

Effects of Work Relationships' Stress Factors on the Performance of Employees in Public Universities in Kenya

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Abstract- The aim of this study was to assess the effects of occupational stress and how it affects employee performance in the public universities in Kenya. Specifically the study seeks to identify the influence of workplace relationship stress factors on the performance of employees in public universities in Kenya. This used both qualitative and quantitative methods in the selection of the participants and collection of data. Cluster sampling was employed to select 384 respondents. Data collection instruments included interviews, questionnaires and document reviews. The collected data was captured in MS Excel and analyzed using SPSS version 24 (Statistical Package for Social Scientists). Linear regression analysis and Pearson's correlation coefficient were run to determine relationship between stress factors and workers performance. The analyzed data was presented in suitable graphs, charts and tables. By correlating the determinants of stress with performance, the study found out that the determinants of stress include movement, motivation, workers relationships, management and working facilities. The study found a significant relationship ($F(3,342) = 57.717, p < 0.05$) between Worker's relationship, Worker's movement, Workplace facilities, Motivation and Management and employee performance. The nature of the relationship was found to be positive in the sense that unit increase in Worker's relationship and Management leads to an increase in Employee performance as demonstrated by the equation: $\text{Employee performance} = 2.286 + 0.126 \text{ Worker's relationship} + 0.096 \text{ Management}$

Index Terms- stress factors, employee performance, worker relationships

I. INTRODUCTION

Stress at workplace is certainly not a new concept; history indicates that stress was experienced even with our cave-dwelling ancestors. Khanka (2007) postulates that our cave-dwelling ancestors faced stress every time they left their caves and encounter their enemy, the saber toothed tigers. He argues that the tigers of yesterday are gone but they have been replaced by other predators of modern times such as work load, time deadlines, downsizing, mergers, poorly designed jobs, marital disharmony, financial crises and traffic jams. Most employees are reporting increased levels of stress and the recent working environment is making things worse (Luthans, 2008).

Globalisation has left institutions and organisations facing stiff competition and led to aggressive cost cutting. Information technology has accelerated the speed at which business transactions can be performed and put pressure on the workforce to be even more productive. These pressures on organisations have put workers under a lot of stress (Newstrom, 2007). Due to the competitive nature of the job environment most of the people in the world are spending their time for job related work purposes, ignoring the stressors that are influencing their work and life. Usually people are more worried about the outcome of their work and that can even affect the way they treat other people and how they communicate with their peers and customers. Nilufar et al. (2009) posits that people with a higher percentage of occupational stress may not be satisfied with their job and therefore they will not feel happy working in the organization.

Recent trends have also made it increasingly difficult for employees to adequately balance the responsibility of their families, as employee are working longer hours and bringing more work home at night. This has resulted to more pressure being placed on the work-family relationship such that coordination of work, vocation schedules and child care options have become very unsuccessful (Dar et al. 2011). More and more voices warn about the possible risks that could emerge if the human resource management ignores the current signs of increase in levels of stress among employees (Robbins & Judge, 2007). Organisations therefore need to respond to stress experienced by employees in order to enhance their legitimacy and obtain the resources necessary for their survival.

Stress in University workers is an on-going issue of concern for those involved in education. Numerous studies found that job stress influences the employees' job satisfaction and their overall performance in their work, because most of the organizations now are more demanding for the better job outcomes (McGrath et al., 2003). Academic staff has a major role to play in achieving the objectives of the institution (Kumar, 2013). The performance of the staff; teaching, non-teaching teachers and also as managers, determines to a large extent, the quality of the student experience in the Universities and has a significant impact on student learning and thereby on the contribution that such institutions can make to the society (Kumar, 2013). Stress of University workers therefore needs to be addressed.

Mojoyinola (2008) contend that coping can function to change the situation out of which stressful experiences originate (Problem-focused), change the meaning of such experiences

before the emergence of stress (perception-focused), and control the emotional reaction to stress after it has emerged (emotion-focused). If one is suffering from stress, the aspect of life that causes it has to be identified. These aspects will then help in developing strategies to deal with stress. According to Dar, Akmal, Naseem and Khan (2011) steps such as changes in lifestyle or other small strategies can help to deal with stress. The work can be delegated or shared and avoid confrontation with problematic colleagues. Learning to be assertive, taking regular exercise, avoiding alcohol and drugs can reduce stress. On the other hand, eating a healthy, balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables, finding humour in stressful situations, time management, talking to friends or family and sharing thoughts and fears can fight stress.

Workers in the Universities have often found themselves in dissatisfactions that have manifested them greatly in the recent past. In November 2011, a major strike was held nationwide in Kenya by all the public universities workers. This led to the closure of several universities. This strike among other things affected learning, examinations and graduation programmes. Concurrently there was a go slow in Brazil in October and November by dissatisfied university lecturers. It is with this background that the researcher seeks to carry out a study in selected universities in Kenya to establish the effects of occupational stress on employees' performance and provide practical coping strategies that can be employed to reduce or completely alleviate stress in public universities.

Stress not only leads to poor performance that is detrimental to the economy, but also leads to poor health. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) estimates that depression has resulted in 23 billion dollars loss a year in lost work days and 60 to 90 per cent of doctor visits are attributed to stress-related illness and symptoms (NIMH, 2013). When employees get sick, the sick offs increase. This leaves behind undone jobs or even skipped responsibilities. The sickness also affects the members of the employee's family both financially and emotionally. This cycle continues if no intervention comes forth, leading to even higher stress levels and eventually depression, which may lead to development of chronic and costly diseases such as heart diseases, diabetes and cancer, which can collectively account for a vast amount of all health care costs. Diabetes alone costed businesses 58 billion dollars in 2007 (Barling et al., 2004).

If this situation continues, especially among workers in the public universities who are expected to nature future human resources for purposes of developing the economy, universities are bound to be cash trapped with workers medical expenses, students will get poor education and universities will be prone to frequent strikes of dissatisfied and stressed workers (Munali, 2005). According to Waswa and Swaleh (2012) minimal attention has been given towards ensuring workers in public universities have been provided with the necessary resources, motivation, effective job allocation measures and management to avert continuous strikes that have lowered the standards of education in the country. Additionally Owino et al (2013) argues that lack of resources, motivation, poor leadership and negative relationships leads to stressed employees and poor performance. Zhimin and Ramani (2012) advises that stress factors should be met to enhance conflict resolution within Kenya's public universities. This study therefore seeks to assess the determinants

of occupational stress in public universities and their contribution to the performance of workers.

The information from this study may form part of policy making for both the government and the management of public universities. The information on the stress factors affecting the performance of workers in public universities may be used by the management of the public universities in developing strategies and providing an environment that will ensure improved productivity of the workers.

Through this study on the stress factors affecting the performance of workers in public universities, the general public and the management of the universities as well as the workers themselves will be able to understand and appreciate the performance of workers that are exposed to such stressors.

Academicians and researchers who are willing to provide more education and solution to workers stress may use the information from this study to inform their understanding and arguments. Additionally, the information from the study may also form basis for literature for other researchers and academicians who are willing to carry out studies in the same field in sub-Saharan Africa.

The study was carried out within Nairobi County metropolitan. The study therefore focused on public universities that operate within or closer to Nairobi County. Nairobi Metropolitan consists of four regions which cover approximately 32000 square kilometres the four regions are: Core Metro that includes the City of Nairobi; Northern Metro includes the municipal councils of Kiambu, Limuru, Ruiru, Thika, and Karuri, the Town councils of Kikuyu and the County Council of Kiambu; Southern Metro that includes the Town Council of Kajjado and the County Council of Olkejuado; and Eastern Metro that includes the Town Council of Kangundo/ Tala, the Municipal Councils of Machakos and Mavoko and the County of Masaku.

Public universities were selected because their workers have unions or organisations that advocate for a stress free environment for them. The unions (Kenya Universities Staff Union (KUSU) and the Universities Academic Staff Union (UASU)) are responsible for ensuring that there are favourable working conditions for all public university workers. Involving the public universities therefore provided in-depth information on workers stress on performance since they are aware of their stressors at work and are taking steps to address them by forming unions to champion for their rights. Nairobi Metropolitan was chosen as the area of study because all the major public universities in Kenya are either based or have campuses within Nairobi Metropolitan.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review is a body of text that aims to review the critical points of current knowledge including substantive findings as well as theoretical and methodological concepts to a particular topic. In this research, we are investigating the effects of occupational stress on the employees and how it affects performance in public universities in Kenya. In this chapter the researcher discussed various theoretical models on stress, conceptual framework, review independent and dependent variables, empirical studies on existing literature on stress and

performance, critique of the existing literature relevant to the study, research gap and the summary.

2.1 Theoretical framework

2.1.1 Relational theory

In his theory, Lazarus regards stress as a relational concept, that is, stress is not defined as a specific kind of external stimulation or a specific pattern of physiological, behavioural, or a subjective reactions. Instead, stress is reviewed as a relationship between individuals and their environment. Psychological stress involves relationship with the environment that an individual appraises as significant for his or her well-being and in which the demands tax or exceed available coping resources. These definitions points to two processes as central mediators within the person-environment transaction: cognitive appraisal and coping.

