Work – Life Balance Among Women Anganwadi Workers in Bengaluru

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Abstract

Over the past few years, work-life balance has evolved into a matter of significant concern. Both men and women strive to achieve a steady professional and personal life. In reality, women are more prone to experiencing such challenges. The paper attempted to understand work-life balance among Anganwadi workers (women-dominant centres). The research focused on the impact of job satisfaction, work overburden, workplace support, family support, and dependent care on the work-life balance of Anganwadi workers. For the purpose of the study, a structured questionnaire was administered to 467 participants. Statistical technique used for the study was regression model. The results indicated that workplace support and family support had a positive impact on the work-life balance among Anganwadi workers. The findings also suggested that work overburden and dependent care had a negative impact on work-life balance. The results also contradicted the hypotheses by portraying that job satisfaction was not a significant factor that impacted the work-life balance among Anganwadi workers. However, many other variables such as emotional intelligence, job autonomy, turnover intention, absenteeism, and work engagement – that could potentially impact work-life balance – were not taken into consideration.

Keywords: Anganwadi workers, structural equation modeling, validity and reliability, women workers, work-life balance

JEL Classification Codes: I31, J28, M12, M54

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one are the days when women would focus on being just homemakers. They have progressed in different fields of profession and have proved themselves to be capable of becoming independent in every aspect (Devi & Kanagalakshmi, 2015). Most organizations these days have women thriving in higher level positions and enjoying other privileges that revolve around it. Although they relish success in their profession, their personal lives are at stake due to multiple demands on the career front (Maharshi & Chaturvedi, 2015). According to Higgins, Duxbury, and Johnson (2000), women can be grouped into two categories: career women and earner women. Earner women look into part-time jobs that make it easier to balance their work and family life; whereas, career women lookout for opportunities to achieve their professional goals that may stand in the way of devoting time to their families. Work—life balance is a serious concern that prevails in the present generation. It has to be viewed with care as it imposes penalties like high-stress levels, low throughput,

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absenteeism (Hobson, Delunas, & Kesic, 2001), and alcohol consumption (Roos, Lahelma, & Rahkonen, 2006) for the employees. Regardless of the gender, most working professionals struggle to hit a balance. It is time and again most strongly felt by women (Hall & Richter, 2011). The emotional attachment patterns of Indian women with their families have overburdened them with several responsibilities of the household (Satpal, Rathee, & Rajain, 2014). Childcare is one of the most vital responsibilities of a mother. Opting out of the workforce or choosing a part-time career to take care of the children will not only impact their overall income, but also the country's economy in terms of condensed human resources (Chalawadi, 2014). Other research studies have also indicated that women with children have a weaker relationship between work hours in terms of having household responsibilities and managerial development with regard to progressing in their respective organizations (Metz, 2005). Hence, spousal support for working women is a key aspect in this matter (Almeida, Maggs, & Galambos, 1993; Gordon & Whelan-Berry, 2004).

Apart from family responsibilities, poor staff policies, unsatisfactory working conditions, low salary and benefits, inflexible work timings, and environment deplete the chances of bringing a harmonious nexus between work and family (Madipelli, Sarma, & Chinnappaiah, 2013). In line with this, ensuring that appropriate policies are in place within the organization and social support from the human resource department is important to assist female employees in terms of productivity (Marcinkus, Whelan-Berry, & Gordon, 2007) and it will also benefit the organization as a whole (Anuradha & Pandey, 2015).

Work—life balance has a substantial influence on the psychological and physical well-being of the workers (Mittal, Singh, & Sharma, 2017). Therefore, an excellent organizational environment is crucial to make certain that employees are gratified and content.

Previously, numerous studies have been conducted to understand the impact of work—life balance of women in various sectors. There are few sectors that are yet to be explored to understand the challenges with regard to work—life balance faced by women. One such sector is the Anganwadi workers from Anganwadi centres. As an attempt to fill this gap, this paper aims at assessing the impact of job satisfaction, work overburden, work-place support, family support, and dependent care on work—life balance among Anganwadi workers in Bengaluru.

