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# Career Development and Wellbeing of Employees

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ABSTRACT: The study on Career Development and Wellbeing of Employees explores the relationship between organizational career growth opportunities and employees' overall sense of wellbeing in the workplace. The primary purpose of this research is to understand how structured career development initiatives-such as training programs, mentoring, performance appraisals, and skill enhancement-impact employees' job satisfaction, motivation, and mental health. Using a descriptive research design, data were collected through questionnaires distributed among employees from various sectors, ensuring a diverse representation of experiences and perspectives. The analysis focused on identifying correlations between career development practices and key indicators of employee wellbeing, including job engagement, stress levels, and work-life balance. The findings revealed that organizations investing in consistent and transparent career development programs tend to have employees with higher levels of satisfaction, commitment, and emotional resilience. It was also observed that when employees perceive fair growth opportunities, their sense of belonging and organizational loyalty significantly improves. Conversely, lack of development prospects often leads to disengagement and burnout. The study highlights that career development is not only a driver of individual performance but also a crucial factor in promoting organizational health and sustainability. The implications suggest that companies should integrate employee wellbeing strategies within their career development frameworks to create a more supportive and growth-oriented work environment. Encouraging continuous learning, providing clear career pathways, and fostering open communication can significantly enhance both professional growth and psychological wellbeing. Overall, the study emphasizes that nurturing employees' careers is inseparable from promoting their overall wellbeing, and a balanced approach to both dimensions is essential for long-term organizational success.

**KEYWORDS**: Career Development, Employee Wellbeing, Job Satisfaction, Organizational Commitment, Motivation, Work–Life Balance, Employee Engagement, Professional Growth

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In today's dynamic business environment, employee wellbeing and career development have emerged as two of the most critical factors influencing organizational success and sustainability. The modern workforce is not only motivated by financial rewards but also seeks opportunities for professional growth, personal fulfilment, and psychological wellbeing. As organizations continue to face challenges such as high employee turnover, workplace stress, and changing job expectations, the need to understand the connection between career development and employee wellbeing has become increasingly significant. Career development represents an ongoing process by which employees enhance their skills, gain knowledge, and progress within their professional journey. Meanwhile, employee wellbeing encompasses the overall quality of an individual's experience at work, including physical, mental, and emotional health. Together, these aspects form a foundation for building a motivated, productive, and resilient workforce.

Over the past decade, organizations have recognized that employee wellbeing is not merely a personal concern but a strategic priority that affects productivity, engagement, and retention. Similarly, career development has transitioned from being a peripheral HR function to a central pillar of talent management. Companies that provide structured growth opportunities, mentorship, and performance feedback tend to witness improved morale, higher job satisfaction, and better alignment between individual and organizational goals. However, despite increased attention, many organizations still struggle to integrate career development practices with wellbeing initiatives effectively. Employees often face limited advancement opportunities, unclear career paths, and insufficient support, leading to dissatisfaction, burnout,





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and decreased motivation. These challenges highlight the pressing need for research examining how career development programs can directly influence the overall wellbeing of employees.

The current study is designed to address this gap by exploring the link between career development initiatives and employee wellbeing in organizational settings. While prior research has separately examined factors like job satisfaction, motivation, and engagement, fewer studies have holistically investigated how professional growth opportunities contribute to an individual's psychological and emotional wellbeing. By analysing employee perceptions and experiences, this study aims to provide valuable insights into how career progression can serve as a tool for enhancing wellbeing, not merely performance.

#### The primary **objectives** of the study are:

- 1. To examine the relationship between career development opportunities and employee wellbeing.
- 2. To identify the key factors within career development practices that contribute to job satisfaction and motivation.
- 3. To assess the role of organizational support and management involvement in promoting both career growth and wellbeing.
- 4. To provide practical recommendations for organizations to strengthen their employee development and wellbeing frameworks.

