Boundaries of work environment management

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Safe and health working environment - a fundamental right.



Content

- Work environment
 - What it is...
 - Definition
 - Work domain analysis
- Aspects of Work environment management
 - Purpose
 - Values
 - Purpose-related functions



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Exploring work environment management boundaries using work domain analysis

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safety

According to OECD

Work environment is a multidimensional concept

(2017)





OECD (2017)

Work is charactarised in terms of:

- Work demands
- Physical and emotional demands
- Working time
- Work prospects and job insecurity
- Work resources, such as task discretion, social support
- Opportunity for advancement and self-realisation





Work environment definition

- 1. Workers' health and safety at an identifiable workplace, causes of accidents and illness
- 2. Job factors related to people interactions and their work organisation
- 3. Workers' well-being resulting from the environment in which they perform their work.

Foldspang et al. (2014)







Justifiable work environment

- A justifiable work environment refers to a legal standard describing how the work environment may change according to societal development and norms to date (Fagerli, 2021).
- Justifiable work environment entails an obligation on workplace management to adapt and organise work situations and conditions, and priorities, enabling systematic fulfilment of work environment functions.

Questions

- What is the purpose of work environment management
- What values/principal measures are attained from the purposes?
- What are the functional aspects of work environment management?



Work Domain Analysis



Work Domain Analysis



WDA concepts (Naikar 2015)

From Work Domain Analysis





Results-chain model





Functional Purpose («Why»)

- Progressive work environment operation
- Safeguard fairness
- Expression facilitation
- Needs adaptation
- Work environment development
- Inclusion





Values/Principal measures («What»)

Improved workers health

- \odot Reduce sickness absence
- Reduce the prevalence of occupational illness
- Reduce work-related health risks
- Improve work ability

Improved safety standards

- \circ Reduce accidents
- \circ Reduce time lost
- \odot Low injury frequencies
- \odot Reduce the use of disability benefits
- \circ Safer work conditions
- \circ Manageable workload

Workers' self-actualization

- \odot Involvement in decision-making
- \odot Workers' growth and development
- \circ Recognition and reviews
- Autonomy
- \circ Satisfaction
- Value and respect of work contribution
- \odot Expression of self-concept
- \odot Work in line with personal values



Values cont.(«What»)

Programs for health promotion

 \odot Reintegration and rehabilitation \odot Health-promoting activities

Management commitment

 $\odot\,\text{OSH}$ prioritization

- \circ personnel support
- \odot Positive social climate
- $\circ \textit{management involvement}$
- \odot Fair and effective leadership
- Effective communication
- \circ Collaboration
- \odot employers' responsibility

Resource allocation

Expenditure on OSH issues
training/learning costs
compensation and benefits
Appropriate staffing



Values cont... («What»)

Strategy implementation

- $\circ\,\text{OSH}$ policies
- \odot Role clarity with clear expectations
- \circ Performance evaluation
- OSH integration in the business process
- Cost-effectiveness

Compliance and accountability

- Accountability
- Internal audits
- Compliance with regulatory requirement

Justifiable employment

- \odot Diversity and inclusion
- Employment type (permanent/temporary)
- \circ Job quality
- \circ Fair employment practices



Purpose-related functions («Means»)

• Workplace premises maintenance

- \circ Building design & decor
- \circ indoor climate
- $\circ \text{ lighting }$
- \circ noise level
- \circ ventilation system

Machines/tools use management

- \odot Safe use
- $\ensuremath{\circ}$ access to necessary work aids
- \circ Technology management

• Exposure prevention

- Prevention of exposure to chemicals/biological agents, radiation
- \odot Physical hazards
- Psychosocial hazards
- Avoiding unreasonable demands.
- \circ Exposure control



Means, cont.

Organisation management

- \circ Work planning
- \circ Risk management
- \circ Internal audits
- \circ Other control measures

Competence realization

- \circ Information dissemination
- \circ Training
- Professional and personal development

• Workers' empowerment

O Workers' Involvement
O Work environment committee
O Consultation

Adaptation management

Adaptation for work variation
Heavy lifting
Vibration,
Awkward work positions

- \odot Rest and restitution time
- \odot Other ergonomics considerations



Means, cont.

Psychosocial environment management

- \odot Workers' integrity, dignity
- \circ Self-determination
- Contact with others without harassment/threats/violence
- Stress management
- \odot Support for mental
- \circ Health well-being
- \odot Workers' assistant programs

Administration

- \circ Work contract;
- \odot Work hours
- \odot Salary and other compensations
- \odot Work affiliation
- Occupational Health Service affiliation



Design implications

Based on constraints:

- Provides for the adaptive implementation of practices to local contingencies without violating the boundaries on effective performance
- Limit the structure of management practices to what would be relevant for fulfilling the functional purposes





Conclusion

WDA provided structure and content of work environment management, that support the management practices and strengthen the attainment of a justifiable work environment.



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