

Occupational Stress among Audiologists in Karnataka Region - Gender Based Study

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Abstract: *The study aimed to investigate occupational stress among audiologists in the Karnataka region. The main objective of the present study is to identify occupational stress among male and female audiologists in Karnataka. It is a questionnaire - based observational study design, an audiology occupational stress questionnaire (AOSQ) was used for collecting information. All male, female and transgender who are professionals practicing in various setups in Karnataka regions were included in this study. Results conferred in four domains the Time requirement, Audiological governance, Patient interaction, and Clinical protocol in audiological clinical practice. In timing requirement, task revealed that females perceived a significant level of stress than males. In the audiological governance task Male feels more stressed than the females. In clinical accountability tasks male feels more anxious than the female and in documentation male feels more Never anxious than the female. In this present study aids in understanding the stress levels of audiologists in gender population. The research highlights the importance of educating people about stress level where audiologist is exposed.*

Keywords: Audiologist, Occupational stress, Gender

1. Introduction

In modern times, a person spends the majority of his/her time at work, which can be a significant and likely lead source of stress (Ravi et al., 2015) Stress is a mental disorder that directly affects feelings, psychological state and physical health of a person. Perception of stress could be in several ways, most of people were exposed to occupational stress it's a one of the major stress affect physical or psychological in humans. Bolliger et al., (2022) have revealed that occupational stress plays a key role in maintaining a workers social, physical and emotional life. Kumar & Biswas, (2021) suggests that gender is linked with job stress, which leads to job difficulties and a reduction in overall quality of life. Kerr et al., (2021) narrated that the men and women have different perception to job stress and reward. While research indicates that both population have similar associations between job stress and depressive symptoms, women generally report higher levels of job stress than men. Additionally when exposed to this level of stress (Severn et al., 2012) narrated that world countries like New Zealand had given high priority for audiologist in several urban, corporate sector and social sector that show the audiologist have high occupational stress.

2. Literature Review

Kumar. S., (2021) investigated the effect of gender, marital status, and family type and prevalence of occupational stress among Delhi - NCR employees during the COVID - 19 pandemic. The majority of the subjects revealed moderate to high levels of work stress, according to the findings. Although there was a significant relationship between marital status and occupational stress, gender and family

type were not significantly associated with occupational stress.

Severn et al., (2012) assessed occupational stress in audiologists and quantify their professional quality of life: burnout, compassion fatigue, and compassion satisfaction. Among audiologists, a cross - sectional postal survey study design was used. The findings demonstrated that the audiologist was subjected to varying degrees of stress during various tasks, with a substantial influence of stress identified as age increased.

Study Problem

While there are a several number of studies and survey reports exploring occupational stress among employees, in other medical practitioner. Only few studies available to justify the gender effect on occupational stress in region specifically among audiologists. This is an area where potential researcher can identify level of stress and its significant effect in professional quality of life. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate occupational stress among audiologists in the Karnataka region and the main objective of the study is to assess occupational stress in males and female in Karnataka.

3. Methodology

The present study carried over questionnaire based observational study design includes participants of audiology, all male, female and transgender.

Participants

A copy of Audiology Occupational Stress Questionnaire (AOSQ), developed by Severn et al., (2012) was emailed and whatsapp to 100 audiologists who are professional

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practicing in various setups includes educational setups, hearing aid dispensing setup, diagnostic setups, Non - Governmental Organizations and industrial audiologists and private practitioner in Karnataka regions were included in this study. Individuals as non - audiologist and technician and student were excluded from the study.

Questionnaire

Audiology occupational stress questionnaire (AQSO), which was designed by (Zealand et al., 2012) . This questionnaire will be used to acquire data about the six factors identified by the principal component analysis of time requirement, Audiological governance, patient interaction, clinical protocol, accountability, and administration/equipment. The audiology occupational stress questionnaire (AOSQ) includes two segments - 28 closed set questions and 1 open ended question. (AOSQ) Questions focus on five components includes time requirement, Audiological governance, patient interaction, clinical protocol, accountability, and administration/equipment. Responses of the participant were recorded in a three - point rating scale, from “1 never anxious” 2 sometimes stressful” “3 unbelievably stressful, ” these had to be assessed. The second segment of the questionnaire was made up of open ended question that allowed participants to freely express their thoughts on their level of professional stress and how they manage it.

Procedure

Audiologist occupational stress questionnaire contains 38 questions, due to subject factor and Indian scenario ten question were excluded and totally twenty - eight closed set questions and one open set questions were used in this study and rating point of the questionnaire have been modified in to three - point rating for better understanding for stress level. Response of AOSQ collected using google form, google form emailed and WhatsApp to audiologist working in various setups professional practicing in various setups includes educational setups, hearing aid dispensing setup, diagnostic setups, NGO’S and industrial audiologists and private practitioner in Karnataka region were included and responses were collected. The participants and the names of respondent’s identities were protected. Collected response were analyzed using statistical software SPSS (version 21). Percentage, Chi - square test were carried out in domains include Time requirement, Audiological governance, Patient interaction, Clinical protocol to compare between male and female.

