

Business Ethics and Scandal

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Abstract: Ethics in business is vital in safeguarding the quality of its conduct. Business is a complex field and its intersections with other field such as economics, commerce, sociology among others are proof enough of the immensity of its scope. Hence, a properly envisioned and articulated ethical framework must be in place in order to keep its practices in check as well. This must apply to the multitude of new models and techniques in this field.

For one, information systems as used in businesses has been one of the recent hypes which is touted to help improve the operations of various businesses, companies and organizations both internally and externally. Internally, the adoption of a coherent and well-functioning information system that can adapt to the changes within and needs of the company o business can help in improving the coordination and working relations within the business. As a result, increased productivity can be invited with all the employees functioning as informed individuals and getting constant heads-up on news and developments within the business. On the external side, a good information system can enable the business to reach out more effectively and more regularly to outside networks and herds of customers and business partners. As a result, it can be said that information systems can broaden the scope and increase the potential of the business.

For this paper, we will separately look at these internal and external functioning of information systems in businesses and then try to probe the ethical issues and concerns that may arise out of them. For the first part, we will look at the internal relationships among employees in a business and how information systems factor in the processes involved in the former. After this, we will look at information systems as a vital part of business intelligence that can keep the business afloat in the cut-throat competition. Again, we will do this alongside the poking of ethical issues and considerations that can be found in both cases.

Index Terms: Business ethics, information systems, business information

Introduction

The efficient functioning of organizations is dependent on multiple variables which may or may not work together in increasing the competitiveness of organizations. Factors such as manpower, quality and quantity of output, vastness of networks and connections among others are some of the principal factors that determine the competitiveness of an organization. Aside from this however, another key consideration is the information systems that the organization has erected in order to facilitate its operations. These information systems can make or break the fate of the company in intervals; that is, when it comes to periods of peak seasons or lowly calendar months when productivity and business transactions are low. Information systems within the company or business can go a long a way in keeping every employee – from the higher-ups down to the secretaries and utility workers – informed of the events in the business which can have bearings on how they perform their work.

Sections

To begin with, information systems are significant because they enable the continual development of businesses and organizations. Businesses rely on information systems in ascertaining the specific conditions in their actual and target locations (Goold and Campbell 2002, 66). Once this is done, the businesses will be better guided in the planning and implementation of their programs, the setting of objectives and identifying methods to achieve them. Information systems are also highly contributory in opening new grounds for the organization. Given a comprehensive and updated information system, the business can conceptualize adjustments in their plans and procedures from time to time. As such, the business will not stagnate as an abundance of information and data relevant to their operation can always motivate them to constantly think about their performance and how it can be improved. But adopting these models is not without guidelines and requisites. In the field of ethics alone, one must be circumspect in employing business information systems in order not to fall on the wayside. Openness of these systems among the members of the group must be done but based simultaneously on collective accountability and mutual trust.

Conclusion

When it comes to business intelligence and how information systems are used to create the image of the business or company, a key ethical issue is the authenticity of the images and descriptions transmitted as information. Definitely, one cannot be blame in thinking that the businesses are merely positive projections of the company in order to lure business partners that can fatten its stock or customers or clients. Given this case, it will be up to the outsiders – be it interested clients or prospective business partners – to be circumspect and to consult other

sources outside the business in order to verify the contents of the information shared in its information systems. On the part of the company who implements such business models, it is their responsibility to control these systems and update them if needed. For instance, when ethical expectations are breached, revising or scrapping existing models altogether will not be a too drastic step.

References

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