





COVER PAGE AND DECLARATION

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EIU Paris City Campus
Address: 59 Rue Lamarck, 75018 Paris, France | Tel: +33 144 857 317 | Mobile/WhatsApp: +33607591197 | Email: paris@eiu.ac

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Introduction

Human Resource Management is an essential function in every organization. It involves the effective management of the workforce to achieve the overall goals and objectives of the organization. In this module, we will explore various aspects of HRM, including manpower planning, recruitment and selection, employee training and development, employee health, safety, security and welfare, motivation, performance appraisals, remuneration, and personnel records and statistics.

The assignment is designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed to construct HRM policies that align with organizational goals, assess HR needs, design effective professional development programs, evaluate employee welfare, revise performance appraisals, By the end of this assignment, we will be able to develop and implement an efficient and effective human resource plan that ensures the organization's success.

Critique of the company's HR policies

Evaluation of current HR policies based on industry standards

The company's HR policies were evaluated against industry standards to assess their effectiveness and alignment with best practices. Overall, the current policies demonstrate a reasonable level of compliance with industry standards. However, there are areas for improvement to ensure the company remains competitive in attracting and retaining top talent.

One positive aspect is the presence of policies addressing key HR areas such as recruitment, performance management, and employee benefits. These policies adhere to legal

regulations and provide basic guidelines for HR processes. However, compared to industry standards, the company's policies lack agility and innovation.

Furthermore, the lack of a structured compensation system program and an in-depth job evaluation process hinder the company's ability to attract and retain skilled employees. Without benchmarking salaries and benefits against industry standards, the company may face challenges in securing top talent, resulting in a potential talent gap.

"HR policies and practices must be designed to support the organization's overall strategy and goals" (Simons, 2011, p. 143).

Identification of strengths and weaknesses of HR policies

Strengths:

- a) Compliance with legal regulations: The company's HR policies are aligned with basic legal requirements, ensuring compliance with labor laws and regulations.
- b) Documentation and clarity: The policies are well-documented, offering employees a clear understanding of their rights, responsibilities, and available benefits.
- c) Employee benefits: The company provides a reasonable range of benefits, including healthcare, retirement plans, and paid time off, which are crucial for employee satisfaction and retention.

Weaknesses:

a) Lack of flexibility:

The absence of flexible work options, such as remote work or flexible schedules, limits the company's ability to adapt to employees' changing needs and preferences.

b) Inadequate career development opportunities:

The current policies do not provide clear pathways for employees to enhance their skills or progress in their careers, potentially leading to reduced motivation and talent retention.

c) Insufficient diversity and inclusion efforts:

The HR policies lack explicit strategies for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the company's workforce. This omission can result in a lack of diverse perspectives and hinder innovation and overall organizational performance.

Recommendations to improve HR policies

Enhance compensation and job evaluation:

Develop a structured compensation system that includes market analysis, internal equity considerations, and a robust job evaluation process. This will help attract and retain skilled employees while aligning salaries with industry standards.

Foster a culture of flexibility:

Introduce flexible work arrangements, such as remote work options and flexible schedules, to support work-life balance and accommodate varying employee needs. This will improve employee satisfaction and retention.

Strengthen career development opportunities:

Implement clear guidelines for career growth, including training programs, mentorship initiatives, and internal mobility options. This will demonstrate the company's commitment to employee development and foster a culture of continuous learning and growth.

Promote diversity and inclusion:

Develop and enforce policies that promote diversity and inclusion within the workforce. This should include strategies for diverse recruitment, a diverse and unbiased selection process, and initiatives to foster an inclusive work culture.

Support employee wellbeing:

Enhance employee wellbeing initiatives by introducing mental health support programs, employee assistance programs, and promoting work-life balance. This will contribute to a positive work environment, productivity, and overall employee satisfaction.

By implementing these recommendations, the company can improve its HR policies, attract top talent, foster employee engagement, and ultimately enhance its overall performance in the industry.

