

Occupational Stress and Madhepura Police: A Study

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Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to study Adjustment – a dependent variable, as a function of Emotional Intelligence and Occupational Stress –independent variables. The Police force is one of the largest organizations in India. With the rapid pace of technological advancement, in our day-to- day life, our social fabric is found a drastic change in day today life. In spite of great efforts by the government and the police organization the crime rates are increasing along with new techniques and latest sophisticated weapons are being used by the criminals. The police has to encounter not only traditional types of crimes but has to deal with socio-economic crimes, white collar crimes, blue collar crimes, organized crimes, abuse of drugs and narcotic trafficking, crimes related to slum and so on.

Key Words: Occupation, Stress, Police, Duty, Society

Occupational stress is commonly found in police personnel. Police profession has high risk and responsibility. Because police not only acts as a law enforcing agency but also as an instrument of social service, an agent of social change and the protector of the rights and duties of the people. Police personnel are often involved in dealing with criminals, important person's security works, outdated laws and collapse of other agencies of criminal justice system. So great can be the stakes as the entire life of police officers is full of tension and stresses.

The present paper is an ardent attempt to study Adjustment – a dependent variable, as a function of Emotional Intelligence and Occupational Stress –independent variables.

The Bihar Police has tremendous occupational stress and faces a lot of challenges. Still Bihar police is doing well in its profession. Unfortunately, it is through the personnel of the police force that people assess the organization. And one of the vices the police are accused of other than

corruption is poor interpersonal relationship which is an important index in adjustment.

In the present day world the greatest challenge is psychological problems, and we found that there are very high levels of stress in police. The police sector is becoming increasingly competitive in the country and the level of product and service quality being offered to public is almost same. Hence, the police organizations adds more responsibilities on the shoulders of employees, resulting into a pressure on them, with increasing psychological problems i.e. stress, strain, anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, etc. This situation, in which the police have little or no sense of identification with their job, can cause an individual looking for another job. Therefore, they are in stress.

Profile of Madhepura District

District Profile

District occupies an area of 1787 km² and has a population of 1,524,596 (as of 2001). It is surrounded by Araria and Supaul

district in the north, Khagaria and Bhagalpur district in the south, Purnia district in the east and Saharsa district in the West. It is situated in the Plains of River Koshi and located in the North-eastern part of Bihar at longitude between 25°. 34 to 26°.07' and latitude between 86°.19' to 87°.07'.

The present Madhepura district had already got the status of subdivision on 09/05/1845 in which there were seven blocks. Saharsa district today was then the revenue circle of Madhepura at that time. When Saharsa became a district on 01/04/1954, Madhepura became its subdivision. Madhepura subdivision which had seven blocks at that time was given the status of a district on 09/05/1981. On 21/05/83 Uda-kishunganj Block was upgraded and made a subdivision of Madhepura district in the name of Uda-kishunganj. Besides seven old blocks, four new blocks came in to existence in the year 1994. There were Gwalpara, Puraini, Bihariganj and Shankarpur. First three blocks come under Uda-kishunganj subdivision and last one is under Madhepura subdivision. Later on two more new blocks were constituted in the name of Ghailar and Gamaharia, under Madhepura subdivision in 1999.

Police Administration:

There are 8 police stations, 6 subsidiary police station and 5 out posts are at work in the districts.

The job of policing is an extremely stressful one (Colwell, 1988; Heiman, 1975; Kroes, Margolis & Hurrell, 1974; Niederhoffer & Niederhoffer, 1978; Selye, 1978; Somodevilla, 1978 & Violanti, 1992). These stress experiences impair their health and result in high rates of mental illness. Stress

related illnesses are of particular concern and are reflected in tragically high suicide rates, divorce, alcoholism, decreased job satisfaction and burnout (Curran, Finlay & McGarry, 1988; Labovitz & Hagedorn, 1971; Lester, 1983; Richard & Fell's, 1975). Police personnel of different ranks differ both quantitatively and qualitatively in their experience of stress. The subordinate officers had the highest scores on stressors such as job boredom, quantitative work overload and lack of praise and relatively high scores on noxious physical environment, communication quality, decision latitude and role ambiguity (Mathur, 1999).

HYPOTHESES

Following null-hypotheses were formulated to test the problem of the present investigation:

Ho#1: It is hypothesized that there will be no significant correlation ship between adjustment, emotional intelligence and occupational stress among police personnel working in Madhepura district.

Ho#2: It is hypothesized that there will be no significant correlation ship between adjustment, emotional intelligence and occupational stress among police officers working in Madhepura district.