This concept is based on the idea that emotional processes (including stress) are dependent on actual expectancies that persons manifest with regard to the significance and outcome of a specific encounter. This concept is necessary to explain individual differences in quality, intensity, and duration of an elicited emotion in environments that are objectively equal for different individuals. The most important factors on the personal side are motivational dispositions, goals, values and generalized expectancies. Relevant situational parameters are predictability, controllability, and imminence of a potentially stressful event.

2.1.2 Homeostasis theory

According to Mojinyinola (2008), the body possesses internal mechanism to maintain a stable bodily functioning or equilibrium. As the environment presents the organism with various challenges, the body must respond to each new situation and by adjusting various physiological systems to compensate for the resources being taxed. A classic example of this type of compensation involves fluid regulation. When an organism ingests a large amount of water, the kidney releases more waste fluid into the bladder for eventual disposal in an effort to maintain bodily equilibrium. Many of the feedback mechanisms that regulate blood pressure presented in the body share similar characteristics with bodily systems that maintain homeostasis. According to Mojinyinola (2008), failure of the body to respond to environmental challenges by maintaining bodily homeostasis results in damage to target organs and eventually death. The concept of homeostasis introduced therefore proves to be very valuable in explaining how acute physiological stress responses to threats of survival would lead toward chronic stress responses.

2.1.3 Welford's performance and demand theory

Welford's performance and demand theory (1973) shares much in common with the theory proposed by Selye (1956). In this theory, stress arises whenever there is a departure from optimum conditions of demand which the person is unable to correct. Organisms including man appear to have evolved so that they function best under conditions of moderate demand. An individual's performance is less than maximum efficiency if they experience either too high or too low level of demand. Margetts (1975) offers a similar approach in terms of stimulus input. Living organisms adjust themselves to maintain a reasonable input of stimuli. If the input of stimuli is excessive or insufficient for the individual organism, the excess or insufficiency can be considered stressful. The organism's homeostasis is threatened by stress, and if it cannot manage it, it goes into a state of

disequilibrium or breakdown. This may be temporary, pending readjustment, or may proceed to a more profound disorder, leading to functional or structural pathology. This theory is credited for using the inverted U when explaining the relationship between demand and performance, which has some biological validity (Nakata et al., 2008). Bloona (2007) argues that just like the response based theory, the Welford performance and demand theory leaves out individual characteristics which explain why people perform differently under the same stressor. Cox and Mackay (1976) proposed a more complex theory, which grew out of the need to systematically understand the transaction between the individual and his environment. The primary focus of this theory is on individual perceptual phenomena rooted in psychological process. They explain the role of cognitive appraisal of potentially stressful situation in determining how one will react. If a situation demands too much of a person but he has not realized his limitation, he will work on without being stressed until it becomes obvious to him that he cannot cope, he then experiences stress. McGrath (1976) further observes that stress arises when there is an imbalance between perceived demand and the perception of his capability to meet the demand. The presence of this perceptual factor allows for operations of a wide variety of organismic variables such as personality which contributes to the existence of individual characteristics. This theory is credited for introducing the individual variation aspect. Since it considers the status of the individual in relation to his environment and also brings in the individual characteristics which are often forgotten in laboratory studies. Critics of this theory argue that it does not account for situations that place psychological demands without the immediate involvement of other more physiological processes (Cox 1980).

2.1.4 Stress Theory Model

A model is a systematic organization of knowledge on some topic. There are several models developed to provide an insight on stressors and their coping strategies. This study will however major on only two models to explain stressors and one model focusing on stressors and their coping strategies.

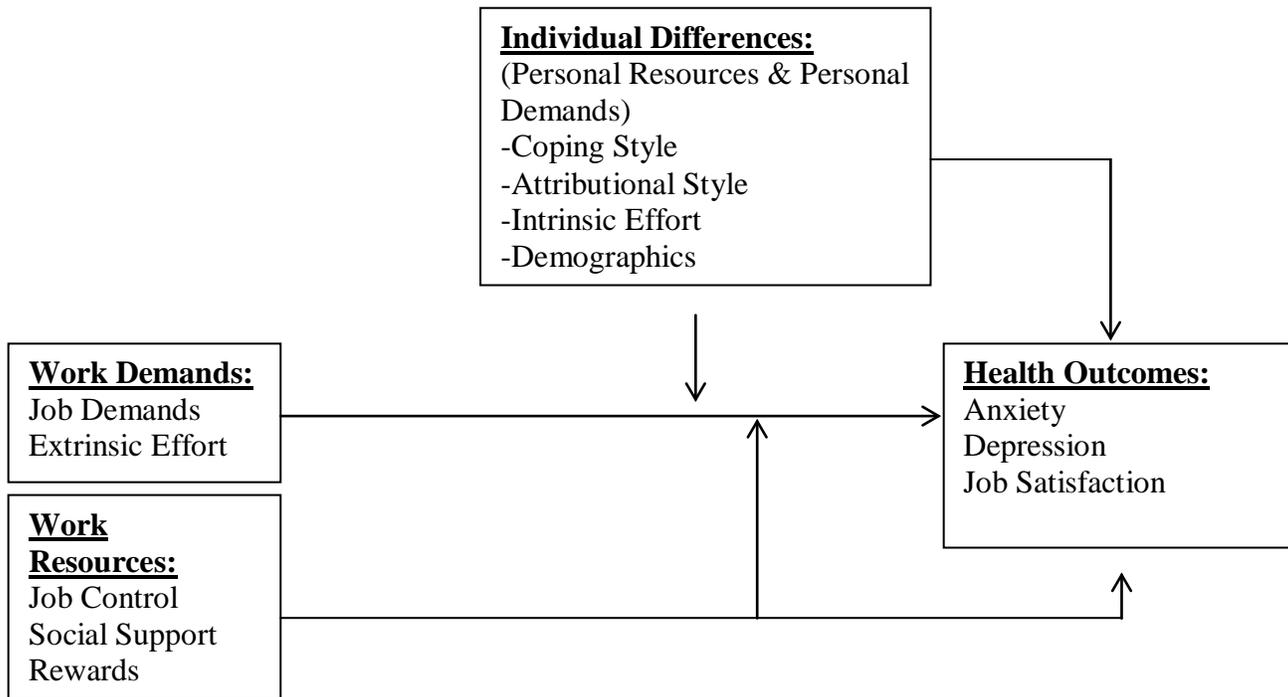
a) Demands, Resources, and Individual Effects model

In light with the literature on stress models, Mark and Smith (2008) suggested the DRIVE model that perhaps elucidates stressors effectively. In this model they acknowledge the important role played by psychosocial workplace stressors in the stress process, and tries to account for the role of important individual difference factors in the development of subjective experiences of stress, and in influencing the possible health-related outcomes that result from subjective stressful perceptions. This framework aims to represent key aspects of the stress process, without getting bogged down in the minutiae of more complex theories and mental processes.

They developed and tested the model shown below which simultaneously compared a number of job characteristics and individual difference variables in the prediction of anxiety, depression, and job satisfaction, in a working population. Independent variables included: job demands, social support, decision authority, and skill discretion; extrinsic effort, intrinsic effort and rewards; 40 coping behaviours which included the categories of problem focused coping, seeking advice, self blame, wishful thinking, and escape/avoidance; attributional/explanatory styles; and age, gender, and

demographic variables. This framework was called the Demands, Resources, and Individual Effects model (DRIVE). Source: Mark and Smith (2008)

Figure 2.1 The DRIVE model



In the model, workplace and individual characteristics are conceived of in terms of work demands and resources, and individual demands and resources. Other work demands and resources could include workload, bullying, job security, management style, feedback etc, and other personal demands and resources could include self efficacy, locus of control, personality, home environment, experience, work/life balance, role conflict, etc.

The model proposes that work demands, individual differences, and work resources are all proposed to have main effect relationships on anxiety, depression, and job satisfaction (other outcomes could include organizational commitment, musculoskeletal disorders, gastro-intestinal disorders, heart disease, absence). It is also proposed that work resources and individual differences may moderate the relationship between work demands and health outcomes. The individual difference variables of positive coping (problem focused coping) and attributional styles can be seen as personal resources, and intrinsic effort, negative coping (self-blame) and attributions as “personal demands”, as maladaptive behaviours are effectively self-induced demands. This model makes no predictions about the “importance” of the different variables in predicting outcomes, and gives each type of variable (work and individual demands and resources) a theoretical equivalency.

b) The cognitive theory of psychological Stress and coping

Lazarus and Folkman’s theory of psychological stress and coping (1980) is perhaps the most theoretically influential transactional theory. Sometimes known as the Cognitive-Relational approach, the individual and their environment are

seen as coexisting in a dynamic relationship, where stress is the psychological and emotional state that is internally represented as part of a stressful transaction (Folkman, Lazarus, Gruen&DeLongis, 1986).

