

final project revised

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Question 1

Business and society exist as an interdependent framework that is affected economics, culture and politics. Based on the activities of this course it is clear that business and society are deeply interconnected and one cannot function without the other. Business influences society and society influences business too, the influence can be strong or weak but they are important whether intended or unintended (Willard, 2004). Every business satisfies the needs of society and society gives business the resources it needs. Therefore, it is a responsibility to take care of the society by advocating for corporate social responsible activities. The society includes people from different communities, religions, caste, and backgrounds, all business activities have to be executed in such a way that it should not harm anyone's feelings and violate religious thoughts.

In a capitalist economy, we need both business and society together to function optimally as seen in activity 1. Society needs business for a place to work and income and to provide goods needed for day today's life, on the other hand, business needs society for employees, customer's suppliers, government regulations and so on. Each business makes sure to give better standard of life by offering their products and services to the general public in the society and making them comfortable. Every actions and decisions of the business directly affects the society, for instance f a business releases harmful waste in the rivers or gases in the environments this will have a direct impact to the society.

Based on the activities covered in this course there are many varied stakeholders connected to every business that come from all parts of the society and this clearly shows the close interconnection the business has with the society. Partnerships between government and

private companies are another way in which society is connected to business as highlighted in activity 2. Every business should act ethically towards their employees, suppliers and other stakeholders. Business and society need each other to function properly.

Question 2

Business all the time deal with conflicts such as different set of ethics, cultural values, communities' expectations, etc. Stakeholders are very important in an organization for they play the roles in any business (Willard, 2004). We have two types of stakeholders in the business. The primary stakeholders which includes, employees, customers, supplier's distributors, creditors and shareholders. We also have the secondary stakeholders who include the general public or the society that are influenced directly or indirectly by the companies' activities. These stakeholders have own interests and needs which must be satisfied.

Stakeholders do not have each other's best interest in mind (Paine, 1994). For instance, not businesses will want to charge the highest amount that consumers can bear while the consumer's interest is to get products and services for the lowest prices that business can sell to them. Governments on the other hand is interested in ensuring that public policy is upheld, that consumers are protected and business pay their full taxes. On the contrary, businesses are usually interested in doing the minimal amount of compliance and minimizing the tax burden. However the end result is for all stakeholders to ones interest at heart.

This course presented different precedents delineating the important role of stakeholders in the business and how their choices and activities have the ability to impact the business. For instance, in the Chiquita brands case, the partners upheld the terrorist groups even after they

realized that that was illegal. Be that as it may, they did it to spare their organization also their employees. This abused the organization's reputation. For this situation, the organization confronted a test of consenting to the lawful necessities set by the administration and supporting enemy of military gatherings and keep in view the security of their employees in the meantime too.

In activity 2.1, part D, a number of scenarios are gone through in an effort to work through the challenges of dealing with both the conflicts of stakeholder needs, wants expectations and perspectives, as well as the way they work together. For example, in scenario 3, a complicated situation is imagined where an elderly grandmother needs care at home .the adult children have limited resources, in time, money and know-how, yet need to find a solution for taking care of their elderly grandmother. She is vulnerable and unable to take care of herself. The children themselves are not able to take care of her, yet can only afford so much. From the whole story it is clear that there can be a lot of intricate issues when shareholders interact. Conflicts and confluences around where each other want, need, expect and see about each situation

Question 3

Circle of reflection is a technique for visually representing the impact of those stakeholders contributing directly or indirectly to concern and characterize the effect of the issue on the stakeholders. Every organization has distinctive sorts of partners which gets diverse kinds of interests the organization along with benefits. Circles of reflection brings into view the diverse issues and effects of these issues on different gatherings. At the center, it likewise keeps into view the issues identified with the items and their perspective on that. The most interesting thing

about this circle is that it takes into view the alternate points of view of various sorts of partners. Besides, in more extensive viewpoint, it speaks to different issues related to the society, impact of the issue's motel the society and how society reacts to it.

Sometimes, with the thought process of procuring more benefits, the business partners take a few choices which are not useful to the society and additionally their choices. Henceforth, a definitive impact of such sort of choices and exercises is enormous on the business if the business neglects to adjust as per the requirements of their purchasers and works just with the goal of benefit expansion. All in all, the circles of reflection helped me to understand about the worldwide effects of moral issues on the distinctive sorts of partners and alternate points of view. (Abraham, 2017).

Part B: Forces and Influences

Question 1

Corporate social responsibility can be defined as the operation of a business in a socially acceptable manner that meets the ethical, legal, commercial and or public expectations that a society has towards the business. On the other hand, business ethics can be defined as the rules, standards, codes, or principles that provide guidance for morally appropriate behavior in managerial decisions relating to the operations of the corporation and business relationships with the society. Ethics and social responsibility change the way in which business operate, requiring it to think critically about its decisions, and understand the effect that it has to the world (Paul & Elder, 2003). The social responsibility of any business will incorporate the natural resources, environmental concerns, innovations and business concerns.

