Impact of work-life balance on teacher's satisfaction, performance and retention in public schools of Male Region, Maldives.

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ABSTRACT

Researchers highlight the importance of a healthy work-life balance for teachers in promoting job satisfaction, enhancing performance, and reducing turnover in the education sector. In the context of the Maldives, where teachers often face high demands, understanding how to manage their work-life balance may influence their job satisfaction and the work commitment. This study examines the impact of work-life balance (WLB) on teachers' performance, retention and satisfaction among teachers at public schools in Male' region, Maldives. Data was collected using a questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS 22.0 to find the relationships between work-life balance, job satisfaction and retention. The analysis revealed a negative relationship between work-life balance and teachers' satisfaction, suggesting that interference of work with personal life leads to lower job satisfaction. This study highlights the need for well-tailored policies addressing teachers' workload and stress related to that to enhance WLB along with the wellbeing of teachers in the educational sector.

Keywords: Work-life balance, Teacher retention, Performance, Satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

Research Background

In recent times, work-life balance (WLB) has become an important area in current organizational and educational research. Work-life balance is referred to the stability of professional responsibilities and personal life demands, significantly influencing the success of the organization and individuals' well-being. In the profession of education, particularly for teachers balancing work and personal life is challenging due to work demands and increase in dual responsibilities while fulfilling the commitments of family and personal needs (Çobanoglu et al.,2023).

Globally, retention is a pressing issue, as education systems face the loss of experienced and skilled teachers. Several research shows that high

turnover intention and retention among teachers are often related to job satisfaction, work stress and imbalance of work and life responsibilities (Boamah et al., 2022; Ademola, Tsotetsi et al., 2021). Further the retention of teachers is important, as it not only affects organizational growth, but also the students' academic performance (Saraih et al., 2019). Teachers who are unable to balance work and life experiences stress and burnout, resulting in dissatisfaction. Teachers' performance is another key factor that is directly linked to the ability to manage stress and work and personal life demands. When teachers are overburdened with work, it depletes the Physical well-being of a teacher, affecting their performance. Several studies have revealed that teachers who are able to manage stress and balance work and life are higher in engagement, which positively affects the classroom management and students' performance (Khadka and Khadka ,2023; Boakye et al.,2023; Manalo et al.,2020). In addition, life satisfaction covers overall happiness and success and is deeply connected to balance of work and life. Teachers who have a balance of work and life report in greater life and job satisfaction, which enhances their motivation towards the profession (Bhatia and Jain 2024).

In Maldives, teachers face numerous challenges specially in male region due to a higher studentteacher ratio, limited resources and higher work demand. The requirements of teaching, combined with the pressure of living in Male region have become a stressful situation for many educators. Stress is linked to poor performance, dissatisfaction and increasing teacher turnover, calls attention to address work life balancing (Saraih et al., 2019). Although stress is an important aspect of teachers' well-being, this study focuses on the direct influence of work-life balance on satisfaction, performance, and retention, as remains less explored in Maldivian context. Therefore, this study aims to fill the gap by examining the direct impact of work-life balance on teacher satisfaction, performance and retention.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The profession of teaching is globally regarded as one of the challenging professions, that requires a balance of high workload and personal responsibilities. In Maldives, particularly in Male region, public school teachers face many challenges due to high student-teacher ratios, administrative demands and limited resources. Turnover rate of teachers in Maldives has become a national issue where some measurements such as prompting policy efforts to improve retention and attract new entrants to the profession are now taken to motivate teachers to remain in profession and students to choose teaching as profession. Factors such as high levels of stress among teachers are often linked to increased turnover intention, low job satisfaction and poor performance (Boakye et al.,2023; Manalo et al.,2020).

Work life balance (WLB) influences teacher performance and satisfaction. Research on work life balance shows work life balance enhances job satisfaction, reducing the turnover intention of teachers (Kreitner et al., 2001; Suib et al., 2022; Hasanah et al., 2020). Further teachers with balance work and life have higher level of job commitments contributing to better performance (Boamah et al., 2022 and Ordu 2021). In addition, studies indicate that stress directly impacts teachers work life balance affecting teachers performance, satisfaction and retention (Shell et al., 2023; Paramita and Supartha, 2022). Existing research on work life balance shows work life balance is linked globally to teachers satisfaction, performance and retention. However, in the context of Maldives limited studies exist in understanding how work-life balance directly influences teacher satisfaction, performance, and retention. This gap will help the stakeholders improve the education system. It is important to address this problem to understand the dynamics of WLB, Retention, performance and satisfaction. Hence, the aim of this study was to find the impact of work-life balance on teacher satisfaction, performance, and retention. Although stress is acknowledged as a contributing factor, the primary focus was on understanding how WLB directly shapes key professional outcomes in the Maldivian public education system.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

General objective: To examine the impact of work-life balance on teacher satisfaction, retention and performance among teachers in public schools of Male Region Maldives

Specific objectives: The aim of this study is to:

- 1. To identify the relationship between the worklife balance and teacher satisfaction.
- 2. To examine the relationship between work-life balance on teacher performance.
- 3. To explore the relationship between work-life balance on teacher Retention.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the relationship between the work-life balance and teacher satisfaction?
- 2. What is the relationship between work-life balance on teacher performance?
- 3. What is the relationship between work-life balance on teacher retention?

SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH

This study anticipated in examining the impact of Impact of work-life balance on teacher's satisfaction and performance. As evident from literature, work life balance is a global concern specifically in the profession of teaching. Furthermore, few studies have been done in particularly in Maldives to examine the impact of work life balance of teachers. Hence, the result of this study has implications for management of schools and policy makers in designing and making positive and supportive environments reducing stress and enhancing work-life balance.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of key concepts

work-life balance

Over 20 years several scholars attempted to define and conclude work life balance as a key concept. However, there are no similar or agreed definitions of work life balance in the literature (Kalliath & Brough, 2008). There are at least two domains of life, which is work and personal life. The table below shows some of the definitions.

