

Impact of Workplace Bullying On Work Engagement And Employee Health

Shikha Choudhary, MBA(Human Resource)

Amity ODL

Abstract

In the working world, it's no secret that things are changing at a fast rate right today. Here, trade liberalization or countries' ease of trading is clearly evident. To thrive in today's competitive environment, managers must continually improve their skills, one of which is the creation of high-quality workers. Workers are a firm's biggest asset, and each business has a specific advantage in terms of its workforce's abilities. Reduced dependence on people's capacity to maintain long-term career stability and more on their ability to acquire skills to adapt to rapidly changing work situations. It's important to take into account the surrounding environment. The productivity of a corporation will suffer if its workers are dissatisfied. As a result of bullying, employees are unable to perform to their best. Workplace harassment results in a violation, harassment, and social ostracization of somebody's job. If a given behavior, contact, or activity occurs on a routine basis over a specified amount of time (e.g., six months), it might be characterized as harassing (e.g., once a week). Instead, a pattern of unwanted or unwelcome behavior against a single or a lot of workers is what is meant by "workplace harassment." Having a culture of harassment in the workplace affects many facets of a business, including how employees' motivation is to work there. Workers who are bullied are more frequently absent, more likely to leave the organization, and less likely to be fully involved if they have been bullied.

Keywords: Bullying, Work Engagement, Employee Health, Cyberbullying

Introduction

Cyberbullying is characterized as mistreatment that happens on a regular basis in the workplace. Verbal criticism, personal attacks, ridicule, demeaning, as well as isolation are all instances of this sort of behavior. Per research performed by the Workplace Discrimination Institute, 30 percent of workers have been directly harassed at work. Folks working remotely are more ready to report workplace violence, with 43.2 % claiming they had been bullied. Harassment at work has a severe affect on employees' health and very well. It could also have a harmful influence on productivity as well as effectiveness inside the work. Some of the indications as well as repercussions of workplace harassment are examined. It also examines how it impacts the work but also what people may do to aid avoid such behavior. Bullying in the workplace can have a detrimental effect on employee engagement and wellness, which is affected by the prevalence of rising unemployment. The worry of losing one's job is commonly considered as one of the most painful parts of employment. As a consequence of their employment becoming insecure, many

people are going to miss out on the advantages for which they are eligible to. Bullying in the workplace is among the most prevalent causes of job insecurity since it reduces individuals' ability to feel secure in respective positions. bullying in the work has a major harmful influence on employee health and job involvement. Job volatility does have a substantial as well as a positive influence on other factors. As a result, limiting workplace violence has been proposed as a means to boost employee motivation and well.

Hypothesis

1. Employee disengagement is lowered as a result of work-related cyberbullying.
2. Emotional well-being affects the link between bullying in the workplace as well as employee productivity.
3. In workplace harassment, HR employees are less engaged at work.
- 4.

Literature Review

The most typical form of bullying in the workforce was conducted face-to-face, but with the advancement of information technology, cyberbullying is becoming much more common. (Forsell, 2015) Mobile computers and phones are two of the most common causes of workplace bullying, as according. (Privitera, 2009) Threatening as well as offensive texts may be sent either directly or by obscuring the sender's identity. In addition, the writers (Forsell, 2015) address the anonymity that is a benefit of bullying. One of the advantages of bullying is the absence of oversight and physical location, which allows the offender to torment someone from somewhere without realizing how severe the consequences are.

The Harvard Business Review (2015) quoted by (Lianto, Eliyana, & Fauzan, 2018) reports that 71% of respondents view work engagement as the key to organizational success. For the most dedicated workers, it is indeed common knowledge that they're constantly seeking for methods that enhance their productivity and efficiency. Involved work is characterized by passion, devotion, and total immersion in one's job activities and responsibilities.

At work, having more vigor includes having more stamina and mental toughness. When it comes to dedication, it's all about being driven by a sense of pride and achievement. Absorption, on either hand, is used to describe someone who is totally consumed in refusing to stop working. Positive feelings of well-being or satisfaction associated with high levels of energy and a strong sense of identity in one's work are also associated with greater rates of job involvement (Goodboy et al., 2020). Furthermore, according to Abou Hashish et al. (2018) the word "work engagement" refers to an employee's intellectual and emotional commitment to the firm, which may be cognitive, emotional, or physiological.

