Sometimes it happens when the teacher is unhappy in their workplace it may be how his/her relationship with colleagues, the environment, the infrastructure of the

institution, some terms and regulations, seniority dominants and salary issues. All these are psychological aspects that will hamper the teachers in their workplace and their performance in class. Job satisfaction among educators is a pivotal element that influences the quality of education, teacher retention rates, and overall educational outcomes. In India, where female educators constitute a significant portion of the teaching workforce, understanding the factors that affect their job satisfaction is crucial. Female educators in India navigate a complex landscape shaped by cultural, social, and institutional influences, making their experiences and satisfaction levels unique and worthy of detailed examination.

As we know teachers' job satisfaction level is so important for the teachers in bringing positive attitudes towards their job and also for their mental well-being. Job Satisfaction is a feeling that an individual feels when they are fully satisfied in their workplace. It is a kind of overall satisfaction they get through their workplace. Hoppock (1935) defined job satisfaction as any combination of psychological, physiological, and environmental circumstances that cause a person truthfully to say I am satisfied with my job. The teacher plays an immense role in every way in taking our education system higher, which is very much needed in our country, India.

Operational Definitions

Job Satisfaction- Job satisfaction refers to the degree to which individuals feel positively or negatively about their jobs.

Female Educators- A woman teacher who teaches lessons to students.

Review of related literature

These studies collectively highlight the complex dynamics surrounding job satisfaction among female educators in India. Tasnim (2006) studied into this topic from an organisational standpoint, utilizing Herzberg's motivation theory, Hofstede's cultural dimensions, and Evans' job satisfaction model. Findings suggest disparities between male and female teachers' satisfaction levels, with female educators notably experiencing higher dissatisfaction. Kumar (2015) conducted a study to compares job satisfaction between private and government school teachers in Fatehabad district, Haryana, highlighting significant differences attributed to the facilities provided by each sector. Deepshikha (2016) examines to focuses on Meerut district, Uttar Pradesh, revealing particularly low satisfaction levels among female teachers in private secondary schools. Thilagavathi et al. (2019) did research to assess job satisfaction among women teachers in the Coimbatore district, emphasizing factors like income, location, and work-life balance as significant influencers. Similarly, Akhtar et al. (2021) investigates job satisfaction among female school teachers in the Hafizabad district, unveiling nuanced perspectives on salary, promotion opportunities, working environment, and ICT provisions. These comprehensive insights underscore the need for targeted interventions and policy measures to address the diverse factors influencing the job satisfaction of female educators across different regions of India.

Research Gap

Meanwhile, a large number of works of literature focused on the job satisfaction of female teachers is found. However, although many studies were conducted on the job satisfaction of teachers still, there were no studies on the job satisfaction of female educators in many states of India. No studies were found in regional areas relating to the job satisfaction of female educators. Thus, there is a need to research and gain more knowledge in this area so that the outcomes of the study may be beneficial to the students, and teachers and at the same time provide scope for further study.

Statement of the problem

In the present study, the statement of the problem is “Factors Affecting Job Satisfaction Among Female Educators in India”

Rationale for the Study

The present study is important to spread the need for research on this topic since, in many states of India, very few studies on the job satisfaction of female educators have been done so far. Therefore, the researcher was interested in the current study by seeing all the gaps after the literature reviews. So, the researcher got interested in filling the needed gaps. This study will bring many drastic changes in society that will help to make our education system successful. The findings of the survey will redound to the benefits of society considering that job satisfaction of female educators plays an important role in the present scenario of the education system.

Objectives

1. To identify and analyse the key personal, professional, organizational, socio-cultural, institutional and psychological factors influencing job satisfaction among female educators in India.
2. Identify the main factors that contribute to job satisfaction among female educators in India.
3. Assess the relationship between job satisfaction factors and the retention of female educators in the Indian educational system.

Factors affecting job satisfaction among female educators in India

It is broadly categorised into personal, professional, organizational, socio-cultural, institutional and psychological factors. Here are some of the key factors:

1. Personal Factors

- a) **Work-Life Balance:** The ability to balance professional responsibilities with personal life significantly affects job satisfaction. Many female teachers juggle domestic duties along with their teaching roles.
- b) **Career Development Opportunities:** Access to professional growth, training, and advancement opportunities plays a crucial role in job satisfaction.
- c) **Personal Achievement and Recognition:** Feeling valued and recognized for their contributions boosts job satisfaction.

2. Professional Factors

- a) **Workload and Stress Levels:** Excessive workloads and high-stress levels, often due to large class sizes and administrative duties, negatively impact job satisfaction.
- b) **Autonomy in the Classrooms:** Having the freedom to design and implement their teaching methods contributes positively to job satisfaction.
- c) **Student behaviour and Academic Outcomes:** The behaviour of students and their academic achievements can influence teachers' job satisfaction. Positive interactions and successful outcomes enhance satisfaction.

