The Factors of Stress among Industrial Workers in Malaysia: A Study at Shorubber (M) Sdn. Bhd

A thesis submitted to the College of Business in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Human Resource Management, Universiti Utara Malaysia

By:

SYAHIRA BINTI SA'ABAN

PERMISSION TO USE

In presenting this project paper in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a postgraduate degree from Universities Utara Malaysia, I agree that the University Library make it freely available for inspection. I further agree that permission for copying of this project paper in any manner, in whole or in part, for scholarly purpose may be granted by my supervisor(s) or, in their absence by the Dean of Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business. It is understood that any copying or publication or use of this project paper or parts thereof for financial gain shall not be given to me and to University Utara Malaysia for any scholarly use which may be made of any material from my project paper. Request for permission to copy or make other use of materials in this project paper, in whole or in part should be addressed to:

Dean of Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business College of Business Universiti Utara Malaysia 06010 UUM Sintok Kedah Darul Aman

DISCLAIMER

The author is responsible for the accuracy of all opinion, technical comment, factual report, data figures, illustrations and photographs in this dissertation. The author bears full responsibility for the checking whether material submitted is subject to copyright or ownership right. University Utara Malaysia (UUM) does not accept any liability for the accuracy of such comment, report and other technical and factual information and the copyright or ownership rights claims.

The author declares that this dissertation is original and his own except those literatures, quotations, explanations and summarization which are duly identified and recognized. The author hereby granted the copyright of this dissertation to College of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) for publishing if necessary.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine the factors of stress among industrial workers in Malaysia. There are three independent variables in this study which are work environment, management support and employee satisfaction.

This study was done among 244 operators in Shorubber (M) Sdn. Bhd. Data were gathered through questionnaires and being analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 16.0. This software was used to analyze the data and test each hypothesis in this study.

The findings suggested that only work environment and employee satisfaction were supported the hypothesis in this study. Management support was not supported the hypothesis. Recommendations for future research and for the company were also discussed.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui faktor-faktor tekanan di kalangan pekerja industri di Malaysia. Terdapat tiga pembolehubah tidak bersandar di dalam kajian ini iaitu persekitaran kerja, sokongan pihak pengurusan dan kepuasan pekerja.

Kajian ini telah dijalankan terhadap 244 operator pengeluaran di Shorubber (M) Sdn. Bhd. Data telah diperolehi memalui soalan dan telah dianalisa menggunakan Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) versi 16.0. Perisian ini telah digunakan untuk menganalisa data dan menguji setiap hipotesis di dalam kajian ini.

Penemuan menunjukkan bahawa hanya perserkitaran kerja dan kepuasan pekerja menyokong hipotesis didalam kajian ini. Manakala, sokongan pihak pengurusan tidak menyokong hipotesis. Cadangan untuk kajian akan datang dan kepada organisasi juga turut dibincangkan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bismillahirahmanirrahim Alhamdullillah,

In the name of ALLAH the almighty, I praise him and felt very grateful to him for having showed me devine in completing this thesis successfully. This thesis is done to fulfil the requirement to achieve Master of Human Resource Management program in Universiti Utara Malaysia. Many people are kind enough to provide me assistance in achieving an excellent result in the process for the research to be in reality.

My sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Mr. Ghazali Din for his valuable supervision and guidance during this thesis writing process from the beginning until the end.

I also like to extend my gratitude and thankful to Mr. Amir, Safety Officer at Shorubber (M) Sdn. Bhd, who help me in give the information about the company and also distribute and collect the questionnaire during my data collection process.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my love and thankful to my family especially my mother who have indirectly supported me in my research and also to those many friends who had helped in the making of this thesis complete.

TABLE OF CONTENT

PERMISSION TO USE	i-ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENT	vi-vii
LIST OF TABLE	viii
LIST OF FIGURE	ix
CHAPTERS	PAGES

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of the study	1-4
1.2	Scope of the study	5
1.3	Problem statement	6-9
1.4	Research questions	10
1.5	Research objectives	10
1.6	Significant of the Study	11-12
1.8	Limitations of the study	12-13
1.7	Definitions of the Key Terms	14-15

1-15

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW 16-36

2.1 Theory and model of stress	16-19
2.2 Findings from past research	19-21
2.3 Variables in this study	22-30
2.4 Relationship between variables	31-34
2.5 Summary of relationship between variables	35-36

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	37-57
3.1 Introduction	37-38
3.2 Study variables	38-39
3.3 Theoretical framework	39
3.4 Hypothesis	40
3.5 Measurement	41-44
3.6 Population & Sample	45
3.7 Data collection	46
3.8 Data analysis	47-51
3.9 Pilot test	52-56
3.10 Summary	57
CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND FINDINGS	58-73
4.1 Introduction	58
4.2 Respondents profile	58
4.3 Respondents background	59-64
4.4 Reliability analysis	65-66
4.5 Descriptive statistic	66-68
4.6 Correlation analysis	68-70
4.7 Regression	71-73
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	73-78
5.1 Introduction	74
5.2 Discussion	74-76
5.3 Recommendation	76-77
5.4 Conclusion	78
REFERENCES	79-82
APPENDICES	83-90
vii	

LIST OF TABLE

- Table 2.5.1: Summary of relationship between variables
- Table 3.5.1.1: Summary of every section in the questionnaire
- Table 3.9.1: Reliability test for Work Environment
- Table 3.9.2: Reliability test for Management Support
- Table 3.9.3: Reliability test for Employee Satisfaction
- Table 3.9.4: Reliability test for Stress
- Table 4.3.1.1: Respondents frequency based on Gender
- Table 4.3.2.1: Respondents frequency based on Age
- Table 4.3.3.1: Respondents frequency based on Marital Status
- Table 4.3.4.1: Respondents frequency based on Highest Academic Qualification
- Table 4.3.5.1: Respondents frequency based on duration of work in this organization
- Table 4.3.6.1: Respondents frequency based on Section
- Table 4.4.1: Reliability Coefficient of Variables
- Table 4.5.1: Descriptive Analysis
- Table 4.6.1: Correlation coefficient if variables
- Table 4.7.2.1: Multiple Regressions

LIST OF FIGURE

- Figure 1.3.1: Statistic of accidents for year 2010 at Shorruber (M) Sdn. Bhd.
- Figure 2.1.1: Potential Sources and Consequences of the Stress
- Figure 2.1.2: Level-stress levels in the Model General Adaptation syndrome
- Figure 3.3.1: Research Framework for Factors of Stress among Industrial Workers

in Malaysia

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Earlier studies that began in the 1930s (Haslam, 2004), shows that stress will cause physical and psychological symptoms that exist due to the difficulties experienced when individual is trying to adapt to an environment (Bennett, 1997). When stress in employees is out of control it will affect the employees of an absence which could affect the performance of the organization. Stress also affects in worker absenteeism, low employee morale, high job accidents, and the primary is a decline in labor productivity. Stress also can be act as an 'alarm' in the individual's body to act. Therefore, it is very important for individuals who have stress to regulate the stress so as not to endanger themselves and others.

There are many definitions on stress. Andre (2008) stated that stress is a state of tension experienced when one's usual modes of coping are insufficient. Some of the common stressors at work are the stress of the job itself, physical factors such as repetitive stress injuries, and conflicts between your work and tour personal life.

1

The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

REFERENCES

Zikmund & W. G. (2003). *Business Research Method*, (7th ed.) Forth Worth, USA: Dryden Press.

Sekaran, U. (2000), *Research Methods For Business,* (3rd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

- Sekaran. U. (2003). Research Method For Business: A Skill-Building Approach, (4th ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Robbins, S. P. (1993). Organizational Behavioral: Concepts, Controversies and Applications, (6th ed). Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Robbins, S. P. (2001). Organizational Behavior. (9th ed.) New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Palmer, S., Cooper, C. & Thomas (2003). *Creating A Balance: Managing Stress*. British Library London.

- Panzarino Jr, Peter, J. (2009). *Stress* [on-line] from http://www.medicinenet.com/ stress/ article. htm # what. (accessed on 6 Ogos 2010).
- Hitt, M.A, Miller, C. C, & Colella, A. (2006). Organizational Behavior: A Strategic Approach. New Jersey: John Wiley.
- Bennett, R. (1997). *Organizational Behaviour,* (3rd edi.), London Guidhall University: Financial Times, Pitman Publishing .
- Greenberg, J. (2005). *Managing Behavior in Organizations*, (4th ed.), New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Andre, R. (2008). Organizational Behavior: An Introduction To Your Life in Organizations. New Jersey: Parson Education, Inc.
- W.F. Swee, Anza E, Noor Hassim, Work Stress Prevalence among the Management Staff in an International Tobacco Company in Malaysia, Med & Health 2007; 2(1): 93-98.

- B.N. Rusli, B.A. Edimansyah, L. Naing, *Prevalence and Associated Factors* of Stress in Dental Healthcare Workers of a Higher Institution of Learning in Kelantan, Archives of Orofacial Sciences 2006; 1: 51-56.
- Hisham. A, Faktor-Faktor Tekanan dan Kesannya Kepada Guru Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan: Satu Kajian Di Daerah Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang.
- Ahsan. N, Abdullah. Z, Study of Job Stress on Job Satisfaction among University Staff in Malaysia: Empirical Study, European Journal of Social Sciences – Volume 8, Number 1 (2009).
- Thabo T. Fako, Occupational Stress among University Employees in Botswana, European Journal of Social Sciences – Volume 15, Number 3 (2010) 313.
- Nor Liyana Mohd Bokti, Mansor Abu Talib, A Preliminary Study on Occupational Stress and Job Satisfaction among Male Navy Personnel at a Naval Base in Lumut, Malaysia.

- Doraisamy, G.S, Hubungan Tekanan Kerja Dan Kepuasan Kerja Dengan Komitmen Terhadap Organisasi: Satu Kajian Di Ibu Pejabat Jabatan Kerja Raya Malaysia.
- Lamin, K, Management Of Stress: Use Of Information Systems In Managing Stress Within The Lower Rank Soldiers In A Military Organization.

Eddin, M.H, A Study on Employee Stress in Malaysian Clinical Laboratories.

BERNAMA, 2009, Rate of industrial accidents still high.

NNN-BERNAMA, 2010, Industrial accident cases in Malaysia still at a worrying level.

The Star, 2010, Industrial accidents in Johor claimed 31 lives last year.

BERNAMA, 2009, 44,918 accidents at the work place in the country for the whole of last year with 746 fatal cases.