Heinz Leymann quoted by (Rai, A & Agarwal, U. A., 2017) German-born doctor and psychologist is a pioneer in this profession who first focused on bullying at school and afterward expanded to include business bullies, he says. When someone's job duties are negatively impacted as a result of harassment, prejudice, or social rejection, this is known as "workplace bullying." (Rai, A & Agarwal, U. A., 2017)

Leymann (1990) was the describing the four stages of workplace bullying: Initiating the critical event: this phase may be brief and hard to notice and tackle since the critical incident is normally a conflict (usually an excessive workload); Personnel Administration: this stage is when the management interferes and misunderstands the scenario, stigmatizing the aim or refusing to accept responsibility for the unfair treatment; Bullying and social stigma: this phase represents ostracising actions by colleagues and management (like continual loud voiced criticism, demeaning or assigning meaningless tasks, isolation, violent threats). Finally, the target is usually ejected from the workplace either directly (rejection) or indirectly (termination) even by employer (the target decides to leave the organisation voluntarily).

Descriptions of Bullies in the Workplace

Just acting like a bully isn't enough to be labeled a workplace bully. In the workplace, a bully is driven by self and without any regard for other people. Not only does he disregard the emotions of others, but he also utilises all methods necessary to impose his will on them. Employees may feel pushed by their managers to achieve high levels of performance. Bosses of this kind are really not bullies, but it doesn't mean they are. Bullying among colleagues is a common occurrence in the workplace. Anger and anxiousness are prominent characteristics among bullies. People who are bullied in the past are more likely to be victimized again. Additionally, bullies are more likely to have painful experiences in their life. They worry about their relationships and family ties. They may also have a poor sense of self-worth. For this, they target others. (Safrizal, H. B. A, Eliyana, A, Usman, & Guna, 2020)

Characteristics as well as Traits of a Victim of Bullying in the Workplace

Bullied workers are also more likely to experience form rage and anxiety, according to a study. Bullied employees tend to be more irritated than those who are not. The data also show that children who are bullied are more intellectual than bullies adults, according to the study. In the workplace, these employees may be able to exceed and finish tasks more quickly than their peers. Inside the event that their coworkers do not desire this, these individuals may well be forced or intimidated into reducing their standards. Older employees may also be a cause of bullying for newer recruits. (Vîrgă& Iliescu, D. , 2017)

What are the Effects of Workplace Bullying?

Bullying has been linked to a variety of psychological and physical health issues. Bullying in the workplace does have a detrimental effect on both workers and employers. There is a high rate for employee turnover in a company where harassment is prevalent. It appears that employees' morale and motivation are suffering. Workplace fear and worry are common problems, in addition to the physical ailments. In addition, poor self limits workers' creativity.

As a result, they are less equipped to deal with stressful situations. Bullying leads workers to feel helpless because of the adverse effects on their health. (Moore, 2018)

Bullying in the Workplace May Cause Employees to Experience-

- Anxiety, tension headaches, as well as muscle and joint discomfort
- Anxiety
- Injury stress reaction
- Failure to satisfy financial obligations as a determinant of employee absences
- Nervousness
- Problems with digestive system
- Sleeplessness
- A lack of self-confidence and trust in oneself
- Propensity for Murder

Employers May be Impacted by Bullying in the Subsequent Implementation:

- There is a high prevalence of employee absenteeism due to a lack of employee commitment and job satisfaction
- There has been a spike in the amount of people leaving their jobs
- Unpleasant workplace environment
- Staff who have been bullied as well as left their jobs must be replace.
- Investigative & legal fees as well as expenses

Prevalence of Bullying in Different Parts of the World

Studies have shown that different nations have wildly varying prevalence rates for bullying. On the other hand, no law targeting workplace violence has been approved in North America. Moreover, only four of Canada's 10 provinces have approved laws to the this effect. The existence or lack of laws could be a factor in this difference. Bullying in the workplace has been addressed by law in some nations, but this has yet to be done by other nations. There may be proposals that were proposed in a nation in which there is no legislation regulating workplace violence. This discrepancy may also be due to the fact because bullying is seen

differently in various countries. Traditional bullying behaviours may not be seen as "bullying" by one individual, but they may be by another. (Goodboy, A. K., Martin, M. M., & Bolkan, S, 3020)

