

# Contents

Introduction	3
Literature Review	
Business Problem	
Dataset Description	
Data Exploration	
Descriptive analysis:	11
Predictive Modelling	18
Prescriptive Analysis:	21
Conclusion	22
Reference	24

### Introduction

Data set is taken from Kaggle.com -https://www.kaggle.com/pavansubhasht/ibm-hr-analytics-attrition-dataset\_ It has several variables which can help us to understand which of these are causing the increase of attrition at IBM. There is a total of 1470 observations and 13 variables. R studio will be used for the analysis and MicroStrategy desktop for the visual charts. This analysis of IBM dataset is to understand what are the factors that are contributing to the attrition of employees in the Organization.

### Literature Review

Background of attrition in the organizations.

Attrition has always been around affecting any organizations in the industry. However, over the past few years' companies have taken more interest in looking at their HR practices on how it aligns with their business. Any attrition due to resignation, retirement or death, etc. organizations are still trying to understand the best practices and ways to reduce it. Dobhal and Nigam (2018) have attempted to understand this through their research paper on Employee Attrition and Employee satisfaction. The authors describe that the reason behind these attritions can be looked at statistically by the organizational variables like occupational category, location, benefits, promotion, payment and many more. There can also be some demographic variables which influence attrition like working condition, job satisfaction, etc. After performing correlation, Hypothesis tests it can be given a much clear picture for HR allowing them to work with the management on the execution plans.

The author also emphasizes that every organization will have to work on their motivational system based on the findings from the analysis. Plonski (2017) has explained how machine learning can assist in predicting employee attrition. He describes how it can be

financially beneficial for the organization if the management knew when the employee might quit. There are costs involved in training these employees and if the HR and management can make strategies on how a small amount of retention bonus can help to retain a good hire.

Through his studies, the author could predict business travel was one of the variables during the decision-making process in the attrition. It can be different for different organizations.

### Financial Impact with Employee Turnover

In the research paper titled "Retaining talent", Allen (n.d.) has spoken about employee turnover. He has focused more on why retaining the talent and turnover important for the organization and how it can be achieved through statistical analysis. He asserts that every employee departure costs the organization time, money and other resources. Employee turnover can be voluntary as well as involuntary. As per the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 23.7% of American workers voluntarily quit their jobs in 2006. That is quite an impactful percentage which could be addressed. The author has listed different categories of turnover predictors. They range from stronger to weaker relationship to turnover. These variables can vary depending on job types and companies. He has listed the ways to improve this turnover rate example making more out of exit interviews to understand the true reason, post-exit anonymous surveys, etc. which will help after we know the reasons behind employees leaving the organization. Frye (2018) dig deeper into the employee attrition and tried to understand more about the financial losses by correlation and Principal component analysis. In this analysis, attrition is highly correlated with length of service. One other thing that correlates the most is salary and promotion. The principal component analysis allowed him to reduce from the initial 99 components to 46 most important components which should be used in the model. This is done to ensure they have the correct data to do analysis and not include unnecessary data.

Studies made in Center's for American Progress analysis (2012) indicate the separation of employees can cost somewhere between 16% to 213% of the annual salary depending on the job type. The author further described that after their initial technique to simplify the data, they only focused on the variables that were within employers' control and others would be considered to narrow down the possibilities. Sen Gupta, (n.d.) examines the attrition at the BPO industry and the variables affecting this industry.

The author goes on to talk more about her research to produce a model for employee retention adjoining it with other aspects of apparent attitudes like employee motivation, employee satisfaction, employee involvement, and life interest and work compatibility, etc. Many researchers have extensively worked on this topic to find out the combination of factors to improve the attrition rate. The article "Employee Attrition and Retention" has conducted multiple statistical analysis like regression, t-tests, and correlation. The principal component analysis was used for extraction. Correlation explains job nature, personal factors, hostile organizational support are the main determinants of attrition in the BPO industry. These dimensions were further compared with personal characteristics like marital status, education, and age to get a broader picture. For education, the career path has significant differences in mean and standard deviation. For marital status and age monotonous job, unfavorable working conditions, hostile environment were found to have significant differences. The final regression analysis was done with the dependent variable as attrition or sustenance and independent variables are age, gender, education, marital status, etc. Based on this analysis author concluded that motivational factors had the most significance when compared by actual and predicted values. The correlation showed 0.659 at a significant level of 0.01.