"Human resource management is concerned with the development, implementation and maintenance of policies that promote the effective use of people within an organization" (Leatherbarrow & Fletcher, 2014, p. 3).

Improving employee retention.

- Explanation of the importance of employee retention

Employee retention is of paramount importance for any organization as it directly impacts productivity, continuity, and overall success. High turnover rates can be costly, both in terms of financial resources and the loss of valuable knowledge and expertise.

Additionally, turnover disrupts team dynamics, lowers employee morale, and affects customer satisfaction.

Fostering a culture of employee retention demonstrates the organization's commitment to valuing its employees and their contributions, ultimately leading to higher engagement and loyalty. Employees who feel valued and supported are more likely to be motivated, productive, and committed to achieving the organization's goals.

"effective human resource management involves developing a strategic reward system that aligns with the organization's goals and objectives" (Armstrong & Taylor, 2014, p. 344)

- Recommended strategies to improve employee retention

Competitive Compensation and Benefits:

Conduct regular market analyses to ensure that the organization's compensation packages are competitive. Provide comprehensive benefits, such as healthcare, retirement plans, and flexible work arrangements, that align with employees' needs and expectations.

Employee Development and Growth Opportunities:

Implement programs that focus on skill enhancement, career development, and promotion from within the organization. Encourage employees to acquire new skills, take on challenging assignments, and provide opportunities for continuous learning and professional growth.

"training programs are essential to develop employee skills and abilities, and to create a more knowledgeable and competent workforce" (Noe et al., 2021, p. 246).

Work-Life Balance Support:

Promote work-life balance by offering flexible work arrangements, family-friendly policies, and wellness initiatives. Foster a supportive culture that values employees' personal lives, enabling them to effectively manage work and personal responsibilities.

Recognition and Rewards:

Establish recognition programs that acknowledge and appreciate employees' contributions and milestones. Recognize outstanding performance through monetary and non-monetary incentives, including bonuses, public appreciation, and opportunities for growth and advancement.

- Potential benefits of improving employee retention for the company

Increased Productivity and Efficiency:

Improved employee retention leads to increased productivity levels as experienced employees require less time and resources for onboarding and training. Long-tenure employees possess institutional knowledge and are adept at handling challenges efficiently, resulting in higher overall team productivity.

Enhanced Employee Engagement:

Higher retention rates indicate a receptive and engaged workforce. Engaged employees exhibit higher job satisfaction, are committed to their work, and are likely to go above and beyond their job roles to achieve organizational success. This engagement contributes to higher levels of innovation and customer satisfaction.

Reduced Recruitment and Training Costs:

High turnover rates can be financially burdensome due to recruitment and training expenses. By improving employee retention, the organization can mitigate these costs and allocate resources toward other strategic initiatives.

Positive Organizational Reputation:

A reputation as an employer of choice, known for valuing and retaining its employees, attracts top talent. Candidates are more likely to seek opportunities in organizations where there is evidence of employee satisfaction and retention. This healthy influx of talent contributes to the organization's competitiveness and longevity.

In conclusion, prioritizing employee retention ensures a stable and engaged workforce, leading to increased productivity, cost savings, and a positive organizational reputation. By implementing strategies that address employee needs, promote growth and recognition, and support work-life balance, organizations can create an environment where employees thrive and choose to stay for the long term.

More effective customer service practices

Explanation of the importance of customer service for the company

Customer service plays a crucial role in the success and sustainability of any organization. It directly impacts customer satisfaction, loyalty, and ultimately, the organization's bottom line. In today's competitive market, where customers have numerous choices, providing exceptional customer service is a key differentiator for businesses.

For the company, excellent customer service means exceeding customer expectations at every touchpoint. It establishes a positive reputation and fosters long-term relationships with customers.

Recommended strategies to improve customer service practices

Focus on Customer-Centric Training:

Implement comprehensive customer service training programs for employees at all levels. These programs should emphasize active listening, effective communication, problem-solving, and empathy. Equip employees with the necessary skills and knowledge to handle customer inquiries, complaints, and feedback professionally and satisfactorily.

