

# Evolution of the Concept and Models of Work Exhaustion (Burnout): The Research in Mexico

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## Abstract

This is a review paper which describes "Burnout", its concept evolution, Burnout models, which is divided into two types: comprehensive models and process models, identification of varying quantification instruments and application area, it is also analysed, described, and discussed the models and instruments weaknesses. Finally is described the research made in Mexico.

The main finding of the paper is that burnout is contingent with the environment and a phenomenon is important and the empirical evidence is too strong for to consider as occupational disease in the design of public policies to face the problem.

**Keywords:** Burnout, models, instruments, institutions of higher education, labor harassment

## 1. Introduction

In developed countries, the increasing incidences of unemployment levels are unprecedented in the modern age. According to Eurostat "unemployment in both the European Union (EU) and the euro area was placed at a record of 10.7%" (cited in Notimex, 2013). In countries like Mexico, labor precariousness is manifested in massive rates of underemployment and informal employment. "For every formal employment that was generated in the past five years, three have been created in the informal sector. It is estimated that 77 of every 100 Mexicans were left without access to formal labor source" (Martínez, 2012).

This double pressure of threatens of unemployment, on the one hand, and precarious jobs with low wages and without social protection, has led to tremendous pressure on employees and workers who are fortunate to have a formal job.

Speaking of countries with different and particular labor realities, it makes sense to analyze the complexity and diversity in the organizations that subsist in these countries as well as their culture, norms, institutions, values, among many other things as a demonstration of multiculturalism and work conditions; according to the (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2013) there are wide differences between countries in time devoted to work (paid and unpaid). In the study report "Society at a Glance 2013", among OECD countries, Mexicans are those who spend more time at work (paid and unpaid). On average, "...Mexicans work almost 10 hours a day (in formal jobs) in comparison with other countries that hold an average of just over 8 hours..." (OECD, 2013, p. 8). Additionally according to this study, after Mexico follows Japan, Portugal and Canada as the countries that work more hours per year. Of which, Portugal and Mexico have the lowest rates of paid work. This means that even when they spend many hours labor only half of the time is paid.

Goicoechea says (2004, p. 150) that "the disproportionate levels of job dedication affect the individual's daily behavior and affect their psychological balance, causing changes in health and work performance", psychosocial risks are seriously damaging individuals and organizations, affecting the health of the workers, breaking the internal cohesion of organizations, increasing mistrust and breaking the teamwork, causing phenomena such as violence, occupational stress, workplace harassment, sexual harassment and the so called "Burnout", subject of this article. According to Marrau (2004, p. 2) "from a psychosocial perspective, this syndrome is conceptualized as a process that involves cognitive-aptitude variables (low personal accomplishment at work), emotional variables (emotional exhaustion) and attitudinal variables (depersonalization)".

The professions related to healthcare, education and public administration are often the ones with the highest impact reflected in the statistics because they are in touch with people, with problems and they are usually the ones in charge of solving them. Frustration occurs when they realize that their work is not productive and feel that their job is barren. According to data between 20% and 30% of doctors, teachers and local police suffer from these symptoms (Boyle, et al., 1991). Other authors as (Ferrer, 2004; Vallejo, 2004) based on their research agree that the phenomenon is recurrent in workers that provide care for people (health, education, social workers, public administration, police, social services, advocacy, among others) due to working conditions that have strong social demands.

Many studies have shown that working conditions can cause adverse consequences in health and physical and psychological wellbeing of employees (Schaufeli & Van Dierendonck, 1993; Cumming & Cooper, 1998; Schaufeli & Enzmann, 1998). These consequences have been identified as "burnout", a kind of stress related to welfare professions or services. Although in its first conceptualization the syndrome had three dimensions: low personal accomplishment, high emotional exhaustion and high depersonalization, in later studies it has been considered that the core of the phenomenon lies in the first two. Moreover, in recent decades theoretical models have been developed that seek to highlight certain patterns of causal relationships, thus trying to integrate the causing variables of "work-stress" with their results. Among all of them, the model developed by (Janssen, et al., 1999) specifies the predictive variables and its consequences while formulating a pattern of precise relationships between each other. This model is corroborated in subsequent studies through multimuestral analysis (Houkes, et al., 2001). The research on the phenomenon has allowed researchers to propose various studies and models. The bibliographical review allowed to locate 174 models/instruments, among which, using citation as filter and confirming that the instrument was validated, entail to bring together those most significant.

This article is organized as follows: Initially it describes the evolution of the concept of "Burnout" through time, Burnout models, which are divided into two types models: Comprehensive models and process models; Identification of the variables of the models and area of application, analysis and description of the models, critique of the models and description of the kind of research carried out in the Higher Educations Institutions of Mexico.

## **2. Literature Review: Evolution of the "Burnout" Concept**

The bibliographical review identified 1974 as the year in which begins the study of this phenomenon and Herbert Freudenberger as the author of the beginning of these studies, however (Corcoran, 1985) states that Freudenberger illustrated "burnout" in 1971. Other authors such as Walker (1986, p. 36) accepted the study of the phenomenon by Freudenberger but established "that Graham Greene had already used it 1960 to describe a state of existential emptiness felt when a person had an incurable disease". On the other hand, (Starrin, et al., 1990) established the use of the term to describe the chronic effects of drug abuse. The authors (Freudenberger, 1974; Garcés, 1994; Mingote, 1998; Ramos, 1999; Buendía & Ramos, 2001; Ponce, et al., 2005; Martínez, 2010) considered that people with Burnout develop hostile attitudes and behaviors, also intolerance and aggressiveness.

Years later, in 1977 Christina Maslach, recognized as an expert, presented the concept to the American Psychological Association (APA). Maslach (cited in Alvarez & Fernandez, 1991, p. 257) used this term to refer to a "situation increasingly common among human service workers that, after months or years of dedication, end up burning metaphorically". On the other hand Salanova & Schaufeli (2004, p. 75) argue that the "Burnout" refers to "a state of exhaustion in which high expectations, vitality and energy of the worker are ending, similar to a fire that suffocates, a candle been extinguished, a battery that runs out". Continuing the metaphor, Maslach (2009, p. 37) argues that "the fire of the initial enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to success has been "burned" (Burned out), leaving behind smoking coals of exhaustion, cynicism and inefficacy" (dimensions that give identity).

Gil-Monte says (2003a, p.182) that "when a worker is burned usually means that he is not satisfied in his work", this situation affects relationships with co-workers and service users and hostile behaviors emerge as well as physical and mental exhaustion, detachment with colleagues and service users, behaviors which, if not treated, may become chronic, according to (Ferrer, 2004, p. 99) "leading to increased consumption of alcohol, drugs, coffee, tea, snuff, stimulants and tranquilizers with wide repercussions on health". Ponce, et al., (2005, p. 89) considers that "two-thirds of occupational diseases have their origin or are related to this phenomenon, in addition to a decrease in the quality and promote the appearance of feelings of professional dissatisfaction". In recent years Maslach (2009, p. 37) reports that "burnout has become a popular way of describing the personal agony of work stress". Table 1 summarizes the conceptual evolution that the "Burnout" has had and the different definitions that different authors have given.

