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A Study on Recruitment & Selection Practices in Certain Life Insurance Companies

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Abstract: The research work examines the impact of recruitment and selection on relative performance of employees of LIC, HDFC and Bajaj Allianz working in randomly selected areas in Bihar. In particular, the primary data has been collected through standard questionnaires from the randomly selected samples of 60 respondents belonging to the different categories of employees. The data obtained were subject to statistical analysis using Pearson Chi Square test, analysis of variance and Tukey's multiple comparison test using SPSS 35 statistical software. The majority of respondents were satisfied with recruitment system and its documentation with LIC, HDFC & Bajaj Allianz with which no. of them who did not have any information with HDFC. The knowledge of recruitment process was least understood in LIC as being cumbersome in comparison to others. However, the transparency was evident in all the three organisations with non-significant difference found through Tukey's multiple comparison test. However, the uniformity was not evident between the organisations (Table 5). The lethargic response was evident for the quick vacancy report with highest in HDFC (Table-7). The design and duration of written test reported the highest satisfaction in LIC as compared to others (Table-9).

Keywords: LIC, Pearson

1. Introduction

Recruitment and selection is a foundation of human resource management (HRM) practices and its integration to business is critical to achieve organisational strategic goals. However, little research has to date examined strategic integration in this specific personnel practice, and, therefore, little is known about the level and application of recruitment and selection strategic integration a situation that warrants greater investment due to the economic growth in India in a corresponding expansion of Indian enterprises. This study investigated the level at which recruitment and selection practices integrate with business strategies and the relative effects of different levels of such strategic integration on organisational performance in the Indian insurance companies. The level of recruitment and selection and strategic integration were positively related to growth in market share, profits and sales, employees' satisfaction, employees' productivity, and negatively related to employees' turnover.

Wright & Snell, 1991 and Boxall, 1996 reported that the Recruitment and Selection imbibe major personnel function as it encompass all organisational practices and decisions. Recent technological advances, globalisation, social trends and changes within organisations have brought new challenges for recruitment and selection (Rowley & Benson, 2002). To effectively face the new challenges recruitment and selection need to be integrated with business strategies (Lam & White, 1998). Recruitment and selection strategies flow ultimately from the organisation's mission and strategic objectives; i.e., the strategies and processes of recruitment and selection must be compatible with business strategies (Nankervis, Compton & Baird, 2002). Social scientists argue that through the integration with business recruitment and selection help achieve strategic goals and enhance organisational performance (Becker & Gerhart, 1996, Youndt, et al. 1996, Lewis, 2003).

Over the last thirty years or so, the amount of research on recruitment and selection has increased dramatically. Despite of this increase, recent reviews (Rodwell & Teo, 2004, Wright, et al. 2005) of the literature have revealed that past studies mainly focused on the exploration of recruitment and selection practices adopted by the enterprise and not on its relationship to business strategy and performance. This research analyses recruitment and selection as one of the personnel practices from the gamut of entire personnel processes and evaluates the flaws that exist in its effective implementation in organisational setup. Although there is wide recognition of the significance of the integration of personnel practices with business strategies, little research has been devoted on how recruitment and selection strategic integration happens and what might be its effects on organisational performance (Budhwar, 2000, Shen, 2004).

The integration of personnel and business strategy is possible by the 'fit' of human resources through a variety of personnel practices including recruitment and selection in accordance with the business needs (Legge, 1995, Budhwar, 2000). Therefore, there is a set priority for organisations to have recruitment and selection strategically integrated with business strategies. The common obstacle in the lack of recruitment and selection strategically integrating with business generally revolve around issues of poor planning and control, resulting in unrealistic timelines, unidentified problems, poor coordination and a lack of monitoring and control. Attaining strategic integration of recruitment and selection with business strategy is a desirable achievement that requires resolution of these common obstacles.

