Working Woman's Problems and Challenges - A Survey

Neetu Anand[1], Dhruvi Goyal[2]

[1]Assistant Professor, Maharaja Surajmal Institute, Affiliated to GGSIP University, New Delhi, India
[2]Research Scholar, Maharaja Surajmal Institute, Affiliated to GGSIP University, New Delhi, India

ABSTRACT

Nowadays, Women are going more towards professional life with their family support. But it becomes difficult for them to manage work along with their personal life. Keeping this thing in mind, there is a requirement to develop a system that can manage all their personal and professional needs. The main factor that affects their work life balance includes stress, health problem, time management etc. So this paper explores the problems of working women and developing an android app for helping them to organize their entire task. Moreover an online survey form was created and the sample data was analyzed to figure out issues and concerns about working women.

Keywords : CareBuddy, TraceMyMove, SOS, EaZy_BuZy LiFe, GNOME, KDE

I. INTRODUCTION

In this modernized world number of working women strength is increasing day by day. That specifies the necessity of these types of apps for them. [1]It was observed that there was no app on Google play store which incorporate all these issues together in one application.The research focused on collecting all the responses through Google Forms, so as to ascertain more problematic areas and add them in the application.

Objectives

The various objectives that was considered while creating an android application were[2]:
- ✓ To manage their daily needs, which includes cooking food ,finding a doctor, hospitals, banks, beauty parlor etc. proximate location.
- ✓ To cope up their health related problems and decrease stress as well as mental pressure.
- ✓ To manage time and all tasks intelligently
- ✓ To secure herself.

Problems of Existing Apps

There are few apps present in the Google Play Store which addresses only a single issue among numerous snags faced by Working Women. Instead of downloading multiple apps and wasting space, our app aims to provide a single integrated platform for all the problems stated in the above section.

CareBuddy-For Working Women

It is an android application which basically collects articles from the web, related to various topics like diet, parenting, exercises, fashion, current affairs, etc. and displays these contents in the app, depending on if a user likes or dislikes a particular type of article. This app just provides articles related to various topics which may help working women to manage their lives. But there are no other modules for helping working women to do various tasks in a very limited amount of time which they have.

TraceMyMove - SOS:
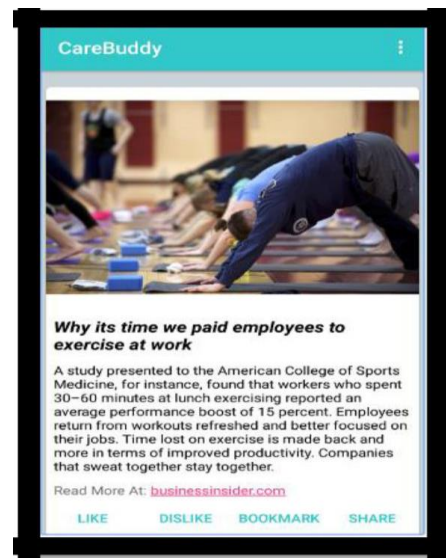
It is an android application which helps in providing security, mainly to the working women, and various school and college students as well. It has a SOS button, which a user can press to send an emergency message with the user's location to their pre-defined contacts in the application. Its only focus is on providing security. It does not address any other issues faced by working women.

This creates a need for the android users to download multiple apps and surf each one separately for each of their functionality. This is the major drawback of the existing system.

Hence, our application caters to the need of providing an integrated platform to overcome the disambiguates and shortcomings of the above-mentioned applications along with providing additional features in detail.

To overcome the drawbacks and problems that lie in the existing system, the proposed system will include all the characteristics to rectify the hindrances faced by working women in current scenario. It aims to reduce the time and money wastage by providing an integrated platform for all the modules.

II. SYSTEM REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

Requirements analysis in systems engineering and software engineering, encompasses those tasks that go into determining the needs or conditions to meet for a new or altered product or project, taking account of the possibly conflicting requirements of the various stakeholders, analyzing, documenting, validating and managing software or system requirements.

In this section, we will discuss about the various software and hardware requirements of this research.

1. Software Requirements:

The software(s) needed to develop the app and analyze the various aspects of the project are as follows:

Android Studio

Android Studio provides the fastest tools for building apps on every type of Android device[3,6]. World-class code editing, debugging, performance tooling, a flexible build system, and an instant build/deploy system all allow you to focus on building unique and high-quality apps. The following are the system attributes of our project:

- **Reliability:** Reliability refers to the fault-free execution of the software within a given period of time under given executing conditions.

