

# 1 Emotion Work and its Mediating Role on Employees' Health

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## 6 **Abstract**

7 In recent years, the major focus of health psychologists is to understand the role of individual  
8 differences in the performance of emotion work and its health outcome. Individual difference  
9 in temperament and emotional intelligence appear to play an important role in predicting  
10 emotion work, which largely influences the physical and psychological health of customer  
11 service workers. The literature indicates that workers who experience frequent negative  
12 emotions and emotional dissonance may suffer from physical health problems which in turn,  
13 impair their cognitive health leading to a sense of stagnation towards work life. By using cross  
14 sectional descriptive survey on 400 customer service workers across the country, the study  
15 examines the mediating role of emotion work between (a) emotionality and emotional  
16 exhaustion, and (b) emotional intelligence and psychological wellbeing. The subjects were  
17 assessed on temperament, emotional intelligence, emotion work, psychological wellbeing and  
18 on emotional exhaustion. Correlational analysis showed that negative emotions and emotional  
19 dissonance were significantly positively related with both emotional exhaustion and  
20 emotionality followed by its negative association with psychological wellbeing and emotional  
21 intelligence. Mediation analysis revealed that emotional dissonance mediates the relationship  
22 between emotionality and emotional exhaustion. Also, negative emotions mediated the  
23 relationship between emotional intelligence and psychological wellbeing. The study highlights  
24 the need for assessing the emotionality of individual, as a potential source to guide and refine  
25 employee selection along with development of methods and techniques to buffer the negative  
26 effects of emotion work.

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28 ***Index terms***— emotion work, emotionality, emotional intelligence, exhaustion, psychological wellbeing.

## 29 **1 Introduction**

30 In recent times, due to the rapid emergence of customer service industries, researchers have expanded their  
31 examination of the performance of emotion work in organizational settings (England, 2005). Emotion work is  
32 viewed as a form of emotional regulation process, where employees display appropriate emotional reactions in  
33 response to several workplace demands. This involves dealing with clients, customers, subordinates or co-workers  
34 with an optimistic approach and adopting a flexible mental or emotional state towards the target population. The  
35 term "emotion work" was first coined by the sociologist Arlie Hochschild (1983) as the "management of feeling to  
36 create a publicity observable facial and bodily display." Following her work, several attempts have been made by  
37 eminent scholars to conceptualize different aspects of emotion work and its effect on human service professionals.  
38 Situational demands in organizations act as stressors which affect these professionals both physically and mentally,  
39 leading to lifestyle diseases such as asthma, cancer, cirrhosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes,  
40 heart disease, obesity etc.

41 Although many researchers have explored the nature of emotion work with varied perspectives (Morris &  
42 Feldman, 1996; Ashforth & Humphrey, 1993), recently health psychologists have provided new insights into the

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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43 management of emotions and emotional expressions to conform with organizational display rules and requirements  
44 (Diefendorff, Croyle & Gosserand 2005;Mann 2004). Research on management of emotions as a part of the work  
45 role is based on the assumption that organizations affect people's thoughts, feelings and actions through a set of  
46 display rules that serve as standards for the appropriate display of emotions (Grandey, 2000). It is increasingly  
47 recognized that emotional expressions at workplace is strongly influenced by organizational norms and rules  
48 (Rafaeli & Sutton, 1987), that are communicated to employees through both formal means, such as selection,  
49 training, evaluation, incentive systems, and informal means, such as social influence and pressures (Schein,  
50 1985). To comply with the situational demands, employees act by suppressing their true emotions (Ashforth  
51 & Humphrey, 1995). Emotion work entails following these display rules regardless of one's felt emotions which  
52 may involve displaying positive and negative emotions, sensitivity towards client's feelings, emotional dissonance  
53 and exerting control over interactions with clients (Zapf, Vogt, Seifert, Mertini, & Isic, 1999). The study of  
54 emotion work has been considered an essential aspect for ensuring effective interpersonal interactions and group  
55 functioning (Adelmann, 1995;Arvey et al., 1998). It has also become the focus of great deal of research in  
56 psychology and other health related disciplines in recent years (e.g., Barger, 2006;Saluan, 2009). Emotion work  
57 at organizations requires faking positive emotions through surface acting (Cheung & Tang, 2009) and suppression  
58 of negative ones (Tan, Foo, Chong & Ng, 2003). Employees experiencing greater emotion work may suffer from  
59 emotional exhaustion, depersonalization (Botma, 2009) and physical health problems such as headaches, insomnia  
60 etc. (Schaubroeck & Jones, 2000). Several studies have also found that such people are more likely to use surface  
61 acting emotion work strategy (Karim & Weisz, 2010), which impairs their cognitive health leading to a sense of  
62 stagnation towards work life.

