Individual Characteristic for Managerial Effectiveness in a Competitive Environment: An Exploration

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Abstract

Increasing competition around the globe requires a cadre of effective managers to run the day to day operations in their organizations. This study is an exploration towards identifying the relationship between certain individual level variables and managerial effectiveness variables. Secondly, the study further examines the underlying dimensions of "managerial effectiveness variables", which may be relevant for the organizations in present global scenario. The individual level variables were values, needs, maturity, locus of control, work ethic, self-monitoring, learned helplessness, self-awareness, self-limiting behavior, and self-consciousness. Managerial effectiveness was conceptualized in terms of competence, satisfaction, conflict resolution, need fulfillment, value realization, self-concept and recognition. Factor analysis and canonical correlations were sought to answer the research questions. Factor-Analysis Results revealed the underlying dimensions of the variables under study. Canonical correlations revealed that a positive significant relationship existed between these two. The nature of the dimensions and the implications are discussed.

As we turn the first page of the new millennium, we witness a plethora of changes occurring in the world. Name anything, world politics, social values, business, technology, people etc they all are facing the heat of tough competition. Everything is getting affected by change and in turn also affecting this 'cycle of change'. It is time to take a step back from the mundane and reflect on the path through which the management discipline guided the business world so far. We may thus continue to learn from the past as it informs the present and at the same time discern how and where we should go i.e. taking cue from the past researches management has to develop and find a solution to deal with globalization led stiff competition among business organizations.

Managerial effectiveness is one such issue which has caught the attention of theorists as well as practitioners time and again to deal in competitive business environment. It is very important for the survival and growth of the organization. It is difficult to define managerial effectiveness in concrete terms. A review of literature shows that managerial effectiveness has been studied with three perspectives:

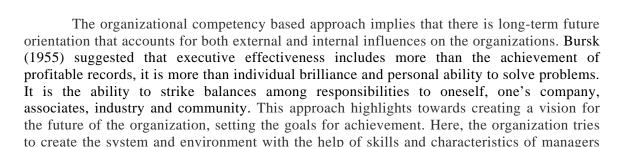
- 1. Traditional/Conventional perspective
- 2. Organizational level competency based perspective, and
- 3. An individual level competency based perspective.

The traditional model emphasizes the ability to set and achieve goals where it is implicitly assumed that managerial effectiveness leads to organizational effectiveness (Campbell, 1970). Personal effectiveness (in problem solving perspective) refers to an ability to solve four of the systems problems. They are (a) adaptation, (b) goal attainment, (c) integration, and (d) latency or tension management (Sutton & Ford, 1982).

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The individual competency based approach to managerial effectiveness focuses upon the individual rather than the organization. The purpose of this approach is to develop transferable (generic) management skills that are applicable across different circumstances both nationally and internationally. Drucker (1967), Rao (1985), Katz (1974), Bandura (1982), emphasize the development of individual competency to be an effective executive.

Effectiveness is best seen as something a manager produces from a situation by managing it appropriately, producing the results or meeting the targets in every sphere of the activities of organizations. The manager's job is linked with three major dimensions technical, conceptual, and human (Katz, 1974). The productivity of any organization can be increased by the effective management of all the three dimensions and specially by managing the conceptual and human dimensions of management.

To be effective is the job of executive. The executive is expected to get the right things done and this is simply saying that he is expected to be effective (Drucker 1967, p 1). Individual's effectiveness is a key component in making an individual successful in all aspects of life; including the organizational life. That is why we need effective executives. Apparently within a company, managerial competence is important, particularly at the level where the shortage of top-flight ability is most keenly felt. However, little attention seems to have been paid to managerial effectiveness in comparison to some other aspects of organizational dynamics.

According to Campbell (1970) managerial effectiveness should reflect in organizational effectiveness as well. Even if it does not, the effectiveness of the individuals by itself should be a matter of concern; because performing well is a prerequisite to any subsequent positive organizational dynamics.

The concept of effectiveness is dealt with different ways in different times by theorists and real life practitioners. Undoubtedly it is difficult to arrive at a single conclusion on the construct of managerial effectiveness. The present study is an attempt to explore further on this ever important construct of managerial effectiveness.

Aspects of individual effectiveness

that lead them to achieve strategic intents.

Individual effectiveness was conceptualized in terms of individual need fulfillment satisfaction, value realization, competence, and conflict resolution. Research in management discipline has evidences that above mentioned variables are relevant enough to be construed as aspects of individual effectiveness.