Table 1. Authors and Burnout syndrome definitions

Author	Year	Definition
<b>Freudenberger</b>	1974	A set of medical-biological and psychosocial nonspecific symptoms, that develop in the work activity as a result of excessive demand of energy.
<b>Maslach &amp; Pines</b>	1977	It is the <i>laboral exhaustion</i> of the people who work in different sectors of human services, always in direct contact with users, especially health personnel and teachers. The syndrome would be the extreme response to chronic stress originated in the labor context and would impact on an individual but also affect organizational and social aspects.
<b>Edelwich &amp; Brodsky</b>	1980	A process of disillusionment or disenchantment by labor activity, considering that the development of enthusiasm, energy and unrealistic expectations can be the first stage to wear out.
<b>Maslach &amp; Jackson</b>	1981	A behavioral manifestation of stress at work understood as a tridimensional syndrome characterized by emotional exhaustion (EC), depersonalization (DP) in dealing with users and customers and difficulty for achievement / fulfillment (RP).
<b>Perlman &amp; Hartman</b>	1982	A response to chronic emotional stress with three components: emotional and/or physical exhaustion, low labor productivity and an excess of depersonalization.
<b>Pines &amp; Kafry</b>	1982	A chronic state of emotional exhaustion as a result of excessive involvement with people over long periods of time.
<b>Burke</b>	1987	An adaptation process of laboral stress, characterized by professional disorientation, wear, guilt feelings about lack of professional success, coldness or emotional detachment and isolation.
<b>Maslach</b>	1993	A psychological syndrome of emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and reduced personal accomplishment that can occur in normal individuals who work with people in some way.
<b>Schaufeli &amp; Enzmann</b>	1998	Persistent mental state, negative and work-related, in 'normal' individuals that are primarily characterized by exhaustion, which is accompanied by discomfort, reduced feelings of competence and motivation and the development of dysfunctional attitudes at work.
<b>Gil-Monte &amp; Peiró</b>	1999	A chronic work stress response that leads to the experience of being emotionally drained the development of negative attitudes and feelings towards workmates (depersonalization attitudes) and the appearance of devaluation processes of its own professional role.
<b>Farber</b>	2000	A reflection of the majority of current work environments, since job competition demands trying to produce more and better results in less time and with minimum resources.
<b>Maslach, Schaufeli &amp; Leiter</b>	2001	A prolonged response to chronic stressors on a personal and relational level with work, determined from the known dimensions as exhaustion, depersonalization, cynicism, and professional inefficacy.
<b>Schaufeli &amp; Buunk</b>	2003	It is the result of the discrepancy between expectations and individual ideals and, on the other hand, the harsh reality of daily professional life.
<b>Gil-Monte</b>	2003	A chronic work stress response characterized by the tendency of professionals to negatively evaluate their ability to perform the job and to relate with people they serve, for the feeling of being emotionally exhausted, by the development of negative feelings, cynical behaviors and attitudes towards work recipients which are seen in a dehumanized way due to affective hardening of the professional.

Source: Based on information from the authors.

As noted, the concept has evolved from analyzing medical-biological and psychosocial nonspecific symptoms (Freudenberger, 1974), consider it as a process of disillusionment or disenchantment with work activity (Edelwich & Brodsky, 1980) until exhaustion, which is accompanied by discomfort, a feeling of reduced competition and motivation and the development of dysfunctional attitudes at work (Schaufeli & Enzmann, 1998) to hold negative feelings towards colleagues and the appearance of devaluation processes for its own professional role (Gil-Monte & Peiro, 1999b).

From the definitions above we wish to highlight four main ideas: 1) Physical and psychological exhaustion 2) A disappointment and disillusionment process 3) Dysfunction for work and 4) Appearance of feelings of devaluation of the professional role. Therefore, burnout is an occupational disease whose symptoms are: physical and emotional exhaustion, disappointment and disillusionment, devaluation of the professional role and dysfunction in the workplace.

According to Maslach (2009, p. 37) "in the last 25 years a lot of researches have established that this phenomenon is not purely fictional, it also serves as an indicator of major alterations in the relationship of people with their jobs". When within the same organization different workers with burnout are included, hostile behaviors are exacerbated and distant conducts increase between peers and service users, therefore the consequences go beyond the individual level or local area where the work is developed and acquire a negative multiplier effect, for example: when there is an organization with a large number of workers (burned team) with burnout, there is an affectation to society as a unit, causing poor attention and poor service to service users, especially in societies with a significant number of occupationally worn workers; in the same sense, the authors, Olabarría, & Mansilla (2007, p. 8) explain that "burned equipment's generate high costs and management problems to the institution because they have a high staff turnover, a strong absenteeism and sick leaves".

When there is "Burnout" in an organization it affects culture, organizational climate and its formal structure, causing changes in the behavior of workers and work teams. The effects and negative consequences on the organization can be seen in various countries in existing economic estimates, even on a national rate. For example, the American Institute of Stress calculates that workplace stress costs to the U.S. industry about 300,000 million dollars a year in absenteeism, health costs and programs to help workers manage stress, according to (Levi, 2003). A study made by the National Institute of Health and Safety at Work mentions that job stress is considered by the European Union as the second most common health problem and its annual cost has come to reach 20,000 million euros (Europa Press, 2007). It is important to mention that such spending can increase over time if work stress becomes chronic and leads to burnout, all of this, if organizations do not establish strategies for prevention, intervention and/or confrontation for resolution.

Goicoechea (2004, pp. 151-152) sees the emergence of Burnout does not occur spontaneously, "it is rather a cyclical process that can be repeated several times over time, so that a person can experience the phenomenon at different periods of their life and in the same or in a different job". Alvarez & Fernandez (1991) had reached similar conclusions in their research indicating that its apparition emerges gradually, hidden even, with a progressive increase in severity. In a first phase Manzano (2001, p. 148) points out that "many workers when starting their careers are full of enthusiasm and eager to give everything but the passage of time eventually leads to cynicism, frustration and emotional exhaustion". While, for Marrau (2009, p. 170) "the first evidence of burnout includes fatigue, depression, sleep disorders and appetite changes"; (Marrau 2009, p. 171) "The second phase is dissatisfaction, the loss of happiness and pleasure on what is being done". In a third phase toxic habits are acquired (alcohol, cigarettes, coffee) and if there is no a solution, usually arise feelings of abandonment, which ultimately result in the disturbance of the closest social relationship, that is marriage and family. As noted, the effects are severe, therefore the importance of quantification.

### **3. Models of Burnout**

Is worth mentioning that there are several ways to classify the models of quantification of the phenomenon. From the psychoanalytic theory, it can be indicate that the main explanatory models of burnout are found in social psychology, Napione (2008) being these: Ecological model of human development, Decomensation model of assessment-task-demand, Sociological model, Oppression-demographic model, Social competency model. Other authors categorized explanatory models of this syndrome as comprehensive models and process models (Merodio, 2003; El Sahili & Ali, 2010; El Sahili & Ali, 2011). The following table number 2 sets the most quoted development models in literature and the authors who have postulate or adopted them on their studies and researches.