63 As Hochschild (1983) noted, employees often bottle up feelings of frustration and resentment, resulting in  
64 emotional outburst. Parker and Wall (1998) have argued that intense emotion work can have detrimental health  
65 effects by weakening the body's immune system. Several studies have found that emotional dissonance and  
66 surface acting result in stress and emotional exhaustion (Kruml & Geddes, 2000;Brotheridge & Lee, 2002;Holman,  
67 Chissick & Totterdell, 2002). Pugliesi (1999) reported the existence of well-defined display rules results in  
68 increased stress leading to psychological distress. In this respect, Grandey (2000) and Schaubroeck & Jones (2000)  
69 found that the inhibition of expression of negative emotion might cause a range of physical illnesses, including  
70 serious illnesses such as hypertension and cancer. Further, Brill (2000) argued that 'emotional dishonesty' leads  
71 to antisocial behaviours, including violence. Other researchers have found that, when individuals suppress their  
72 emotions they possess less personal will, lower performance, imprecise memories for those situations (Twenge &  
73 Baumeister, 2002).

74 Recent studies have pointed to a causal sequence between emotion work, emotional dissonance and the  
75 negative job consequence, emotional exhaustion (Lewig & Dollard, 2003;Dijk & Brown, 2006). A study by  
76 found that healthcare workers with greater emotional dissonance reported greater emotional exhaustion. They  
77 were also found to experience frequent negative emotions. Evidence suggests that emotional dissonance is directly  
78 associated with emotional exhaustion and is commonly experienced by customer service representatives serving  
79 retail sector, healthcare and call centre industries (Gupta & Mishra, 2011;Karl & Peluchette, 2006).

80 Literature indicates that individual factors may also play an important role in helping employees perform  
81 interpersonal tasks more flexibly (Gross & John, 1997) and with less strain (Tews & Glomb, 2003), thus,  
82 influencing the degree of emotion work. However, emotion work has also been linked to some negative effects on  
83 employees, such as emotional exhaustion and psychological wellbeing (Brotheridge & Grandey, 2002;Zapf, Seifert,  
84 Schmutte, Mertini & Holz, 2001). Based on the notion that individual dispositional factors have some stability  
85 over time and are useful in predicting individual behavior across situations (Staw & Ross, 1985), researchers  
86 attempted to demonstrate how these individual characteristics relate to emotion work. Specifically, prior studies  
87 found that emotionality in employees engaged in service jobs including customer interactions such as those  
88 belonging to tourism and hotel industries tend to have a positive impact on emotion work (Tronvoll, 2011;Hopp,  
89 Rohrmann, Zapf & Hodapp, 2010). They have shown that individuals high on emotionality are prone to experience  
90 a diverse array of negative mood states (e.g., fear, anger, distress). On the other hand, studies have confirmed  
91 that employees with positive affectivity are less likely to be affected by emotion work ??Austin, Dore & Donovan,  
92 2008;Bono & Vey, 2007). Evidence shows that emotional intelligence also plays an important role in determining  
93 one's satisfaction with social relationships (Lopes, Salovey & Straus, 2003). Research reported that emotional  
94 intelligence correlates negatively with surface acting and positively with deep acting ??Ghalandari, Ghorbani  
95 & Jogh, 2012). Furthermore, it is evident that when confronted with emotion work, nurses experienced lower  
96 levels of burnout and somatic complaints and this effect was found to be mediated by the choice of emotion work  
97 strategies (Mikolajczak, Menil & Luminet, 2007).

98 Studies highlighted that customer service employees with high emotional intelligence experienced greater  
99 psychological wellbeing (Gardner & Stough, 2003) and low levels of psychological distress (Karim & Weisz, 2011).  
100 Evidence suggests that negative emotions was inversely related with psychological wellbeing (Karim & Weisz,  
101 2010;Botma, 2009). Specifically, prior studies found that emotionally intelligent employees engaged in customer  
102 service sector tend to experience more positive emotions ??Austin, Dore & Donovan, 2008;Cheung & Tang, 2009  
103 andPrati & Karriker, 2010). Also, a study by Adil & Kamal (2012) found that negative affectivity mediated  
104 the relationship between display rule physical and mental health. Researchers found that emotional dissonance  
105 was positively related to emotional exhaustion ??Arora & Falade, 2011;Gupta & Mishra, 2011). A study by

106 Adil & Kamal (2012) demonstrated hiding negative emotions, negative affectivity, and emotional intelligence as  
107 positive predictors and positive affectivity as a negative predictor of emotional exhaustion. Several studies also  
108 suggested that surface acting and emotional exhaustion were positively related (Ghalandari, Mortazavi, Abbasi  
109 & Jogh, 2012). Higher levels of emotional exhaustion were also found to be strongly associated with faking and  
110 suppression of negative emotions . demands of hiding negative emotions and emotional exhaustion.

## 111 **2 II.**

### 112 **3 Significance of the Study**

113 In customer service work, many psychological factors dominantly mediate an employee's performance of emotion  
114 work which ends up having a long term impact on the individual's health. This is typically a product of the array  
115 of challenges that service providers typically encounter which impact their physical and psychological health.  
116 Their attempts to meet the situational demands by exhibiting appropriate display rules impair their cognitive  
117 health in the form of several illnesses such as depression, hypertension, coronary heart disease and alcoholism.  
118 Such demands results in heightened reactions at psychological and physiological levels. The inability to deal with  
119 stressors arises from lack of competence to deal with negative emotions and manage one's own feelings in difficult  
120 circumstances.

121 Therefore, an understanding of emotion work and its mediating role on employees' health can provide a  
122 framework for developing more effective interventions to mitigate the negative effects of emotion work.

## 123 **4 III.**

### 124 **5 Objectives**

125 To determine the mediating role of emotion work between (a) emotionality and emotional exhaustion, and (b)  
126 emotional intelligence and psychological wellbeing.

127 IV.

### 128 **6 Method a) Participants**

129 The participants of the study include 400 employees across the country from different geographical locations  
130 employed in customer service industries. Table ?? presents their demographic information.

### 131 **7 Table 1 : Demographic composition of the Sample (N= 400)**

132 For this study a cross -sectional descriptive design was used. The participants belonged to a variety of service  
133 occupations, such as, banking and insurance (6.8%), sales (9%), marketing (10.8%), software engineer (4.5%),  
134 legal advisor (3.5%), financial advisor (6.3%), customer service (7%), psychologist (8%), HR (30.3%), consultants  
135 (10.5%) and technical (3.5%). The sample comprised 64.8% males and 35.3% females. Their age ranged from  
136 21 to 65 years with a mean age of 35.02 years (SD =10.15).The sampling frame was narrowed to the criteria  
137 of subjects who have face-toface or voice-to-voice interactions with clients/ customers and they are of either  
138 entry-level employees or middle-level managers.

### 139 **8 b) Procedure**

140 Each participant read and signed an informed consent document. The questionnaires were individually  
141 administered to 400 employees across the country from different geographical locations (Delhi, Haryana, Mumbai,  
142 Bangalore and Hyderabad) working in service industries on full time basis. The service industries comprise  
143 professions such as banking and insurance, sales, marketing, software engineer, legal advisor, financial advisor,  
144 customer service, psychologists, HR, consultants and technical. The participants were instructed to give responses  
145 which best describes their attitudes towards the statements given in the questionnaire. After collecting the data,  
146 scoring was completed and the responses were analyzed.

