BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DOCTORAL SCHOOL ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT

PHD THESIS - SUMMARY -

THE IMPACT OF ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE ON ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

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Cluj-Napoca 2018

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KEYWORDS

- Organizational culture.
- Organizational performance.
- Management system effectiveness.
- Leadership effectiveness.
- Human resources management effectiveness.
- Performance management effectiveness.
- Employee satisfaction.
- Employee performance.
- Organizational effectiveness.

INTRODUCTION

The world economy has grown to revolve around multinational corporations whose activity has come to evolve around declared organizational values that influence the decision making process. Values represent the essence of corporate identity, the core upon which their vision is constructed, giving shape and consistency to the organizational culture and guiding the principles of their operation. They guide the processes of organizational development and growth.

The global economy is entering a phase of transformation. While until a few years ago there was talk about an industrial revolution, now we discuss about the digital revolution, while a few years ago there was talk about the concept of 4.0 industry, now we talk about the digital industry, about the *Internet of Things* (IoT).

Transforming the global economy towards its digitalization, will most definitely lead to profound changes in business models. A relevant example in this respect is the radical transformation of the retail industry in recent years, which is increasingly competed by ecommerce, having a devastating impact on the first, this being the present situation.

The global economy is moving apace toward digitalization and the major challenge that businesses have to face, is that of being able to transform the current business model in a competitive one for the future.

Therefore, attention of theorists, businessmen and researchers turns towards rethinking, reconfiguring and reshaping the concepts of trade and industry under the new requirements of the global market so that they serve the world's population which in turn, is also in a process of

profound change, knowing that the global economy does not change or turn at the will of a state or international organization and that changes in the global economy are based not so much on conjunctural factors but especially on objective ones, such as for example, a rapid paced change of the consumer's behavior, a phenomenon which requires the formation of new insights into the evolution of consumer's behavior and in the meantime, the evolution process of globalized and virtualized markets. In this context, one should mention the evolution of the Internet, innovation and progress, at first generated in some centers worldwide, located in certain countries, and today, the Internet and technological innovation are generated worldwide resulting in rapid growth of potential resource needed to generate innovation.

Regarding the IT industry in the global economy, it becomes clear that it sets the tone, when we refer to the strength of the national economy, considering that future innovation with digital connotation, will be basically the reference element of a nation's economic performance, of a region or even a continent. For this reason, when we refer to digital innovation, we talk about IT because basically this industry does not appear as an independent industry generating something extraordinary, but being a support of a particularly importance for the two operational fields, namely competition or the transformation in the economic area and the consumer area.

If we talk about the role, importance and significance of IT industry in the global economy, these reside in the important impact they have in modeling both layers, namely the economy and social behavior.

The role and importance of organizational culture within an IT company results from the fact that an efficient and effective recovery of innovation resources can be achieved only on a background of positive emulation, intellectual and behavioral comfort, based on an effective leadership to produce enthusiasm and common sense to all members of an organization that produces a real "explosion" of ideas, allowing free thinking and creativity. People should dare to do things differently, to not be afraid of the prejudices of the past. Strengthening organizational culture in the IT industry around fundamental values is essential if we consider that a strong culture often requires modeling the behavior in such a way that it becomes the context of the whole life of the organization, stimulating innovation and performance.

A problem that IT companies must face, refers to changes, sometimes sudden and spectacular in customer behavior in the sense that the focus is shifting from capital in the classical sense (material resources) towards people, i.e., human capital.

In this context, the focus of the procurement process of IT services, has transferred from the material, towards people, who need to generate performance and technological innovation,

taking into consideration that the difference is made by people, that is human capital, that needs to be acquired, developed and kept, therefore this is the reason for which one must identify and implement best management practices that relate to the selection, engagement, motivation and development of human resources in order to continuously improve staff satisfaction and performance, considering the core values of the organization that stimulates and make sense of the activity of all members of the organization.

Also speaking about the IT industry companies, on a customer-oriented organizational culture, we know that we cannot get satisfaction of external customer / consumer unless members of the organization are also satisfied. This is particularly important in the IT industry, whose survival and development depends fundamentally on innovation, which requires all employees to perform their work to high standards of efficiency, performance and ethics.

We must emphasize that the results presented in this study express a reality that is reflected currently in this competition for human resources, reflecting the behavior, attitude, perceptions and expectations of employees in the IT industry from Romania.

The success of management models and globalization have contributed to increasing interest in the concept of organizational culture, respect for its study and its links with the strategies and policies of the organization. Organization theory emphasizes the role of organizational culture, together with national and professional culture and that this refers to common values and meanings that create the reality of organizational life, determines the effectiveness and profitability in an increasingly dynamic and less predictable environment.

The study of organizations, from a cultural perspective, is very topical given the increased focus on issues related to the ways in which values and meanings shared by members of a company are created, strengthened and maintained, and the role of management focused on leadership, in this process. International companies increasingly face problems related to diversity management, which implies the existence and strengthening of powerful, flexible and innovative culture, taking into account changes, which are sometimes dramatic in HR policies and strategies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

More and more experts pay special attention to the study of management, not only in the physical conditions of work, principles of resource management but especially focussing on human resources, in terms of individual attitudes, group dynamics and the direct relationship between managers and subordinates for the purpose of scientific understanding of people within the work place, teams, and the way in which structures, systems and organizational processes influence organizational performance.

In recent years we find that interest for organizational culture in business environment increased due to intensified competition / race, but also due to the existence of business practices that violated ethics (i.e. breach of market rules), which determined successful companies to make important changes in the organizational culture to promote ethical and sustainable business models.

Managers are increasingly concerned with assessing the role of organizational culture in achieving and continuously improving the organization's performance, acknowledging that this is a powerful strategic tool, to motivate and mobilize everyone in the organization to ensure loyalty and facilitate communication. They must understand that organizational performance is the result of a culture carefully built and strengthened.