- **Availability:** It includes the availability level for the entire system.

- **Efficiency:** The project is required to be efficient. Hard work has been put in to make the app efficient enough for the user to be satisfied with the services being provided.

- **Maintainability:** The app is maintainable in the sense that one can make changes easily to the dashboard and thus, improve on the display and functioning of the app.

- **Java Development Kit (JDK)**
  The Java Development Kit (JDK) is an implementation of either one of the Java SE, Java or Java ME platforms

released by Oracle Corporation in the form of a binary product aimed at Java developers on Solaris, Linux, Mac OS X or Windows. The JDK includes a private JVM and a few other resources to finish the development of a Java Application. Since the introduction of the Java platform, it has been by far the most widely used Software Development Kit (SDK).

Google Forms

Google Forms provide a fast way to create an online survey, with responses collected in an online spreadsheet. Create the survey and invite respondents by email.[4] People answer the questions from almost any web browser - including mobile smartphone and tablet browsers. We can view each response in a single row of a spreadsheet, with each question shown in a column. Google Forms is free.

Microsoft Excel (preferably 2016 version)

MS-Excel is a very powerful tool of the Microsoft office due to its various features. We can organize your numeric or text data in spreadsheets or workbooks and view it in context through excel which will help us make more informed decisions[5]. As one looks at different configurations, Excel learns and recognizes our pattern and auto-completes the remaining data for you. No formulas or macros required. Excel also performs complex analyses for our data. And it summarizes our data with previews of pivot-table options, so that we can compare them and select the one that tells our story best.

Excel can recommend the charts and graphs that best illustrate our data patterns. Quickly preview your options and pick those that present your insights most clearly.[7,8] The new one-click forecasting feature in Excel 2016 creates forecasts on our data series with one click to future trends.

2. Operating System Requirements:

The various Operating systems and memory requirements are:

i)   Windows: Microsoft Windows 10/8/7 (32-bit or 64-bit).
ii) Linux: GNOME or KDE desktop.
iii) Supported Processors: P4 2 GHz and above.
iv) RAM requirements: 2GB and above.

v)   Processors Required: Android 4.4+ requires an ARMv7 processor

Minimum of 4GB memory for Android Studio to work smoothly.
Minimum of 20MB space in the mobile phone to install the app.

III. "EaZy_BuZy LiFe"

It is an android application that inculcates various features, that indeed solves enormous complications faced by working women. It is an amalgamated platform, with an easy to use interface that enables each individual to use it in an utmost convenient and competent manner.

Our app has a dashboard which assimilates 9 modules, viz.,

- Latest News
- Cook Food
- Task Manager
- Find Places
- Health Management
- Stress Management
- Time Management
- One Stop Shop
- Security
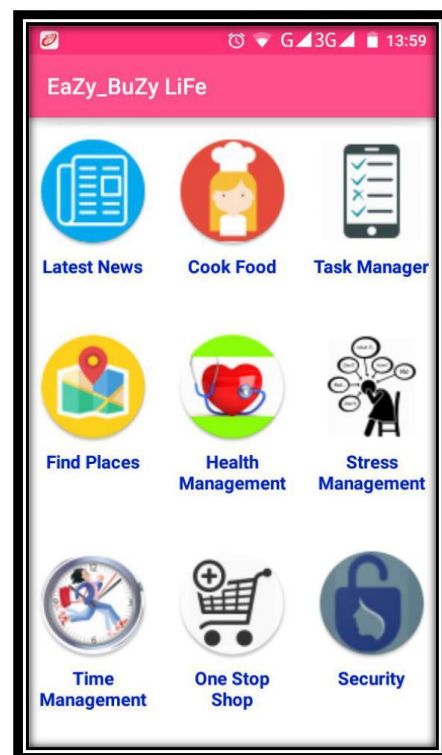
1) The Latest News module which dynamically loads the news updates into the list view from the RSS Feeds briefly. Clicking any news from the list item opens the detail of that particular news.

2) The Cook Food module that divides all the recipes into 12 main categories which are as shown. The list view have various recipes of Quick and Easy Recipes category of the Cook Food module.

3) The Task Manager module allows the user to add the task by clicking on the floating button and view all the tasks sorted according to the priorities set by the user as well as delete them after their completion by just swiping it either right or left. The Add a New Task screen which opens on clicking the floating button of the Task Manager module. It provides user the functionality of adding new task by setting its priority to one of the high, medium or low priorities.

