

1 Work Stress among Cement Manufacturing Workers of Kashmir 2 Division: An Empirical Study

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7 **Abstract**

8 Cement Manufacturing Industry is being considered as one of the major sources of revenue in
9 Kashmir division after the Tourism industry. But the performance of this industry has been
10 equally under the threat because of rapidly increasing work stress which has become a huge
11 challenge for the employers globally, as the increasing levels of stress results into the lower
12 productivity, increased absenteeism and assortment of other employee tribulations at the work
13 place. Aim: The aim of this paper was to investigate as to which extent the demographic
14 variables (i.e. Qualification, Length of tenure and marital status) influence the work stress of
15 cement manufacturing workers in Kashmir division. Methods: The sample size consists total
16 of 300 workers, 150 workers were selected from JK Cements Ltd. and 150 from the Khyber
17 Cements Pvt. Ltd.

19 **Index terms**— work stress, qualifications, workers, cement industry.

20 **1 Introduction**

21 ement manufacturing industry of India is the second largest producer of cement in the world and its contribution
22 is quite high in national GDP. India is producing 350 million tons of cement per year and it is expected to
23 grow to 550 million tons by financial year 2020. India is a vast country, so the development of cities and
24 rural areas will certainly starts from infrastructure and the demand of cement will also increase, Amy Saunders
25 (2014).In Kashmir division also Cement industry plays a very significant role in generating revenue for the
26 government after the Tourism industry. So, it is equally important to increase the productivity of the workers
27 in this very manufacturing sector by increasing the efficiency of workers/employees. In today's competitive and
28 technologically advanced business world it is also believed that , safe and healthy physical work environment
29 will be a great support for the workers in order to carry out their work in a more effective and efficient
30 manner. Moreover, recent studies on physical workplace environment revealed that, uncongenial physical work-
31 environment do decrease the quality of work, especially among workers in industrial sector. The uncongeniality
32 and misfit of physical workenvironment indeed affects not only the motivation level of workers, but also the
33 satisfaction level, social relations, performance and health of the workers. Physical work environment can be
34 considered not only as a collection of physical stimuli (i.e. air, noise, temperature, light etc), but also as a
35 physical structure (i.e. size, furniture, hallways, etc) and as a symbolic artifact (i.e. the work setting) ??adayai
36 (2010).

37 **2 II.**

38 **3 Review of Literature**

39 Physical work environment also includes contents of job (i.e. Job Demand, control over the job and support
40 from supervisor and co-workers). When the work environment is worse, because of poor work conditions workers
41 will experience more distress, and eventually this will affect their productivity and physical as well as mental

7 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

42 health. Researchers have focused their attention on causal factors of stress, stress manifestations, moderators, 43 coping strategies and relaxation techniques adopted by the organizational participants. Work stress is rapidly 44 increasing and has become challenge for the employers because high levels of stress results into low productivity, 45 increased absenteeism and collection of other employee problems like alcoholism, drug abuse, hypertension and 46 host of cardiovascular problems etc Meneze (2005).The study conducted by ??arks (2002) reported that stress 47 tends to cause damage that could make work environment to be less conducive for workers; stress results could 48 jeopardize the workers performance and productivity at workplace. Kumar & Madhu (2011) found that factors 49 responsible for work stress are more prominent among the workers. It was also noticed that lack of control 50 among lower category of employees particularly among workers was more as compared to other categories of 51 employees. Joy and Radhakrishnan (2013) found that factors like poor physical environment, no role in impact 52 of demographics t-test, f-test was used. Conclusions: Study revealed that among factory workers unmarried 53 workers were experiencing relatively more stress as compared to their married counterparts. Also, workers 54 possessing the least educational qualification experience the higher levels of stress as compared to the workers 55 possessing relatively higher educational qualifications. Further study revealed that, Workers with tenure of 0-09 56 years were experiencing the higher levels of stress compared to those who were possessing the tenure of 30& above 57 years. decision making, dual career, threat to job security, boring repetitive work, personal / family problems, 58 social / physical isolation, etc are some of the major causes of stress at the work-place among the operational 59 level workers. Pilar et.al (2013) revealed that, men have showed only one dimension i.e. Job demands as a 60 significant stressor (quantitative demands), whose effect on job stress was weakened slightly by the direct effects 61 of control and support. With women, in contrast, emotional and intellectual aspects (qualitative demands) and 62 were also found statistically significant. Moreover, social support has a greater weakening result on the levels of 63 work stress in women than in men and also suggests that, by applying the Job Demand Control and Support 64 model in function of the gender will contribute to a superior perceptive of how to reduce the levels of job stress 65 in both men and women, helping the design of more effective policies in this area.

