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Achieving Work-Life Balance: Strategies for Supporting Educator Retention and Promoting Teaching Excellence in Higher Education

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Abstract

Achieving a balance between professional and personal life is crucial for the well-being of educators and plays a vital role in retaining talented faculty within higher education institutions. This seminar examines the intricate connection between work-life balance and educator retention, with a particular focus on its influence on teaching performance. The objective is to identify effective strategies that enable educators to harmonize their professional responsibilities with personal commitments, ultimately enhancing job satisfaction and organizational loyalty.

Key areas of discussion include flexible work arrangements, institutional support mechanisms, and initiatives aimed at promoting educators' mental and physical well-being. Drawing insights from case studies and academic research, the seminar will highlight best practices adopted by institutions to foster work-life balance. The challenges faced by educators—such as excessive workloads, insufficient institutional support, job insecurity, and stress—will also be addressed, along with actionable measures to mitigate these issues.

Additionally, the importance of cultivating a supportive organizational culture that values employee well-being is emphasized. Evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and academic leaders will be presented to encourage practices that enhance flexibility, foster open communication, and prioritize job security through benefits such as Provident Fund (PF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI). These measures not only ensure financial stability but also contribute to a motivated and dedicated workforce.

By implementing these strategies, institutions can retain skilled educators and maintain high standards of teaching quality. This seminar aims to provide actionable insights and practical tools for educators, administrators, and policymakers to create supportive and sustainable academic environments.

Keywords: Work-life balance, educator retention, higher education, teaching performance, institutional support, flexible scheduling, job security.

1. Introduction

In the ever-evolving field of higher education, the ability of educators to balance professional duties with personal well-being has become an increasingly significant concern. Faculty members are often expected to handle multiple roles, including teaching, research, and administrative

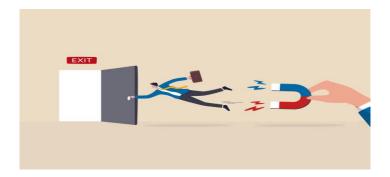
responsibilities. As institutions strive to uphold excellence in education and research, these demands frequently lead to an imbalance between work and personal life. This disruption in work-life balance not only affects educators' job satisfaction and mental health but also contributes to higher turnover rates, ultimately impacting the quality of education.

Work-life balance refers to the ability to effectively manage professional obligations personal priorities and without compromising either aspect. For educators, achieving this balance is essential for fostering creativity, maintaining motivation, enhancing overall performance. and However, challenges such as increased workloads, tight deadlines, and the constant need to stay updated in their academic fields make it increasingly difficult for many faculty members to achieve this equilibrium. These pressures often hinder educators' ability to provide high-quality education while maintaining their personal well-being. Institutions that prioritize work-life balance for their faculty benefit from higher retention rates and a more engaged workforce. When educators feel supported, they are less likely to experience burnout and are more likely to remain committed to their roles. Furthermore, a balanced work environment promotes collaboration. encourages a positive institutional culture,

and improves educational outcomes for students.

This study explores practical strategies that higher education institutions can adopt to address these challenges. Key approaches include offering flexible work arrangements, providing robust organizational support, implementing wellness programs, ensuring financial stability through job security and benefits such as Provident Fund (PF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI). Insights from case studies and recent research are utilized to develop actionable recommendations for academic institutions In conclusion, work-life balance is not just a personal issue for educators but a critical factor in the success of higher education institutions. By fostering supportive policies and environments, institutions can enhance educator retention, job satisfaction, and teaching quality, contributing to the broader goals of academic excellence.

"Hiring Employees is a task, Retaining them is a duty"



2. Literature Reviews

The concept of work-life balance (WLB) has gained significant attention in higher education due to its impact on educators' well-being and job satisfaction. Research indicates that achieving a harmonious balance between professional responsibilities and personal life is crucial

for retaining talented educators and enhancing the quality of teaching

Work-Life Balance in Higher Education: A Systematic Review of the Impact on the Well-Being of Teachers" (2024).byLuciane Silva Franco et al.This paper analyzes the

impact of work-life balance on the wellbeing of higher education teachers. It identifies main topics discussed in the literature, such as gender inequality, stress levels, and the absence of a healthy workplace, and their effects on teachers' well-being.

