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# Corporate Psychopath and its Impact on Business Growth: An Exploration of Characteristics, Relationships, and Legal Considerations in the Indian Context

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#### Abstract

In the emergence of growing technology and innovation around the world , the growth of businesses and Start-ups are on rise . Globally at present 4.4 million businesses are started every year and there are over 150 million startups in the world. India has emerged as the 3rd largest ecosystem for startups globally with over 1,12,718 DPIIT-recognized startups , As many as 167,076 companies were set up in FY22, a 7.5% increase.

The tussle to be on top and make the business profitable and have as much market reach as possible is becoming the sole hunt of companies and startups. Every Growth has its own downfalls and the downfall of it is the emergence of Corporate Psychopaths who hold the capacity to stay in the cover and do and make others do what they want, several researchers have named them as chemo liens that mold things under cover for fulfilling their aim and desires and understanding the legal implications.

The research aims to shed light on the growth of corporate psychopath in India with the help of established research classifying characteristics of Corporate Psychopaths .Further to classify and differentiate Sociopaths, Narcissist and Antisocial personalities with corporate psychopaths and the ways to identify them. Understand the relationship of Psychopaths and Corporate Psychopaths .

The research further shows the emergence of corporate psychopath by taking few examples of people who have shown the characteristics of being corporate psychopaths in India and abroad threw Doctrinal Research Methodology.

Keywords: Psychopath , Corporate Psychopath , Company , Behaviour , Diagnosis.

### The Reasons for Sky Rise of Corporate Psychopath

The corporate psychopath theory posits that individuals with psychopathic traits can ascend to positions of power within corporate organizations due to shifts in the corporate landscape. Changes such as increased personnel turnover and the decline of stable, lifelong employment make it easier for employees with ruthless personalities to go unnoticed by colleagues and superiors (Babiak and Hare 2006).



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Organizational streamlining, downsizing, mergers, restructuring, and globalization contribute to employees having only superficial knowledge of each other. Consequently, the superficially charming psychopath, adept at lying about their past, appropriating others' successes, and manipulating managers, becomes an ideal colleague and leader, leading to more frequent promotions (Boddy 2011a).

While empirical support for this phenomenon is limited, existing evidence suggests a higher prevalence of psychopathy at senior organizational levels, estimated to be around 3.5%, compared to the general population rate of 1% (Babiak et al. 2010).

The observation that corporate psychopaths are more commonly found in senior management roles than at junior levels (Babiak and Hare 2006; Andrews et al. 2009; Babiak et al. 2010) underscores the governance aspect of responsible leadership. The appointment of psychopathic individuals as leaders becomes a corporate governance concern.

Moreover, specific sectors, such as those dealing with wealth and power, are believed to attract psychopaths more than others focused on voluntary assistance. This concentration of psychopaths in certain economic sectors, like corporate banking, highlights potential sector-specific implications (Boddy 2011b).<sup>1</sup>

#### Corporate Psychopath Evolution

The adaptation of psychopath into the subclinical realm is not a recent development. In 1941, H. M. Cleckley (1988) authored the classic monograph "Mask of Sanity," outlining diagnostic criteria for psychopath and proposing an etiological model for the disorder. Cleckley's work acknowledged incomplete manifestations or symptoms of psychopath, illustrating cases of individuals who, despite psychopathic tendencies, succeeded in various societal roles, such as businessmen, scientists, physicians, and psychiatrists. Cleckley viewed these "successful" cases as alternative expressions of the same underlying pathology, suggesting that the ability to function within society indicated a subclinical condition (Patrick, 2006).<sup>2</sup>

The interest in "corporate psychopaths" or psychopathic individuals functioning in the workplace gained momentum after the publication of Paul Babiak and Robert Hare's 2003 book, "Snakes in Suits: When Psychopaths go to Work." Corporate psychopaths, also known as executive, industrial, or organizational psychopaths, are defined as individuals working within an organizational setting who exhibit subclinical manifestations of psychopathic traits. Unlike psychopaths who have faced legal or mental health consequences, corporate psychopaths are more prone to engaging in manipulative and antisocial behavior (Gudmundsson & Southey, 2011; Boddy, 2011).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> (Babiak P. )

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> (Aupperle, 1983)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> (Boddy C. R., 'The Origins of Corporate Psy- chopaths: A Review of the Literature', 2007)



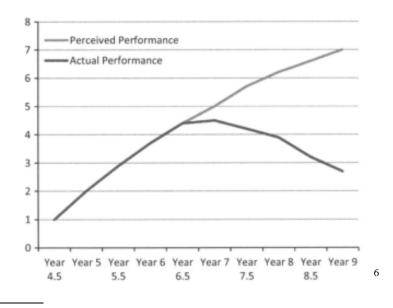
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These organizational psychopaths can be immensely detrimental to the organizations they are part of, potentially involved in various legal breaches, including accounting fraud and stock manipulation. Despite their destructive behavior, they can skillfully present themselves as desirable employees, easily securing managerial positions. Unconstrained by conscience, they adeptly charm, lie, and manipulate their supervisors and colleagues to ascend organizational hierarchies, driven by a pursuit of power, wealth, and status (Boddy, 2006; Babiak & Hare, 2006; Boddy, 2010). Recent studies also highlight their poor managerial skills, negatively impacting organizational effectiveness and productivity (Babiak, 2007; Boddy, 2011). The consequences of industrial psychopathic behavior, particularly in managerial roles, are severe both financially for organizations and emotionally for their coworkers and subordinates. Thus, understanding this dark side of leadership becomes crucial (Gudmundsson & Southey, 2011).<sup>4</sup>

#### **Characteristics and Traits**

Psychopaths constitute approximately 1% of the population, characterized by a lack of conscience and a predatory, parasitic approach to life (Coid et al. 2009; Stout 2005). This trait is linked to differences in brain functionality, particularly dysfunction in the amygdala, a region regulating emotions (Anderson and Kiehl 2012; Fallon 2013; Weber et al. 2008; Blair 2008). Corporate psychopaths are individuals with psychopathic tendencies who successfully navigate societal structures, often found within corporate settings (Boddy 2006; Smith et al. 2014).

