

A Comparative Study of Self Efficacy in Managers Working in Business Schools and Corporate

Bhupendra Singh Shreya Panwar** D.M. Bansal****

Abstract:

A machine –like organization designed to achieve specific goal can simultaneously be a species of organization that is able to survive in certain environments but not other ;an important processing system that is skilled in certain kinds of learning but not in others ,a cultural milieu characterized by distinctive values ,beliefs and social practices ,a political system where people jostle to further their own ends; an arena where various subconscious or ideological struggles take place ,an artifact or manifestation of a deeper process of social change; an instrument used by one group of people to exploit and dominate others ;and so on”.

This study seeks to examine how different personnel i.e. managers contribute to overall organizational effectiveness by deciphering their personality correlates in light of such unfolding and never ending layers of change in an organization.the study included 200 managers from business schools and corporate and were administered a self efficacy scale .The obtained data was processed statistically to give meaning to the findings.

***About Authors :** *Assit.Prof. Dpt. Of Psychology, N.R.E.C.College, Khurja*

***Assist.Prof., Faculty of Management & Commerce, Subharti University, Meerut*

****Asso.Prof.and HOD Economics, N.R.E.C.College, Khurja.*

Introduction:

Work force diversity acknowledges a work force of women and men, many racial and ethnic group, individuals with a variety of physical or psychological abilities and people who differ in age and sexual orientation. Managing this diversity is a global concern The future of an organization rests firmly on the competencies and dynamism of its managerial people. The managerial job often involves decision making that calls for knowledge of the latest developments in the related field and analytical skills. Manager can not afford to adopt a trial and error approach while making their choice in decision making. This is because their decisions may have a profound influence on the survival and growth of the organization. Thus the sustained development of the capabilities of the managers is essential for implementing the present and future strategies of the business.

Managing employee behavior and performance is one of the important task of managers .Some organization can conduct discipline management training for their supervisor and managers to help them to understand the tactic of managing discipline among the employees effectively .The purpose of such training is to ensure that when the managers discipline their subordinates ,they do so in a just and fair manner. This is essential to avoid the changes of bias and prejudice and steer clear of legal problems at a later stage

In normal circumstances ,employees conduct themselves voluntarily in a manner agreeable to the management . In the case of the imposed discipline, the employees observe rules and regulations out of external force or threat .

With the change in workforce demographics, employees expectations and attitude also have shifted. Traditional allurements such as job security, attractive

remuneration, housing and the like do not attract and motivate today's workforce. Employees demand empowerment and expect equality with the management. Previous notations about managerial authority are giving way to employee influence and involvement along with mechanism for upward communication and due process.

This sense of seeking empowerment by the managers led the researchers to probe in to an important psychological variable "self efficacy" in these managers.

As self-efficacy pertains to specific tasks, people may simultaneously have high self-efficacy for some tasks and low self-efficacy for others. For instance, a manager may have high self-efficacy for the technical aspects of her role, such as management accounting, but low self-efficacy for other aspects, such as dealing with employees' performance problems. A person's self-efficacy is a strong determinant of their effort, persistence, strategizing, as well as their subsequent training and job performance. Self-efficacy was defined by Albert Bandura as a person's belief in their capability to successfully perform a particular task. Together with the goals that people set, self-efficacy is one of the most powerful motivational predictors of how well a person will perform at almost any endeavour.

A high degree of self-efficacy leads people to work hard and persist in the face of setbacks, as illustrated by many great innovators and politicians who were undeterred by repeated obstacles, ridicule, and minimal encouragement. Thomas Edison, believing he could eventually succeed, reputedly tested at least three thousand different unsuccessful prototypes before eventually developing the first incandescent light bulb. High self-efficacy was also exhibited by Abraham Lincoln in response to the numerous and repeated public rebukes and failures he incurred prior to his eventual political

triumphs. Research has found that self-efficacy is important for sustaining the considerable effort required to master skills involved in, for instance, public speaking, losing weight, and becoming an effective manager.

Thus the researchers were interested in knowing the self efficacy levels of these managers working in two extremely different environments i.e., business schools and corporate. Pertaining to corporations. Corporations are the most common form of business organization, and one which is chartered by a state and given many legal rights as an entity separate from its owners. This form of business is characterized by the limited liability of its owners, the issuance of shares of easily transferable stock, and existence as a going concern. The process of becoming a corporation, called incorporation, gives the company separate legal standing from its owners and protects those owners from being personally liable in the event that the company is sued (a condition known as limited liability). Incorporation also provides companies with a more flexible way to manage their ownership structure. In addition, there are different tax implications for corporations, although these can be both advantageous and disadvantageous. In these respects, corporations differ from sole proprietorships and limited partnership.