The two key concepts in this process are appraisal and coping (Cox et al., 2000).Folkman et al (1986) describe primary appraisal as the first stage of the appraisal process, where encounters are subjectively evaluated to see what is at stake in terms of potential risk (Perrewe&Zellars, 1999) and these assessments allow for the influence of individual differences, because the nature of what is considered stressful is individual-specific (Park &Folkman, 1997).

In later work, Park and Folkman (1997) write that the attribution of meaning that individuals give to events, can be framed by existing beliefs based on their global meaning. These are enduring beliefs and valued goals, based on fundamental assumptions, theories of reality (e.g. religion), self-worth, life experience etc. Park and Folkman (1997) propose that the making of situational meaning is what occurs when an individual’s global beliefs and goals interact with the specifics of a particular person-environment transaction which are defined by the processes of appraisal and coping.

If a situation is evaluated as potentially stressful, then secondary appraisal occurs, which is where the individual evaluates if the potential harm can be altered, avoided or prevented (Park &Folkman, 1997), where to assign blame or credit, and what future expectations are. Potential actions or ways of coping are assessed, informed by past coping experience, personality, personal resources (and presumably global meaning). Folkman and Lazarus (1980) described many types of coping behaviours, and suggested that they could be

aggregated into two major categories of coping response: problem-focused coping (attempts to cope using more rational problem solving type approaches) or emotion-focused coping (emotional-oriented coping approaches) each of which are suitable in different kinds of situation.

While the problem focused/emotion focused distinction has been popular in research, many argue that it is important to split coping into more distinct categories (many based on Folkman and Lazarus' work) such as problem focused coping, seeking social support, blamed self, wishful thinking, and avoidance (Vitaliano, Russo, Carr, Maiuro & Becker, 1985) and action oriented coping, accommodation, positive thinking, seeking support, self-blame and defence (Falkum, Olff & Aasland, 1997). Once possible coping methods are assessed and selected, then the final stage of the model occurs, where coping is implemented. Coping has been characterized as (Folkman et al, 1986) "cognitive and behavioural efforts to manage (reduce, minimise, master, or tolerate) the internal and external demands of the person-environment transaction that is appraised as taxing or exceeding the person's resources". Robbins, Judge and Sanghi (2009), suggest that coping is the main method by which incongruence between global meaning and situational meaning is managed. A failure to cope successfully (from excessive demands or lack of resources) is likely to lead to stress and negative health and organizational outcomes (Chaudhry, 2012).

2.2 Empirical Studies carried on causes and effects of Stress

The literature indicates that there is a relationship between age, gender, marital status, educational level, position, length of service and working experience with occupational stress (Landa et al. 2008; Lu, Siu & Cooper, 2005) but the results of a study that was conducted on urban police officers in the USA, showed that dynamic factors such as work environment and coping mechanisms, contributed more to explain variance of police stress than static factors such as race and gender (He, Zhao & Ren, 2005). In several studies income, heavy workload, lack of workspace, lack of resources (including equipment and material to do tasks), absence of proper company procedures, insufficient time to perform duties, meeting deadlines imposed by others, have been introduced as stressors related to work environment (Botha & Pienaar, 2006). In other studies external accountability, responsibility, work relationships, insufficient consultation, communication, inadequate feedback on performance and organizational changes have been introduced as sources of occupational stress (Sveinsdottir, Biering & Alfons, 2006).

According to Beehr, (2005) work overloads and time constraints were significant contributors to work stress among community nurses. Workload stress can be defined as reluctance to come to work and a feeling of constant pressure (i.e. no effort is enough) accompanied by the general physiological, psychological, and behavioural stress symptoms (Larson, 2004). Al-Aameri (2003) has mentioned in his studies that one of the six causes of occupational stress is pressure originating from workload. Alexandros-Stamatios, et al. (2003) also argued that "factors intrinsic to the job" means workload, variety of tasks and rates of pay.

Grzywacz (2004) conducted a research on stress and education level among 1031 workers. He found out that less educated people suffer few stressful days but when they suffer stress it's more severe and had a large impact on their health.

Combs (2004) on the other hand, conducted a research on marital status and stress among 300 workers and found that married couples reported more stress than their single counter parts.

Karatepe et al (2012) conducted a research on role stress, emotional exhaustion and turnover on frontline hotel employees in Cyprus. The results showed that the positive effect of role conflict and emotional exhaustion on turnover intentions was weaker among the frontline employees with longer tenure. Cavanaugh et al (2010) also conducted a research on role conflict and personality among managers. They found that individuals with type B personality managed conflict better and were better off at managing large organizations.

Philips Campbell and Morrison (2010) conducted a research on satisfaction, stress and spousal support among 242 married veterans. Both genders reported that income and time required for work was the greatest dissatisfaction. Males reported more spousal support on their careers. They proposed a study on the interactive effect among combination of stressors that are commonly found in the world of work. No differences were found between the genders on the effect of work related stress.

Sultana (2012) carried out a study on the nature and impact of teacher stress in the private schools of Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan. Analysis of the findings of the study resulted in categorizing them into three groups: personal stress, professional stress and financial stress. However, the impact of each one of the three groups of teacher stress (i.e. personal, professional and financial) was different for different teachers. It looked like some teachers felt more stressed because of a variety of personal and domestic factors, whereas other teachers felt more constrained because of financial issues. Furthermore, the data analysis also highlighted the sources of teacher stress, which could be easily identified as the "inside-school" and the "outside-school" sources of stress. The various findings related to each one of the two categories are revealing as they show the significance and degree of enormity of stress factors related to these groups.

Blomme, Rheede and Tromp (2010) conducted a research on work life programmes and firm productivity among 658 US organizations. It was fully established that organizations that had extensive work life programmes enjoyed productivity benefits. They suggested further research that takes into accounts other organizational variables such as job satisfaction and organizational commitment.

Deaconu (2011) conducted a research on stress management and performance among 180 sales people. He established that Bio feedback and counselling enhanced performance of sales personnel.

Barnett (2004) conducted a research on work hours and stress outcomes among 211 dual income earner couples with children. He found that long hours of work had an effect on marital quality, psychological distress and work-family conflict. He proposed further research on the linkages both individually and within couples between long working hours and health behaviours such as regular exercises, routine medical checkups and healthy eating.

In Kenya a lot of research on causes of workers stress in educational institutions had focused on teachers. Gathungu and Wachira (2013) carried out a study on the job satisfaction factors that influence the performance of secondary school principals in their administrative functions in Mombasa district, Kenya. They

found out that the determinants of stress include job satisfaction, job enhancement, team work, promotion, cooperation, mentoring and training needs, the development, management and recognition of success.

Yambo, et al. (2012) focused on investigating high school principals' stress in relation to their job experience in schools in Southern Nyanza Region of Kenya. They found out that the sources of stress: Role Based, Task Based, Conflict Mediating and Boundary Spanning had a correlation and dependable relationship with High School Principals' job Experience in schools.

Mairura (2009) conducted a research on counselling, self-esteem and stress among 130 teenagers in Nairobi day schools. He found that counselling was effective in managing stress experienced by teenagers and raised their self-esteem. He suggested further research on the same area, expanding the approach to include a larger or more representative sample.

Obwogi (2011) conducted a research on the factors that affect quality of teaching staff in universities in Kenya supplementing Ngoma's research in 2010 on the massive growth of university education in East Africa and the challenges facing the sector from 2000 to 2011. From both studies it's clear that something is not right among the university workers and something needs to be urgently done even as the work load increases in the public universities.

In response to the issue of universities workers problems, Muceke (2012) observed that most of the studies on academic staff retention were based on the corporate sector. There was only one from the public universities done by Tetey in 2009. Muceke (2012) noted the problem of academic staff retention in Kenyan public universities is a pertinent issue and it is expected to be worse with the double intake in 2011/2012 academic year. Musyoka et al (2013) in their research on the role of stress management in reducing stress and enhancing corporate performance concluded that the Government of Kenya is responsible for all workers through the ministry of labour. It has the duty to set regulations on minimum pay, health and safety of workers among others. They suggest that FKE and COTU should come-up with regulations that will prevent or manage stress. They further suggest that Human Resources Manager who works in these corporations must be able to handle traumatic incidents, mediate conflict situations at work and organize for drug-alcohol abuse programmes for the staff. Getting in touch with employees brings the important aspect of social support which helps employees improve their perception and realize that they are valued, and in turn enhances their self-esteem and confidence at the work place. This translates to higher job performance among employees and is reflected by improvement of the measures of corporate performance such as customer satisfaction, employee creativity, productivity, higher market share and profitability. Critical to organizations supportive culture is sensitizing supervisors to be sympathetic to employees desire to seek balance between work and family needs. Finally managers should organize seminars for employees to educate them on time management, financial management, team work enhancing programmes and healthy living seminars in order to manage their own stress.

As established by many researchers for example Sayeed (2001), Deaconu (2011), Barnett (2004) etc, stress management

positively contribute to the performance of organizations. In this research, the researcher wishes to establish the determinants of stress in public Universities in Kenya, how stress affects performance and what the Universities have been doing to mitigate the stressors in the public Universities.

