







DECEMBER 19, 2023



المدرسة الوطنية العليا للذكاء الإصطناعي

National High School of Artificial Intelligence

(ENSIA)

Academic Year 2023-2024 [Y2-S1]

YOUR MANAGEMENT COURSE

Introduction to BUSINESS



Chapter 15

UNDERSTANDING ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE & CULTURAL DIVERSITY

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Learning goals:



- ➤ Describe the <u>core elements</u> of a **culture**;
- Compare and contrast 4 basic types of organisational culture;
- Discuss <u>several types</u> of <u>subculture</u> that may exist in organisations;
- Explain why managing cultural diversity is important and describe <u>several activities</u> required to manage it successfully.

The elements of culture:

First, what is culture?

- It is the unique pattern of shared <u>assumptions</u>, <u>values</u>, <u>and norms</u> that shape the <u>socialisation</u>, <u>symbols</u>, <u>language</u>, <u>narratives</u> and <u>practices</u> of a group of people in an organisation or a nation.
- > <u>Assumptions</u>: the underlying thoughts that members of a culture take for granted and believe to be true :
 - > openness Vs proprietary software coding.
- > <u>Values and norms</u>: the basic beliefs people hold about things that are important and meaningful and are stable over times:
 - > Integrity, respect and caring, helping others, sharing ...
- > <u>Socialisation</u>: process by which new members are brought into a culture.

- > <u>Symbols</u>: anything visible that can be used to represent an abstract shared value or something having special meaning:
 - > National flag,
- > Narratives: the unique stories, sagas, legends and myths in a culture
- > <u>Practices</u>: The most complex but observable cultural elements which include taboos and ceremonies:
 - > Taboos culturally forbidden behaviours
 - > Ceremonies > official and popular events.

Why Org. culture is important?

Because it influences the satisfaction and performance of the members of an organisation or a nation.

There are many elements of culture:

As illustrated in the following fig., assumptions, values, and norms form the base of a Culture but cannot be observed directly >> visible and non visible elements.

The Culture Iceberg

Observable

Elements

of Culture

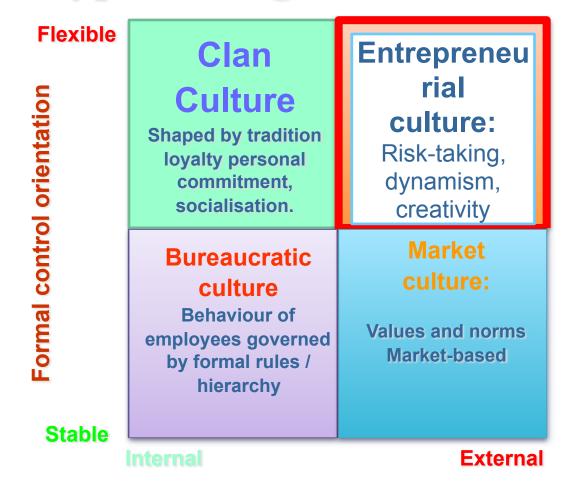
Hidden
Elements of
Culture

- Practices Narratives
- Language
- Symbols
- Socialisation

- Norms
- Values
- Assumptions

The Culture Iceberg * Practices **Observable** * Narratives * Language **Elements of** * Symbols **Culture** * Socialisation Hidden Norms **Elements** of **Values** Culture **Assumptions**

Basic types of organisational culture:



Focus of attention

Organisational implications:

Many managers pay attention to culture. HOWEVER, some are concerned about <u>building or maintaining their existing</u> <u>culture</u>; while others are concerned about **Changing their org. culture** in order to improve their future performance.

- Building a Strong Culture: Takes place when the more observable cultural elements project a single, consistent message. > as a result, managers and employees share common behavioural style.
- * Changing an Org. Culture: Takes place due to internal or external pressures.

SUBCULTURES WITHIN ORGANISATIONS:

Organisations may have <u>Various sub-cultures</u> >> they emerge when assumptions, values, and norms are shared by some -but not all - org. members.

- >> Reasons for having subcultures:
 - Subcultures due to mergers and acquisitions:
 - Different values and behaviours of the new org.
 - Subcultures emerging from departments and divisions:
 - Due to different occupations,
 - Due to geographically spread operations,
 - Drive of managers on the basis of their characteristics;
 - Subcultures due to workforce demographics:
 - Ethnicity / age / gender.
- >> Implications of organizational substructures:
 - * Benefits: synergy
 - * Disadvantages: minorities losing right.

Cultural diversity and its management:

- Cultural diversity encompasses the full mix of the cultures and subcultures to which members of the workforce belong.
- There are many aspects of diversity that are of concern to employees:
 - Language,

 - Religion, Sexual orientation,
 - Disability,
 - Age,
 - Gender,
 - Race/ethnicity.
- Some experts believe that addressing such a broad variety of diversity issues may be detrimental to improving the treatment and career outcomes of ethnic minorities. Other believe the contrary.
- In any case, there are 3 majors goals that most org. strive to achieve as shown in the following figure:

.... /

Organisational goals for managing diversity

<u>Cultural diversity</u> encompasses the full mix of the cultures and subcultures of members



1) Compliance:

With Laws and regulations

2) Creating a Positive Culture:

Equal integration into the system

3) Creating Economic Value:

Products, services Customers satisfaction



Org. culture

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s86v-9XDme4

Cultural Diversity

http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=EluLN-DFZTw



THANK YOU



Introduction to Business / NHSAI (ENSIA) 2024 / Instructor: Prof. Oukil