Develop Service Standards and Guidelines:

Establish clear service standards and guidelines that outline the organization's expectations for customer interactions. These standards should cover aspects such as response time, empathy, professionalism, and problem resolution. Regularly revisit and reinforce these standards to ensure consistency and quality across all customer-facing roles.

Leverage Technology for Customer Service:

Embrace technology solutions, such as customer relationship management (CRM) systems and live chat functionalities, to enhance response times, track customer interactions, and personalize service. Use automation to streamline routine processes and free up time for personalized interactions.

Foster a Customer-Focused Culture:

Create a culture that prioritizes customer service excellence, starting from the top leadership. Instill customer-centric values across the organization by recognizing and rewarding employees for exceptional customer service efforts. Regularly communicate the

importance of customer satisfaction and provide opportunities for employees to share customer success stories and best practices.

Potential benefits of improving customer service practices for the company

Customer Loyalty and Retention:

Exceptional customer service builds trust, enhances customer loyalty, and reduces customer churn. Satisfied customers are more likely to return, make repeat purchases, and become brand loyalists.

Positive Brand Reputation:

Providing outstanding customer service helps establish a positive brand reputation.

Satisfied customers share their positive experiences, contributing to a strong online presence and positive word-of-mouth, which attracts new customers.

Increased Customer Lifetime Value:

By delivering exceptional customer service, organizations can increase customer lifetime value. Satisfied customers tend to spend more, make repeat purchases, and are likely to explore additional products or services offered by the company.

Competitive Advantage:

A reputation for exceptional customer service sets the company apart from its competitors. It becomes a key differentiator and attracts potential customers who prioritize superior service.

In conclusion, improving customer service practices is crucial for the company's success. By investing in customer-centric training, establishing service standards, leveraging

technology, and fostering a customer-focused culture, the organization can create a positive customer experience that leads to increased loyalty, positive brand reputation, increased customer lifetime value, and a competitive advantage over rivals.

Use of technology to improve interoffice communication.

Explanation of the importance of interoffice communication

Effective interoffice communication plays a critical role in the success of any organization. It serves as the backbone for collaboration, coordination, and seamless workflow between departments, teams, and individuals. Clear and efficient communication fosters a strong corporate culture, enhances employee engagement, and boosts productivity. It ensures that everyone is aligned with the company's goals, objectives, and strategies, leading to better decision-making and successful outcomes.

"effective communication is a key factor in promoting collaboration and reducing conflicts within groups and teams" (Brooks, 2017, p. 225).

Recommended technologies to improve interoffice communication

To improve interoffice communication, the following technologies are highly recommended:

Instant Messaging and Collaboration Tools:

Implementing instant messaging platforms like Slack, Microsoft Teams, or Google
Hangouts enables real-time communication, file sharing, and quicker decision-making. These
tools are accessible from various devices and help employees stay connected while promoting
teamwork and efficient collaboration.

Video Conferencing Software:

Video conferencing tools such as Zoom, Webex, or Microsoft Teams facilitate faceto-face virtual meetings, even when teams are geographically dispersed. The use of video conferencing enhances non-verbal communication, builds stronger connections among team members, and reduces the need for travel expenses.

Cloud-based Document Sharing and Collaboration Systems:

Utilizing cloud-based platforms like Google Drive, Microsoft SharePoint, or Dropbox allows employees to share, store, and collaboratively edit documents in real-time. This improves version control, reduces email clutter, and ensures all team members have access to the most up-to-date information.

Intranet and Employee Portals:

Creating a centralized intranet or employee portal provides a hub for internal communications, company announcements, and organizational resources. It allows employees to access important information, policies, and updates effortlessly, ensuring transparency and consistency across all departments.

Potential benefits of using technology to improve interoffice communication for the company

Enhanced Collaboration and Efficiency:

Efficient communication tools and systems foster collaboration, streamlining workflows, and reducing bottlenecks. Teams can work together seamlessly, leading to improved project management, quicker problem-solving, and increased productivity.

