

## Employee Turnover: Causes, Importance and Retention Strategies in IT industry

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Received: 21 March 2026 Accepted & Reviewed: 25 March 2026, Published: 31 March 2026

### Abstract

India's aspiration to achieve developed-nation status by 2047 the centenary of its independence depends on the nation's ability to combine economic expansion with ecological balance. Climate change, manifested through temperature rise, irregular monsoons, sea-level increase, and resource scarcity, presents a profound challenge to sustainable development. In parallel, conventional industrial practices relying on toxic chemicals and fossil-based processes have aggravated Environmental degradation. This paper explores how integrating *green chemistry* with *climate science* can create the scientific base for a resilient and developed India. It analyses India's climate vulnerabilities, explains the principles of green chemistry, and illustrates how their intersection can support clean industrialisation. The paper further outlines sector-wise applications and policy recommendations. It concludes that a "green chemistry-driven, climate-resilient economy" provides a credible and scientific pathway toward a developed India by 2047.

**Key Words:** Climate Change, Green Chemistry, Sustainable Development, Circular Economy, Low-Carbon Industry, Renewable Energy, Environmental Policy, Industrial Decarbonisation, Climate Resilience, Developed India 2047

### Introduction

Employee turnover has become one of the most critical challenges facing organizations in India today. It refers to the rate at which employees leave an organization and are replaced by new hires (Dess & Shaw, 2001). High employee turnover not only increases operational costs but also disrupts organizational productivity, team morale, and the continuity of institutional knowledge (Allen, Bryant, & Vardaman, 2010). In the Indian context, where industries such as Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) dominate the employment landscape, managing employee turnover is of strategic importance for sustaining competitiveness and organizational performance.

According to *Deloitte India's Talent Outlook Survey (2024)*, the overall attrition rate in India Inc. declined to **17.4%** in 2024, compared to **18.1%** in 2023 and **20.2%** in 2022 (The Economic Times, 2024a). The IT/ ITeS sector, which historically recorded the highest attrition levels due to high demand for skilled professionals, also experienced a decline from **19.3% in 2023** to **15.1% in 2024** (The Economic Times, 2024b). Within the ITeS sub-sector specifically, attrition dropped further to **10.8%** in 2024 from **18.7%** in 2023 (The Economic Times, 2024b). These figures reflect a temporary stabilization in workforce movement, influenced by factors such as global economic Slowdown, remote working policies, and increased retention initiatives within companies.

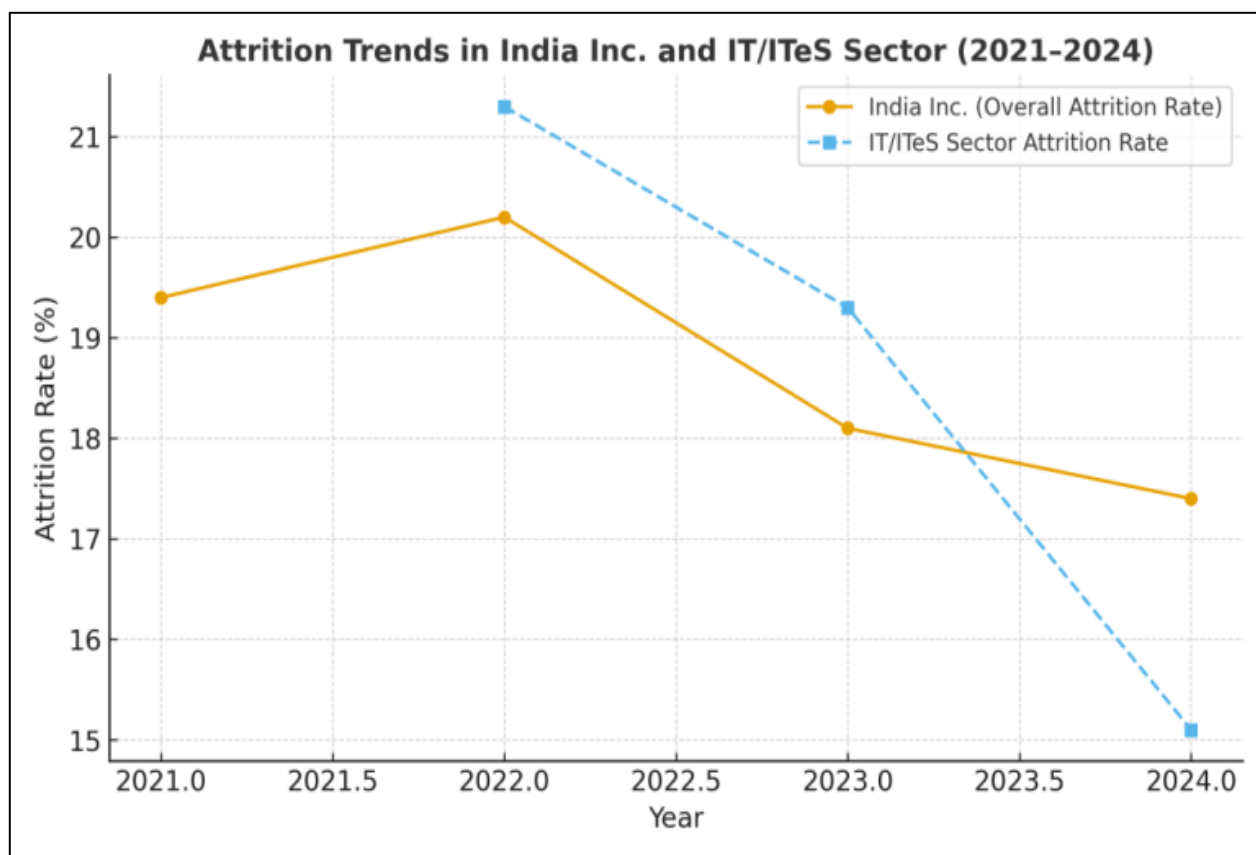
The Indian IT industry, employing over **5.4 million professionals** as of 2024, remains particularly vulnerable to high turnover due to factors like intense competition, skill-based wage disparities, and shifting employee expectations (NASSCOM, 2024). Studies suggest that key determinants of turnover include job dissatisfaction, poor managerial practices, limited career growth, and inadequate compensation (Mobley, 2011; Griffeth, Hom, & Gaertner, 2000). Furthermore, the post-pandemic shift toward hybrid and remote work

