

Factors Correlated with Low Workplace Well-Being in Hong Kong

Elorm DONKOR¹, Dong DONG¹, Roger CHUNG¹, Katherine SZE¹, Melinda Chuchu Liu ¹, Jean H. KIM¹

¹Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong SAR, China



INTRODUCTION



Well-being: "feeling good and functioning well" Workplace well-being (WWB) is considered a prominent aspect of mental health that is influenced by evolving societal dynamics [1-2].

- In the Hong Kong context, much of the past research has examined the working environment, focusing on workers job satisfaction and the protection of workers' rights and social identity [3-4].
- However, occupational stress has emerged as a significant concern in high-pressure settings like Hong Kong with consistent reported high level of stress, burnout and work dissatisfaction in relation to heavy job demands [5-6].

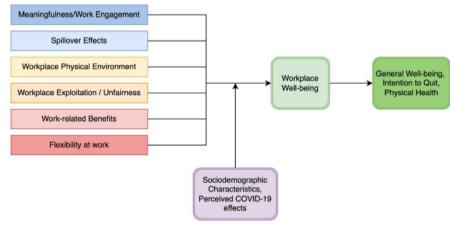
Research Gaps

- While previous studies from Hong Kong have provided valuable insights about worker well-being, notable limitations regarding past studies include;
- Narrow focus on aspects of WWB such as occupational stress or burnout rather than examine a wide range of WWB domains.
- Examining single occupational groups, such as healthcare professionals or teachers, limiting the generalizability of findings to other sectors.
- Used mostly western developed tools.

Study Objectives

Using a validated instrument developed for the Hong Kong population, we examined various factors associated with workplace well-being (WWB) in Hong Kong using a diverse work sample.

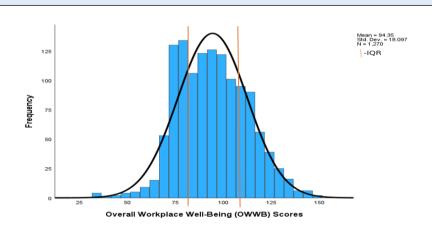
METHODS



Research variables

- Descriptive statistics: summative scores, frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations.
- Overall Workplace Well-Being (OWWB) scores showed a unimodal distribution and were divided into 3 groups:
- ✓ Mean overall scale score <2.5 (low workplace well-being)
- ✓ Mean overall scale score 2.5-3.5 (moderate workplace well-being)
- ✓ Mean overall scale score >3.5 (high workplace well-being)
- Unadjusted and adjusted MV regression models were used to assess the independent associations among variables with WWB dichotomized as low vs non-low.
- All analyses were conducted in IBM SPSS Statistics vs 29, and significance was considered at the p < 0.05 level [7]

RESULTS



SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS (n=1270)

- Our sample had a similar representation of gender, age and marital distribution as the general population 18-74 years of age.
- ✓ But our sample was more educated and had lower percentages of workers in unskilled/semi-skilled occupations.

Mean scores

- ✓ Physical health: 6.7 points out of 10 (SD=1.8)
- **✓ Overall WWB**: 94.4 points out of 155 (SD=18.1)
- ✓ General WB: 10.1 out of 30 (SD, 8.1)



Ranking of WWB domains (1: highest to 6: lowest)

- 1. spillover effects (mean 3.25, SD 0.86)
- **2. job flexibility** (mean 3.12, SD 1.07)
- 3. work-related benefits (mean 3.05, SD 0.89)
- 4. physical work environment (mean 3.02, SD 0.92)
- 5. meaningfulness/engagement (mean 3.00, SD 0.81)
- **6. exploitation/unfairness** (mean 2.87, SD 0.95)

	Meaningfulness/ Work Engagement	Spillover Effects	Workplace Physical Environment	Workplace Exploitation/unfairness	Workplace Benefit	Flexibility at work
Overall Workplace Well-Being	.841**	.227**	.850**	.666**	.706**	.530**
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).						

MV Regression Outcomes

- Low OWWB was independently associated with university or above educational level attainment (OR = 1.90), no dependent children under 18 years (OR = 1.57), worked in white colored jobs (OR = 1.60), work commute time of 30 minutes/more (OR = 1.73), 0 days work leave in the past month (OR = 1.74), and having no job **security** (OR = 41.65), p-values<0.05.
- √ Job change intent was associated with higher levels of spillover (OR=2.893), better workplace physical environment (OR=1.901), and low work flexibility.
- ✓ Overall WWB and the subscales correlated positively with general well-being except the spillover domain (p>0.05). The strongest relationship was between work-related benefits and general well-being at 41%.
- ✓ **Self-rated physical health** also related positively with **OWWB and** facets except exploitation/unfairness subscale, with the link between spillover effects and physical health strongest at 9.9%.

Pandemic Effects on Workers' Well-being

• 6.9% reported improved **WWB**

Associated with:

- √ additional benefits (10.2%)
- ✓ remote work (9.1%).

■ 33.6% reported worsened WWB

Attributed to:

- ✓ low income/limited work opportunities (24.3%)
- ✓ staff shortages (8%)
- ✓ increases in workload (14%).

Limitations & Strengths

- Cross-sectional design limits the ability to establish causality between variables.
- > The reliance on self-reported measures may introduce biases.
- > Study sample though large, may not fully represent the diverse workforce of Hong Kong.
- > But the study used various robust statistical methods, providing a nuanced understanding of the factors influencing workplace well-being with a validated scale.

CONCLUSION & IMPLICATIONS

This study found that factors like job security, education level, and workplace conditions greatly impact employees' wellbeing. Organizations should focus on improving job security and creating supportive work environments to enhance well-being. Future research should further investigate these factors, especially in evolving work environments, to understand their lasting effects on employee health and satisfaction.

- Cigna (2022). Cigna 360 Well-Being Survey
- Li, J., & Jin, T. Y. (2007). Work stress and health Newsletter Special, 25–28. - Current research activities and implications in China. WHO Global Occupational Health Network (GOHNET
- 3. Covey, B., Kan V. & Mann, J. (2007). Promoting a Rights-Based Approach to Social Work in Hong Kong. Retrieved from
- Kim, J. & Hung, S. N. (2008). Perceptions of social changes and social identity: Study focusing on Hong Kong society after reunification https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-839X.2008.00262.x Chan KK, Yeung NC, Mo PK, Yang X. Common stressors, coping processes, and professional help-seeking of medical profesqualitative study. J Health Psychol. 2024 Jul;29(8):891-904. doi: 10.1177/13591053231218658. Epub 2023 Dec 31. PMID: 38160404
- Lau SS, Shum EN, Man JO, Cheung ET, Amoah PA, Leung AY, Okan O, Dadaczynski K. Teachers' well-being and associated factors during the COVID-19 pandemic: A cross-sectional study in Hong Kong, China. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2022 Nov 8;19(22):14661.
- IBM Corp. (2023). IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 29). IBM Corporation.

Acknowledgement

This study was funded by the Health and Medical Research Fund (HMRF 18190591)