66 The above studies go a long way in helping to understand the work environment of the manufacturing workers 67 and the possible reasons behind their feelings of stress at work. Besides, this there is a great risk to health and 68 other hazards, physical injuries etc because of low job control, high job demands and low social support at work. 69 Since, the focus of our study is on cement industry so; in order to have a deeper insight into some important 70 researches conducted over the years on the cement industry are reviewed as under.

71 4 III.

72 5 Studies on Cement Industry

73 Today Cement industry has gained attention of the researchers throughout the world which in turn made the 74 cement industry an important subject of the research endeavor, Rafiq et.al ??2015). In line with this phenomenon 75 a study conducted by ??YAWE et.al (2000) to investigate the influence of age, nature of job and duration of 76 employment on the blood pressure of the workers of a cement factory in Nigeria. The results revealed Blood 77 pressure increased with age and increase in blood pressure was not influenced by "cement related jobs" in the 78 factory. Newly employed workers were found to have higher mean systolic and diastolic pressures than others. 79 Shields, (2006) revealed stress and depression in women was reported higher compared to the male counterparts, 80 also low levels of Co-workers support were associated with higher causes of depression and stress among men. 81 In the same way, Mahdad, (2002) and Saatchi (2008) declared that mental health problem of employees was the 82 main hazard for organizational productivity in cement industry of Iran. Various studies conducted, for example 83 (Ahola, 2009;Shields, 2006 ??2007), found that married workers were likely to have active and lower-job strains 84 than never-married workers. But, this was contrary to the findings of Chandra Mohan et.al (2013) which inferred 85 that married employees comparatively experience higher stress than unmarried.

86 IV.

87 6 Need for the Study

88 In view of the extant research review cited above it is evident that, numerous studies have been conducted to 89 identify the factors causing work stress among workers of manufacturing industries and Job Demand-Control- 90 Support (JDCS) model is one of the most widely used work stress model related to the contents of work and 91 helps to measure health problems especially, related to heart diseases, mental distress, physical injuries etc 92 among the factory workers in various manufacturing industries. But, very few studies have been conducted on 93 the manufacturing workers whether nationally or internationally and no study has been carried out so far by 94 using the Karasek's (DCS) Model particularly over the Cement Industry workers to check the levels of stress in 95 relation with demographic variables in Kashmir division of J&K State.

96 V.

97 7 Objectives of the Study

98 The present study has been designed to find out the contributory factors leading to stress in relation VI.

99 **8 Research Hypotheses**

100 H1: "There is no significant difference between the levels of stress experienced by the sample respondents on the
101 basis of their marital status" H2: "There is a significant difference between the levels of stress experienced by the
102 sample respondents on the basis of their qualification" H3: "There is a significant difference between the levels
103 of stress experienced by the sample respondents on the basis of their work tenure" VII.

104 **9 Conceptual Model of the Study**

105 The diagram showing the hypothetical factors of work stress among manufacturing worker VIII.

106 **10 Research Methodology**

107 For the present study researcher adopted the Job Content Questionnaire which was developed by Karasek,
108 (1979) & Johnson (1988) for measuring Job Demand, Control and Support and for measuring work Stress
109 a Questionnaire developed by Lambert et.al (2006) was adopted. In the state of J&K two leading cement
110 manufacturing organizations were selected for the present study namely JK Cements Ltd. and the other one
111 namely Khyber cements Pvt. Ltd. Apart from convenience based sampling method the above mentioned two
112 organizations have also been selected on the basis of their dominance in terms of their market share in the state
113 of J&K.

114 **11 a) Sample Design**

115 Present study constitutes a sample selected at the operational level (factory workers). Proportionate sample
116 method was chosen for the present study (i.e. Total population of workers in each organization/Total population
117 of both the organizations*Sample size calculated by using sample size calculator). The sample size was restricted
118 to 300 workers which were selected from the sample organizations.