Conerly (2018) focused more on employee turnover. He explains that key to improving the employee attrition is understanding the turnover rate. Before engaging the employees on small or big programs it is important to know its worth and how much will it benefit. It is not only an issue with HR but even operations feel the heat in terms of loss of talent, reduced customer service and reduced productivity. Conerly suggests that a team comprising of HR, operations and finance would be the best possible team to contribute towards reducing the turnover rate. The costs incurring right from HR exit interview to employing a new person, orientation, training, etc. which are the main HR costs. There are other costs like existing employees covering for the person who leaves, their overtime, loss of productivity is outside HR but still an incurring cost. Anderson (2018) states that it is a universally known fact that employees who are happy at their work stay for a longer duration. However, which are these factors that are making employees happy or have a positive correlation with retention. According to the author after looking at several pieces of research the factors that look more influenced by age are technology, communication, and adaptability. A very important suggestion given by the author is that, since baby boomers are approaching retirement suggestions from them will be valuable for the HR and management to work together. The collection of reviews data available at job portals like Glassdoor, ZipRecruiter should be included. Also, crowdsourcing opinions from people will help understand their perception from outside. Anderson also emphasized that 235,000 exit interviews were analyzed by researchers to understand that the main reason for employees leaving was lack of opportunity, work-life balance and manager behavior.

### **Business Problem**

Find the factors which are increasing the employee attrition rate and provide a recommendation to alleviate these factors. How can these factors be addressed to retain the talent and reduce financial impact after investing in these employees?

## **Dataset Description**

The section below will show the variables included in the data set and their basic statistical summary by reading the CSV file. This dataset will be used for our further analysis.

Some of the libraries will be required for this analysis.

```
library("RColorBrewer")
library(corrplot)
library(rpart)
library(rpart.plot)
```

Figure 1 Reading the dataset and look at the variables.

R's default behavior is to convert all the characters in factors because of which character columns does not give the result we are looking for. To avoid this problem, the data is read as stringsAsfactors = False.

```
ibmattrition <- read.csv("Attrition.csv", header = T, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)</pre>
> names(ibmattrition)
 [1] "i...Age"
                                  "Attrition"
                                                               "BusinessTravel"
 [4] "DailyRate"
                                  "Department"
                                                               "DistanceFromHome"
                                  "EducationField"
 [7] "Education"
                                  "EducationField" "Gender" "Gender" "JobLevel"
                                                               "EmployeeCount"
[10] "EmployeeNumber"
[13] "HourlyRate"
[16] "JobRole"
                                  "JobSatisfaction"
                                                               "MaritalStatus"
[19] "MonthlyIncome"
                                  "MonthlyRate"
                                                               "NumCompaniesWorked"
[22] "Over18"
                                  "OverTime
                                                               "PercentSalaryHike"
[25] "PerformanceRating"
[28] "StockOptionLevel"
                                  "RelationshipSatisfaction" "StandardHours"
                                  "TotalWorkingYears"
                                                              "TrainingTimesLastYear"
[31] "WorkLifeBalance"
                                                               "YearsInCurrentRole"
                                  "YearsAtCompany"
[34] "YearsSinceLastPromotion" "YearsWithCurrManager"
```