models has reshaped how employees perceive job satisfaction and work–life balance (Carnevale & Hatak, 2020). Flexible work arrangements have become a key determinant of retention, with employees increasingly prioritizing autonomy, purpose, and wellbeing over traditional incentives (Tett & Meyer, 1993).

Given these evolving trends, organizations must adopt evidence-based retention strategies, including competitive compensation structures, career development opportunities, employee recognition programs, and flexible workplace policies (Hausknecht, Rodda, & Howard, 2009).

The current study examines the It seeks to identify the factors influencing turnover intentions and retention under hybrid work arrangements, providing empirical insights that can help Indian organizations design effective HR strategies to minimize turnover and enhance long-term employee engagement.

**Figure-1**



## I. What Makes Employees Leave? An Analytical Perspective in the Indian Context

Employee turnover has remained a critical challenge for organizations across industries, and the phenomenon has been extensively examined by both international and Indian researchers. While global studies have focused on the antecedents of turnover behavior and its implications for organizational performance (Mobley, 1977; Griffeth & Hom, 2001), recent Indian studies emphasize the role of job satisfaction, leadership style, work stress, and career progression as major determinants (Kumar & Arora, 2022; Singh & Gupta, 2023).

**1. Job Expectations and Mismatch**-Employees often leave when their workplace experience does not align with their initial expectations. In Indian IT and education sectors, new entrants frequently report a discrepancy between job description and actual work, leading to early attrition (Sharma & Mehta, 2021). Limited feedback, lack of mentoring, and inadequate recognition further exacerbate dissatisfaction (Pandey & Krishna, 2023).

This mismatch between job and person contributes to decreased engagement, which eventually manifests as turnover intention.

**2. Training, Feedback, and Growth Opportunities**-Empirical evidence from Indian organizations highlights that training and career development are among the strongest predictors of employee retention (Nair & Joseph, 2020). Inadequate skill enhancement and lack of performance feedback reduce employees' perceived organizational support. Particularly in the hybrid work environment post-COVID-19, employees have sought continuous learning and digital upskilling as indicators of organizational commitment to growth (Khatri & Sharma, 2023).

**3. Job Satisfaction and Organizational Commitment**-Job satisfaction continues to play a central role in employee retention models. Indian studies reveal a negative association between job satisfaction and turnover intention (Kumar & Bhatnagar, 2022). Factors such as fair compensation, recognition, autonomy, and supportive supervision influence satisfaction levels. Moreover, employees dissatisfied with job characteristics such as work-life balance or task autonomy are more likely to consider alternative employment (Srivastava & Raj, 2021).