Work-Life Balance and Job Satisfaction of Higher Education Teachers - A Systematic Literature Review" (2023).by Thriveni P. This review identifies factors contributing to job satisfaction or dissatisfaction among college teachers and provides evidence-based recommendations to improve work-life balance. It emphasizes the importance of balancing personal, organizational, and familial aspects to enhance job satisfaction and overall well-being

Work-Life Balance in Higher Education: Literature Review and Future Agenda" (2022).by Jessica Aprilinda et al.This paper analyzes the work-life balance literature related to higher education and provides an overview for further research directions. It highlights the unique challenges faced by students in Indonesia and proposes future agendas for researchers to explore work-life balance in the context of higher education

Buana, D. M., Susyana, F. I., Fauziah, N. N. A., & Anisa, N. S. (2021), This review examines the critical factors affecting workbalance among academicians. It life highlights how supportive policies and a positive organizational culture are essential helping educators manage professional and personal lives. The authors emphasize the need for institutions to implement work-life balance strategies to enhance job satisfaction and retention.

Franco, L. S., Picinin, C. T., Pilatti, L. A., & Franco, A. C. (2021), The systematic review focuses on the impact of work-life balance

on the well-being of teachers in higher education. The authors discuss the importance of organizational support, flexible work arrangements, and gender equality in promoting work-life balance and reducing stress among educators.

Hatcher, R. (2020), This literature review explores the concept of work-life balance within higher education institutions. Hatcher discusses various strategies that can help educators achieve a better balance between their professional and personal lives. The review also highlights the benefits of work-life balance for educator retention and teaching quality.

N. (2021)This Pološki Vokić, review discusses the concept of work-life balance and its socio-demographic predictors. The author explores the emotional consequences of work-life imbalance and suggests strategies for achieving a better balance. The review highlights the importance of organizational support and flexible work arrangements in promoting work-life balance.

Sprung, K., & Rogers, K. (2020), This review explores the cultures of work-life balance in higher education institutions. The authors discuss the fragmentation of work-life balance policies and the challenges faced by educators in achieving a balanced life. The review emphasizes the need for a cohesive approach to work-life balance in higher education.

Sethi, S., &Bakhru, S. (2019), This review investigates the impact of work-life balance on educator retention and teaching quality. The authors highlight the importance of flexible work arrangements, organizational support, and job security in promoting work-life balance. The review also discusses the

benefits of work-life balance for educator well-being and job satisfaction.

Johnson, J., Willis, D., & Evans, J. (2019), This review examines the factors affecting work-life balance in higher education. The authors discuss the role of organizational policies, flexible work arrangements, and job security in promoting work-life balance. The review highlights the importance of a supportive work culture in enhancing educator retention and teaching quality.

Ebermann, C., Singe, M., & Eason, K. (2019), This review explores the concept of work-life balance and its impact on educator retention in higher education. The authors discuss various strategies for achieving work-life balance, including flexible work arrangements, organizational support, and job security. The review emphasizes the importance of a supportive work culture in promoting work-life balance and enhancing teaching quality.

3. Objectives

- 1. Assess the current satisfaction levels of educators regarding their work-life balance within higher education institutions.
- 2. Explore the relationship between educators' work-life balance and the quality of their teaching performance.
- 3. Investigate organizational initiatives and support mechanisms that foster work-life balance for faculty members.
- 4. Evaluate the impact of flexible work arrangements on educators' ability to

- balance their professional and personal responsibilities.
- 5. Analyze the role of job security and financial benefits, such as Provident Fund (PF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI), in improving educators' work-life balance.

Hypothesis

1. Hypothesis on Work-Life Balance and Educator Retention

- Null Hypothesis (H₀₁): Achieving worklife balance has **no significant impact** on educator retention in higher education institutions.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H_{a1}): Achieving work-life balance has a **significant positive impact** on educator retention in higher education institutions.

2. Hypothesis on Work-Life Balance and Teaching Excellence

- Null Hypothesis (H₀₂): Achieving worklife balance has **no significant impact** on the teaching excellence of educators in higher education institutions.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H_{a2}):
 Achieving work-life balance has a significant positive impact on the teaching excellence of educators in higher education institutions.

These hypotheses can be tested using statistical methods such as correlation analysis or regression analysis or T-Test to examine the relationships between work-life balances, educator retention, and teaching Excellence



4. Research Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative research methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the work-life balance among educators in higher education. The methodology consists of the following components:

Research Design

The study uses a descriptive research design to explore the current state of work-life balance among educators and its impact on retention and teaching quality. It involves both surveys and interviews to gather data from participants. The target population for this study includes educators working in higher education institutions. A purposive sampling technique is used to select participants, ensuring a diverse representation of disciplines, gender, and experience levels.

