

A Study on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic in the Recruitment Process: With Special reference to IT companies of Noida Region

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Abstract

The impact of COVID 19 on businesses is unavoidable, it has hampered everything from the economy to livelihood, businesses and organizations are going through this difficult time. Organizations look for innovative solutions by which they can continue operations smoothly. From hiring employees to retaining them everything is a big challenge. The recruitment process identifies the vacancy of jobs, inviting applications, analyzing the job demands, reviewing the applications, screening, listings, and selecting the suitable candidate for the job. In COVID-19, organizations are operating remotely and their workers are working from their homes. In recruitment, electronic-Recruitment or online recruitment uses web-based technology for identifying, evaluating, picking, signing, and onboarding job prospects. It is a technology that helps firms to online workflows and recruitment tasks to boost productivity, time-to-fill, cut hire costs and improve their organization's overall skills profile. This study aims to analyze the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic inference in the recruitment process, to understand how E-recruitment is swapping human involvement in the recruitment process. The objective of this study is to examine the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic situation on the Recruitment process i.e, E-recruitment of the employees working in Information Technology (IT) companies of Noida, Uttar Pradesh. A total number of 100 employees from five different IT companies has been considered for the study. This study is expected to help in the formulation of recruitment strategies to align and develop an effective recruitment process to recruit qualified talent which can work in the competitive environment.

Keywords: Recruitment Process, Electronic-Recruitment, Covid-19 Pandemic, Human Resource Management, Information Technology (IT) Companies.

Introduction

In today's changing world, finding the right individual for the appropriate job is critical. Companies rely on qualified resources, but finding them is an expensive endeavor. Most firms have a conventional hiring process that includes evaluating resumes, group discussions, interviews, and psychometric tests. *According to studies*, companies are moving and adopting technology. Without abandoning the idea of going global in social aspects, the recruiting cost can be decreased by having an e-recruitment platform. Most Organizations should be concentrating on building an online recruitment procedure that allows for the creation of concrete pre-made profiles.

An organization's goal is always the same: to reduce costs and automate procedures. *According to the wiki*, e-recruitment is "the method and process of recruiting personnel utilizing electronic resources, particularly the

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internet." Organizations and recruitment agencies have shifted much of their recruitment process and method from traditional toonline mode to enhance the speed with which potential candidates are matched with available positions. HR Managers now fill the available positions in a fraction of the time which was previously achievable by utilizing database technology, online job advertising boards, and search engines.”

Though Covid-19 comes up with many challenges for the organizations, recruitment is one of them. Traditional methods used by organizations such as posting the jobs on various platforms may create unemployment and unavailability of skilled employees for the organization. Recruiting and finding the right candidates for the organization is no small task. Corporate as enhancing to adopt technology-aided recruitment techniques and total which can be used remotely and help in ensuring hiring as well as in business continuity caused by the pandemic disruption. Organizations tend to have data-based and analysis-driven inputs that can be used in recruitment decisions to ensure the availability of skilled candidates.

The e-Recruitment system reduces the pollutants and energy associated with the production, transportation, and usage of paper items. The automated procedure would save energy in various functions like sending letters by posts, recording the data in hard copy, filing of details, report making, etc. E-Recruitment helps in reducing paperwork used in resumes, advertising, and publishing results. The organization should create an easy-to-use and functional online portal to build a tangible online recruitment process that can provide a concrete premade profile. The E-recruitment should be well-designed so that it provides the organizations with competent professionals for the role, with an emphasis on taking the tests in the Online platform which should focus on Skills tests, Competency tests, Experience sharing, Psychometric tests, and in the end submitting the candidature. Once the profile is submitted to HR, the system should be able to generate the necessary required data, allowing the HR team to conduct telephonic/online interviews to assess the person's capabilities, followed by a face-to-face interview with the stakeholder. Employers can access a larger number of potential employees through e-recruitment. Companies can construct their electronic-recruitment platforms, by using e-recruitment HR software, or by using recruiting agencies that include e-recruitment in their package.

Recruitment and Covid 19 Pandemic:

Hamza *et al.*, (2021) Recruitment is the process of inviting, finding, choosing, and at last,employing the best eligible and qualified candidate and fit him/her in the organization. It is the process by which the organizations attract and find the employees to fill job openings. Recruitment is defined as a series of activities conducted by an organization to attract the attention of job seekers who possess the skill set which is required by the organization in accomplishing its objectives and goals. Inviting applications, understanding the requirements of jobs available, attracting employees to apply, screening and finally selecting the best candidates,placement and induction of the new employee to the organization are all constituents of the recruitment process. Organizations should be ableto understand and predict whether the available workforce of the organization would be able to meet the requirements on the quantity and quality of employees required for the achievement of organizational objectives. Also, to find out the gaps in the available and required employees should be done to fix the most suitable employees on the job.

Job Analysis	
Job Description	Job Specification
Job Title	Qualifications
Job Location	Experience
Job Summary	Training
Reporting To	Skills
Working Conditions	Responsibilities
Machines to be Used	Emotional Characteristics
Hazards	Sensory Demands

Figure1: Job Analysis

Job Analysis: An analysis of the work on the Internet is an easy alternative. Job analysis is the process of understanding and identifying the duties, roles, and responsibilities of a given selected job in the organization. In the past few years, there has been a considerable shift and increase in the usage of online methods for doing job analysis surveys, and most organizations prefer to use online methods to collect this data.

Job Description: The rise of information technology has altered job description management and other elements of talent management. HR departments have often maintained their printed job descriptions on computers or corporate servers either in cabinet filings or in word descriptions. There are now many organizations that offer cloud-based personnel management systems to corporations that enable the human resource department to effortlessly store and file HR information, association with other departments, and access different files with the help of the internet from any device.

Job Specification: Job specification is a written document in which the necessities to do a job are being stored like educational qualification, required skill set, years of experience, physical compatibility if required, emotional stability, soft skills, and any other skills to do a selected job.

Businesses are looking for strategies to be productive in the face of enormous hurdles as COVID-19 sweeps the nation and the world. Managing employee procedures, growing or lowering headcount, and sustaining workloads have become a distant operation for many firms as they strive to protect their employees, customers, and the general public. The epidemic has shifted a significant portion of the workforce in unexpected ways. Remote employment has become the new norm for firms that can implement appropriate social distancing techniques. Employees are converting living rooms into offices while juggling children and personal duties. Businesses must make difficult decisions about how to adapt to and survive this massive transformation, and recruiting practices have shifted overnight.