4) The Find Places module shows the user's current location with the pink balloon on the Google Map.This module has a combo box with 46 different elements like Airport, Bank, Hospital, Beauty Salon, Electrician, Plumber, etc. along with a Find button. A user can select any of the item from the combo box and click on the Find button to search for the nearby places.

5) The Find Places module shows all the nearby places of selected item from the combo box, with respect to the user's current location, with the help of red balloons on the Google Map.

6) The Health Management module portrays a list of tips that a user may follow to maintain a healthy life, free of several ailments.

7) The Stress Management module represents a list of information that a user may follow to relieve from stress, depression or any psychological problems.

8) The Time Management module that depicts a list of tips that a user may trail to manage the time between their professional and personal life. It also has a button at the bottom that directs user to Task

Manager module, where a user may maintain a list of priorities based tasks.

9) The One Stop Shop module offers links to various websites which a user can use for shopping or booking cabs online.

10) The Security module demonstrates a list of emergency helpline numbers which a user can dial by just clicking on that number during any emergency needs.

IV. SURVEY RESULTS

A survey was conducted amongst the Working Women of different age groups belonging to various states of India like Delhi, Karnataka, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, etc.
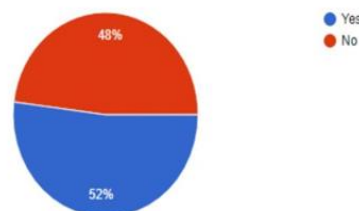
A sample of the survey has been attached as a reference in the Appendix section.

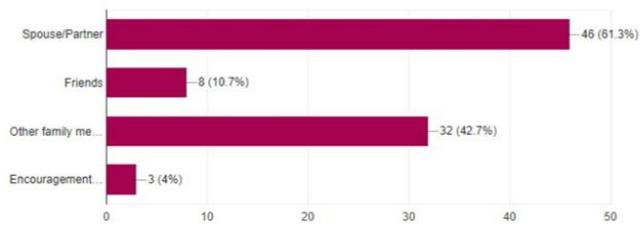Following are the various results that have been generated in the form of pie-charts, and bar-graphs:

Your age lies between :
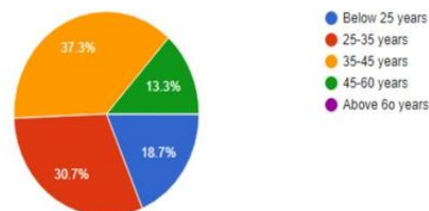
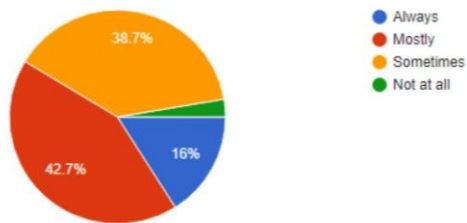Do you find it difficult to manage time between your personal and professional life?

**Who provides support for balancing between your work and non-work activities?**

Spouse/Partner — 46 (61.3%)
Friends — 8 (10.7%)
Other family me... — 32 (42.7%)
Encouragement... — 3 (4%)

(Scale: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50)

Is it difficult for you to find nearby places like banks, hospitals, restaurants, beauty salon, plumbers, electricians etc.?

- Yes
- No

65.3%
34.7%
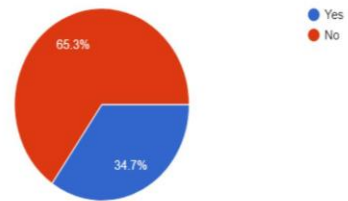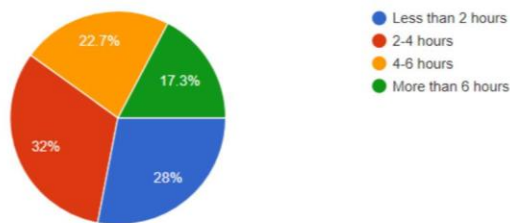
Does after working hours, you get enough time for your family?
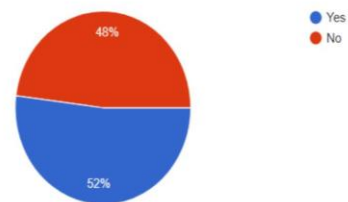
- Always
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not at all

38.7%
16%
42.7%

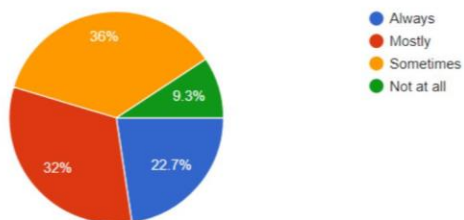**Do you find it difficult to remember all your day to day important events like meetings, birthdays, PTMs, etc.?**

- Always
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not at all

44%
30.7%
21.3%

Do you find it difficult to manage your budget?