On the other end business school, is an educational institution that focuses on teaching business-related courses. While business schools may offer courses ranging from undergraduate degrees to postdoctoral programs, their prime offering is the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. Top-tier business schools are usually renowned for the high quality of their graduates, many of whom climb the corporate ladder steadily to eventually become among the highest ranking executives in their organizations. Business schools may operate as a certain entity or may be

available within another school. For example, George Mason University has its own School of Management.

This self-efficacy has significant relationships with job performance and emotional states (Gil-Monte, Garcia-Juesas and Caro- Hernandez, 2006; Stajkovic and Luthans, 1998), which result in the importance of beliefs as a predictor of success in what it takes. Entrepreneurship, meanwhile, is being associated with technological progress (Moriano, Palace and Morales, 2006). As in other areas of application of self-efficacy, research on entrepreneurial behavior are two different approaches (Moriano *et al.*, 2006). Thus, in one case, it includes self-efficacy in a broad and general sense, pointing to the belief or confidence in one's ability to perform successfully (Markman, Balkin & Baron, 2002), while from another side, the studies focus on the development of self-efficacy scales specific to the domain of entrepreneurs (Chen *et al.*, 1998). In regard to gender and entrepreneurial self-efficacy in recent years, research has shown the predictive power of self-efficacy perceptions on the formation of entrepreneurial intentions, which self-efficacy is an intervening variable, both directly and through their influence by its association with other variables (Segal, Borgia, and Schoenfeld, 2005; Zhao *et al.*, 2005). Some authors have found higher levels of entrepreneurial self-efficacy in men compared with women (Chen, Greene, and Crick, 1998; Scherer, Brodzinski, and Wiebe, 1990).

Litt (1988) finds that self-efficacy expectations affect performance beyond what would have been expected from past performance alone. In a study on Leadership Self-efficacy and Managerial Job Performance in Nigerian Commercial Banks Shehu *et al.*, (2012) showed that leadership self efficacy is related to managerial job performance. This study measures the multi dimensionality of

managerial job performance and leadership self efficacy and the relationship was found to be significant.

Where as, in an Indian study on the role of self efficacy and gender differences among adolescents no significant difference was seen in adolescent studying in Government colleges of Chandigarh (Rajesh & Roshan, 2006). In another Indian study on Occupational self efficacy of Government and Private sector Executives Nita Gupta & Esha Sawhney (2010), concluded that government and private sector executives perceive their occupational self-efficacies quite differently. The result of the present study showed that private executives have better perceived self-efficacies and hence uplifting their organizations.

In light of the above literature and research studies following objectives were framed to ascertain the role of self efficacy on managers

Objectives:

1. To study the differences in self efficacy of managers working in business schools & Corporate
2. To find out the genders differences in self efficacy of these managers
3. To compare the self efficacy of managers (Male) in business schools & corporate.
4. To compare the self efficacy of managers (Female) in business schools & corporate.
5. To see the effect of length of service on self efficacy of these managers

Hypotheses:

Based on the above objectives the following hypotheses were formulated for empirical testing:-

1. There is no significant difference in self efficacy of managers in business schools & corporate.

2. There is no significant difference between male & female managers
3. There is no significant difference in self efficacy of managers (Male) in business schools and corporate.
4. There is no significant difference in self efficacy of managers (Female) in business schools and corporate.
5. There is no effect of length of service on self efficacy of these managers.

Sample:

The study was conducted on 200 managers working in business schools & corporate. This sample of 200 managers was divided on the basis of their organizations they are working in, their gender and length of service. All the participants are the one holding masters degree in management, commerce or IT with minimum four years of experience in managerial capacity. The corporate managers were taken from firms like P&G, L.G, Samsung, Tata Motors, etc and business school manager from universities

like Subharti, Amity, Venkateshwara etc. from Meerut and NCR.

Tools for Data Collection:

- 1 Self devised inventory for demographic details.
- 2 Generalized Perceived self efficacy scale. Jerusalem and Schwarzer originally developed the German version of this scale in 1981, first as a 20-item version and later as a reduced 10-item version (Jerusalem & Schwarzer, 1992). The scale consists of 10-items and four responses / choices were provided for each item. It has been used in numerous research projects, where it typically yielded internal consistencies between $\alpha = .75$ and $.91$. This scale is not only parsimonious and reliable; it has also proven valid in terms of convergent and discriminate validity.