Table 2. Burnout development models

COMPREHENSIVE MODELS		
Models	Representatives	Description
<b>Models developed from the cognitive social theory of "the self"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chernis's model (1993)</li> <li>The model of self-control by Thompson, Page &amp; Cooper (1993)</li> </ul>	It is inspired by the works of Albert Bandura, analyzes the psychological mechanisms involved in the determination of the action as the role of self-referential thought in human functioning.
<b>Models developed from the theories of social exchange.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buunk &amp; Schaufeli (1993)</li> <li>Hobfoll &amp; Freddy (1993)</li> </ul>	They consider the theoretical principles of equity theory.
<b>Models developed from organizational theory.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The model of Golembiewski, Munzenrider &amp; Carter (1983)</li> <li>The model of Cox, Kuk &amp; Leiter (1993)</li> <li>Winnubst model (1993)</li> </ul>	They have in common an emphasis on contextual stressors of the organization and of the strategies for coping with the experience of getting burned by work. All of them consider Burnout as a response to job stress.
PROCESS MODELS		
Models	Representatives	Description
<b>Three-dimensional models of the MBI-HSS.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maslach (1982)</li> <li>The model of Golembiewski, Munzenrider &amp; Carter (1983)</li> <li>Leiter &amp; Maslach (1988)</li> <li>Lee &amp; Ashforth (1993)</li> <li>Gil-Monte (1994)</li> </ul>	Considers the cognitive aspects (generally considered as dimensions) these are (reduced personal accomplishment), (emotional exhaustion) and attitudinal (depersonalization).
<b>Edelwich &amp; Brodsky model.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edelwich &amp; Brodsky (1980)</li> </ul>	Burnout is a process of disillusionment or disenchantment with labor activity that occurs in a four-step process: 1. Enthusiasm, 2. Stagnation, 3. Frustration, 4. Apathy (considered as a defense mechanism against frustration).
<b>Price &amp; Murphy model.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Price &amp; Murphy (1984)</li> </ul>	Burnout is a process of adaptation to situations of labor stress, occurs in six symptomatic phases: 1. Disorientation, 2. Emotional lability, 3. Guilt due to professional failure, 4. Loneliness and sadness that, if overcome, may lead to the next phase, 5. Request for help, and 6. Balance.
<b>Gil-Monte model.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gil Monte (2005)</li> </ul>	Distinguishes two profiles in the process of burnout: Profile 1. It is characterized by the presence of low enthusiasm for the job, along with high levels of psychological exhaustion and indolence but individuals do not show feelings of guilt. Profile 2. It is often a more serious problem that would allow identifying the most damaged clinical cases by the development of burnout. In addition to the symptoms above, individuals also have feelings of guilt. These symptoms can be evaluated by the "Questionnaire for the assessment of burnout syndrome by labor" (CESQT in Spanish).

Source: Quinceno & Vinaccia (2007). Burnout "Síndrome de Quemarse en el Trabajo (SQT)" *Acta Colombiana de Psicología*, p. 122.

In general, the models shown are the ones that synthesize the vast majority of existing postures regarding the development and emergence of burnout, it is important to take into account the different quantification instruments that have been developed. Below is Table 3 where it can be observed the authors who have proposed them, the year in which were presented to the scientific community, the used variables and the main areas for which they were developed. Their inclusion is because of the 174 instruments located, only 21 have the author's recognition by the Science Citation Index, in addition to statistical validity.

Table 3. Burnout quantification instruments

Authors	Name of the Instrument	Variables	Area to be used
Jones (1980)	<i>Staff Burnout Scale for Health Professionals</i> (SBS-HP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissatisfaction at work,</li> <li>• Psychological and interpersonal tension,</li> <li>• Negative consequences of stress,</li> <li>• Non professional relationships with patients.</li> </ul>	Health.
Gillespie (1980)	<i>Burnout Indicators.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide worth while services</li> <li>• Avoid difficulties with clients</li> <li>• Getting angry with kindways</li> <li>• Customer self-separation</li> <li>• Preferring the field instead of the office</li> <li>• Jokin gab out customers continuously</li> <li>• Being absent several days for mental health reasons</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.
Emener & Luck (1980)	<i>Emener-Luck Burnout Scale</i> (ELBOS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Labor-Related Sensations</li> <li>• Work-related and with himself feelings</li> <li>• Work- Preparation of theEnvironment</li> <li>• Negative responses of people within the environment</li> <li>• Dissonance</li> <li>• Self-concept versus others self-concepts</li> </ul>	Educational
Pines, Aronson & Kafry (1981)	<i>Tedium Measure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings of depression</li> <li>• Burnout</li> <li>• Emotional and physicaltiredness</li> <li>• Existential void</li> <li>• Boredom</li> <li>• Tension</li> <li>• Feelings of ilusion and happiness</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.
Kremer & Hofman (1985)	<i>Burnout Scale</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The items were not subjected to factorial analysis, therefore it is unknown if they really analyze the Burnout.</li> </ul>	-----
Maslach & Jackson (1986)	<i>Maslach Burnout Inventory</i> (MBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional Exhaustion</li> <li>• Depersonalization</li> <li>• Low personal accomplishment</li> </ul>	Health
Seidman & Zager (1986)	<i>Teacher Burnout Scale</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfaction with the profession</li> <li>• Coping with job stress</li> <li>• Attitude stoward students</li> <li>• Administrative support perceived</li> </ul>	Educational
Garden (1987)	<i>Energy Depletion Index</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale to evaluate the "Depletion of Energy" that corresponds to the emotional exhaustion dimension of Maslach and Jackson (1981)</li> </ul>	
Pines & Aronson (1988)	<i>Burnout Measure</i> (BM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical exhaustion</li> <li>• Emotional exhaustion</li> </ul>	
Mattews (1990)	<i>Mattews Burnout Scale for Employees</i> (MBSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attitudes about work</li> <li>• Adjustment of role</li> <li>• Locus of control and coping skills</li> <li>• Personal adjustment and temperament</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.
Garc ía Izquierdo & Velandrino (1992)	<i>Scale of Psychic Effects of Burnout</i> (EPB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative actitud estoward work</li> <li>• Negative expectation stoward work</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.
Aveni & Albani (1992)	<i>Scale of Predicting Variables of Burnout</i> (EVPB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Depression</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.