**4. Leadership and Trust**-Trust in leadership has emerged as a dominant psychological factor influencing employee decisions to stay or leave (Rao & Menon, 2021). In Indian firms, authoritarian or transactional leadership styles often lead to reduced organizational commitment, while transformational and participative leaders foster loyalty and engagement (Chatterjee & Saha, 2022). The absence of transparent communication and empathy from leaders contributes significantly to voluntary resignations, especially among millennials and Gen Z employees who value authenticity and trust.

**5. Work Stress, Burnout, and Work-Life Balance**-Work-related stress is another major determinant of turnover. Indian employees, particularly in the IT, healthcare, and education sectors, experience high burnout levels due to long working hours, unrealistic deadlines, and insufficient recovery time (Patel et al., 2023). Studies show that chronic stress impairs job satisfaction, mental health, and overall performance (Rajesh & Reddy, 2022). The imbalance between personal and professional life — worsened during the hybrid work shift — has led to increased attrition rates among both male and female employees (Bhattacharya, 2023).

**6. Salary Rewards, and Job Security**-Monetary dissatisfaction remains a traditional yet potent driver of turnover. According to a 2023 survey by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), over 48% of employees cited inadequate salary growth and lack of financial incentives as their primary reason for switching jobs. In the Indian context, financial stability is closely tied to job satisfaction and perceived fairness. Furthermore, job insecurity, especially in the private sector during economic downturns, reinforces the intention to seek alternative employment (Joshi & Deshmukh, 2021).

**7. Work Environment and Organizational Culture**-The quality of the work environment — including interpersonal relations, management style, and organizational ethics — strongly affects employees' attachment to the organization. Toxic or non-inclusive environments characterized by favoritism or lack of communication are correlated with higher turnover intentions (Rani&Sharma, 2020). In contrast, organizations that foster psychological safety, team cohesion, and inclusiveness tend to retain employees longer (Pandey & Krishna, 2023).

**8. Group Cohesion and Team Dynamics**-Large teams often experience reduced social cohesion and lower morale, resulting in disengagement and turnover. In Indian service organizations, employees in smaller,

cohesive teams report higher satisfaction and lower attrition (Malhotra & Jain, 2022). Team-level factors such as communication, mutual trust, and collective efficacy directly affect turnover rates.

**9. Family and Personal Life Factors-**Cultural expectations and family responsibilities also influence turnover intentions in India. Dual-career couples, parental obligations, and relocation due to spouse transfers are increasingly recognized as non-work-related causes of turnover (Srinivasan & Pillai, 2022). Flexible scheduling, telecommuting, and family-friendly HR policies can mitigate these effects.

**10. Integrated Understanding-**Overall, employee turnover in the Indian context is multi-dimensional, influenced by both organizational and personal factors. These include job satisfaction, leadership trust, stress and burnout, financial compensation, and work-life balance. The interplay between these factors varies by industry and employee demographics, highlighting the need for context-specific retention strategies.

No.	Causes	Key Indian Studies Supporting Evidence
1	Training and Feedback	Nair & Joseph (2020); Pandey & Krishna (2023)
2	Job Satisfaction	Srivastava & Raj (2021); Kumar & Bhatnagar (2022)
3	Trust and Leadership	Rao & Menon (2021); Chatterjee & Saha (2022)
4	Work Stress and Burnout	Rajesh & Reddy (2022); Patel et al. (2023)
5	Salary and Rewards	Joshi & Deshmukh (2021); CII Report (2023)
6	Working Environment	Rani & Sharma (2020); Pandey & Krishna (2023)
7	Group Cohesion	Malhotra & Jain (2022)
8	Family Pressure and Balance	Srinivasan & Pillai (2022); Bhattacharya (2023)

**II. The Importance of Employee Turnover: An Indian Perspective-**Employee turnover is not merely an operational concern but a *strategic organizational* issue that directly influences productivity, morale, and long-term sustainability. Employee behavior, beliefs, and values shape both individual and collective performance, thereby influencing the efficiency and effectiveness of organizational operations (Gupta & Sharma, 2022). High turnover rates in particular sectors such as IT, banking, healthcare, and education have created pressing challenges for Indian employers, including loss of institutional knowledge, decline in customer satisfaction, and increased financial strain (NASSCOM, 2024; PwC India, 2023).

