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EDITORIAL

It is heartening to see that the ninth issue of the VICHAARA AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT has been brought out successfully. An educational journal is a platform where knowledge gets amplified and disseminated; research results and innovations are documented and unique experiences are shared for enhancement of knowledge. The design architecture of Vichaara is made in such a way that it becomes a comprehensive document to reflect the different dimensions of Management discipline. Business Research forms the core part wherein original, empirical based research papers are included. This issue comprises articles on recent issues in business world from different disciplines. These articles show a methodological way of conducting a research and presenting their findings. Findings on technology influence, cultural changes in the organizations, behavioural changes among the consumers and their expectations have been presented with relevant facts. We invite scholarly articles and research papers and write ups on robust cases. Suggestions and views from readers and scholars are solicited for the qualitative improvement of the Journal.

A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE PERCEPTION OF WOMEN OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS ON 5S IMPLEMENTATION AT THEIR HOME WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COIMBATORE

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Abstract

The concept of 5S, widely used in industrial settings for improving organization, efficiency, and productivity, has gained relevance in domestic environments, particularly during the pandemic period when work-from-home practices increased household responsibilities. This study aims to evaluate the perception of women from different age groups regarding the implementation of 5S techniques in their homes, with special reference to Coimbatore. The research adopts a descriptive design using a survey method, with data collected from 216 working women through a structured questionnaire. The findings reveal that women across all age groups perceive their homes as less organized and acknowledge challenges such as lack of family support and difficulty in maintaining order. However, the majority of respondents strongly agree that 5S implementation can improve home organization, reduce time wastage, and create a more peaceful living environment. The study highlights the potential of extending industrial management practices like 5S into household settings and emphasizes the need for awareness and collective participation among family members. The results suggest that adopting 5S principles at home can enhance efficiency, improve quality of life, and promote a disciplined and organized lifestyle.

Keywords: 5S Technique, Household Management, Women Perception, Home Organization, Lean Practices, Productivity, Quality of Life, Coimbatore,

Introduction

Every one of us does not like their home to be in dis-organized manner. We can able to see many people usually tend to cleanup constantly to make their home clean and tidy. Especially during this pandemic it is seen that all over the world people are working from home due to lockdowns. And due to this we could able to come across the issue of maintaining the home clean.

Especially in India were most of the men do not contribute their effort to the household works due to the way they have grown up. In this situation woman in India faces a lot of challenges and difficulties to set their home clean and free from messy. To add up more complication to it even the children were at home due to lockdowns and they play all the day and they are not having a tendency to keep their properties in the same place from where they have taken it. When the family members do not find the objects or documents that they need at a particular time and do not find it in the same place, they tend to fight with the other family members and also blames the women at home even in houses where the women are also working from home. This creates a difficult atmosphere in the house and all the members are not in peaceful environment. It takes the contributing member of the family to a depression stage.

In industries they follow 5S technique to keep the things in a well organized manner. Due to this implementation of 5S, it is seen that the organization workers are placing the things in the same place where they take that for future purpose. The use of this tool was started in 1972 by Henry Ford in the United States as the CANDO programme: Cleaning up, Arranging, Neatness, Discipline and Ongoing improvement. (Ennin, Y. C., & Obi, D. (2012)). The technique was popularized as ‘Japanese 5S’ in 1980 by Hiroyuki Hirano. Many enterprises have practiced the 5S and derived significant benefits from it. In particular, this technique has been widely practiced in Japan. Most Japanese 5S practitioners consider 5S useful not just for improving their physical environment, but also for improving their thinking processes too. In Japan it is also called ‘workplace management’. 5S will be needed if the workplace is messy and unorganized. It will also be needed if employees spend extra time in searching tools, papers, information, etc. (Ennin, Y. C., & Obi, D. (2012)).

Thus the present paper shares the idea of applying Lean 5S principles at home. Since 5S is known for better organizing in workplaces, it would be interesting to implement it at home. And also during this pandemic it will reduce the messy house and leads to peace and clean home. Moreover, since all the members are there at home, it is easy to make them also to participate in the implementation and educate them about the advantages of practicing the 5S at home. Thus the main objective of this study is to find out the perception of the women about the implementation of 5S at their home. The outcome will help other women and men to practice 5S at their home by understanding the importance and need of this 5S practice.