<b>Moreno-Jiménez, Oliver &amp; Aragoneses (1993)</b>	<i>Burnout questionnaire for the teaching staff (CBP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User-blaming</li> <li>• Isolation</li> <li>• Interpersonal distance</li> <li>• Emotional hardening</li> <li>• Dehumanised self-defense</li> <li>• Negative change in attitudes towards users</li> <li>• Irritability with the users</li> </ul>	Educational
<b>Holland &amp; Michael (1993)</b>	<i>Holland Burnout Assessment Survey (HBAS)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive perception of teaching</li> <li>• Commitment to teaching</li> <li>• Support from supervisors</li> <li>• Knowledge of Burnout</li> </ul>	Educational
<b>Dell'Erba, Venturi, Rizzo, Porcus &amp; Pancheri (1994)</b>	<i>Rome Burnout Inventory (RBI)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sociodemographic variables (marital status, sex, age, experience and years on the job, professional qualification)</li> <li>• Emotional and physical exhaustion</li> <li>• Evaluation of the perception of social support received from coworkers, supervisors, family and friends</li> <li>• Work and non-work stressors (type of shift, responsibility, compensation, difficulty of the career)</li> <li>• Dissatisfaction produced to the individual by the current working conditions</li> <li>• Health status, both in terms of psychological disorders as well as psychiatric disorders</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.
<b>Friedman (1995)</b>	<i>Burnout Scale for School Principals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhaustion (describes feelings of emotional exhaustion, physical and cognitive)</li> <li>• Reserve (explains the detachment by the teacher with everyday problems, with new ideas)</li> <li>• Contempt (refers to negative feelings of contempt towards teachers, students and parents)</li> </ul>	Educational
<b>Schaufeli, Leiter, Maslach &amp; Jackson (1996)</b>	<i>Maslach Burnout Inventory-General (MBI-GS)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional effectiveness</li> <li>• Exhaustion</li> <li>• Cynicism</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.
<b>Moreno-Jiménez Bustos, Matallana &amp; Millares (1997)</b>	<i>Burnout Brief Questionnaire (CBB)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task characteristics</li> <li>• Organization</li> <li>• Boredom</li> <li>• Emotional exhaustion</li> <li>• Depersonalization</li> <li>• Personal realization</li> <li>• Physical, social and psychological consequences</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.
<b>Moreno-Jiménez Garrosa, &amp; González (2000)</b>	<i>Questionnaire for burnout in nursing (CDPE)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background</li> <li>• Professional Wear</li> <li>• Resistant Personality</li> <li>• Confrontation</li> <li>• Consequences</li> </ul>	Health
<b>Gil-Monte (2005)</b>	<i>Assessment Questions for Burnout Syndrome at Work (CESQT)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illusion for the job</li> <li>• Psychic wear</li> <li>• Indolence</li> <li>• Guilt</li> </ul>	Welfare professions in general.
<b>Moreno-Jiménez, Macarena, Herrera, Hernández &amp; Mingote (2006)</b>	<i>Scale of the medical professional wear syndrome pertaining to the medical professional wear questionnaire (CDPM)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhaustion</li> <li>• Distancing and loss of expectation</li> </ul>	Health

Source: Own elaboration with information of the mentioned authors.

#### 4. Analysis and Description of the Quantification Instruments

The analysis of the instruments and their variables suggests that the most consistent dimension of the border authors considered that the key dimension in the quantification of phenomenon is emotional exhaustion, also identified with other names such as emotional drain and emotional fatigue. Researchers who have used it in their instruments are: (Jones, 1980; Gillespie, 1980; Pines, et al., 1981; Maslach & Jackson, 1981; Schwab, 1986; Hock, 1988; Moreno-Jiménez, et al., 1993; Dell Erba, et al., 1994; Friedman, 1995; Schaufeli, et al., 1996; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1997; Moreno-Jimenez et al., 2000; Benavides et al., 2002; Gil-Monte, 2005).

The second variable is the cynicism (CI) or depersonalization. The authors that have considered it as a significant dimension on their instruments are: (Jones, 1980; Gillespie, 1980; Emener-Luck, 1980; Maslach & Jackson, 1981; Seidman & Zager, 1986; Schwab, 1986; Garc í-Izquierdo & Velandrino, 1992; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1993; Dell Erba, et al., 1994; Friedman, 1995; Schaufeli, et al., 1996; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1997; Benavides et al., 2002; Gil-Monte 2005).

The third variable, inefficiency (IN), has been considered in their instruments for the following authors: (Jones, 1980; Emener & Luck, 1980; Petegrew & Wolf, 1981; Maslach & Jackson, 1981; Farber, 1984; Seidman & Zager, 1986; Schwab, 1986; Garc í-Izquierdo & Velandrino, 1992; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1993; Holland & Michael, 1993; Dell Erba, et al., 1994; Schaufeli, et al., 1996; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1997).

Certainly it was then observed that some variables such as feelings of guilt, proposed by Gil-Monte (2005) in his instrument entitled "Questionnaire for the Assessment of Burnout Syndrome by Work (CESQT)" need more evidence in order to be considered as a significant variable that must be inserted on the quantification of the burnout (Benavides, et al., 2002). Another point to mention is that many very unique models use variables that are related to specific contexts.

The analysis of the instruments took as filters the use of the instruments, the belonging to a frontier author and a proven validity of the instrument. With these characteristics we can quote the following:

**The Staff Burnout Scale for Health Professional (SBS) of Jones (1980).** Conformed by 20 items with Likert response that evaluates the burnout, the scale can be divided into four factors: job dissatisfaction, psychological and interpersonal tension, and negative consequences of stress and nonprofessional relationships with patients. The instrument was designed for health professionals, although it can be applied to other professions. The reliability reported is (0.79) and correlations found with emotional exhaustion and depersonalizations of the MBI are quite acceptable, while using personal accomplishment scale, the correlation is low (Guerrero & Vicente, 2001). Authors like (Leiter, et al., 1996; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1997) have used it on their researches.

**Tedium Scales (TS) of Pines, Aranson and Kafry (1981).** Consists of 21 items that use as variables feelings of depression, burnout, emotional and physical exhaustion, existential emptiness, boredom, tension, feelings of hope and happiness, all of them evaluated with a Likert response of seven points. One of the problems of this questionnaire is that it has no explicit association with the work context. The measure of boredom compared with MBI indicates that the reliability of the first is slightly higher, but is more recommendable to use the second. Validity values are relatively low, ranging between 0.6 and 0.7. The instrument is criticized on the fieldwork conducted by (Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1997; Benavides et al., 2002; Gil-Monte, 2005).

**The Gillespie-Numer burnout inventory (GNBI) (1979), (1980).** When the study of the Gillespie phenomenon began, a problem of absence of measures was detected and, as a result, the author designed an instrument with 7 potential indicators shaped as items with a Likert kind response option, the validity obtained was of 0.78 used in a sample of 183 subjects. The indicators were: proportion of worthwhile services, the avoidance of difficulties with clients, getting angry with the kind manners, self-separation from customers, choosing office work over field work, continuous jokes about customers and absenteeism due to mental health. The author, based on statistical analysis, concludes that the phenomenon is a multidimensional construct characterized by the previously named indicators; according to type of burnout presented, being an active burnout (makes reference to organizational factors and is characterized by the hardening with kind manners) or the passive burnout (relates to internal psychosocial factors and is characterized by separation of clients and to prefer office work instead of field work). Authors like, (Garc í-Izquierdo & Velandrino, 1992; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1993; Holland & Michael, 1993) confirm their validity.

**Emener-Luck Burnout Scale (ELBOS) (1980).** The authors begin with three objectives in the design of their instrument, being these: Achieving a scale that would allow quantifying the burnout, to provide a stimulus for discussion of the syndrome in a groupal and individual way and to enable an instrument that would serve decision makers in the prevention and confrontation of the phenomenon. The indicators used were: work



general-related sensations, sensations related to work and with the "own self", work-preparation of the environment, negative responses of people within the environment, dissonance and self-concept versus other self-concepts. Of the 100 items used at the beginning the instrument, 30 were retained and applied to a sample of 251 teachers, using a nine-point bipolar scale from "never" to "always" with a validity of 0.877. The scale has been used in several studies by researchers as (Petegrew & Wolf, 1981; Dell Erba, et al., 1994; Friedman, 1995).