Figure 2 Statistical summary.

```
summary(ibmattrition)
                                                                                                                                                                                            WorkLifeBalance YearsAtCompany
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   YearsInCurrentRole YearsSinceLastPromotion YearsWithCurrManager
        ï..Age
                                                            BusinessTravel
                                                                                               DailyRate
                                                                                                                                                                                            Min. :1.000 Min. : 0.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Min. : 0.000
 Min. :18.00
                          Length: 1470
                                                            Length:1470
                                                                                           Min.
                                                                                                       : 102.0
                                                                                                                       Lenath: 1470
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   1st Ou .: 0.000
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  1st Qu.:30.00
                           Class :character
                                                           Class :character
                                                                                           1st Qu.: 465.0
                                                                                                                       Class :character
                                                                                                                                                                                            Median :3.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Median : 5.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Median : 3.000
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           Median: 3.000
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                           Mode :character
                                                           Mode :character
                                                                                           Median : 802.0
                                                                                                                       Mode :character
                                                                                                                                                                                            Mean :2.761
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Mean : 7.008
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Mean : 4.229
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Mean : 2.188
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           Mean : 4.123
                                                                                                                                                                                            3rd Ou.:3.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      3rd Ou.: 9.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   3rd Ou.: 7.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   3rd Ou.: 3.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           3rd Ou.: 7.000
 Mean : 36.92
                                                                                           Mean : 802.5
  3rd Qu.:43.00
                                                                                           3rd Qu.:1157.0
                                                                                                                                                                                            Max. :4.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Max. :40.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Max. :18.000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       :17.000
  Max. :60.00
                                                                                           Max. :1499.0
 DistanceFromHome
                               Education
                                                        EducationField
                                                                                        EmployeeCount EmployeeNumber
 Min. : 1.000 Min. :1.000
                                                       Length: 1470
                                                                                        Min. :1
                                                                                                              Min.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          End of docu
  1st Qu.: 2.000
                            1st Qu.:2.000
                                                        Class :character
                                                                                        1st Qu.:1
                                                                                                                1st Qu.: 491.2
 Median : 7.000
Mean : 9.193
                             Median :3.000
                                                       Mode :character
                                                                                        Median :1
                                                                                                                Median :1020.5
                                                                                                                Mean :1024.9
                             Mean :2.913
                                                                                        Mean :1
  3rd Qu.:14.000
                             3rd Qu.:4.000
                                                                                                                3rd Qu.:1555.8
 Max. :29.000 Max. :5.000
EnvironmentSatisfaction Gene
                                                                                        Max. :1
                                                                                                               Max.
                                                                                                                           :2068.0
                                                                                                     JobInvolvement
                                         Length:1470
 Min. :1.000
                                                                        Min. : 30.00
                                                                                                    Min. :1.00 Min. :1.000
  1st Qu.:2.000
                                         Class :character
                                                                        1st Qu.: 48.00
                                                                                                     1st Qu.:2.00
                                                                                                                             1st Qu.:1.000
 Median :3.000
                                         Mode :character
                                                                        Median : 66.00
Mean : 65.89
                                                                                                     Median :3.00
                                                                                                                             Median :2.000
 Mean :2.722
                                                                                                     Mean :2.73
  3rd Qu.:4.000
                                                                         3rd Qu.: 83.75
                                                                                                     3rd Qu.:3.00
                                                                         Max. :100.00
 Max.
            :4.000
                                                                                                    Max. :4.00
                                                                                                                                          :5.000
     JobRole
                                  JobSatisfaction MaritalStatus
                                                                                           MonthlyIncome
 Length:1470
                                 Min. :1.000 Length:1470
                                                                                           Min.
                                                                                                      : 1009 Min. : 2094
                                 1st Qu.:2.000
  Class :character
                                                           Class :character
                                                                                           1st Qu.: 2911
                                Median :3.000
Mean :2.729
                                                                                           Median : 4919
Mean : 6503
 Mode :character
                                                           Mode :character
                                                                                                                     Median :14236
                                                                                                                     Mean :14313
                                 3rd Qu.:4.000
                                                                                            3rd Qu.: 8379
                                                                                                                      3rd Qu.:20462
                                 Max. :4.000
                                                                                           Max. :19999
                                                                                                                                 :26999
                                                                                                                     Max.
  NumCompaniesWorked
                                    Over18
                                                                   OverTime
                                                                                                PercentSalaryHike PerformanceRating
                                Length: 1470
                                                                Length: 1470
 Min. :0.000
                                                                                                Min. :11.00
                                                                                                                              Min. :3.000
  1st Qu.:1.000
                                                                Class :character
                                                                                                1st Qu.:12.00
 Median :2.000
Mean :2.693
                                                                                                Median :14.00
Mean :15.21
                                                                                                                             Median :3.000
Mean :3.154
                                 Mode :character
                                                                Mode :character
  3rd Qu.:4.000
                                                                                                 3rd Qu.:18.00
                                                                                                                              3rd Qu.:3.000
            :9.000
                                                                                                            :25.00
                                                                                                                                          :4.000
  Relation Ship Satisfaction \ Standard Hours \ Stock Option Level \ Total Working Years \ Training Times Last Year \ Stock Option Level \ Total Working Years \ Training Times Last Year \ Stock Option Level \ Total Working Years \ Training Times Last Year \ Stock Option Level \ Total Working Years \ Training Times Last Year \ Stock Option Level \ Total Working Years \ Training Times Last Year \ Total \ 
 Min. :1.000
                                           Min. :80
                                                                 Min. :0.0000
                                                                                              Min. : 0.00
                                                                                                                            Min. :0.000
                                           1st Qu.:80
                                                                  1st Qu.:0.0000
 Median :3.000
                                           Median :80
                                                                 Median :1.0000
                                                                                              Median :10.00
                                                                                                                            Median :3.000
                                                                  Mean :0.7939
  3rd Qu.:4.000
                                           3rd Qu.:80
                                                                  3rd Qu.:1.0000
                                                                                              3rd Qu.:15.00
                                                                                                                             3rd Qu.:3.000
            :4.000
                                           Max. :80
                                                                             :3.0000
                                                                                                                            Max. :6.000
                                                                                                         :40.00
                                                                  Max.
                                                                                              Max.
```