Literature Review

The literature on classification of 5S has so far been very limited (Singh, A., & Ahuja, I. S. (2015)). The 5S management method (where 5S stands for sort, set in order, shine, standardize, and sustain) was originally implemented by manufacturing enterprises in Japan (Kanamori, S., Shibamura, A., & Jimba, M. (2016)). It is a systematic technique used by organizations come from five Japanese words; Seiri (Sort), Seiton (Set in order), Seiso (Shine), Seiketsu (standardize) and Shitsuke (sustain) (Singh, J., Rastogi, V., & Sharma, R. (2014)). And it is amongst the first and fundamental steps implemented by an enterprise towards the path of implementing Total Quality Management and continuous improvement at the operation level (Ennin, Y. C., & Obi, D. (2012)).

5S is a process designed to organize the workplace, keep it clean, and maintain effective and standard conditions (Ennin, Y. C., & Obi, D. (2012)). Consequently, 5S technique would strongly support the objectives of organization to achieve continuous improvement in performance and productivity (Singh, J., Rastogi, V., & Sharma, R. (2014)). It instills the discipline required to enable each individual to achieve and maintain a world-class environment (Ennin, Y. C., & Obi, D. (2012)). It also shows that 5S is an effective tool for improvement of organizational performance, regardless of organization type, size, its production or its service (Singh, J., Rastogi, V., & Sharma, R. (2014)). 5S is used as a tool to identify the problems its root cause and come up with development of action plan (Ribeiro, I. M., Godina, R., Pimentel, C., Silva, F. J. G., & Matias, J. C. O. (2019)).

There are papers that gives an overview of 5S implementation practices adopted by the manufacturing organizations (Singh, A., & Ahuja, I. S. (2015). Some studies highlights the contributions of 5S initiatives towards improving manufacturing performance (Singh, A., & Ahuja, I. S. (2015). 5S concept is used in automotive manufacturers where the researches are done widely (Ribeiro, I. M., Godina, R., Pimentel, C., Silva, F. J. G., & Matias, J. C. O. (2019). The 5S lean tool is one of the most common lean construction techniques, which can lead to safe work environments if used effectively on project sites (Fardhosseini, M. S., Soltaninejad, M., Karji, A., Ghorbani, Z., & Ghanadiof, O. (2021). There is a study conducted to find out the determinants of the Lean Service System (LSS) on the Operational Performance (OP) of India's mail service in the National Sorting Hub (NSH), Mangaluru, Karnataka, the southern part of India (Vadivel, S. M., Sequeira, A. H., Sakkariyas, R. R., & Boobalan, K. (2021).

The study show that there was a big challenge in the postal service industry for measuring the OP in mail service. Moreover, the outcome of the study helps India Post to review its policy so as to sustain the effectiveness of Lean Service (LS) implementation which is one of the technique of total quality management like 5S (Vadivel, S. M., Sequeira, A. H., Sakkariyas, R. R., & Boobalan, K. (2021). There are studies where 5S was then introduced to the manufacturing sector in the West and eventually applied to the health sector for organizing and standardizing the workplace (Kanamori, S., Shibanuma, A., & Jimba, M. (2016). The study was conducted to identify additional information particularly on its adoption as part of government initiatives, and other types of resources including reference books, reports, didactic materials, government documents, and websites (Kanamori, S., Shibanuma, A., & Jimba, M. (2016).

It also presented its impacts on quality improvements; the changes resulting from the 5S application were classified into the three dimensions of safety, efficiency, and patient-centeredness (Kanamori, S., Shibanuma, A., & Jimba, M. (2016). 5S has recently received attention as a potential solution for improving government health-care services in low- and middle-income countries. Furthermore, 5S was adopted as part of government quality improvement strategies in India, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania. Conclusions: 5S could be applied to health-care facilities regardless of locations (Kanamori, S., Shibanuma, A., & Jimba, M. (2016). These studies will be useful to industry professionals and researchers both and others concerned with organisation management to understand the significance of 5S and its contributions towards manufacturing performance. (Singh, A., & Ahuja, I. S. (2015).

It is also seen that the contributions of strategic 5S programme towards improving manufacturing competencies of the organisations have also been highlighted in those studies (Singh, A., & Ahuja, I. S. (2015). It is expected that the presented 5S checklist will provide practical actions for safer construction sites (Fardhosseini, M. S., Soltaninejad, M., Karji, A., Ghorbani, Z., & Ghanadiof, O. (2021). There are studies that are explored on 5S applicability to health-care facilities globally, with a focus on three aspects: (a) the context of its application, (b) its impacts, and (c) its adoption as part of government initiatives (Kanamori, S., Shibanuma, A., & Jimba, M. (2016).