Table 1: definitions of work- life balance

Author(s)	Definitions
Greenhaus et al., (2003).	The extent to which an individual is equally satisfied with his/her work and family role in terms of time balance, involvement balance and satisfaction balance.
Kirchmeyer (2000).	Distributing all personal resources (time, energy, commitment) to achieve satisfying experience in all life domains.
Clark (2000).	Individual satisfaction and function well at home and work with no or minimum of conflict.
Fleetwood (2007).	Individuals have control of when, where and how they work.
Kalliath and Brough (2008)	Individual perception about work and non-work activities that promote growth in accordance with their life prioritics.
Keelan (2015).	Individuals' beliefs about the balance in their personal and professional obligations without sacrificing any.

Work life balance can be defined as individuals' level of satisfaction with multiple roles (Kirchmeyer 2000). Similarly, Clark (2000) also defined work life balance as individual satisfaction within the description of border theory. Adding to this, Greenhaus, Collins & Shaw (2003) also studied multiple roles defining work life balance further with a scope on equity of time across individuals' multiple roles. Further defined it as individuals level of engagement and satisfaction with family and work role in term of three components which are time balance, involvement balance, and satisfaction balance' (Greenhaus, Collins and Shaw 2003). In addition, Work- life balance can also be defined as having control of when, where and how individual work (Fleetwood 2007). It could also be a result of individuals freedom over the roles most important to the individual. Similarly, Kalliath and Brough (2008) defined Work life balance as Individual perception about work and non-work activities that promote growth in accordance with their life priorities. More recently Work life balance is defined as Individuals' beliefs about the balance in their personal and professional obligations without sacrificing any (Keelan 2015).

The definitions about work life balance in past have indicated individual satisfaction, equal time in multiple roles and minimal conflict. Therefore, in this study, work life balance is defined as individual's ability to balance their personal and work life to enable them to enhance satisfaction, attend multiple task and manage conflicts affectively.

Teacher's job satisfaction

Job satisfaction is a concerning issue for many researchers, as it has a direct connection with organizations such as turnover and absenteeism (Nguni et al., 2006). In contrast, life satisfaction is a broader concept that covers overall assessment of life, covering various domains like health, relationships, and personal achievements. Although there are many definitions to job satisfaction there is no consensus on how it should

be defined. The table below shows some of the definitions of Teachers job satisfaction.

Table 2: definitions of Teacher's job Satisfaction

Author(s)	Definitions
Zembylas and Papanastasiou (2004)	Teacher's job Satisfaction referred to the relationship between a teacher and their role of teaching. And the expectations of a teacher and what the teacher perceives.
Kreitner et al., (2001).	Teacher's job Satisfaction defined as attitudes of employees towards the work that includes positive as well as negative behavior.
Schermerhorn et al., (2011).	Defined as general attitudes of an individual towards their work. which states job satisfaction as the general attitude of individuals to their work.
Hasanah et al., (2020).	Job satisfaction is the result of work experience or assessment of work.
Lambrou et al., (2010)	A positive state of mind resulted from individuals job experience
Hoppock (1935)	combination of psychological, physiological and environmental circumstances that results in individuals' happiness towards the work.

Teachers' satisfaction is defined by many scholars in various perspectives. One of the definitions is by Hoppock (1935). He defined job satisfaction as a combination of psychological, physiological and environmental circumstances that results in individuals' happiness towards the work. It is the internal factors that play the major role in individual satisfaction towards the work along with minimal effect of external factors (Hoppock 1935). However, Kreitner et al., (2001) defined job satisfaction as individual's attitudes towards the work that includes positive and negative behavior. Similarly, Schermerhorn et al., (2011) also defined it as the general attitudes of an individual towards their work. Adding to this, job satisfaction is defined as a relationship between a teacher and their role in teaching (Zembylas and Papanastasiou 2004). And the expectations of a teacher and what the teacher perceives. Many recent scholars define it as result of one's job or work experience (Lambrou et al., (2010), Hasanah et al., 2020).

The past definitions of job satisfaction indicate it is related to one's internal factors and job experience. Therefore, it can be concluded that job satisfaction of a teacher is the result from one's job experiences with a positive set of minds.

Teachers' performance

Employees job performance is a vital part of organizational success (Keelan 2015). Vinchur and Koppes (2011) defined job performance as individuals behavior that can be supervised and assessed. While Werang et al., (2017) defined job performance as quality achieved by an individual after completion of a given task. But in this research, performance is referred to teacher's job performance. The table below shows some of the conceptual definitions of teacher's performance.

Table 3: definitions of Teacher's performance

Author(s)	Definitions
Abwalla (2014).	Teachers' performance refers to
	the involvement of the teacher in
	teaching, in term of making
	schemes, lesson plan, assessment
	of students and participation in
	co- curricular activities.
Hassan et al., (2017).	Ability of the teacher to teach
	skills, knowledge by using
	appropriate methods to improve
	students' achievement and
	learning.
Danasabe (2018).	Management of classroom,
	efficient teaching, punctuality to
	work, and good team work.
Limon and Nartgün	Defined as teachers' contribution
(2020).	to achieve goals and objectives of
	the institution.
Suib et al., (2022).	Teachers work towards the tasks
	assigned to achieve
	organizational objectives.