Ethical behavior and corporate responsibility can bring significant benefits to a business. In any business setting, being ethical means applying principles of honesty and fairness to relationships with coworkers and customers. The idea that business enterprises have some responsibilities to society beyond that of making profits for shareholders has been around for centuries. This will account for the reason why the concept of corporate social responsibility has continued to grow in importance and significance. In a business setting, being ethical means applying principles of honesty and fairness to relationships with coworkers and customers.

The activities of this course show how businesses must act ethically towards society and people. As an external force, governments around the world, to some extent, require companies to treat their employees, suppliers and other stakeholders ethically. The laws set by the government define for society as a whole those actions that are permissible and those that are not. The law establishes the minimum standard of behavior. It has to be about more than simply making a profit, but also about doing it in a way that is sustainable and ethical. The internal forces require that, if a company has strong ethics, or management that cares about social responsibility, they will take care of the people they are associated with internally. This will be achieved through, building customer loyalty, retaining employees, having a positive work environment, and avoiding any legal problems. They will respond to business problems with decisions that increase the company's bottom line as well as take care of the people it is associated with. Ethics and social responsibility require a company to be accountable to the society they operate in.

Stakeholders expect companies to respect and protect the environment, to follow the law, to manufacture sustainably and to properly handle conflict. They have expectations of the company to minimally take care of them while associated with their business, or to at least warn them of dangers. Stakeholders must continue to hold these expectations in high regard, to hold companies

who try to cut corners accountable to their actions ((Paine, 1994). Organizations must always transact business for their welfare, as well as by keeping in view the negative effects of their exercises on the society. They ought to pursue the morals, tenets and controls which a business needs to pursue and they should follow those guidelines and directions. Business can emphatically impact the society by receiving inventive thoughts and can add to the economy of the countries by offering perfect and moderate items to the general population of various countries. For instance, interface Inc. effectively added to the sustainable development by receiving new innovations and designs of the items by following the morals in the meantime. For the situation of unapproved outsiders, organization impacts outer gatherings by enlisting unapproved laborers as this influences the approved employees of the nation as well. An organization can find a way to agree to the tenets and directions set by the administration (Lawrence & weber, 2017).

Question 2

Workplace ethics and CSR which can be termed as the business morals and social duty assumes an essential job. Business morals is indispensable not exclusively to make a positive picture of the business, however it plays an essential job in the welfare of society, government and employees (Paul & Elder, 2003). The journaling activities of this course describes different activities which highlight the essentialness of business morals and corporate social obligation.

Chiquita brands and unauthorized employees case expands my viewpoint of business morals and corporate social obligation. From his case it is important to note that, the welfare of business employees is essential, but not on the expense of others. Unauthorized foreigners case explains about how unlawful laborers can contribute contrarily to the economy and can hurt the openings for work of authorized specialists. From this case it is evident that ethics and corporate social responsibility are very critical for any business and society.

Activity 2.3 shows how we develop our own set of ethics, and how our perceptions are around ethics are influenced. It also highlights how organizations can encourage and foster ethics behavior. Activity 2.4 dives into whether ethics and corporate social responsibility are even worth it. Milton Friedman's often quoted article argues that the only social responsibility of business is to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase profits. While there is a measure of truth to this statement, I believe he misses the mark. A business should not confuse its mission with that of a non-profit.

Question 3

External forces are composed of a collection of different forces that push and pull businesses and determine in part how they make decisions about how to run their business. Between globalization, the local and global economics, new technology, and the current state of the environment, there is a lot that contributes to the way businesses are run. Businesses do not operate in a vacuum, and as much as management may believe they are making decisions independently, there are many factors that are weighed into the operation of a business. As well, internal forces from inside the company also exert an influence on business decisions.

Forces like corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, consumer protection rights, the rights and responsibilities of employees, and diversity in the workplace.

These forces shape how a company operates and are often more intertwined than we realize. Often an internal force will be present at the same time an external force is present. For instance, the current state of the environment may force a company to consider changing their operations to emit fewer greenhouse gases in order to not destroy the planet through climate change, however it is likely that some management also care about the planet, and not just for the sake of compliance, but because they care about the impact their company has on the world and want to make a difference.

Activity 3.1 demonstrated the interrelation of external and some internal forces, but also how the lack of external forces can have a significant effect on a company. When technology is primitive in a particular area, it forces a company to work in a different set of economics. For example when technology is not available to pick berries off of bushes, they must be instead picked by hand. This lack of technology changes the economics of doing business, and requires the company to hire many cheap laborers to run profitably. This can also be affected by internal forces, for example the rights each employee has, and established corporate governance. Each business situation is impacted and affects a number of other forces both external and internal.