Some studies give the important issues in 5S ranging from maintenance techniques, framework of 5S, the relationship of 5S with lean manufacturing initiatives, barriers and success factors in 5S implementation, etc. (Singh, A., & Ahuja, I. S. (2015)). There are studies that highlight the significant enablers and success factors for eliminating barriers in successful 5S implementation. (Singh, A., & Ahuja, I. S. (2015)).

They could consider 5S as the starting point of a government-led quality improvement initiative for improving safety, efficiency, or patient-centeredness aspects particularly in low- and middle-income countries. However, the evidence base, particularly in resource-poor settings, must be expanded (Kanamori, S., Shibanuma, A., & Jimba, M. (2016)). This system helps to organize a workplace for efficiency and decrease non value added activities and optimize quality and productivity through monitoring an organized environment (Singh, J., Rastogi, V., & Sharma, R. (2014)). Most of the research says that 5S implementation helps to reduce the risk of production failures and results in effective maintenance process and prevents from frequent issues in production department (Ribeiro, I. M., Godina, R., Pimentel, C., Silva, F. J. G., & Matias, J. C. O. (2019)). It could be not only a tool for health workers and facility managers but also a strategic option for policymakers (Kanamori, S., Shibanuma, A., & Jimba, M. (2016)).

Research Methodology

The study uses descriptive type of research to understand the perception of the respondents about the current scenario at their home regarding neatness and organization including 5S implementation benefits. The populations of the study are women from different age groups who are working. The area chosen for this study is Coimbatore city which is called as an industrial city where most of the women are working. The sample chosen for this study is 250 which are more than the required sample size for survey method (Kline, 2003). The respondents were chosen using convenience sampling technique which is a non probability sampling technique. The data is collected by survey method using google forms. The Email IDs of the respondents were collected and the google form links were shared through their respective email id and whatsapp. Out of the issue of 250 survey forms, only 216 forms were filled and returned and the same is considered for analysis. A simple percentage analysis is used to identify the descriptive status and frequency of the responses given by the respondents for all the survey questions asked.

Data Analysis

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they feel irritated with the mixed up of wanted and unwanted items in their home. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (64), 36 to 45 years (24) and 56 to 65 years (40) were strongly disagree to the statement but most of the respondents under the age group of 46 to 55 years (32) were disagreed to the statement.

Table 1: Age with feel irritated with the mixed up of wanted and unwanted items

Age	mixed up of wanted and unwanted items			Total
	strongly agree	disagree	strongly disagree	
26 to 35 years	0	16	64	80
36 to 45 years	0	16	24	40
46 to 55 years	0	32	8	40
56 to 65 years	8	8	40	56
	8	72	136	216

Table 2: Age with taking more time to locate or retrieve any important documents or items

Age	It takes more time for me to locate or retrieve any important documents or items					Total
	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	
26 to 35 years	0	8	8	32	32	80
36 to 45 years	0	0	0	16	24	40
46 to 55 years	8	16	0	8	8	40
56 to 65 years	8	16	16	0	16	56
	16	40	24	56	80	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they takes more time for me to locate or retrieve any important documents or items. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (32) says strongly disagree and disagree respectively, 36 to 45 years (24) were strongly disagree and 56 to 65 years (16) were strongly disagree to the statement but most of the respondents under the age group of 46 to 55 years (16) were agreed to the statement. And the respondents of age group 56 to 65 years (16) also says agree and neutral to the statement equally.

Table 3: Age with feeling awkward when visitors comes without any announcement

Age	visitors comes without any announcement					Total
	strongly agree	agree	Neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	
26 to 35 years	8	0	32	24	16	80
36 to 45 years	0	8	8	24	0	40
46 to 55 years	16	0	16	0	8	40
56 to 65 years	8	16	24	8	0	56
	32	24	80	56	24	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they feel awkward when visitors comes without any announcement. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (32) were neutral to the statement; 36 to 45 years (24) were disagree to the statement. And most of the respondents of age group 46 to 55 years (16) and 56 to 65 years (24) were neutral to the statement.

Table 4: Age with feeling home is cluttered

Age	I feel my home is cluttered					Total
	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	
26 to 35 years	8	8	40	16	8	80
36 to 45 years	0	8	16	16	0	40
46 to 55 years	8	24	8	0	0	40
56 to 65 years	16	24	16	0	0	56
	32	64	80	32	8	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they feel their home is cluttered. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (40) and 36 to 45 years (16) were neutral to the statement, and respondents of age group 36 to 45 years (16) disagreed equally, 46 to 55 years (24) and 56 to 65 years (24) were agree to the statement.