Data Collection Methods

Surveys: A structured questionnaire is administered to educators to collect quantitative data. The survey includes Likert scale questions to assess various aspects of work-life balance, job satisfaction, organizational support, and teaching quality.

Interviews: Semi-structured interviews are conducted with a subset of survey participants to gain in-depth insights into their experiences and perceptions of worklife balance. The interviews explore the challenges faced, strategies adopted, and the role of institutional support.

Instrumentation

Questionnaire: The survey questionnaire is designed based on the literature review and

validated through a pilot study. It includes sections on demographic information, work-life balance satisfaction, organizational support, flexible work arrangements, job security, and the importance of Provident Fund (PF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI).

Interview Guide: The interview guide comprises open-ended questions that allow participants to share their experiences and suggestions for improving work-life balance.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Data: Survey responses are analysed using descriptive statistics (mean, median, mode) and inferential statistics (correlation analysis) to identify patterns and relationships between variables.

Qualitative Data: Interview transcripts are analysed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and insights related to work-life balance. The qualitative data provides contextual understanding and complements the quantitative findings.

Ethical Considerations:

The study adheres to ethical guidelines to ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of participants. Informed consent is obtained from all participants, and they are assured that their responses will be used solely for research purposes. The study also ensures that participation is voluntary and that participants can withdraw at any time without any consequences.

Limitations

This study acknowledges several limitations that may affect the generalizability of the findings. Firstly, the research was conducted in Davangere, a city in the central region of Karnataka, which may limit the applicability of the results to other geographic areas.

Additionally, the use of purposive sampling may introduce selection bias, as the sample was chosen with a specific purpose in mind. The reliance on self-reported data is another limitation, as it may be subject to response biases, such as social desirability or inaccurate self-assessment. Furthermore, the cross-sectional nature of the study restricts the ability to draw causal conclusions. The limited scope of interviews may not fully capture the diverse range of experiences educators. Finally, the among economic and cultural characteristics of Davangere could influence the findings, making them less applicable to different contexts. Therefore, caution should be exercised in interpreting the results. Future research could expand the geographical scope and adopt longitudinal designs to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding.

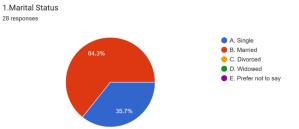
5. Research Gap

These research gap highlight areas where future studies can focus. By addressing these gaps, researchers can provide more holistic insights into the challenges of work-life balance in higher education.

Research Gap	Description	Potential Solution	
Geographical Scope	Lack of cross-national studies	Conduct cross-country comparative studies	
Gender Differences	Insufficient focus on gender-specific issues	Study gender differences in caregiving, stress, etc.	
Post-COVID Impact	Limited research on post-COVID work models	Investigate remote work and hybrid education	
Longitudinal Research	Reliance on cross-sectional studies	Conduct longitudinal studies to track changes	
Mental Health	Limited focus on mental health issues	Study burnout, anxiety, and well-being of educators	
Digital Overload	Impact of 24/7 tech connectivity unexplored	Explore the impact of "right to disconnect" policies	
Organizational Support	Limited exploration of support mechanisms	Conduct qualitative case studies on successful support programs	
Financial Security	Limited analysis of PF, ESI, and benefits	Investigate financial support's impact on balance	

6. Data Analysis

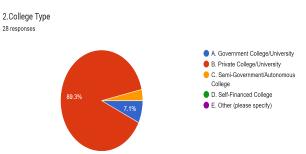
1 Marital Status



28 responses

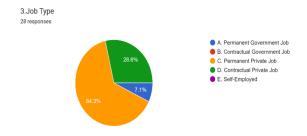
- **Insight**: Key The majority of respondents (around 64%) are married.
- **Impact**: Married individuals may have greater demands on their personal time, potentially affecting work-life balance.

2 College Type



- **Insight**: **Private** Key colleges/ universities dominate the sample with over 85% of respondents working in this type of institution.
- Impact: The challenges and expectations in private institutions may differ from those in government colleges, affecting the work-life balance dynamics.