Ho#3: It is hypothesized that there will be no significant correlation ship between adjustment, emotional intelligence and occupational stress among head constables working in Madhepura district.

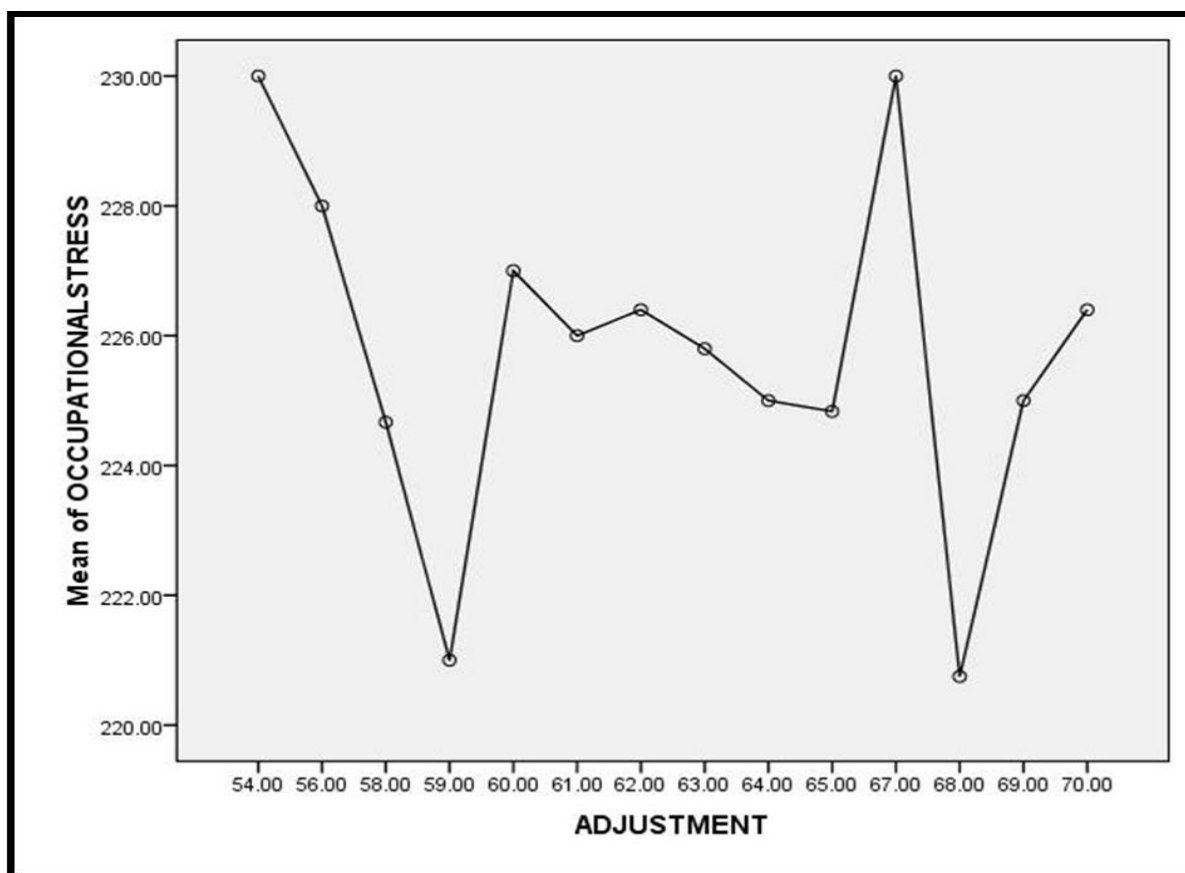
It means there is no correlation between occupational stress and emotional intelligence and therefore, emotional intelligence does not correlate with occupational stress.

Table: 1

Descriptive Statistics			
Dependent Variable: ADJUSTMENT			
SECURITY...	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
POLICE OFFICERS	66.0000	3.65148	25
HEAD CONSTABLES	65.4267	3.89099	75
CONSTABLES	64.4100	5.14457	100
Total	64.9900	4.55783	200