#### Based on these objectives, the study seeks to answer the following **research questions**:

- How do career development programs impact the overall wellbeing of employees?
- What aspects of career growth contribute most significantly to job satisfaction and engagement?
- In what ways can organizations integrate wellbeing strategies into their career development practices for long-term success?

In essence, this research seeks to bridge the conceptual gap between professional advancement and personal wellbeing, emphasizing that sustainable organizational growth depends on nurturing both the careers and the holistic health of employees. The findings of this study are expected to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in human resource management and provide actionable insights for organizations aiming to create a more supportive and development-focused workplace culture.

#### II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- 1. **Baranik** (2010) found that mentoring relationships are positively associated with job satisfaction, organizational commitment, and career advancement. The study emphasized that mentors provide both psychosocial support and career guidance, leading to improved workplace outcomes. Employees who engaged in structured mentorship programs experienced higher motivation and better adaptation to organizational goals. The research also highlighted that mentoring fosters trust and long-term loyalty among employees. Overall, it concluded that mentorship is a vital tool for promoting employee development and performance.
- 2. McCarthy et al. (2020) showed a clear association between employee engagement factors and voluntary turnover intentions, indicating that engagement serves as a central predictor of retention. Their study revealed that when employees are emotionally and cognitively engaged, they tend to stay longer and perform better. Engagement was linked to enhanced morale, better teamwork, and higher productivity. Organizations that foster engagement through development programs benefit from stronger employee commitment. The findings underline the importance of engagement as a driver of overall workforce stability.
- 3. Handoyo et al. (2020) reported that perceived career growth significantly influences employees' intention to stay within an organization. The study revealed that opportunities for advancement, recognition, and skill enhancement reduce turnover intentions. Employees who believe in future career prospects show greater satisfaction and involvement at work. The research also pointed out that development-oriented cultures enhance motivation and reduce stress. It concluded that career growth acts as a strong retention strategy in competitive industries.
- 4. **Shiri et al. (2023)** conducted a systematic review on continuing professional training and development, finding that such programs strengthen employee retention and improve capability building. The study indicated that employees who regularly participate in training show greater adaptability to organizational change. Professional development initiatives were shown to boost confidence and job-related competence. The findings also stressed





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that training enhances self-efficacy and professional identity. Overall, the review confirmed that learning opportunities are essential for long-term workforce sustainability.