Values and common goals that define organizational culture and provides identity to an organization / company that are supported by its members, are the basis for behavior and attitude of employees and cause them to perceive, think and act in certain contexts. There are many studies in the literature providing empirical evidence that, cultural and behavioral aspects of organizations are closely linked to a company's competitiveness, both on short and long term (Schein 2010; Denison 1990, 1997).

This empirical approach regarding the role of organizational culture in ensuring organization's performance, is all the more important as IT companies are going through major changes to meet new challenges in order to ensure competitive advantage on medium and long term in an increasingly dynamic environment.

The empirical study is structured as following:

- Developing a model of assessment and analysis of corporate culture and organizational performance for identifying and implementing best management practices in the field of research, within the company which is the subject of the study.
- Evaluation and analysis of the main characteristics / traits of organizational culture in the company and its influence on non-financial key indicators of performance in order

to strengthen and share specific values of organizational culture and identify opportunities to improve organizational performance.

Our study is aimed at analyzing the impact of organizational culture on organizational performance, focussing on assessing organizational performance using non-financial indicators, based on the principles and criteria underlying the awards of excellence M. Baldrige, EFQM, Deming, J. Juran, and other widely used models and criteria in the literature (Schein, 1990, 2010; Denison 1990).

The purpose of this study is to explain and empirically test the effect of the features that define organizational culture, organizational values, management practices, leadership and work processes, on organizational performance. The results will allow us to focus on the factors that have a significant effect on organizational performance, among which organizational culture is essential, in order to continuously improve organizational performance by promoting a sustainable and ethics business model.

As a general objective of the research project, we propose the development of a model for evaluation and analysis of the impact of organizational culture on organizational performance based on non-financial indicators for measuring organizational performance in a multinational IT&C company to provide a proper scientific base to identify and apply best management practices for improving the effectiveness of leadership in order to continuously increase the performance of the company.

In order to achieve the empirical study, variables were built at different levels of aggregation for organizational culture and other factors addressed in the research, that influence business performance and non-financial indicators to measure it, which are:

- effectiveness of management system (strategies and policies, general management and operational management);
- effectiveness of human resource management and performance management;
- company leadership effectiveness and leadership style;
- employee satisfaction;
- employee performance;
- organizational effectiveness.

CONCLUSIONS AND PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We must emphasize that the study results show not only an important impact of organizational culture on organizational performance, perceived by respondents of the questionnaire and interview, measured by non-financial indicators, but also on the mentioned effectiveness of management practices, which in turn directly affects not only company performance, but also indirectly through the mediation of organizational culture.

The research results highlight the active and direct role of organizational culture for ensuring the company's performance, but at the same time promote understanding of business practices to improve performance. However, it is shown that a strong culture, based on a purpose and clear direction, with a strong customer orientation, with a system of core values shared by members of the company (managers and non-management employees) facilitate the achievement of strategic goals set as high standards thus representing not only an adequate degree of conformity but also a strong source of stability and internal integration.

Given the volume of data and information derived from company members who were part of the sample (managers and non-management employees), the study on the example of the analyzed company, first allowed us to highlight the strengths but also the opportunities and solutions offered to solve them. The study and analysis used in this paper, based on a complex set of objectives, with the help of the results obtained, may represent an important support to facilitate awareness among company members, regarding the importance of organizational culture for improving company performance, increasing general welfare of company members and its reputation, representing essential conditions to ensure competitive advantage.

Although a strong organizational culture is difficult to strengthen and maintain, we believe that a constructive approach to internal problems caused by management practices or employee resistance to change, facilitate the process of finding appropriate and effective solutions to ensure success.

The main personal contributions, both from theoretical and practical standpoint, can be summarized as following:

• Analysis of the concepts of organizational culture, management system effectiveness, leadership effectiveness, human resource management effectiveness, performance management effectiveness and organizational performance together with emphasis on pragmatic connections of these concepts, has enabled us to create a contextual framework suitable for the empirical study. However, focusing on management performance factors and non-financial indicators for expressing management

performance provides us with a better perception of the company's strategies and policies, thereby strengthening strategic actions cohesion.

- Developing a model for analyzing the organizational culture and determine its impact on performance in a large IT&C company, that can take into account its specific characteristics. The study was based exclusively on non-financial indicators, considering that they: have a better connection with strategies and policies of the company; are more prospective, more suitable for measuring the intangible assets and for grounding the future performance; ensure strategic alignment within the company; also they give a more comprehensive image of performance factors beyond financial results; transform strategy into operational terms thus improving understanding of the objectives and desired actions; it provides information on key performance factors (organizational culture, management system effectiveness, human resource management and performance management), used in the study, etc.
- For experimental research we used appropriate methods and tools consisting of questionnaires, data analysis and interviews, that facilitated addressing the objectives set out in the study, which allowed us to legitimize the views of recognized researchers and practitioners by adequately addressing concepts and problems under analysis.
- Underlining main advantages of implementing the evaluation model of organizational culture, management practices and leadership in the company.
- Determining the impact of managerial factors (management system effectiveness, human resource management effectiveness, performance management effectiveness) on company performance expressed by non-financial indicators.
- Determining the impact of organizational culture, together with its dimensions (involvement, consistency, adaptability and mission) on company performance measured by non-financial indicators (employee satisfaction, employee performance and organizational effectiveness).
- Identifying a package of good practices, appropriate for strengthening organizational culture and continuous improvement of company performance.

Overall, the research provides a relevant picture according to which, the analyzed company has a strong culture, aligned to the values of the international group of which it is a part of and has a positive influence on organizational performance, expressed by non-financial indicators.

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