Better Organizational Alignment:

Technology facilitates the dissemination of information and ensures consistent messaging throughout the organization. This alignment ensures that all employees are well-informed, connected, and updated on the company's goals, strategies, and milestones.

Increased Employee Engagement and Satisfaction:

By providing employees with user-friendly communication tools, the company demonstrates its commitment to employee engagement. It creates a sense of community, encourages open dialogue, and fosters a positive work culture, leading to improved employee satisfaction and retention rates.

"HRM practitioners need to be aware of the power dynamics that exist in organizations and how they may affect the well-being of employees" (Jayawardena, 2021, p. 112).

Cost and Time Savings:

Implementing technology for interoffice communication reduces the reliance on physical meetings, printouts, and travel expenses. This results in cost savings, as well as time savings by eliminating unnecessary administrative tasks and reducing communication delays.

e. Adaptability to Remote and Flexible Work:

In today's dynamic work environment, technology-enabled communication allows employees to work remotely or choose flexible work schedules while maintaining effective communication with their colleagues. This flexibility not only attracts top talent but also supports work-life balance.

By incorporating these recommended technologies, the company can significantly improve interoffice communication, which will ultimately lead to increased productivity, employee satisfaction, and overall success for the company.

Employee performance appraisals

Explanation of the importance of performance appraisals

Performance appraisals play a vital role in driving organizational success by achieving the following objectives:

Feedback and Development:

Performance appraisals provide a platform for managers to offer constructive feedback, recognize achievements, and identify areas for improvement. This feedback helps employees grow, develop new skills, and enhance their overall performance.

"performance management is the process of identifying, measuring, and managing the performance of employees to ensure that their efforts are aligned with the goals and objectives of the organization" (Marchington et al., 2016, p. 214).

Goal Setting and Alignment:

It allows for effective goal-setting, aligning individual contributions with organizational objectives. Regular performance evaluations ensure that employees remain focused on the right priorities and contribute to the success of the business.

Motivation and Engagement:

Recognizing and appreciating employees' efforts through performance appraisals fosters a sense of accomplishment, boosts morale, and enhances employee engagement. Such recognition encourages employees to maintain high levels of productivity and motivation.

"motivation plays a critical role in determining employee behavior and job performance, and that managers should aim to satisfy basic needs such as safety and job security, as well as higher-level needs such as self-actualization" (Brooks, 2017, p. 110).

Evaluation of current performance appraisal system

In evaluating our current performance appraisal system, we have identified certain limitations that hinder its effectiveness. These include:

Lack of Objectivity and Standardization:

The current system lacks specific metrics and objective criteria for evaluating performance, leading to subjective assessments and biased outcomes.

Inadequate Frequency:

Appraisals often occur annually or semi-annually, limiting timely feedback and hindering opportunities for improvement and growth.

Limited Employee Involvement:

The current system does not adequately involve employees in the appraisal process, limiting their ownership and engagement.

Recommended ways to improve the performance appraisal process

To address the limitations identified, we propose the following recommendations to enhance the performance appraisal process:

a. Clear Performance Metrics and Standards:

Develop specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) performance metrics that align with organizational goals. This standardization will ensure objectivity and fairness in evaluations.

b. Regular and Ongoing Feedback:

Transition from an annual or semi-annual review cycle to a continuous feedback system. Encourage managers to provide regular feedback to employees and conduct frequent check-ins to address performance issues and promote growth.

c. Employee Self-Assessment and Involvement:

Encourage employees to self-assess their performance and set goals for improvement. Incorporate their insights and perspectives into performance discussions to foster a collaborative and inclusive appraisal process.

"employee engagement is critical to the success of organizations, as engaged employees are more likely to be committed to their work and feel a sense of ownership of their jobs" (Leatherbarrow & Fletcher, 2014, p. 67).

d. Training and Development:

Provide training sessions and resources to equip managers with the necessary skills to conduct effective performance appraisals, deliver feedback, and coach employees towards their professional development.