Need Fulfillment

A number of theorists and researchers have expressed the significance of need fulfillment in an individual's overall success in life (Parker, 1991; Tellefsen, 2002; Cantor, 1994; Ryan & Deci, 2001; LaGuardia et. al. 2000).



Satisfaction

A number of researchers have equated satisfaction with personal effectiveness (Cox, 2003; Organ, 1977; Spreitzer, Kizilos & Nason, 1997). Kanungo (1986) stated that for some role incumbents, intrinsic needs may be more important than extrinsic needs and job satisfaction results when organizations provide their employees with specific outcomes that they value, expect to receive and consider equitable.

Off-the – Job satisfaction

Many Researchers have found that "off-the-job satisfaction" could also be thought of as having multiple facets like job satisfaction. Takalkar and covert (1994) measured job satisfaction in an Indian corporation. They suggested that the structure of job satisfaction in India was a modification of an eight oblique factor model proposed by Spector (1985). The eight correlated factors were pay, promotion, supervision, operation procedures, nature of work, co-workers, communication, and benefits.

Das and Mital (1994) investigated the moderating effects of production feedback and standard, singly or jointly, on the relationship between worker satisfaction and productivity. Results indicated no substantial correlation between worker satisfaction and productivity.

Satisfaction in the present context. Satisfaction was conceptualized in terms of discrepancy between what one aspires for and what one actually gets. The construct of satisfaction in this work was planned to be explored with respect to the construct of value realization. Discrepancy score was derived between aspired values and values actually attained, thus the construct of satisfaction was treated to be related to the construct of value realization.

Competence

Competence is viewed as an ability, capacity or skill to perform a specific task. Wanger and Morse (1975) probably for the first time, made an attempt to study competence of managers. Recently a number of researchers have conducted studies on competence in work or job context (Boyatzis 1982, Odewahn & Petty1980; Sekaram and Wagner, 1980, Shukla 1988).

Competence in present context The term competence was conceived as the capacities of an individual to interact effectively with the person's environment. Discrepancy score was derived between the expected increase in capacities and attained capacities as a result of experience on job. Conceptually the idea is to look for the person's maturity in various capacities in mastering personal effectiveness.

Conflict Resolution

By and large, conflict is a part of life, be it in a work setting or personal sphere of the individual. Pareek (1982), Monat and Lazarus (1977), Karabik, Baril& Watson (1993), Xie, Song & Sringfellow (1998), emphasized the significance of conflict resolution for managerial effectiveness.

The Variables in the Study

This work is primarily about the effectiveness of individuals. It focuses on identifying certain inherent personality variables which may be related to individual effectiveness criteria mentioned above.

Individual Characteristics Variables

variables which were proposed to be part of the individual's 'personal and behavioral characteristics' and may relate to managerial effectiveness are Learned Helplessness, Locus of Control, Maturity, Need, Procrastination, Self-awareness, Self-





Work Ethic. consciousness, Self-handicapping, Self-limiting, Self-monitoring, Values, Various researches emphasize the significance of these factors contributing/ predicting managerial effectiveness.

METHOD

Sample:

The data was collected from two hundred and fifty male executives, mostly belonging to middle hierarchical level a total of thirteen organizations from both public and private sectors constituted the sample. These organizations were located in three big cities of North India, one city of Karnataka and the capital city of India. Further information about the sample is listed in Table 1.

Measures:

The measures used in this study were either a modified version of the original source or were developed by the authors. Modifications include changes in wordings, sentence constructions, scaling, response categories and selective use of items and ideas.

Table-1. Summary of the Organizational Characteristics and Number of Respondents

Organization	No. of	Industrial	Ownership	No. of
No.	employees	categorization		respondents
1.	3198	Mechanical	Public	20
2.	358	Chemical	Public	25
3.	2500	Mechanical	Public	23
4.	1160	Chemical	Public	20
5.	8200	Mechanical	Public	20
6.	3500	Mechanical	Private	20
7.	2450	Mechanical	Private	20
8.	1110	Textile	Private	19
9.	13000	Chemical	Private	26
10.	250	Chemical	Private	15
11.	4148	Mechanical	Public	15
12.	17000	Mechanical	Private	16
13.	2230	Textile	Private	11
			Total	250

Procedure:

A list of the work organizations located in North India was compiled using the documented sources of information. To avoid inclusion of small organizations, the organizations employing more than 500 persons were located. The geographical region of the sample was restricted to North India for the sake of convenience. Letters of request were sent for obtaining permission to collect data from particular organizations, to which most of the organizations responded favorably.