119 **12 b) Instrument Reliability**

120 In order to check the reliability of the Instrument in our settings, the responses were received from the (50)
121 operational level workers, the correlation between the items of the various dimensions were calculated by using
122 SPSS version 20. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient for all the dimensions are revealed in table (1) shown as under;
123 IX.

124 **13 Results and Discussions a) Differences of Means Test on the 125 basis of marital status**

126 Independent sample t-test was conducted as reflected in Table (2), mean score of stress for married workers
127 was 2.54 against their unmarried counterparts where mean score was 3.01, which revealed unmarried workers
128 experience relatively more stress. And the difference of mean scores was statistically insignificant. This supports
129 the work of Jungwee , who found that married workers were likely to have active and lower-job strains than
130 unmarried workers. But, was contrary to the findings of Chandra Mohan et.al (2013)

131 **14 Work stress**

132 **15 Marital Status**

133 **16 Tenure**

134 **17 Qualification**

135 which inferred that married employees comparatively experience higher stress than unmarried. Matthews, 2003)
136 who found that lower the levels of education, higher will be the levels of stress. The results of One-Way ANOVA
137 revealed the difference was statistically insignificant. ??) revealed that workers having tenure between 0-09 years
138 were experiencing more levels of stress with mean score 2.78, reflected that newly joined workers or those who
139 were in their initial years of service were experiencing higher levels of stress compared to workers having tenure
140 of 30 & above years with mean score 2.45. This partly supports the findings of Gallo & Matthews, (2003) that as
141 people grow older with their job they experience less levels of stress. Analysis of variance revealed that, difference
142 was statistically significant. "There is no significant difference between the levels of stress experienced by the
143 sample respondents on the basis of their marital status"

144 **18 Supporting 2**

145 "There is a significant difference between the levels of stress experienced by the sample respondents on the basis
146 of their qualification"

147 19 Not-supporting 3

148 "There is a significant difference between the levels of stress experienced by the sample respondents on the basis
149 of their work Not-supporting

150 20 e) Bivariate Correlation Analysis of various Dimensions

151 An analysis of data contained in Table (??) below revealed that work stress was positively associated with Job
152 Authority ($r = 0.200^{**}$), revealing increase in this factor will lead to increase in stress levels of workers and
153 vice-versa, favoring the findings of Ben (2007). Whereas, Supervisory support ($r = -0.295^{**}$) and Coworkers
154 support ($r = -0.191^{**}$) found to be negatively correlated with work stress which means that any decrease in
155 social support will increase the levels of stress among the workers or vice-versa in proportion of their correlation.
156 This supports the findings of Raeda, (2003) that stress is negatively associated with support from coworkers and
157 supervisors. And, it was also found that Job Demand ($r = -0.081$) and Skill Discretion ($r = 0.042$) revealed
158 no correlation of these two factors with the levels of stress, that does not support the findings of (Karasek &
159 Theorell, 1990 ?? Cox et.el, 2000 ??&report, 2007). Since all the independent variables except skill discretion &
160 job demand were found to be associated with work Stress it becomes imperative to understand which variable is
161 having a deeper and significant impact over the work stress. For this purpose it becomes necessary to perform
162 the regression analysis of the data.

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164 Volume XVI Issue IV Version Year () f) Regression Analysis Table (7) revealed that value of R2 shows that
165 approximately 29% of the variation of work stress is explained by the job contents (i.e. Skill Discretion, Job
166 Authority, Job Demand, Supervisory Support & Coworkers Support).The significance of model in terms of overall
167 fit is expressed by $F = 6.684$ (Table 8). The Beta values of 0.166 (Table 9) revealed, Job authority shows there
168 is a significant ($p<0.05$) and positive impact of this factors over the work stress. Whereas, Beta value of -
169 0.273 & -0.127, reflects there is a significant ($p>0.05$) but negative impact of supervisory support & coworkers
170 support over work stress. However, Beta value of skill discretion 0.046 & job demand -0.022 reveals there is no
171 significant ($p>0.05$) impact of these two factors on work stress. In other words job authority; coworker support
172 and supervisory support are much useful to predict the work stress of cement factory workers of Kashmir Division
173 as compared to job demand & skill discretion. X.A