Today, Software as service suppliers are part of the job description management business, including those incorporated into the recruitment tools of a comprehensive, integrated talent management series and self-sustaining solutions. Solutions such as Halogen's Job Description Builder have made it possible to integrate with broader talent management activities of recruitment and job description management and authorized HR departments of any type of company. It helps in managing and verifying the job descriptions for all interested parties, such as employees, managers, recruiters, lawyers, allowance, and compensation.

Literature Review:

Abia, M., & Brown, I. (2020) reviewed that e-recruitment is known by many other names, like internet recruitment, online recruiting, web recruitment. E-recruitment as compared to traditional recruitment use information technology and software to manage the recruitment process of the organization. A recruiting model that presents the recruitment process includes the activities like setting the objectives of recruitment, strategy designing, conducting the recruitment activity, and assessing recruitment output. Recruiters fight for the best-fit applicants (job seekers which are suitable and perfect fit for the available job), whereas, job seekers compete for jobs to get selected; this motivates both the organization and candidate to adopt information technology fastly to alleviate some of the challenges in the recruitment efforts. This study reviewed five concepts of e-recruitment that emerged from extant literature, these are e-recruitment as a technology tool, system, process, service, and proxy. It also concluded the problem of diversity in the organization to understand the concept of e-recruitment, which goes unnoticed in the stored literature, and advocated that recognizing and labeling the many conceptualizations of e-recruitment can be part of the articulation of diversity. Simón, C., & Esteves, J. (2015) concluded that substantial forces of institutions may induce firms to choose the features of the recruitment websites of the organization are based on copying and feature the colleagues in their reference, networks, and groups. In the other research studies of the IT industry, e-recruitment functions that the HR personnel may utilize to tailor the available application to as per their requirements and cost-benefit criteria. IT sector examination of digital business strategies by emphasizing the significance of understanding the external environment and its role in forming the digital business strategy. To summarise, electronic recruitment has the scope to become a significant tool and method for employers and HR professionals in seeking and identifying the top people while reducing expenses occurred with the screening of worldwide candidates. E-recruitment has obvious benefits for any organization, it also creates several obstacles for businesses. Ehrhart *et al.*, (2012) The study on attracting

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and recruiting is both conceptually and practically useful because the job market is flooded with Web-savvy applicants who frequently visit various websites as their first point of contact with a company. It is crucial to examine the contributions made by the website so that businesses can use it to manage the available resources and attract the best valuable human resources. Given the prominence of this recruitment strategy in companies and the need to balance its potential and risks and also suggested that employee-organization fit should be there to achieve the organizational objective. It also helps in mediating the relationship between work-life balance and enhancing the usability of the website. Organizations should plan for the implications and opportunities of attracting a huge number of potential applicants, and to provide feedback or other important information that could encourage and helps in the better and more accurate selection of human capital through the e-recruitment process. Kucherov, D., & Tsybova, V. (2021) presented that the e-recruitment methods which include internet-based and internal technology-enabled solutions, are to be used in the overall context of human resource management (HRM) digitalization. E-recruitment methods are associated with the favorable outcome. However, e-recruitment utilization does not serve as a bridge between e-recruitment techniques and outcomes. E-recruitment aid not only in lowering the cost of advertisements and selection procedures but also in eliminating paperwork. Hot skill alerts can be enabled to allow organizations to be notified when a candidate who meets the criteria for future requirements registers. People looking for a job can browse for and apply 24*7. Recruitment agencies, which can cost thousands of pounds, can also be avoided to reap the true economical benefits of internet recruitment.

Bhupendra, S.H., & Swati, G. (2015) The strategy of hiring the best candidates and encouraging them to investigate job opportunities are defined. The organization itself can recruit, or by outsourcing it to an external agency. On the other hand, it is difficult to determine the most efficient recruitment source and it is situational and has its pros and cons.

Adetunji, O.J., & Ogbonna, I.G. (2013) Recruitment has a long history, starting from prehistoric times because individuals tend to consume the services of others when they cannot do that alone. Adeosun, O. T., & OHIANI, A. S. (2020) presented that organizations can use salary, brand recognition, referral, and job stability as key variables in attracting and recruiting great people. In addition, digitalization is a major approach for attracting, recruiting, and selecting the most eligible employees. Using social media, traditional media, taking interviews online, as well as physical interviews have been shown to aid in the selection of top personnel. Gignac *et al.*, (2021) Studied the influence of COVID-19 on health, money, and organizational support. Human beings with the challenges of physical and mental health expressed more fears and less assistance as compared to other groups during the early stages of the COVID-19 epidemic, as per the findings. The findings also highlighted the significance of job conditions to understand COVID-19, as well as the necessity to evaluate disparities in the conditions of COVID-19 perceptions and understand how work impacts views and can contribute to disparities that may occur as a result of a pandemic. Furthermore, the significance of working circumstances is not restricted to COVID-19. It merits additional research attention in the future and emphasizes the significance of developing more inclusive work opportunities for people with the challenges of physical and mental health. Feldman, D. C., & Klaas, B. S (2002) Concluded that in the recruitment process both recruiter and job seeker can maintain their anonymity. Organizations can search for potential candidates and their CVs without advertising vacancies, or they can also promote the vacancies without making their names out. Additionally, job searchers can submit their CVs with the help of the Internet while maintaining the secrecy of their details like their names and details of employment. Al-Zagheer, H., & Barakat, S. (2021) Investigated and introduces the concept of electronic recruitment, as well as its benefits for both businesses and job seekers. Some of the advantages of internet recruitment include: Lowering the organization's costs. Moreover, generating information about a job online is less expensive than advertising it in the newspapers, there are no mediators. Also, the time taken in the recruitment is reduced. E-recruitment facilitates and helps in hiring the right candidate with the optimal skills which improves the efficiency of the recruitment process and also enhances the access to 24*7 to an ample amount of online resumes for both applicants and organizations. E-recruitment has its own set of advantages and disadvantages, some of which are like screening and verifying the skills which consume lots of time. B. Low internet speed or lack of internet access or lack of awareness is also a flaw. C. Companies cannot rely solely on internet recruitment strategies. D. In India, both the interviewer and interviewee prefer to connect in person rather than over email.

Research Gap:

An analysis of the existing literature on this topic suggests that, to date, there is a lot of research done in the area of recruitment, traditional recruitment, methods of recruitment, and the role of technology. This research paper is an attempt to show the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic situation on the recruitment process of IT Companies of the Noida Region and also evaluate the perception of employees towards it.

Research Objectives:

1. To examine the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic situation on the recruitment process.
2. To evaluate the influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

Research Methodology:

Research Design:

A quantitative method has been used in the study, a questionnaire was prepared and distributed to IT Companies in Noida Region. There are two separate parts to the questionnaire, the first part of the questionnaire represented and focused on the first objective to examine the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic situation on the recruitment process. The second part of the questionnaire focuses on the influences of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

Sampling Design:

For the survey, the IT companies of the Noida Region were considered and its employees filled the survey form. MS-Excel Version 2010 has been used as the statistical analysis tool whereas the descriptive statistics were calculated and used for the interpretation of findings. The selected population of this study is 100 working employees of IT companies.