**1. Financial and Productivity Implications-**One of the most significant impacts of employee turnover is the economic cost associated with employee replacement. In the Indian context, estimates indicate that replacing a mid-level employee can cost organizations 50% to 200% of the employee's annual salary, depending on skill specialization (Deloitte India, 2023). These costs include recruitment, onboarding, training, and the temporary decline in productivity during transition periods. Moreover, high turnover rates lead to inefficiencies in workflow continuity, as new employees often require three to six months to reach full productivity (FICCI, 2024).

A study by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII, 2023) found that companies experiencing annual turnover rates above 20% reported a 12–15% decline in overall productivity compared to firms with stable workforces. The cost of lost productivity, compounded by higher recruitment expenses, reduces profit margins

and strains liquidity positions (Joshi & Deshmukh, 2022). Additionally, continuous employee exits lead to the erosion of organizational memory — the tacit knowledge processes, and relationship capital that are critical for maintaining a competitive advantage (Kumar & Bhatnagar, 2022).

**2. Impact on Customer Service and Organizational Reputation-**Employee turnover affects not only internal performance but also customer satisfaction and service quality. Research conducted in the Indian retail and banking sectors shows that frequent staff turnover disrupts customer relationships and reduces service consistency (Sharma & Mehta, 2023). Customers interacting with newly hired, less experienced employees often perceive a decline in service quality, leading to lower satisfaction and loyalty levels.

A 2024 report by Korn Ferry India revealed that a 10% increase in employee turnover in customer-facing roles correlates with a 6% drop in customer satisfaction scores and a 4% decline in repeat business. Similar findings were observed in the hospitality sector, where high attrition undermined guest experience and brand reputation (Singh & Gupta, 2023).

**3. Effects on Remaining Employees and Morale-**Frequent turnover places additional workloads on remaining employees, resulting in job stress, burnout, and declining morale (Patel et al., 2023). Overburdened employees often experience decreased motivation and engagement, which in turn heightens turnover intentions, creating a self-reinforcing attrition cycle (Rani & Sharma, 2020). In Indian IT companies, particularly those operating in hybrid or remote work settings, these stressors are compounded by communication barriers and blurred work-life boundaries (Bhattacharya, 2023).

Low morale also affects team collaboration and innovation capacity. When experienced employees leave, teams lose not only skill depth but also the mentorship and informal knowledge networks that help integrate new hires efficiently (Srivastava & Raj, 2021).

**4. Strategic and Competitive Consequences-**From a strategic viewpoint, uncontrolled turnover can hinder an organization's ability **to sustain competitive advantage**. In knowledge-driven industries like IT, financial services, and pharmaceuticals — where intellectual capital is a primary asset — high attrition can slow innovation cycles and project delivery timelines (NASSCOM, 2024). Moreover, leadership instability caused by turnover in senior roles can destabilize organizational direction and affect investor confidence (Rao & Menon, 2021).

Firms with high turnover also face reputational risks in the employer market. Poor retention signals weak HR policies and can make it difficult to attract top talent, creating a long-term talent pipeline challenge (Chatterjee & Saha, 2022).

**5. Socio-Psychological Impact-**Beyond economics, employee turnover has deep socio-psychological implications. Continuous exits erode trust, increase uncertainty, and disrupt social cohesion within the workplace (Pandey & Krishna, 2023). Employees who witness frequent departures may experience a sense of insecurity, questioning the organization's stability and fairness. This dynamic particularly affects younger employees in India, who increasingly prioritize psychological safety and growth opportunities over mere financial incentives (Khatri & Sharma, 2023).

**6. Mitigating the Negative Impact-**Given the multidimensional impact of turnover, Indian organizations are increasingly adopting retention-focused HR strategies. These include:

- Strengthening employee engagement through transparent communication.
- Investing in career progression frameworks and reskilling initiatives.

- Promoting work-life balance via hybrid flexibility and wellness programs.
- Implementing data-driven retention analytics to predict and prevent voluntary exits (PwC India, 2023).

Such proactive retention strategies not only reduce turnover costs but also enhance organizational resilience, productivity, and brand image.