The sampling was purposive because of limitation in time and resource availability. It was decided to take 20 respondents from each organization belonging to middle hierarchical levels of management.

The respondents were approached individually mostly in duty hours, with permission from their respective organizations as well as off duty hours. Data was collected through structured interview schedule. Respondents and organizations were assured for keeping the data in strict confidentiality.



The variables in the study were planned and executed largely within the framework of multivariate conceptualization as opposed to more popular univariate conceptualization of constructs. Owing to the complexity involved in conceptualization and treatment of variables in a real life setting, it was argued that there could always be a possibility of multidimensionality underlying the constructs that reflect social realities. To identify such dimensionalities, it is necessary to investigate the subject with a view to realize their precise nature and composition. The patterns of dimensions underlying a construct may interact with the patterns underlying some other construct to produce a more complex representation but which is a more authentic pattern reflecting the situational dynamism of social reality compared to a unidimensional conceptualization of constructs.

To explore the underlying dimensionalities, all multi-item questionnaires were subjected to factor analysis (principal factoring with iterations and oblique rotation). The following stands were taken in using factor analysis results:

- Extraction of factors was stopped after eigen value dropped below unity (except a) where factor solutions had to be forced in limited number of factors due to some methodological requirements):
- b) The belongingness of items to specific factors was kept non-overlapping in the sense that no item was included in more that one factor;
- Only those items were retained in a particular factor which had a loading of equal to c) or more than 0.50 on that factor but did not have a cross loading of equal to or more than 0.30 on any other factor simultaneously;
- d) Single item factors, i.e., factor had only one item left in it that had a loading of equal to or more than 0.50, either by itself or as a result of adherence to the stand mentioned in clause c above, were not retained because single item factor are known to be notoriously unreliable; and
- In tabular presentation of the factor analysis results, items discarded due to various e) stands mentioned above would be reported under heading unclassified items, however, for further analysis only those items would be used that satisfied various criteria of item selection mentioned above.

In this research, the prime concern of factor analysis technique was items analysis and data reduction with a view to identify underlying dimensions of various constructs having items of clear and high loadings on representative factors. Hence, in further analysis, the factors were treated as variables yielding composite scores on subscales of super ordinate constructs rather than as factors in strict statistical sense.

The factor loadings, the item contents and the constructs from which the respective factors had been extracted were kept in view while naming the factors. A brief description, of various forms of questionnaire measuring the constructs used in this study and factors obtained there of, follows.

1. Exploring the Underlying Dimensions of the Constructs: The Factor Analysis Results

The list of the various factors of major variables obtained through factor analysis is given below.

Individual characteristics:

Maturity

- 1. Willingness for High Responsibility and Achievement (WRA).
- 2. Punctuality and Job Confidence (PJC)
- 3. Job Knowledge and Understanding (JKU)



Individual Behavior Norm

- 4. Hard work, punctuality and high Initiative (HPI)
- 5. (Professional) Opportunity Seeking and high Work Involvement (OSWI) Self-Handicapping
- 6. Inadequate Effort Investment (IEI)
- 7. Perceived constraints in Work and Lack of Confidence (PCWLC)
- 8. Lack of Imitative and Assertion (LIA)

Procrastination

- 9. Perfectionism based Procrastination (PP)
- 10. Fear of Failure based Procrastination (FFP)

Self-Limiting Behavior

- 11. (Presence) of Highly Qualified Persuasive Member (HQPM)
- 12. Unimportant or Meaningless Task (UMT)
- 13. Persuasive Member (PM)

Work Ethic

14. Work Ethic (WE)

Biographical Inquiry

- 15. Seniority (Sn)
- 16. Income and Status (IS)

Value Related Efforts

- 17. Valuing Social Relations and Activity at Work (VSRAW)
- 18. Valuing Comfortable Work Place (VCWP)
- 19. Valuing Work Perfection (VWP)
- 20. Lacking Power and Prestige Orientation, and Risk Taking (LPPORT)

Value Survey

- 21. Harmonious and Contentedness (HAC)
- 22. Having a Sense of Shame and Reciprocation (HSSR)
- 23. Intimate Friendship and Filial Piety (IFFP)
- 24. Kindness and Patience (KAP)