## **Data Exploration**

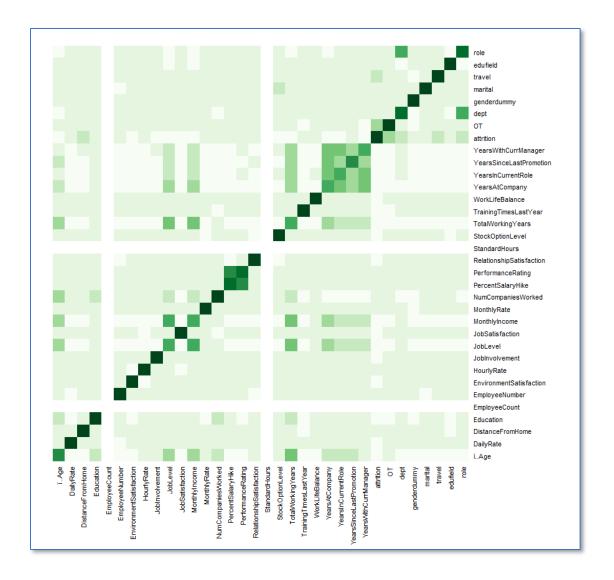
This section will allow us to identify the variables involved in this dataset. In this dataset, we have some variables which are characters and we need numeric to run the correlation matrix.

Converting these variables to numeric.

Figure 3 Converting to numeric.

Now running the correlation matrix.

Figure 4 Heatmap

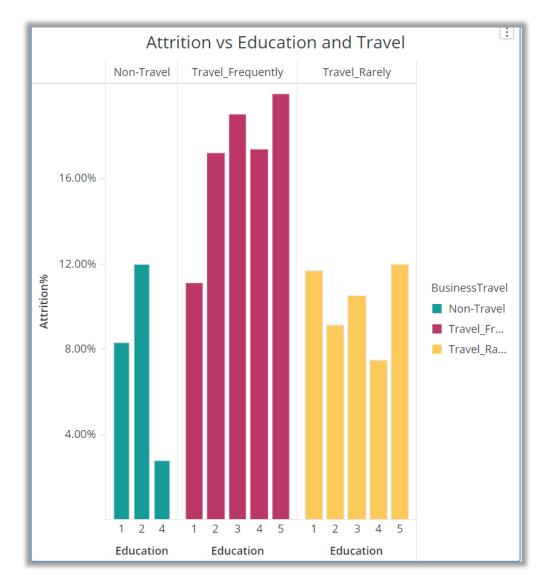


The correlation matrix indicates variable Attrition has a positive correlation with Overtime and Travel. It also has a negative correlation with Years with current manager, years at the company, years since promotion and years at the current role. We will use these variables in the decision tree to predict and decide on what is causing these attritions.