Ways to Prevent Workplace Bullying

- Employers must first recognize that bullying is a serious problem. After that, they'll have to step inside and start putting framework in order.
- To begin with, workers need to know that they have been being bullied. In order for them to understand that bullying is all about power, they must understand that they have been not the issue. They must also be aware that their performance has nothing to with this.
- Bullying occurrences must be recorded by employees, including phone calls and texts. It's also important that kids maintain a journal to note when occurrences occurred and how much they went on now for.
- After then, a victim of bullying go to the proper person as well as report the bullying. A forewarned victim might expect his or her accuser to refute the allegations made against him or her. When kids are being harassed, they need a third party to act as just an eyewitness. (Glabek, Skogstad, A., & Einarsen, S, 2018)

Secondarily, Employers

- Encourage employees to participate in managing stress, awareness of bad behaviours, and workplace community engagement. Employees should be able to interact with each other
- Educate their staff on the importance of being sensitive to the influence they have on others. Having a civilised work environment will be a result of this action.
- For example, they should set a clear standard for good conduct in the workplace.
- Workplace safety must be a priority. Make sure that the workload is reasonable and that each person's responsibilities are well stated.
- Just and equitable therapy is crucial, as is the promotion of supporting management. Ensure that managers are given proper training to ensure that they are treated fairly and constructively in the workplace.
- Victims of bullying must also be supported. Ensure a healthy work environment to promote a good work culture.
- They must also eliminate contributory factors to bullying, such as a lack of professional autonomy, a heavy workloads, and a stressful environment at work.
- Once bullying has happened and also been reported, react appropriately. If a coworker is being bullied, he or she must be demoted or sent to a different department. They should sack him if needed.

- Provide victims of workplace bullying access expert therapy. As a consequence, students may talk openly about their experience with bullying with a mental health expert. Employees must be taught how to deal with bullying if it does occur.
- Employees need to be taught to ignore and not take personally furious conduct .
- To handle stress, people must first learn to control their emotions. Mediation can be used to resolve a simple disagreement. When a victim and bully cooperate together, a third person may urge them to do so, focusing on future relationships. (Jalali, A, Jaafar, & Hidzir, N. I, 2020)

Employee Disengagement is Lowered as a Result of Work - Related Cyberbullying.

Bullying in the workplace is a pattern of abuse by colleagues that ends in physical or psychological harm to the victim. As well as humiliation as well as abuse in the form of verbal, unconscious, psychological, as well as physical abuse. Working in an atmosphere where bullies are expected to operate within their company's and society's codes and regulation makes it especially tough to deal with this specific kind of aggressiveness at work. Most workplace bullying is reported to have been perpetrated by someone in a position of authority. Bullies, on the other hand, are often peers than subordinates. (Rayner & Cooper, 2006) Additionally, studies looked at how bullying is influenced by the wider organisational environment as well as how processes at the collective level influence the occurrence as well as continuation of bullying behaviour. (Ramsay, et al., 2011)

Bullying may be subtle or observable in its expression. It may be overlooked by higher-ups, yet it may be well during the company. (Williams, 3 May 2011) Personnel morale may suffer, and a shift in the corporate success may happen as a consequence of the negative repercussions. Overbearing monitoring, and frequent criticism, but instead blocking advancements are all examples of this. (Landau, 29 March 2017)

Job Insecurity

One of the most difficult aspects of a workplace environment is job uncertainty. An individual's well-being is jeopardised because of the uncertainty surrounding his or her employment. This is what is meant by the term "job insecurity." According to a global or multifaceted view of work insecurity, job loss, rising unemployment or job vulnerability may all be seen as a danger to one's job. Job insecurity may also be described as a feeling of powerlessness in the midst of a dangerously volatile work position. Having a negative frame of mind about going out to work is one way to show the strain that comes from having a precarious job. (Taris, T. & Schaufeli, W. , 2015) Various components of work security may be inferred from this definition, including doubt as to whether someone will ultimately leave their job, ambiguity about when loss of jobs will happen, and uncertainty about the repercussions of unemployment. In other words, work insecurity is linked to a variety of theory of human needs since it is influenced by the likelihood of finding a new job,

the amount of dependency upon pay, and the level of danger to survival. Formulation of Assumptions Bullying in the workplace and employee satisfaction It is the psychological connection between workers and their job in the work. It's common for workers who are fully engaged in work to be engaged in the task at hand. Employee involvement in an organisation must be taken account. (Conway, P. M., Hogh, A, Balducci, & Ebbesen, D. K., 2018) When employees are engaged in their jobs, they are more likely to be innovative and productive. Leaders at all levels of the business must be concerned about and pay more attention to the variables that reduce employee job engagement. Workplace bullying has indeed been found to have a detrimental effect on employee engagement. As a result of workplace bullying, people may feel underpaid as well as underappreciated. As a result, workplace harassment may weaken its victims as well as lower their job engagement, which is why it is regarded a cause of (poor) wellbeing connected to job. (Abou, E., Abdel, N., & Mousa, 2018)