A teacher's job performance is defined in many ways by different scholars. From the definitions listed above all the scholars define teachers job performance as fulfilling the tasks assigned in teaching, as well as effective delivery of teaching methods along planning and reaching organizations objectives. Abwalla (2014) defined teachers' performance as the involvement of the teacher in teaching, in terms of making schemes, lesson plan, assessment of students and participation in co- curricular activities. In addition, Hassan et al., (2017) also defined it as the ability of the teachers to skills, knowledge by using appropriate methods to improve students' achievement and learning. Further teachers' performance was defined as Management of classroom, efficient teaching, punctuality to work, and good team (Danasabe, 2018). Moreover, Limon and Nartgün (2020) defines performance as the contribution of teachers in achieving the goals of an institution. Similarly, Suib et al., (2022) also defined it as the work of teacher in achieving organizational objectives.

The past definitions of teacher's performance indicate it is related to doing the tasks assigned to teaching. Therefor for this study teacher's performance refers to effectiveness and competency in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Teachers' retention

Recent years teachers' retention has gained significance attention due several global challenges. Although there are many definitions to teachers' retention there is no consensus on how it should be defined. The table below shows some of the definitions of Teachers retention.

Table 5: definitions of teacher's retention

Author(s)	Definitions
Buchanan, Prescott,	Teacher retention is referred as
Schuck, Aubusson, and	positive environments of the
Burke (2013).	schools that fosters a
	supportive environment where
	teachers are valued. And it
	reduces retention rate,
	enhancing commitment to their
	profession.
Nguyen, (2018).	Teacher retention is defined as
	the commitment of teachers to
	remain in their career focusing
	on psychological and
	professional development.
Reitman and Karge	Teacher retention is defined as
(2019).	teachers continued service in
	same school supported by
	school leadership, recognition
	and opportunities for growth.
Shuls and Flores (2020).	Teacher Retention refers to the
	extent or the longevity of
	teachers in a specific
	organization.
Shell, Hurt and White	Retention is defined as the
(2023).	ability of the schools to hold
	their teachers in that
	organization through support
	and growth opportunities.

Teacher retention is an important concept in educational research, as it has direct impact on organizational development and students' performance (Zembylas Papanastasiou & 2004). As seen in the table above the definitions of teacher's retention emphasis on different dimensions. Buchanan et al., (2013) described it as result of positive work environment where teachers are valued and appreciated. And this adds to the commitment to remain in that particular organization. Similarly, Reitman and Karge (2019) also emphasized the work environment defining teachers' retention as continued service in one school which is supported by school leadership, recognition and opportunities for growth. Adding

to this, Shell et al., (2023) also defined retention as the ability of the schools to hold their teachers in that organization through support and growth opportunities. Nguyen (2018) highlighted teacher retention as one's commitment to remain in one organization for psychological and professional development. From a broader perspective, Shuls and Flores (2020) defined Teacher Retention as the extent or the longevity of teachers in a specific organization.

Collectively, these definitions underline that teacher retention is influenced by a combination of work environment, school leadership, institutional support and individual motivation. Therefor for this study teacher retention refers to the ability of the schools to sustain teachers by fostering a positive work environment, organizational support, and opportunities for development.

2.3 Critical review of underline theories

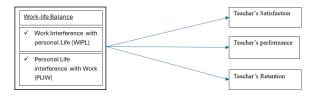
Work life balanced is a broad concept which consists of three elements "work", "life" and "balance". Although no single theory has been universally accepted, various researchers have investigated work life balance through several frameworks and theories such as enhancement, facilitation, spillover, social identity, conflict, border, segmentation, and ladder theories (Boamah et al., 2022; Ordu 2021; Adriano and Callaghan 2020; Sari and Seniati 2020; Kakar et al., 2021).

Segmentation theory posits that work and life are separate broad concepts and experiences that do not influence or affect the experience of one another (Kakar et al., 2021; Young & Kleiner, 1992). In contrast, enrichment and facilitation theory highlights that involvement in one role (work) will enrich the resources of another role (Boakye et al., 2023; Jaharuddin and Zainol, 2019; Manalo et al., 2020). While these theories emphasize the positive aspects of work life and personal life, they were criticized for not emphasizing the causes and failure to provide a framework for work life balance (guest, 2002). Work – family border

theory proposed by Clark (2000) focuses on the domains of work and family, defining "balance" as satisfaction and functioning of work and family with minimum conflict. And individuals as "border crossers" that shift daily from the world of work to the world of family or personal life. This theory is applicable to teachers, as individuals who constantly navigate from personal to professional responsibilities.

Given the aim of this study, which is to examine the impact of work life balance on teachers' performance, retention and satisfaction, Work-Family Border Theory was chosen as theoretical framework. This theory offers a complete understanding of the deep connection between work and personal life, focusing on the management of changes in boundaries. Further, applying this theory in this study addresses effective management of boundaries that contributes to increasing satisfaction of teachers, performance and retention.

Conceptual Framework



2.4.1 Work life balance and teachers' satisfaction

Teachers' satisfaction in their work has a strong impact on the quality of education (Boamah et al., 2022). It was found that a healthy work-life balance among teachers lead to satisfaction in their jobs reducing stress level (Cobanoglu et al., 2023). A study by Ordu (2021) revealed the importance and high effect of teacher's job satisfaction on achieving organizational goals and work-life balance. Another research conducted in Indonesia found that educators who have perceived balance of their work and personal life shows remarkable association between job satisfaction and organizational commitment (Sari and Seniati, 2020). Similarly, Attar et al. (2020) reported that work-life balance has a positive impact on teachers' satisfaction. In line with these findings, a study by Sailatha and Swathi (2022) highlighted that the work-life balance of teachers impacts their level of satisfaction. In light of the findings, this study formulates the following hypothesis.

