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LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) COMPANIES

SIRISHA DAMARAJU RESEARCH SCHOLAR JAWAHARLAL NEHRU INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SECUNDERABAD

ABSTRACT

Learning and development are an integral part of employee satisfaction, meeting the standards of client specifications about human resources and overall success of implementation and delivery of the project. It is an attempt to improve and update capabilities and skills of employees so that they can perform well in their current and future projects. Imparting training, internal and external assessment of skills and performance after training is an efficient process to meet the project goals and Industry standards. Learning is an effort made by the employee to acquire skills and knowledge through experience, instruction, study and training. Whereas training is an organized effort by the employer designed at imparting information and instructions to improve the employee's performance by attaining a required level of knowledge or skill. Development is a framework for both organizations and individuals to achieve performance improvement and measurable effectiveness. Development is not just imparting skills and information, but also providing attitudes to approach challenging situations positively. This research paper is an effort made to understand the existing training, learning and development programs in IT companies and their impact on efficiency of the employee skills and motivation levels.

KEYWORDS

Development, Employees, Information Technology companies, Learning, and Training.

INTRODUCTION

IT industry (be it software, hardware, Semi-conductor, Networking, Data storage, Internet etc.), which have the potential to transform the way businesses are currently operating will have repercussions across the spectrum of industries. Requirements by business to meet the ever growing challenges have enabled the IT industry to continue to innovate and produce the next generation technologies. In order to be innovative and maintain the quality requires skillful manpower. Therefore all Major IT Companies provide training, learning and development programs to their employees to impart necessary skills and knowledge.

Global economy is emerging from the recent economic downtrend & recession and is getting ready to face the challenges. IT industry also evolved and emerged with newer technologies, software, applications and hardware. The cost that occurs for implementing newer technologies is quite low when compared to the value addition they bring in to the companies. Therefore the orders for IT products and services have increased considerably in the last few years.

These days, Information technology industry is no longer just a conventional service industry, because many small and medium companies have incorporated and providing the best of technologies and services cost effectively. Unlike other manufacturing industries, IT industry is purely a knowledge-based. With tremendous growth and competition in IT industry, it calls for efficient and well trained engineers to meet the client requirements. Efficient use of these skilled engineers not only transforms IT sector but also helps global economy to the path of recovery and growth.

New age IT companies are becoming more people centric and have taken various measures focusing on strengthening core competencies. These measures includes structural changes in their induction and training programs, sponsoring for certifications and further education, implementation of technology in education, integration of web-based and Technology based learning and streamlining companies procedurals, approval and budgeting for learning and development activities.

55 technology companies are listed in the fortune 500 companies list for the year 2012. According to NASSCOM Indian IT-BPO industry report 2012, Indian companies are having a major share within the total IT outsourcing industry. In last few years they improved their total market share from 51% in 2009 to 58% in 2011. The IT industry remains to be one of the largest employers. It is clear that global IT companies are playing an important role in world economy and Indian IT companies are one of the major contributors. It's clearly evident that efficient engineers and well trained work force played a major role in the achievements of IT companies.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To study whether adequate training is given to the employees to do their job effectively.
- 2. To study the various methods of training followed in their organization.
- 3. To measure effectiveness of Learning and development programs for employees to perform in their projects.
- 4. To study whether respondents did certifications or pursued & sponsored higher education while doing the job as part of updating their current skills & learning and development program.
- 5. To study whether employees are trained with competent faculty & utilized the skills received.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- 1. Primary data includes data collected from online questionnaire filled by the employees of Information Technology companies. We asked IT employees from different companies to give us their point of view and experience on various aspects of Learning and development. Questionnaire consists of multiple choice questions and open ended questions. It covered employee perspective of training programs within their organization, their plans to improve skills, what motivates them towards improvement and demographics of respondents.
- 2. Secondary data includes reference books, journals, research papers, company reports and Internet.
- 3. We take the sample of 100 questionnaires for our study. This survey was conducted in the months of March & April of 2013. The respondents of the questionnaire are employees of various IT companies, mostly working in Hi-tech city of Hyderabad. We selected all types of Technology companies ranging from MNC's to Startups, Software service companies to application development and testing companies.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Analysis of Learning and development taken place during Training programs:

TABLE 1.1

Sl.No	Particulars	Yes		No		Planning to	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Employees receive enough training to do their job effectively.	74	74%	26	26%	-	-
2	Employees did/planning to do certifications in the last one year.	24	24%	16	16%	60	60%
3	Employees pursued /planning for higher education while doing the job.	36	36%	26	26%	38	38%
4	Average time spent to update skills & knowledge which leads to implement L&D Programs.	26	26%	30	30%	54	54%
5	Training received from competent faculty /Instructor.	75	75%	25	25%	-	-
6	Utilization of skills in work during training.	96	96%	4	4%	-	-

From the table it is assumed that over 74% of employees received enough training to do their job effectively, whereas 26% of employees couldn't receive good training in their organization to do their job effectively. 24% of employees have done some certifications needed to perform well in their job, whereas 16% of employees couldn't do any certifications throughout the year and 60% of employees are planning to do certifications to update their skills in order increase their performance. 36% of employees already pursued higher education whereas 26% couldn't pursue any higher education and 38% are planning to pursue higher education in order to increase their career credentials. 26% of employees spend 6hrs per week to update skills and knowledge which leads to implement learning and development programs whereas 30% of employees won't spend any time for learning and 54% are planning to spend time for learning on weekly basis. 75% of employees receive training from competent faculty and 25% of employees are not trained from competent faculty /Instructor in their organization. 96% of employees utilize skills learnt in while working and 4% of employees couldn't utilize the skills learnt. Majority of employees believe that Training, Learning and development sessions should be conducted more often to update their skills and implement them in their work projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Training and Development programs should be conducted on a regular basis not only to impart technical knowledge but also to develop leadership, management and Team building skills.
- 2. Induction program should be conducted not only to freshers but also newly joined experienced employees to make them familiarize with the work culture and environment of their company.
- 3. Line managers should provide the right kind of climate to implement new ideas and methods acquired by their juniors during training.
- 4. Time should be provided atleast 2-4 hours per week for employees during their work hours to update their knowledge and skills. Skill clubs should be encouraged; people interested in a specific skill will meet once or twice in a week and exchange their views and ideas.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. Information Technology companies provide learning and development programs for their employees in order to increase their performance and efficiency.
- 2. Development and success of IT companies is a consequence of efficient engineers which is the result of learning and development programs.
- 3. Training programs improves motivation levels and reduces attrition levels among employees.
- 4. Learning and development programs boost the morale of IT employees who work under extreme stress, deadlines and odd working hours.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a matter of great honor to record the relentless and unstinting support rendered towards me to complete this research work. I record my sincere appreciation to **Dr.P.Sai Rani**, Associate Professor and **Dr.T.Narayana Reddy**, Associate Professor, JNTU-Anantapur, my respected Research supervisors for their dynamic guidance, valuable suggestions and constant encouragement.

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