These corporate psychopaths are depicted as highly career-oriented yet ruthless, unethical, and exploitative employees (Chiaburu et al. 2013; Stevens et al. 2012). Estimates suggest that while around 1% of junior employees may exhibit corporate psychopathic traits, this incidence rises to approximately 3.5% at senior organizational levels (Babiak et al. 2010), assuming a normal distribution of psychopaths in society.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> (Boddy C. R., 'The Dark Side of Management Decisions: Organisational Psychopaths', 2006)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> (Naish, 2004)

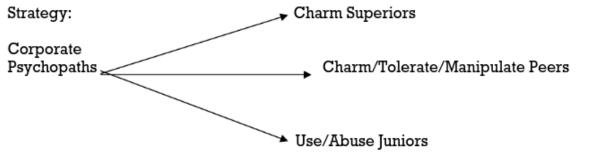
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> (Boddy C. R., Psychopathic Leadership A Case Study of a Corporate Psychopath CEO Author, 2017)



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Corporate psychopathy prevalence may vary across organizations, with a preference for those offering power and prestige. Certain professions, like CEOs and lawyers, show higher incidences (Dutton 2013a; Lilienfeld et al. 2014). This results in an estimated 5.75% to 13.5% of employees working with a corporate psychopath (Caponecchia et al. 2011; Boddy 2011b).

However, experts disagree on its significance. Some argue it's less prevalent, with one study suggesting psychopaths are only 0.6-1.2% of the population (Caponecchia et al. 2011). Yet, research implies encounters with workplace psychopaths are relatively common. Alternate views propose psychopathy could benefit organizations (Smith et al. 2014; Crush 2014).<sup>7</sup>



#### Classification and Differentiation Psychopaths

The downfall of a company not only captures headlines but also brings about significant economic repercussions and job losses, impacting both the organization and individuals. Corporate failures often result in substantial environmental harm, presenting challenges for disposal and enduring ecological consequences. While diverse factors contribute to these collapses, a notable proportion can be linked to predictable outcomes, stemming not only from poor management and failed investments but also from leadership exhibiting psychopathic traits.

Psychopath, a neuropsychiatric condition marked by a lack of emotions and empathy, tends to result in compromised behavioral control and antisocial tendencies, commonly associated with criminal behavior. Individuals identified as psychopaths are known for their minimal or absent conscience, yet they can adapt to social norms when it aligns with their interests. Although psychopath is a well-established clinical and scientific concept essential for understanding consistent antisocial behavior, it's crucial to note that an official diagnosis of psychopath is currently not technically feasible.<sup>9</sup>

In the words of Robert D. Hare (1993), psychopaths are social predators who charm, manipulate, and ruthlessly navigate through life, leaving behind a trail of broken hearts, shattered expectations, and depleted wallets. Completely devoid of conscience and empathy for others, they selfishly seize what they desire, violating social norms and expectations without a hint of guilt or remorse.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> (Clarcke, 2005)

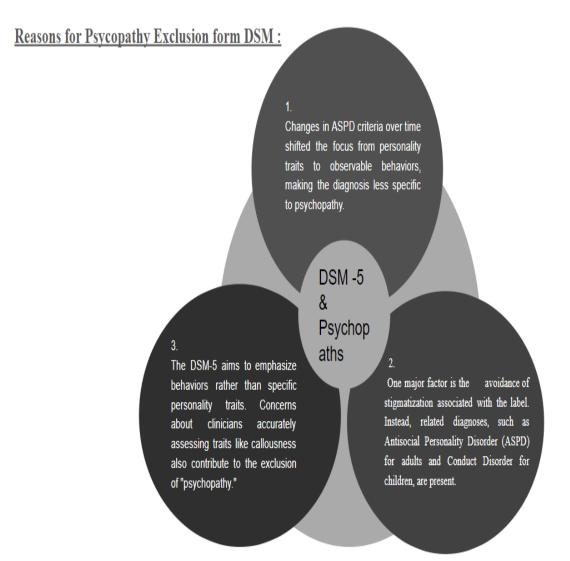
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> (Boddy C. R., 2005)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> (Babiak. P, 2010)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> (Boddy C. R., 2005)



#### The DSM Method and Psychopaths



Despite this, psychopath remains a term widely used by scientists, and reliable screening instruments exist to assess it. Scientists use these tools to guide treatments aimed at improving symptoms associated with psychopath.

#### The Present Diagnosis for Psychopaths – The Psychopath Checklist—revised

The Psychopath Checklist, also known as the Hare Psychopath Checklist-Revised (PCL-R), now referred to as the Psychopath Checklist—revised, is a tool widely employed in psychological assessments to evaluate the presence and degree of psychopathic traits in individuals, especially those within the criminal justice system.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> (Andershed, 2001)



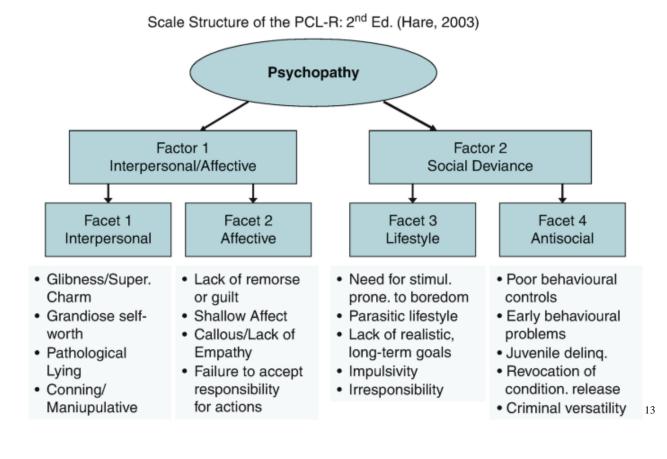
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The Psychopath Checklist, or Hare Psychopath Checklist-Revised (PCL-R), is a widely utilized psychological assessment tool developed by Canadian psychologist Robert D. Hare in the 1970s. It evaluates psychopathic traits in individuals, particularly those within the criminal justice system, distinguishing them from those with antisocial personality disorder.

The checklist comprises 20 items assessing personality traits and behaviors, such as charm, charisma, and lack of empathy. Administered through semi-structured interviews and collateral information review, it aims to identify psychopath-associated traits.

Originally created for psychology experiments, the checklist reflects Hare's work with offenders, influenced by psychiatrist Hervey M. Cleckley's clinical profile. It is designed to be administered by qualified professionals under controlled conditions, emphasizing the potential consequences of an individual's score. The checklist's current version includes two factors correlated with each other, predicting risk of criminal re-offense and rehabilitation likelihood.<sup>12</sup>

### **Relationship Between Psychopaths and Corporate Psychopath**



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> (Hare & Neumann, 2006)

<sup>13 (</sup>James R. P. Ogloff, 2014)



#### The corporate psychopaths are successful psychopaths **Relation of** Psycopath and Corporate The concept of the Corporate subset of psychopaths, termed **Psycopaths** Psychopath thus marries the Corporate Psychopaths . These terms "psychopath" from the individuals are often seen as psychological literature with successful, particularly to those the term "corporate' from the around them who have not yet area of business to denotea experienced the impact of their psychopath who works and ruthlessness and lack of operates in the corporate arena. conscience.

Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) is a mental health condition characterized by a persistent pattern of exaggerated self-importance, an intense need for admiration, and a diminished capacity to comprehend the emotions of others. This disorder is classified within the broader spectrum of personality disorders and is often linked with other mental health challenges, resulting in substantial functional difficulties and limitations in psychosocial functioning.

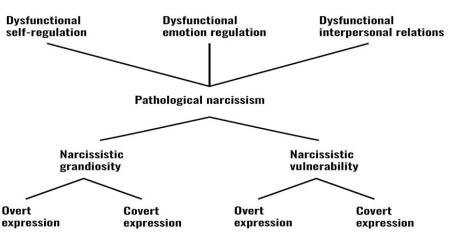
As delineated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), the criteria for diagnosing NPD require the presence of a minimum of five of the nine characteristics.<sup>14</sup>

Narcissistic Personality Disorder is grouped as a cluster B personality disorder in the DSM-5, alongside other disorders characterized by dramatic, emotional, or erratic behavioral patterns. This condition manifests as a lifelong inclination toward self-centered traits, an unquenchable desire for admiration, and a compromised ability to empathize with others' emotions.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> (Back, 2013)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> (Coleman D, 2017)





#### Symptoms of Narcissism:

Symp	toms O	<b>F</b> Narc	issism
Inflated	Self-absorption	Grandiosity	Lack of
self-importance			empathy
Pretentious and arrogant behavior	Feelings of victimization	Fragile self-esteem	Inability to handle criticism
Lack of intimacy	Social withdrawal	Emotional dysfunction	Mental disorders
MIND 🛞 HELP			mindJournal



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**Difference Between Narcissist Personality and Psychopaths** 

WHAT IS Narcissist	THE DIFFE Psychopath	RENCE? @narcabusecoach Sociopath
Not every narcissist is a psychopath	Every psychopath is narcissistic	Sociopaths could be narcissistic
When a narcissist does something abusive, they are concerned about their social image & try everything to keep their real self hidden.	They don't feel any guilt or shame regardless of what they do or what crime they commit	Sociopaths are also careless. They do things undercover to avoid unnecessary attention
People become narcissistic because of the environment in which they grow with some genetic influence.	Psychopaths are born the way they are.	People aren't born sociopaths. They too, are shaped by the environment and their childhood experiences.
Can feel shame, jealousy, greed, regret and guilt (to some extent), needs excessive admiration and often have extreme or unrealistic fantasies of ideal power, money, success, etc.	Are Born cold, callous, ruthless, fearless, egocentric, Grandiose, with superficial charm, manipulative, pathological liars, with lack of empathy, guilt and remorse.	They are a downgraded version of a psychopath. They may have a limited albeit weak capacity to empathise or to feel remorse.

### Antisocial personality disorder (ASPD or APD)

Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD or APD) is identified as a personality disorder characterized by a reduced capacity for empathy and a persistent pattern of neglect or violation of others' rights. Key symptoms encompass impulsivity, reckless behavior (including substance abuse), a lack of remorse

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> id



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following harm to others, deceitfulness, irresponsibility, and aggressive conduct. Onset of ASPD symptoms is required to occur before the age of 15 for an official diagnosis.<sup>17</sup>

Antisocial behaviors typically initiate before the age of 8, and nearly 80% of ASPD cases show initial symptoms by the age of 11. The prevalence of ASPD is highest among individuals aged 24 to 44, declining in those aged 45 to 64. Additionally, ASPD is more commonly observed in males than females. In the United States, the estimated rate of antisocial personality disorder in the general population ranges from 1% to 4%.

The primary text of the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) outlines the definition of antisocial personality.<sup>18</sup>

Symptoms of ASPD :





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<sup>17</sup> (Blackburn, 1999)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> (Muniello, Vallejos, Díaz Granados, & Bertone, 2017)



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#### Difference between ASPD and Psychopaths

Antisocial Personality Disorder*	Psychopathy**
o Broader, more inclusive	• Narrower, more severe, more likely to be reflected in criminality (especially Hare/PCL)
• Phenomenologic approach	• Personality deficit approach
• Largely based on visible consequences of unsocialized behavior ("conduct")	• Largely based on personality dynamics (and perhaps brain deficit), with a callous remorseless style of relating to others
• Focuses on antisocial issues and behaviors	• Includes many characteristics of DSM narcissistic, histrionic, paranoid, and borderline syndromes
*As defined in DSM-IV <sup>1</sup>	** As defined in sources such as Hare, <sup>2, 3</sup> and Cleckley <sup>4</sup>

### Sociopaths

Sociopath is a synonym for antisocial personality disorder. Dr. Coulter explains that it is a mental health disorder characterized by persistent challenges in conforming to social norms. What sets sociopath apart is its chronic nature, distinguishing it from episodic mental health conditions such as depression, panic attacks, or bipolar disorder.<sup>21</sup>

The terms are used interchangeably in many contexts, although the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) officially uses the term Antisocial Personality Disorder. Individuals with ASPD, or colloquially referred to as sociopaths, typically exhibit traits such as a disregard for the rights of others, impulsivity, deceitfulness, lack of remorse after harming others, and engaging in antisocial behaviors.<sup>22</sup>

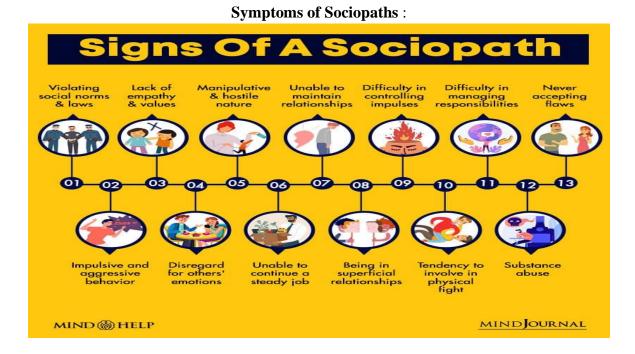
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> (World Wide Web , 2022) <sup>20</sup> id

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> (David J. Lieberman, 2016) <sup>22</sup> id

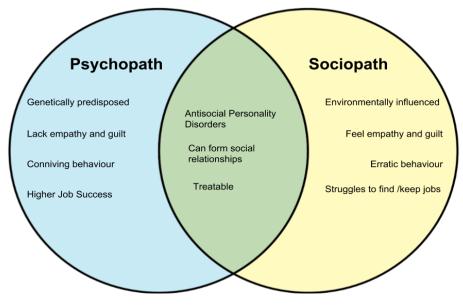


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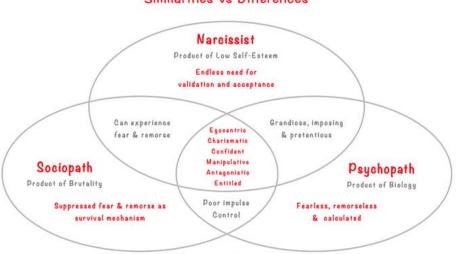


**Difference between Sociopaths and Psychopath** 





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#### Similarities vs Differences

Source: Kenny Wallace 2022

#### **Features of Corporate Psychopaths**

- 1. Corporate Psychopaths is predictive of counterproductive work behavior.
- 2. differences between male and female behavioral reactions in the form of counterproductive work behavior and employee affective well-being, to the presence of Corporate Psychopaths in management.
- 3. The presence of a corporate psychopath is the biggest reason for Conflict and Bullying .Where conflict is referred to as counterproductive behavior to sabotage and emergence of deviance and
- 4. Greater the power they will have , greater the risk of destruction .
- 5. Shows Leader lessens in the beginning
- 6. Denial of any aim , role or voice to the employs
- 7. unsure of who's position is what
- 8. Disillusionment set in and staff absenteeism increased from being a single monthly occurrence to a multiple daily occurrence
- 9. Most staff leaves the company within 2 years of appointment of a Corporate Psychopath.
- 10. cause it illustrates the effects of psychopathic leadership. It is also the first indication that the tactics employed by corporate psychopaths may change over time and that once their initial objectives of submission and control through fear have been achieved, then less bullying and intimidation are needed.
- 11. Corporate psychopaths are reported to be parasitic in that they feed off the good work of others.<sup>23</sup>
- 12. Corporate Psychopaths are only interested in self-gratification a not in the longer-term success of the organizations in which they work (Clarke,
- 13. They are interested in running corporations for the power, money, and prestige that they crave and are self-interested to the exclusion of others and are indifferent to the fate of the organizations they work for or of their fellow employ
- 14. a barrier to Corporate Social Responsibilities and to organizational commitment to employ.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> (Boddy C. R., 2005)



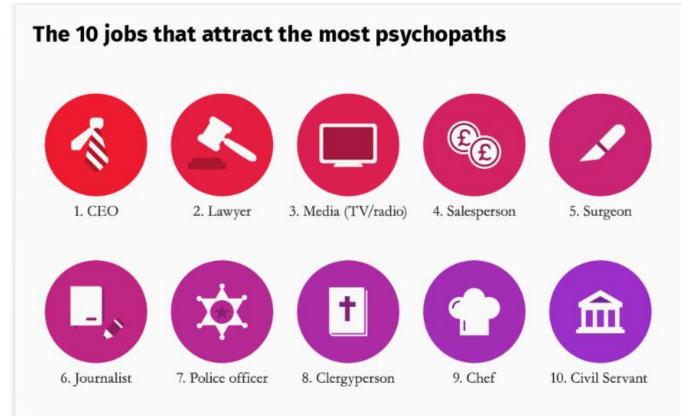
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- 15. The corporate Psychopath is amoral to all the moral responsibilities that the individual and as a part of Organization She/he is Supposed be off.<sup>24</sup>
- 16. Dissatisfaction among employees due to under appreciation, neglect and not rewarded for their work.
- 17. effects on bullying, conflict at work, morale, job satisfaction, organizational effectiveness, fraud, organizational misrepresentation, organizational success, and corporate longevity (Boddy, 2006)
- 18. Under their leadership ethical Responsibility gets at stake.
- 19. Under their leadership there is ruthless political leadership.
- 20. They as are more likely to fraud causes financial crisis in the organization .
- 21. Corporate psychopaths at the top of corporate entities, because of their aberrant, self-centered
- 22. Machiavellian personalities and priorities, will act in their own short-term interests rather than in the longer-term interests of their children, their employees and colleagues, society, the environment or the future of humanity.<sup>25</sup>

### **Examples of Corporate Psychopath**

### Around the Globe

According to a survey conducted two years ago in the UK by <u>British psychologist Kevin Dutton</u>, it was found that the most attractive role for psychopaths is the role of the CEO. In second place were lawyers, and in third place were TV and radio people.



<sup>24</sup> (Boddy C. R., 2005)

<sup>25</sup> (Boddy C. R., 'The Dark Side of Management Decisions: Organisational Psychopaths', 2006)



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Elizabeth Holmes, the founder of Theranos, exhibits characteristics similar to corporate psychopaths. Described as a pathological liar with an unrelenting drive to achieve her goals, Holmes shares traits with individuals characterized by a lack of conscience and anti-social behavior. Her desire to emulate Steve Jobs and pursuit of power align her with corporate psychopaths who are often social chameleons, adept at concealing ruthlessness behind personal charm. Holmes successfully charmed investors, manipulating her way to the top and leaving a trail of disappointed individuals and financial losses.

Organizations led by psychopathic individuals, Such as Lay's Enron, Dunlap's Sunbeam, Ebbers's WorldCom, and Madoff's investment firm, face inevitable failure and bankruptcy. In such psychopathically led entities, the adverse outcomes extend beyond financial collapse, impacting investors, pension funds, and other stakeholders who suffer significant impoverishment. The insatiable self-interest, deceit, and lack of empathy characteristic of corporate psychopaths contribute to the downfall of these organizations, leaving a trail of severe economic consequences. This pattern underscores the imperative of addressing psychopath in leadership positions to safeguard the interests of investors and stakeholders and mitigate the devastating effects of corporate psychopath-led enterprises on financial stability.

A Study in Australia - In collaboration with Dr. Katarina Fritzon from Bond University and Dr. Simon Croom from the University of San Diego, Mr. Brooks investigated psychopathic traits within the business sector. A study involving 261 corporate professionals in supply chain management revealed a remarkably high prevalence of psychopathy, as 21% of participants exhibited clinically significant levels of psychopathic traits. This percentage closely resembled rates observed in prison populations.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> (Margalit, 2022)



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Elizabeth Holmes case in 5 Points

#### 2. What was Theranos

Theranos was a privately held American health technology company that claimed to have invented blood tests that required very little blood and could be conducted very quickly utilising small automated instruments the company had developed. These claims, however, were later disproved.