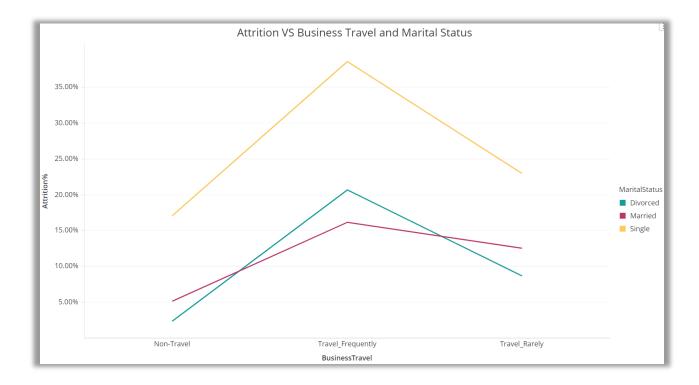
## Descriptive analysis:

### Visualizing the data with some charts

Figure 5 Bar chart for Attrition VS Education and Travel frequency

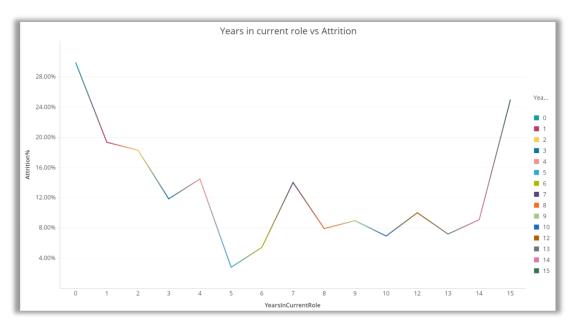


Here data shows attrition is high for any education level if the business travel is frequent.



Unfortunately, organizations do not go back from pushing people who single for more business travel which can be seen from the about line chart.

Figure 6 Line chart for Attrition VS Years in current role



It also indicates that attrition is higher at 29.9% even if an employee is new and has been in the current role for less than 2 years and with employees staying longer in the same role. However, we can check if this has anything to do with the work-life balance rating.

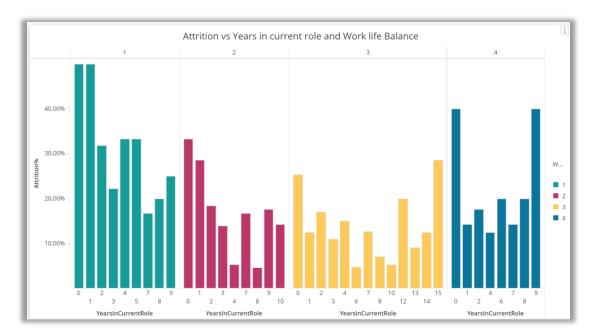


Figure 7 Bar chart for Attrition VS Years in the current role and work-life balance

We can see lower the work-life balance rating higher the attrition. For employees in the same role for a longer duration, work-life balance is not an important motivation factor.

Since we know overtime is also a factor for attrition, we can visualize which role is experiencing the most over time.

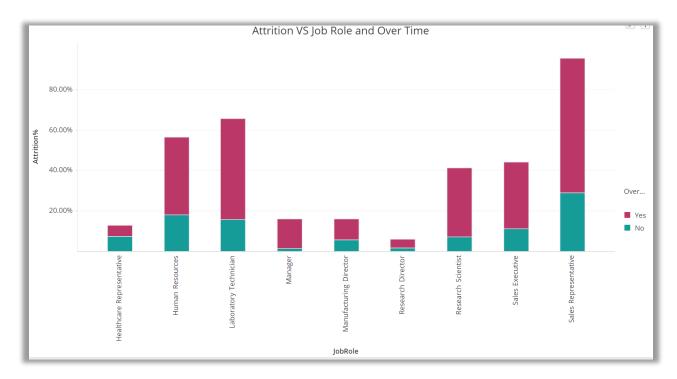


Figure 8 Stacked Bar chart for Attrition VS Jobe Role and Over Time

This explains Sales rep, Human resources and Lab techs face a higher over time as well as higher attrition rate. Sales representatives face attrition as high as 66.6%, HR 38%, lab technicians 50% and research scientist with 34%. All these visuals provide us various insights on which variables should be focused more to reduce the attrition. We also see that Attrition is high at 81% for people at lower-level jobs and they go through over time along with work-life balance at a lower rating.