H1: There is a significant impact of work-life balance on teachers' satisfaction.

Work life balance and teachers' performance

Performance is result of employee's work considering the responsibilities assigned at work, which is influenced by the various factors such as ability to fulfill work and family commitments (Panda and Sahoo ,2021). It was found that teacher's performance has a positive and a significant impact on work-life balance. And work stress had a negative effect on teachers' performance (Paramita and Supartha, 2022). Similarly, a study by Dankwa (2020) revealed a positive and significant relationship between work-life balance and employees' performance. Stating that employees who perceive a balance between work and home life tend to perform better. Adding to these findings, research conducted in Malaysia highlighted that work-life balance have a significant impact on teachers' performance (Johari et al., 2018). In line with these findings Chana et al., (2022) found work-life balance has a greater influence on teachers' performance. It was found that a healthy balance of work and life increases the level of job performance, adding to job satisfaction (Krishnan et al., 2018). Moreover, a study by Mwangi et al., (2016) concluded that work-life balance impacts the performance of teachers and as an important aspect that should be accepted to improve teachers' performance. Therefor this study formulates the following hypothesis.

H2: There is a significant impact of work-life balance on teachers' performance.

Work life balance and teachers' retention

Work life balance (WLB) is an important component in teachers' retention as evident I several studies. Panda and Sahoo (2021) found a positive relationship between WLB and employees' retention. Also, it is revealed that WLB has a major role in employees' decision in increased involvement and to leave or remain at the company. Similarly, a study by Abdulaziz et al., (2022) pointed out that WLB has shown positive changes in organizational commitment supported by personal and professional growth. Research by Mathews et al., (2021) also revealed that positive and supportive environments of the schools promote WLB and are more likely to engage teachers in a long-term role. Moreover Khalil et al., (2020) revealed that imbalance of work and life negatively affects stress level of employees, which directly influences the turnover intentions. This aligns with the findings of Rathi and Kumar (2023) who highlighted the strong association between work stress of teachers and the turnover intention of the teaching employees. Furthermore, Sailatha and Swathi (2022) found a significant relationship between teachers' retention, work satisfaction and work life balance. Similarly, Chong et al., (2021) also revealed that WLB and employees turn over intention have a significant relationship. Therefor this study formulates the following hypothesis.

H3: There is a significant impact of work-life balance on teachers' retention.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

There are three research designs: exploratory, descriptive, explanatory (causal) design. The chosen research design to examine the impact of work life balance on teachers' performance and satisfaction is explanatory or Causal research design. This design was chosen for several reasons. Firstly, explanatory research focuses on determining the impact of work life balance (independent variable) on teachers' performance (dependent variable). Secondly, this explanatory research directs empirical study, as it focuses on empirical evidence to connect variables using statistical analysis.

EXPLORATORY	DESCRIPTIVE	EXPLANATORY
		(Causal)
Become familiar	Gives in depth	Investigate a
with basic facts,	and a precise	theory's
setting and	picture	projections.
concerns.		
Takes a general	Uncover new	Detailed and
picture of	data that	enhance
conditions	undermine past	description of the
	data	theory's
Create and focus	Create a set of	Extend a theory to
questions for	categories or	new issues or
future research	categorize types	topics
Creäte new ideas	Explain a series	Validate or prove
connectors or	of steps or	false of an
hypothesis	stages	explanation or
		projection
Find out the	Records a	Connect
possibility of	casual process	problems or
conducting	or system	topics with a
research		common
		principle
Create methods	Details on the	Establish which
for measuring and	background or	of different
identifying future	setting of a	explanations is
data	situation	best.

MEASURES OR ITEM CONSTRUCT

There are five variables in this study. Each variable is measured using the relevant measure of items. A sixth variable stress is added only for background study and descriptive understanding of teachers' experience. Work interference with personal life is measured using 5 items adopted from Shukla and Srivastava (2016); Singh (2014) and Hayman (2005). Personal Life interference with Work (PLIW) was measured using 5 items which are adopted from Singh (2014) and Hayman (2005). Teacher's Satisfaction was measured using 5 items which are adopted from Demirtas (2010) and Bhatnagar et al., (2011). Further Teacher's performance was measured using 5 items which are adopted from Cho et al., (2023). Teacher's Retention was measured using 7 items which are adopted from Kaya and Argon (2011). And last though stress was no included for hypothesis testing, stress was measured as a background variable using 4 items which are adopted from Rincy and Panchanatham (2010).

WLB DIMENSIONS	SCALE ITEMS	SOURCES
Work Interference	I have unachievable deadlines at school.	Shukla and
with personal Life	My job takes up time meant to be spent with family.	Srivastava (2016).
(WIPL)	I change family activities due to Job related strains.	
	I often feel emotionally drained trying to balance home and work.	Singh (2014).
	5) My Job demands make it difficult to maintain the relationship with family as	
	I want.	Hayman (2005).
Personal Life	My home life interferes with responsibilities at work.	Singh (2014).
interference with	2) I put off things at work due to family demands on time.	
Work (PLIW)	My family related stress interferes with job related duties.	Hayman (2005)
	4) My Personal life drains me of energy for work.	
	5) I am too tired to be effective at work.	
Teacher's	1) Being a teacher is close to my ideal.	Demirtas, Z.
Satisfaction	My conditions as a teacher are excellent.	(2010).
	3) I am satisfied with being a teacher.	
	4) I am happy that I took this job.	Bhatnagar et al.,
	5) I do not force myself to go to work.	(2011).
Teacher's	I achieve the objectives of the job.	Cho, Pyun and
performance	I demonstrate expertise in all job-related tasks.	Wang (2023).
	3) I fulfil all the requirements of the job.	
	I could manage more responsibility than typically assigned.	
	5) I am competent in all areas of the job.	
Teacher's Retention	I plan to continue teaching at my current school.	
	I plan to continue working in education, but I intend to leave this school.	Kaya and Argon
	3) The level of support I receive from school management affects my decision	
	to continue teaching at this school.	
	4) My authority to make decisions about my classes affects my decision to stay	
	at this school.	
	5) There is a positive teaching and learning environment at the school.	
	School management values teachers as professionals.	
Level of stress	1)I have a lot of work and fear that time is not enough.	Rincy and
	I feel so burdened that even a day without work seems bad.	Panchanatham (2010).
	3) I feel that I never take a leave.	(2010).
	4)I am tired due to high demand at workplace.	,

