

The Impact of Self-Care on Job Satisfaction

Principal Name: Dominique Franklin **School Name**: Skiles Test Elementary

Principal's Email Contact: dominiquefranklin@msdlt.k12.in.us

Background Leading to My Inquiry (Slide 2)

Since becoming a principal in October of 2021, I found myself being totally devoted to my job as principal. There was so much to do stepping into the role mid-year: teacher vacancies to fill, new processes to learn, and new relationships to build. I did not take any time off and carried over the maximum number of vacation days into the next school year. Being a mom of 4-year-old twins, wife, and principal, I rarely made time for myself. I took care of everyone else's needs, and forgot about my own needs because that's what good leaders do, right? No, wrong! Not taking care of my personal needs has taken its toll on my overall health (weight gain, high blood pressure), mood, (short-tempered and highly critical) and job satisfaction.

The Purpose of My Inquiry (Slide 3)

Therefore, the purpose of my action inquiry was to evaluate the impact of self-care on job satisfaction to feed the Phase needs of "Have I taken care of me?" and "Do I experience being recognized for it?"

My Wondering (Slide 4)

With this purpose, I wondered if I intentionally took care of me (my health- weight loss, exercise, self-care, daily devotion), how would my job satisfaction be impacted as measured through my personal, professional and relational check-ins?

My Actions (Slides 5-9)

For 6 weeks, (January 16-March 1), I was intentional in completing self-care tasks while collecting data through check-ins and daily logs.

I began my action research with the following intentional self-care tasks in mind with the idea that exercise and healthy eating, could lead to a healthier and happier me (lower blood pressure, weight loss). In addition, because of the higher demands of my job, I had gotten away from attending church and daily devotion, so I felt that I needed to include daily devotion to improve my spiritual health.

Self-care Tasks:

- Begin the day with Daily Devotion using the Bible App on my phone
- Make healthier food choices (low carb/sugar)
- Engage in self- care activity once a week (lashes, nails, hot bath, hair, etc.)
- Engage in 30 minutes of exercise twice a week (walking, stretching, yoga, etc.)
- Drink 6-8 glasses of water per day

Every day I completed a daily log (google form) that answered the following questions:

- 1. Did I read my daily devotion?
- 2. How healthy were my choices today?
- 3. Water Intake Goal?
- 4. Did I engage in 30 minutes of movement activity?

However, after 14 days, I realized that I could not commit or just did not want to commit to the exercise as I had only engaged in the movement activity 3 out of 14 days. I was feeling stressed out about trying to fit in exercise. Therefore, I added a 5th question:

5. Did I do something for me or something that I enjoy?

In addition to my daily logs, I completed a self-assessment survey using a google form.

- 1. What's my energy level right now?
- 2. Have I taken care of me?
- 3. Have I asked for what I want?
- 4. How's my mood?
- 5. How's my stress level?
- 6. Rate my job satisfaction:
- 7. Rate my motivation level:
- 8. Comments

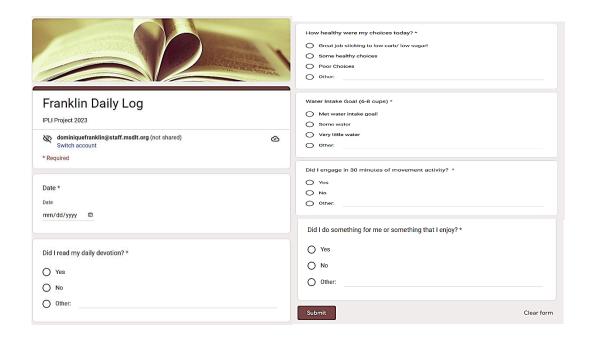
I also received feedback via a survey (google form) from my spouse and two co-workers. I sent calendar invites to my spouse, co-workers and myself with the survey links as a reminder to complete the surveys.

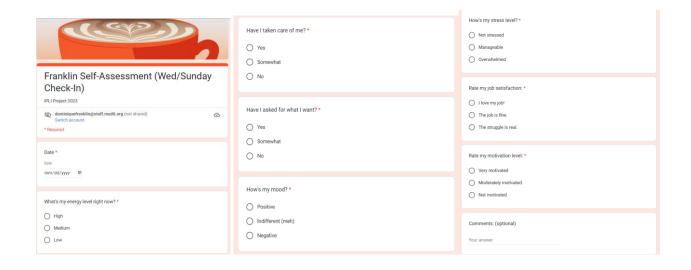
I analyzed data to look for any changes in attitude towards job satisfaction and mood when self-care activities were intentional.