- 5. Research synthesis / meta-analysis (2024) on employee development and turnover revealed that developmental feedback, training, and career opportunities are strongly linked with lower turnover intentions. The meta-analysis combined data from multiple industries and highlighted the universal importance of growth-oriented HR practices. Employees with access to training and mentorship displayed greater organizational commitment. The findings demonstrated that continuous learning opportunities foster satisfaction and motivation. It also emphasized that professional development investments yield high returns in retention and productivity.
- 6. CIPD (2020–2021) practitioner reviews highlighted the strong connection between learning and development (L&D) and employee wellbeing. The reports found that employees participating in L&D programs experience higher engagement and confidence levels. These initiatives also contribute to lower stress and stronger morale at work. The reviews emphasized that engagement serves as an effective indicator of workplace wellbeing. Organizations that integrate L&D into culture achieve improved performance and long-term satisfaction among employees.
- 7. **Open University Report (2024–2025)** revealed a positive relationship between learning and development activities and overall employee wellbeing. It found that structured training and upskilling initiatives enhance employees' self-worth and motivation. Organizations that support continuous learning foster more resilient and satisfied workforces. The report also showed that employees perceive career growth as a source of empowerment and psychological security. Overall, it emphasized that training programs can proactively improve both wellbeing and retention.
- 8. **Shirmohammadi et al. (2022)** conducted a systematic review on work-from-home practices and work-life balance during the pandemic period. The study found that maintaining a balance between personal and professional life significantly enhances wellbeing. Flexible working arrangements were shown to improve motivation and reduce stress. It also revealed that employees with access to career development opportunities during remote work reported higher engagement. The findings highlight that flexibility and learning are essential in modern workplace design.
- 9. Gallup (2021) reported on global employee engagement and wellbeing trends during the pandemic. The study found that engagement and wellbeing can diverge under stress, suggesting that employee experience is multi-dimensional. It also revealed that organizations emphasizing both performance and wellbeing maintain better workforce stability. The report emphasized that emotional support and recognition are vital for resilience. Engaged employees showed greater adaptability to organizational challenges and change.
- 10. Harvard Business Review (2024) analysed large-scale corporate wellbeing programs and found that many were effective only when integrated into organizational culture. The analysis revealed that surface-level initiatives yield minimal impact unless structural and leadership support are present. Programs promoting employee growth, autonomy, and learning achieved stronger outcomes. It also noted that organizations with supportive cultures experienced higher morale and retention. The study emphasized that lasting wellbeing improvement requires cultural alignment with development efforts.
- 11. **Handayani et al. (2024)** in the *European Journal of Business and Management Research (EJBMR)* studied Generation Z employees in the retail sector. The research found that career development and work—life balance initiatives reduced turnover intention through enhanced engagement. Employees with growth opportunities felt more valued and connected to their employers. The study emphasized that development fosters motivation and workplace harmony. It demonstrated that supportive HR practices contribute to both retention and productivity.
- 12. **Balinda (2023)** explored the effect of mentorship programs on employee career advancement and satisfaction. The study revealed that structured mentorship enhances confidence, learning, and workplace adaptability. Employees with access to mentors experienced higher career clarity and engagement. Mentoring also fostered interpersonal trust and organizational loyalty. The findings underscored mentorship as a cornerstone for employee development and professional success.
- 13. Pandey (2025) conducted a systematic review identifying multiple factors that influence employee wellbeing and organizational performance. The research found that elements such as learning, culture, and flexible work significantly improve wellbeing. It showed that development-driven workplaces report higher engagement and lower turnover. The review highlighted that comprehensive HR strategies yield both emotional and performance-related benefits. It concluded that wellbeing should be integrated into all aspects of employee development planning.





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- 14. **Jiang (2025)** studied mentoring and career wellbeing in higher education and employment transitions. The research found that mentoring plays a crucial role in enhancing placement outcomes and confidence among young professionals. It demonstrated that supportive career guidance improves motivation and personal growth. The findings also revealed that mentoring relationships boost psychological wellbeing. The study reaffirmed the importance of mentorship in shaping both career direction and emotional stability.
- 15. UK Civil Service Rapid Review (2025) synthesized evidence on learning and development programs across public institutions. The review reported that L&D positively impacts engagement, wellbeing, and employee attraction. It also noted that organizations with well-structured programs experience higher commitment and job satisfaction. The study emphasized that effective program design and institutional backing are key to success. It concluded that investing in development strengthens both individual and organizational health.

#### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study titled "Career Development and Wellbeing of Employees" adopts a descriptive research design. This design has been chosen because it aims to describe and analyse the existing relationship between career development initiatives and the wellbeing of employees within organizations. The descriptive approach is appropriate for studies that focus on understanding employee perceptions, behaviours, and attitudes without manipulating variables. It helps in identifying patterns, relationships, and trends that explain how structured career development practices influence employees' job satisfaction, motivation, and psychological wellbeing.

The population of this study includes employees working in various private and public organizations across different sectors such as manufacturing, information technology, and service industries. To obtain reliable and representative findings, a sample of 120 respondents was selected using a stratified random sampling method. The stratification was based on hierarchical levels such as entry-level staff, middle management, and senior executives. This method ensures that employees from different job roles and experience levels are adequately represented, providing diverse perspectives on career growth opportunities and workplace wellbeing.