**Tedium Burnout Measure (BM) of Pines, Aronson & Kafry (1981).** This instrument was initially originated as an instrument for measuring tedium, since the authors believe that the concept is wider than the "burnout". Later it transformed into the Burnout Measure (Pines & Aronson, 1988) from a conceptual rethinking. Initially, the authors had developed various scales for tedium (Pines & Kafry, 1982) with 9 items with seven Likert response options, using the following indicators: feelings of depression, burnout, emotional and physical exhaustion, existential emptiness, tedium, stress and feelings of excitement and happiness. In 1988, the Burnout Measure (BM) is designed with 21 items to measure three dimensions which were: physical exhaustion (characterized by fatigue, physical exhaustion and feeling of destruction and gloom), emotional exhaustion (feeling composed by depression, emotional exhaustion and burnout) and mental exhaustion (formed by feelings of unhappiness, worthlessness and rejection, lack of enthusiasm and resentment towards people). Its validity was taken from the latter with a score of 0.81. The last instrument has been used by (Farber, 1983; Farber, 1984; Seidman & Zager, 1986; Schwab 1986).

**Burnout Scale of Kremer & Hofman (1985).** The instrument was originated as a result of studying the phenomenon of burnout in a wider investigation. The authors propose 5 items, which by way of a self-report, are included in a more ambitious instrument for measuring other constructs. These items are subjected to factorial analysis, therefore it is unknown if they really analyze the "burnout", if they do unidirectional or if, on the contrary, their items are distributed on one more factor, the only information they offer is reliability  $\alpha = 0.54$ . Authors like (Moreno-Jiménez, et al., 2000; Benavides et al., 2002; Gil-Monte, 2005) made a negative review of it.

**Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) of Maslach and Jackson (1986).** It is the most used among researchers, consists of 22 items in the form of statements about the feelings and attitudes of the professional in their work and towards clients. Assesses: emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and reduced personal accomplishment at work. Considers the "burnout" as a continuous variable that can be experienced at different levels and not as a dichotomous variable. This scale is the one that has demonstrated greater validity and reliability (between 0.75 and 0.90). However, recent studies show reviews and reflections about the concept and dimensionality of "burnout" that directly affect the consequences of the MBI as the appropriate instrument of measurement (Dell Erba, 1994; Schaufeli, et al., 1996; Moreno, et al., 1997; Barnett, et al., 1999; Benavides et al., 2002; Gil-Monte 2005; Garcia, et al., 2007) in addition, two weaknesses of the instrument are pointed out: the items that describe feelings are not direct and response categories are not mutually exclusive.

In Spain, this scale has been validated in diverse samples for its adaptation, among the authors who have used it are: Moreno-Jiménez, et al., (2002) who conducted a study on a sample of 235 subjects obtaining as a result that the evaluated independent variables were discriminative in the three existing dimensions, although stating that the depersonalization scale was underrepresented on the number of items. Gil-Monte & Peiro (1998, 2000) applied the MBI in a sample of 559 professionals from various occupations; they performed a factorial analysis of the three scales and showed an adequate validity and reliability of the Castilian-adapted version. Garcia et al., (1995) used an adaptation of the MBI in the sports field in a sample of 256 athletes and after a factorial analysis, confirmed that it was a sensitive measuring instrument. Currently there are three versions of the MBI. The MBI-Human Services Survey (MBI-HSS) is the classic version of the MBI and is constituted by three scales of the dimensions described by its authors, addressed to health professionals. The MBI Educators Survey (MBI-ES) is the version for education professionals where the word "patient" is changed to "student" and finally the MBI-General Survey (MBI-GS) that has a more generic nature since it is not exclusive to any professional type, maintains the three-dimensional structure of the MBI but only contains 16 of the 22 initial items. Moreno-Jiménez et al., (2006) analyzed the MBI-General Survey in a sample of 114 subjects and found that the psychometric characteristics are highly satisfactory and correspond exactly with the theoretical model presented by their authors. Gil-Monte (2004) analyzed the factorial structure in the Castilian adaptation on a sample of 149 police officers and concluded that the questionnaire can be valid and reliable on the Castilian adapted version.

**Teacher Burnout Scale (TBS) of Seidman & Zager (1986).** The authors argue that although the MBI is an appropriate instrument to measure burnout in human service professions, it is not to specifically measure burnout in teachers (however, in that same year Maslach & Jackson (1986), when introducing the second edition of the MBI, developed a version of the instrument specifically for these professionals). Following this premise, it is put

to the test the Teacher Burnout Scale (TBS) which at its beginning was composed of 65 items on a Likert scale for a sample of 217 teachers, and then, after appropriate statistical analyzes, 23 items remained. Of those items, three were reformulated, another three new were introduced and re-administered to 365 teachers, leaving the final version in 21 items that account for 60% of the variance by four factors: Satisfaction with the Career, which correlates with a reduced personal accomplishment and has 5 items; Coping with Work related Stress, which is correlated with emotional exhaustion and is composed of 6 items; Attitudes toward students, which is correlated with depersonalization and has 4 items, and finally Perception of Support by the Supervisor, which does not correlate with any scale of MBI (Maslach Burnout Inventory) and has 6 items. The reliability of the TBS (Teacher Burnout Scale) ranges from 0.89 (career satisfaction) and 0.72 (attitudes towards students), thereby presenting an acceptable internal consistency (Schaufeli, et al., 1996; Moreno-Jiménez, et al., 1997; Moreno-Jiménez, et al., 2000).

**Energy Depletion Index (EDI) of Garden (1987).** Garden, on its instrument, questions the depersonalization dimension and aims to delve into the true characteristics of the burnout, which the author summed up in four main component factors. Specifically the scale consists of seven items that measure levels of energy or exhaustion. After the factorial analysis, two factors were found: "Energy" composed of four items with a reliability of 0.82, while the second would be consisted by two items that would evaluate "Energetic Feelings and Enthusiasm". The study was able to demonstrate that its instrument measures the central dimension of burnout, which corresponds to emotional exhaustion; the above referenced by (García-Izquierdo & Velandrino, 1992; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1993).

**Matthews Burnout Scale for Employees (MBSE) of Matthews (1990).** It is a self-report that measures burnout as a single construct without addressing the possibility of various dimensions that make up the syndrome. The scale provides a score that allows discriminating between the presence or absence of burnout, by analyzing a number of aspects related to cognitive variables and emotional and psychological needs of the individual. Introduces in his instrument four work-related aspects (attitudes about work, role adjustment, locus of control and coping skills) and another two internal variables related to the individual (personal adjustment and temperament). These features allow knowing which variables are determining the existence of burnout. It is an instrument with little use, although its 50 items showed a reliability index of around 0.93. The instrument has been used by: (García-Izquierdo & Velandrino 1992; Moreno, et al., 1993).

**Scale of Predicting Variables of Burnout (EVPB) Aveni & Albani (1992).** It is not exactly a tool for measuring burnout, but arises as a result of a previous theoretical approach, which states that the predictors of burnout must maintain correlation with those found in other two constructs: anxiety and depression. The authors applied the scale to a sample of social workers, an inventory of anxiety and an inventory for depression, and the results obtained led to a set of variables that would be predictors of the phenomenon. Authors as (Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1997; Benavides et al., 2002) give the scale unreliability.

**Scale of Psychic Effects of Burnout (EPB) Garcia-Izquierdo & Velandrino (1992).** It is a Likert-type instrument, similar to others that measure the physical effects of burnout (Golembiewski, et al., 1984; Gillespie, & Numerof, 1984; Hock, 1988). At various investigations in which this scale has been used (García-Izquierdo, 1991, 1995; García-Izquierdo & Velandrino 1992, García-Izquierdo, et al., 1993) has shown a very adequate internal consistency with reliability coefficients higher than 0.90. García-Izquierdo, et al., (1994) find reliability of 0.92 in the EPB, appearing with only one stable factor, even though the instrument originally had two factors: Negative Attitudes towards Work (9 items) and Negative Expectations to Work (3 items), concluding that this scale correlates with the emotional exhaustion dimension of the MBI (Maslach Burnout Inventory).

**Teaching Staff Burnout Questionnaire (CBP) of Moreno and Oliver (1993).** The CBP was presented still in its experimental phase and it's a consequence of the theoretical approach that the authors had performed and shown by (Fernandez, et al., 1990; Oliver, et al., 1990; Moreno-Jiménez et al., 1991) these last had found that the scale of depersonalization didn't seemed sufficiently descriptive nor with a clear statistical independence. As a result of these previous studies, Moreno-Jiménez & Oliver (1993) attempted to improve this dimension by building an exclusive depersonalization scale, which consists of 16 items that correspond to the following descriptors: user guilt, isolation, interpersonal distance, emotional hardening, dehumanized self-defense, negative change in attitudes towards users and irritability with users.

**Holland Burnout Assessment Survey (HBAS) of Holland & Michael (1993).** The HBAS was introduced to test the concurrent validity of the questionnaire. This instrument, composed of 18 items with five response options, is constructed by four factors: positive perceptions of teaching, commitment to teaching support from the supervisors and knowledge of the burnout, this instrument is designed for teachers. That is why the authors

contrasted this instrument with the ES version (Educators Survey) of the MBI (Maslach Burnout Inventory). In this analysis it is found a good behavior of the two sub-scales that measure the first two factors, same ones that, on the other hand, present reliability coefficients around 0.84 and behave less appropriate than the other two sub-scales (which measure the next two factors), which have reliability coefficients close to 0.62. (Soler, et al., 2008).

**Rome Burnout Inventory (RBI) de Dell Erba, Venturi, Rizzo, Porcus & Pancheri, (1994); Venturi, Rizzo & Dell Erba, (2006).** This instrument is divided into six sections: a first section gathers items that provide information on socio-demographic variables (age, sex, marital status, experience and years on the job, professional qualification, among others), a second block measures emotional and physical exhaustion, the third assesses the perception of social support received from co-workers, supervisors, friends and family, the fourth measures work and non-work stressors (type on shift, responsibility, compensation, career trouble, etc.) the fifth refers to the dissatisfaction that produces the individual's current working conditions, and finally, the sixth, a set of items that measure the health status, both in terms of psychological disorders and psychiatric disorders. The originality of the instrument lies in having managed to make a series of sub-tests that measure not only burnout (which they do according to the Burnout Measure of Pines and Aronson) (1988), but also those other constructs (job satisfaction) or predictor variables of the syndrome (social support or job stressors) that allow a more complete assessment.

**Burnout Scale for School Principals of Friedman (1995).** The author presents an instrument to assess burnout in school principals. To do this, he adapts the MBI items and applies them to a sample of 821 principals. He obtains the following factorial structure: Exhaustion (9 items), which describes feelings of emotional, physical and cognitive exhaustion, becoming evident the general decrease of energy in the person; Reserve (7 items), which explains the detachment that the teacher establishes with the everyday problems and with new ideas and suggestions, decreases enthusiasm, interest and support to teachers; Contempt (6 items), which refers to negative feelings of contempt towards teachers, students and parents. Some authors like: (Schaufeli, et al., 1996; Moreno-Jimenez, et al., 1997; Gil-Monte, et al., 2006; Tifner, et al., 2006), suggest that more research is needed to test the instrument, as it appears that the inventory is appropriate to measure burnout in school principals, in fact, as demonstrated by psychometric data: the coefficient alpha for the total scale is 0.92 (0.98 to Exhaustion, 0.82 for Reserved and 0.97 for Contempt). Also, the total variance explained is 46.3%.

**Burnout Brief Questionnaire (CBB)-Jimenez Moreno, Bustos, Matallana & Miralles, (1997).** The Burnout Brief Questionnaire (CBB) is designed with 21 items and seven scales: emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, reduced personal accomplishment, tedium, organizational climate, task characteristics and impact of burnout in the life of the subject; presenting an adequate convergent validity, according to its authors, of 0.897. Authors like (Benavides, et al., 2002; Gil-Monte, 2005) state that there isn't a clear statistical independence.

**Questionnaire of Professional Burnout in Nursing (CDPE) of Moreno-Jiménez, Garrosa, & González (2000).** The instrument was designed for the specific assessment of burnout in the nursing group. This questionnaire includes scales focused on the evaluation of the most relevant variables of the burnout process within this profession. The scale has factorial validity, internal consistency of its scales and existing structural interdependence between them. The questionnaire design was based on the analysis of existing theoretical information, the development of various semi-structured interviews and group discussions. After the application to a pilot sample of 30 people, the resulting questionnaire was answered by 389 nurses working in five hospitals in Madrid. A factorial analysis was performed for each of the blocks that integrate the questionnaire (background aspects, consequent, mediators and specifics of the Burnout syndrome) by the principal axes method and using an oblique rotation (direct oblique). The analysis of the internal consistency of the scales was based on the calculation of Cronbach's alpha coefficients. Finally, an analysis was conducted on the correlations between the scales of the different blocks to determine the degree of interdependence between them. CDPE analysis shows favorable results regarding its reliability and construct validity, however, Benavides et al., (2002) felt that it was necessary to develop new works that provide more information on the criteria for goodness of the instrument.

**Questionnaire for Evaluating Burnout Syndrome by Work (CESQT) Gil-Monte (2005).** This instrument contains 20 items divided into four dimensions: Illusion for work (5 items), Psychological exhaustion (4 items), Indolence (6 items) and Guilt (5 items). The theoretical model underlying the CESQT considers that cognitive impairment (low scores on Illusion for work) and emotional (high scores in psychological exhaustion) appear at first in response to chronic job stress sources, and later, individuals will develop negative attitudes towards the people they serve in their work (high levels of Indolence). The emergence of feelings of guilt comes after these symptoms, without appearing in all individuals. In this way, we can distinguish two profiles in the process of the SQT.

The Profile 1 leads to the appearance of a set of feelings and behaviors related to job stress that cause a mild form of discomfort but do not incapacitate the individual for doing their job, although it could be done better. This profile is characterized by the presence of low illusion for the job, along with high levels of psychological exhaustion and indolence, but the individuals do not have feelings of guilt. Profile 2 is often a more serious problem that would identify the most damaged clinical cases by the development of burnout. In addition to the above symptoms individuals also have feelings of guilt (Gil-Monte, 2005). The instrument has been used by authors such as (Carmona-Monge, et al., 2002; Blandin & Martinez, 2005; Aranda & Torres, 2005; Barraza, 2006) to name a few.

**Burnout Syndrome Scale for Medical Professional Burnout belonging to Medical Professional Burnout Questionnaire (CDPM) of Moreno, Macarena, Herrera, Hernández y Mingote (2006).** It is a scale of 2 phases, where Phase I is composed of psychometric factors and phase II is based on the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI). For its validation two samples were used. For Phase I was utilized a community of Madrid formed by 485 doctors (primary care health centers and hospitals) and for Phase II a different sample of 100 doctors (primary care health centers). The exploratory and confirmatory factorial analysis of CDPM ratifies three descriptive factors of medical professional wear: exhaustion, detachment and loss of expectation, with acceptable internal consistency. Convergent validity was confirmed by the MBI, especially in the dimension of exhaustion. This scale provides the specific evaluation of the syndrome in the medical profession and should include motivational factors rather than professional inefficacy. The dimension "exhaustion" is defined as the primary descriptor of medical burnout in the sample. According to the new approaches, it provides an instrument that allows specific assessment of the dimensions of medical burnout and an overall evaluation of the syndrome.

## 5. Critique to the Models and Quantification Instruments

Of all the self-report instruments mentioned, the most widely used and that it has been the basis of the other instruments is the "Burnout Inventory" of Maslach & Jackson (1986). There have been various criticisms about it, highlighting the following: focuses the statements on emotions and feelings, makes no reference to the conducts caused or eliminated when these emotions and feelings arise, some terms are not conceptually clear since its meaning can vary individually, the scale of low personal accomplishment has fewer items compared to the other two scales, do not disaggregate some statements in more direct behaviors and finally, it is a closed format that does not adjust to the various conditions that can be created in the working environment, that possibly, maintains a situation of suffering on a person.

But despite the above, this model, and its instrument, is the one that has had a greater acceptance and success for its use in the quantification of Burnout. The instrument (backed at the same time by a three-dimensional theoretical model) has survived the test of time and has undergone several modifications and adaptations, situation that has given birth to the emergence of different versions and questionnaires that have been based on the "Maslach Burnout Inventory". One of the most significant findings in this study, is that this method of quantification, in its versions: Educators Survey, General Survey, Health Services Survey; is used in 90% of studies worldwide (Schaufeli & Enzmann, 1998) including Mexico and Spain.

Returning to the discussion of the main features and properties of the instrument, it was found that one of its main strengths that highlights is its international acceptance, however, authors such as (Olivares & Gil-Monte, 2009) have found several weaknesses on the instrument, which calls into question the feasibility for its application in different contexts and study subjects, as it happens in countries like Mexico where specific measuring instruments are demanded, since both organizations and workers, display particular labor realities that are differentiated from those in other countries, where the instruments were created, as mentioned by Gil-Monte.

More and more countries are incorporating researches on the subject, such is the case of countries like Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay that require construction, design, tropicalization, adequacy and a proposal for measuring instruments and intervention models, that allow to adapt to their organizational and cultural characteristics, where there are different labor realities. Additionally, the absence of a commercial version of the MBI (instrument used to quantify the phenomenon) is making difficult its study in the Ibero-American world (Gil-Monte, 2004). Next, we analyze more specifically the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of the MBI.

The authors Garc ía-Izquierdo & Velandrino (1992) considered that the MBI (Maslach Burnout Inventory) is one of the most used scales to assess the frequency and intensity of Burnout, bringing together the three variables allegedly involved with the phenomenon, which are: emotional exhaustion, cynicism and inefficacy.

In the review of the phenomenon, made in the third edition of the MBI of Maslach, Jackson & Leiter (cited in Moreno-Jiménez, et al., 2001) it is recommended to replace the variable named "depersonalization" with the

variable named "cynicism", since this last one encompasses everything described above and includes aspects of self-criticism, devaluation, self-sabotage and disregard for their own work.

It is important to know that, when Burnout is quantified through the MBI, we can understand that it adopts a multidimensional vision of Burnout (Maslach, 1998). Those authors who have adopted this vision, argue that provides a holistic representation of a complex phenomenon; although in the opposite view, it is mentioned that is still necessary to provide convincing theoretical arguments about why the three different sets of symptoms that constitute its conceptualization should "be united", Maslach, Schaufeli & Leiter (cited in Shirom, 2009). Moreover, the authors of the MBI consider that the syndrome has independent dimensions that not necessarily combine to form a superior body, but it would be enough the presence of one of them on a "high" category to identify this clinical picture, (Briones, 2007). As well as reflecting on whether burnout should be analyzed from a three-dimensional point of view or if on the contrary, it is possible its study with only one of those variables.

Set forth below is the analysis of the structure and internal consistency of the MBI by two leading authors in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses found in the instrument; for example when Burnout was quantified through the MBI, in several times in longitudinal studies was discovered that burnout has consistency coefficients ranging from moderate to high. Furthermore, the crossover time correlations (diachronic) range between 0.50 and 0.60 (Melamed, et al., 2006).

As it can be seen, there are interesting aspects such as international acceptance and empirical support for the factorial structure of the instrument, which are important strengths; however, weaknesses can not be put aside and ignored, because, if not corrected, the results and information from various studies may be inaccurate, biased or incorrect. So, under the view of these data, it is not only prudent, but necessary and unavoidable to propose, tropicalize, adapt, design and validate this and other instruments.

The Spanish researcher Gil-Monte (2004, p. 43) explains for example that: "... some studies report a prevalence of between 6% and 13%, other studies estimate the prevalence in 35% and some even conclude that 68% of workers may be affected by a severe degree of burnout...". Under the same argumentative line, the authors Olivares, et al., (2009) believe that, by using different instruments to measure burnout existing in Latin American countries, it is necessary to be careful and cautious as there is no unanimous and internationally accepted criteria regarding to the cutoff to identify workers with Burnout among those with high job stress but that not necessarily have developed the phenomenon, considering that, even more scientific evidence is needed to estimate the optimal cut point for the various instruments, besides that, if historical, sociological and transcultural aspects are not considered, as it has been mentioned throughout this study, the results may be inflated, and/or outside the scientific canons.

The review of studies on the subject of burnout allows us to conclude that the phenomenon is far too important and the evidence found by the various studies is conclusive, so that the health and labor responsible must consider it in the design of public policies.

## **6. Burnout Research in Mexico**

Most of the research done in the country about "burnout" are undergraduate thesis (BA) and postgraduate (see Table 4), which have been made from a medical perspective considering the impact and effects it has on the health of workers, in addition, most of the studies are developed with Spanish and North American instruments.