Activity 3.2 brought to light an interesting concept about the three legged stool. Sustainable development is simply another way to say triple bottom line, or to say corporate social responsibility, which all really mean sustain nature's resources as well as sustaining the company. Earning a profit and taking care of the company, while also protecting and healing

the environment. The three legs of this stool are economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility, and the concept argues that without one of these legs, the stool will fall down. It's interesting to also think how these internal and external forces not only affect one another, but that they cannot function without the other. If a company does not have good economics, there is no way for it to take care of the environment, or to have good corporate governance because there will be no company! If a company does not take steward the environment, at some point in the future if things continue, there won't be resources to utilize, or clear air to breathe or clean water to drink, and businesses won't even be able to function or take care of the people. If the people are not taken care of, the company will not last, as people will leave, or the government will step in and the company will be hurt economically or may cease to be in business.

External and internal forces are more interconnected than they may seem at first glance. They are a complex web of issues that put constraints on or free a company to operate in certain ways. Activity 4.1 discusses how the media, shareholders and stakeholders influence good governance. External forces, which in turn create internal forces, which both then continue to influence a company and the way it operates. The media often has a role in exposing or making transparent sticky issues that often companies don't want to admit. This transparency forces companies to reevaluate how they are run and governed, often changing the way they are structured or governance principles. Shareholders can have the same influence, by deciding that they want to take their money elsewhere to a more ethical company, or if they're a part of the management, can influence the way governance is set up and executed.

Question 4

In my view, government act as an internal force, a stakeholder as well as an external force.

This course changed my point of view about the job of the administration in business as before taking this course, I had the feeling that legislature just go about as an outside power.

As an internal force, government can require compliance officers to be a part of everyday operations, ensuring that companies are closely following regulations. These compliance officers can be employees of the company, however at times even government employees in certain industries can be required to be present as a part of management.

A government can also take on the role of a stakeholder. Governments have vested interests in company's tax obligations. If taxes are not paid on time, governments can enforce that they be paid in multiple ways. The government also cares about other regulations being met. That land is not polluted, that building codes are met etc. At times governments can also be customers or suppliers, depending on the type of industry a company operated in.

In Chiquita case, government act as an external power as it cautioned the organization to make a few strides to quit making unlawful installments to the unapproved laborers, regardless of whether it was for the health of their employees, it was influencing the society also. (Lawrence and weber, 2017)

Part C: Final Reflection**Question 1**

It is not difficult for a stakeholder to become biased or to adopt a perspective that is not entirely accurate. The media is continually pushing messages that are filled with misinformation or incomplete information, with biases that push their own agenda, but also at times with accurate and unbiased reporting. It can be hard to see through the fog to know what is trustworthy and what is not, and often people will resort to their own biases and opinions. Businesses are often involved with large sums of money, and it's easy to forget that everyone wants a piece of the pie and that can drastically affect how people think and behave.

In activity 1.2, the circles of reflection helped to shed light on how easy it is to be biased when dwelling on things from your own perspective. It is good to step outside of yourself, and to understand the impact that businesses have on other people. It was also interesting to look at the to compare two completely different articles on the same topic, and to realize that they don't necessarily have the full story, that they write with their own opinions and biased thoughts, and that the truth may not always seem as simple as it sounds. And this can have a real significant impact on how stakeholders and shareholders react. It can push consumers to decide to no longer buy a product, suppliers to announce that they are dropping a particular company due to bad PR, or for shareholders to go out and sell stock in a company.

Activity 1.4 showed me how to use a CARR's checklist to help determine the credibility, accuracy, reasonableness, and support in the media and news, as well as when reading elsewhere (Carr, 1968). It also showed how information in the news can be presented from

differing perspectives, for example from that of the government or that of a business, and can have inherently different interests. They are often not always fair and balanced in their reporting. By properly developing skills to properly evaluate the information we take in, we will be able to better understand the way we think and the biases we have ourselves. I realized that I too have biases and do not think from a neutral standpoint (Paine, 1994).

Question 2

I have learned that ethical decision making is critical to being able to successfully manage any organization. A company cannot simply operate without any form of ethics, it needs to have something that it works out of. Even if those ethics are not defined or spoken out loud, they are still there, shaping how organizations are run. Ethical or unethical decisions together make up the culture of an organization, which then makes up more ethical or unethical decisions. Ethics are not just guidelines for legal behavior, but go so much further, defining ideas like honesty, civility, decency, and sensitivity (Paul & Elder, 2003).

Through examples like the Chiquita case study and others in this course, I learn that often ethics and social responsibility require very hard decisions. Decisions that may be easy to look back on later and criticize, but that in the moment or situation were not so simple. Stories like that of the Sidhu make you realize that you need to have your ethics in place before coming into hard situations. Are you going to allow corporate responsibility to take over, or are you willing to take individual responsibility despite what it costs? Even a decision like that must have been hard to make regarding the circumstances. I learned some interesting concepts through this course and found that writing is a great way to cement them in the brain.

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GENERAL COMMENTS

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