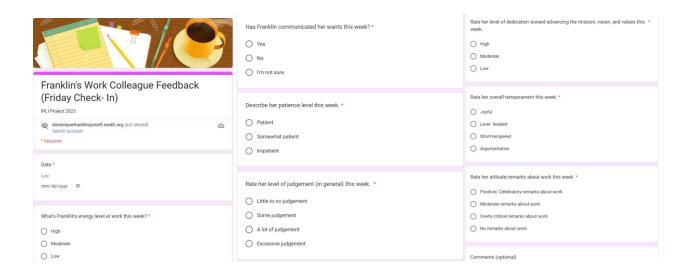
Data Collection (Slide 10-14)

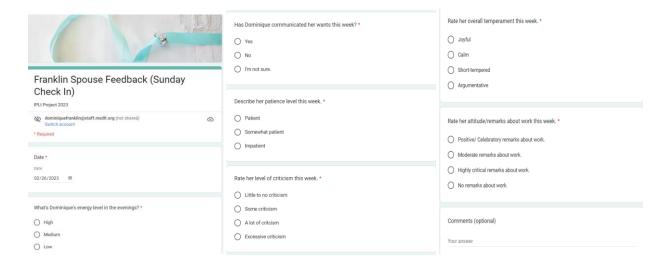
I used Google forms to collect data:

- Daily log- check list
- Complete a biweekly self-assessment (Wednesdays and Fridays)
- Feedback from spouse (weekly check- in form- Sunday)
- Feedback from work colleague (weekly check-in form- Friday)



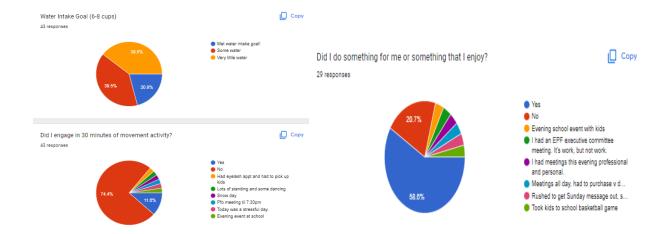




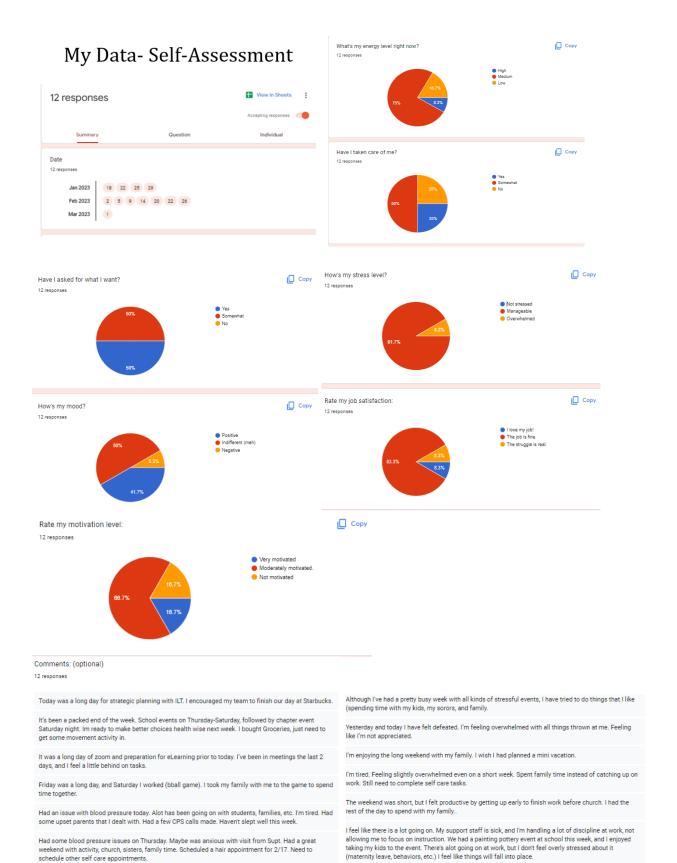


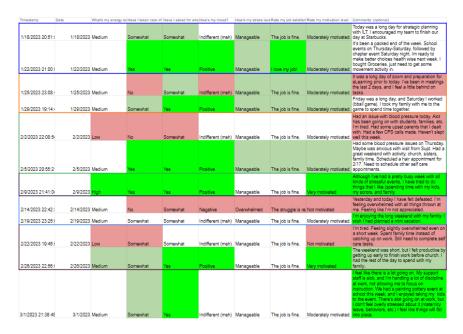
My Data (Slides 15-39)