Studies on the determinants of stress have focused on one particular determinant at a time this therefore has left a gap of knowledge on the relationship between the specific determinants of stress. Since there are such gaps, dealing with workers stress completely has not been easy because the factors causing such stress is not addressed completely by the studies (Yambo, et al., 2012). This study therefore aims at identifying all the determinants of stress, showing the relationship between such stressors and identifying coping strategies to manage such stressors.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research adopted both exploratory and descriptive research designs. Creswell (2014) argues that a flexible research design which provides opportunity for considering many different aspects of a problem is considered if the purpose of the research study is that of exploration. When the purpose happens to be an accurate description of a situation or of an association between variables, the suitable design will be one that minimizes bias and maximizes the reliability of the data collected and analyzed (Kothari, 2004). Given this advice and the nature of this study, a non-experimental hypothesis testing design was adopted as most appropriate for this study. The study sought personal views, opinions, attitudes, and perceptions about causes of workers stress and their effect on the performance of the public universities which could be subjected to experimental design (Silverman, 2013).

The research design used for the study was a cross-sectional evaluation survey. This study collected information from workers in selected universities in Kenya thus making a survey effective in executing the research. An evaluation on the other hand involves the study of an organizational change, curriculum or innovation (Robert, 2002), which involved the evaluation of workers stress causative factors in public universities. However, the survey was cross-sectional survey since the data was collected at one particular time across the selected universities (Schurink, 2009). This research design was applied by the use of both suitable qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Quantitative research makes use of questionnaires, surveys and experiments to gather data that is revised and tabulated in numbers, which allows the data to be characterized by the use of statistical analysis (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005). Quantitative researchers measure variables on a sample of subjects and express the relationship between variables using effect statistics such as correlations, relative frequencies, or differences between means; their focus is to a large extent on the testing of theory. The study intended to establish the causes of workers stress and coping strategies which was collected using questionnaires. The factors were tabulated in the questionnaires and expressed using relative frequencies.

On the other hand, Creswell (2014) points out that there are several common characteristics of qualitative research, which includes: the data is collected in the field at the natural setting;

researcher is a key instrument and they also use multiple forms of data collection such as interviews, observations, and documents rather rely on a single data source. This study employed qualitative research while generating data from specific participants on causes and effects of stress on performance and their coping strategies using interviews.

The target population refers to the subjects who possess attributes which the researcher wishes to study and a universe of units from which the sample is to be drawn Devos (2000). Bless and Higson-Smith (1995), define a target population as a set of elements on which the researcher focuses and from which the results obtained by testing the sample can be generalized.

The target population for this study was the staff of three selected public universities in Kenya. This included Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, University of Nairobi, and Kenyatta University. This refers to the individual workers; in all levels of employment, at the selected higher institutions as well as representatives from the staff welfare department and the institutions' administration in charge of human resources. Various departmental heads are also targeted as their responsibilities from time to time involve human resources management. This gave a total target population of 12,805 workers from the three selected public universities as shown on table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Population of Workers in the Selected Public Universities

Selected public universities	University workers population
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	2,131
University of Nairobi	4,874
Kenyatta University	5,800
TOTAL	12,805

Source : (KUSU, 2014)

Cluster sampling technique was employed for the survey. The cluster sampling design involves the dividing of the population into mutually exclusive groups and then drawing random samples from each group to interview (Kumar R, 2005). This was necessary so as to ensure that the samples selected from each group are represented in the entire sample, which was selected for the study, in proportion to their numbers in the entire targeted population.

The Fishers formula was used to determine the appropriate sample size of this study. This was because the target population consists of a large number of units (public university workers) (Yates, 2004). The researcher assumed 95% desired level of confidence, which is equivalent to standardized normal deviate value of 1.96, and an acceptable margin of error of 5% (standard value of 0.05).

$$n = Z^2pq/d^2$$

Where:

n = the desired sample size (if target population is large)

z = the standard normal deviate at the required confidence level.
 P = the proportion in the target population estimated to have characteristic being measured.

$$q = 1-p$$

d = the level of statistical significance set.

Assuming 50% of the population have the characteristics being measured, $q=1-0.3$

Assuming we desire accuracy at 0.05 level. The Z-statistic is 1.96 at this level

$$\text{Therefore } n = (1.96)^2(.5)(.5)/(.05)^2 = 384$$

The targeted respondents from the selected public universities were categorized into three groups. These groups will include: The academic staff; the administrative staff; and the operative staff.

The cluster samples from the three selected universities were composed of respondent workers as shown on table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Composition of the Cluster Samples

Selected Public Universities	Academic staff		Administrative staff		Operative staff		Total Respondents	
	Actual	Cluster	Actual	Cluster	Actual	Cluster	Actual	Cluster
JKUAT	702	21	923	28	506	15	2,131	64
University of Nairobi	1,411	42	1,647	49	1,816	55	4,874	146
Kenyatta University	900	27	1,700	51	3,200	96	5,800	174
GRAND TOTAL	3,013	90	4270	128	5,522	166	12,805	384

The data collection tools used for the study were a questionnaire and interview schedules to obtain data from primary sources and a document review and analysis for secondary sources. These tools were selected after carefully considering the nature of the data to be collected, the target

population, the time frame and the objectives/ research questions of the study.

a) Interviews

Interviews were important in situations where we cannot observe behaviour or when we do not know how participants experience their world (Cohen et al., 2007). Face-to-face

interviews allowed the researcher an opportunity to explore the meaning participants attach to their experiences (Richards, 2003) in causes of their stress and how they are coping with such stress situations. Face-to-face interview as well allowed the researcher to observe non-verbal cues and appropriately react or modify his inquiry in response to non-verbal cues (Yin, 2003) of participants particularly when they elicit confusion, uncertainty, or waning motivation.

The interviews were based on a prepared set of questions but these were only used as a guide. The research took the same position as Silverman (2013), that in qualitative study, questions are only used as a guide and departures from the guidelines are not seen as a problem but are often encouraged. The interview schedules involved the interviews of some key informants from the selected institutions of higher learning who are in one way or another involved in the welfare of the workers.

b) Questionnaires

Questionnaire has the advantage of being taken to a wider audience compared to interviews, but has a disadvantage of not being possible to customize it to individuals as it is possible with other methods of data collection. The questionnaire was the main data collection tool and it contained both open ended and closed ended questions. This study used two questionnaires that included: Self-evaluation of the determinants of workers' stress (Appendix 1) which was taken by participants in the pilot as well as the actual study to investigate the causes and effects of occupational stress among university workers; this questionnaire also attempted to determine their attitude towards such factors; and Self-evaluation of the effects of the stress factors on their performance and coping strategies employed by the workers in dealing with their stress and stressful situation, was taken by the participants during the actual study.

Primary data was gathered using interview guides and questionnaires which were self-administered. Cooper & Schindler (2004) state that self-administered interviews help to reach a large number of potential respondents in different locations. The questionnaires also helped to collect data from a large population of respondents at a short period of time.

The questionnaire and interview schedule were used to obtain both qualitative and quantitative data from the targeted respondents. Primary data collection was conducted by research assistants and me because of the different locations of institutions of higher learning. The data was collected over a period of one month to be able to meet the requirements of a cross-sectional survey. Secondary data was obtained from literature review and documents about workers stress in institutions of higher learning. The questionnaires with open ended questions on workers stress in public universities in Kenya were administered to selected workers representatives within the selected public universities in Kenya. This informed the second phase of data generation.

The second phase involved: a) administering questionnaires to the respondents who included university workers in the selected public universities; and b) conducting interviews with some key informants from the selected institutions of higher learning who are in one way or another involved in the welfare of the workers by use of interview guides. The questionnaires and the interview guides contained questions on the major issues raised in first phase.

Kombo and Tromp (2006) posit that after constructing a research instrument or questionnaire the researcher should try it out on a small sample of the population. This way of pre-testing or piloting of the instrument enables the researcher to ensure that the questions measure what they are supposed to; that the wording is very clear and unambiguous; that the questions provoke the intended responses and the researcher was able to analyze and know whether the questions posed are skewed towards certain issues more than others.

The questionnaire was pretested before its administration to ensure validity and reliability of the data to be collected. Validity was determined by the use of face validity and content validity. Face validity tests if the questions appear to be measuring the intended sections. On the other hand, content validity tests whether all the important aspects of the sections are measured. This was done by first testing the instruments on 10% of the target population and reviewing the findings. Reliability of the responses was tested using the Cronbach alpha. Normally, α should be between 0.7 – 0.9 (Santos, 1999).

Data processing operations carried out included data editing/ cleaning and classification. Data editing/ cleaning is the examination of the collected data so as to detect omissions and errors and to correct them whenever possible. Data classification is the arranging of the collected data in classes or groups with common characteristics. The similar data was then tabulated before further analysis is conducted.

The tabulated data was then analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Descriptive statistics was used for the analysis of the collected data, and this included parameters such as measures of central tendencies and the measure of dispersion. Inferential data analysis techniques such as regression and correlation analysis were also used to analyze the collected data. These parameters were used to determine and evaluate the relationships of the variables being measured. Data analysis and presentation of findings was carried out using statistical software which includes SPSS version 24 and Microsoft Excel. These software aided in the generation of suitable graphs, charts and tables which were used in drawing conclusions as well as presenting the research findings.