Review of Literature

(1) Work – Life Balance: Integration between work and life can be dated back to the 18th century during the period of pre-industrialization. This was precisely when discrimination between work—life and family life started to take off (Hashmi, Malik, & Hussain, 2016). Officially, the term work—life balance was coined during the 1970s. Organizations formally came up with the concept of Employee Assistance Programs during the 1980s to support the employees manage their personal and professional lives (Rama Swathi & Das Mohapatra, 2015). Several researchers began to focus on work—family conflict of dual earners and working-mothers during the 1990s. Previous studies have indicated that women can reduce work—life conflicts by taking a simple step of sharing their experiences with other women. These experiences vary from person to person based on their perceptions and personalities. Mehta and Kundnani (2015) affirmed that the primary element that influenced the work—life balance equilibrium was the personality traits possessed by an individual. But employees these days are looking at a different perspective of personal and professional life; rather than trying to balance it, they are seeking work—life flexibility (Ross, Intindola, & Boje, 2016).

(2) Job Satisfaction : Job satisfaction is a significant contributor toward work—life balance (Chandel & Kaur, 2015) that comprises of three main aspects : growth satisfaction, supervisor satisfaction, and social satisfaction (Kumar & Chaturvedi, 2017). When job satisfaction is compromised, work — life balance inevitably becomes challenging. Beutell and Schneer (2014) found that a synergy (interaction or cooperation) between work and

family had a positive upshot on job satisfaction; whereas, the interference of work in family life had an undesirable impact on job satisfaction. Agha, Azmi, and Irfan (2017) also observed in their study – through correlation studies – that interference of professional life in personal life and vice versa impacted job satisfaction adversely. Hence, it can be hypothesized that:

\$\boldsymbol{\textbf{H1:}}\] Job satisfaction has a significant positive impact on work-life balance of Anganwadi workers.

(3) Work Overburden: The overburden of work and the quantity of hours spent on the work for which an individual gets paid will prompt obstruction of the work with family. When work—life conflicts take place due to interference from work due to factors such as work overload, work—life balance gets depleted (Aryee, Srinivas, & Tan, 2005). Work overload does not only increase the work—life conflicts, but it has other impacts such as reduced job satisfaction, burnout (Rajak & Chandra, 2017), and work distractions at home (Cardenas, Major, & Bernas, 2004). As a result of work overload, employees end up sacrificing time dedicated to friends or family. In line with this, Muthu Kumarasamy, Pangil, and Faizal Mohd Isa (2015) indicated that overburdening of work adversely affected work—life balance. Not just having the actual workload, but perceiving or believing that they have a work overload leads to mismanagement of other roles and reduced balance between work and life (Chawla & Sondhi, 2011). Employees can tackle this issue by opting for flexible work schedule and workload (Edralin, 2013). Hence, it can be hypothesized that:

🔖 **H2:** Work overburden has a significant negative impact on work—life balance of Anganwadi workers.

(4) Workplace Support: Workplace support is the social support experienced by an employee within an organization (James & Sudha, 2017). The organizational social support includes support from managers, coworkers, and supervisors. Support from the organization in the form of human resource policies and programs has reduced the work–life imbalance of employees (Jnaneswar, 2016). Adame, Caplliure, and Miquel (2016) suggested that the absence of female employees in an organization resulted in the absence of policies related to work–life balance. Therefore, the Government has mandated few employee welfare provisions through labor legislation, which include Factories Act, 1948 (number of working hours, crèche facility, and leave provisions) and Family and Medical Leave Act, 1993 (maternity benefits) (Baral & Bhargava, 2011).

Contrary to this, Cooke and Jing (2009) identified through their research that employees have accepted conflicts between work and life as part and parcel of life and they do not expect the organization to address this issue. However, it is vital for an organization to help its employees to have a nexus between work and family life. To do the same, the organizations can show their support by having family – friendly work environment, providing reduced/flexible working hours (Biswas & Hassan, 2009) or work from home facilities (Felstead, Jewson, Phizacklea, & Walters, 2002), introducing and making work–life balance benefit programmes available (McCarthy, Cleveland, Hunter, Darcy, & Grady, 2013), and providing adequate support from the supervisors. Hence, it can be hypothesized that:

\$\to\$ H3: Workplace support has a significant positive impact on work—life balance of Anganwadi workers.

