The Influence of Human Resource Management on Enterprise Benefits

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Abstract. In the global business environment, enterprises are facing increasingly fierce competition. To flourish in this challenging setting, an enterprise's human resource management (HRM) strategy is paramount. This study aims to delve into the ramifications of HRM on corporate benefits and how businesses can elevate their competitiveness via innovative HR strategies. Through an in-depth case study analysis of three representative enterprises — Alibaba, Tesla, and IKEA — this research elucidates their distinct HRM strategies and the specific repercussions on enterprise benefits. The findings indicate that companies that strategically align their HRM practices with their business goals tend to have better employee satisfaction, efficiency, and market positioning. To achieve enduring success, contemporary enterprises need to perpetually refine their HRM approaches, ensuring alignment with company objectives and adaptability to a fluctuating market landscape. Conclusively, exceptional HRM does not just amplify employee contentment and efficiency; it carves a decisive edge for enterprises in the cutthroat market arena.

Keywords: Case study; human resource management; enterprise efficiency.

1. Introduction

With the continuous development of the global economy and the acceleration of the internationalization process, the competition among enterprises is becoming increasingly fierce. In this context, the core competitiveness and sustainable profitability of enterprises have been shifted from traditional capital and technology to human resources. In other words, excellent talent and efficient human resource management have become the key for enterprises to stand out from complex changes. Therefore, knowledge-based employees, such as technical research and development personnel, marketing personnel, and managers, become the core assets of the enterprise. How to attract, cultivate, and retain these talents, and how to effectively manage and motivate them, has become a key issue in determining the success of enterprises [1].

With the progress of society and the improvement of people's living standards, employees' needs and expectations for work are also changing. They are not just concerned about pay and benefits, but more concerned about career development, job satisfaction, and corporate culture [2]. This means that businesses not only need to provide competitive compensation and benefits, but also need to provide opportunities for employees to grow and develop, create a good working environment, and foster a healthy and cohesive corporate culture. Therefore, the study of how human resource management affects the benefits of enterprises will not only help enterprises to improve their management strategies, improve employee satisfaction, and work efficiency, but also help enterprises to achieve long-term development and sustainable profits.

Human resource management strategies and practices have an impact on employees' job satisfaction and work efficiency. These strategies and practices also influence the profitability and market competitiveness of enterprises. Enterprises can design and implement effective human resource management strategies and practices based on their own characteristics and the external environment.

The objective of the research is to discover the general law of human resource management and provide scientific, systematic and practical management advice for enterprises. To this end, this study selected three enterprises with unique experience and practices in human resource management as cases to deeply analyze the impact of their HRM strategies and practices on enterprise benefits.
The research topic is to explore how HRM affects business efficiency. This theme is not only the focus of theoretical research but also a hot issue in the current practice of enterprise management. Because under the dual influence of economic globalization and technological revolution, the external environment and internal conditions of enterprises are undergoing rapid and profound changes. How to deal with these changes and improve the competitiveness and profitability of enterprises is the concern of every entrepreneur and manager. This study is designed to answer this question and provide a valuable theoretical and practical reference.

2. The FirstCase: Alibaba

2.1. Introduction of Enterprises

The Alibaba Group was born in 1999 at the turn of the 21st century, just a creative and ambitious dream. In Hangzhou, the ancient cultural capital of Zhejiang province, Mr. MA and his 17 partners launched the company, aiming to build an easily traded online platform for small and medium-sized businesses around the world. This is not only a business decision, but also an attempt to innovate and reform Chinese enterprises.

By 2014, Alibaba Group had crossed many important milestones and successfully listed on NASDAQ, bringing the largest IPO in history. The big event not only marked a surge in the company's market value, worth over $250 billion but also established Jack Ma as an icon of Chinese innovation and global economic growth.

Today, Alibaba is no longer just an e-commerce giant. It has expanded into finance, cloud computing, logistics, and multiple other fields, building a diverse Internet ecosystem. It ranks with the world's top technology companies such as IBM, Microsoft, Google, and Intel to lead the future of the tech industry.