3. Organizational Factors

- a) **Supportive Leadership:** The attitude and support from school administration and leadership are crucial. Supportive and communicative leadership fosters a positive work environment.
- b) **Collegial Relationships:** Positive relationships and collaboration with colleagues contribute to a supportive and satisfying work environment.
- c) **Compensation and Benefits:** Fair and adequate pay, along with benefits such as health insurance, retirement plans, and leave policies, are important for job satisfaction.

4. Socio-Cultural Factors

- a) **Gender Discrimination and Bias:** The presence of gender bias and discrimination can significantly affect job satisfaction. Equal opportunities and a respectful work environment are essential.
- b) **Cultural Expectations and Norms:** Societal expectations and cultural norms regarding gender roles can influence job satisfaction. Supportive societal attitudes towards women working outside the home are beneficial.
- c) **Community Support and Value of Education:** The value placed on education by the community and the level of respect for teachers in society impact job satisfaction.

5. Institutional Factors

- a) **School Infrastructure and Resources:** The value placed on education by the community and the level of respect for teachers in society impact job satisfaction.
- b) **Policy and Governance:** Policies related to teacher evaluations, promotions, and grievance redressal mechanisms play a significant role in job satisfaction.

6. Psychological Factors

- a) **Sense of Purpose and Fulfilment:** Policies related to teacher evaluations, promotions, and grievance redressal mechanisms play a significant role in job satisfaction.
- b) **Job Security:** Stability and security in employment contribute positively to job satisfaction.

Strategies and solutions to enhance job satisfaction for female teachers

Improving job satisfaction for female teachers involves several key steps:

- First, it's important to help them balance work and personal life better. This can be done by offering flexible work hours, providing on-site childcare, and giving extended paid family leave.
- Supporting their professional growth is also crucial. Schools can create clear career paths, offer grants for further education, and provide leadership training specifically for female teachers.
- Fair compensation and good benefits play a big role in job satisfaction. Regularly updating salary scales to stay competitive, offering performance bonuses, and providing comprehensive health insurance that includes mental health coverage can make a big difference.
- Creating a positive work environment is another important factor. This means enforcing strict anti-harassment policies, having supportive school leadership, and organizing team-building activities to foster a respectful and collaborative atmosphere.
- Emotional and psychological support is essential as well. Schools can allow mental health days, offer on-site counselling services, and provide wellness programs that include activities like yoga and meditation to help teachers manage stress.
- Giving teachers more control and empowering them can boost their job satisfaction. This includes allowing them more autonomy in their classrooms, involving them in decision-making processes, and establishing systems for anonymous feedback.
- Offering more career opportunities can also enhance job satisfaction. Providing opportunities for educational research, supporting teachers who want to publish their work, and creating exchange programs to experience teaching in different cultural settings can help.
- Strengthening community and parental engagement is also beneficial. Schools can do this by enhancing PTA involvement, developing community outreach programs, and creating structured volunteer programs to assist in classrooms.

- Implementing these strategies effectively requires a comprehensive approach, including thorough needs assessments to identify specific areas for improvement, pilot programs to test new initiatives, regular reviews to ensure they meet desired outcomes, continuous feedback loops for ongoing input, and transparency in decision-making processes to build trust and buy-in from teachers. By addressing these key areas, schools can create a more supportive, rewarding, and satisfying work environment for female teachers, ultimately benefiting the entire educational community.

Findings and Conclusion

The study on factors affecting job satisfaction among female educators in India emphasizes the importance of recognizing the complicated interaction between individuals, institutional, and societal elements in shaping their professional experiences. Beyond merely identifying the drivers of job satisfaction, it illuminates pathways toward fostering a more fulfilling and supportive environment for female educators. By acknowledging the significance of factors such as work-life balance, professional development opportunities, fair compensation, recognition, and inclusive institutional policies, stakeholders in the education sector can pave the way for a more empowered and motivated cadre of educators. Moreover, recognizing the pivotal role of female educators in shaping future generations, it becomes imperative to address systemic challenges and societal norms that may hinder their professional fulfilment.

Ultimately, investing in the well-being and job satisfaction of female educators is not just a matter of equity and fairness, it is a strategic imperative for ensuring the quality and effectiveness of education delivery. As such, the findings call for concerted efforts from policymakers, educational leaders, and broader society to create an ecosystem where female educators feel valued, supported, and empowered to thrive in their vital role as catalysts for positive change in the education landscape of India.

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