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Building an effective organization is a matter of encouraging the evolution of

common goals, common language, common procedures to solve common

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Thecasesolutions.com Professor Edgar H. Schein

Society of Sloan Fellows Professor of Management Emeritus and a Professor Emeritus at the MIT Sloan School of Management

Schein investigates organizational culture, process consultation, research process, career dynamics, and organization learning and change.

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Thecasesolutions.com Organizational Culture

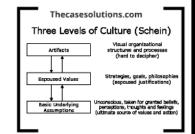
A pattern of shared basic assumptions that the group learned as it solved its problems of external adaptation and internal integration, that has worked well enough to be considered valid and, therefore, to be taught to new members as the correct way you perceive, think, and feel in relation to those problems.

- 1. Observe behavior: language, customs, traditions
- 2. Groups norms: standards and values
- 3. Espoused values: published, publicly announced values.
- 4. Formal Philosophy: mission
- 5. Rules of the Game: rules to all in org
- 6. Climate: climate of group in interaction
- 7. Embedded skills:
- 8. Habits of thinking, acting, paradigms: Shared knowledge for socialization.
- 9. Shared meanings of the group
- 10. Metaphors or symbols

- · Culture is customs and rights
- Good managers must work from a more anthropological model
- Each org has its own way and an outsider brings his/her baggage as observer
- Understand new environment and culture before change or observation can be made.

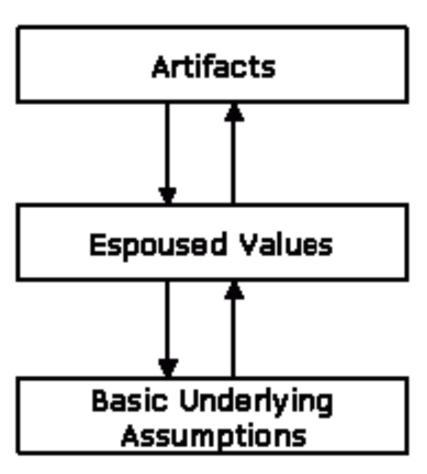






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Three Levels of Culture (Schein)



Visual organizational structures and processes (hard to decipher)

Strategies, goals, philosophies (espoused justifications)

Unconscious, taken for granted beliefs, perceptions, thoughts and feelings (ultimate source of values and action)

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Internal Environment

Common Language

To function as group must have common language

Group Boundaries

Orgs. can have three dimensions:

- 1. lateral movement: from one task to the next
- 2. vertical movement: from one rank to the next
- 3. inclusionary: from outsider to insider

Distribution of Power and Status

How will influence, power, and authority be allocated?

Developing Rules

How to deal with authority and with peer

Allocating Reward and Punishment

Must have system of sanctions for obeying and disobeying rules

Explaining the Unexplainable

Facing issues not under control: weather, natural disaster

External Environment

Mission and Strategy

Each new groups must develop shared concept to survive. What is the function?

Goals

To achieve consensus on goals group needs shared language and shared assumptions

Means to Achieve Goals

Need clear consensus on means to achieve goals

Measuring results

Need consensus on how to evaluate self

Correction, Repair

Consensus needed on how to affect change

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Deeper Issues

Nature of reality and truth

What is valid information?

Nature of time

· Monochronic (one) and Polychronic (several) Time

Nature of space

Symbols of space, body language, distance and relative space

Nature of human nature

Instincts, behavior, basic needs (Maslow)

Nature of human activity

· Humans act in relation to environment

Nature of human relationships

· Comfortable, power distribution, influence

Individualism vs. Collectivism

Competitive or competitive

Participation & Involvement

Coercive, utilitarian, based on goal consensus





How Leaders Create Org. Culture

Culture begins at the impact of the founder

The process of culture formation is the process of creating a small group:

- 1. Single person (founder) has idea
- 2. Founder brings in one or more people and creates core group. They share vision and believe in the risk
- 3. Start developing group processes and group norms
- 4. Others are brought in and a history is begun.



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Leaders Embed and Transmit Culture Thecasesolutions.com

Leader assumptions are "taught" to the group

- Primary Embedding Mechanisms
- Secondary Articulation and Reinforcement Mechanisms

Pay attention to design, measure, and control on a regular basis

React to critical incidents and organizational crises

Reinforce organizational systems and procedures

How you allocate resources

Organizational rites and rituals

Deliberate role modeling, teaching, and coaching

Design of physical space, facades, and buildings

Allocate rewards and status

Stories, legends, and myths about people and events

Formal statements of organizational philosophy, values, and creed