POPULATION AND UNIT OF ANALYSIS

The unit of analysis is teachers who are currently teaching in Primary and secondary schools located in greater Male' Maldives. This group of teachers are chosen for this study due to the relevance in understanding the impact of work life balance on teachers' performance and satisfaction. Provided in the official website of Ministry of education as of year 2024, total of 1927 teachers are working in 10 schools of Male' region. This population is applicable to the objective of this study, as teachers work life balance, and the outcomes related to it can provide various performance trends.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE AND SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size was determined by using Yamane's formular. Using Yamane's formular the sample size for this study is approximately 331. Further, to examine the impact of work life balance on teachers' satisfaction and performance, a non-probability sampling method was chosen. Convenient sampling method was used due to the time constraints and availability of the respondents. For this study participants were selected based on their willingness to participate and their availability.

$$n=N/(1+N.e^2)$$

Where,

n= required sample size

N= population size (1927)

e=Margin of error 5% for a 95% confidence interval.

 $n=1927/(1+1927.\square(0.05)\square^2)$

n=331.2

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

		DEMOGR	APHIC ANALY	SIS	
Demographics		Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Gender	Male	29	15.3	15.3	15.3
	Female	161	84.7	84.7	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	
Age	20 – 30	36	18.9	18.9	18.9
	30 – 40	88	46.3	46.3	65.3
	40 – 50	55	28.9	28.9	94.2
	50 - 60	11	5.8	5.8	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	
Number of	1	52	27.4	27.4	27.4
dependents	2	49	25.8	25.8	53.2
	3	28	14.7	14.7	67.9
	4 and more	23	12.1	12.1	80.0
	None	38	20.0	20.0	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	
Marital	Married	88	83.8	83.8	83.8
Status	Divorced	7	6.7	6.7	90.5
	Single	10	9.5	9.5	100.0
	Total	105	100.0	100.0	
Educational	Diploma	9	4.7	4.7	4.7
qualification	Bachelor's degree	58	30.5	30.5	35.3
	Master's degree	123	64.7	64.7	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	
Years of	Less than one	1	.5	.5	.5
experience	1 – 3 years	18	9.5	9.5	10.0
	4 – 6 years	28	14.7	14.7	24.7
	7 – 10 years	42	22.1	22.1	46.8
	11 - 15 years	38	20.0	20.0	66.8
	More than 15 years	63	33.2	33.2	100.0
	Total	190	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows the distribution of participants by Age, Gender, Educational background, Number of dependents and Marital status. From the respondents of the study, 84,7% are female and 15.3% are male. The majority (46.3%) of the participants are from the age between 30 - 40. And the least are age 50 and above (5.8) %. Further the table shows the number of dependents of the participants. Most number of the participants have one dependent (27.4%) followed by 2 dependents (25.4%). Also, the least number of dependents is 4 and more which holds 12.1% of the respondents. In addition, 64.7% of respondents have educational qualification of master's degree, 30.4% have bachelor's degree and 4.7% have diploma. This distribution shows that Majority of the participants have master's degree. Moreover, majority (33,2 %) have more than 15 years of experience in teaching. Followed by 22.1% of respondents having experience of 7 to 10 years and 20% of respondents 11 to 15 years, 14.7% of respondents 4 to 6 years and 9.5% 1 to 3

years of experience in teaching.

NORMALITY AND RELIABILITY TEST

	Ske	wness	Ku	tosis	I	Cronbach's Alpha Based
	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error	Cronbach's Alpha	on Standardized Items
WIPL 1	-1.892	.176	3.038	.351		
WIPL 2	468	.176	421	.351		
WIPL 3	622	.176	496	.351		
WIPL 4	654	.176	531	.351		
WIPL 5	417	.176	892	.351		
WIPL 6	461	.176	564	.351		
WIPL 7	212	.176	894	.351	.900	.897
WIPL 8	514	.176	670	.351		
WIPL 9	372	.176	848	.351		
WIPL 10	468	.176	705	.351		
WIPL 11	384	.176	837	.351		
WIPL 12	157	.176	812	.351		
PLIW 1	838	.176	013	.351		
PLIW 2	.034	.176	739	.351	•	
PLIW 3	187	.176	811	.351		
PLIW 4	028	.176	985	.351	.876	.876
PLIW 5	.050	.176	783	.351		
PLIW 6	.323	.176	755	.351		
PLIW 7	.447	.176	426	.351		
TS 1	-1.104	.176	1.100	.351	.873	876
TS 2	687	.176	.012	.351	.5/5	.010
TS 3	868	.176	.226	.351	-	
TS 4	865	.176	.550	.351		
TS 5	496	.176	369	.351		
TS 6	391	.176	644	.351		
TS 7	631	.176	.151	.351		
TS 8	713	.176	224	.351		
TS 9	383	.176	214	.351		
TS 10	675	.176	.072	.351		
TP 1	977	.176	1.510	.351		
TP 2	808	.176	.814	.351		
TP 3	924	.176	.648	.351		
TP 4	490	.176	004	.351	.812	.823
TP 5	481	.176	.003	.351		
TP 6	288	.176	641	.351		
TP 7	712	.176	.494	.351		
TR 1	-1.159	.176	.849	.351		
TR2	.047	.176	987	.351		
TR 3	576	.176	264	.351	.440	.469
TR 4	051	.176	783	.351		
TR.5	699	.176	.450	.351		
TR.6	581	.176	110	.351		
LS 1	873	.176	.122	.351		
LS 2	307	.176	697	.351		
LS 3	276	.176	962	.351		
LS 4	467	.176	603	.351	.812	.809
LS 5	157	.176	945	.351		
LS 6	559	.176	070	.351		
LS 7	.103	.176	-1.061	.351		
LS 8	-1.108	.176	.752	.331	Overall scale: .910	.904
					Sveran scale, .910	.504