(5) Family Support: Family support given to working women is of vital importance right from childhood and becomes a necessity during their career progressions. An immediate family's support throughout helps women to set and accomplish their career goals (Valk & Srinivasan, 2011). Crucial challenges faced by women are managing the triple roles of worker/entrepreneur, mother, and wife (Pareek & Bagrecha, 2017). Therefore, spousal support is crucial in bringing down the tussle between work and life of women. Increased support from husbands with regard to the household chores and responsibility of childcare was identified to be essential.

Namayandeh, Yaacob, and Juhari (2010) said that family support is social support that is not just derived by the spouse, but also from other family members and relatives. In line with this, family social support dilutes the work–family intersection (Karatepe & Bekteshi, 2008). Hence, it can be hypothesized that:

🕏 **H4:** Family support has a significant positive impact on work–life balance of Anganwadi workers.

(6) Dependent Care : Dependents include children, senior citizens, and persons suffering from illness, specially-abled people, grandchildren, siblings, kids of siblings, partner, and in-laws (Pandu, Balu, & Poorani, 2013). Women are more likely to provide dependent care and are less likely to be engaged as full-time employees when compared to their spouses. One of the important responsibilities of women is to take care of the elderly because only middle and upper class families can afford helpers and caretakers (Blanco & Pacheco, 2009). Studies such as Uddin and Manir Chowdhury (2015) and Mathew and Panchanatham (2011) suggested that the dependent care negatively affected women and reduced the likelihood of gaining a satisfactory work—life balance.

Fernando and Umma (2016) and Ford, Heinen, and Langkamer (2007) studied and revealed that women with children experienced greater difficulty concerning work–life balance when compared to the other female employees in organizations. Identifying proper childcare facilities play a crucial role in relieving working mothers' anxiety about leaving their children in another person's care (Erdwins, Buffardi, Casper, & O'Brien, 2001). Hence, it can be hypothesized that:

\$\Box \textbf{H5}: Dependent care has a significant negative impact on work—life balance of Anganwadi workers.

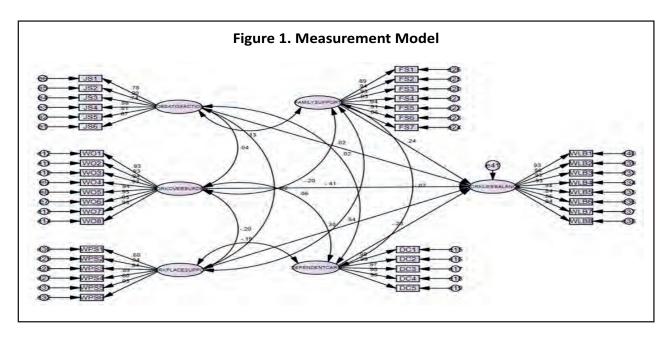
Methodology

- (1) Sampling and Data Collection: The primary data were collected from Anganwadi workers from various Anganwadi centres located in Bengaluru, India. A total of 525 online structured questionnaires were circulated to the Anganwadi workers out of which 467 responses were useful for further research and analysis. The questionnaire was adopted from Swarnalatha (2013) and was pilot tested (33 Anganwadi workers participated in the pilot study) to make necessary modifications to the context of this study. The data collection was done during the period from May 24, 2019 July 9, 2019.
- **(2) Measurements :** All the variables (job satisfaction, work overburden, work place support, family support, dependent care, and work—life balance) are measured using a 5-point Likert scale, where 5 represents "Strongly Agree," 4 represents "Agree," 3 represents "Neutral," 2 represents "Disagree," and 1 represents "Strongly Disagree."

Data Analysis and Results

The collected data were organized, tabulated, and analyzed using software packages such as SPSS and AMOS (Kala, Akbar Jan, Subramani, & Banureka, 2017; Lakshminarayanan, Pai, & Ramaprasad, 2016).

(1) Validity and Reliability: Individual item reliabilities, convergent validity, and discriminant validity are the three-step procedures to evaluate and measure a model (Hulland, 1999). Item loading is the base to determine the individual item reliability, and it is acclaimed that all the items should have factor loadings between 0.4–0.7. Any item below the factor loading of 0.4 should not be considered for the analysis (Carmines & Zeller, 1979; Hair Jr., Sarstedt, Hopkins, & Kuppelwieser, 2014; Hulland, 1999).