#### 4. Courts Order

Elizabeth Holmes, the founder of Theranos, has been found guilty by a US jury on four counts related to misleading investors but acquitted on four other counts. US District Judge Edward Davila, during the sentencing, described the case as "troubling on so many levels." He attributed the downfall of the company to Holmes' hubris, lies, untruths, and misrepresentations, characterizing it as a fraud case where high expectations were shattered by deceptive practices.

#### India and Corporate Psychopath The Role of Startups

CEOs with a psychopathic personality structure may attract investors due to perceptions that they make rational, calculated decisions. Psychopaths excel at telling people what they want to hear and manipulating situations to their advantage. They possess grandiose self-worth, overestimating their abilities and viewing themselves as superior. A study at the University of California found that hedge fund managers exhibiting traits of the "dark triad" (narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism) were more likely to persuade

#### 1. Who was Elizabeth Holmes

Elizabeth Holmes, born on February 3, 1984, in Washington, DC, is the founder and former CEO of Theranos, a health technology company. Theranos was founded in 2003 by Elizabeth Holmes, then 19 years old, and raised over US \$700 million from venture capitalists and other investors, leading in a \$10 billion valuation at its height in 2013 and 2014.

#### 3. Fraud Charges

Theranos' fraud business strategy was built on the premise of performing blood tests with proprietary technology that just required a pinprick in your finger and a tiny bit of blood. The tests, according to Holmes, will be able to detect diseases such as cancer and high cholesterol.

#### 5. Prison

Elizabeth Holmes, who was sentenced to 11 years and three months in prison by a US federal court for turning her Silicon Valley venture, Theranos, into a sophisticated fraud, duping billionaires and other naïve investors into funding an apparently groundbreaking company whose medical technology never worked, will begin her prison on May 30,2023.



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others to invest in their companies, as investors believed in their ability to lead the companies successfully.<sup>27</sup>

#### The Founders showing traits of Psychopaths

The recent turmoil surrounding BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover has thrust the culture within Indian startups into the spotlight, prompting discussions about the emergence of 'psychopath CEOs.' The controversy unfolded when a purportedly abusive call made by Grover to a bank official surfaced on social media, leading to his subsequent leave from the role of managing director at BharatPe. As the situation deepened, allegations of a toxic work culture and financial irregularities at the fintech firm came to light, accompanied by reports of Grover contemplating an exit.

Corporate veteran R Gopalakrishnan, with almost five decades of leadership experience, asserts that accusations of a toxic work culture are frequently associated with companies led by what he terms a 'psychopath CEO.' Gopalakrishnan, who has held prominent positions such as chairman of Unilever Arabia, MD of Brooke Bond Lipton, and director at Tata Sons, draws attention to the correlation between leadership behavior and organizational dynamics. The term 'psychopath CEO' denotes leaders exhibiting manipulative, narcissistic, and callous traits, contributing to an unhealthy workplace environment.

The unfolding events at BharatPe underscore the critical importance of nurturing a positive and ethical workplace culture. The controversy raises broader questions about corporate governance, ethical standards, and the repercussions of leadership styles on overall organizational health, particularly within the dynamic landscape of Indian startups.

The episode serves as a catalyst for introspection within the startup ecosystem, emphasizing the need for transparent, accountable, and responsible leadership to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of emerging ventures.<sup>28</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> (Boddy C. R., Corporate Psychopaths: Uncaring Citizens, Irresponsible Leaders, 2013)
<sup>28</sup> (Speaker, 2022)



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#### Legal Information

The real challenge in dealing with corporate psychopaths is that, because of the structure of corporate law as outlined above, legal liabilities are unlikely to be visited upon the individual corporate psychopath personally. Rather, the organisation will bear liability. Given that psychopaths are often in leadership roles, additional complexities arise. The corporation may pay their personal legal fees; directors' insurance might pay out any award; and more importantly, the corporate psychopath's actions are likely to be defended as the exercise of management prerogative, and explained as having done the necessary job of clearing out underperformers, organisational restructuring or other similar management initiatives.

Legal Challanges because of Corporate Psycopath.

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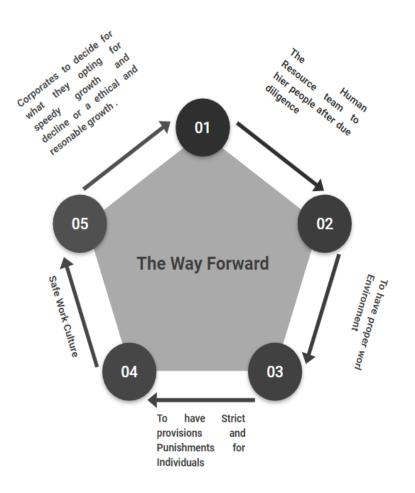
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Philosophically, law favours a least restrictive approach where individuals private rights are respected and protected. Accordingly, Corporate psychopaths are able to act as they see fit in both public situations, such at the workplace, and in their private lives, and those freedoms include behaviours such as lying, manipulation and even bullying on occasion.

Achieving a delicate balance between individual private rights and broader public interests poses a challenge for corporate law. This is particularly evident in the public's concern for secure pension fund investments and workplace safety. Corporate directors play a pivotal role at the intersection of public and private rights, and external obligations, including public fund management and legal compliance. The Corporate Psycopath is amoral and lacks in managing the obligations.



#### The Way Forward



#### Conclusion

In the present Business and Startup have marked by rapid growth and innovation, the prevalence of corporate psychopath cannot be overlooked. Numerous studies, including those in Australia by researchers like Therons, have highlighted the impact of corporate psychopaths on organizations. As this concept gains visibility globally, including in India's boosting startup ecosystem, it is our requirement to explore its impacts.

With millions of businesses emerging annually and India ranking as the third-largest startup ecosystem, the pursuit of success intensifies. However, this growth has its pitfalls, one of which is the emergence of corporate psychopaths actions in the shadows. Termed as "chemo liens" by some researchers, these individuals manipulate circumstances covertly to fulfill their personal aims, emphasizing the need to comprehend the associated legal implications.



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This research aims at the growth of corporate psychopath in India, describing their distinctive characteristics. It delves into the classification and differentiation of sociopaths, narcissists, and antisocial personalities from corporate psychopaths, offering insights into identification. By examining instances of individuals exhibiting corporate psychopathic traits through Doctrinal Research Methodology, the study provides a comprehensive view.

As a way forward, the research advocates for corporate consciousness, urging businesses to decide between rapid unethically questionable growth and sustainable development. It emphasizes the importance of fostering a safe work culture, hiring practices by the Human Resource teams, and the establishment of stringent provisions and penalties for individuals deviating from ethical norms. This holistic approach aims to pave the way for an organizational landscape that prioritizes ethical growth and employee well-being.