Learned Helplessness

- 25. Impaired Cognitive Functioning (ICF)
- 26. Uncontrollability of Events (UE)

Self Monitoring

- 27. Impression Management (IM)
- 28. Acting Ability (AA)
- 29. Congruence between Inner State and Self Presentation (CISSP)

Locus of Control

- 30. Internal Locus of Control (ILC)
- 31. External Locus of Control (ELC)
- 32. Synergic or Mixed Locus of Control (SMLOC)

Private and Public self Consciousness

- 33. Motivational and Affective (MA)
- 34. Reflective (R)
- 35. Self Consciousness in Public (SCP)

Private and Public self Awareness

- 36. Self Awareness (SA)
- 37. Positive Group Feeling (PGF)

Individual Effectiveness:

Need Structure

38. Need for Affection and Including (NAI)



IIMK



- 39. Capacity for Effective Dealing with Self (CEDS)
- 40. Effectiveness Potential (EP).
- 41. Potential Awareness and Capacity to Work in the Dilemmas of Life (PACWDL)

All the factors in this scale were derived variables, measuring satisfaction with need structure.

Individual Need Fulfillment

- 42 Fulfillment of Recognition and Autonomy Needs (FRAN)
- 43. Fulfillment of Security and Altruistic Needs (FSAN)

Need Hierarchy Scale

44. Physiological Needs Satisfaction (PNS)

Value Realization

- 45. Satisfaction with Job-prestige and Patriotism (SJPP)
- Satisfaction with Comfortable Living (SCL) 46.
- 47. Satisfaction with Excellent Work Condition (SEWC)
- 48. Satisfaction with Omnibus Success (SOS)
- 49. Satisfaction with Own People Success Archetype (SOPSA)

All the factors in this scale were derived variables.

2. The another major aspect of the study is to explore the relationship between the dimensions of individual characteristic and individual effectiveness variables.

To study this relationship canonical correlation (CC) was calculated. To interpret canonical correlation results, an arbitrary criterion of +0.30 was used as an index of importance of a variable within a particular set of a variables or canonical variate. Such a stand has been taken else where also (Lambert & Durand, 1975). Apart from tabular presentation, only those canonical correlation results would be described in detail that consist Simultaneously of both the left and right hand variates having loadings of +0.30. That is, a CC results would not be described if on either variate, no loading turnout to be equal to or greater than 0.30. Canonical loadings rather than canonical weights were used in the analysis. Canonical loading statistic offers the advantage over the weight statistic by being largely free from the direct influence of multicolinearity and suppresser effects (Lambart & Durand, 1975).

Apart from the canonical roots, a redundancy index (Rdx) was also calculated. The canonical roots provide the estimates of the amount of shared variance extracted from the set' of variables. Often very little of the dependent variance is shared with independent variables although canonical root values are sometimes very high. The redundancy index overcomes this difficulty (Lambart & Durande, 1975).

Table – 2 Canonical Correlation showing relationship between the dimensions of Individual characteristic variables and Individual effectiveness variables.

Variables	Set 1 Loadings	Sect 2 Loadings
Left Hand Set		
WRA	-06	-52
PJC	-03	-21
JKU	-03	-44
HPI	-08	02
OSWI	-07	-02



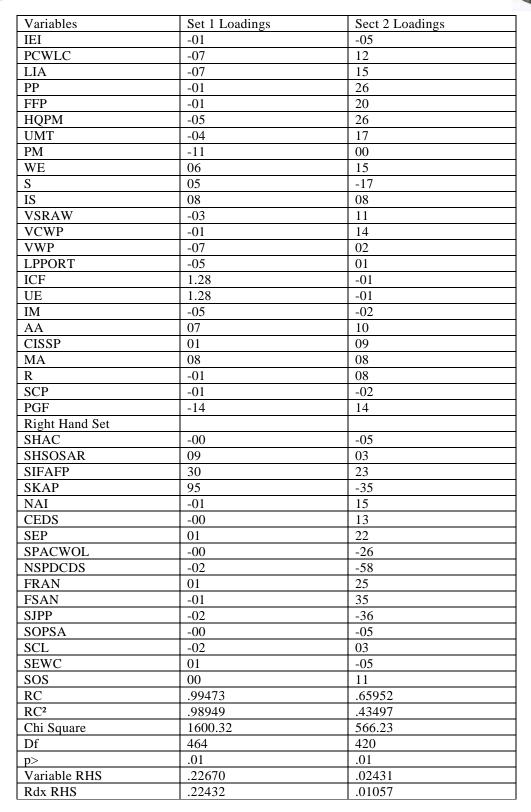


Table 2 presents the results of CC in which Left Hand variate composed of variables of individual characteristic was related to Right Hand variate composed of individual effectiveness variables. Two CCs turned out to be significant (p < 0.01).