In this study, all the factor loadings are ranging between 0.741 and 0.983 in their respective constructs (as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1).

The assessment of convergent validity is done for each construct. The item that truly signifies the anticipated latent construct and undeniably associates with other measures of the same latent construct is referred to as

Table 1. Results of the Measurement Model

Construct	Item	Factor Loadings	Convergen	t Validity
			AVE (>0.5)	CR (>0.7)
WLB	WLB1. My work affects my personal life.	0.932	0.817	0.972
	WLB2. My personal life affects my profession.	0.861		
	WLB3. I find it difficult to do my job because	0.926		
	of my personal matters.			
	WLB4. My profession makes my personal life difficult.	0.931		
	WLB5. I disregard personal needs on account of work.	0.942		
	WLB6. I miss routine activities on account of work.	0.841		
	WLB7. I find it difficult to shuffle work and non - work.	0.847		
	WLB8. I feel exhausted to be effective at my duty.	0.944		
JS	JS1.I feel content with the number of hours I work.	0.782	0.685	0.928
	JS2. I feel happy with the acknowledgment	0.899		
	I get for good execution of work.			
	JS3.I am happy with the break and noon to have solid	0.741		
	nourishment and interact with my colleagues.			
	JS4. I am happy with the challenges I face during my work.	0.857		
	JS5. I am contented with the training given when new	0.808		
	$schemes\ and\ policies\ are\ proposed\ in\ the\ Anganwadi\ centre.$			
	JS6. I am happy with the partition of both my profession	0.87		
	and family life with no contentions.			
WO	WO1. My workload distances me from	0.925	0.881	0.983
	my family too much.			

	WO2. I believe I have more to do than I can	0.93		
	deal with comfortably.	0.027		
	WO3. I feel more respected because of my	0.937		
	professional responsibilities.	0.034		
	WO4. My workload is increased because of	0.934		
	my professional responsibilities.	0.020		
	WO5. I am more comfortable with maintaining the records manually.	0.938		
	WO6. I am more comfortable with maintaining	0.948		
	the records electronically.	0.546		
	WO7. I get stressed out when extra duty is allotted to	0.952		
	me during emergencies like Election/Census.	0.932		
	WO8. I plan my work and perform deliberate immediately.	0.947		
MADE			0.007	0.064
WPS	WPS1. My seniors fail to appreciate any	0.879	0.807	0.961
	additional work from me.	0.043		
	WPS2. The concerned authority would	0.942		
	neglect any grievances from me.	0.041		
	WPS3. I have a supporting environment in	0.941		
	and around the Anganwadi centre.	0.000		
	WPS4. I get enough training and support from the	0.889		
	higher authorities to perform my everyday tasks better. WPS5. My salary and incentives are credited to	0.801		
	me without any delay.	0.801		
	WPS6. During the time of emergencies, I get financial	0.932		
	assistance from the higher authorities.	0.552		
FS	-	0.888	0.835	0.972
гэ	FS1. My spouse equally shares household activities and child-caring responsibilities.	0.000	0.855	0.972
	FS2. The annual school fees of the children is	0.935		
	borne by my spouse.	0.955		
	FS3. My husband equally focuses on children's studies.	0.929		
	FS4. I give more thoughtfulness regarding neatness of	0.929		
	house with the assistance of my family members.	0.552		
	FS5. I have tasty food along with my family at least once a day.	0.939		
	FS6. My extended family supports me with my cooking routine.	0.909		
	FS7. I get support from the members of my family	0.865		
	with regard to my late working hours.	0.003		
DC	DC1. I can converse with my children politely.	0.982	0.964	0.992
DC	DC2. I am patient enough to listen to my	0.982	0.904	0.332
	children when they have something to say.	0.991		
	DC3. I have the responsibility to take care	0.973		
	of my elderly parent(s)/in law(s).	0.975		
	DC4. I am able to take care of my children	0.981		
	because of my family's support.	0.561		
	DC5. I take downtime/leave when I am	0.983		
	supposed to give attention to the dependents.	0.565		
	supposed to give attention to the dependents.			