To check the normality of the data, skewness and kurtosis values of each item was calculated. All the items are within the acceptable range of -2 to 2. Hair et al., (2010) and Bryne (2010) argued variables of a data set are normal for skewness -2 to 2 and kurtosis -7 to 7. Therefor all the items of the data set including stress which was added

only for background understanding are normally distributed as they are in the acceptable range of -7 to 7 kurtosis and skewness -2 to 2.

The reliability analysis was conducted to measure the internal consistency between items. Reliability of the scale items are normally tested using Cronbach's Alpha values. According to Hair et al (2012), the Cronbach's Alpha values must be equal or greater than 0.7. Based on the above table, the items in the scale construct are considered as acceptable because all the Cronbach's Alpha values are above 0.7, except TR (0.440). Despite this, it was decided to retail all the items as Cronbach's Alpha for the overall scale is 0.910.

FACTOR ANALYSIS

	Rotated Component Matrix ^a									
	Component									
	1	2	3	4	5	6				
WIPL 9	.882									
WIPL 10	.880									
WIPL 5	.874									
WIPL 11	.856									
WIPL 7	.820									
WIPL 6	.815									
WIPL 12	.754									
WIPL 4	.650									
WIPL 3	.608									
WIPL 2	.690									
WIPL 1	.802									
LS 5		.678								
LS 6		.544								
LS 7		.646								
LS 4		.640								
LS 8		.806								
LS 3		.483								
LS 2		.539								

Factor loading and Average variance extracted are essential metrics used to measure Convergent validity. According to Hair et al (2012) the minimum factor loading recommended is 0.5. However, under exploratory factor analysis values greater than 0.4 are acceptable for further analysis (Hair et al ,2012). In this study, the values generated as factor loadings through exploratory factor analysis are greater 0.4, justifying the retention of all the items for further analysis. Further, all the values are greater than 0.5, except LS (0.483) and TS (-0.460). Although with this exception, the results

as shown in the table above support that items in the construct are convergently valid.

In terms of Average Variance Extracted (AVE) all the values constructed are above 0.5, confirming that overall construct is convergently valid. Although stress was not examined as a mediator its construct validity was tested to ensure accurate background insights.

DISCRIMINANT VALIDITY

	Discriminant Validity								
	WIPL	PLIW	TS	TP	TR	LS			
WIPL	0.926								
PLIW	.682**	0.777							
TS	236**	.089	0.725						
TP	.051	009	.325**	0.824					
TR	.160°	.361**	.642**	.230**	0.840				
LS	.778**	.647**	154*	.087	.304**	0.787			

Assessing discriminant validity of item construct is important for validating the measurement model. According to the Fornell-Larcker criterion, the discriminant validity is established if the square root of AVE is greater than the correlation coefficient values. The table above shows the discriminant validity of the item construct. All the values, the square root of correlation coefficient is smaller than the Average Variance Extracted (AVE). Further, as the square root of AVE values are greater than the correlation coefficient, the item constructed is discriminant valid. Though stress is not part of hypothesis testing, its included to show acceptable discriminant properties.

DESCRIPTIVE MEANS

Descriptive Statistics										
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Ske	wness	Kurtosis				
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error			
WIPL	190	3.5917	.79555	425	.176	661	.351			
PLIW	190	3.0466	.87112	.022	.176	421	.351			
TS	190	3.8258	.67786	683	.176	.363	.351			
TP	190	4.1602	.35539	.032	.176	405	.351			
TR.	190	3.6289	.53908	.142	.176	057	.351			
LS	190	3.5178	.74664	230	.176	618	.351			
Valid N (listwise)	190									

The descriptive means of the survey provide valuable understandings of teachers work-life balance on various aspects. The results show that Teacher's performance (TP) had the highest Mean score (4.1602), reflecting teachers agree with this aspect. Further Teachers satisfaction (TS,3.82528) and Teacher's retention (TR,3.6289) also received a moderately high score reflecting agreement among respondents. In contrast, worklife interference with personal life (WIPL, 3.5917) and level of stress (LS, 3.5178) both the aspects reflected a moderate level of agreement among respondents. And last, personal life interference with work (PLIW) has a mean score of (3.0466) indicating that personal life has more impact on work. Although stress was not included in hypothesis testing, its moderate level supports the context of high workload pressures.

CORRELATION

		WIPL	PLIW	TS	TP	TR	LS
WIPL	Pearson Correlation	1	.682**	236**	.051	.160°	.778**
ı	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.001	.485	.028	.000
Ī	N	190	190	190	190	190	190
PLIW	Pearson Correlation	.682**	1	.089	009	.361**	.647**
İ	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.224	.905	.000	.000
ı	И	190	190	190	190	190	190
TS	Pearson Correlation	236**	.089	1	.325**	.642**	154
ı	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.224		.000	.000	.034
ı	N	190	190	190	190	190	190
TP	Pearson Correlation	.051	009	.325**	1	.230**	.087
ı	Sig. (2-tailed)	.485	.905	.000		.001	.231
ı	N	190	190	190	190	190	190
TR.	Pearson Correlation	.160"	.361**	.642**	.230**	1	.304**
ı	Sig. (2-tailed)	.028	.000	.000	.001		.000
ı	N	190	190	190	190	190	190
LS	Pearson Correlation	.778**	.647**	154"	.087	.304**	1
ŀ	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.034	.231	.000	
ŀ	N	190	190	190	190	190	190
	**. 0	orrelation is	I significant at t	he 0.01 level (2-tailed).	l	

The correlation table above shows the significant relationship between variables. There is a significant positive relationship between work life interference and personal life interference (0.682) indicating as work life interference increases, personal interference increases too. A moderate negative correlation is between work-life interference with personal life and teachers' satisfaction (-0.236) indicating work-

life interference with personal is associated with low satisfaction of teachers. Further, it shows that WIPL has a strong correlation with level of stress (LS) (0.778), indicating that an increase in WIPL increases the level of stress. In addition, the results show that there is weak correlation between WIPL and Teachers retention (TR), (0.160), reflecting that increase in WIPL may contribute to higher retention of teachers. Similarly, there is no significant relationship between WIPL and teachers' performance (TP) (0.051), indicating that WIPL does not affect the performance of teachers.

Moreover, the table above reveals that personal life interference with work (PLIW) is correlated (0.647) with level of stress and moderately correlated (0.361) with Teacher's retention (TR). The result indicates that increase in PLIW moderately affects teachers' level of stress and retention. Further, a moderate positive correlation (0.642) was found between Teacher's satisfaction and retention, revealing satisfaction level affects retention of the teachers. In contrast, there is no significant correlation (-0.009) between PLIW and teachers' performance. Teacher's satisfaction has a negative weak correlation (-0.154) with stress, though it's a weak correlation it indicates that higher level of satisfaction is linked to decrease in level of stress. Overall, the findings on the table above highlight that work life balance has a strong correlation with stress and a moderate correlation with teachers' performance and retention. Further it reveals that teachers' satisfaction is related to teachers' satisfaction and performance.

REGRESSION ANALYSIS

	Model Summary ^b										
			Adjusted R	Std. Error of	R. Square	R Square Sig. F					
Model	R	R Square	Square	the Estimate	Change	F Change	dfl	df2	Change	Watson	
1	.379°	.144	.135	.50143	.144	15.723	2	187	.000	2.236	
a. Pred	a. Predictors: (Constant), PLIW, WIPL										
b. Dep	endent Va	riable: TR									

Based on the table above the Adjusted R-square of the model is 0.135 indicating that predictors Personal life interference with work (PLIW) and work interference with personal life (WIPL) together only explain 13.5% of the change in teachers' retention (TR). Therefore, this suggests that this is not a strong model fit as it does not explain 60% of changes in teachers' retention. However, the model is sound and valid to predict the outcomes, as F-change is highly significant (15.723). Additionally, the model does not exhibit autocorrelation, as indicated by the Durbin Watson value of 2.2, which falls between 1.5 to 2.5. Despite the limitation, the model shows consistent predictions of teacher's retention based on the predictors.

				Coefficients."				
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			Collinearity Statistics	
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	3.135	.170		18.448	.000		
	WIPL	109	.063	162	-1.746	.082	.535	1.871
	PLIW	.291	.057	.471	5.088	.000	.535	1.871
. Depen	dent Variable: 1	R		•				

The table above explains the influence of independent variables (WIPL, PLIW) on the dependent variable (Teacher's retention) and its significance. The constant beta coefficient of constant (3.135) suggests that whether there is a variance or no variance in the independent variables, the teacher's retention will be enhanced by 3.135 units.

Further, the result above suggests that independent variables have varying significant impacts on teachers' retention. Among the variables, PLIW indicates a positive relationship with teachers' retention (0.291), meaning that increase in PLIW is connected to teachers' retention. In contrast, WIPL has a significantly negative impact on teachers' retention (-0.109).

Model Summary ^b											
Model	R	R. Square	Adjusted R. Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	dfl	df2	Sig. F Change	Durbin- Watson	
2	.078°	.006	004	.35619	.006	.577	2	187	.563	.990	
a. Predic	. Predictors: (Constant), PLIW, WIPL										
b. Deper	ndent Vari	able: TP									

Based on the table above the Adjusted R-square of the model is 0.135 indicating that predictors Personal life interference with work (PLIW) and work interference with personal life (WIPL) together only explain 13.5% of the change in teachers' performance (TP). Therefore, this suggests that this is not a strong model fit as it does not explain 60% of changes in teachers' performance. Further, the model is not valid to predict the outcomes, as F-change value is (0.577). Additionally, the model does not exhibit autocorrelation, as indicated by the Durbin Watson of 0.990, which falls out of the range between 1.5 to 2.5.

			(Coefficients* Standardized				
Uns		Unstandardize	ed Coefficients				Collinearit	
1	Model	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF
2	(Constant)	4.090	.121		33.889	.000		
	WIPL	.048	.045	.106	1.067	.287	.535	1.871
	PLIW	033	.041	081	816	.416	.535	1.871
ı. Depe	ndent Variab	ole: TP						

The table above explains the influence of independent variables (WIPL, PLIW) on the dependent variable (Teacher's performance) and its significance. The constant beta coefficient of constant (4.090) suggests that whether there is a variance or no variance in the independent variables, the teacher's performance will be enhanced by 4.090 units.