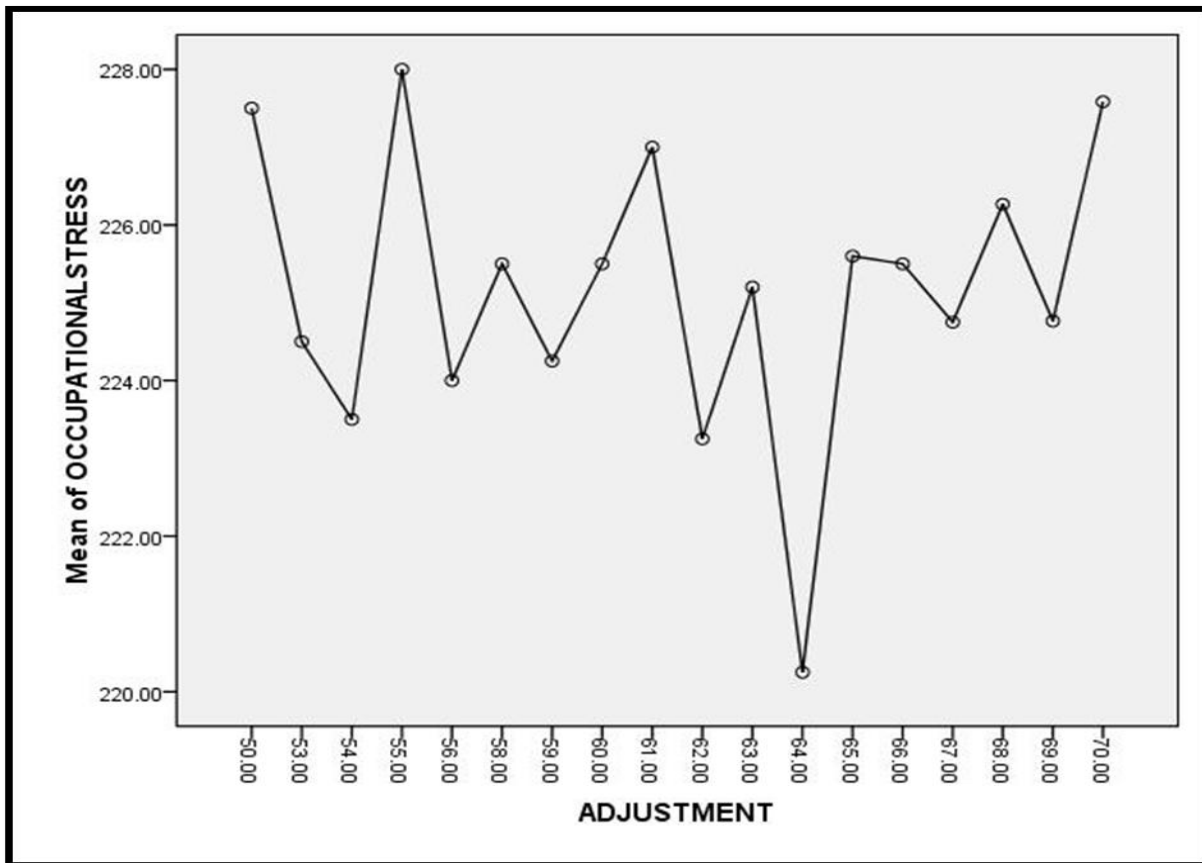
From the descriptive Statistics we can describe the level of adjustment among the different categories of police personnel.

Table 2



In the same manner the results of occupational stress and adjustment of Head Constables have been plotted in Figure-2, which brings the clear cut picture that occupational stress has positive effect on adjustment of head Constables of Madhepura.

Table: 3



The result indicates that it may be due to high responsibility of Police Officers being the high officials are demanding and challengeable. Due to big responsibilities they are living with occupational stress. Thus their overall adjustment may be affected with stress. It is pertinent from the Correlational values that if they are having less occupational stress they may be well-adjusted, and if they are overburdened of responsibilities, they may be having maladjustment.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY:

Without doubt, the Police force is one of the largest organizations in India. The technological advancement has changed the present day world. The life style of the

people has been changed. In spite of great efforts by the government and the police organization the crime rates are increasing very rapidly along with new techniques and latest sophisticated weapons are being used by the criminals. The police has to encounter not only traditional types of crimes but has to deal with socio-economic crimes, white collar crimes, blue collar crimes, organized crimes, abuse of drugs and narcotic trafficking, crimes related to slum and so on. In these days police personnel are also busy in high securities; they also control various religious processions and activities. In short, the police have to face a lot of challenges in day today activities. They have great responsibility and work burden, which causes strain, stress and anxiety.

Conclusion:

Obviously, in these days the police sector is becoming competitive and challenging in the country and the level of product and

service quality being offered to public is almost same. Hence, the police organizations provide more responsibilities on the employees. In this way they have to carry out their duties with care and stress.

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