**Table-1**

**Economic and Non-Economic Consequences of High Employee Turnover in Indian Organizations (2024)**

Consequence Type	Key Effects Observed in India	Supporting Studies/Reports
<b>Financial</b>	Recruitment & training costs up to 200% of annual salary	Deloitte India (2023); FICCI (2024)
<b>Productivity</b>	12–15% decline in output in high-turnover firms	CII (2023); Joshi & Deshmukh (2022)
<b>Customer Impact</b>	6% drop in satisfaction; 4% drop in repeat business	Korn Ferry (2024); Sharma & Mehta (2023)
<b>Employee Morale</b>	Burnout and stress lead to attrition cycles	Patel et al. (2023); Bhattacharya (2023)
<b>Strategic</b>	Reduced innovation, weaker talent pipeline	NASSCOM (2024); Rao & Menon (2021)

**RETENTION STRATEGIES**-Employee retention has emerged as one of the most critical challenges in the Indian corporate sector, particularly in the IT industry where hybrid and flexible work arrangements have redefined employee expectations. The success of Indian organizations today depends not only on technological efficiency but also on their ability to retain talented and motivated employees who contribute to long-term growth and innovation.

According to Human Capital Theory (Becker, [1]), investment in employees through skill development and training enhances both individual and organizational performance. In the Indian context, organizations such as Infosys, TCS, and Wipro have institutionalized structured training and upskilling programs that promote employee growth and reduce attrition. Employee turnover, being expensive and disruptive, motivates Indian organizations to design comprehensive strategies to develop, retain, and reward employees effectively.

**1. Training and Career Development:** Continuous learning and professional development are integral to retaining IT professionals in India. Regular training, mentoring, and internal mobility programs not only enhance technical competencies but also strengthen employees' emotional attachment to their organizations [118], [119]. Employees who perceive career advancement opportunities are more likely to remain loyal and engaged.

**2. Employee Engagement and Empowerment:** Engagement strategies such as participative decision-making, team-based projects and empowerment initiatives improve employees' sense of belonging and ownership. Indian IT firms increasingly adopt participative leadership and project-based recognition systems that encourage innovation and foster engagement [136], [137]. Employees who feel appreciated and included demonstrate stronger commitment and reduced turnover intentions.

**3. Work Environment and Organizational Culture:** A positive and supportive work environment plays a vital role in employee retention. In the hybrid model, where employees divide their time between home and office, the perception of a psychologically safe and inclusive work environment has become even more critical. Indian organizations are focusing on flexibility, work-life balance, and ergonomic office designs to enhance job satisfaction and commitment. Supportive leadership, team collaboration, and open communication significantly improve retention levels.

**4. Rewards, Recognition, and Compensation:** Monetary and non-monetary rewards remain strong motivators for Indian employees. Competitive pay, performance-linked incentives, and recognition programs (such as "Employee of the Month," spot bonuses, or public appreciation) enhance motivation and retention. In addition, organizations are introducing flexible benefits and family-friendly policies to support employees' personal well-being [131].

**5. Job Satisfaction and Work-Life Balance:** Job satisfaction is a proven predictor of retention in Indian organizations. Factors such as meaningful work, fair supervision, and manageable workload significantly influence employees' decisions to stay [15], [152], [153]. The hybrid workspace has blurred traditional work-life boundaries, making flexible scheduling and remote support systems essential components of retention strategies.

**6. Organizational Commitment and Job Involvement:** Indian employees with higher levels of job involvement and organizational commitment are less likely to leave. Strategies such as transparent communication, inclusive leadership, and clear career progression pathways reinforce employees' emotional connection with their work when employees identify with their organization's vision and values, their loyalty and contribution increase substantially.

**7. Health, Well-being, and Psychological Safety:** Recent studies in India highlight that stress and burnout are major contributors to turnover, especially in hybrid settings. Organizations are now prioritizing mental health programs, wellness initiatives, and flexible leave policies to promote holistic employee well-being. Such initiatives foster a positive psychological climate that encourages long-term retention.

**8. Technology-Enabled Retention Practices:** Indian IT organizations are increasingly leveraging AI-driven analytics and HR dashboards to monitor engagement, predict attrition, and personalize retention efforts. These data-driven strategies help HR managers proactively address turnover risks and design customized interventions for high-potential employees [160].

In the context of the **present study on the impact of hybrid workspace mode on employee attrition rates in selected IT companies**, these retention strategies are highly relevant. The hybrid model has reshaped traditional employment relationships, demanding flexible, inclusive, and technologically adaptive HR practices. Organizations that effectively combine engagement, work-life balance, and professional development with digital HR systems are more likely to maintain lower turnover rates and higher employee satisfaction.

Table II.