The result above suggests that independent variables have a weak impact on teachers' performance. Among the variables, PLIW indicates a negative relationship with teachers' performance (-0.033), meaning that increase in PLIW has a very or low impact on teachers' performance. In contrast, WIPL has a positive relationship with impact on teachers' performance (0.048). However, it is statistically not significant.

Model	R.	R. Square	Adjusted R. Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	dfl	df2	Sig. F Change	Durbin- Watson
3	.415°	.172	.163	.62013	.172	19.411	2	187	.000	1.945

Based on the table above the Adjusted R-square of the model is 0.163 indicating that predictors Personal life interference with work (PLIW) and work interference with personal life (WIPL) together only explain 16.3% of the change in teachers' satisfaction (TS). Therefore, this suggests that this is not a strong model fit as it does not explain 60% of changes in teachers' satisfaction. Additionally, the model does not exhibit autocorrelation, as indicated by the Durbin Watson value of 1.945, which falls within the range is between 1.5 to 2.5. Despite the limitation, the model shows consistent predictions of teacher's satisfaction based on the predictors.

Coefficients*											
	Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients			Collinearity	Statistics			
1	Model	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Tolerance	VIF			
3	(Constant)	4.415	.210		21.009	.000					
	WIPL	472	.078	554	-6.087	.000	.535	1.871			
	PLIW	.363	.071	.467	5.127	.000	.535	1.871			
a. Depe	ndent Variab	ole: TS									

The table above explains the influence of independent variables (WIPL, PLIW) on the dependent variable (Teacher's satisfaction) and its significance. The constant beta coefficient of constant (4.415) suggests that whether there is a variance or no variance in the independent variables, teacher's satisfaction will be enhanced by 4.415 units.

Further the result above suggests that independent variables have a weak impact on teachers' performance. Among the variables, WIPL indicates a negative relationship with teachers' satisfaction (-0.472), meaning that increase in WIPL has low impact on teachers' Satisfaction. In contrast, PLIW has a moderate positive relationship with impact on teachers' satisfaction (0.363). indicating that increase in PLIW is associated with teachers satisfaction.

DISCUSSION

Discussion of findings

The profession of teaching is considered a

challenging profession that requires a balance of work and personal life. The work-life balance of a teacher has a direct impact on organizational success as well as on students' performance. This study aimed to explore the impact of worklife balance on teachers' performance, retention, and satisfaction. This study found a negative, not statistically proven, relationship between worklife interference with personal life and teacher retention. Particularly the results suggested that an increase in work-life interference with personal life decreases teachers' retention in that organization. This finding is in line with previous studies, Panda and Sahoo (2021) who found a positive relationship between WLB and employee's retention. Also, it revealed that WLB has a major role in employees' decision to increase involvement and to leave or remain at the company. Similarly, a study by Abdulaziz et al., (2022) pointed out that WLB has shown positive changes in organizational commitment supported by personal and professional growth. Although the effect was not significantly proven, the trend supports that an increase in work influences teachers' decision to leave the profession or the organization.

Moreover, this study revealed that work-life balance and teacher performance are not linked directly. Both WILP and PLIW showed varying relationships with teachers' performance. However, several studies show that work-life balance is strongly or moderately related to teacher's performance. Further organizational support and a positive work environment enhance their performance (Paramita and Supartha, 2022; Balbes and Quines, 2022; Roselin, 2024; Suci et al., 2022).

Furthermore, a healthy work-life balance among teachers leads to satisfaction in their jobs reducing stress level (Çobanoglu et al., 2023). This study found a negative relationship between work-life balance and teachers' satisfaction, suggesting that work-life interference with personal life

decreases the level of job satisfaction. This is in line with previous studies that indicated that work-life conflict issues can lead to demotivation, burnout, dissatisfaction, and increased intention to leave the profession (Boamah et al., 2022; Ordu, 2021; Sari and Seniati, 2020). Although the relationship was not significant in this study, it suggests that focusing on work-related issues and their interference with personal life is important to address to improve teachers' job satisfaction.

Implications of the study

Based on the results of this study, the following implications could be considered for educational administrators, policymakers, and senior management members of the schools. As teachers' satisfaction is strongly influenced by the level of stress, policymakers and along with school management can implement wellness programs and most importantly emotional and school management support to enhance teachers' satisfaction and retention. Furthermore, considering the relationship between personal life interference with work, schools, and policymakers can offer flexibility as much as possible to accommodate teachers' personal lives. Moreover, the interference of work-life with personal life impacts teacher's satisfaction and retention emphasizing the importance of minimizing workrelated stress. School management can try to create a positive work environment, minimizing work-life conflicts, and reducing the workload of teachers, promoting a supportive work environment.

This study also contributes to expanding the frame of research on the work-life balance of teachers, providing refined understanding of factors such as teacher satisfaction, performance, and retention on work-life balance. It indicates that the relationship between work-life balance and other factors is varied, with both negative and positive effects.

Conclusion

This study explored the impact of work-life

balance on teacher's retention, performance, and satisfaction of teachers in Male' region. This study revealed that work-life balance plays a significant role, particularly in teacher's retention and satisfaction. Teachers who can balance personal and work life are reported to have higher levels of job satisfaction and are more likely in the profession. Conversely, work-life conflicts are related to increased turnover intention and dissatisfaction, reflecting the importance of balancing work and personal life. However, this study found no direct relationship between teacher's work-life balance and performance.

Overall, the study draws the focus to the importance of cultivating work-life balance among teachers for their well-being, job satisfaction, and retention. Further, this study provides valuable understanding for future investigations of additional factors affecting teachers' performance.

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