Regression is an important approach to modelling the relationship between the dependent variable (y) and one or more independent variable (x). A regression equation describes how the mean value of a response variable relates to specific values of the predictor variables (Bhattacharyya, 2011). The study used logistic regression analysis to test the statistical significance of the independent variables on the dependent variables.

Logistic regression is used to refer specifically to the problem in which the dependent variable is **binary**, that is, the number of available categories is two (Hosmer and Stanley, 2000). The probabilities describing the possible outcomes of a single trial were modelled, as a function of the explanatory variables, using a **logistic function** (Hosmer and Stanley, 2000). Logistic regression was therefore used to measure the relationship between the categorical dependent variable and the independent variables by using probability scores as the predicted values of the dependent variable (Agresti, 2002).

The study used Binomial logistic regression. Binomial logistic regression refers to the instance in which the observed outcome can have only two possible types (Greene, 2003). The

outcomes were coded as "0" and "1", as this lead to the most straightforward interpretation. The target group, the workers whose performance is affected (referred to as a "case") were coded as "1" and the reference group, workers whose performance is not affected (referred to as a "non-case") was coded as "0".

Logistic regression was used for predicting binary outcomes rather than continuous outcomes. It takes natural logarithm off the odds (logit or log-odds) to create a continuous criterion. The logit of success was then fitted to the predictors using regression analysis (Howell, 2010). The results of the logit were converted back to the odds via the inverse of the natural logarithm. Although the observed variables in logistic regression are categorical, the predicted scores were modelled as a continuous variable (the logit). The logit is referred to as the *link function* in logistic regression – although the output in logistic regression is binomial and displayed in contingency table, the logit is an underlying continuous criterion upon which linear regression was conducted (Howell, 2010).

Faraway (2002), states that regression analysis is a statistical tool for the investigation of relationships between variables. Regression methods have become an integral component of any data analysis concerned with describing the relationship between a response variable and explanatory variables (Hosmer and Stanley, 2000).

The logistic regression equations for performance of workers being affected was expressed as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + e \quad (3.1)$$

Where; Y = Performance of workers being affected.

β_0 = Is the constant or coefficient of intercept.

X_1 = Workplace relationships stress.

X_2 = Management stress.

X_3 = Movement stress.

$\beta_1 \dots \beta_3$ = The corresponding coefficients for the respective variables.

Regression analysis was used by Gathungu and Wachira (2013) who studied the job satisfaction factors that influence the performance of secondary school principals in their administrative functions in Mombasa district, and Obwogi (2011) who studied the factors that affect quality of teaching staff in universities in Kenya.

The study was guided by independent variables; Workplace relationships, Management stress, and Movement stress. Working facilities stress was measured by evaluating respondent's opinions on the contribution of the physical

facilities available on their environment and the working conditions on their workplace stress.

Workplace relationships stress was measured by assessing the contribution of the relationships with the boss, subordinates or colleagues and difficulties in delegating responsibilities among the workers. Their opinions were measured in a likert scale containing statements that indicate the contribution of relationships to workers' stress. Management stress was measured based on the respondents' opinion on the contribution of organizational structure, ambiguity of roles, and participation in decision-making on workers' stress.

Movement stress was measured by determining the respondents' opinion on the contribution of job shifts, job transfers and replacements on workers stress while motivation stress was measured by assessing the contribution of under promotion, over promotion and Lack of job security on the stress of the workers.

The dependent variable for the study was the performance of the selected public university workers. The workers performance was measured by assessing the physiological and psychological responses that are attributed to exposure to a stress factor.

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the raw data of the research findings and discusses the findings. Univariate and multivariate statistical measures were both employed in analysis of the data.

Respondents were asked to rate their worker's relationship in the organization based on various attributes on a five point likert scale. There exists a good relationship between the workers/colleagues at place of work/office as supported by 78% of the respondents. Another 78% of the respondents supported the assertion that their colleagues are supportive in case of a problem at place of work. Two thirds of the respondents felt that staff welfare committee is supportive and follows up on the concerns of the employees. On the other hand 63% of the respondents agreed that when issues are forwarded to the welfare section/committee, they are acted upon promptly. Slightly over half of the respondents (57%) supported the statement that members of the welfare section/committee are supportive in case of a problem. The organization staff welfare committee is effective in matters relating to employees welfare was supported most (78%) of the respondents. Respondents were observed to disagree with the statements on "The disciplinary actions in my institutions are relevant and reasonable to their respective punishable actions" and "The current disciplinary procedure is relatively fair as it is" with 61% and 72% either neutral or disagreeing with the statements respectively.

Table 4.1: Worker's Relationship

Variable	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
There exists a good relationship between the workers or colleagues at my place of work or office	1%	0%	22%	61%	17%
My colleagues are supportive in case of a problem at my place of work	3%	3%	15%	40%	38%
Staff welfare committee is supportive and follows up on the concerns of the employees	20%	4%	9%	17%	50%

When issues are forwarded to the welfare section or committee, they are acted upon promptly	1%	1%	34%	55%	8%
Members of the welfare section or committee are supportive in case of a problem	4%	13%	26%	24%	33%
The organization staff welfare committee is effective in matters relating to employees welfare	1%	11%	10%	25%	53%
The disciplinary actions in my institutions are relevant and reasonable to their respective punishable actions	2%	25%	35%	32%	7%
The current disciplinary procedure is relatively fair as it is	17%	33%	22%	25%	3%

To provide a comparative description for the responses across the three universities, the average for each statement were obtained as shown below. Great discrepancies among the respondents from the three universities were not observed. However, Staff welfare committee support was of concern to UoN respondents as shown by low score.

Table 4.2: Worker’s Relationship by University

Variable	University			
	Total	JKUAT	UoN	KU
b1 There exists a good relationship between the workers or colleagues at my place of work or office	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
b2 My colleagues are supportive in case of a problem at my place of work	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0
b3 Staff welfare committee is supportive and follows up on the concerns of the employees	3.7	4.0	3.4	4.0
b4 When issues are forwarded to the welfare section or committee, they are acted upon promptly	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
b5 Members of the welfare section or committee are supportive in case of a problem	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7
b6 The organization staff welfare committee is effective in matters relating to employees welfare	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2
b7 The disciplinary actions in my institutions are relevant and reasonable to their respective punishable actions	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2
b8 The current disciplinary procedure is relatively fair as it is	3.5	4.4	3.2	3.5
Average	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.8

Factor analysis for Worker’s Relationship

Factor analysis was best suited for this research to enable reduction of the data items into few significant composite variables affecting performance of employees in public universities in Kenya. The composite variables were used in presenting, analysis, interpretation and discussions.

Worker’s Relationship in this study was evaluated using 8 items. The five point likert scale of (8) data items, was used to measure and determine the extent to which Worker’s Relationship comprised of the desired outcomes. A correlation

was first done on all the data items under Worker’s Relationship and only those that significantly correlated to each other were further reduced into few principal components. Results from correlations showed that “Staff welfare committee is supportive and follows up on the concerns of the employees-b3” and “The current disciplinary procedure is relatively fair as it is-b8” did not correlate with most of other items and were therefore eliminated before running factor analysis.

Table 4.3: Correlations for Worker’s Relationship

Statistic	b1	b2	b3	b4	b5	b6	b7	b8
b1 Pearson Correlation	1	.486**	-.023	.208**	.298**	.229**	.262**	-.049
Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.661	.001	.000	.000	.000	.355
N	354	354	350	274	285	285	285	354
b2 Pearson Correlation	.486**	1	-.025	-.073	.515**	.414**	.280**	-.019
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.644	.226	.000	.000	.000	.718

	N	354	354	350	274	285	285	285	354
b3	Pearson Correlation	-.023	-.025	1	.035	.084	.127*	-.015	.060
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.661	.644		.571	.158	.033	.808	.265
	N	350	350	350	272	283	283	283	350
b4	Pearson Correlation	.208**	-.073	.035	1	.376**	.444**	.482**	-.023
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.226	.571		.000	.000	.000	.702
	N	274	274	272	274	274	274	274	274
b5	Pearson Correlation	.298**	.515**	.084	.376**	1	.636**	.296**	.112
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.158	.000		.000	.000	.059
	N	285	285	283	274	285	285	285	285
b6	Pearson Correlation	.229**	.414**	.127*	.444**	.636**	1	.489**	-.054
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.033	.000	.000		.000	.365
	N	285	285	283	274	285	285	285	285
b7	Pearson Correlation	.262**	.280**	-.015	.482**	.296**	.489**	1	-.113
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.808	.000	.000	.000		.057
	N	285	285	283	274	285	285	285	285
b8	Pearson Correlation	-.049	-.019	.060	-.023	.112	-.054	-.113	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.355	.718	.265	.702	.059	.365	.057	
	N	354	354	350	274	285	285	285	354

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The next table is used as to test assumptions; essentially, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) statistic should be greater than 0.500 and the Bartlett's test should be significant (e.g. $p < .05$). KMO is used for assessing sampling adequacy and evaluates the correlations and partial correlations to determine if the data are likely to coalesce on factors (i.e. some items highly correlated, some not). The Bartlett's test evaluates whether or not our correlation matrix is an identity matrix (1 on the diagonal & 0 on

the off-diagonal). The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin of sampling adequacy was above the threshold of 0.5 (KMO=0.612) indicating that the sample size was adequate for the variables entered into analysis. The Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was significant ($\chi^2=609.876$, $df=15$, $P<0.001$) showing that factor analysis using principal component was relevant for the data set and there were some relationships between the variables.

KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.612
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	609.876
	Df	15
	Sig.	.000

The table below shows the eigen values (variances of the principal components) associated with each linear component (factor) before extraction, after extraction and after rotation. The

rotations converged in two iterations with two significant components with Eigen values accounting for 68.397% of the variance explained.

Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues		Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		Sums of Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings	
	Total	% of Cumulative Variance %	Total	% of Cumulative Variance %	Total	% of Cumulative Variance %
1	2.865	47.743	2.865	47.743	2.150	35.832

2	1.239	20.654	68.397	1.239	20.654	68.397	1.954	32.565	68.397
3	.798	13.297	81.694						
4	.589	9.811	91.506						
5	.302	5.026	96.532						
6	.208	3.468	100.000						
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.									

Being above the threshold of 50% it indicated that the two-component factor model derived fitted the data appropriately. Items loading greater than 0.5 for each component combined to form the two principal components and the variables that clustered into each are shown in table below.

Table 4.4: Rotated Component Matrix

Variable	Component	
	1	2
b1 There exists a good relationship between the workers or colleagues at my place of work or office	.133	.725
b2 My colleagues are supportive in case of a problem at my place of work	.053	.932
b4 When issues are forwarded to the welfare section or committee, they are acted upon promptly	.878	-.131
b5 Members of the welfare section or committee are supportive in case of a problem	.568	.567
b6 The organization staff welfare committee is effective in matters relating to employees welfare	.717	.421
b7 The disciplinary actions in my institutions are relevant and reasonable to their respective punishable actions	.722	.209

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.
a. Rotation converged in 3 iterations.

Correlation between worker’s relationship and performance was done and results displayed in the table below.

Table 4.5: Correlation between Worker’s Relationship and performance

	Not depressed	Don’t feel and boredom	Does lazy possible job	Enjoy work	Job Commitment	Responsible for actions at work	Motivated productive and creative	Stress produce poor work	Stress reduces productivity	Employee morale	Serves the customer efficiently	Productive work	Efficient service delivery
b1	-.015	.102	-.043	.151*	.011	-.038	.426**	.198**	.078	.161**	-.201**	-.120*	-.053
b2	-.010	-.021	-.019	-.016	.128*	-.146**	.058	.015	-.157**	.108*	.088	.095	-.018
b3	-.017	.083	-.020	-.005	.079	.035	-.087	-.050	-.020	-.036	.085	.056	-.003
b4	-.044	.122*	.028	.035	-.195**	-.012	.445**	.202**	.305**	.105	-.101	-.140*	.259**
b5	.138*	.156*	.021	.162*	-.016	.017	.254**	.089	.024	.141*	-.032	.051	.172**
b6	-.045	.325**	-.031	.133*	-.130*	-.010	.268**	.165**	.071	.217**	-.035	-.004	.359**
b7	.086	.099	.075	.128*	-.130*	.194**	.353**	.106	.362**	.332**	-.257**	-.267**	.162**
b8	.038	.112*	-.091	.173*	.075	-.148**	.077	-.107*	-.156**	.074	-.017	.042	.109*

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Respondents were not depressed and could perform effectively with significance at 0.05 levels for supportive members of the welfare section/committee (.138). This shows that lack of members of the welfare section/committee support is

perceived to cause depression and inability to perform effectively among university employees. However, it was not significant for good relationship between the workers/ colleagues at my place of work/ office (-.015), My colleagues are supportive in case of a problem at my place of work (-.010), staff welfare committee is supportive and follows up on the concerns of the employees (-.017) and when issues are forwarded to the welfare section /committee, they are acted upon promptly (-.044).

I do not always feel lazy, boredom and headache lowering output was significant for the statements that “When issues are forwarded to the welfare section or committee, they are acted upon promptly (.122)”, “Members of the welfare section or committee are supportive in case of a problem (.156)”, “The organization staff welfare committee is effective in matters relating to employees welfare and can perform effectively (.325)” and “The current disciplinary procedure is relatively fair as it is (.112)”. This shows that an effective staff welfare committee and fair disciplinary procedures can reduce stress from laziness, boredom and headache which lowers output.

I do the best possible job was not significant for any of the statements. I enjoy my work was significant for the statements that “There exists a good relationship between the workers or colleagues at my place of work or office (.151)”, “Members of the welfare section or committee are supportive in case of a problem (.162)”, “The organization staff welfare committee is effective in matters relating to employees welfare (.133)”, “The

disciplinary actions in my institutions are relevant and reasonable to their respective punishable actions (.128)” and “The current disciplinary procedure is relatively fair as it is (.173)”. These correlations show that employees enjoy their work most when there are healthy relationships among them.

To assess management respondents were presented with a list of statements on a five point likert scale and asked to rate their agreement with each. 51% of the respondents, agreed to be aware of their organization structure. More than half of the respondents (54%) were either neutral or disagreed with the statement on their Organization Structure being appropriate. Most of the respondents (79%) agreed that people are held accountable for the quality of work they produce. Two thirds of the respondents agreed that their supervisor asks for their input to help make decisions. More than half of the respondents (59%) supported the statement that their supervisor tells them when they do their work well. However, most of the respondents (55%) disagreed with the statement that their supervisor tells them when their work needs improvement. More than two thirds (69%) of the respondents agreed that their supervisor delegates work effectively. On the other hand slightly more than half of the respondents (53%) felt adequately utilized in their job. Management is sensitive to employee problems was agreed upon by 53% of the respondents while another 57% agreed to being involved in decision making in their organization.

Table 4.6: Management

Variable	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am aware of my Organization Structure	6%	20%	23%	39%	12%
The Organization Structure is appropriate	10%	19%	25%	32%	14%
People are held accountable for the quality of work they produce	6%	9%	6%	43%	36%
My supervisor asks for my input to help make decisions	2%	10%	21%	37%	30%
My supervisor tells me when I do my work well	4%	10%	27%	31%	28%
My supervisor tells me when my work needs improvement	12%	20%	23%	33%	12%
My supervisor delegates work effectively	2%	16%	12%	49%	20%
I feel adequately utilized in my job	4%	14%	29%	49%	4%
Management is sensitive to employee problems	8%	10%	28%	39%	14%
I am involved in decision making in my organization	8%	12%	23%	47%	10%

Segregation by respondent’s University, great discrepancies in responses were not observed.

Table 4.7: Management by University

Variable	University			
	Total	JKUAT	UoN	KU
f1 I am aware of my Organization Structure	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
f2 The Organization Structure is appropriate	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2
f3 People are held accountable for the quality of work they produce	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0
f4 My supervisor asks for my input to help make decisions	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
f5 My supervisor tells me when I do my work well	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7
f6 My supervisor tells me when my work needs improvement	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1

f7	My supervisor delegates work effectively	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7
f8	I feel adequately utilized in my job	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3
f9	Management is sensitive to employee problems	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4
f10	I am involved in decision making in my organization	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4
Average		3.4	3.2	3.5	3.3

Management in this study was evaluated using 10 items. The five point likert scale of (10) data items, was used to measure and determine the extent to which management comprised of the desired outcomes. A correlation was first done on all the data items under management and only those that significantly correlated to each other were further reduced into

few principal components. Results from correlations showed that “The Organization Structure is appropriate-f2” and “f3 People are held accountable for the quality of work they produce-f3” did not correlate with most of other items and was therefore eliminated before running factor analysis.