### 147 **9 c) Measures**

148 In order to identify the mediating effect of emotion work among customer service employees, following measures  
149 were administered.

150 Frankfurt Emotion work scale: Frankfurt Emotional Work Scale-E (FEWS-E: 2006; version 1.4-4.4) was  
151 developed by ??apf et.al. (1999) to measure the psychological processes necessary to regulate organizationally  
152 desired emotions as part of one's job. This comprises five subscales, namely, positive emotions, negative emotions,  
153 sensitivity requirements, emotional dissonance and interaction control. All subscales were scored independently of  
154 one another, with higher the score indicating greater emotion work. The scale was found to be internally consistent  
155 with cronbach alpha ranging from . 51 All the above scales were selected on the basis of the literature review  
156 and psychometric properties for all the psychological measures adopted. These scales were also standardised on  
157 Indian population and have proven reliability with cronbach alpha ranging from 0.40 to 0.86.

## 11 RESULTS

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### 158 10 d) Statistical Analyses

159 For the current study statistical analysis was done using SPSS student version 15. The analysis was done on  
160 five levels. Level I comprised of data cleaning. This was done by doing outlier analysis using box whisker  
161 diagrams (box plot analysis). Skewness and kurtosis were also carried out to see the normality of the data.  
162 Level II consists of descriptive statistics and reliability analysis. Means, standard deviations and Cronbach alpha  
163 were computed. Level III comprised relational analysis. Pearson correlation was used to assess the strength of  
164 the relationship between the predictors and the dependent variable. Level IV consists of prediction analysis.  
165 Hierarchical regression was used to evaluate the relationship between a set of independent variables and the  
166 dependent variable, controlling for or taking into account the impact of a different set of independent variables  
167 on the dependent variable. Level V comprises mediation analysis. Causal step approach (Baron & Kenny, 1986)  
168 and SPSS macro (PROCESS) (Hayes, 2013) were used to identify variables mediating the relationship between  
169 the independent and dependent variables.

170 V.

## 171 11 Results

172 The objectives of this study were to examine the mediating role of emotion work between (a) emotionality and  
173 emotional exhaustion, and (b) emotional intelligence and psychological wellbeing. The survey data obtained on  
174 a sample of 400 employees were analyzed descriptively.