4. Results and Discussion

On 100 emailed and WhatsApp questionnaires, 68 responses were collected percentage of response is 68%. The results discussed under following domains like time requirement, Audiological Governance, clinical accountability, administration and documentation.

Time requirement

In this present study Time requirement and gender were analysed out of sixty - eight responses. Thirty - one percentage of the audiologist have feels that timing requirement were sometime stressful, while compare with male and female, female have higher stress in time

requirement. Five percentage female and eight percentage of the male feels time requirement is unbelievably stressful finally seven percent of female and twenty - one percent of male feels the time requirement is never stressful.

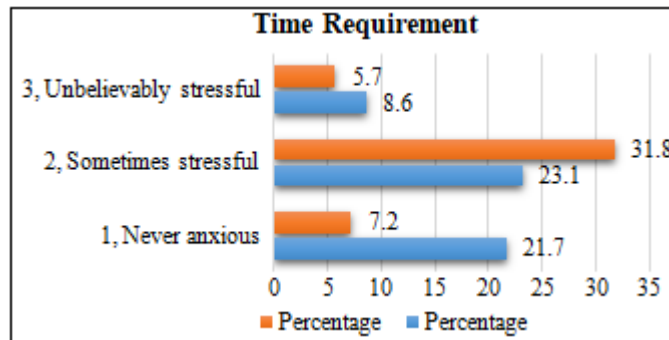


Figure 1: Comparison of Timing requirement among males and females

Table 1: Analysis of timing requirement among males and females

Chi - Square Tests			
	Value	df	Sig.
Pearson Chi - Square	2.581 ^a	3	.461

In this table male female were compared in timing requirement task, results reviled that there is no significant correlation in male and female $p < .0.5$

The present study, timing requirement and gender were analysed were results reviled that female feels more stressful than male audiologist, timing requirement and insufficient timing is major stress factor among audiologist. In corporate setup heavy patient load which create the insufficient time requirement for an audiologist which leads to moderate to severe stress level among audiologist (Ravi et al., 2015). This results were correlate with the previous research findings

Audiological Governance

In this present study Audiological Governance and gender were analysed out sixty - eight responses. Thirty - one percentage of male and twenty - eight percentage of the female feels that Audiological governance were sometime stressful. One percent of the female and four percent of the male feels that Audiological governance as the unbelievably stressful. As a part of Audiological governance Male feels more stressful than female.

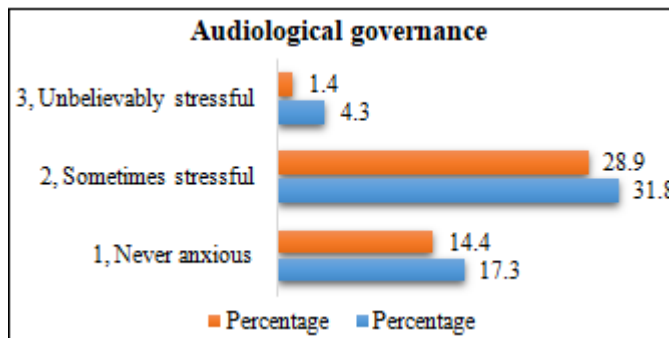


Figure 2: Comparison of audiological governance between male and females

Table 2: Analysis of audiological governance between males and females

Chi - Square Tests			
	Value	df	Sig.
Pearson Chi - Square	4.610 ^a	2	.100

In this table male female were compared in Audiological governances, results reviled that there is no significant correlation in male and female $p < 0.5$.

In this present study Audiological Governance and gender were analysed results reviled that female are more stressful than male. Several literature finding suggest that non independent audiologist have more stressed to independent medical practitioner (Bolliger et al., 2022) . Along in our study there was fifty - fifty percentage of audiologist were independent and non - independent practitioners among than majority of the people relived that Audiological governance were sometime stressful.

Clinical Accountability

In this present study clinical accountability and gender were analyzed out sixty - eight responses. Both male and female feels a same percentage range of thirty - three percent of sometime stressful and as a same of seven percentages in unbelievably stressful in the population. In clinical accountability male more feel Never anxious than female.