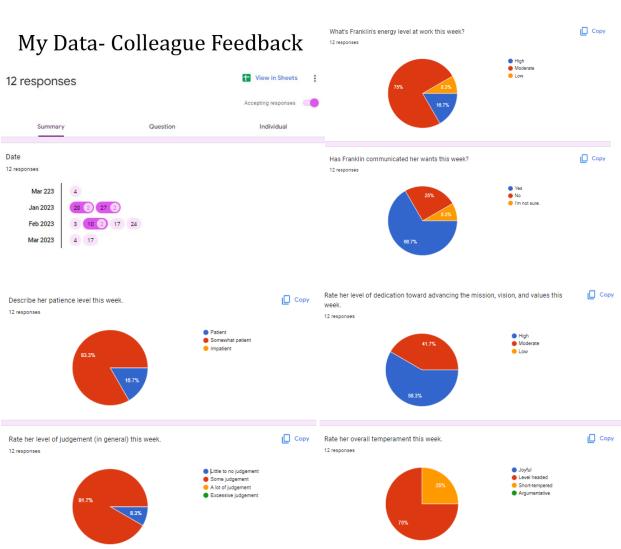


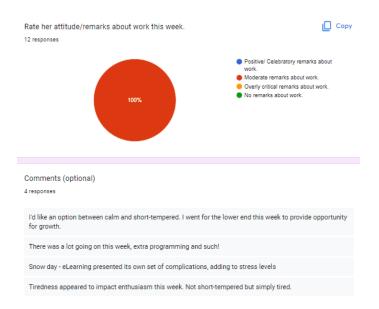


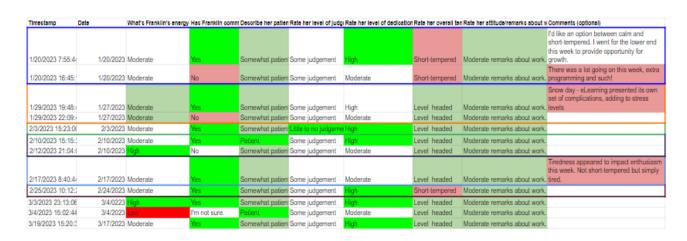


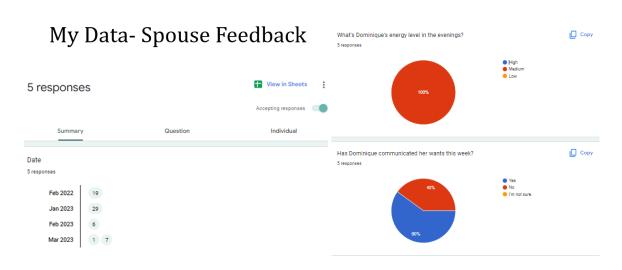














Timestamp	Date	What's Dominique's energy lev	Has Dominique comm	Describe her patieno	Rate her level of crit	Rate her overall tem	Rate her attitude/remarks about work this	Comments (optional)
1/29/2023 23:03:11	1/29/2023	Medium	Yes	Somewhat patient	Some criticism	Short-tempered	Moderate remarks about work.	
2/6/2023 15:50:20	2/8/2023	Medium	No	Somewhat patient	Some criticism	Calm	Moderate remarks about work.	
2/20/2023 23:51:33	2/19/2022	Medium	Yes	Somewhat patient	Little to no criticism	Calm	Moderate remarks about work.	
3/1/2023 15:35:02	3/1/2023	Medium	No	Somewhat patient	Some criticism	Calm	Moderate remarks about work.	
3/7/2023 13:25:44	3/7/2023	Medium	Yes	Somewhat patient	Little to no criticism	Calm	Moderate remarks about work.	

My Discoveries (Slides 40-43)

- I need to focus on 1 or 2 self-care tasks.
- I can commit to reading the Daily Devotion. (93%)
- Feeding my Phase need of self-care helps keep my temperament calm and levelheaded and patient.
- I need to focus on 1 or 2 self-care tasks.
 - Committing to one or two self-care tasks is much more doable when working on creating a habit.
 - I found myself stressing and feeling defeated during the first two weeks of the project because I could no commit to the healthy eating and exercise.
 - I was able to commit to Daily Devotion (93%) and Doing something I enjoy (62%).
- I can commit to reading the Daily Devotion. (93%)
 - Taking out time to pray/reflect on the Word gives me a sense of calm despite the chaos around.
 - This has also motivated/inspired me to start attending church again.
 - The benefits are me feeling grounded, making decisions with more clarity, calmness, and a positive outlook.
 - "I feel like there is a lot going on. My support staff is sick, and I'm

handling a lot of discipline at work, not allowing me to focus on instruction. We had a painting pottery event at school this week, and I enjoyed taking my kids to the event. There's a lot going on at work, but I don't feel overly stressed about it (maternity leave, behaviors, etc.) I feel like things will fall into place."

- Feeding my Phase need of self-care helps keep my temperament calm/level-headed and patient to somewhat patient.
 - As evident in my data from colleagues and spouse, my temperament was calm and level-headed more frequently when I asked for what I want and focused on doing things for that I enjoyed.
 - 80% calm and 100% somewhat patient (spouse feedback)
 - 75% level-headed and 17% patient/83% somewhat patient (colleague feedback.

Where I Am Heading Next (Slides 44-48)

- I will continue to read the Daily Devotion and daily reflection as the benefits help to keep me grounded, make decisions with more clarity, calmness, and a positive outlook.
- I will continue to commit to doing something for me or something I enjoy.
 - I've been intentional about making sure to do something that I enjoy doing (self pampering, watching a movie/series, dining out, family time).
 - Benefits are me being more patient, level-headed, excited about work, feeling more energy, and happier.
- I will work on communicating my wants with the intentions of increasing my patience and level of criticism.
 - 60% (spouse) and 66.7% (colleagues)
- Since intentional self-care has impacted my overall mood and patience, I will share the importance of self-care practice with teachers as they, too, could benefit.

Bibliography (Slide 49)

2022 Kahler Communications, Inc. Process Communication Model®

Reiger, N. (2020). Seeing people through: Unleash your leadership potential with the process communication model. Oakland, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc.