



Mains Practice Question

Q. Define Work Culture. Discuss its importance in the success of any organisation. (150 words)

30 Jul, 2020 GS Paper 4 Theoretical Questions

Approach

- In the introduction define what do you understand by 'Work Culture'.
- Explain briefly the traits of a good work culture.
- Discuss how a good work culture leads to efficient working of the organisation.
- In conclusion, write how a good work culture can be maintained in an organisation.

Introduction

- Work culture is regarded as a set of practices, values and shared beliefs within an organisation and its employees that arise from what is generally regarded as appropriate ways to think and act.
- It is the work culture that decides the way employees interact with each other and how an organisation functions. The work culture is a product of its history, traditions, values and vision.

Body

Characteristics of a good work culture

- Desirable work culture includes shared institutional values, priorities, rewards and other practices which foster inclusion, high performance, and commitment, while still allowing diversity in thought and action.
 - A perfect example of a good workplace culture is ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).
 - It was founded in the 1960s and has since then contributed immensely in the development of the nation.
 - Despite India being a third world country, ISRO has against all odds launched various space programs, the most recent being Chandayan 2.
 - It can not be denied that one of the most important factors of ISRO's success is healthy work culture.
- **Importance of work culture in the success of an organisation**
 - **Transparency, innovation and discipline:** Healthy work culture promotes transparency, innovation and discipline in an organisation.
 - **Reduced Conflicts:** Good work culture promotes effective communication and helps in reducing conflicts among individuals/team during work.
 - **Increases Productivity and Quality:** Transparency, responsibility, unbiased are underpinnings of good work culture. These will enable individuals and teams to become self-organized which in turn improves quality and productivity.
 - **Sustainable Work:** Good work culture includes peer respect, recognition of hard work, and freedom to bring new ideas (innovation). These will help in long term prospects of the organization.

- **Effective Communication:** Healthy work culture provides a platform for effective communication among the verticals and horizontal of the organisation which helps in getting work done effectively.
- A healthy work culture is maintained through attraction-selection-attrition, new employee onboarding, leadership, and organizational reward systems.

Conclusion

- Often healthy work culture is associated with private organisations and government organisations are known for the lack of it due to frequent mismanagement, corruption, bureaucratic red tape etc.
- However, efforts like RTI, e-governance, strict laws etc are improving the situation.
- These efforts will certainly help in bringing out the best in government employees as well.

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