Data Collection:

Data for this study was collected through a Multi-Factor Questionnaire (MFQ) distributed to employees working in the Human Resource Department in Information Technology companies of the Noida Region. The Responses were taken on the Five Point Likert Scale for data analysis and interpretation. The collected data was analyzed using the T-test Hypothesis (One-Tailed Test).

Hypothesis For The Study:

Statement 1: To examine the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic situation on the recruitment process.

Where H_0 = There is no significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic situation on the recruitment process.

H_1 = There is a significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic situation on the recruitment process.

Statement 2: To evaluate the influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

Where H_0 = There is no significant influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

H_1 = There is a significant influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

Data Analysis & Interpretation:

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Table 1: Distribution of Respondents.

Based on	Respondents	Percentage(%)
Gender	Female	59
	Male	41
Departments	Human Resource	47
	Information Technology	53

Statements for Research Objective 1: To examine the impact of the Covid19 Pandemic situation on the recruitment process.

Table 2: Response to the statement –Technology cannot replace interaction between human beings.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	27
2	Agree	15
3	Neutral	14
4.	Disagree	12
5.	Strongly Disagree	32

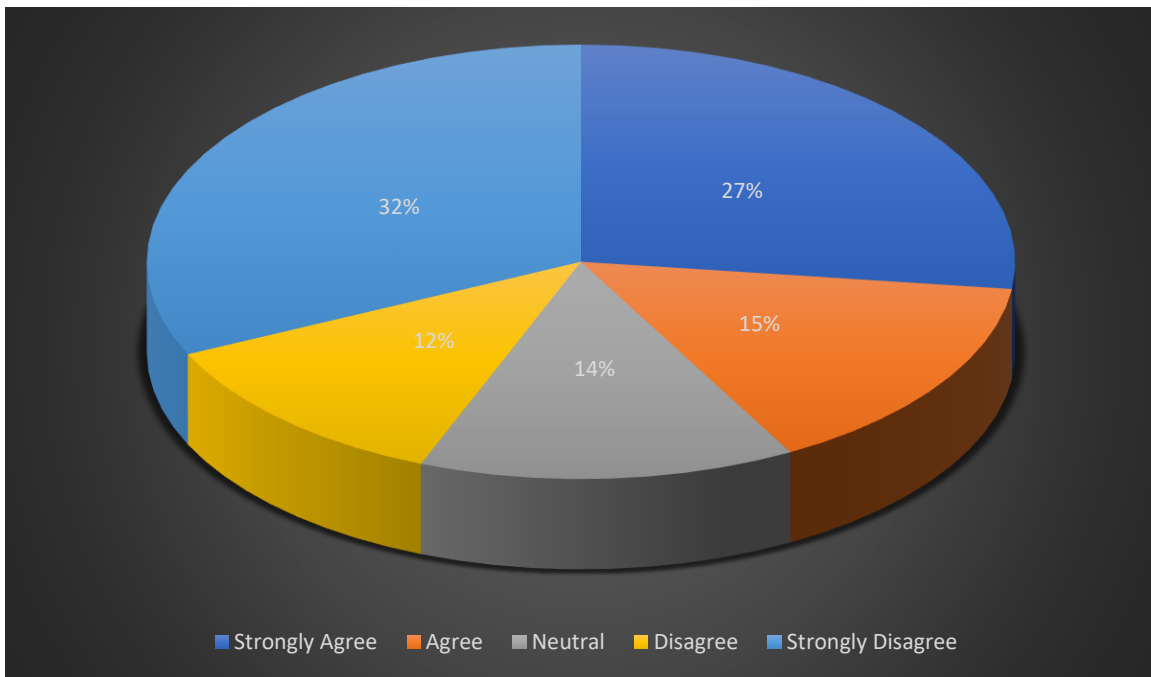


Figure 2: Response to the statement –Technology cannot replace interaction between human beings.

Table 3: Response to the statement –Geographical location of the interviewee will not be a hurdle for taking interviews via e-recruitment.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	23
2	Agree	27
3	Neutral	8
4.	Disagree	22
5.	Strongly Disagree	20

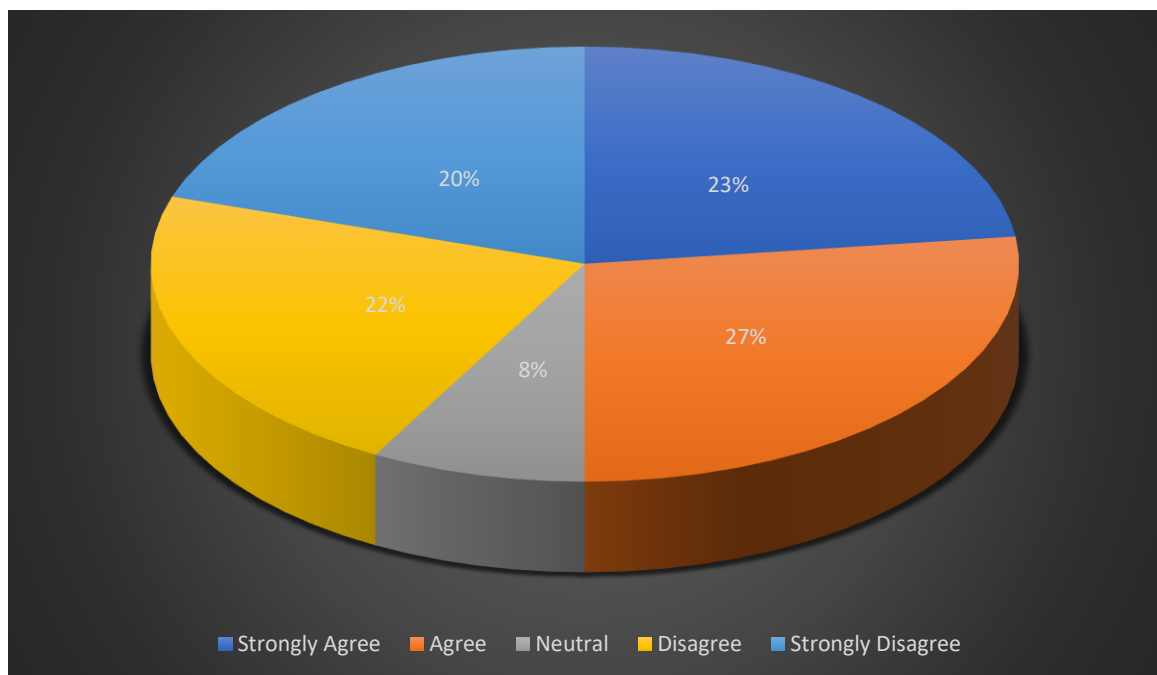


Figure 3: Response to the statement –Geographical location of the interviewee will not be a hurdle for taking interviews via e-recruitment.

