Libyan International Medical University Faculty of Business Administration

Business Environmental Responsibilities

Course Title: Business Ethics
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Introduction

- Today businesses and corporations mostly focus on pleasing their customers and are cautious when dealing with their stakeholders, as we all know because without the stakeholders corporations wouldn't come to existence. Yet, they completely forgot about the most valuable stakeholder, the earth itself.

- A vast number of corporation's chief executive officers (CEOs) pay no to little attention to the environment as they take their strategical decisions, and that my friend left us with a polluted environment.

Air pollution

Water pollution

Brazilian Rainforest

Smog in Mexico City

The Most Significant Environmental Problems

- Toxic Air Pollution

- Water Pollution

Toxic Air Pollution

- Believe it or not more people are killed from air pollution due to automobile exhaust and smokestack emissions than by traffic accidents. In 2013 the American Lung Association reported that over 131.8 million people live where pollution levels are too often dangerous to breath, this makes up 42 percent of the total population of the United States.

America's Top five global warming polluters

Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Company-Owned or –Operated Power Plants	
Company	**Pollution**
American Electric	130,409,118 metric tons of carbon dioxide
Duke Energy Corporation	Released 1.89% of the nation's pollution
The Southern Company	Pumps out 1.76% of the nation's total greenhouse gases
Berkshire Hathaway	Controls interest in power plants, chemical factories, mining operations, and other industries that released more than 70 million equivalent metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2011
Ameren	Emitted 67,800,250 equivalent metric tons of carbon dioxide from their fossil fuel power plants.

Effects of Air Pollution

- Global Warming (The globe is warmer now than at any time in the past 125,000 years)

- Increase in the snow melting days in northern Alaska

- Higher Sea levels

Water pollution

- Water pollution is also a serious threat to the environment and to the survival of the human beings. Almost one billion people around the world lack access to drinkable water. This lack of access to unsafe water and to poor sanitation and hygiene lead to the death of two million people per year, mainly through infectious diarrhea

- Mainly water pollution is a result of industrial waste dumping, sewage drainage (the little lake in front of Tebesti hotel is a good example) and runoff of agriculture chemicals. This noticeable increase in water pollution causes the water reserves in major aquifers to decrease by almost 200 trillion cubic meters each year leaving us with less drinkable water

Business Environmental Responsibilities

- Their responsibilities go beyond the production of goods and services at a profit

- These responsibilities involve helping to solve important social and environmental problems, especially those they have helped create.

- They have a broader constituency than stockholders alone and that they have impacts that go beyond simple marketplace transactions.

- These are very crucial points because businesses serve a wider range of human values than just economics

Conclusion

- Today's environmental abuse and pollution is not just today's problem; it is a problem that future generations will have to deal with as well. Corporations did not respect the rights of future generations and the right to a livable environment as they were striving for an efficient economy. However, it is never to late to be accountable for their actions and change to an environmental friendly management approach in order to hand over a livable environment to the upcoming generations. As the ethicist John Rawls once stated "Justice requires that we hand over to our immediate successors a world that is not in worse condition than the one we received from our ancestors."

Thank You.

Reference

BUSSINESS ETHICS A Stakeholder and Issues Management Approach/ By Joseph W. Weiss