Table 5: Age with buy items which are already available in my home

Age	buy items which are already available in my home without knowing that it is available					Total
	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	
26 to 35 years	32	16	0	8	24	80
36 to 45 years	0	16	16	8	0	40
46 to 55 years	24	16	0	0	0	40
56 to 65 years	24	16	8	8	0	56
	80	64	24	24	24	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they used to buy items which are already available in my home without knowing that it is available. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (64), 36 to 45 years (24) and 56 to 65 years (40) were strongly disagree to the statement but most of the respondents under the age group of 46 to 55 years (32) were disagreed to the statement.

Table 6: Age with feeling happy about the way of arrangement in my home

Age	I feel happy about the way of arrangement in my home				Total
	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	
26 to 35 years	0	24	24	32	80
36 to 45 years	8	16	0	16	40
46 to 55 years	8	8	8	16	40
56 to 65 years	0	16	24	16	56
	16	64	56	80	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they feel happy about the way of arrangement in their home. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (64), 36 to 45 years (24) and 56 to 65 years (40) were strongly disagree to the statement but most of the respondents under the age group of 46 to 55 years (32) were disagreed to the statement.

Table 7: Age with feeling convinced that 5S is beneficial to me and my family

Age	I feel convinced that 5S is beneficial to me and my family		Total
	agree	strongly agree	
26 to 35 years	8	72	80
36 to 45 years	16	24	40
46 to 55 years	24	16	40
56 to 65 years	8	48	56
	56	160	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they feel convinced that 5S is beneficial to them and their family. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (64), 36 to 45 years (24) and 56 to 65 years (40) were strongly agree to the statement but most of the respondents under the age group of 46 to 55 years (32) were agreed to the statement.

Table 8: Age with feeling that everything is in an organized manner in at home

Age	I feel that everything is in an organized manner in my home				Total
	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	
26 to 35 years	8	8	40	24	80
36 to 45 years	0	32	0	8	40
46 to 55 years	8	8	24	0	40
56 to 65 years	0	16	24	16	56
	16	64	88	48	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they feel that everything is in an organized manner in their home. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (64), 36 to 45 years (24) and 56 to 65 years (40) were strongly disagree to the statement but most of the respondents under the age group of 46 to 55 years (32) were disagreed to the statement.

Table 9: Age Vs “I feel that 5S implementation makes life easy and simple”

Age	I feel that 5S implementation makes life easy and simple		Total
	agree	strongly agree	
26 to 35 years	0	80	80
36 to 45 years	0	40	40
46 to 55 years	24	16	40
56 to 65 years	8	48	56
	32	184	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether they feel that 5S implementation makes life easy and simple. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (64), 36 to 45 years (24) and 56 to 65 years (40) were strongly agree to the statement but most of the respondents under the age group of 46 to 55 years (32) were agreed to the statement.

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Table 10: Age Vs “Do all members in your family helps in keeping your home neat?”

Age	Do all members in your family helps in keeping your home neat?					Total
	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	
26 to 35 years	8	0	24	32	16	80
36 to 45 years	8	0	0	24	8	40
46 to 55 years	0	8	8	16	8	40
56 to 65 years	0	0	32	8	16	56
	16	8	64	80	48	216

The respondents of different groups of age were asked whether all members in their family helps in keeping their home neat. It is seen that most of the respondents of age group 26 to 35 years (64), 36 to 45 years (24) and 56 to 65 years (40) were strongly disagree to the statement but most of the respondents under the age group of 46 to 55 years (32) were disagreed to the statement.