## Employee Retention Strategies

S. No.	Retention Strategy	Key Focus Area	Practical Application in Indian Organizations	Expected Outcome
1	<b>Training and Career Development</b>	Continuous skill enhancement and career progression	Regular technical and soft-skill training, mentoring, and career-path mapping (e.g., TCS Xplore, Infosys Lex)	Higher job competence, career growth, reduced attrition
2	<b>Employee Engagement and Empowerment</b>	Involvement in decision-making and project ownership	Team-based initiatives, hackathons, idea-sharing platforms, recognition of innovation	Increased motivation, stronger sense of belonging
3	<b>Work Environment and Organizational Culture</b>	Supportive, inclusive, and hybrid-friendly environment	Flexible working hours, ergonomic office spaces, inclusive policies, open communication	Greater satisfaction, lower stress, improved retention
4	<b>Rewards and Recognition</b>	Monetary & non-monetary motivation	Performance-linked pay, spot awards, appreciation platforms, transparent appraisal systems	Enhanced morale, stronger organizational commitment
5	<b>Job Satisfaction and Work-Life Balance</b>	Fulfillment and psychological well-being	Flexible scheduling, remote-work support, manageable workload, meaningful roles	Reduced burnout, higher satisfaction, improved retention intention
6	<b>Organizational Commitment and Job Involvement</b>	Emotional attachment and identification with organization	Transparent communication, leadership trust, clear promotion pathways	Greater loyalty, reduced turnover intention
7	<b>Health, Well-being and Psychological Safety</b>	Physical and mental well-being	Corporate wellness programs, counseling support, stress-management sessions	Lower stress, increased productivity, long-term retention

8	<b>Technology-Enabled Retention Practices</b>	Data-driven HR management and predictive analytics	AI-based HR dashboards, engagement analytics, personalized retention interventions	Early attrition prediction, proactive employee retention
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Table II highlights the comprehensive set of employee retention strategies relevant to the Indian IT sector, particularly in the evolving context of hybrid work environments. The findings suggest that employee retention is no longer dependent solely on monetary rewards but increasingly on non-financial factors such as engagement, flexibility, well-being, and professional growth. The hybrid workspace has intensified the need for adaptive HR policies that balance organizational goals with employees' personal and professional aspirations.

Training and career development initiatives equip employees with relevant skills to remain competitive and motivated, while engagement and empowerment practices strengthen belongingness and reduce turnover intentions. A supportive work environment, coupled with effective recognition and well-being programs, fosters psychological safety and enhances job satisfaction. Moreover, the integration of technology-enabled retention practices allows HR managers to identify potential turnover risks early and implement targeted interventions.

Overall, the table underscores that a multifaceted retention strategy combining engagement, flexibility, professional development, and technological support is most effective in minimizing attrition in hybrid-mode Indian IT organizations.

## CONCLUSION

Employee turnover continues to pose a serious challenge to organizational sustainability, particularly within India's knowledge-driven sectors such as information technology. The present study reveals that turnover is not caused by a single factor but rather by a complex interplay of organizational, personal, and environmental dimensions. Key determinants include inadequate training and feedback, poor leadership communication, high work stress, limited growth opportunities, salary dissatisfaction, and work-life imbalance each of which contributes to increased turnover intentions among employees.

In the Indian IT sector, the advent of the hybrid workspace model has further reshaped employee expectations and retention dynamics. While hybrid arrangements provide flexibility and autonomy, they also create new challenges in maintaining engagement, collaboration, and organizational commitment. Consequently, managing turnover in this evolving context requires organizations to adopt comprehensive, employee-centric retention strategies that address both traditional and emerging workplace needs.

The findings highlight that training and career development, work-life balance, employee engagement, and psychological well-being play a decisive role in retaining talent. Indian IT firms that invest in continuous skill enhancement, inclusive leadership, transparent communication, and flexible policies are more successful in reducing attrition. Moreover, technology-enabled HR practices, such as AI-based predictive analytics and digital engagement platforms, allow organizations to identify potential turnover risks and implement proactive retention measures.

From a strategic standpoint, employee retention must now be viewed not merely as an HR function but as a core element of business sustainability. Retaining skilled professionals ensures the preservation of institutional knowledge, continuity of innovation, and long-term organizational competitiveness. Therefore, organizations must foster a supportive culture that balances financial rewards with psychological safety, career growth, and work flexibility.

In conclusion, the present study emphasizes that in the post-pandemic hybrid era, employee retention in Indian IT organizations depends on a multifaceted approach—one that integrates professional development, digital engagement, and holistic well-being. By aligning retention initiatives with employees' evolving expectations, organizations can not only minimize turnover rates but also strengthen their human capital advantage and build a resilient, future-ready workforce

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