Result & Discussion:

Table 1. Means, SD's and t values for self efficacy scores of managers in Business schools & Corporate.

Org	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	sig
SE BS	100	26.82	6.658	3.698	p<0.01
Corporate	100	23.65	5.400		

Table 2. Means, SD's and t values for self efficacy scores of managers (Male & Female)

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	sig
SE Male	100	27.17	5.876	4.593	p<0.01
Female	100	23.30	6.039		

Table.3 Means, SD's and t values for self efficacy scores of managers(Male) in business schools and corporate

Group Statistics^a

Org	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	sig
SE BS	50	29.44	5.891	4.171	p<0.01
Corporate	50	24.90	4.954		

Table 4. Means, SD's and t values for self efficacy scores of managers (Female) in business schools and corporate

Group Statistics^a

Org	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	sig
SE BS	50	24.20	6.392	1.500	N.S.
Corporate	50	22.40	5.584		

Table 5. Comparison of Length of service & Self Efficacy levels of managers

			Self Efficacy			Total
			HSE	ASE	LSE	
Length	0-6	Count	37	29	16	82
		Expected Count	31.6	33.6	16.8	82.0
	7-12	Count	22	28	15	65
		Expected Count	25.0	26.7	13.3	65.0
	+12	Count	18	25	10	53
		Expected Count	20.4	21.7	10.9	53.0
Total	Count		77	82	41	200
	Expected Count		77.0	82.0	41.0	200.0

X=3.097; df=4;p=N.S

Research has found that self-efficacy is important for sustaining the considerable effort required to master skills involved in, for instance, public speaking, losing weight, achieving merit in sports or becoming an effective manager. People are inclined to become anxious and/or depressed when they perceive themselves as unable to manage aversive events

or gain what they value highly. Thus, self-efficacy is also related to the experience of stress and occupational burnout. Specifically, low self-efficacy can readily lead to a sense of helplessness and hopelessness about one's capability to learn how to cope more effectively with the challenges and demands of one's work. When this occurs, low self-efficacy can be

distressing and depressing, thereby preventing even highly talented individuals from performing effectively.

Organizations need to identify key abilities of employees that will lead to success, and employees need to have certain abilities that will make them a valuable addition to an organization. Finally, managers need to understand what abilities will lead to a good fit with certain employees. Managing employee behaviour and performance is one of the important tasks of managers. As globalization spreads, more foreign firms are entering the Indian market and the challenge before domestic firms is going to be much more severe in the years to come. The corporates of business schools are operating in vast sheltered markets, international careers and expatriates are becoming common, international experience is becoming a prerequisite for career progression to many top-level managerial positions, making the task of managers more challenging.

It is evident from table no.1 that managers working in business schools and corporates significantly differ in their perceived self efficacy, business school managers scored significantly higher self efficacy scores than corporate managers.

Table no.2 clearly rules out for gender differences in self efficacy of business school and corporate managers. Male managers scored significantly higher self efficacy scores than female managers. This may be due to more risk taking behaviours, and outsourcing activities on part of male managers than their female counterparts.

Table no.3 shows the comparison between male managers of business schools and corporates. It is clearly evident from the table that business school managers scored higher self efficacy scores than corporate managers indicating, their agreeableness to the management voluntarily and expecting job

security and stability in the organization. More interestingly, the female managers working in business school and corporate did not differ on their perceived self efficacy scores as depicted in table no.4. This supports the notion that, work life balance is becoming a major challenge to female managers as more women are taking up jobs to add to finances of their families or to become careerists.

Finally, length of service did not come out to be a predictor of self efficacy in the managers of business school and corporate. Table no.5 shows managers can not afford to adopt a trial and error approach by making their choice in decision making on seniority basis. Their work experience or working years did not seem to have effect on their self efficacy.

The future of an organization rests firmly on the competencies and dynamism of its managerial people. General perception of managers is to avoid confrontation contrary to the popular perception. With the change in workforce demographics, employees' expectations and attitude also have shifted. Traditional allurements such as job security, attractive remuneration, housing and the like do not attract and motivate today's workforce. Employees demand empowerment and expect equality with the management. Previous notions about managerial authority are giving way to employee influence and involvement along with mechanism for upward communication and due process.

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