"learning and development activities should be aligned with the organization's strategic objectives, and should be evaluated for their effectiveness and impact" (Armstrong & Taylor, 2014, p. 189)

e. Performance-linked Rewards and Recognition:

Introduce a system that rewards and recognizes exceptional performance through incentives, promotions, or non-monetary recognition programs.

In conclusion, Enhancing employee performance appraisals is essential for fostering a culture of continuous improvement, engagement, and development. By implementing the proposed recommendations, we can ensure a fair, transparent, and effective performance appraisal process that ultimately contributes to the overall success of our organization.

"It's recommended that organizations build a performance management system which sets clear performance expectations, measures progress, and provides feedback and support to employees" (Armstrong & Taylor, 2014, p. 234)

Job listings

"recruitment and selection processes should be designed to attract and select the most suitable candidates for a job, through the use of job analysis, job descriptions, and person specifications" (Armstrong & Taylor, 2014, p. 126)

Secretary position

- Job description

As a secretary, your main responsibility will be to provide administrative support and ensure the efficient day-to-day operations of the office. You will be responsible for managing phone calls, organizing and scheduling meetings, maintaining files and records, and preparing documents, such as reports or presentations. Additionally, you will handle incoming and

outgoing correspondence, manage office supplies and equipment, and assist with other general administrative tasks as needed.

- Required skills and qualifications

To excel in this role, you must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills to effectively interact with internal and external stakeholders. Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook) is essential for creating and editing documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. Strong organizational and time management abilities are crucial to prioritize tasks and meet deadlines effectively. Attention to detail and accuracy in your work is essential to ensure the smooth functioning of day-to-day operations. Additionally, exceptional interpersonal skills are required to work well in a team-oriented environment and handle sensitive and confidential information with discretion.

- Recommended starting salary

The recommended starting salary for the secretary position is \$35,000 - \$40,000 per year, depending on experience and qualifications.

Marketer position

- Job description

As a marketer, you will play a key role in developing and implementing marketing strategies to promote our products or services and expand our customer base. Your responsibilities will include conducting market research and analyzing data to identify customer needs and preferences, planning and executing marketing campaigns across various channels, managing social media accounts, creating compelling content, and monitoring campaign performance. Additionally, you will collaborate with cross-functional teams to ensure brand consistency and track the effectiveness of marketing efforts to optimize future campaigns.

- Required skills and qualifications

To thrive in this role, a bachelor's degree in Marketing, Business, or a related field is required. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills are necessary to understand market trends and consumer behavior. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are crucial for creating persuasive marketing materials and communicating effectively with internal and external stakeholders. Proficiency in digital marketing tools and platforms, including social media, SEO, and email marketing, is essential to drive brand awareness and engage with target audiences effectively. Knowledge of market research techniques and analysis is important to inform strategic decision-making. Creativity and innovation in developing marketing strategies will help set our company apart from competitors.

- Recommended starting salary

The recommended starting salary for the marketer position is \$45,000 - \$50,000 per year, depending on experience and qualifications.

Operations manager position

- Job description

As an operations manager, you will be responsible for overseeing the daily operations of our company to ensure efficiency, productivity, and customer satisfaction. Your responsibilities will include managing staff, developing operational procedures, optimizing operational processes, monitoring inventory levels, and ensuring timely delivery of products or services. You will collaborate across departments to improve cross-functional coordination, identify bottlenecks, and implement process improvements. Additionally, you will analyze operational data and performance metrics to identify areas for improvement and develop strategies to enhance operational efficiency.

- Required skills and qualifications

To excel in this role, a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Operations

Management, or a related field is required. A minimum of 5 years of experience in operations

management is necessary to effectively oversee complex operational processes. Strong leadership and decision-making skills are crucial to lead and motivate teams and make critical operational decisions. Excellent problem-solving and analytical abilities will help identify operational challenges and develop effective solutions. Your ability to manage multiple tasks and projects simultaneously in a fast-paced environment is essential.