Most researches of the recruitment and selection were conducted in Western contexts, mainly in the United States (Breaugh & Starke 2000, Wright, et al. 2005). The task of research in developing economies, such as India with considerably different cultural and institutional nuances, is likely to have a profound impact on benchmark personnel

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practices. For instance, at the macro level organisations tend to be similar with respect to socio economic aspects, while at the micro level they differ from each other due to cultural differences (McCaughey & De Cieri, 1999). Empirical evidence shows that personnel practices vary significantly between countries, even within (Betcherman, et al. 1994, Guest 1997, Schuler & Jackson 1999). Therefore, there is a pressing need to conduct research on recruitment and selection integration and its effects on organisational performance, particularly in Indian insurance companies. The conceptual framework building from this research is important as India is beginning to impact global internationalisation theory (Niosi & Tschang, 2009). Moreover, such research would add to the knowledge base of the human resource management (HRM) literature.

2. Review of Literature

Wright & Snell (1991) and Boxall (1996) reported that the Recruitment and selection are major personnel function as it encompass all organisational practices and decisions. Recent technological advances, globalisation, social trends and changes within organisations have brought new challenges for recruitment and selection (Rowley & Benson 2002). To effectively face the new challenges recruitment and selection need to be integrated with business strategies (Lam & White 1998). Recruitment and selection strategies flow, ultimately from the organisation's mission and strategic objectives i.e., the strategies and processes of recruitment and selection must be compatible with business strategies (Nankervis, Compton & Baird 2002). Social scientists argue that through the integration with business strategies, recruitment and selection help achieve strategic goals and enhance organisational performance (Becker & Gerhart 1996, Youndt, et al. 1996, Lewis 2003).

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been conducted in Western contexts, mainly in the United States (Breaugh & Starke 2000, Wright, et al. 2005). The task of research in developing economies, such as India with considerably different cultural and institutional broadsides, is likely to have a profound impact on benchmark in personnel practices. For instance, at the macro level organisations tend to be similar with respect to socio economic aspects, while at the micro level they differ from each other due to cultural differences (McCaughey & De Cieri 1999). Empirical evidence shows that personnel practices vary significantly between countries and even within (Betcherman, et al. 1994, Guest 1997, Schuler & Jackson 1999). Inferentially, there is a pressing need to conduct research on recruitment and selection integration and its effects on organisational perfomance, particularly in Indian insurance companies. The conceptual framework building from this research is important as India is experiencing the impact of internationalisation theory (Niosi & Tschang 2009).

Budhwar (2000), Lam and White (1998), and Shen (2005) suggested that personnel integration should be examined both in formulation and implementation phases of a business. Formulation is concerned with making decisions with regard to an organisation's mission, vision and short term and long term objectives and plans, while strategic implementation is concerned with aligning the organisational structure, systems and processes to achieve the business strategy (Johnson & Scholes 1999).

The recruitment and selection strategic integration is positively related to market share, sales growth, profit growth, employee productivity and employee satisfaction. (Arthur 1994, Delery and Doty 1996, Huselid 1995, Youndt, et al. 1996, Huselid, et al. 1997, Ichniowski, et al. 1997, and Pfau and Kay 2002, Pareek 2004, Blanchard & Blanchard 2005). While Clake & Winkler 2006 reported that employee turnover is non significantly associated with recruitment and selection strategic integration.

Ashok Chanda, et al. (2010) by investigating the extent to which recruitment and selection integrates with business strategy and the relative effects of different levels of such strategic integration on organisational performance reported that a majority of the Indian insurance tended to have a high levels of strategic integration in recruitment and selection" His finding indicated that there was robust HR input into business strategies, and business strategies are generally interpreted into personnel policies and practices in Indian insurance. He further reported that a level of personnel practices in business strategy formulation is often accompanied with a high level of integration in business implementation.

3. Research Methodology

The present study mainly focused on comparative analysis of personnel policies & practices in LIC, Bajaj Allianz and HDFC with the special reference to recruitment and selection. The assumption that the recruitment & selection adopted by LIC, HDFC & Bajaj Allianz will improve the employee performance & fulfill the organisational objective were construed as hypothesis of research.

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Randomly selected employees under consideration constituted as "universe" with the sample size of 115.

In the process of critical and scientific study proper questionnaires were developed to record in correct perspective and concrete information to provide best possible results. Besides, the secondary source of data were obtained through the literatures of the companies, annual reports, notification, orders, circulars and other related official records of LIC, Bajaj Allianz & HDFC in assessing the strength and weaknesses.

A total of 300 questionnaires were distributed randomly selecting respondents of different categories from LIC, HDFC & Bajaj Allianz and finally 115 were obtained out of which 60 were included in the study on 4 point Li Kert scale to understand the relationship with the employees & valuable reports. The data obtained were subjected to statistical analysis using Pearson Chi Square test, analysis of variance and Tukey's multiple comparison test using SPSS 35 Statistical Software.

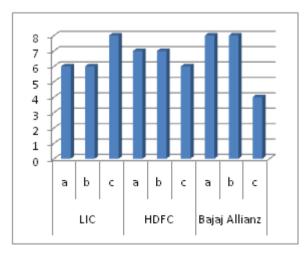
4. Analysis & Interpretation of Data

Recruitment & Selection

Q.N. 1 Whether he was satisfied with recruitment system?

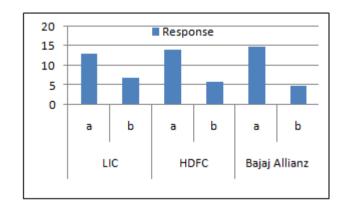
(a) Satisfied (b) Good (c) Excellent

Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	P-value
	a	6	30	
LIC	b	6	30	
LIC	С	8	40	
	Total	20	100	
	a	7	35	
HDFC	b	7	35	0.6297
прьс	С	6	30	(NS)
	Total	20	100	
	a	8	40	
Bajaj Allianz	b	8	40	
	c	4	20	
	Total	20	100	



In a response to the question no. 1, the P values (0.6297) was significantly not different (P < 0.05). The Tukey's multiple comparison test was not significantly different

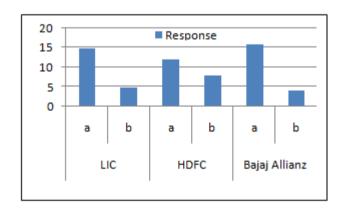
between satisfactory vs. good and excellent & good vs. excellent. However most of the employees were satisfied. With the recruitment system in Bajaj Allianz with variability observed in LIC & HDFC.



Q.N. 2 Whether the recruitment process was documented?

(a) Yes (b) No

Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	x^2
	a	15	75	
LIC	b	5	25	
	Total	20	100	(NS)
	a	12	60	
HDFC	b	8	40	
	Total	20	100	
Bajaj Allianz	a	16	80	
	b	4	20	
	Total	20	100	



In a response to a question no. 2 the majority of the employees felt that the recruitment process was well documented in all the three organizations and could be answered as and when needed. However, the percentages of the people were quit sizeable with highest in HDFC (40%) who did not have any knowledge about the documentation. The chi square test indicated non-significant difference (P < 0.05).

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Q.N. 3 Whether the knowledge of the recruitment process was clear?

(a) Yes (b) No

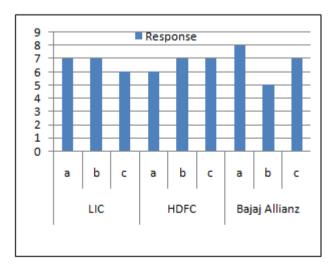
Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	x^2
	a	13	65	
LIC	b	7	35	
	Total	20	100	
	a	14	70	0.7881 (NS)
HDFC	b	6	30	
	Total	20	100	
Bajaj Allianz	a	15	75	
	b	5	25	
	Total	20	100	

In a question whether the knowledge of the recruitment process was clear (Table-3), highest number of employees (75%) had clear understanding in HDFC & Bajaj Allianz. However, the knowledge about the recruitment process in LIC was least understood or vague which could be due to large organization. The chi square analysis, however, indicated non-significant difference between LIC & HDFC / Bajaj Allianz.