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Table 4: Response to the statement – Internet connectivity is a basic issue faced by the interviewee during the e-recruitment procedure.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	31
2	Agree	27
3	Neutral	11
4.	Disagree	13
5.	Strongly Disagree	18

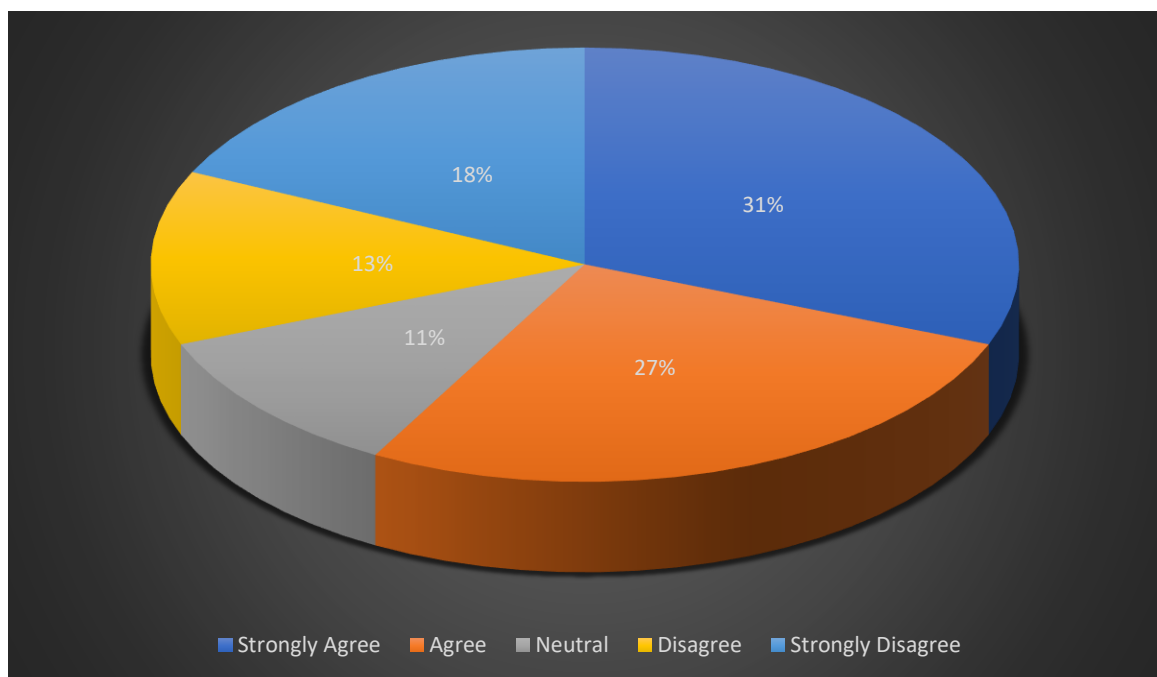


Figure 4: Response to the statement – Internet connectivity is a basic issue faced by the interviewee during the e-recruitment procedure.

Table 5: Response to the statement – With the help of e-recruitment procedures, the workflow of the HR department smoothens.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	21
2	Agree	29
3	Neutral	24
4.	Disagree	16
5.	Strongly Disagree	10

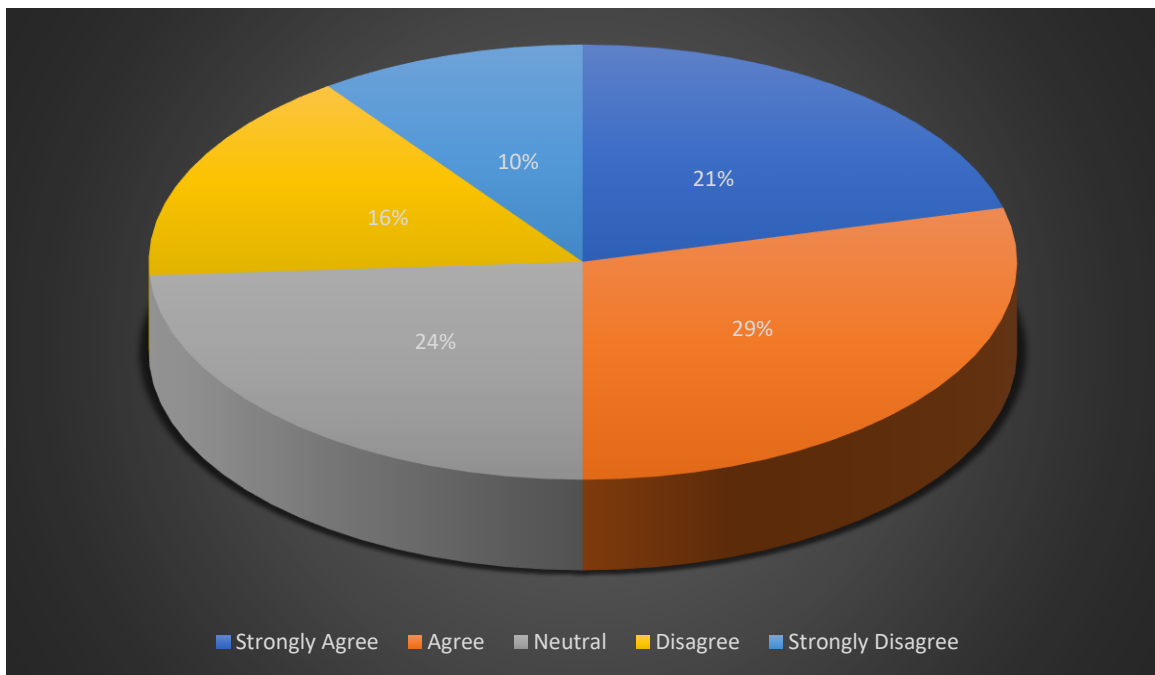


Figure 5: Response to the statement – With the help of e-recruitment procedures, the workflow of the HR department smoothens.