As can be seen below, of the 241 theses located in 10 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in which there is more research on the matter and with free access to their digital libraries, only 4 theses (UNAM) and 1 thesis (IPN) propose an instrument adapted to the characteristics of the organizations, the context and the subjects of study where research has been carried out; but only 1 of them, proposed by a Mexican researcher (Uribe, 2007) who, in addition to doing validation and reliability testing on some existing instruments, has proposed the Mexican Scale of Occupational Wear (EMEDO). Below, areas of further research are presented and thesis that proposed specific instruments for Mexican organizations.

Table 4. Areas of further research and proposals of specific instruments for Mexican organizations on higher education institutions

University	Health Area	Educational Area	Other Areas	Without Specific Area	Total of Thesis	Thesis that proposed specific Instruments for Mexican Contexts
UNAM	124	19	22	14	179	4
BUAP	15	4	0	1	20	0
UAM	13	1	0	1	15	0
UAEMEX	9	1	2	0	12	0
IPN	3	1	1	0	5	1
UAG	1	3	0	0	4	0
UdeG	1	1	1	0	3	0
UASLP	1	0	0	0	1	0
UAEH	1	0	0	0	1	0
UANL	0	1	0	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>5</b>

Source: Own elaboration based on information from digital libraries.

From the table above, it is concluded that in the selected higher education institutions, researches and theses have focused primarily in the health and educational area; 199 theses are concentrated in these areas, that if integrated to the 16 theses developed that have not had the objective of quantifying the Burnout in a profession or specific population and therefore have not used any new or existing instrument, then until now we have only 26 theses that have quantified the phenomenon in another welfare professions. This represents an important finding, since there is a serious deficit in terms of research from universities that aim to study the phenomenon, but do not just focus on these two key areas that account for 85% of the studies and researches in Mexico. It also highlights the enormous concentration of research at UNAM that accounts for 75% of the total. In Figure 1, it is shown the two areas that concentrate the number of investigations taking place in Mexico by higher education institutions of the undergraduate and graduate level students.

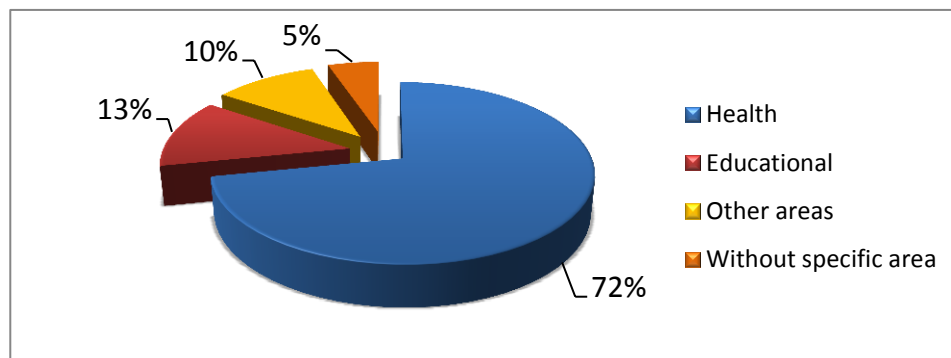


Figure 1. Research on "Burnout" by sector in higher education institutions of Mexico

Source: Own elaboration.

Another finding, is that in tune with international studies on Burnout, in Mexico 98% of the researches are using the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI), in its various versions, to quantify the phenomenon, despite the weaknesses previously exposed of the instrument in question and only 2% of researches have proposed an appropriate tool for the study of the population and the context in which it is being elaborated and only one of them, the Mexican Scale of Occupational Wear, has been used in more than one study to quantify burnout. It is undeniable to say that it is very important to have instruments that allow reliable quantification; real and accurate, to find the number of workers in our country who have Labor Wear (burnout) at any stage, in order to reverse the

economic, social and health damage caused by this phenomenon, recalling that not having reliable tools, data and information may cause a wide range of variation that beyond giving clarity on the number of workers with burnout would lead to have misleading results, false and perhaps nonexistent.

Besides the above, the phenomenon has been briefly addressed by Mexican authors in their research, the majority of which are located in the health sector. Likewise 90% have focused on using the instrument of Maslach (1993) such is the case of (Aranda & Torres, 2005; Tapia-Hernandez et al., 2005; Barraza, 2006; Palmer, et al., 2007; Camacho-Ávila, et al., 2007; Moreno-Jiménez, et al., 2008; Hernandez-Vargas, et al., 2008; Moreno-Jiménez, et al., 2008) As relevant studies it can be named the El Sahili & Kornhauser (2010); Barraza-Salas (2012). As noted, few authors have dabbled formally into the study of the phenomenon.

## 7. Conclusions

This paper describes the evolution of the concept, the diverse existing models and measured parameters; noting that, after more than 25 years of formal studies, there is still no single definition accepted by the scientific community. It is known that burnout is an important issue because it is seriously affecting productivity, efficiency, quality in service to users and customers, workers, organizations and society as a whole as it affects the individual's behavior and psychological balance, causing changes in health and in work performance as mentioned by Goicoechea, (2004). This phenomenon has effects and implications worldwide but is particularly important in emerging countries with weak social protection structures where workers live strenuous work days that often are not even remunerated. Such is the case of Mexico where working hours go beyond those established by international bodies such as the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization.

In a world where half of the working population is unemployed or has an informal job and the other half works excessive hours, the study of burnout and its varieties in vulnerable groups should be on the research agenda of the major universities. In the case of Mexico there is few research of the phenomenon in institutions, even in the case of UNAM, UAM and IPN. The same thing can be seen in the research by academics where most of them are aligned to health and education sectors; but this is not the worst, perhaps the most unfortunate thing is that most researchers are using exclusively the Maslach and Jackson instrument. Another point observed is that scholars have excluded minority group studies that are at risk of suffering the phenomenon such as informal sector workers, policemen and drivers.

Likewise, bibliographical research verifies the enormous popularity that possesses the Maslach Burnout Inventory method, although for many authors does not correspond to its predictive ability and, the accumulation of its weaknesses should involve using other more accurate models adapted to the realities of Latin America.

Besides theses and researches carried out in the Mexican higher education institutions, it is clear that there are other areas of opportunity for further studies on the subject, especially using an administrative approach to determine the economic costs to the public and private sectors, calculating the investment budget of the government used to alleviate the effects of the damage on the health of workers, a review of workloads to make them consistent with the available resources, the redesign of the tasks, the increased participation of workers in decisions that have a positive effect on the achievement of objectives, promoting the participation and collaboration networks in different areas of the organization, the establishment of clear systems of promotion and reward to encourage internal meritocratic culture, the review and updating of operations manuals and procedures that could be causing various situations in different aspects that can generate dissatisfaction, deteriorating of quality and poor service delivery; all of this in order to maintain healthy work environments, productive, efficient, and minimize the damage expenses and financial losses resulting from job wear (burnout).

The main conclusion is that Burnout is an occupational disease whose symptoms are: physical and emotional exhaustion, disappointment and disillusionment, devaluation of the professional role and dysfunction in the workplace. This bibliographical research is a provocation to scholars in order to motivate them to develop their own models focused on risk groups in our country, which are many, like the police, various business workers and service providers among others.

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