Q.N. 4 Whether the recruitment system was transparent at all levels?

(a) Not at all (b) To some extent (c) To great extent

Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	P-value
	a	7	35	
LIC	b	7	35	
LIC	c	6	30	
	Total	20	100	
	a	6	30	
HDFC	b	7	35	0.6297
прьс	c	7	35	(NS)
	Total	20	100	
	a	8	40	
Bajaj Allianz	b	5	25	
	С	7	35	
	Total	20	100	



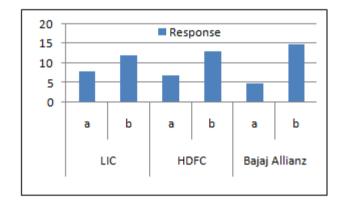
In a question whether the recruitment was transparent at all levels (Table-4) a sizeable percentage of the people held that the transparency was evident to great extent in all the

recruitment process being carried out in LIC, HDFC and Bajaj Allianz. Tukey's multiple comparison test also indicated a non significant difference between the, a & c and b & c levels of Transparency.

Q.N. 5 Was the recruitment process uniform at all the levels?

(a) Yes (b) No

Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	x ²
	a	8	40	
LIC	b	12	60	
	Total	20	100	
	a	7	35	0.5916(N S)
HDFC	b	13	65	
	Total	20	100	
Bajaj Allianz	a	5	25	
	b	15	75	
	Total	20	100	



In a question whether the recruitment process was uniform at all levels, the highest response was in favour of (b) i.e. it lacked the uniformity. The highest response was in case of Bajaj Allianz. Since the measures of the recruitment cannot be uniform for the different levels of recruitments, the variability will be imperative. The x^2 test, however, indicated non significantly different from the uniformity.

Q.N. 6 Whether the department needs were also linked in the interview of the recruitment process?

(a) Totally linked (b) Partially linked (c) Not at all

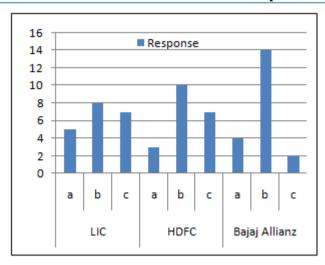
Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	P-value
	a	5	25	
LIC	b	8	40	
LIC	С	7	35	
	Total	20	100	
	a	3	15	
HDFC	b	10	50	
прес	С	7	35	
	Total	20	100	
	a	4	20	
Bajaj Allianz	b	14	70	
	С	2	10	
	Total	20	100	

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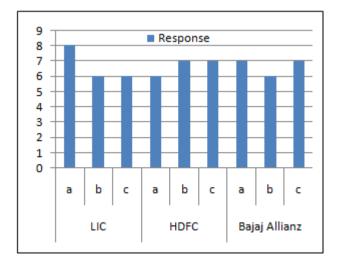


In a question whether the department needs were also involved in the interview for recruitment and selection processes, it was observed that only a few departmental heads were considered to be involved in the interview processes and majority of them, they were partially linked, i.e. they were only required to set the papers to decide the packages. The analysis of variance and Tukey's multiple comparison tests indicated significantly different between totally vs. partially linked case.

Q.N. 7 In a question – whether the response of HR department on the issue of vacancy was quick?

