Training, Engagement and Globalization: Lessons from the Trenches
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An Interview

► It’s important how you say it....

Objectives

Define Define the generations in today’s workforce
Understand Understand generational and other cohorts outside the US
Recognize Recognize what people want besides a paycheck
Identify Identify ways we can drive engagement across cultures in US and in global work locations
Discuss Discuss how we can best communicate essential information in a multigenerational, multicultural environment
Who are the generations in today’s workforce?

- **1925 -1944**
  - Silent generation/Traditionalists
  - Baby boomers
- **1946-1964**
  - Generation X
- **1965-1980**
  - Generation Y/Millenials
- **2002 - present**
  - Gen Z/Post-millenials

**The Silent Generation**
- Motivated by conformity, stability, security and upward mobility
- Pledge allegiance to the company they work for
- Respect for authority
- Fidelity to company blends with loyalty to superiors and co-workers
- Less interested in technology and portable skill sets
- More interested in current company expectations

**Training: Traditionalists**
- (1925 -1944)

**Training: Baby Boomers**
- (1946 - 1964)

**New Stuff**
- Include team activities (hands on training)
- Let participants experience different team roles (job rotation...walk a mile in her shoes)
- Align training with the company’s strategic plan (goal oriented)
- Allow time after training for participants to evaluate (60-90 days after the training event)
Training: Gen X (1965 - 1980)

What They Like

- Experiential activities and experiences
- They have ideas and want to share them, many high potentials
- Clear connection between training and contribution to company’s overall mission
- “Transtech” real-time reporting on the experience


Most in Need of Training

- Use Technology and Lots of Variety in Teaching Methods
  (bullet points, multi-media, interaction... no data intense power points)
- Don’t Have Just One Solution to Case Studies
  (much to offer, without inclusion of technology, mobile apps, cloud, social media, gamification, etc)
- Align Training With the Company’s Values and Positive Image (a purpose driven organization, the values and brand for longer-term learning stickiness)
- Allow Participants To Provide Feedback During The Training Session (expect praise for immediate feedback)

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How Do Generations View Themselves?

**Millennials**
- Negative stereotypes of their own generation
  - 59% agree “self-absorbed” describe their generation compared with 30% among Gen X, 20% of Boomers and only 7% of Silents.

**Common Parameters**
- People view identity and store attributes with different generation(s), learn close to practicing in one
- Culture/identity

What do people want besides a paycheck?

**Millennials**
- A full-time job, not a gig or internship
- Benefits even if part-time
- Flexible work schedule
- Inclusive organizational culture
- Professional Development
- Respect

**Gen X**
- Post financial crisis - seeking the next big opportunity
- Money is more of a driver
- Money still more on their minds than material value
- Fairness
- Development Opportunities
- Benefits
- Non-stop training and technology skills

**Boomers**
- Ambitious
- Interested in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
- Positive view of jobs with altruistic themes
- Variety
- Travel
- Opportunities to learn new skills
- Opportunities to mentor and teach

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How Do We Effectively Drive Engagement?

- How can we effectively drive engagement across generations and cultures in global offices?
- How is training relevant to engagement?
- Whose responsibility is it to drive engagement? Is it the CCO?
- If not, what is the CCO’s role?

Engagement and Globalization

US/West vs. The Developing World

- US/West Gen Y will be the first generation that WILL NOT make as much money as their parents did.
- Developing nations tell a different story
  - For example, this age group in India and China will see opportunities their parents were never offered

Aligning US/Western Age Cohorts with the Developing Nations

- Gen Y workers in developing nations behave more like Baby Boomers than Gen Y counterparts in the US/West
- Many are even Traditionalists (1925-1944) by nature
  - Equally committed to their company as they are to family
- Work Life Balance is less important than it is to US counterparts
Communicating Essential Information

- How can we best communicate essential information to multigenerational, multicultural employees (and contractors)?
- What have you found to be effective training techniques across the generations?
- Focus on expected behavior and managing risky situations
- Do/should companies rely on contractors to self-train?

Adventures in Training
SELECTED EXPERIENCES

Our endeavor
Live anti-corruption training of all employees in Latin America in Spanish or Portuguese at the regional offices in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia and Mexico.

Benefits Achieved
- Leveraged their knowledge of local business customs and issues
- Improved translation of written materials incorporating local idiom
- Enhanced participant understanding through interactive discussions
- Increased follow-up and outreach as situations arise
- Engaged colleagues in every region throughout the process
Benefits Achieved
1. Focus on achieving the task at hand
2. Risk adverse and great deference to people in authority. Rank is very important.
3. Formal and direct, almost to the point of bluntness
4. Suspicious of hype,12 promises that sound too good to be true or displays of emotion
6. There is a strict separation between private life and work
7. Value order, privacy and punctuality
8. Respect perfectionism in all areas of business and private life

Training – China

- Training for Chinese Millennials
  - Know your business
  - Seek input
  - Understand “face” mindset
  - Demonstrate maturity
  - Show interest in their development

ZW HR Consulting 2017 survey http://www.zwhrconsulting.com
Inc. Magazine, Maya Hu-Chan, 9/18/17 http://www.inc.com/maya-hu-chan/the-fascinating-chinese-
Training Millennials: India

50 million+ millennials in India – common characteristics:
- Digital natives
- Improvisation-friendly
- "Exponential" entrepreneurs
- Happy to learn and participate
- Limited only by legacy desire to meet family expectations to achieve
- and provide a return on family financial and emotional support

Training – India

Our endeavor:
Train Agents in India to follow accepted supervisory protocols for financial product sales in a sweeping geographic area including rural, urban and super technology centers.

Benefits Achieved:
Create a true marriage between local culture(s) and corporate best practices to carry out sales suitability regulations for financial product sales.

Considerations:
- Localized cultural norms
- Call Center lifestyles and changing family dynamics
- Technological leaps (tin cans to 5G technology)

Training – Saudi Arabia

Our endeavor:
Identify organizational values of a multinational workforce in a new Saudi-owned NGO

Benefits Achieved:
- Engagement: Over 90% of employees participated in values survey
- Universal values identified
- Appreciation of cultural differences and similarities

Considerations:
- Traditional separation of the sexes
- Women Entering Workplace
- Entitlements
- Arab Spring
Does senior management take active leadership role in commitment to ethical business behavior?
Seek ways for senior management to communicate their commitment to training.

How do you look for signs of management’s commitment to ethical behavior?
How does management ensure its commitment is effective across organization?
Is management receptive to feedback?

Does middle management face different challenges than senior management?
What is the evidence for effectiveness of tone?

Positive and Negative Incentives

- Included in performance objectives?
- Included in annual review?
- Recognition of ethical behavior, for example,
  - Refusing a bribe, raising a concern, cooperating in an investigation
  - Types of rewards may include management acknowledgment (private, personal, in peer setting, formal award)

Effective Training: Top Ten Tips

1. Educate yourself about local regions where you train
2. Check for unconscious biases
3. Avoid a US-centric approach
4. Incorporate local business issues
5. Engage management and regional teams.
6. Train the trainers
7. Recognize no one size fits all
8. Course fatigue vs. proof of training
9. Communication and program branding
10. Engagement: style, substance, delivery and presentation! They all matter!
Conclusion

Educate yourself first to optimize communication and engagement

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