Note. AVE : Average of the variance extracted ; CR : composite reliability ; DC : Dependent care; FS : Family support ; JS : Job $satisfaction; WLB: Work-life\ balance\ ; WO: Workload\ ; WPS: Workplace\ support.$

Table 2. Discriminant Validity of Constructs

Latent Variables	Dependent	Work	Work-Life	Family	Workplace	Job
	Care	Overburden	Balance	Support	Support	Satisfaction
Dependent Care	0.982					
Work Overburden	0.061	0.939				
Work–Life Balance	-0.331	-0.530	0.904			
Family Support	-0.069	-0.203	0.500	0.915		
Workplace Support	-0.186	-0.205	0.553	0.536	0.899	
Job Satisfaction	0.016	0.037	0.026	0.135	-0.020	0.828

convergent validity (Hair Jr. et al., 2014). By examining the average of the variance extracted (AVE), the assessment of convergent validity is done. It is deemed to be acceptable when the composite reliability (CR) and AVE are above 0.7 and 0.5, respectively (Chin, 1998).

In this study, all the factor loadings and AVE are greater than 0.5, and the CR values are above 0.7 (as shown in Table 1). So, it can be concluded that there has been an establishment of convergent validity.

Next, the assessment of discriminant validity is done (as shown in Table 2). It is the degree to which a construct is really distinct from the other constructs (Duarte & Raposo, 2010). When there are low relationships between all the measures of the importance and the measure of remaining constructs, the square root of the AVE and the correlations of the different constructs are compared to discourse the discriminant validity. We can say that the discriminant validity is established when the extracted AVE is higher than its correlations with all the other constructs (Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

(2) The Structural Model: Structural equation modeling shows the pictographic representation of modeling of the constructs (Ninan, Chacko Roy, & Rani Thomas, 2019) such as job satisfaction, work overburden, work place support, family support, and dependent care on work-life balance. Figure 1 represents the factor loading, correlation value, and their corresponding regression weights. Table 3 shows the normed chi-square value = 2.685 (Marsh & Hocevar, 1985), normed fit index = 0.932 (Bollen, 1989), comparative fit index = 0.956 (Bentler, 1990), root mean square error of approximation = 0.060 (Browne & Cudeck, 1993), Tucker-Lewis index = 0.953 (Bentler & Bonett, 1980), and goodness of fit index = 0.825 (Hair Jr. et al., 2014). The respective values have achieved the criteria. Therefore, it can be concluded that it is an acceptable fit (Suresh, Sunil, & Khanna, 2019).

Figure 2 exhibits $R^2 = 0.60$, which accounts to 60% of variation in work-life balance through the independent variables considered in the study, and it denotes casual correlation between the dependent and the independent variables.

Table 3. SEM Results of Goodness of Fit

Name of Category	Name of Index	Calculated Index Value	Critical Value
Absolute Fit	Root mean square error of approximation	0.060	<0.08
	Goodness of fit	0.825	>0.80
Incremental Fit	Normed fit index	0.932	>0.90
	Comparative fit index	0.956	>0.95
	Tucker-Lewis index	0.953	0 < TLI < 1
Parsimonious Fit	$\frac{x^2}{df}$ (Normed chi-square)	2.685	$1 < \frac{x^2}{df} < 3$

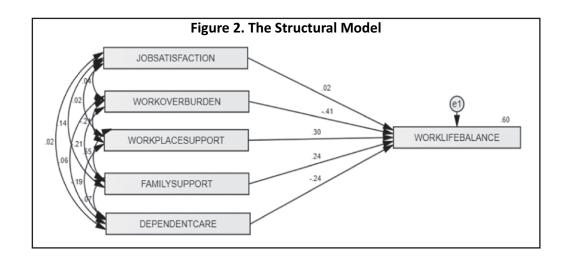


Table 4. Summary of the Structural Model

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	β	S.E.	Sig.	Result
Work–Life Balance	←Job Satisfaction	0.018	0.025	0.529	Not Supported
Work–Life Balance	←Work Overburden	-0.342	0.025	0.000	Supported
Work–Life Balance	←Workplace Support	0.320	0.038	0.000	Supported
Work–Life Balance	← Family Support	0.257	0.039	0.000	Supported
Work–Life Balance	←Dependent Care	-0.177	0.022	0.000	Supported