Figure 9 Stacked Bar chart for Attrition VS Job level and Over Time

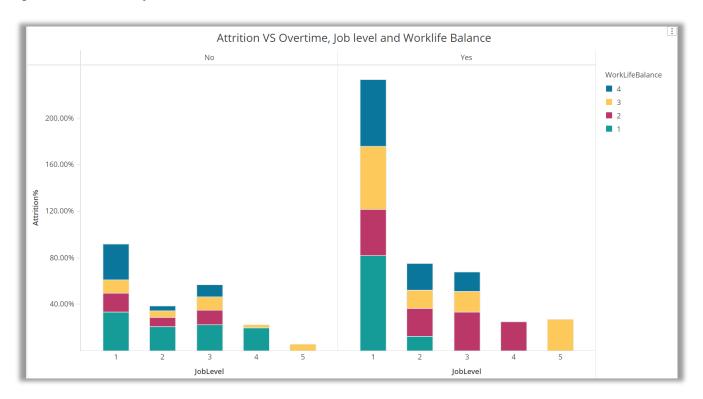
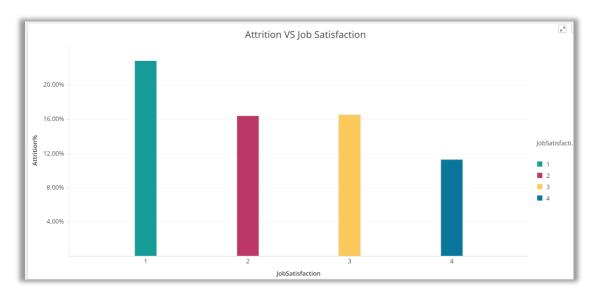
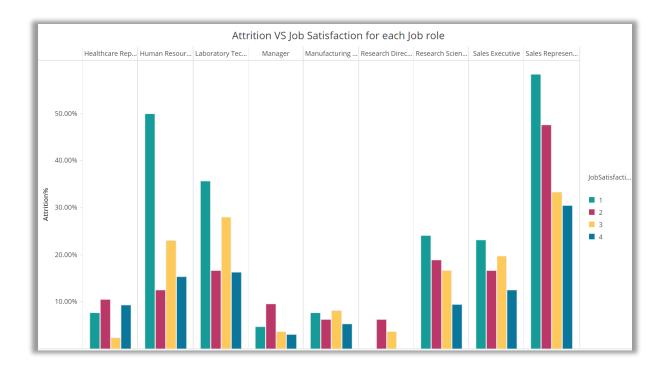


Figure 10 Stacked Bar chart for Attrition VS Job Satisfaction.



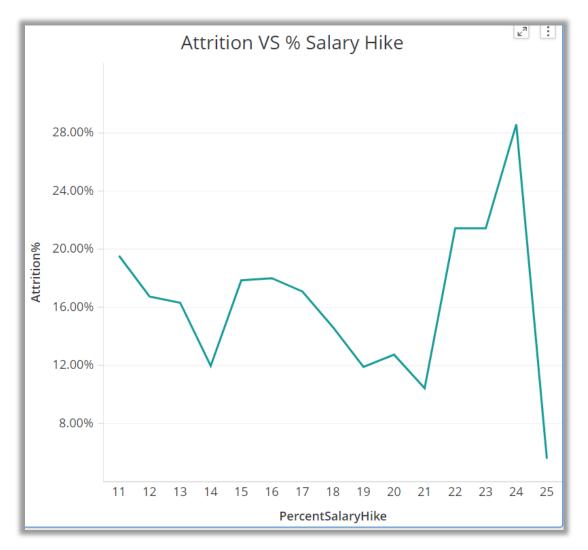
We have seen several attributes and we know Job level, job role, over time and Business travels are affecting the attrition rate.

We can also see that job satisfaction is something correlated to Attrition. The job role is correlating with Job satisfaction. We know sales and HR are one of the departments with the highest correlation. Below chart correctly indicates that Job Satisfaction is low for these two departments due to which attrition is also high.



Below chart indicates that even with high salary hike the attrition rate is high at 28%. This shows that money is not a motivating factor for the employees to stay in the company. Sometimes people wait for the hike and wait till year-end for their shift.

Figure 11 Line chart for Attrition VS Percentage Salary Hike



## **Predictive Modelling**

Assigning a new variable for the dataset to work on Decision tree and create a new data frame using only the variables which look relevant and have a correlation with Attrition.