175 Psychological Wellbeing Scale (Ryff, 1995): This 18 item scale measures the nature of wellness of the  
176 sample. This comprises six distinct components, i.e., self acceptance, personal growth, purpose in life, positive  
177 relations with others, environmental mastery and autonomy. The higher the score indicates the greater positive  
178 psychological functioning. The response format used is a six-point likert scale ranging from 'completely disagree'  
179 to 'completely agree'. The cronbach alpha reliability coefficients were low to modest, ranging from .33 to .56.  
180 The convergent validity of the scale with its 120 items measure ranged from .70 to .89. Oldenburg Burnout  
181 Inventory (OLBI) (Demerouti, Bakker, Vardakou & Kandas, 2002): This scale was designed to assess the cognitive  
182 and physical components of exhaustion. It measures two core dimensions of burnout, namely, exhaustion and  
183 disengagement. The exhaustion subscale has been used in this study. The items refer to general feelings of  
184 emptiness, overtaxing from work, a strong need for rest, and a state of physical exhaustion. The response  
185 format used is a four point likert scale ranging from strongly agree (1) to strongly disagree (4). The higher the  
186 score indicates the greater exhaustion. The scale was found to have acceptable internal consistency reliability  
187 estimate ranging from .74 to .87 and test retest reliability estimate of .50. Correlations of the scale with Maslach  
188 Burnout Inventory-General Survey (MBI-GS) provided evidence for high convergent and discriminant validity.  
189 Table 2 shows the mean, standard deviation, cronbach alpha, skewness and kurtosis value of all the study  
190 variables. The mean and SD value of positive emotions, negative emotions, sensitivity requirements, emotional  
191 dissonance and interaction control are 33.0 (6.3), 18.8 (4.9), 13.5 (2.5), 14.7(3.3) and 12.5(2.7) respectively.  
192 Among the other study variables, the highest mean value is of psychological wellbeing ( $M = 81.9$ ,  $SD 11.1$ )  
193 followed by emotional intelligence ( $M = 52.8$ ,  $SD 7.2$ ), sociability ( $M=28.5$ ,  $SD 7.8$ ), emotional exhaustion ( $M$   
194 =17,  $SD 3.4$ ), activity ( $M =14.7$ ,  $SD 2.8$ ) and emotionality ( $M =13.1$ ,  $SD 3.0$ ). Normality of the collected data  
195 is established through skewness and kurtosis. It was found that the value of skewness for positive emotions was  
196 (-0.53), negative emotions (0.75), sensitivity requirements (-0.48), emotional dissonance (-0.11) and interaction  
197 control (0.03), emotionality (-0.26), activity (-0.35), sociability (0.29), emotional intelligence (0.13), emotional  
198 exhaustion (-0.14) and psychological wellbeing (-0.47). The value of kurtosis for positive emotions was (-0.02),  
199 negative emotions (1.07), sensitivity requirements (0.39), emotional dissonance (0.20) and interaction control (-  
200 0.10), emotionality (-0.26), activity (0.46), sociability (-0.20), emotional intelligence (-0.64), emotional exhaustion  
201 (0.28) and psychological wellbeing (-0.10). These values indicate that the study variables are reasonably close to  
202 normal as its skewness and kurtosis have values between -1.0 and +1.0. ?? reports the zero order correlations  
203 among the study variables. The data indicated a significant positive correlation between positive emotions and  
204 sociability ( $r = 0.23$ ,  $p < .01$ ) followed by emotional intelligence ( $r = 0.19$ ,  $p < .01$ ), psychological wellbeing ( $r =$   
205 0.18,  $p < .01$ ) and significant negative correlation with emotional exhaustion ( $r = -0.16$ ,  $p < .01$ ). A significant  
206 negative association was also observed between negative emotions and emotional intelligence ( $r = -0.30$ ,  $p < .01$ ),  
207 followed by psychological wellbeing ( $r = -0.29$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and positive correlation with emotionality ( $r = 0.25$ ,  
208  $p < .01$ ) followed by emotional exhaustion ( $r = 0.17$ ,  $p < .01$ ). The data also indicated a significant positive  
209 correlation between sensitivity requirements and emotional intelligence ( $r = 0.21$ ,  $p < .01$ ), followed by sociability  
210 ( $r = 0.16$ ,  $p < .01$ ), psychological wellbeing ( $r = 0.16$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and significant negative relationship with emotional  
211 exhaustion ( $r = -0.10$ ,  $p < .05$ ). A significant positive correlation was also observed between emotional dissonance  
212 and emotionality ( $r = 0.23$ ,  $p < .01$ ) followed by emotional exhaustion ( $r = 0.20$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and negative association  
213 with emotional intelligence ( $r = -0.15$ ,  $p < .01$ ) followed by psychological wellbeing ( $r = -0.13$ ,  $p < .01$ ). A significant  
214 positive relationship was also observed between interaction control and sociability ( $r = 0.13$ ,  $p < .01$ ) followed by  
215 emotional intelligence ( $r = 0.13$ ,  $p < .01$ ), psychological wellbeing ( $r = 0.11$ ,  $p < .05$ ) and negative association with  
216 emotional exhaustion ( $r = -0.12$ ,  $p < .05$ ).

217 Table ?? : Hierarchical Regression Analysis Predicting Emotional Dissonance from Emotionality (N=400)

218 Before analysis of a possible mediating relationship can commence several conditions have to be met. First,  
219 the total effect of the independent variable on the dependent must be significant. Secondly, the independent

variable must significantly affect the mediator, and finally the mediator must have a significant direct effect on the dependent variable (Baron & Kenny 1986). To determine if the relationships between the independent, dependent and mediator variables were significant, two hierarchical regression analyses were conducted. The regression analyses were used to determine the significance of the relationships between the variables as well as to generate the relevant statistics for use in further significance testing of mediation. The results of these analyses are presented in Tables 4 and 5. The first regression analysis (Table ??, step 2) demonstrated that emotionality ( $? = .23$ ;  $p < .01$ ) explained significant variance in emotional dissonance beyond that explained by the control variables.