Table 4.8: Correlations among management items

	Statistic	f1	f2	f3	f4	f5	f6	f7	f8	f9	f10
f1	Pearson Correlation	1	.208**	.013	.509**	.295**	.159**	-.139**	.443**	.466**	.180**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.806	.000	.000	.003	.009	.000	.000	.001
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f2	Pearson Correlation	.208**	1	-.049	.016	.009	.126*	.290**	-.089	.138**	.019
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.355	.770	.871	.018	.000	.096	.009	.725
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f3	Pearson Correlation	.013	-.049	1	.378**	.091	.221**	.138**	.230**	.092	.342**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.806	.355		.000	.089	.000	.009	.000	.083	.000
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f4	Pearson Correlation	.509**	.016	.378**	1	.424**	.310**	-.108*	.409**	.452**	.495**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.770	.000		.000	.000	.043	.000	.000	.000
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f5	Pearson Correlation	.295**	.009	.091	.424**	1	.097	-.173**	.329**	.356**	.323**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.871	.089	.000		.067	.001	.000	.000	.000
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f6	Pearson Correlation	.159**	.126*	.221**	.310**	.097	1	-.128*	.185**	.432**	.400**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	.018	.000	.000	.067		.016	.000	.000	.000
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f7	Pearson Correlation	-.139**	.290**	.138**	-.108*	-.173**	-.128*	1	-.024	-.169**	-.010
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.009	.000	.009	.043	.001	.016		.649	.001	.854
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f8	Pearson Correlation	.443**	-.089	.230**	.409**	.329**	.185**	-.024	1	.168**	.115*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.096	.000	.000	.000	.000	.649		.002	.030
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f9	Pearson Correlation	.466**	.138**	.092	.452**	.356**	.432**	-.169**	.168**	1	.246**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.009	.083	.000	.000	.000	.001	.002		.000
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354
f10	Pearson Correlation	.180**	.019	.342**	.495**	.323**	.400**	-.010	.115*	.246**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.725	.000	.000	.000	.000	.854	.030	.000	
	N	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354	354

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin of sampling adequacy was above the threshold of 0.5 (KMO=0.669) indicating that the sample size was adequate for the variables entered into analysis. The Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was significant ($\chi^2=699.742$, $df=28$,

$P<0.001$) showing that factor analysis using principal component was relevant for the data set and there were some relationships between the variables.

KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.669
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	699.742
	Df	28
	Sig.	.000

The table below shows the eigenvalues (variances of the principal components) associated with each linear component (factor) before extraction, and after extraction. The extraction

converged in three iterations with one significant component with Eigenvalues accounting for 64.812% of the variance explained.

Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% Variance	of Cumulative %	Total	% Variance	of Cumulative %	Total	% Variance	of Cumulative %
1	3.026	37.829	37.829	3.026	37.829	37.829	2.227	27.833	27.833
2	1.127	14.081	51.910	1.127	14.081	51.910	1.838	22.978	50.811
3	1.032	12.901	64.812	1.032	12.901	64.812	1.120	14.001	64.812
4	.847	10.583	75.394						
5	.711	8.889	84.283						
6	.598	7.479	91.762						
7	.375	4.682	96.444						
8	.284	3.556	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Being above the threshold of 50% it indicated that the one-component factor model derived fitted the data appropriately. Items loading greater than 0.5 for the component combined to

form the one principal component and the variables that clustered into it are shown in table below. The third component comprised of one item which was eliminated further analysis.

Table 4.9: Rotated Component Matrix

Variable	Component		
	1	2	3
f1	.775	.103	-.172
f4	.661	.501	-.008
f5	.606	.210	-.162
f6	.024	.795	-.167
f7	-.060	-.011	.923
f8	.790	-.025	.127
f9	.405	.515	-.374
f10	.173	.797	.170

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 4 iterations.

The effect of management on performance and was examined by calculating the correlations.

Table 4.10: Correlation between management and performance

	Not depressed	Don't feel and boredom	Does the best possible job	Enjoy work	Job Commitment	Responsible for actions at work	Motivated , productive and creative	Stress produces poor work	Stress reduces productivity	Employees have high morale	Serves the customer efficiently	Produce accurate work	Efficient service delivery
f1	.114*	.031	-.068	.008	.012	.056	-.027	-.046	.051	-.007	-.015	-.038	-.125*
f2	.152**	-.032	.092	.078	-.097	-.058	.096	-.041	.059	.051	-.091	-.036	-.138*
f3	.132*	-.016	-.008	-.035	.123*	.008	-.027	-.006	-.024	-.068	.003	.021	-.077
f4	.156**	.037	-.027	-.045	.021	.107*	-.018	-.057	.020	-.030	-.018	-.045	-.059
f5	.207**	.028	.001	-.064	.010	.098	-.068	-.014	-.097	-.095	-.084	-.093	-.110*
f6	.299**	.049	.082	.005	.078	.008	.069	-.042	-.070	.025	-.087	-.097	-.097
f7	.153**	-.091	.008	.025	-.033	-.003	.014	-.018	.045	.037	.000	.013	.072
f8	.019	-.077	-.036	-.084	-.016	.006	-.101	-.029	-.073	-.028	.126*	.073	.022
f9	.057	.133*	.011	.054	.045	.074	.123*	-.039	.034	-.047	-.216**	-.150**	-.178**
f10	.088	.060	.113*	-.002	.042	.165**	-.015	-.043	.023	-.030	-.126*	-.170**	-.081

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Results showed that lack of depression and effective performance was positively and significantly correlated to being aware of Organization Structure (.114); organization Structure being appropriate (.152); People being held accountable for the quality of work they produce (.132); supervisor asking for employees' input to help make decisions (.156); supervisor telling employees when they do my work well(.207); supervisor telling employees when their work needs improvement (.299); and supervisor delegating work effectively (.153).

Being committed to their jobs was positively and significantly correlated to People being held accountable for the quality of work they produce (.123). Taking responsibility for our actions within the job environment was positively and significantly correlated to supervisor asking for employees' input to help make decisions (.107) and being involved in decision making in their organization (.165). Having efficient service delivery was significantly correlated to being aware of organization structure (-.125) and organization Structure being appropriate (-.138).

To evaluate employee performance, respondents were presented with 13 statements on five point likert scale and asked to rate their agreement with each statement. From the results

most of the respondents (74%) agreed that they are not aggressive and depressed at work and therefore can perform duties effectively. Slightly over half of the respondents (55%) agreed that they do not always feel lazy, boredom and headache lowering their output. Surprisingly more than two thirds of the respondents (68%) agreed to not doing their best possible job. Over half of the respondents (53%) agreed that they enjoy their work. We are committed to our jobs was supported by 53% of the respondents. Most of the respondents (63%) disagreed that they take responsibility for their actions within the job environment. More than three quarters of the respondents (80%) admitted to being always motivated, productive and creative. Stress makes me produce poor quality work was agreed upon by 85% of the respondents while 81% agreed that stress reduces their productivity at work. On the other hand 60% of the respondents disagreed that employees in their University have high morale or commitment. Most of the respondents (57%) disagreed that they are able to serve the customers efficiently while 53% disagreed to being able to produce accurate work as expected by their organization. We have acquired efficient service delivery and quality of services in this University was disagreed by 60% of the respondents.

Table 4.11: Employee Performance

Variable	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am not aggressive and depressed at work and therefore can perform my duties effectively	7%	8%	12%	34%	40%
I do not always feel lazy, boredom and headache lowering my output	0%	8%	37%	31%	23%
You do not do the best possible job	5%	11%	16%	40%	28%

I enjoy my work	11%	17%	19%	34%	19%
We are committed to our jobs	12%	15%	21%	43%	10%
We take responsibility for our actions within the job environment	18%	26%	19%	21%	16%
We are always motivated, productive and creative	0%	5%	16%	51%	29%
Stress makes me produce poor quality work	1%	1%	13%	53%	32%
Stress reduces my productivity at work	0%	5%	15%	53%	28%
Employees in this University have high morale or commitment	4%	31%	25%	28%	12%
I am able to serve the customers efficiently	17%	18%	22%	33%	10%
I am able to produce accurate work as expected by my organization	14%	14%	26%	39%	8%
We have acquired efficient service delivery and quality of services in this University	13%	22%	24%	28%	12%

To provide a comparative description for the responses obtained as shown below. Great discrepancies among the across the three universities, the average for each statement were respondents from the three universities were not observed.

Table 4.12: Employee Performance

Variable	Total	University		
		JKUAT	UoN	KU
g1 I am not aggressive and depressed at work and therefore can perform my duties effectively	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.8
g2 I do not always feel lazy, boredom and headache lowering my output	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7
g3 You do not do the best possible job	3.8	3.2	3.8	3.9
g4 I enjoy my work	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5
g5 We are committed to our jobs	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2
g6 We take responsibility for our actions within the job environment	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.0
g7 We are always motivated, productive and creative	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1
g8 Stress makes me produce poor quality work	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2
g9 Stress reduces my productivity at work	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1
g10 Employees in this University have high morale or commitment	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.2
g11 I am able to serve the customers efficiently	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.9
g12 I am able to produce accurate work as expected by my organization	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.0
g13 We have acquired efficient service delivery and quality of services in this University	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1
Average	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5

Factor analysis for Employee Performance

Employee Performance in this study was evaluated using 13 items. The five point likert scale of (13) data items, was used to measure and determine the extent to which Employee Performance comprised of the desired outcomes. A correlation was first done on all the data items under Employee Performance and only those that significantly correlated to each other were further reduced into few principal components. Results from correlations showed that “I am not aggressive and depressed at work and therefore can perform my duties effectively-g1”, “You do not do the best possible job-g3”, “We are committed to our jobs-g5” and “Stress reduces my productivity at work-g9” did

not correlate with most of other items and was therefore eliminated before running factor analysis, Table 4.67 in the appendix.

The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin of sampling adequacy was above the threshold of 0.5 (KMO=0.540) indicating that the sample size was adequate for the variables entered into analysis. The Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity was significant ($\chi^2=646.288$, $df=36$, $P<0.001$) showing that factor analysis using principal component was relevant for the data set and there were some relationships between the variables.

KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.540
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	646.288
	Df	36
	Sig.	.000

The table below shows the eigenvalues (variances of the principal components) associated with each linear component (factor) before extraction, after extraction and after rotation. The rotations converged in four iterations with four significant components with Eigenvalues accounting for 62.319% of the variance explained.

Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% Variance	% of Cumulative	Total	% Variance	% of Cumulative	Total	% Variance	% of Cumulative
1	2.311	25.673	25.673	2.311	25.673	25.673	2.027	22.521	22.521
2	2.010	22.331	48.004	2.010	22.331	48.004	1.822	20.245	42.766
3	1.288	14.315	62.319	1.288	14.315	62.319	1.760	19.553	62.319
4	.943	10.477	72.796						
5	.755	8.386	81.183						
6	.630	6.995	88.178						
7	.526	5.849	94.027						
8	.310	3.443	97.470						
9	.228	2.530	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Being above the threshold of 50% it indicated that the two-component factor model derived fitted the data appropriately. Items loading greater than 0.6 for each component, except for e11, combined to form the four principal components and the variables that clustered into each are shown in table below.

Table 4.13: Rotated Component Matrix

Variable	Component		
	1	2	3
g2 I do not always feel lazy, boredom and headache lowering my output	-.225	.731	-.009
g4 I enjoy my work	-.171	-.094	.772
g6 We take responsibility for our actions within the job environment	-.467	.309	-.553
g7 We are always motivated, productive and creative	-.085	.451	.638
g8 Stress makes me produce poor quality work	.079	.684	-.034
g10 Employees in this University have high morale or commitment	.161	.553	.574
g11 I am able to serve the customers efficiently	.886	-.021	-.134
g12 I am able to produce accurate work as expected by my organization	.873	.029	-.002
g13 We have acquired efficient service delivery and quality of services in this University	.376	.452	.320

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 6 iterations.

V. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Relationships at the workplace are a major source of stress among workers in the public universities. When the relationship of an employee with their peers as well as their supervisors is not effective, the employees tend to be under stress in delivering of their duties hence performing poorly. However it is not only the relationship among individuals that might lead to stress within the public organisations. Some other sources of stress include relationships between groups, the public universities, departments or campuses. Stress can emanate from these relationships and transfer to the workers.

Relationships stress arises from conflicts that exist within relationships. Workers will more likely experience more negative moods on the days when they had distressing interactions with those they relate (superiors and co-workers) impacting negatively on their performance. According to the results of the study, most workers in the public universities rarely experience relationship stress. Based on the results, there exists a good relationship between the workers/colleagues at place of work/office (78%) and there is support within the work place in case of a problem. The concerns of the employees are addressed and acted upon promptly (63%). Additionally, the public university administrations are generally supportive especially on issues relating to the welfare of their workers (78%).

Conclusively, Most of the study respondents reported existence of a good relationship between the workers/ colleagues at their place of work place. On the other hand respondents agreed that their colleagues are supportive in case of a problem at places of work. These results support those of Spector (2002) who observes that interpersonal relationships at work such as conflicts with co-workers or abusive behaviour by supervisors cause stress in the work place.

Respondents were observed to refute staff welfare committee support and follows up on the concerns of the employees. Most of them reported that when issues are forwarded to the welfare section /committee, they are not acted upon promptly. This is could be a source of stress for most of the employees. These findings support those of Repetti (1993) who postulates that poor relationship between the superior and the workers contribute to the level of stress experienced by the workers.

Management in this study refers to how the organization supervisors or leaders assign roles to their subordinates and how effectively those roles are assigned to enhance productivity. Working in a large, hierarchical, bureaucratic organization where employees have little control over their jobs can be very stressful. Additionally, when there is a high concentration of assignments at work: excessive work or work that is outside one's capability, employees gets stressed and perform poorly. Since in management supervisors hold each employee accountable to their actions and duties, and for the quality of work they produce, role conflict that relates with mismatched role potentials, and role ambiguity which explains the uncertainty of what is expected, leads to stress and eventually interferes with the performance of the university workers. Respondents were neutral on the statement of whether they were not depressed at work and therefore can perform their duties effectively.

Respondents did not also know how to rate whether they felt always lazy, bored and headache lowering their output. Most of the respondents felt that they did not do the best possible job. However, most of the respondents enjoy their work and are committed to it.

Keeping in view the important role of university workers in ensuring that the institution achieves its objectives of sustaining economic and social development of the country, the concept of university workers performance has achieved a strategic significance. The performance of university workers is affected by intra as well as extra organizational factors, which act as impediments to normal routine functioning of the workers. Once the routine functioning of the workers is disrupted, then the university workers develop feelings of exhaustion and frustration, and if the disrupted situation persists then negative dysfunctional feelings hit the workers which can be termed as stress, which is a reaction to the unwanted environmental stressors.

Workers under stress cannot perform well. Their job satisfaction and motivation levels are decreased and they show unwanted behaviours like absenteeism, mistakes during work, drugs use and abuse and violence at work. Furthermore they have more health related physical and psychological complaints. The university employees' satisfaction level is also decreased in such way that the university cannot offer quality education to the students. The resultant effect include complaints from parents and other stakeholders on the status of service delivery at the institutions, frequent strikes, dissatisfied employees and poor performance of the universities in general, and eventually overall image of the educational institution gets damaged.

This study and its findings should be viewed as a starting point for more extensive research related to determinant and effects of occupational stress. Research on other variables presumed related, either directly or indirectly to employee performance should be researched on. Whereas this research has relied on quantitative approaches to examine the effects of occupational stress affecting the performance of employees, an in-depth analysis of individual responses can generate useful inductive information and provide a richer understanding of the factors important in predicting occupational stress affecting the performance of employees.

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APPENDIX 3: TABLES

Table 4.14: Correlations for Employee Performance

	Statistic	g1	g2	g3	g4	g5	g6	g7	g8	g9	g10	g11	g12	g13
g1	Pearson Correlation	1	.009	.012	-.080	.069	.033	-.067	-.019	-.011	-.060	-.037	-.033	-.098
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.871	.833	.153	.205	.544	.217	.726	.845	.273	.498	.541	.075
g2	Pearson Correlation	.009	1	-.025	-.070	.110	.176**	.286**	.141*	-.188**	.265**	-.147**	-.074	.139*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.871		.658	.229	.053	.002	.000	.013	.001	.000	.009	.197	.016
g3	Pearson Correlation	.012	-.025	1	.104	-.037	-.025	.030	-.016	.028	-.008	-.075	-.059	-.006
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.833	.658		.064	.502	.645	.582	.776	.618	.881	.172	.284	.920
g4	Pearson Correlation	-.080	-.070	.104	1	.076	-.113*	.248**	.040	.261**	.309**	-.261**	-.121*	-.061
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.153	.229	.064		.169	.041	.000	.473	.000	.000	.000	.028	.278
g5	Pearson Correlation	.069	.110	-.037	.076	1	.022	-.121*	.015	-.157**	.136*	.151**	.277**	-.063
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.205	.053	.502	.169		.682	.025	.778	.004	.011	.005	.000	.249
g6	Pearson Correlation	.033	.176**	-.025	-.113*	.022	1	-.155**	.117*	.081	.068	-.273**	-.358**	-.209**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.544	.002	.645	.041	.682		.004	.030	.134	.212	.000	.000	.000
g7	Pearson Correlation	-.067	.286**	.030	.248**	-.121*	-.155**	1	.162**	.211**	.462**	-.214**	-.140**	.228**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.217	.000	.582	.000	.025	.004		.003	.000	.000	.000	.009	.000

g8	Pearson Correlation	-.019	.141*	-.016	.040	.015	.117*	.162**	1	.118*	.312**	.022	-.005	.237**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.726	.013	.776	.473	.778	.030	.003		.028	.000	.688	.933	.000
g9	Pearson Correlation	-.011	-.188**	.028	.261**	-.157**	.081	.211**	.118*	1	.176**	-.070	-.026	-.048
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.845	.001	.618	.000	.004	.134	.000	.028		.001	.194	.637	.382
g10	Pearson Correlation	-.060	.265**	-.008	.309**	.136*	.068	.462**	.312**	.176**	1	.101	.107*	.345**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.273	.000	.881	.000	.011	.212	.000	.000	.001		.061	.049	.000
g11	Pearson Correlation	-.037	-.147**	-.075	-.261**	.151**	-.273**	-.214**	.022	-.070	.101	1	.693**	.192**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.498	.009	.172	.000	.005	.000	.000	.688	.194	.061		.000	.000
g12	Pearson Correlation	-.033	-.074	-.059	-.121*	.277**	-.358**	-.140**	-.005	-.026	.107*	.693**	1	.218**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.541	.197	.284	.028	.000	.000	.009	.933	.637	.049	.000		.000
g13	Pearson Correlation	-.098	.139*	-.006	-.061	-.063	-.209**	.228**	.237**	-.048	.345**	.192**	.218**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)													

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).