2.2. Alibaba's Human Resource Management Impact on Enterprise Benefits

2.2.1. System characteristics

Alibaba's human resource management system stands out from many enterprises, especially due to its unique "political commissar system" [3]. This system originated from the leadership structure of the army, which emphasizes the balance of practical operational experience and organizational and planning capabilities. In Alibaba, most of the HRs come from front-line sales teams. They not only have a deep understanding of the business but are also skilled in human resource management, particularly in corporate culture promotion and value management. The incorporation of this unique HR system ensures that the company's internal performance appraisal mechanism maintains a higher level of objectivity and fairness.

2.2.2. Talent selection

Alibaba follows a distinctive approach to talent selection. While it may appear that they lack fixed selection criteria from an external perspective, in reality, their emphasis lies more on qualities such as team spirit and moral character rather than solely focusing on skills and experience [4]. This uniqueness stems from a fundamental belief: while skills and knowledge can be developed and acquired over time, nurturing and developing team spirit and moral qualities requires a more extended period of time.

2.2.3. Employee training

Alibaba's training system is a cornerstone of its success and is distinguished by its contextualized approach. In this system, all employees, irrespective of their roles or levels within the organization, undergo comprehensive training that is deeply rooted in the specific business contexts and the organizational history of Alibaba [5]. This approach recognizes that knowledge without context is mere information. Therefore, whether it pertains to professional or management skills, tools, concepts,
or cultural aspects, all training content is thoroughly integrated with Alibaba’s business scenarios and organizational heritage. Additionally, Alibaba has established a dedicated institution known as 'Lakeside College’ specifically designed for its managers. At Lakeside College, managers receive in-depth and rigorous course instruction, ensuring their alignment with the company’s vision and objectives.

2.2.4. Performance management

Alibaba's approach to performance management is distinctive in its emphasis on both performance outcomes and alignment with the company's culture and values. While it is common for many organizations to link performance with salary, bonuses, and promotion, Alibaba goes a step further by evaluating employees not just on their individual achievements but also on how well they embody and contribute to the company's culture and core values [6].

At Alibaba, it is not solely about hitting performance targets; it is about doing so in a way that aligns with the company's overarching principles and fosters a positive organizational culture. This unique approach ensures that employees are not only rewarded for their results but also for their ability to uphold and reinforce the values that Alibaba holds dear. This dual focus on performance and values sets Alibaba's performance management apart from more conventional systems, as it actively promotes a corporate culture that is integral to the company's enduring success.

2.3. Analytic Result

To sum up, it is clear that Alibaba's human resource management strategy has played a crucial role in its continued success. Their human resource management not only ensures a high degree of consistency between employees and the company's goals and cultural values but also creates an active, innovative, and efficient working environment for the company. This working environment helps the company to better respond to various changes in the market, continuously drive innovation, and ensure employee satisfaction and efficiency, resulting in long-term competitive advantage and outstanding performance.

3. The Second Case: Tesla

3.1. Introduction of Enterprises

Tesla, born in Silicon Valley in 2003, aims to improve the range and performance of electric cars to rival, or further, conventional fuel cars. At a time when traditional car makers are still skeptical about electric cars, Tesla has shown unprecedented determination and ambition.

The launch of Model S, Model X, Model 3, and Model Y not only established Tesla's position in the high-end and mass market but also made electric vehicles a new traffic trend.

Not just cars, Tesla has demonstrated the same innovation in clean energy solutions. From Powerwall for home to commercial Powerpack to Megapack used by power companies, Tesla is redefining energy storage. Solar roofs and solar panels demonstrate Tesla's long-term vision in the solar market.

Tesla's remarkable success is undeniably rooted in its unwavering commitment to technological innovation. At the heart of this innovation-driven ecosystem lies a vast pool of top-notch engineers and scientists who consistently push the boundaries of what is possible in the automotive and clean energy industries. However, it is crucial to recognize that the mere presence of these talented individuals is not sufficient; their recruitment, development, and retention are intricately linked to effective HRM practices [7].

3.2. Tesla, the Advantages of Human Resource Management

For any advanced technology company, especially one like Tesla, human resources are the key to its core competitiveness. Human resources are not just about recruitment, but they cover the whole
process from recruitment, training, and development to retention. The following is a specific analysis of how Tesla's human resource management affects its corporate benefits.