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Sr	Nature	Name of Literature	Covered /	Research Gap	Intended
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	Literatur			Literature	
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1	Journal	Moral Emotions and Corporate	The paper		
-	0.0000000	Psychopathy: A Review Author(s):	explores the	The paper	Paper adopts an
		Benjamin R. Walker and Chris J.	role of	highlights the	interdisciplinary
		Jackson Source: Journal of Business	psychopathy in	complexity of	approach,
		Ethics, Vol. 141, No. 4, Special	corporate	the issues	drawing on
		Issue on Moral Emotions and Ethics	affairs and	related to	insights from
		in Organisations (April 2017), pp.	discusses the	psychopathy	neuroscience,
		797-810 Published by: Springer Stable URL:	potential		psychology,
			impact of	evolving nature of	criminology,
		https://www.jstor.org/stable/442530	corporate		and corporate
		61 Accessed: 23-11-2023 11:18	psychopaths,	research on	law. This
			particularly	personality	multifaceted
			those with sub-	traits like the	perspective
			clinical traits,	"Dark Triad."	enhances the
			on	However, it	depth of
			organizations,	does not	understanding
			employees, and	provide a	and provides a
			shareholders.	clear roadmap	more holistic
			The	for navigating	view of the
			interdisciplinar	these	complex
			y nature of the	complexities	dynamics
			literature draws	or address	involved.
			from	how the	
			neuroscience,	evolving	delving into the
			behavioral and	understanding	legal aspects,
			organizational	of	the research
			psychology,	psychopathy	contributes to
			and	• •	the development
			criminology.	legal	of strategies and
			The authors	consideration	remedies for
			argue that	s.	addressing
			corporate		psychopathic
			psychopathy	The paper	behavior in
			can be	highlights the	corporate
			devastating for	role of	leadership.
			organizations,	financial	
			and they	incentives in	The research
			propose a line	fostering	stimulates
			of inquiry into	psychopathic	dialogue on a
			the legal	behavior; it	topic that has



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1		f 1
regulation and	might	far-reaching
remedies	oversimplify	implications for
available to	by attributing	organizational
address such	corporate	governance and
dysfunctional	misconduct	employee well-
management.	solely to these	being. By
	incentives.	raising questions
The article	Other	and proposing
outlines the	organizational	strategies.
nature of	and cultural	
corporate	factors	The paper goes
psychopathy	contributing	beyond
and its	to corporate	theoretical
consequences	issues could	discussions and
for corporate	be	provides
entities. It	overlooked.	practical
emphasizes		recommendation
that not all	the paper	s for dealing
corporate	assumes that	with
decline is	strategies	psychopathy in
solely	before,	corporate
attributed to	during, and	leadership.
psychopathic	after	_
behavior but	recruitment	
acknowledges	can	
the	effectively	
multifactorial	identify and	
causes,	manage	
including	corporate	
economic,	psychopaths.	
social,	However, the	
technological,	accurate	
and historical		
factors. The	of such	
paper also	individuals,	
refers to the	especially	
Royal	those with	
Commission	sub-clinical	
into Banking in		
Australia,	a challenge.	
Australia,	a chancinge.	



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	highlighting		
	the role of	The paper	
	corporate	proposes legal	
	survival and	strategies, it	
	profit	could delve	
	incentives in	deeper into	
	fostering	the practical	
	certain	challenges of	
	behaviors.	implementing	
		these	
	It states that	mechanisms	
	the corporate	and legal	
	environment,	implication of	
	especially one	India .	
	incentivizing		
	certain		
	behaviors		
	through		
	substantial		
	financial		
	rewards, may		
	create a		
	climate		
	conducive to		
	corporate		
	psychopathy.		
	The authors		
	propose		
	strategies, both		
	in private and		
	public law, to		
	address this		
	issue, focusing		
	on recruitment		
	processes and		
	accountability		
	mechanisms to		
	restrict or		
	exclude		
	individuals		



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	with
	psychopathic
	tendencies
	from executive
	leadership
	roles.
	The paper
	addresses the
	complex issues
	surrounding
	corporate
	psychopathy,
	its potential
	impact on
	organizations,
	and the need
	for legal
	strategies to
	mitigate the
	risks associated
	with
	psychopathic
	leadership. The
	authors
	encourage
	further
	exploration and
	discussion of
	these issues
	within the
	academic and
	practitioner
	communities.



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Sr	Nature	Name of Literature	Covered /	Research Gap	Intended
.No	of		Reviewed	in the	Research
	Literatur			Literature	
	е				
2	Journal	Corporate Psychopaths, Conflict,	The article	The paper hints	The research
		Employee Affective Well-Being and	delves into the	at the	sheds light
		Counterproductive Work Behavior	dynamics of	possibility that	on the
		Author(s): Clive R. Boddy Source:	Corporate	the tactics	organizationa
		Journal of Business Ethics, April	Psychopaths in	employed by	1
		2014, Vol. 121, No. 1 (April 2014),	the workplace,	corporate	consequence
		pp. 107-121 Published by: Springer	exploring their	psychopaths	s of having a
		Stable URL:	influence on	may change	CEO with
		https://www.jstor.org/stable/429213	counterproductiv	over time.	high
		68	e work behavior,	However, it	corporate
			conflict,	does not	psychopathy,
			bullying, and	extensively	emphasizing
			employee well-	explore this	the
			being.	Concept	detrimental
				through in	effects on
			The study,	depth study,	leadership,
			conducted in	leaving a gap in	teamwork,
			2011 with 304	understanding	performance,
			respondents in	how corporate	and overall
			Britain,	psychopathy	organizationa
			introduces the	evolves over	1
			hypothesis that	time and	effectiveness
			the presence of	whether there	
			Corporate	are shifting	
			Psychopaths	patterns in their	By
			leads to higher	behavior.	illustrating
			conflict,		the impact of
			bullying, lower	While the paper	leaderlessnes
			employee well-	touches upon	s and
			being, and	the debate	psychopathic
			increased	regarding	leadership,
			counterproductiv	whether	the research
			e work behavior.	corporate	contributes
				psychopaths	to the
			The findings	should be	literature on
			support these	screened into or	leadership