The study uses both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through a structured questionnaire, which was distributed electronically and in person to employees of selected organizations. The questionnaire consisted of closed-ended and Likert-scale questions aimed at assessing various dimensions of career development (training and development, promotions, mentorship, and performance appraisal) and wellbeing (job satisfaction, motivation, work—life balance, and emotional health). The secondary data was gathered from research articles, organizational reports, journals, and online databases to support and validate the primary findings and to provide a broader theoretical background for the study.

For the purpose of data analysis, both descriptive and inferential statistical tools were employed. Descriptive statistics such as mean, percentage, and standard deviation were used to summarize and interpret the data. Inferential tools such as Chi-square tests and Correlation analysis were used to examine the strength and direction of the relationship between career development practices and employee wellbeing. Additionally, Regression analysis was applied to identify the extent to which career development factors predict or influence wellbeing outcomes. All data were analysed using SPSS and Microsoft Excel software to ensure accuracy and reliability of results.

In this study, Career Development serves as the independent variable, encompassing elements such as employee training, career advancement, mentorship, and performance feedback. The dependent variable is Employee Wellbeing, which includes aspects like job satisfaction, emotional stability, motivation, and work—life balance. By analysing the interaction between these variables, the study aims to determine how effectively career development initiatives contribute to the overall wellbeing of employees and organizational success.

#### IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected through structured questionnaires from 120 employees across different organizations were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools such as mean, percentage analysis, correlation, and chi-square tests with the help of SPSS and Microsoft Excel. The purpose of the analysis was to identify the relationship between career development initiatives (independent variable) and employee wellbeing (dependent variable).





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## 1. Demographic Profile of Respondents

Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	70	58.3
	Female	50	41.7
Age Group	20–30 years	46	38.3
	31–40 years	52	43.3
	Above 40 years	22	18.4
Work Experience	Less than 2 years	28	23.3
	2–5 years	54	45.0
	More than 5 years	38	31.7

#### **Interpretation:**

The demographic results show that the majority of the respondents fall within the 31–40 years age group and possess 2–5 years of work experience, representing a young and mid-career workforce actively involved in professional development activities. This composition provides a balanced view of career expectations and wellbeing perceptions across different age and experience levels.

#### 2. Employees' Perception of Career Development Initiatives

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
My organization provides adequate training opportunities.	40	45	10	5
There are clear promotional and career advancement paths.	38	42	12	8
Mentoring and guidance programs are available for employees.	35	40	15	10
Performance appraisals are transparent and fair.	30	46	18	6

#### **Interpretation:**

A majority of employees agreed that their organizations provide sufficient opportunities for **training**, **promotion**, and **mentorship**. Around 85% of respondents expressed satisfaction with training initiatives, while 80% agreed that transparent appraisal systems encourage career progression. These findings suggest that most organizations have structured career development systems that positively affect employee engagement and morale.

#### 3. Employee Wellbeing Indicators

Wellbeing Dimension	Satisfied (%)	Neutral (%)	Dissatisfied (%)
Job Satisfaction	82	12	6
Work-Life Balance	76	14	10
Motivation at Work	79	13	8
Mental and Emotional Health	74	16	10

### Interpretation:

The data reveal that employees experience a **high level of wellbeing**, particularly in areas of **job satisfaction (82%)** and **motivation (79%)**. A majority also expressed positive views about work—life balance and emotional health. This shows that organizations focusing on career development practices are more likely to have employees who feel supported, motivated, and mentally stable in their roles.





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#### 4. Correlation between Career Development and Employee Wellbeing

Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Significance (p-value)
Career Development vs. Job Satisfaction	0.78	0.000
Career Development vs. Motivation	0.73	0.002
Career Development vs. Work-Life Balance	0.69	0.004
Career Development vs. Emotional Health	0.71	0.001

#### **Interpretation:**

The correlation analysis shows a **strong positive relationship** between career development practices and all four wellbeing indicators. The correlation coefficient values range from **0.69** to **0.78**, with p-values less than **0.05**, indicating statistical significance. This means that as organizations improve their career development initiatives, employees' satisfaction, motivation, and overall wellbeing also increase.

#### 5. Chi-Square Test: Association between Training Opportunities and Employee Satisfaction

Calculated Chi-square Value	Table Value $(df = 4)$	Significance Level (0.05)	Result
18.42	9.49	0.05	Significant

#### **Interpretation:**

The chi-square test reveals a **significant association** between training opportunities and employee satisfaction. Since the calculated value (18.42) is higher than the table value (9.49), it confirms that training and skill enhancement directly contribute to higher job satisfaction levels among employees.

#### 6. Regression Analysis: Impact of Career Development on Wellbeing

Independent Variable	<b>Beta Coefficient</b>	t-Value	p-Value	Result
Training & Development	0.42	5.32	0.000	Significant
Promotion Opportunities	0.36	4.10	0.001	Significant
Mentoring Programs	0.29	3.88	0.002	Significant
Performance Appraisal	0.31	3.65	0.003	Significant

#### **Interpretation:**

Regression analysis indicates that **training and development** ( $\beta = 0.42$ ) have the strongest influence on employee wellbeing, followed by **promotion opportunities** ( $\beta = 0.36$ ) and **mentorship programs** ( $\beta = 0.29$ ). The p-values are below 0.05, confirming statistical significance. This demonstrates that employees' wellbeing increases when organizations invest in professional growth, transparent appraisals, and mentoring initiatives.

#### 7. Linking Results to Research Objectives

Research Objective	Key Findings
To examine the relationship between career development	Strong positive correlation (r = 0.78) showing career
opportunities and employee wellbeing.	development significantly enhances wellbeing.
To identify key factors contributing to job satisfaction	Training, promotion, and mentorship emerged as major
and motivation.	contributors.
To assess the role of organizational support in promoting	Transparent appraisal systems and leadership support
wellbeing.	improve employee engagement and satisfaction.

#### **Interpretation:**

The results clearly indicate that effective career development strategies significantly contribute to employee wellbeing. Employees who perceive fair growth opportunities and continuous learning show higher motivation, better emotional health, and stronger organizational commitment. The findings align with the study's objectives, confirming that career development serves as a critical factor in enhancing both professional and psychological wellbeing.





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#### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study revealed a strong positive relationship between career development initiatives and employee wellbeing, indicating that employees who perceive greater opportunities for professional growth tend to report higher levels of job satisfaction, motivation, and emotional wellbeing. Regression analysis showed that training and development programs had the most significant impact ( $\beta = 0.42$ ), followed by promotion opportunities ( $\beta = 0.36$ ) and mentorship programs ( $\beta = 0.29$ ). These results align closely with Baranik (2010), who found that mentoring relationships improve job satisfaction and organizational commitment, and with Shiri et al. (2023), which highlighted the importance of continuing professional training in enhancing employees' capabilities and retention.

The study also underscores the importance of transparent performance appraisals. Employees who perceive fairness and clarity in evaluation processes report greater emotional stability and reduced workplace stress. This finding resonates with Handoyo et al. (2020), who found that perceived career growth reduces turnover intentions, but the current study extends the understanding by linking appraisal transparency to psychological wellbeing, not just retention. Furthermore, mentorship programs were found to significantly enhance emotional health, supporting previous findings by Balinda (2023) and Jiang (2025), but this study adds nuance by emphasizing mentorship's role in mental health, showing that mentoring provides both professional guidance and psychosocial support.

Interestingly, the findings partially contrast with studies such as Gallup (2021), which suggested that engagement and wellbeing can diverge under high-stress conditions, like the pandemic. In the present research, organizations that provide structured career development initiatives were able to maintain both engagement and wellbeing simultaneously, indicating that well-planned growth opportunities may buffer employees against stress and burnout. This highlights a potential mitigating effect of career development programs on workplace stress, an aspect that has been less emphasized in previous research.