Table 6: Response to the statement – The e-recruitment speeds up time for completion and improves the company's overall talent profile.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	24
2	Agree	16
3	Neutral	22
4.	Disagree	18
5.	Strongly Disagree	20

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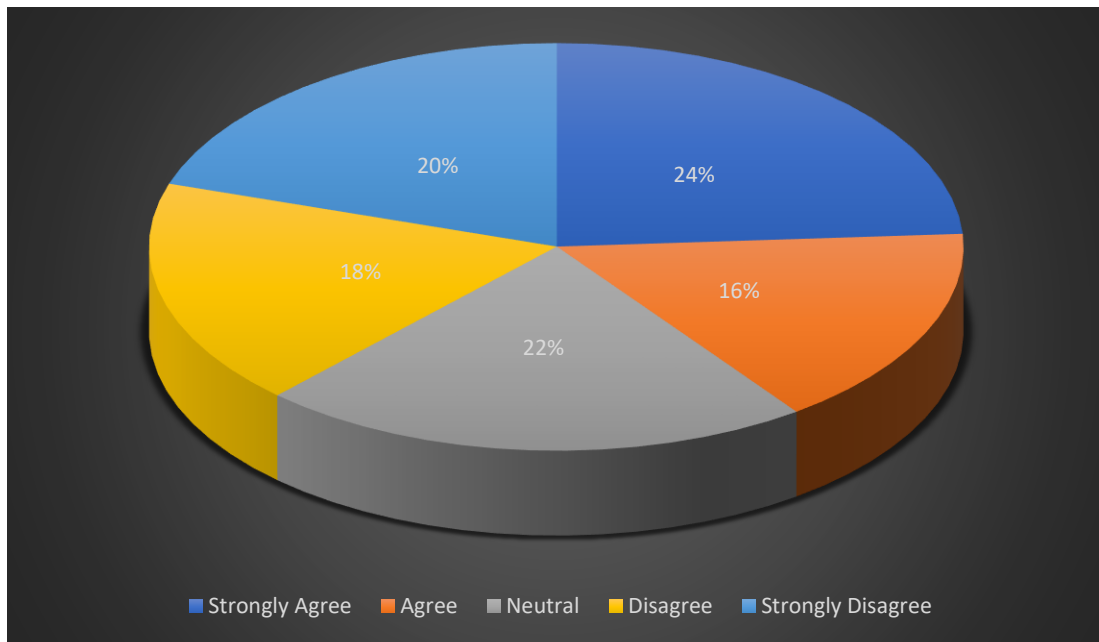


Figure 6: Response to the statement – The e-recruitment speeds up time for completion and improves the company's overall talent profile.

Table 7: Response to the statement – Regular training is provided by my organization for the application of the e-recruitment process.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	23
2	Agree	37
3	Neutral	11
4.	Disagree	15
5.	Strongly Disagree	14

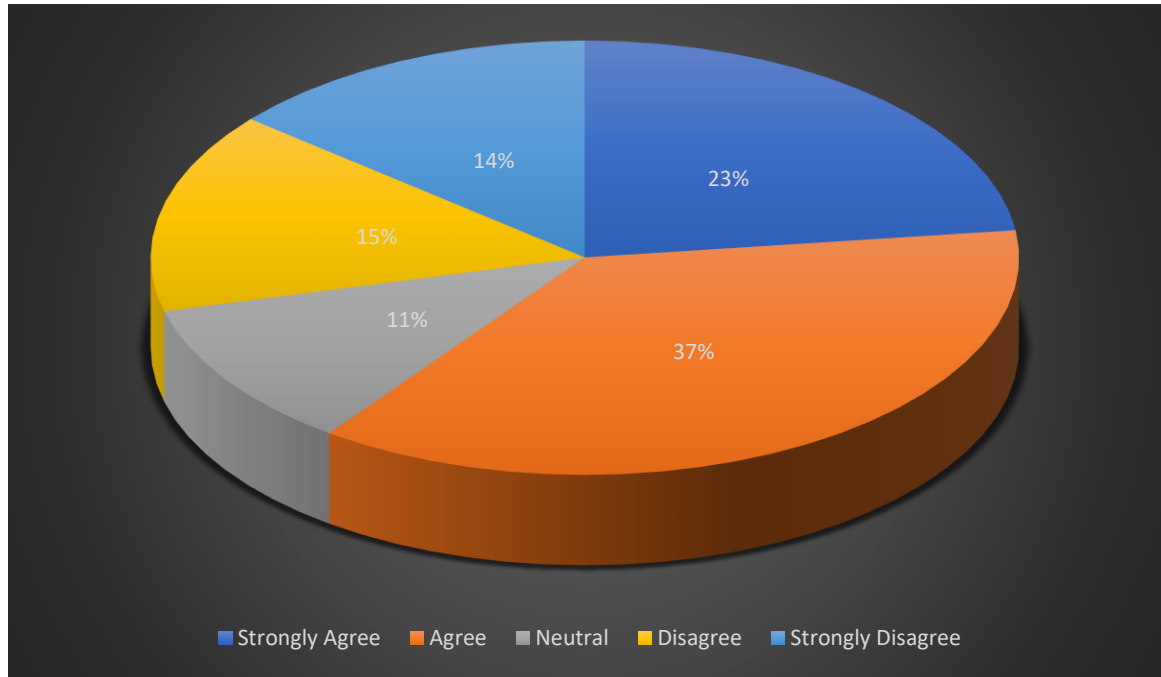


Figure 7: Response to the statement – Regular training is provided by my organization for the application of the e-recruitment process.

Statements For Research Objectives 2: To evaluate the influence of e-recruitment on working employees of IT Companies.

Table 8: Response to the statement – Biasness in decision-making can be avoided by e-recruiting procedures during the recruitment process.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	37
2	Agree	15
3	Neutral	14
4.	Disagree	12
5.	Strongly Disagree	22