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	hypotheses,	out of	and
	indicating	organizations,	corporate
	substantial	it does not	psychopathy
	impacts of	thoroughly	theory. It
	Corporate	analyze the	highlights
	Psychopaths on	arguments from	the
	workplace	both sides.	predictable
	dynamics. The		ways in
	study also	The paper	which stable
	contributes to	discusses the	personality
	gender-specific	negative	characteristic
	reactions to	consequences	s of a
	Corporate	of appointing a	corporate
	Psychopaths and	CEO with high	psychopath
	emphasizes the	corporate	can
	importance of	psychopathy	negatively
	addressing toxic	but falls short	affect
	leadership for	in exploring	leadership.
	ethical	potential	_
	considerations	countermeasure	The research
	and	s beyond	suggests that
	organizational	screening.	the tactics
	success.	_	employed by
		The paper	corporate
	Overall, it sheds	briefly	psychopaths
	light on the	mentions	may change
	disruptive nature	ethical issues	over time,
	of Corporate	related to	emphasizing
	Psychopaths in		the need for
	the workplace	-	long term
	and highlights		studies to
	the need for	unethical	better
	management	behavior.	understand
	strategies to	However, it	the evolution
	mitigate their	doesn't delve	of corporate
	negative impact.	into the	psychopathy
	<b>C</b> 1	complexities	and its long-
		and	term effects
		implications of	on
		such research,	organizations
I			0



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		leaving a gap in	
		understanding	
		the ethical	The study
		considerations	adds
		involved in	information
		studying	relevant to
		corporate	the ongoing
		psychopathy.	debate on
			whether
			corporate
			psychopaths
			should be
			screened into
			or out of
			organizations
			. It reinforces
			the view that
			corporate
			psychopaths
			are
			ultimately
			destructive to
			organizations
			, providing
			insights for
			discussions
			on corporate
			governance
			practices.

Sr	Nature of	Name of Literature	Covered /	Research Gap	Intended
.No	Literatur		Reviewed	in the Literature	Research
•	e				
3	Journal	Psychopathic Leadership A Case	The case study	The study falls	This research
		Study of a Corporate Psychopath	investigates the	short in	was
		CEO Author(s): Clive R. Boddy	impact of a	exploring the	important in
		Source: Journal of Business Ethics,	CEO with high	evolving tactics	understandin
		Vol. 145, No. 1 (September 2017),	corporate	of corporate	g the
		pp. 141-156 Published by: Springer	psychopathy on	psychopaths	profound



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Stable URL:	a UK charity,	over time.	impact of
https://www.jstor.org/stable/4502220 7 Accessed: 22-11-2023 19:26	comparing it to	It touches on	leadership,
7 Accessed: 22-11-2025 19:20	a previous	the reduction of	particularly
	transformationa	bullying after	when a
	l leader. The	initial control is	corporate
	findings reveal	established but	psychopath
	severe	lacks an in-	assumes a
	consequences	depth	key role. By
	under the	examination.	explaining
	psychopathic	G 11 4	the
	CEO, including	Secondly, the	organizationa
	organizational	research leaves	1
	aimlessness,	a gap by not	consequences
	staff	delving into	of a CEO
	withdrawal,	potential	with high
	increased	countermeasure	corporate
	turnover,	s or preventive	psychopathy,
	revenue	strategies	it
	decline, and	beyond	underscores
	diminished	screening for	the crucial
	innovation. The	psychopathy.	role of
	study		effective
	emphasizes the	A more	leadership in
	detrimental	comprehensive	team
	effects of	discussion on	performance
	leaderless-ness	mitigating the	and overall
	and highlights	negative	organizationa
		consequences is	
	of leadership in	essential for	effectiveness.
	organizational	practical	It contributes
	effectiveness. It	application.	significantly
	contributes to		to both
	corporate		leadership
	psychopathy		and corporate
	theory by		psychopathy
	suggesting		theory,
	evolving tactics		shedding
	over time and		light on the
	provides		negative
	insights into the		effects of



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debate on psychopathic   screening leadership,   psychopaths in such as   or out of   organizations, l   arguing for   employee their ultimately   withdrawal,   destructive and increased   nature. Furthermore,   the research   adds to the   discourse on   corporate   governance,   specifically   in   the screening of   individuals   with   psychopathic   traits into or   out of   organizations   .		 	
such as   or out of or out of organizationa   1   decline, employee withdrawal, and increased turnover.     attraction   attractive   and increased turnover.   attractive   adds to the discourse on corporate governance, specifically in the screening of individuals with psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate psychopaths     attractive   attractive   attractive   attractive     attractive			
or out of organizations, arguing for their ultimately destructive nature. Furthermore, the research adds to the discourse on corporate governance, specifically in the screening of individuals with psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate governance, specifically in the screening of individuals with psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate psychopaths can be detrimental to the organizations that employ them,		screening	
organizations, arguing for their ultimately destructive nature. Furthermore, the research adds to the discourse on corporate governance, specifically in the screening of individuals with psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate psychopaths can be detrimental to the organizations the employ them,		psychopaths in	such as
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in the screening of individuals with psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate psychopaths can be detrimental to the organizations that employ them,			governance,
screening of individuals with psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate psychopaths can be detrimental to the organizations that employ them,			specifically
individuals with psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate psychopaths can be detrimental to the organizations that employ them,			in the
with psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate psychopaths can be detrimental to the organizations that employ them,			screening of
psychopathic traits into or out of organizations . It supports the viewpoint that corporate psychopaths can be detrimental to the organizations that employ them,			individuals
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out of organizationsI i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i			psychopathic
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Image: set to the set t			the viewpoint
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detrimental to the organizations that employ them,			psychopaths
to the organizations that employ them,			
organizations that employ them,			detrimental
that employ them,			to the
them,			organizations
			that employ
			them,
emphasizing			emphasizing
the need for			the need for
careful			careful
consideration			consideration
in leadership			in leadership



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	T	
		appointments
		. The study's
		findings offer
		practical
		implications
		for human
		resources
		professionals,
		suggesting
		that
		screening
		leadership
		candidates
		for
		psychopathy
		may be
		essential for
		organizationa
		l success,
		given the
		relationship
		between
		psychopathy
		and overall
		performance.
		-
		This research
		enhances our
		understandin
		g of the
		dynamics
		between
		leadership
		and
		organizationa
		1 outcomes,
		particularly
		when a
		corporate
		psychopath is
		Psychopaul 18



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at the lead. It provides valuable insights for organizationa decision-1 makers, human resources professionals, and scholars interested in corporate governance, leadership, and psychopathy.