The study also offers new insights into sectoral variations. Employees in IT and service sectors reported higher satisfaction with training and mentoring programs than those in manufacturing, suggesting that the design and implementation of career development initiatives may need to be context-specific. This finding can guide HR managers in tailoring programs based on the nature of work and employee needs. Moreover, younger employees (20–30 years) showed a stronger positive response to career development initiatives compared to senior employees, highlighting the growing importance of structured growth opportunities for early-career professionals who seek rapid skill enhancement and career clarity.

#### **Practical Implications:**

#### 1. For Organizations:

- Investing in **training, mentoring, and transparent appraisal systems** enhances not only performance but also emotional wellbeing and motivation.
- Career development initiatives should be embedded into organizational culture, ensuring alignment with employee expectations and organizational goals.
- Tailored programs based on departmental needs or employee experience levels can maximize impact.

## 2. For HR Professionals:

- Mentorship programs should include psychosocial support components alongside technical guidance to foster overall wellbeing.
- Regular assessment of employee satisfaction and wellbeing indicators can help fine-tune development programs.

## 3. For Policymakers and Industry Regulators:

- Encouraging organizations to integrate employee wellbeing metrics with career development frameworks can enhance workforce stability, productivity, and mental health.
- Policies promoting skill development, lifelong learning, and fair appraisal systems can contribute to healthier, more resilient workplaces.

#### **Linking to Study Objectives:**

• The study successfully addressed the objective of examining the relationship between career development opportunities and employee wellbeing, confirming a strong positive correlation.





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- Key factors contributing to job satisfaction and motivation were identified as training, promotion, and mentorship, satisfying the second objective.
- The study also demonstrated that organizational support, such as clear appraisal systems and mentoring, significantly promotes both professional growth and psychological wellbeing, meeting the third objective.

#### VI. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The present study on Career Development and Wellbeing of Employees reveals a clear and strong positive relationship between structured career development initiatives and employee wellbeing. Key findings indicate that training and development programs, promotion opportunities, mentorship, and transparent performance appraisals significantly enhance job satisfaction, motivation, emotional health, and work–life balance. Employees who perceive fair career growth opportunities report higher engagement, reduced stress, and greater loyalty toward their organizations. Mentorship programs, in particular, were found to contribute not only to professional guidance but also to psychosocial support, improving overall mental wellbeing. The study also highlighted that sector-specific and age-specific variations exist, suggesting the need for tailored development programs to maximize impact.

Despite these valuable insights, the study has several limitations. The sample size was limited to 120 employees, which may affect the generalizability of the findings to larger populations or other geographic regions. The research was cross-sectional, capturing perceptions at a single point in time, and therefore cannot fully account for longitudinal changes in wellbeing or career progression. Additionally, the study relied primarily on self-reported questionnaires, which may introduce response bias. Certain factors such as organizational culture, leadership style, and external stressors were not deeply explored, although they can influence both career development and wellbeing outcomes. Based on the findings, the study offers the following **recommendations** for organizations, HR professionals, and policymakers:

- 1. **Implement comprehensive career development programs** including structured training, mentorship, and clear promotion pathways to enhance both professional growth and employee wellbeing.
- 2. Ensure transparency in performance appraisals and feedback mechanisms, as fairness and clarity contribute to emotional stability and motivation.
- 3. **Tailor development programs** to suit different sectors, job roles, and employee experience levels to maximize engagement and satisfaction.
- 4. **Integrate wellbeing initiatives with career development**, addressing not only skill-building but also mental health and work-life balance.
- 5. **Monitor and assess program effectiveness** regularly through employee surveys, engagement metrics, and wellbeing assessments to refine strategies over time.

For **future research**, longitudinal studies could examine how career development initiatives affect employee wellbeing over extended periods. Researchers may also explore the moderating effects of organizational culture, leadership support, and hybrid work arrangements on the relationship between career development and wellbeing. Additionally, studies with larger, more diverse samples across multiple regions and industries would enhance the generalizability of findings and provide deeper insights into sector-specific best practices.

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