3.2.1. Mission and vision, the guiding role

Tesla's mission: "Accelerating the transition from the world to sustainable energy," not only defines a clear business direction but also defines a unique corporate culture. This clear goal has attracted enthusiastic experts and technical professionals worldwide for clean energy. Many people choose to join Tesla not just for compensation, but more for this bigger goal. The clarity of the mission and vision builds a solid employee base for Tesla, attracting experts and technical personnel who hold the same values.

3.2.2. Work challenges and degrees of freedom

Tesla is known for its high-pressure working environment. But many top engineers and scientists, are pursuing not only the high salary but also the challenge and sense of achievement. At Tesla, they can get involved in cutting-edge technology development to solve problems that have never been solved. At the same time, Tesla gives its employees the freedom to work their own way, as long as they can reach their goals.

This combination of freedom and challenge allows employees to make significant progress in technology development and problem-solving, driving the company's technological innovation.

3.2.3. Compensation and reward system

Tesla offers very competitive compensation to its employees, especially those in key positions. Beyond the basic payroll, there are plenty of stock options and bonuses. This ensures that the interests of employees are closely tied to the interests of the company and that the efforts of employees can be directly translated into their own wealth growth.

Employees feel that they are closely related to the company's success and thus work harder to strengthen the company's competitive advantage and market position.

3.2.4. Learning and development opportunities

Tesla is a fast-growing company, where employees can get rapid career development and gain more responsibility and power. At the same time, the company also provides various training and learning opportunities to help employees improve their skills and knowledge.

Employee skills were strengthened, and the company's products and services were continuously improved.

3.2.5. Culture and the environment

Tesla has a very unique corporate culture. It encourages innovation, taking risks, and being outspoken. For many engineers and scientists, such an environment allows them to exert their abilities unfettered. At the same time, Tesla also attaches great importance to teamwork and encourages cross-department and cross-functional communication and cooperation.

Teamwork is enhanced, and product development is more rapid and efficient.

3.2.6. Influence of the leadership

Last but not least, Tesla founder Elon Musk is a huge brand. He is not only a successful entrepreneur, but also an explorer with lofty ideals. Many people choose to join Tesla because they want to follow him and achieve those seemingly impossible goals.

Musk's influence has attracted a large number of customers, investors, and partners, ensuring Tesla's leading position in the global market.

To sum up, Tesla's human resource management strategy ensures the company's leadership in electric vehicles and clean energy, giving it a competitive advantage in the global market. From attracting top talent to creating a challenging and free working environment for them to providing adequate training and learning opportunities, Tesla has demonstrated its excellence in human resource management.
4. The Third Case: IKEA

4.1. Introduction of Enterprises

IKEA is a furniture and household goods retailer of Swedish origin, founded by Ingvar Kamprad in 1943. The initial business model was to sell small goods such as pens and wallets through mail-order catalogs. However, over time, the company gradually expanded its product line to enter the furniture market.

With the launch of IKEA’s home products, the company began to lead a revolution in the furniture industry. IKEA’s design philosophy is that "design comes from life, not design for design's sake". Their products are known for being modern, simple, practical, and reasonably priced. In the 1970s and 1980s, IKEA began to expand globally, successively entering the European, North American, and Asian markets.

So far, IKEA has more than 400 stores in more than 50 countries worldwide. Its business model has also undergone changes, including the launch of online sales, small stores in city centers, and partnerships with other brands and designers.

4.2. IKEA’s Impact on Corporate Benefits through HRM

In order to successfully meet consumer needs around the world, the workforce needs to reflect consumer diversity.

4.2.1. Analysis procedure

As a multinational company, IKEA has several branches around the world. This gives IKEA the opportunity to recruit employees from a variety of cultures and backgrounds.

Diversity teams can bring different views, ideas, and experiences to the enterprise, thus providing more innovation opportunities for the company [8]. When various ideas collide, they can often stimulate new thinking and creativity. By attracting global talent, IKEA has ensured that it offers products and services in all regions that suit the local culture and preferences.