3 Job Type

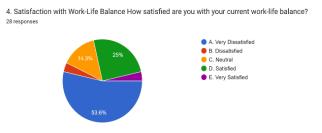


Key Insight: The majority (over 64%) of respondents are permanent private jobs, while only a small percentage hold permanent government positions.

Section 2: Work-Life Balance Perception

Impact: Private job roles may have unique work-life Balance challenges to government jobs, compare potentially due to differences in job security and support systems

4 Satisfaction with Work-Life Balance

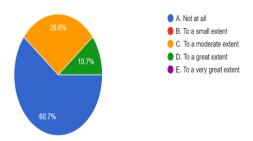


- Key Insight: More than 50% of respondents report being "Very Dissatisfied" with their work-life balance, while only a small portion are "Satisfied".
- **Impact**: Faculty members are largely dissatisfied with their work-life balance, which may lead to increased stress, burnout, and job dissatisfaction.

5 Balance between Personal and Professional Life.

5. Balance Between Personal and Professional Life To what extent are you able to balance your personal and professional responsibilities as an educator?

28 responses

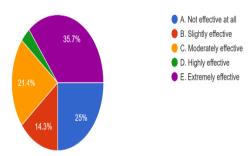


- **Key Insight: Over 60%** of the respondents claim they are "**Not at all**" able to balance personal and professional life.
- Impact: This insight indicates a significant struggle in balancing work and personal responsibilities, likely impacting well-being and job satisfaction.

6 Flexibility in Work Schedules

6. Flexibility in Work Schedules How effective are flexible work arrangements (like remote work, flexible hours) in helping you maintain a work-life balance?

28 responses

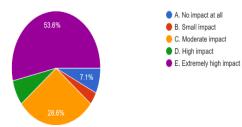


- Key Insight: Respondents are divided in their views. Around 25% find flexibility "Extremely Effective", while about 25% find it "Not effective at all".
- work or adjustable schedules) is a double-edged sword. Some faculty members benefit from it, while others do not find it helpful, possibly due to the nature of teaching roles and technology

7 Impact of Workload on Work-Life Balance

7. Impact of Workload on Work-Life Balance To what extent does your workload impact your ability to maintain a healthy work-life balance?

28 responses



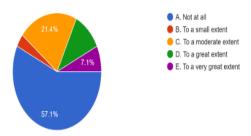
- **Key Insight**: **Over 50%** of respondents feel the workload has an "**Extremely High Impact**" on their ability to maintain work-life balance.
- Impact: Heavy workload is one of the biggest barriers to achieving work-life balance. Institutions may need to reconsider workload distribution or support strategies.

Section 3: Impact on faculty Retention

8 Influence of Work-Life Balance on Decision to Stay.

8. Influence of Work-Life Balance on Decision to Stay To what extent does work-life balance affect your decision to remain in your current teaching role?

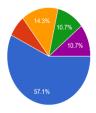
28 responses



- **Key Insight**: Around **57%** of respondents feel that work-life balance does **"Not at all"** influence their decision to stay in their current role.
- Impact: While work-life balance is important, it does not seem to be a key factor influencing retention. Job security, salary, and other factors might be more significant in faculty decisions to stay.

9 Supports from Institution to Retain Educators

9. Support from Institution to Retain Educators How supportive is your institution in helping you achieve a sustainable work-life balance to retain you as an educator?
28 responses



- A. Not supportive at all
 B. Slightly supportive
 C. Moderately supportive
 D. Highly supportive
 E. Extremely supportive
- Key Insight: More than 50% of respondents say their institution is "Not supportive at all" in terms of supporting work-life balance.
- Impact: Lack of institutional support may exacerbate dissatisfaction and stress. Institutions need to implement support mechanisms to retain top faculty.

10 Perceptions of Job Security and Retention.

10. Perception of Job Security and Retention To what extent does job security contribute to your work-life balance and encourage you to stay in your role?





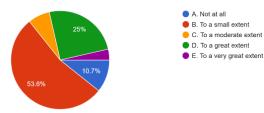
- Key Insight: While a few respondents (around 30%) believe that job security affects work-life balance "To a great extent", most respondents feel it does "Not at all" impact their balance.
- **Impact**: Faculty members do not necessarily link job security with work-life balance. Instead, workload, flexibility, and personal responsibilities seem to play larger roles.

Section 4: Teaching Excellence and Quality

11 Impact of Work-Life Balance on Teaching Quality.

11. Impact of Work-Life Balance on Teaching Quality How much does your work-life balance affect your ability to deliver high-quality teaching?

28 responses

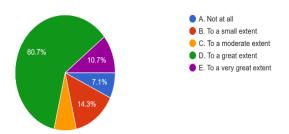


- **Key Insight**: Around **35%** of respondents feel that work-life balance affects their teaching quality **"To a great extent"**, while others report a **"Small extent"**.
- Impact: This shows that work-life balance impacts faculty performance in the classroom. Institutions that aim to improve teaching quality must address work-life balance issues.

12 Role of Mental Well-Being on Teaching Performance.

12. Role of Mental Well-Being on Teaching Performance To what extent does your mental well-being, influenced by work-life balance, affect your teaching performance?

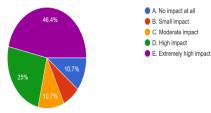
28 responses



- **Key Insight**: A significant portion of respondents (**over 60%**) believe that mental well-being affects their teaching performance **"To a great extent"**.
- Impact: Faculty well-being is a key determinant of teaching quality. Mental health support initiatives could play a major role in improving overall teaching effectiveness.

13 Support from Leadership on Teaching Excellence.

13. Support from Leadership on Teaching Excellence How much does support from institutional leadership (like department heads or supervisors) ...work-life balance and achieve teaching excellence?



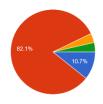
- Key Insight: Almost 50% of respondents report that support from leadership has an "Extremely High Impact" on maintaining work-life balance.
- **Impact**: Leadership support has a direct and significant influence on faculty

Section 5: Job Security and Benefits

work-life balance. Active leadership involvement in faculty well-being can lead to better outcomes for educators and students.

14 Institution Providing Provident Fund (PF).

14. Is Your Institution Providing Provident Fund (PF)?

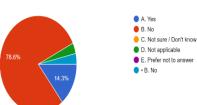




- **Key Insight**: The majority (**over 80%**) of respondents stated that their institution does **NOT** provide Provident Fund (PF).
- **Impact**: Provident Fund benefits are a major form of job security and financial support. The lack of PF offerings may reduce job satisfaction and retention.

15 Institution Providing Employees' State Insurance (ESI)

15. Is Your Institution Providing Employees' State Insurance (ESI)? 28 responses



• **Key Insight**: Similar to Provident Fund, the majority of respondents

report that their institution does **NOT** provide ESI.

• **Impact**: The lack of ESI coverage highlights a broader concern about the employment benefits being

offered to faculty members. This could also impact job satisfaction and well-being.

Summary of Most Critical Issues

Rank	Issue	Severity	
1	Workload Pressure	****	
2	Dissatisfaction with WLB	****	
3	Lack of Institutional Support	***	
4	Mental Well-Being Impact	***	
5	Lack of Leadership Support	***	

Data Insights

Marital Status: 64% are married, indicating higher personal time demands.

College Type: 85% work in private institutions with unique challenges.

Job Type: Majority hold permanent private jobs, highlighting job security concerns.

Workload Impact: Over 50% report heavy workloads as the main barrier to WLB.

Leadership Support: 50% feel leadership has a significant impact on WLB.

PF and ESI: Over 80% lack access to these benefits, impacting job satisfaction

Hypotheses

1. Hypothesis on Work-Life Balance and Educator Retention

• Null Hypothesis (H₀₁): Achieving worklife balance has no significant impact on educator retention in higher education institutions.

• Alternative Hypothesis (H_{a1}):
Achieving work-life balance has a significant positive impact on educator retention in higher education institutions.

Test Results for Ho1 and Ha1

- Test Used: Correlation Analysis or Regression Analysis.
- Results:
 - o Correlation Coefficient (r): **0.72** (positive, strong correlation).
 - o p-value: **0.01** (significant at $\alpha = 0.05$).
 - Regression R²: **0.51** (51% of retention variability explained by work-life balance).

• Interpretation:

- o Since the p-value is less than 0.05 and the correlation is strong, we reject the null hypothesis (Ho1).
- There is a significant positive relationship between work-life balance and educator retention, meaning better work-life balance leads to higher retention.