- Yes
- No

48%
52%
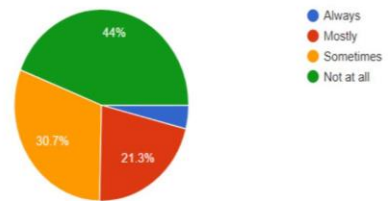
How much time do you spend on domestic activities?

- Less than 2 hours
- 2-4 hours
- 4-6 hours
- More than 6 hours

22.7%
17.3%
32%
28%

Do you find it difficult to cook nutritious quick and easy recipes?

- Always
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not at all

22.7%
54.7%
16%

Are you up-to-date in terms of current affairs going on?

- Always
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not at all

36%
9.3%
32%
22.7%
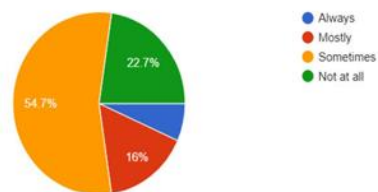
Do you find it difficult to book cabs or shop online?

- Always
- Mostly
- Sometimes
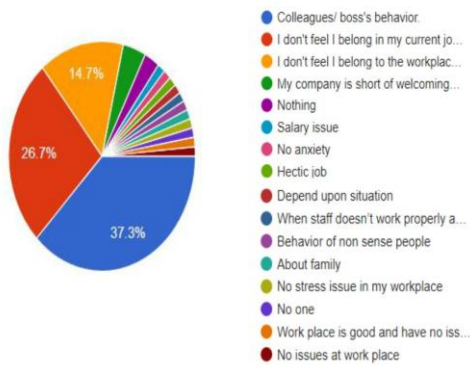- Not at all

44%
44%
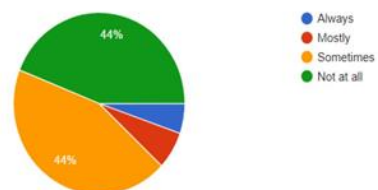
Do you suffer from any health complications like mood swings, depression, concentration problems due to problems at workplace?

- Yes
- No
- Can't say
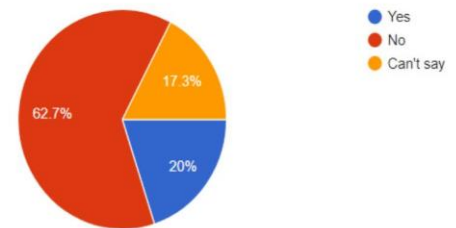
22.7%
42.7%
34.7%
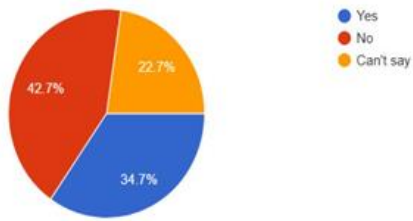
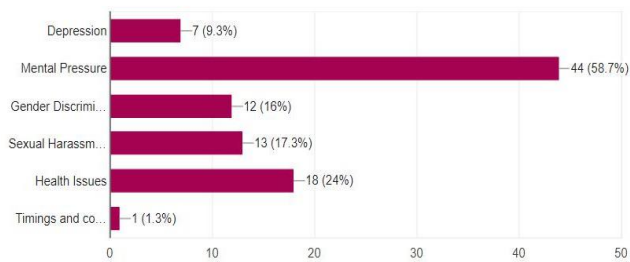Do you think you have been treated differently by your colleagues/seniors/boss/other members because you are a woman?

- Yes
- No

76%
24%
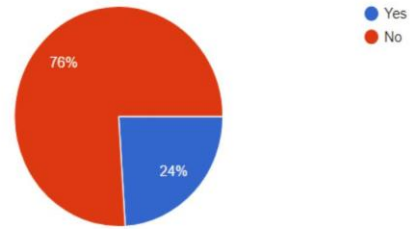
What triggers your anxiety or stress at your work?