IKEA attaches great importance to the professional development of its employees [9]. The Employee Development System is an important part of IKEA, reflecting the high value placed on lifelong learning and personal growth in Swedish culture. The system encourages continuous learning and provides regular training opportunities to ensure that employees’ knowledge and skills are kept up to date with the latest trends in the market. At the same time, it not only focuses on career development but also emphasizes personal growth, reflecting the Swedish culture's values of individual well-being and self-actualization. Ultimately, the goal of the system is to increase employee productivity and thus the profitability of the company, in line with the Swedish culture's emphasis on efficiency and productivity.

IKEA offers a range of benefits, including health insurance, retirement plans, and employee discounts [10]. Quality benefits can increase employee satisfaction and loyalty and reduce employee churn rate. Employees work in an environment where they feel respected and cared for, often more engaged and efficient.

4.2.2. Analytic result

The diversity team gave IKEA the motivation to innovate. These employees come from different cultural backgrounds, and their different perspectives and experiences provide valuable input to the company's product and service innovation.

Ikea’s global strategy requires companies to quickly adapt to different markets. Excellent HR management ensures that employees can understand and meet the consumer needs in different regions.

IKEA’s employee benefits program increases employee satisfaction and thus reduces attrition rates. This not only saves on the cost of recruiting and training new employees but also ensures business continuity and stability.
Ikea's human resource management strategy has enhanced its brand image. When consumers see a business so concerned about its employees, they are more likely to trust the brand and become loyal customers.

IKEA has maintained a leading position in the global home furnishing market through its forward-looking human resource management strategy. The company knows that employees are the key to IKEA's success, so they spare no effort to create a working environment for employees to support, cultivate, and respect. This care and investment in employees not only improve productivity and innovation, but also strengthens ties with consumers, thus ensuring IKEA's continued growth and success.

5. Summary of Case Study

After conducting an in-depth analysis of the human resource management strategies employed by Alibaba, Tesla, and IKEA, the research can draw the following conclusions and offer some suggestions.

The central importance of human resource management is evident across these three enterprises. It underscores the critical role that human resources play in the success of these companies. Beyond the initial recruitment of suitable talent, they prioritize ongoing staff training, development, and retention, recognizing that these factors are pivotal for long-term enterprise growth.

Integration of systems and culture is another notable aspect. Each company has developed its own unique culture and management system to align with its specific characteristics and market demands. Alibaba implements a "political commissar system," Tesla emphasizes mission guidance, and IKEA focuses on team diversity. These tailored cultures and systems are instrumental in fostering success.

Employee welfare and satisfaction are integral components that directly impact employee loyalty and work efficiency. IKEA serves as a prime example, demonstrating that providing quality benefits can significantly increase employee satisfaction, leading to improved productivity.

These case studies offer valuable reference templates for other businesses. Each enterprise can adapt and learn from these human resource strategies based on its individual circumstances and requirements.

6. Conclusion

After an in-depth analysis of the human resource management strategies of Alibaba, Tesla, and IKEA, this paper has come to the following conclusions. First of all, human resource management plays a crucial role in the success of a company, whether it is a domestic company or a large international company. Employees are not just the workforce of the organization, they are the driving force behind the culture, innovation, and continuous growth.

A clear centerpiece of this is the continuous training, development, and retention of employees. This ensures that companies can continue to adapt and grow in an ever-changing market environment. The unique culture and management system specific to each company strengthens team cohesion internally and competitiveness externally. From Alibaba’s "commissar system" and Tesla’s mission orientation to IKEA’s team diversity, these highlight the strategic focus of each company.

The significance of this study is that it provides a reference template for other companies to learn from according to their specific situation and needs. At the same time, human resource management is not only about improving employee satisfaction and efficiency but also about the long-term growth and sustainable profitability of the business.

However, there is no one-size-fits-all strategy as each company has its own unique environment and market needs. The limitation of this study is that the three companies the author selected may not cover all business types and market environments. Future research should further explore a wider range of HRM strategies, especially for different industries, markets, and cultural contexts.
Finally, with the process of globalization and continuous technological innovation, companies will face more new challenges and opportunities. This brings new needs and possibilities for HRM. Future research will further deepen this area and provide companies with more forward-looking recommendations and strategies.

References