Figure 12 New data frame for decision tree.

```
ibmattritionDT <- read.csv("Attrition.csv", header = T, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
attritiondf <- data.frame(cbind(ibmattritionDT$OverTime,
                                 ibmattritionDT$BusinessTravel,
                                 ibmattritionDT$YearsWithCurrManager,
                                 ibmattritionDT$YearsSinceLastPromotion,
                                 ibmattritionDT$Attrition,
                                 ibmattritionDT$EnvironmentSatisfaction,
                                 ibmattritionDT$JobLevel,
                                 ibmattritionDT$JobRole.
                                 ibmattritionDT$PercentSalaryHike,
                                 ibmattritionDT$TotalWorkingYears,
                                 ibmattritionDT$WorkLifeBalance,
                                 ibmattritionDT$YearsInCurrentRole))
colnames(attritiondf) <- c("Overtime",
                             "Businesstravel",
"Yrswithmanager",
                             "Yrssincepromotion",
                            "Attrition",
                            "EnvironmentSatisfaction",
                            "Joblevel",
                            "JobRole",
                            "PercentSalaryHike",
                            "TotalWorkingYears",
                            "WorkLifeBalance"
                            "YearsInCurrentRole")
```

Using mutate function to convert these variables to factor level.

Figure 13 Mutate function

Use Glimpse function for the new data frame which will show these variables are correctly assigned as factors and integers.

Figure 14 Glimpse function

```
> glimpse(attritiondf)
Observations: 1,470
Variables: 12
                          <fct> Yes, No, Yes, Yes, No, No, Yes, No, No, No, No, Yes, No, No, Ye...
$ Overtime
                          <fct> Travel_Rarely, Travel_Frequently, Travel_Frequen...
$ Businesstravel
                          <int> 14, 16, 1, 1, 11, 15, 1, 1, 17, 16, 12, 17, 12, 11, 12, 17, 14,...<int> 1, 2, 1, 10, 9, 10, 1, 1, 2, 14, 1, 1, 11, 2, 1, 15, 1, 1, 10, ...
$ Yrswithmanager
$ Yrssincepromotion
$ Attrition
                          $ EnvironmentSatisfaction < int> 2, 3, 4, 4, 1, 4, 3, 4, 4, 3, 1, 4, 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, ... $ Joblevel < int> 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 3, 1, 1, 4, 1, 2, ...
                         $ JobRole
$ PercentSalaryHike
$ TotalWorkingYears
$ WorkLifeBalance
$ YearsInCurrentRole
```

Creating a data frame to test and train for decision tree. Assigning 80 % data to the train table and 20% to test of the 1470 observations.

Figure 15 Train and test data frame

```
> attritiontrainDT <- attritiondf[1:1176,]
> attritiontestDT <- attritiondf[1177:1470,]</pre>
```

Using prop.table function to check if the randomization process is right.

```
> prop.table(table(attritiontrainDT$Attrition))

No Yes
0.835034 0.164966
```

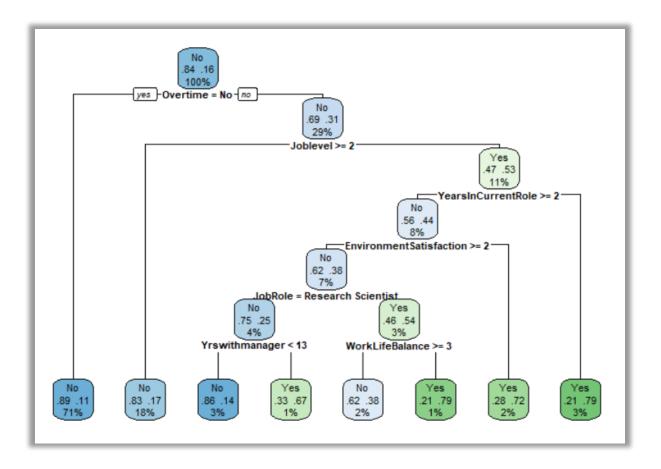
```
> prop.table(table(attritiontestDT$Attrition))

No Yes
0.8537415 0.1462585
```

Now run the function to fit the model and plot the decision tree.

