India's Cost Benchmarking Report for BPO Companies

Description: Based on a detailed primary study of 11 companies in the BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) and KPO (Knowledge Process Outsourcing) domain, this report provides detailed comparative analysis of cost structures. Over 1,000 financial and operating metrics have been compiled, analysed and compared, separately for captives and vendor companies.

Per FTE cost is comparatively higher for captives, across all segments (that is, non-voice BPO, voice BPO and KPO). Amongst captives, the average annual per FTE cost in 2008-09 for non-voice and voice BPO and KPO segments respectively were INR 731.5 million, INR 823.9 million and INR 985.7 million. The corresponding figures for third party service providers were INR 632.5 million, INR 291.5 million and INR 389.9 million.

A number of companies which increased their headcount achieved a decline in indirect costs per FTE, implying a tight control on overheads and sharing of infrastructure.

In general the largest cost component is salary (ranging from 46% to 87%). The second highest component for some companies is related to facilities (up to 17%) and for some others it is related to travel (up to 19%).

A few companies, even those that do not work in night shifts provide home-office local transportation facilities. Cost optimisation is often obtained by charging employees for partial recovery of transport costs, and also with route optimisation and type of vehicles used.

While it might not be feasible to reduce dependence on diesel generator sets, the findings show that companies with tight control of electricity usage through regular monitoring have been successful in reducing costs.

There is significant scope for improvement in the recruitment efficiencies of companies. The most efficient company is almost six times more efficient than the least efficient company.

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