Conclusion

It's long past time for employers all around the globe to handle harassment and harassment in the workplace as if it were a form of rape or sexual assault. Greater employee rate of absenteeism might be consequences of workplace harassment. It reduces productivity as well as fosters a negative work atmosphere. As a result, workplace tensions rise and spirits drop. It has an impact both on physical and emotional health of your staff. The company's reputation suffers as a result of workplace bullying. This will also scare away prospective hires. There are several benefits for companies in preventing work - related bullying. Employees are much more likely to be active and effective while working in a good working environment. If a firm is bullied at work, it may face legal implications. It has the ability to erode consumer trust as well as damage a company's good reputation. A company's financial line loses, as do its workers, when abuse and harassment occur on the job. Lastly, it is critical for businesses to endeavour to eliminate workplace violence.

References

1. A. H., E. A., Abdel, N. H., & Mousa. (2018). Nurses' perception of psychological empowerment and its relationship to work engagement and job insecurity. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice*, 8(9), 36. <https://doi.org/10.5430/jnep.v>.
2. Conway, P. M., Hogh, A, Balducci, & Ebbesen, D. K. (2018). *Workplace Bullying and Mental Health*. 1–27. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-6173-8_5-1.
3. Forssell, R. (2015). Exploring cyberbullying and face- -face bullying in working life. *computers in human behaviour*.

4. Glambek, M., Skogstad, A., & Einarsen, S. (2018). *Workplace bullying, the development of job insecurity and the role of laissez-faire leadership: A two-wave moderated mediation study*. *Work and Stress*, 32(3), 297–312. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02678373.2018>.
5. Goodboy, A. K., Martin, M. M., & Bolkan, S. (2020). Workplace Bullying and Work Engagement: A Self-Determination Model. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 35(21–22), 4686–4708. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517717492>.
6. Jalali, A, Jaafar, & Hidzir, N. I. (2020). Indirect effect of workplace bullying on emotional exhaustion through job insecurity among Malaysian workers: The buffering role of religion. *Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research*, 11(7), 132.
7. Landau, P. (29 March 2017). *Bullying at work: your legal rights*. The Guardian.
8. Lianto, E. A., & Fauzan. (2018). Enhancing the employee engagement: The mediating role of exchange ideology. *Jurnal Pengurusan*: <https://doi.org/10.17576/pengurusan-2018-53-06>.
9. Moore, C. A. (2018). Workplace bullying as experienced by bystanders in manufacturing.
10. Privitera, C. (2009). cyberbullying the new face of workplace bullying. *cyberpsychology and behaviour*.
11. Rai, A, & Agarwal, U. A. (2017). Linking workplace bullying and work engagement: The mediating role of psychological contract violation. . In *South Asian Journal of Human Resources Management* (pp. 4(1), 42–71). Indriyani et al: The Role of Job Insecurity Mediat.
12. Ramsay, Sheryl, Troth, Ashlea, Branch, & Sara. (2011). Work-place bullying: A group processes framework. *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology*, 84 (4): 799–816. doi:10.1348/2044-8325.002000.
13. Rayner, C., & Cooper, C. (2006). Workplace Bullying. E., Barling, J. & Hurrell Jr., J. (eds.), *Handbook of workplace violence* (pp. 47-90). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
14. Safrizal, H. B. A, Eliyana, A, Usman, & Guna. (2020). The effect of transformational leadership on job satisfaction. *The mediation effect of self-efficacy and work engagement. Systematic Reviews in Pharmacy*, 11(8), 166–177. <https://doi.org/>.
15. Taris, T., & Schaufeli, W. . (2015). *Well-being and Performance at Work: A conceptual and theoretical overview*. . *Well-Being and Performance at Work The Role of Context*.

16. Virgă, & Iliescu, D. . (2017). The well-being of Romanian workers in Spain: antecedents and moderators. *European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1359432X.2016.1225728>.
17. Williams, R. (3 May 2011). *The Silent Epidemic: Workplace Bullying*". Psychology Today.