Figure 16 rpart function to fit the model and plot

```
> fit <- rpart(Attrition ~., data = attritiontrainDT, method = 'class')
> rpart.plot(fit,extra = 104, cex=0.7)
```



### **Interpretation of Decision tree:**

The first node indicates that 16% of the population in the dataset have left the organization. Out of this 16% population, we can ask the question about over time, job level, years in current role etc. If they did not do over time, then 11% of the employees left the firm and if the employees did overtime then 31% of them quit. On the other side, we can check if employees who did overtime and are at more than or equal to 2 years at the current job level then, 17% employees quit the company and 47% employees left who were doing overtime having job level less than 2 years. Most of the variable here in the tree is Overtime, Job level and job role which we could get an idea from the visuals. We can ask similar questions from the decision tree and get valuable insights. We will predict the test data frame which we created to check the accuracy of this. The

model correctly predicted 16% i.e. approximately 240 employees left the organization but classified 7 who did not leave the organization which is not correct.

## Prescriptive Analysis:

We can make some valid recommendation based on above analysis. Variables Over time, Job role, job level, Years in the current role and business travel has a direct impact on attrition rate. Some of the Job roles and Job level have higher overtime rate which is causing the attrition. This gives us our answer for the business problem. This means management should focus more and try to alleviate the pain areas so that employees stay for a longer duration. Increase in attrition is always a loss for the organization. It impacts financially due to the amount of time and money invested on the employee is lost once he or she leaves the organization. The organization can improve the team balance so that over time can be reduced. It always happens that entry-level employees take most of the load since they are expected to prove in their initial days. However, their productivity is worn out in the first two years due to which they lose the motivation and leave the company. This can be avoided by reducing their overtime and spreading the work equally wherever possible. Traveling frequently is again another factor which makes an employee quit. A person will travel and be motivated for the initial few years. Over time their interest is reduced, and people start looking for jobs which will not have a lot of travel.

Unless required, traveling schedule should be divided equally among the team which will help to retain the employees who wish to take some break from their business travel. Adhikari (2009) asserts that it is not only important to implement strategies which will help in bringing down the attrition rates but also to identify the right candidates during the recruitment process so that they can prove as asset to the company. Culture shock is something which often leads to attrition by employees taking too much pressure from their new expectations. He has rightly pointed out that employees should be given the right amount of balance between flexible work time and work from home without effecting the productivity. The article also states that there should be equal weightage given to spoiling their employees and asking for quality of maximum amount of work.

### Conclusion

Pramod, Raman & Bhattacharya (2019) asserts that predictive analysis to predict realtime behavior can give useful insights to the organization. Organizations or management's
actions can influence an employee's attrition. Job postings, hiring new employees, training them
again are some of the lost opportunity and cost. Not to forget the talent which is going to the
competitor. As data is proving to be more and more important every day and even for human
resource data can provide useful insights which can help them to retain their talent from going to
their competitor. This set of data gave us many factors contributing employees to quit, which
most of the organization already know. As per the author it is very difficult to fully understand
the exact reason why employee quit the organization. Data from forms and exit interviews can
give only a limited amount of understanding. Most of the time employees do not disclose the
reason behind their switching to a different organization. The reason can also be due to layoff or
health reasons which cannot be controlled by the company. As per the article "Predict employee
attrition by using predictive analytics", research which was done on an information technology

organization revealed that precision in the role and projects which play important role in increasing employees' loyalty towards the company is usually the key factor. Khera & Divya (2019) explained in their predictive analysis that attrition is influenced by various factors like personal, work related, organizational policies etc. these factors will help us to predict their turnover in the organization. Companies most of the time conduct survey in and around their performance appraisal cycle to understand employees' attitude towards the company with that predict the percentage of attrition for that year. Survey results can be analyzed with cluster analysis as well. Predictive analytics can help us to understand the data and give us answers which will help to retain the talent in future at a similar behavior by a different group. In this study with the help of decision tree, we learned the variables which matters the most to employees and due to which they are motivated to leave. The different variables and number of observations allowed to create test and train model which gives us better result for predicting the attrition.

### Reference

- Adhikari, A. (2009). Factors Affecting Employee Attrition: A Multiple Regression

  Approach. ICFAI Journal of Management Research, 8(5), 38–43. Retrieved from

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