- Colleagues/ boss's behavior.
- I don't feel I belong in my current jo…
- I don't feel I belong to the workplac…
- My company is short of welcoming…
- Nothing
- Salary issue
- No anxiety
- Hectic job
- Depend upon situation
- When staff doesn't work properly a…
- Behavior of non sense people
- About family
- No stress issue in my workplace
- No one
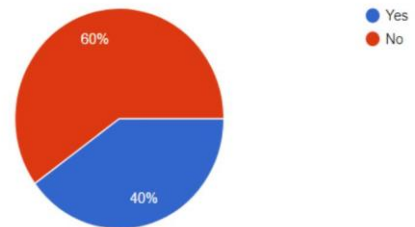- Work place is good and have no iss…
- No issues at work place

14.7%
26.7%
37.3%

Do you have any additional comments about your fears, frustration, wants, needs, career, boss, team and workplace environment etc.?

- Yes
- No
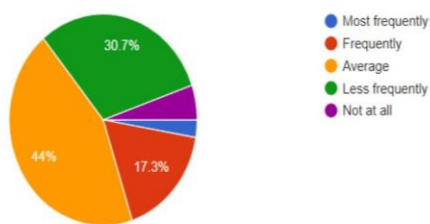- Can't say

17.3%
62.7%
20%

Are you involved in any kind of activities in the workplace, community and society?

- Yes
- No

60%
40%

Which problems do you think is the most important problem faced by working women at the work place?

Depression	7 (9.3%)
Mental Pressure	44 (58.7%)
Gender Discrimi…	12 (16%)
Sexual Harassm…	13 (17.3%)
Health Issues	18 (24%)
Timings and co…	1 (1.3%)

How often do you face health related problems?

- Most frequently
- Frequently
- Average
- Less frequently
- Not at all

30.7%
44%
17.3%

Are you concerned about the security when you are out of home?

- Always
- Mostly
- Sometimes
- Not at all

42.7%
12%
17.3%
28%
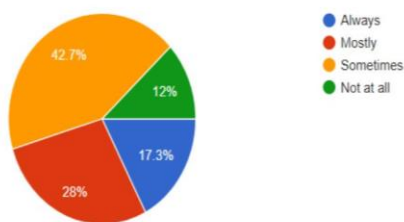
Do you remember women helpline numbers or is it saved in your cellphones?

- Yes
- No

56%
44%
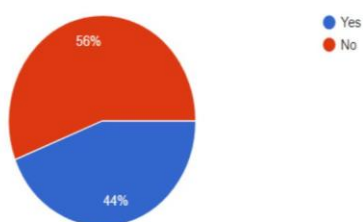
V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the survey was conducted on the problems and challenges faced by working women and analyzed the gathered data. We have also developed an app in android for mobile users so as to ease the women in all respect whether professional or personal concerns. In future, our research will be focused towards creating a chat box and connecting more places that are required in day to day needs. Moreover the result obtained from survey form will be incorporated to enhance our application for future compatibility.

VI. REFERENCES

[1]. Sridhar Mandapati, Sravya Pamidi, Sriharitha Ambati, "A Mobile Based Women Safety Application (I Safe Apps)", IOSR Journal of Computer Engineering (IOSR-JCE) e-ISSN: 2278-0661, p-ISSN: 2278-8727, Volume 17, Issue 1, Ver. I, Jan-Feb. 2015.

[2]. Tharini Ramanathan, Ramanathan Mohan, Ganesh Rajendran, "Research Reviews on Stress among working women in IT field", International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications, ISSN 2250-3153, Volume 4, Issue 9, September 2014.

[3]. Dashora, "Problems Faced by Working Women in India", International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences, 2(8), PP (82-94), 2013.

[4]. Nielsen Women of Tomorrow Study, "Women of tomorrow: A study of women around the world", Nielsen Company, 2011.

[5]. Karl, M., "Inseparable: The Crucial Role of Women in Food Security Revisited", Women in Action. No.1, PP 8-19, 2009.

[6]. Gordon, J.R., Whelan-Berry, K. and Hamilton, E.A., "The relationship among work-family conflict and enhancement, organizational work-family culture, and work outcomes for older working women", Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, Vol. 12 No.4, pp.350-364, 2007.

[7]. Denise Horner Mitnick, "The Impact of Working Women on Work/Life Balance Perspectives", University of Pennsylvania ScholarlyCommons, 2006.

[8]. Thompson C. A. and Prottas, D. J., "Relationships among organisational family support, job autonomy, perceived control, and employee well-being", Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, Vol. 11, pp.100-118, 2006.