## 12 Table 5 : Hierarchical Regression Analysis Predicting Negative Emotions from Emotional Intelligence (N=400)

The second regression analysis ( In order to test for mediation, multiple hierarchical regression analyses were conducted. In table 6 step1, control variables were entered into the equation, which accounted for eight percent of the variance in emotional exhaustion ( $R^2 = .08$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Age demonstrated a significant direct effect on emotional exhaustion. In step 2, emotionality was entered to calculate the size of its direct effect on emotional exhaustion and was found to demonstrate a significant direct effect on emotional exhaustion ( $? = .43$ ;  $p < .01$ ). Thus, accounting for total of 25% of variance in emotional exhaustion ( $R^2 = 0.18$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Step 3 in Table 6 represents the analysis of the proposed mediator's effect on the dependent variable in isolation from the independent variable. Emotional dissonance was entered into step 4 of the regression analysis. It explained an additional 19% of variance in emotional exhaustion ( $R^2 = 0.19$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Here, a total of 47% of variance in emotional exhaustion was explained with emotionality and emotional dissonance both demonstrating significant direct effects ( $? = .41$ ;  $p < .01$ ;  $? = .09$ ;  $p < .05$  respectively). In order to determine if a significant mediating effect exists, the second and fourth steps in the regression analysis were compared. A change in the size of the direct effect of emotionality on emotional exhaustion was observed. If a full mediating role existed, the contribution of emotionality in step 4 would not remain significant when emotional dissonance was included. In step 2, the direct effect of emotionality on emotional exhaustion was significant ( $? = .43$ ;  $p < .01$ ). With emotional dissonance included in step 4, the size of the direct effect of emotionality on emotional exhaustion was reduced, but remained

## 13 Discussion

The objective of the study is to determine the mediating role of emotional dissonance between (a) emotionality and emotional exhaustion, and (b) the mediating role of negative emotions between emotional intelligence and psychological wellbeing.

The results noted a significant direct relationship between emotionality and emotional exhaustion. That is, respondents who reported higher levels of negative emotions such as fear, anger, and distress, experienced greater emotional exhaustion. This is consistent with the study on 142 health care workers, where, emotional exhaustion was found to be predominant among employees who expressed frequent negative emotions . The regression analysis showed that the effect size of emotionality on emotional exhaustion reduced from 0.43 to 0.41 with both values remaining significant ( $p < .01$ ), when the mediator (emotional dissonance) is entered into the hierarchical regression model. This result indicated a partial mediating effect of emotional dissonance between emotionality and emotional exhaustion, as supported by Lewig & Dollard (2003) and Dijk & Brown (2006). Numerous studies have also In table 7 step1, control variables were entered into the equation. Here, the value of  $R^2$  of control variables is .03 which indicates that control variables accounted for three percent of the variance in psychological wellbeing. Age demonstrated a significant direct effect on psychological wellbeing ( $? = 0.17$ ,  $p < .01$ ). In step 2, emotional intelligence was entered to calculate the size of its direct effect on psychological wellbeing and was found to demonstrate a significant direct effect on psychological wellbeing ( $? = .67$ ;  $p < .01$ ). Thus, accounting for total of 46% of variance in psychological wellbeing ( $R^2 = 0.43$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Step 3 in Table 7 represents the analysis of the proposed mediator's effect on the dependent variable in isolation from the independent variable. Negative emotions was entered into step 4 of the regression analysis. It explained an additional 44% of variance in psychological wellbeing ( $R^2 = 0.44$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Here, a total of 97% of variance in psychological wellbeing was explained with emotional intelligence and negative emotions both demonstrating significant direct effects ( $? = .64$ ;  $p < .01$ ;  $? = -.09$ ;  $p < .05$  respectively). In order to determine if a significant mediating effect exists, the second and fourth steps in the regression analysis were compared. A change in the size of the direct effect of emotional intelligence on psychological wellbeing was observed. If a full mediating role existed, the contribution of emotional intelligence in step 4 would not remain significant when negative emotions was included. In step 2, the direct effect of emotional intelligence on psychological wellbeing was significant ( $? = .67$ ;  $p < .01$ ). With negative emotions included in step 4, the size of the direct effect of emotional intelligence on psychological wellbeing was reduced, but remained significant ( $? = .64$ ;  $p < .01$ ) indicating a partial mediating effect.