(a) Quick (b) Slow (c) Lethargic

Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	P-value
	a	8	40	
LIC	b	6	30	
LIC	c	6	30	
	Total	20	100	
	a	6	30	
HDFC	b	7	35	
прьс	c	7	35	
	Total	20	100	
	a	7	35	
Bajaj Allianz	b	6	30	
	c	7	35	
	Total	20	100	

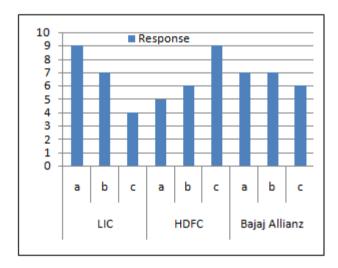


department, the highest response was in favour of LIC. However, lethargic actions were also found in sizeable numbers and as a result the vacancy existed for long time and consequently the production performance was slow. The lethargic action was observed to be highest both in HDFC and Bajaj Allianz. However, the analysis of variance and Tukey's multiple comparison test did not show any significant difference.

Q.N. 8 Whether the design of the written test gave full satisfaction for real advantage?

(a) Full satisfaction (b) Partial satisfaction (c) Least satisfaction

Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	P-value
	a	9	45	
LIC	b	7	35	
LIC	c	4	20	
	Total	20	100	
	a	5	25	
HDFC	b	6	30	
прес	c	9	45	
	Total	20	100	
	a	7	35	
Bajaj Allianz	b	7	35	
	c	6	30	
	Total	20	100	



In a question whether the design of the written test gave the full satisfaction to the advantage of the organization, the highest satisfactory report came from LIC in comparison to others two. From the response, it is also evident that the majorities of the employees found the written test not beneficial and were time consuming. The designs were not fully satisfactory. However, the analysis of variance and Tukey's multiple comparison test were not significantly different among themselves.

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In a question on the report of the vacancy to the HR

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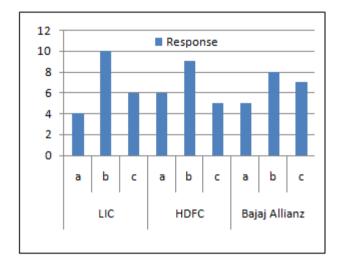
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Q.N. 9 Whether the duration of the written test was adequate?

(a) Short (b) Adequate (c) Long

Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	P-value
	a	4	20	
LIC	b	10	50	
LIC	С	6	30	
	Total	20	100	
	a	6	30	
HDFC	b	9	45	
прьс	c	5	25	
	Total	20	100	
	a	5	25	
Bajaj Allianz	b	8	40	
	c	7	35	
	Total	20	100	

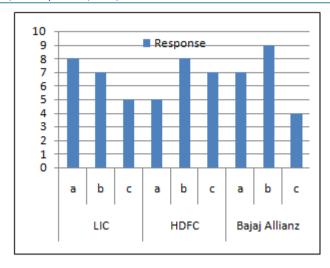


In a question whether the duration of the test was adequate, largest number of respondents affirmed positively with the highest number belonged to LIC which indicated thereby higher number of competent candidates appeared in LIC tests. The analysis of variance and Tukey's multiple comparison test indicated significant difference between the

Q.N. 10 Was the evaluation process standardised?

(a) Excellent (b) Good (c) Average

Organization	Option	Response	Percentage	P-value
	a	8	40	
LIC	b	7	35	
LIC	С	5	25	
	Total	20	100	
	a	5	25	
HDFC	b	8	40	
прес	С	7	35	
	Total	20	100	
	a	7	35	
Bajaj Allianz	b	9	45	
	С	4	20	
	Total	20	100	



In a question whether the evaluation process of the test being standardised, majority of the respondents commented as good or average. They did not see much merit and higher transparency in the test evaluation. Some of them indicated biasness in the evaluation process. However, the analysis of variance& Tukey's multiple comparison tests were found to be non-significantly different among the traits.

5. Conclusion

The analysis of feedback generated through questionnaires and their different tables, graphs and statistical interpretations indicated that companies are largely following an effective recruitment & selection processes. The transparency was evident in all the three organisations with non-significant difference focus through Tukey's multiple comparison tests. However, lethargic response was evident for the quick vacancy report. The company should focus on long term consistent performance, rather than short term.

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