Proficiency in project management tools and software is advantageous. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are important for effective collaboration across teams and stakeholders.

- Recommended starting salary

The recommended starting salary for the operations manager position is \$60,000 - \$70,000 per year, depending on experience and qualifications.

Health, safety, and wellbeing guide

Explanation of the importance of employee health, safety, and wellbeing

Employee health, safety, and wellbeing are vital aspects of a successful and thriving organization. When employees feel safe, supported, and valued, they are more likely to be engaged, productive, and satisfied in their roles. Moreover, a focus on employee health and safety not only supports the physical and mental well-being of individuals but also contributes to the overall success of the business.

Prioritizing employee health reduces absenteeism and presenteeism, resulting in increased productivity and efficiency. When employees are healthy and supported, they are less likely to take sick leave or engage in behaviors that negatively impact their work performance.

Guidelines and policies to improve employee health, safety, and wellbeing

Health Promotion:

- Offer wellness programs that encourage healthy habits such as exercise, nutrition, and stress management.
 - Provide regular health check-ups and access to preventive care resources.
- Promote mental health awareness and offer access to counseling or employee assistance programs.

Safety Measures:

- Establish clear safety guidelines and regularly update and communicate them to all employees.
- Conduct regular safety training sessions to educate and empower employees on practicing safe procedures.
- Implement reporting mechanisms for identifying and addressing potential hazards promptly.

Work-Life Balance:

- Encourage flexible work arrangements, such as remote or flexible working hours, whenever applicable.
- Promote the use of vacation time to prevent burnout and encourage work-life balance.
- Encourage employees to take regular breaks and provide designated relaxation areas.

Benefits of implementing employee health, safety, and wellbeing policies

Improved Employee Engagement:

Employees who feel safe and supported are more likely to be engaged, committed, and motivated, resulting in higher productivity and performance levels.

Reduced Costs:

By prioritizing employee health and safety, organizations can reduce costs associated with absenteeism, turnover, accidents, and workers' compensation claims.

Enhanced Employer Brand:

Demonstrating a commitment to employee health, safety, and wellbeing helps in attracting top talent and positioning the company as an employer of choice within the industry.

Positive Company Culture:

By creating a work environment that prioritizes employee health and wellbeing, the organization fosters a positive company culture that promotes collaboration, teamwork, and employee satisfaction.

Legal Compliance:

Implementing health and safety policies ensures compliance with local regulations and minimizes the risk of legal issues and reputational damage.

Overall, investing in employee health, safety, and wellbeing is a proactive approach to creating a supportive and productive work environment. Implementing policies and guidelines centered around these aspects can lead to numerous benefits for both employees and the organization as a whole.

Conclusion

Human resource management is a crucial aspect of any organization's success. This discipline involves the planning, recruitment, selection, and development of employees and ensuring their health, safety, and welfare in the workplace. The primary objective of human resource management is to engage, retain and develop talented employees who can contribute to the organization's success.

Effective human resource management starts with understanding the organization's objectives and aligning HRM strategies with these objectives. This involves identifying the organization's current and future needs in terms of manpower, skills, and expertise, and developing HRM policies and practices to meet these needs. The recruitment, selection, and on-boarding process play a crucial role in this regard.

Training and employee development are also essential for building and enhancing employees' skills and expertise, leading to higher productivity and job satisfaction. Retaining talented employees requires attention to employee health and safety, promoting employee welfare, motivation and counseling.

Effective performance appraisals, remuneration, and personnel records and statistics are also crucial aspects of HRM that enable organizations to monitor employee performance, reward employees appropriately, and maintain records in compliance with legal requirements.

"Resourcing and Talent Management is concerned with the ways in which organizations manage their people" (Taylor, 2014, p. 1).

In conclusion, Human Resource Management plays a vital role in creating a harmonious and productive work environment. Proper management of people can help organizations achieve their objectives and contribute to the well-being of society.

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