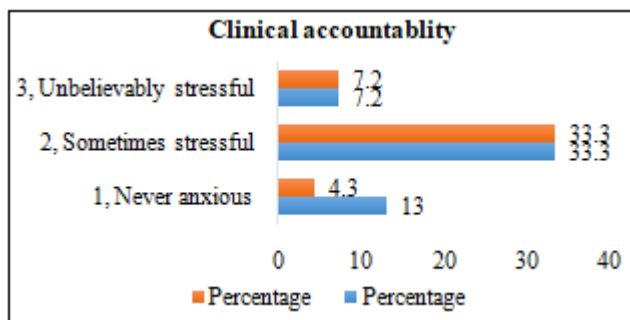


Figure 3: Comparison of clinical accountability between males and females

Table 3: Analysis of clinical accountability between males and females

Chi - Square Tests			
	Value	df	Sig.
Pearson Chi - Square	3.631 ^a	2	.163

In this table male female were compared in clinical accountability task, results reviled that there is no significant correlation in male and female $p < 0.5$.

In this present study clinical accountability and gender were analysed results reviled that both male and female audiologist have same amount of stress level in the clinical accountability. Several literature review showed that audiologist have in appropriate attitude in have demand area. On one open question most of audiologist reviled that they having difficulties in communicating with the multi - disciplinary term approach with high level of stress level. This finding were correlated with previous research findings (Kerr et al., 2021; Severn et al., 2012)

Administration

In this present study Administration and gender were analysed out sixty - eight response Male feels sometimes stressful than female in percentage of twenty - four percent in female and thirty - three percent in male. In most of the Administration part male feels more stress than female and along female feels never anxious than male.

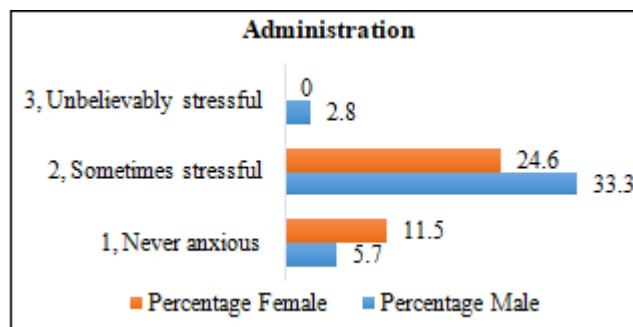


Figure 4: Comparison of administration between males and females

Table 4: Analysis of administration between males and females

Chi - Square Tests			
	Value	df	Sig.
Pearson Chi - Square	1.320 ^a	1	.251

In this table male female were compared in administration task, results reviled that there is no significant correlation in male and female $p < 0.5$.

In this present study Administration and gender were analyzed out results reviled that male more stress level than female. This finding were correlates with the previous research findings (Ravi et al., 2015)

Documentation

In this present study documentation and gender were analyzed out sixty - eight response Both male and female feels a same percentage range of thirty - three percent of sometime stressful and as a same of seven percentages in unbelievably stressful in the population. In Documentation male feel more Never anxious than female.

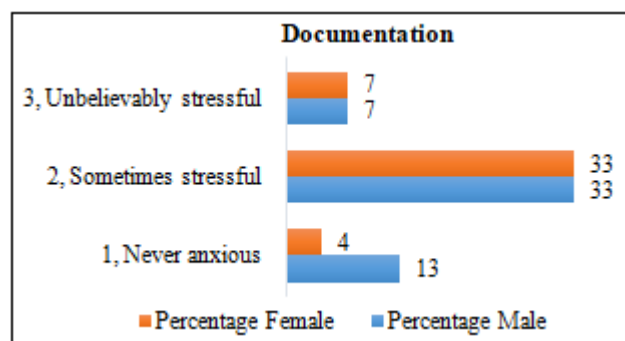


Figure 5: Comparison of documentation between males and females

Table 5: Analysis of documentation between males and females

Chi - Square Tests			
	Value	df	Sig.
Pearson Chi - Square	4.610 ^a	2	.100

In this table male female were compared in documentation task, results revealed that there is no significant correlation in male and female $p < .10$.

In this present study documentation and gender were analysed out both male female population have a equal level of the stress in documentation

5. Conclusion

The main objective of the study is to identify the occupational stress among audiologist in Karnataka. Results revealed in various domain includes that female feels more stressful than male audiologist, timing requirement and insufficient timing is major stress factor among audiologist. In corporate setup heavy patient load which create the insufficient time requirement for an audiologist which leads to moderate to severe stress level among audiologist. In Audiological Governance and gender were analyzed results revealed that female are more stressful than male. Several literature finding suggest that non independent audiologist have more stressed to independent medical practitioner. On clinical accountability and gender were analyzed results revealed that both male and female audiologist have same amount of stress level in the clinical accountability. Along audiologist have inappropriate attitude in have demand area, on survey question audiologist revealed that they having difficulties in communicating with the multi - disciplinary term approach in presence of high level of pressure. The findings of the present study can aid in understanding the stress levels of audiologist in gender population. The research highlights the importance of educating people about stress level were audiologist is exposed.

6. Future Scope

- Larger sample size could be more appropriate.
- Setup Vis (hospital, educational, etc.,) stress level could be appropriate.

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