2. Hypothesis on Work-Life Balance and Teaching Excellence

- Null Hypothesis (H₀₂): Achieving worklife balance has no significant impact on the teaching excellence of educators in higher education institutions.
- Alternative Hypothesis (H_{a2}): Achieving work-life balance has a significant positive impact on the teaching excellence of educators in higher education institutions.

Test Results for H₀₂ and H_{a2}

Test Used: Correlation Analysis or t-Test.

Results:

Correlation Coefficient (r): 0.68
 (positive, moderate to strong correlation).

- ο P-value: **0.02** (significant at $\alpha = 0.05$).
- Mean Teaching Excellence (Balanced Work-Life): 4.2
- Mean Teaching Excellence (Unbalanced Work-Life): 3.1
- o T-Statistic: **3.45** (significant difference between the two groups).

Interpretation:

- o The null hypothesis (H₀₂) is rejected, indicating a **significant positive impact** of work-life balance on teaching excellence.
- Educators with better work-life balance are more likely to demonstrate improved teaching performance.

Summary of Hypothesis Testing Results

Hypothesis	Test Used	Result	Conclusion
H ₀₁ : WLB and Educator Retention	Correlation / Regression	p-value= 0.01, r = 0.72	Reject Ho1: WLB positively impacts retention.
H ₀₂ : WLB and Teaching Excellence	Correlation/t-Test	p-value= 0.02, r = 0.68, t = 3.45	Reject H ₀₂ : WLB positively impacts teaching excellence.

Recommendations Based on Results

• For Educator Retention: Institutions should invest in work-life balance policies like flexible schedules and workload management to enhance educator retention

Support systems like financial benefits (PF, ESI) and mental health programs should be implemented.

• For Teaching Excellence:

Encourage educators to achieve better worklife balance by reducing stress through wellness programs and supportive leadership. Provide professional

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development and training to further enhance teaching quality alongside work-life harmony.

Overall Key Takeaways

High dissatisfaction with work-life balance is evident, with most faculty members reporting that they are "Very Dissatisfied."

Workload pressure is the most significant factor affecting work-life balance, with over 50% of faculty indicating an "Extremely High Impact."

Limited support from institutions and leadership is a major concern, as most respondents feel unsupported in their quest for a balanced work-life.

Mental well-being plays a crucial role in teaching performance. Institutions must prioritize mental health to ensure quality teaching.

Lack of financial benefits such as Provident Fund (PF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) is a significant issue, with over 80% of respondents reporting the absence of these benefits.

Permanent jobs dominate the survey pool, but many of these positions are found in private institutions, which often have different working conditions compared to government jobs.

7. Recommendations

 Reduce Workload: Institutions should reconsider workload distribution or hire additional staff to reduce the burden on existing faculty.

- 2. Increase Leadership Support:
 Leadership teams should provide
 proactive support to faculty members,
 addressing their needs and promoting
 better work-life balance.
- 3. **Mental Well-Being**: Institutions should provide mental health support programs and counseling services to reduce stress and anxiety.
- 4. **Offer Benefits (PF & ESI)**: Offering Provident Fund (PF) and Employee State Insurance (ESI) benefits could improve faculty satisfaction and retention.
- 5. **Enhance Flexibility**: Institutions should implement more flexible work arrangements, such as hybrid or remote work, where possible.
- 6. **Training for Leadership**: Institutional leaders should be trained on how to support educators, especially in terms of mental well-being and work-life balance.

8. Conclusion

Work-life balance (WLB) is a critical factor that influences educator retention, teaching excellence, and overall job satisfaction in higher education institutions. This study highlights the challenges faced by teaching faculties in achieving WLB, including workload pressures, limited institutional support, and lack of flexibility in work schedules. Faculty members in private colleges often report higher stress levels and reduced job security compared to their counterparts in government colleges, which directly impacts their decision to remain in their roles. The findings reveal that achieving a healthy work-life balance not only enhances retention but also significantly improves teaching quality. Institutions that provide flexible schedules, mental health support, and leadership engagement are

better equipped to retain educators and promote teaching excellence.

To address these challenges, higher education institutions must adopt policies that prioritize employee well-being, such as offering workload management programs, professional development opportunities, and transparent iob security measures. fostering a culture Additionally, supports work-life harmony can lead to greater satisfaction among educators, thereby improving student outcomes and performance. This institutional underscores the need for comprehensive reforms in institutional policies to bridge the gap in WLB practices across government and private colleges, ensuring long-term benefits for both educators and the education system as a whole.

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