Relationship between Home Organization and Perceived Ease of Life through 5S

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Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Sig.
Everything is organized in my home & 5S implementation makes life easy and simple	0.682**	0.000

The correlation analysis revealed a strong positive relationship between the perception that everything is organized at home and the belief that 5S implementation makes life easy and simple ($r = 0.682$, $p < 0.01$). Since the significance value is less than 0.05, the relationship is statistically significant. This indicates that respondents who perceive a higher level of organization in their homes are more likely to believe that 5S practices simplify household activities and improve daily living. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

Relationship between Family Support and Perceived Benefits of 5S

Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Sig.
Family members help keep home neat & 5S is beneficial to me and my family	0.741**	0.000

The correlation analysis shows a strong positive relationship between family members' participation in keeping the home neat and the perception that 5S is beneficial to the family ($r = 0.741$, $p < 0.01$). The significance value is less than 0.05, indicating that the relationship is statistically significant. This implies that respondents who receive greater support from family members are more likely to perceive 5S practices as beneficial for improving household organization and family wellbeing. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

Findings and Suggestions

Based on the analysis and interpretation of the responses collected from 216 working women in Coimbatore, the following findings were identified:

1. The majority of respondents across all age groups indicated that they were not significantly irritated by the mixing of wanted and unwanted items at home, suggesting that they have become accustomed to managing household clutter.
2. Women belonging to the age groups of 46–55 years and 56–65 years reported greater difficulty in locating important documents and household items compared to younger respondents, indicating challenges in maintaining systematic organization.
3. Most respondents did not feel highly uncomfortable when visitors arrived without prior notice, although women in the 36–45 years age group showed relatively greater concern regarding the appearance and cleanliness of their homes.

4. Older respondents, particularly those aged above 45 years, perceived their homes as more cluttered when compared to younger women.
5. A majority of the respondents stated that they do not frequently purchase items that are already available at home, indicating a reasonable awareness of household inventory.
6. Most respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the current arrangement and organization of their homes and believed that their homes were not maintained in a fully organized manner.
7. The study found that family members generally do not contribute sufficiently towards maintaining household cleanliness and order, increasing the burden on women.
8. Respondents from all age groups strongly believed that the implementation of 5S practices would be beneficial to both themselves and their families.
9. A large majority of respondents agreed that 5S implementation would make household life easier, reduce time wastage, and improve overall efficiency in managing household activities.
10. The correlation analysis revealed a significant positive relationship between home organization and the perceived ease of life through 5S implementation ($r = 0.682$, $p < 0.01$), indicating that better-organized homes strengthen positive perceptions of 5S practices.
11. The study also found a strong positive relationship between family support and the perceived benefits of 5S implementation ($r = 0.741$, $p < 0.01$), highlighting the importance of collective family participation in maintaining an organized home environment.

Suggestions

The study recommends promoting awareness of 5S principles through community organizations, educational institutions, social media, government agencies, NGOs, and women's welfare groups to encourage better household organization. Families should adopt simple 5S practices such as sorting unnecessary items, assigning storage spaces, labeling household materials, and maintaining regular cleaning schedules. Shared participation of all family members, including children, is essential for reducing the burden on women and creating sustainable organizational habits. Practical training on organizing household resources and conducting periodic family discussions can further improve household management. The study also emphasizes the importance of family support in successful 5S implementation and suggests that future interventions should encourage collective household involvement. Additionally, future research should include diverse respondent groups and examine the effects of 5S practices on stress reduction, family well-being, work-life balance, and overall quality of life.

Conclusion

The findings of the study shows that the respondents of all age groups were not at all feeling irritated with the mixed up of wanted and unwanted items in their home. Since they all are working women and they know fact that it is obvious that the items will be messed up until they spend their time to make it neat. It is observed that women belonging to the age group of 45 to 65 years agree that they take more time to locate or retrieve any important documents or items. Almost all the age groups of women are neutral in feeling awkward when visitors come without any announcement to their home except women from age group 36 to 45 years because in this age they have a social image and they feel awkward if their home is not clean and neat while there is a visitor.

It is seen that the older age group of respondents were feeling their home is cluttered when compared with the younger group of women. The study also show that all the age group women are not buying items which are already available in their home without knowing that it is available and they all agrees that their home is not in an organized manner. It is seen that almost all the age group of women are agreeing that their family members are not helping them to keep their home neat. Apart from these general questions on their perception on their current housekeeping status, some 5S based questions were also asked. It is seen that respondents from all the age group feels that they are convinced that 5S is beneficial to them and their family and that 5S implementation makes their life easy and simple. Thus the findings of the study show that the women from all the age groups are having a perception that their house is not neat and clean. They also feel that if their house is neat and well organized, it would be a good environment for them to live healthy. And also they feel that their family members are not cooperating with them to either keep their home neat and clean or support them to make it neat. Since all the respondents feels that 5S would help them a lot in making their dream home, it can be implemented in all houses with the support of the family. Before implementing the 5S at home, it is necessary to create awareness among the people at home and society so that they will also contribute towards a well-organised, beautiful home.

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