The first CC results (RC = .99, RC² = .98, $*^2$ (464) = 1600.32, P < 0.01) showed that Left Hand variate was significantly related to Right Hand variate. Both variates mutually shared 98 per cent variance (it may please be noted that in description, the derived values such as squares or square roots of a number may not exactly tally because they had been, individually rounded off to two places after decimal from a four places after decimal number, for instance, 0.98 is not the exact square of 0.99 in this case. However in tabular presentation these values are expressed up to four places after decimal). The redundancy index (0.22432) for Right Hand variate composed of Individual Effectiveness Related Variables showed that 0.22432 of the total variance (0.22670) in the Right Hand canonical variate was shared with variance in or explained by the Left Hand canonical variate. Redundancy values, in a way, may also be expressed in terms of percentage. Therefore the redundancy values are expressed up to four places rather than two places after decimal for easy visualization in terms of percentage. Thus the redundancy in this case may be thought in terms of percentage. Thus the redundancy in this case may be thought in terms of 22.43 per cent of variance "explained" in the right hand variate by the left hand variate. However, technically it is more precise to express redundancies as the proportion only, that is, as 0.22432 in this case. The first Left Hand Variate could be thought of loaded with impaired cognitive functioning, uncontrollability of events. This Left Hand Variate was related significantly to Right Hand Variate that was loaded positively with satisfaction with intimate friendship and filial piety and satisfaction with kindness and patience.

The second CC results (RC = 0.66, RC² = 0.43, $_{x}^{2}$ (420) = 566.23, \underline{p} < 0.01) showed that Left Hand Variate was related significantly to Right Hand variate. Both the variates mutually shared 43 per cent variance. The redundancy index (.01057) for Right Hand Variate composed of individual effectiveness related variables showed that 0.01057 of the total variance (.02431) in the Right Hand canonical variate was shared with variance in or "explained" by the Left Hand canonical variate. The second Left Hand variate could be thought of loaded negatively with willingness for high responsibility and acceptance, job knowledge and understanding. This Left Hand variate was related significantly to Right Hand variate that was loaded negatively with satisfaction with kindness and patience. Nonsatisfaction with potentially decreased capacity to deal with self, satisfaction with job prestige and patriotism, This Right Hand variate was loaded positively with fulfillment of security and altruistic needs.

INTERPRETATION and DISCUSSION

The main objective of this research endeavor was to explore the relevant constituents of the human side of enterprise, in relation to some of the indicators of Personal/executive effectiveness in the behavioral sciences frame work, especially from a social-psychological perspective.

For the purpose of data reduction and identification of salient dimensions underlying the data structure, the responses on primary items were factor analyzed giving rise to a lesser number of variables to be used in further analyses. Consequently there were 37 factors representing 13 major concepts of scales comprising the individual characteristics; 12 factors in the dimension of individual effectiveness representing 4 scales. For the present purposes, the individual effectiveness could be understood as being represented in terms of the variables reflecting need structure, need hierarchy and value realization.

To recapitulate, this study was an effort toward explorations in the structure and dynamics of Individual effectiveness. Being exploratory in nature, no hypotheses were proposed in advance. The construct of effectiveness was treated as the dependent variable, whereas certain individual characteristics were considered as the variables that are relevant in predicting the individual effectiveness.





What are the relationships between the dimensions of individual characteristics and individual effectiveness?

This question was sought to be addressed though a canonical correlation (CO) analysis (Table 2 of the result section). A perusal of the results shows that there are two significant canonical correlations extracted.

The first CC result shows that the impaired cognitive functioning, and uncontrollability of events, are related to intimate friendship and filial piety, and satisfaction with kindness and patience. As the left hand variate primarily is loaded with the factors of learned helplessness, the results may be interpreted to mean that the learned helplessness is correlated to the socio-emotional support and satisfaction with it. This kind of relationship might arise due to two reasons in the main. One is that, the helplessness naturally attracts sympathy and since the sympathy is available it provides satisfaction as well. However the second reason could be that when a persons' own endeavors fail to yield results (hence the learned helplessness), he or she does not see any way out except to capitalize on the socioemotional support of friends and relative. This might he helpful in whatever little progress is possible under the circumstances and such support might in turn brings a sense of satisfaction with kindness and patience. While empirically it may be alright to think of receiving support and getting satisfaction as the valid components of individual effectiveness, nevertheless the result may not be misconstrued to suggest the desirability of learned helpless factors mentioned above as essential for gaining support and satisfaction.