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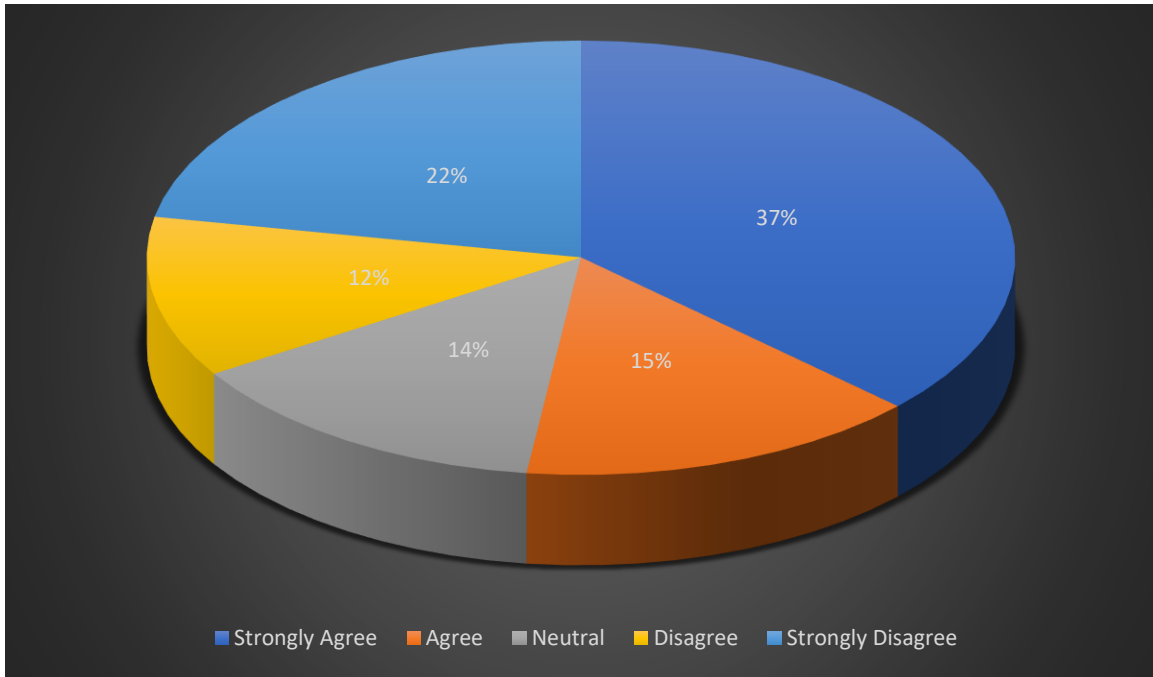


Figure 8: Response to the statement – Biasness in decision-making can be avoided by e-recruiting procedures during the recruitment process.

Table 9: Response to the statement –Check or Tests scenarios that are prone to human errors are avoided with the e-recruitment process.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	31
2	Agree	23
3	Neutral	12
4.	Disagree	18
5.	Strongly Disagree	16

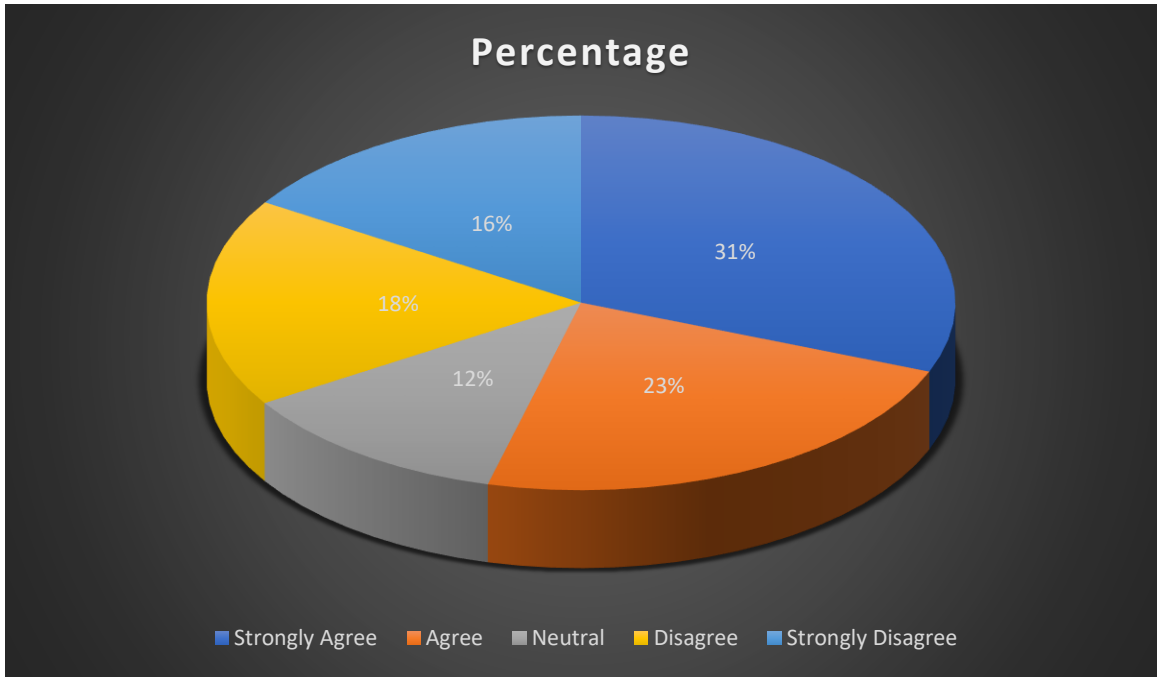


Figure 9: Response to the statement – Check or Tests scenarios that are prone to human errors are avoided with the e-recruitment process.

Table 10: Response to the statement – E-recruitment enables recruiters to enhance their productivity.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	23
2	Agree	27
3	Neutral	2
4.	Disagree	27
5.	Strongly Disagree	21

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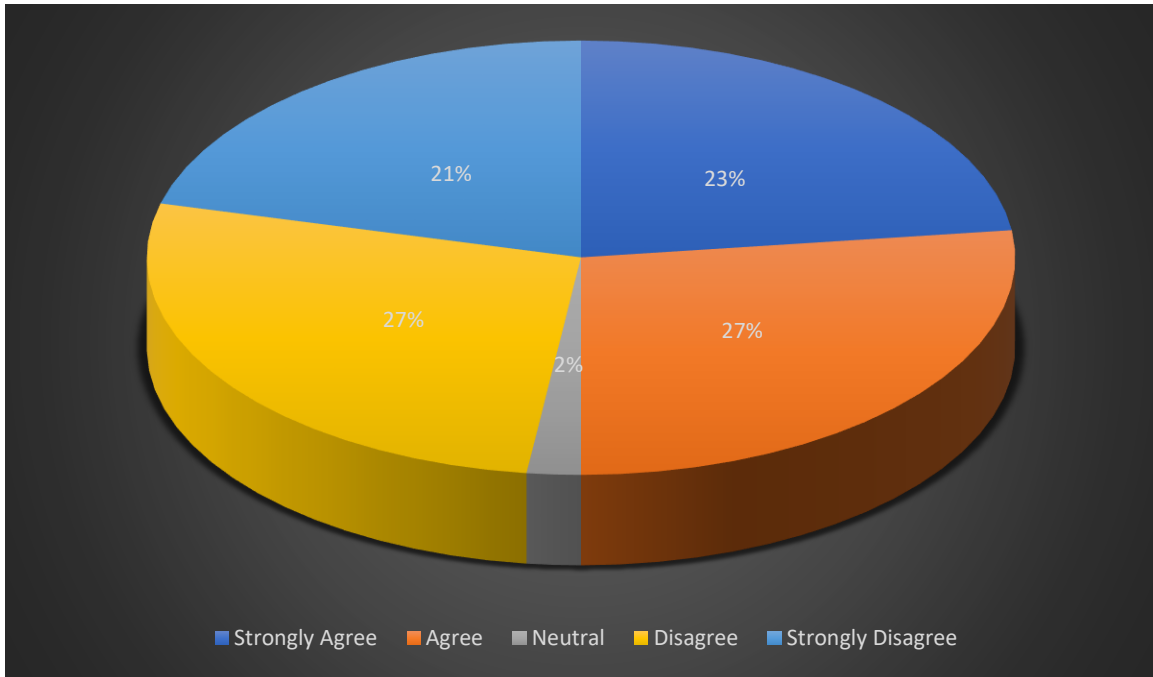


Figure 10: Response to the statement – E-recruitment enables recruiters to enhance their productivity.

Table 11: Response to the statement – The e-recruitment test scenarios help in achieving the speed of results and minimizing human errors.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	17
2	Agree	34
3	Neutral	7
4.	Disagree	17
5.	Strongly Disagree	25

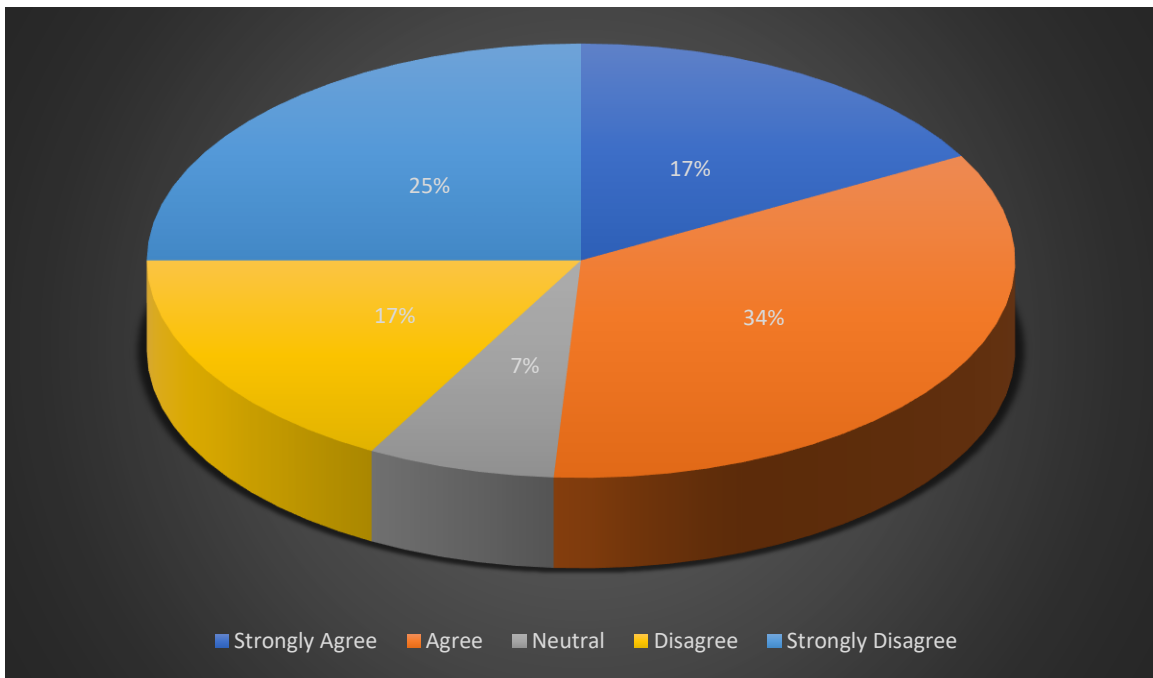


Figure 11: Response to the statement – The e-recruitment test scenarios help in achieving the speed of results and minimizing human errors.

Table 12: Response to the statement – I am satisfied using an e-recruitment procedure of my organization.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	41
2	Agree	11
3	Neutral	5
4.	Disagree	19
5.	Strongly Disagree	24

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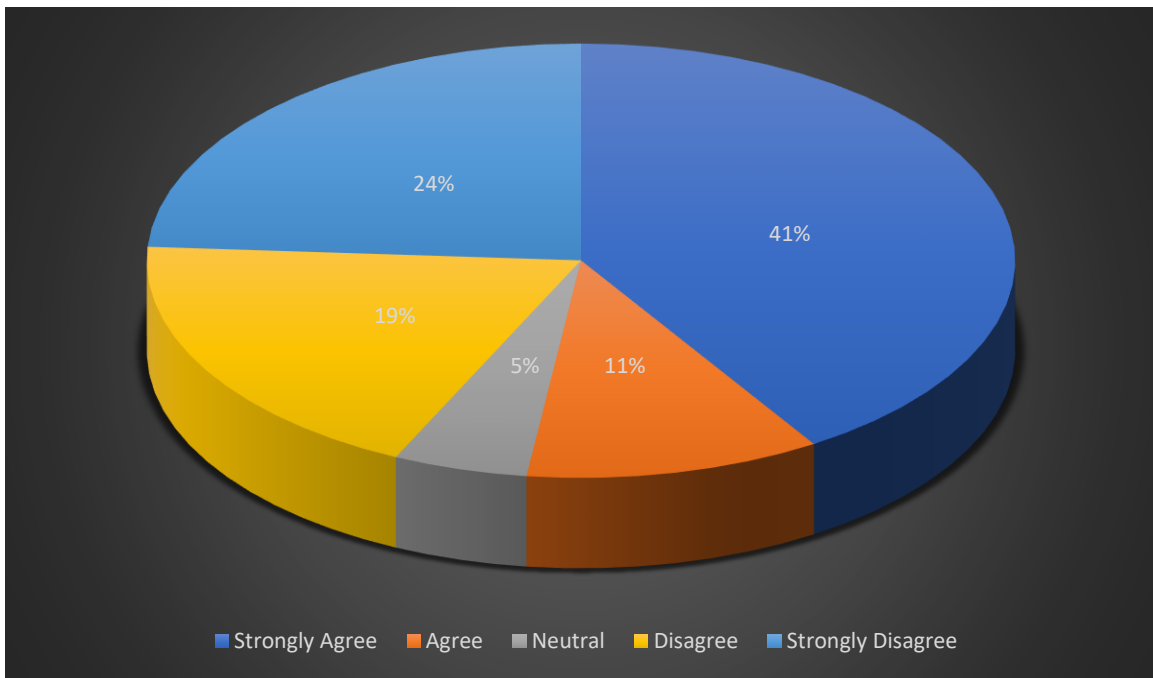


Figure 12: Response to the statement – I am satisfied using an e-recruitment procedure of my organization.

Table 13: Response to the statement – The e-recruitment software using by your organization is User-friendly.

Serial No.	Response	Percentage(%)
1	Strongly Agree	29
2	Agree	32
3	Neutral	5
4.	Disagree	24
5.	Strongly Disagree	10

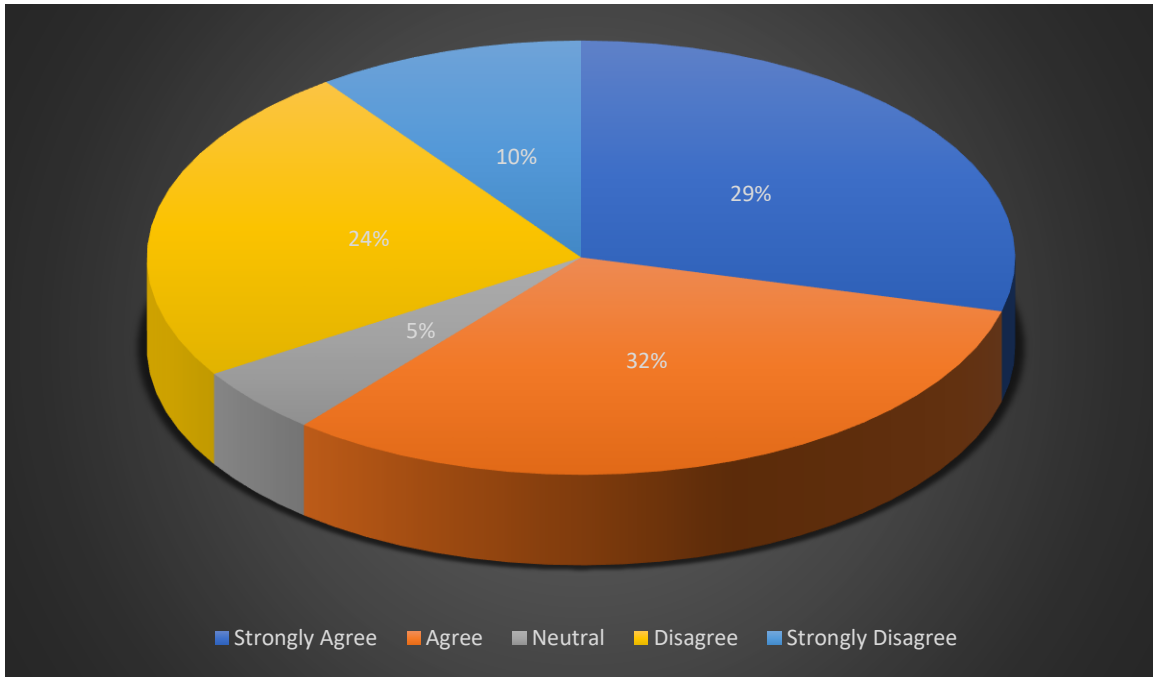


Figure 13: Response to the statement – The e-recruitment software using by your organization is User-friendly.

Table 14: Scaling based on the Five Point Likert Scale to examine the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic situation on the recruitment process.

S No.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Average
1	27	15	14	12	32	293
2	23	27	8	22	20	311
3	31	27	11	13	18	340
4	21	29	24	16	10	335
5	24	16	22	18	20	306
6	23	37	11	15	14	340
Sum of Average						1925
Total Average						320.83

T-test Hypothesis at 5% Level of Significance

Mean	320.8333333
SD	20.13371964
Count	6

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Standard Error	8.219556625
Degree of freedom	5
Hypothesis Mean Value	60
T-Statistic at 5% Level of Significance (One-tailed Test)	31.73326071

Table 15: Scaling based on the Five Point Likert Scale to evaluate the influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

S No.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Average
1	185	60	42	24	22	333
2	155	92	36	36	16	335
3	115	108	6	54	21	304
4	85	136	21	34	25	301
5	205	44	15	38	24	326
6	145	128	15	48	10	346
Sum of Average						1945
Total Average						324.16

T-test Hypothesis at 5% Level of Significance

Mean	324.1666667
SD	17.99351735
Count	6
Standard Error	7.345822698
Degree of freedom	5
Hypothesis Mean Value	60
T-Statistic at 5% Level of Significance (One-tailed Test)	35.96148145

Data Interpretation:

Hence,

For Statement1:The impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic situation on the recruitment process. T-Calculated Value > T-Tabulated value i.e, **31.7 > 2.015**.

H₀ = Null Hypothesis is Rejected. There is no significant impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic situation on the recruitment process.

H₁= Hypothesis is Accepted. There is a significant impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic situation on the recruitment process.

For Statement 2: The influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

T-Calculated Value > T-Tabulated value i.e, **35.9>2.015**.

H₀= Null Hypothesis is Rejected. There is no significant influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

H₁= Hypothesis is Accepted. There is a significant influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

Results:

The results revealed that there is a significant impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic situation on the recruitment process. There is a significant influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees.

Findings&Conclusion:

The researchers find that there is a significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic situation on the recruitment process which affects the traditional recruitment process with the e-recruitment process. The study presented that e-recruitment has a significant influence on IT company employees. E-recruitment benefits the organizations in various factors like time-saving, minimize hiring costs, effective recruitment process, and flexibility to opt. The researchers collected insights from the participants regarding e-recruitment's impact on the recruitment process. The two major findings of the research are that there is a significant impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic situation on the recruitment process and the positive influence of e-recruitment on IT company employees. The majority of the population agrees that technology cannot replace interaction between human beings. It is stated by the respondents that the biggest advantage of e-recruitment is that geographical location never becomes a hurdle for interviews. The majority of the population agrees that internet connectivity is a basic issue faced by the interviewee during the e-recruitment procedure. The majority of the population says that e-recruitment speeds up time for competing in the overall recruitment process. It is stated that there is a need for training for the employee for using e-recruitment portals. Half the employee agrees that with the help of e-recruitment the workflow of the HR department smoothens. The respondents stated that e-recruitment is a very useful tool in finding job opportunities and is flexible to use in the job process in the junior/entry-level hiring process. It will perform the work based on coding so it will deliver as per the instruction, in a fast, reliable, and, accurate impartial manner.

Limitation & Future Aspects of the Study:

The authors have added fresh information to the study. This will add to the existing body of knowledge. The study includes some new points that will help e-recruitment practitioners uncover more functionalities into recruitment apps and identify gaps in current e-recruitment applications. The survey was limited to IT firms situated in Noida. The proposed research can be carried out in various locations in India, especially where hi-tech firms are located, such as Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Pune, and so on. Future research can be done to compare the e-recruitment procedure of different industries.

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