Sr	Nature	Name of Literature	Covered /	Research Gap in	Intended
.No	of		Reviewed	the Literature	Research
	Literatur				
	e				
4	Journal	The Influence of Corporate	The research	It emphasizes the	
		Psychopaths on Corporate Social	highlights the	need for future	The research
		Responsibility and Organizational	significant	research to	contributes
		Commitment to Employees Author(s):	impact of	explore the	significantly
		Clive R. Boddy, Richard K.	Corporate	impact of	by shedding
		Ladyshewsky and Peter Galvin	Psychopaths	Corporate	light on the
		Source: Journal of Business Ethics,	on	Psychopaths in	detrimental
		November 2010, Vol. 97, No. 1	perceptions	areas such as	influence of
		(November 2010), pp. 1-19 Published	of Corporate	bullying, conflict	Corporate
		by: Springer Stable URL:	Social	at work, morale,	Psychopaths
		https://www.jstor.org/stable/40929370	Responsibilit	job satisfaction,	on
		ha	y (CSR) and	organizational	organization
			organizationa	effectiveness,	al dynamics,
			1	fraud,	including
			commitment	organizational	areas such as
			to	misrepresentatio	CSR
			employees. It	n, organizational	perceptions
			emphasizes	success, and	and



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th		corporate	commitment
	dividuals,	longevity.	to
	iven solely		employees.
by			
gr	atification		It provides
an	nd lacking	The paper lacked	empirical
m	oral	to highlight the	evidence
re	sponsibility	importance of	supporting
,	pose a	addressing	the notion
ba	arrier to	ethical issues	that the
C	SR and	related to	presence of
en	nployee	studying	Corporate
сс	ommitment.	individuals prone	Psychopaths
		to unethical	hampers
TI	he findings	behavior.	altruistic
in	dicate that		behaviors
ur	nder the	The research	and ethical
le	adership of	advocates for an	practices
C	orporate	in-depth	within
Ps	sychopaths,	examination of	organizations
en	nployees	the role of	
ar	e less likely	Corporate	
to	perceive	Psychopaths in	The study
so	cially	organizational	underscores
	sponsible	dynamics and	the need for
bu	isiness	calls for a	considering
pr	actices,	comprehensive	the impact of
1	vironmenta	-	these
1 f	friendliness,	their influence	individuals
an	,	across different	in corporate
	ommitment	measures of	governance
to		misbehavior and	and
er	nployees.	organizational	management
	he research	outcomes but	research.
	nderscores	does not suggest	Additionally,
th		any point	the research
	nportance	through which it	offers
	preventing	could be further	practical
	orporate	researched on .	implications
	sychopaths		-
PS	sychopaths		by



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	from holding	suggesting
	leadership	that
	positions to	organizations
	ensure	and societies
	businesses	aiming for
	operate in	responsible
	ways that	business
	benefit	practices
	society, the	should
	environment,	prevent
	and	Corporate
	employees.	Psychopaths
		from
	The paper	occupying
	suggests that	leadership
	future	positions.
	research	Overall, the
	should	study's
	consider the	findings
	presence of	offer
	Corporate	valuable
	Psychopaths	insights into
	in exploring	the
	CSR and	challenges
	employment	posed by
	relations,	Corporate
	addressing	Psychopaths
	ethical	
	concerns	
	related to	
	studying	
	individuals	
	prone to	
	unethical	
	behavior.	
	The study	
	advocates for	
	increased	
	awareness in	
	corporate	
	I	



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governance and management research regarding the	
regarding the influence of Corporate Psychopaths in various	
organizationa l aspects.	

Sr	Nature	Name of Literature	Covered /	Research Gap	Intended
.N	of		Reviewed	in the	Research
0.	Literatu			Literature	
	re				
5	Journal	Corporate Psychopaths: Uncaring Citizens, Irresponsible Leaders Author(s): Clive R. Boddy Source: The Journal of Corporate Citizenship , No. 49, Creating Global Citizens and Responsible Leadership (March 2013), pp. 8-16 Published by: Greenleaf Publishing Stable URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/jcorp citi.49.8	The article emphasizes the critical nature of denying leadership positions to individuals with psychopathic tendencies, particularly in	The article mentions the impact of corporate psychopaths in politics but lacks in-depth exploration and linkedge . It falls short in providing a	The Article helped in understandi ng the characteristi cs of corporate psychopath s, providing a clear
			the face of multiple impending crises that pose threats to sustainability. It introduces the concept of corporate psychopath, outlining the characteristics	comprehensiv e understanding of how these individuals influence political dynamics.	understandi ng of the traits associated with manipulativ e, unethical, and ruthless behavior in a corporate setting.



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	and share to	1-4-11-1	
	and rise to	detailed	
	power of	examination	Further by
	individuals	of the specific	highlighting
	exhibiting	roles played	the decline
	manipulative,	by corporate	in corporate
	unethical, and	psychopaths	social
	ruthless traits.	in causing the	responsibili
	The discussion	global	ty (CSR)
	delves into the	financial	and
	decline of	crisis.	environmen
	corporate		tal
	social		sustainabilit
	responsibility	The limited	y, the paper
	(CSR) and	exploration of	offers
	environmental	countermeasu	valuable
	sustainability,	res beyond	insights
	providing	screening.	into the
	specific cases	The article	consequenc
	to illustrate the	could benefit	es of
	concerning	from	corporate
	trend.	discussing a	psychopath
		broader range	y on
	Furthermore,	of preventive	broader
	the article	strategies,	societal and
	explores the	allowing for a	environmen
	influence of	more	tal issues.
	corporate	comprehensiv	
	psychopaths in	e examination	
	the political	of how to	
	sphere,	address the	
	demonstrating	influence of	
	how these	corporate	
	individuals can	psychopaths.	
	disproportionat	-	
	ely impact		
	society despite		
	their relatively		
	low incidence		
	(1%) in the		
	population.		
1	. I		



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	The author	
	contends that	
	corporate	
	psychopaths	
	pose a	
	significant	
	threat to	
	political	
	stability, global	
	financial	
	systems,	
	environmental	
	well-being,	
	corporate	
	governance,	
	and	
	responsible	
	management.	
	The argument	
	suggests that	
	their self-	
	centered	
	behavior and	
	Machiavellian	
	priorities	
	undermine the	
	interests of	
	future	
	generations,	
	employees,	
	society, and	
	the	
	environment.	
	The global	
	financial crisis	
	is highlighted	
	as a	
	consequence of	
	the actions of	



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	corporate	
	psychopaths at	
	the helm of	
	organizations.	
	The article	
	underscores	
	the need for	
	screening	
	measures for	
	psychopaths in	
	senior	
	organizational	
	and political	
	positions to	
	ensure that	
	leaders	
	prioritize the	
	greater good	
	over short-term	
	personal	
	interests. It	
	warns that	
	without such	
	measures, the	
	consequences	
	could be	
	severe, leading	
	to the	
	degradation of	
	the economy,	
	environment,	
	and the	
	potential	
	extinction of	
	various	
	species,	
	including	
	humanity.	