A perusal at the second canonical result show that lack of willingness for high responsibility and acceptance, lack of job knowledge and understanding are related to lack of satisfaction with kindness and patience, potentially decreased capacity to deal with self, deficit in job prestige and patriotism and fulfillment of security and altruistic needs. It could be inferred that negative characteristics of the person might yield unfavorable results if put forward to. If the role incumbent lacks self and task related maturity he or she can not achieve effectiveness. As far as fulfillment of security and altruistic needs is concerned, it may be said that it is a basic, primary need which is being satisfied by the virtue of individuals being employed in a work organization. Conversely, it may be said that if role incumbents are possessed with self and task related maturity, they may maximize their personal effectiveness.

Studies have shown that job maturity (Gillard & Price, 2005; Rastogi & Dave, 2004; Blank, Weitzel & Green 1990), self monitoring (Semadar, Robbins, & Ferris 2006; Foti & Havenstein 2007), learned helplessness (Maier & Seligman, 1976; Carlson & Kacmar 1994; Sahoo &r Tripathy, 1990), self awareness (Syvantek 2003), locus of control (Judge & Bono2001; Das & Agarwala, 1994) may be related to personal effectiveness.

The Summing Up

The study was taken up with a concern toward a relatively better understanding of the structure and dynamics of a construct identified as individual effectiveness within a frame work that could be of relevance to the behavioral scientists and the practitioners of human resource management working in the area of organizational behavior. A closely related concern was to understand the underlying dimensions of managerial effectiveness in organizational frame-work with a special reference to the Indian setting. A need for this was felt primarily because of the growing realization of the cross-cultural variations in the exact nature of relationships among relevant variables across cultures. The results indicated that the construct of effectiveness is an important concept and that there is some merit in understanding the construct of effectiveness in terms of the individual effectiveness.





The study could specify (a) the empirical dimensions of the constructs understudy, (b) the interrelationships between the dimensions of the personal factors that significantly contribute to the managerial effectiveness.

Implication of the Study

The study has been successful in bringing out the construct of managerial effectiveness in Indian setting. It could also specify the nature of precise relationships among the dimensions of the individual characteristics variables and managerial effectiveness variables. The knowledge of these relationships may be utilized, by the organizations regarding the enhancement of effectiveness at the individual level according to the specific needs.

The future academic endeavors might make use of the present study as stepping stone for further exploratory and confirmatory research toward a more complete understanding of the effectiveness considerations in particular and the related organizational dynamics in general.

Limitations of the Study

A good amount of care was exercised in execution of the present study. Never the less it does have its share of limitations just as most works of this nature are likely to have. Some of the obvious limitations include the following.

- 1. No "Objective Criterion" was included in the study for evaluation of performance and effectiveness related issues.
- 2. The organizations and respondents constituting the sample of the study were marked by heterogeneity rather than homogeneity. Some times heterogeneity of sample is treated as a weakness of the research design. Nevertheless there have been instances where such heterogeneity has been treated to be the strength rather than the weakness of a research (Kaur 1992; Shukla, 1988; Srivastva 1990). And it is argued that heterogeneity as a sample contributes towards wider generalizability of the findings. The matter remains debatable besides the non-random sampling imposes further constraints on the generalizability issue.
- 3. Considering, the number of items, variables and the constructs included in the study, a larger sample size would have been warranted, which could not be feasible due to constraints of resources.

Suggestion for Future Research

The experiences gained during the execution of the present research endeavor impelled the investigator to realize the limitations mentioned above and consequently some of the future prospects could be realized. The important once are mentioned below.

- 1. The same project may be taken up in the other types of organizations such as organizations with differing product-mix, service organizations, common wheel organizations.
- 2. The study may be extended for other hierarchical levels not included in this study.
- 3. The study could be done in a longitudinal design.
- 4. Though it's a difficult proposition in organizational research, a better sampling procedure that would come closest to random sampling and a considerably larger sample size would be highly desirable.
- 5. The objective or hard criteria could be sought and employed for validation of the relevant variables.



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