174 22 Conclusions and Suggestions

175 The in-depth analysis of work stress, along with the contents of job which are Job Demand, Control & Support
176 revealed the following findings:a) Work-Stress ? Unmarried workers were experiencing relatively more stress with
177 the mean score of 3.01 compared to their married counterparts with the mean score of 2.54, and were found to
178 be statistically in significant. ? Also, least qualified workers i.e. 1st-5th and noneducated ones were experiencing
179 the higher levels of stress reflecting from the means score of 2.87 as compared to the workers possessing higher
180 qualifications i.e.PG & above and difference was statistically insignificant. ? And, workers having tenure between
181 0-09 years were experiencing more levels of stress with mean score of 2.78, compared to the workers having tenure
182 of 30&above years with mean score of 2.45 and was statistically significant. ? Whereas, supervisory support &
183 coworkers support were negatively correlated with the job stress as reflected by the (Table 6) which means any
184 decrease in these two factors will lead to increase in job stress and the other two factors namely, job demand
185 and skill discretion did not showed any correlation with job stress at all. ? However regression analysis revealed
186 that job stress was found to be significantly associated with job authority, supervisory support and coworkers
187 support.

188 ? Whereas in regression analysis no correlation was found for skill discretion and job demand with job stress.

189 23 b) Suggestions of the Study

190 It is evident from findings of the study that workers were experiencing the visible levels of work stress in both
191 organizations. So, it is very important for the management to make proper use of Stress Management Programs
192 available for the factory level workers in order to control the levels of stress on time. ? There was a high job
193 control among older workers possessing very low qualifications or non-educated ones which should be addressed by
194 the management through proper distribution of job authority on the basis of qualifications & work experience and
195 not on the basis of favoritism and seniority only. ? Lack of social support was found higher among highly qualified
196 workers and also among newly appointees, which means lack of well organized feedback system of organization
197 and relationship gaps among the coworkers as well as with the supervisors. ? Work guidance programmes that
198 could foster prevention of mental disorder, resulting from stress on the job on the part of workers, should also be
199 introduced at the workplace. ? Technological changes, work organization, and job contents should be designed
200 in a way that the workers are not exposed to physical or mental strain leading to illness or accidents. ? Forms of
201 remuneration and the distribution of working hours should also be taken into account while assigning the tasks
202 to the workers.

203 24 c) Limitations of the Study

204 As the other studies are not flawless similarly the present study also has certain limitations, which are as under:
205 ? The present study is specific to the selected organizations of Kashmir Division only. ? Additionally, data was
206 collected from the operational or lower level workers only, while excluding the other levels of the organization. ?
207 Also contents of job and stress were analyzed in relation of demographic variables only. d) Suggestions for future
208 studies ? It is suggested to carry out the study concerning this topic and industry with some more dimensions.
209 ? It may also be impressed here that in order to enrich the study researcher should go for different levels within
210 an organization. ? And, also the researcher has taken a limited number of demographic variables only, so it
suggested addup some more important variables. ¹

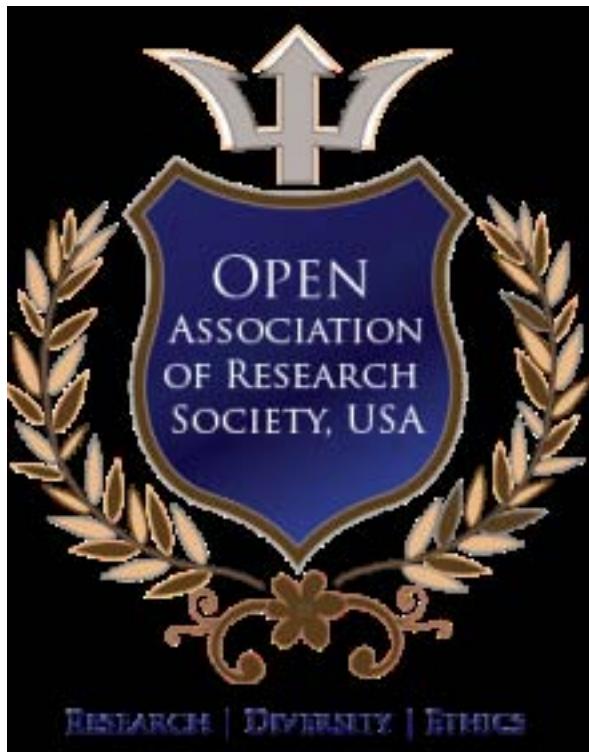


Figure 1:

Figure 2:

24 C) LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1

Scale No. of Items	Cronbach's (?) coefficient
Stress (4)	0.863
Skill-Discretion (4)	0.749
Job-Authority (7)	0.875
Job-Demand (4)	0.756
Supervisory-Support (8)	0.734
Coworkers-Support (5)	0.854
Overall Reliability	0.940

*JCQ=JOB CONTENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Note: This indicates a good internal reliability, based on average inter-item correlation.

Figure 3: Table 1 :

2

Dimension	M.	**N	Mean	Sig.
Stress	2.39	275	2.554	0.016
	2.62	25	3.010	0

*M.STATUS= Marital Status, **N=Number of Workers in each category

* Significant at 5% level (P<0.05)

b) One-way ANOVA for multiple comparisons of stress levels in terms of Qualification

As revealed by Table (3) mean score 2.87, imply that workers possessing qualification between 1st -5th were most stressful, followed by workers who were non-educated with mean score 2.62. As compared to workers with high qualifications (i.e., PG & above) with

mean score 2.39 were facing least work stress supports the work of (Bano & Jha 2012; Fir et.al. 2007; Gallo &

Figure 4: Table 2 :

3

*N=Number of Workers in each category,

Significant at 5% level (P<0.05)

c) One-way ANOVA for multiple comparisons of stress levels in terms of tenure

Table (

Figure 5: Table 3 :

Year	Dimension	Qualifications	Non- Stress educated	*N	Mean	Std. Deviation	f- value	Sig. value
4	Volume XVI Issue IV Version I	6th-10 th year	1st-5 th 11th-final	106 31 114 23	2.6294 2.8710 2.5142 2.5326	.89321 .88240 .73746 .87355		0.198 1.515
()		P.G & above		26	2.3942	.93588		
	Global Journal of Management and Business Research							

[Note: A 2016 © 2016 Global Journals Inc. (US) 1]

Figure 6:

Dimension	Tenure	*N	Mean	Std. Deviation	F- value	Sig. value
	0-9	47	2.7862	.91169		
	10-19	143	2.6618	.74336		
	20-29	76	2.6064	.77800		
Stress	30&above	34	2.4545	.83689	2.720	0.450
	Total	300	2.5858	.84522		

[Note: *N=Number of workers in each category* Significant at 5% level (P<0.05)]

Figure 7: Table 4 :

Figure 8: 2016

24 C) LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

6

d) Research Hypotheses Testing Results

Dimensions		Stress	Skill	Job	Superv	Coworker
			Discretion	Demand	Support	Authority
Stress	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
Skill	Pearson Correlation		.042	1		
Discretion	Correlation					
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.467			
Job demand	Pearson Correlation			-.081	.013	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)			.162	.824	
Supervisory	Pearson Correlation				-.022	.089
Support	Correlation					1
	Sig. (2-tailed)			.000	.700	.125
Coworker	Pearson Correlation				-.191 **	.095
Support						.132 .121 1

Figure 9: Table 6 :

7

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.533 a	.285	.242	.5167

Figure 10: Table 7 :

8

	Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F Value	Sig.
1	Regression	8.923	5	1.785		
	Residual	22.427	84	.267	6.684	.000
	Total	31.350	89			b

a. Dependent Variable: STRESS

Figure 11: Table 8 :

9

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized		t-value	Sig.
	Coefficients	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	4.472	.919			4.865	.000
Skill -Discretion	.126	.150	.046	.842	.400	
Job -Demand	-.043	.106	-.022	-.406	.685	
Supervisory -Support	-.892	.178	-.273	-5.007	.000	
Coworker-Support	-.209	.092	-.127	-2.270	.024	
Job -Authority	.524	.174	.166	3.006	.003	

Figure 12: Table 9 :

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