Bootstrapping method is preferred over Baron and Kenny's (1986) causal step approach because of two main reasons. First, MacKinnon et al. ??(2002) suggest that the test of mediation recommended by Baron and Kenny (1986) may suffer from low statistical power, and given that statistical methods used to determine intervening relationship are generally inherently complex, it is therefore difficult to establish clear mediating relationships. A recent study showed that the Baron and Kenny causal-steps approach required approximately 21,000 subjects

## 13 DISCUSSION

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280 for adequate ability to detect an effect when the effect sizes of the a and b paths were of small strength and  
281 all of the relation of X to Y was mediated (Fritz & MacKinnon, 2007). Second, causal step approach does not  
282 consider the estimate of the indirect effect. That is, it ignores the central question: Is the indirect effect different  
283 from zero? (Preacher & Hayes, 2008). In other words, it does not provide a numerical value of the strength of  
284 the mediated effect. Finally, the test requires that there be a significant overall relation between X and Y for  
285 mediation to exist.

286 As can be seen in the table 8, indirect effect of the relationship between emotionality and emotional exhaustion  
287 through emotional dissonance is 0.01 (SE = .01), CI 0.95 = 0.001 and 0.022. The indirect effect of the relationship  
288 between emotional intelligence and psychological wellbeing through negative emotions is 0.04 (SE = .02), Sobel  
289 z = 0.04, p < .05, CI 0.95 = .01 and .09. As indicated in table 8, the 95 percent confidence intervals for both  
290 paths does not include zero, therefore emotional dissonance mediated the relationship between emotionality and  
291 emotional exhaustion. Also, negative emotions mediated the relationship between emotional intelligence and  
292 psychological wellbeing.

293 shown that cabin attendants, healthcare workers and call centre employees with high emotional dissonance were  
294 more likely to experience emotional exhaustion and express feelings of anger and frustration (Karl & Peluchette  
295 (2006; Heuven & Bakker (2003) ?? ??apf et.al. (2001)). It has been observed that in order to meet the  
296 situational demands, employees with high emotionality tend to exert increased emotive effort when asked to  
297 express personality incongruent emotions, i.e., portraying a warmth and friendly attitude towards clients. As a  
298 result, their personalities were observed to be incongruent with the job characteristics of the service occupations  
299 considered in the sample. Such characteristics lead to dissatisfaction, emotional fatigue and hopelessness among  
300 employees.

301 Furthermore, the result shows that emotional intelligence is directly related with psychological wellbeing. In  
302 its support, prior researchers suggest that customer service employees with high emotional intelligence tend to  
303 experience greater psychological wellbeing (Gardner & Stough, 2003). This was further supported by Karim  
304 & Weisz (2011). The regression analysis showed that the effect size of emotional intelligence on psychological  
305 wellbeing reduced from 0.67 to 0.64 with both values remaining significant (p<.01), when the mediator (negative  
306 emotions) is entered into the hierarchical regression model. Thus, a partial mediating effect of negative emotions  
307 was found between emotional intelligence and psychological wellbeing. This is also consistent with Adil & Kamal  
308 (2012). Various scholars have emphasized that emotionally intelligent employees engaged in customer service roles,  
309 such as, nursing, social work, sales and teaching tend to display greater degree of positive than negative emotions  
310 (Austin, Dore & Donovan (2008); Cheung & Tang (2009); Mikolajczak, Menil & Luminet(2007)). Evidence also  
311 suggests public sector customer service workers engaging in emotion work report more physical complaints and  
312 poor mental health (Karim & Weisz (2010) and Schaubroeck & Jones (2000)). This may be because emotionally  
313 intelligent employees were more inclined to understand people, be empathetic to their circumstances, and regulate  
314 emotions appropriately in order to comply with the organizational display rules. Their ability to internalise others  
315 feelings enables them to avoid psychological distress and attain a sense of personal accomplishment and wellbeing.  
316 Thus, the research findings shows that emotional dissonance and negative emotions emerged as mediators of  
317 emotion work, which tend to have adverse impact on employees' physical and psychological health.