The standardized regression estimates show the negative impact of work overburden ($\beta = -.342$, p = .000) and dependent care ($\beta = -.177$, p = .000) on work–life balance. Workplace support ($\beta = .320$, p = .000) and family support ($\beta = .257$, p = .000) show a positive impact and statistical significance on work–life balance. Job satisfaction ($\beta = .018$, p = .529) depicts the least positive impact on work–life balance and shows no statistical significance (see Figure 2 and Table 4).

Discussion and Conclusion

The main objective of the study is to determine the impact of the individual factors such as job satisfaction, work overburden, work place support, family support, and dependent care on the work—life balance among Anganwadi workers. All these variables have been linked based on literature review and empirical studies that have been conducted in the past.

In general, the findings of the study largely cohere with the previous research except with regard to job satisfaction. Contrary to predictions, the findings from Table 4 and Figure 2 depict that job satisfaction is not a factor that impacts the work—life balance of Anganwadi workers. It is hypothesized that job satisfaction has a significant positive impact on work—life balance of Anganwadi workers. But the results of this study are unique because they reveal that job satisfaction could not be a factor that impacts the work—life balance of Anganwadi workers as it is statistically insignificant, unlike research studies that have been previously conducted (Beutell & Schneer, 2014). Therefore, H1 is not supported.

The hypotheses H2 and H5 state that work overburden and dependent care have a significant negative impact on the work–life balance of Anganwadi workers (as depicted in Table 4 and Figure 2). This shows that work

overburden and dependent care reduce the work–life balance among Anganwdi workers. These outcomes are in line with the research studies that have been done previously (Chawla & Sondhi, 2011; Mathew & Panchanatham, 2011; Nasurdin & Driscoll, 2011; Omar, Mohd, & Ariffin, 2015).

Other variables such as workplace support and family support show a significant positive impact on work—life balance of Anganwadi workers, as indicated by previous studies conducted in this area (Namayandeh et al., 2010; Vijayalakshmi, 2012). Hence, H3 and H4 are supported.

In a nut shell, the results of the study reveal that work overburden, work place support, family support, and dependent care have a significant direct impact on work—life balance of the Anganwadi workers, supporting the previous literature but job satisfaction is a factor that does not impact the work—life balance of Anganwdi workers.

Managerial Implications

The study would help the Anganwadi centres to understand the importance of factors such as job satisfaction, work overburden, workplace support, family support, and dependent care on the work—life balance of the Anganwadi workers. The study paves way for Child Development Project Officers, supervisors, and higher authorities of the Anganwadi centres to understand that work overburden has a negative impact on the workers and help them reduce their stress levels through digitalizing the manual work done by the Anganwadi workers and providing mindfulness sessions and other emotionally, psychologically, physically, and mentally relaxing programs. The study has also revealed that workplace support has a positive impact on the workers. Therefore, the centres can concentrate on providing moral and financial support to the workers and creating a healthy environment at the Anganwadi centers.

Limitations of the Study and Scope for Further Research

This study is conducted in the city of Bengaluru. There is a scope for it to be conducted in other Anganwadi centres throughout India. The variables considered for the study are job satisfaction, work overburden, workplace support, family support, and dependent care. There are also other variables such as emotional intelligence, job autonomy, turnover intention, absenteeism, and work engagement, which can affect the work–life balance of Anganwadi workers, which are not a part of this study.

This research has not considered the mediating and moderating factors such as age, work experience, and economic background of the Anganwadi workers that paves way for further research.

Authors' Contribution

G. Vasanth Kumar conceived the idea and developed the quantitative design to undertake the study. Sarayu Sudhindra extracted reputed research papers to support the literature. The questionnaire was developed by all the authors. The data collection work was done by G. Vasanth Kumar and the numerical computations were also done by him using SPSS and AMOS. The manuscript was prepared by Sarayu Sudhindra in consultation with both the authors. The final review and editing was done by Dr. Valarmathi B.

Conflict of Interest

The authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

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