318 The findings of this study are subjected to several limitations. First, the research design for the present  
319 study was cross section. The limitations inherent in such designs have been well documented (Neuman, 2003),  
320 including the difficulty of supporting proposed causal relationships. Secondly, all measures were self report based  
321 measures which might have caused socially desirable responses and affected the results of this study. Thirdly,  
322 the age group of the participants employed in the study ranges from 21 to 65 years, which is very large. The  
323 study can be conducted for different age groups like adolescents, younger adults, middle adults, older adults.  
324 Future researchers might adopt quasi-experiments or longitudinal designs and refer to different sources such as  
325 supervisors and coworkers for eliminating the bias, especially for emotion work measure. Although this study's  
326 results support the mediating role of emotion work between (a) emotionality and emotional exhaustion, and  
327 (b) emotional intelligence and psychological wellbeing, further exploration incorporating other mediating and  
328 moderating variables of emotion work need to continue in attempts to clarify the links between its determinants  
329 and the consequences.

330 To conclude, for organizations where the performance of emotion work is an integral component of service  
331 delivery, the present findings suggest that training programs targeting the performance of emotion work need to  
332 consider different strategies for employees to cope when emotions felt are in conflict with those required to be  
333 displayed. These approaches should aim to reduce the negative effects of emotion work.



Figure 1: I

Emotionality Social Activity Survey (EAS)

Temperament

Sur-

vey

(

Demographics M (SD)

Age 35.02 (10.15)

Gender

Male

Female

Percentage  
Values

64.75  
35.25  
to .92.  
Correla-  
tions

between the FEWS and Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) provided evidence for high construct validity.

Genos  
Emo-  
tional  
Intelli-  
gence  
In-  
ventory  
(Palmer,

Stough, Harmer & Gignac, 2009): This 14 item scale was designed to measure emotional intelligence at workplace. The high score indicates the individual's ability to identify, assess, and control the emotions of self and others. The scale is quite reliable having internal consistency reliability estimate of .87. The concurrent validity was established through a series of empirical correlation with the Swinburne University Emotional Intelligence Test (SUEIT) (the predecessor of Genos EI), the Trait Meta-Mood Scale (TMMS), organizational commitment, and transformational leadership scales.

Figure 2:

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**2**

Variable	M	SD	Alpha	Skewness	Kurtosis
PE	33.0	6.3	0.86	-0.53	-0.02
NE	18.8	4.9	0.70	0.75	1.07
SR	13.5	2.5	0.40	-0.48	0.39
ED	14.7	3.3	0.60	-0.11	0.20
IC	12.5	2.7	0.41	0.03	-0.10
E	13.1	3.0	0.56	-0.26	-0.26
A	14.7	2.8	0.53	-0.35	0.46
S	28.5	7.8	0.79	0.29	-0.20
EI	52.8	7.2	0.81	0.13	-0.64
EE	17.0	3.4	0.71	-0.14	0.28
PWB	81.9	11.1	0.78	-0.47	-0.10

Figure 3: Table 2 :

**5**

, step

*[Note: © 2014 Global Journals Inc. (US) -Emotion Work and its Mediating Role on Employees' Health]*

Figure 4: Table 5

**6**

Exhaustion (N=400 )

Figure 5: Table 6 :

**7**

Wellbeing (N=400)

Figure 6: Table 7 :

**8**

Predictor

Note: \*\*p<.01; \*p<.05

*[Note: Note: \*\*p<.01; \*p<.05]*

Figure 7: Table 8 :



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## 13 DISCUSSION

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