



THE ROLE OF PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS IN TALENT MANAGEMENT: ALIGNING INDIVIDUAL GOALS WITH ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES-HERITAGE FOODS INDIA LIMITED

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ABSTRACT

Performance appraisal is a systematic process used by organizations to evaluate and improve the performance of employees. It plays a crucial role in human resource management by assessing employees' job performance, productivity, skills, and overall contribution to organizational goals. The primary objective of performance appraisal is to provide constructive feedback, identify strengths and weaknesses, and support employee development through training and career planning.

An effective performance appraisal system helps organizations make informed decisions related to promotions, compensation, rewards, and employee retention. It also motivates employees by recognizing their achievements and encouraging continuous improvement. Various appraisal methods such as rating scales, 360-degree feedback, management by objectives (MBO), and self-assessment are commonly used to measure employee performance accurately.

Furthermore, performance appraisal strengthens communication between managers and employees, creating a transparent and fair work environment. By aligning individual performance with organizational objectives, it contributes to higher productivity, improved job satisfaction, and overall organizational effectiveness. Thus, performance appraisal serves as an essential tool for enhancing both employee performance and organizational growth.

I. INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY

Performance appraisal is a systematic and periodic process used by organizations to evaluate an employee's job performance, skills, achievements, and overall contribution to organizational goals. It is a formal assessment mechanism through which managers measure individual performance against predetermined standards and provide constructive feedback for improvement. Performance appraisal not only helps in identifying employee strengths and weaknesses but also plays a crucial role in decision-making related to promotions, salary increments, training needs, and career development.

In modern organizations, performance appraisal is considered an essential human resource

management function that aligns individual performance with organizational objectives. It enhances communication between supervisors and employees, promotes accountability, and motivates employees to achieve higher productivity levels. By establishing clear expectations and providing continuous feedback, performance appraisal contributes significantly to organizational growth, employee satisfaction, and overall efficiency.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

The study on performance appraisal is essential to understand how effectively appraisal systems contribute to employee performance and organizational success. In today's competitive business environment, organizations must ensure that employees are performing at their optimum level to achieve strategic goals. Evaluating the



existing performance appraisal system helps identify its strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. It also provides insights into employee satisfaction, fairness, transparency, and the overall impact of appraisal practices on motivation and productivity. Furthermore, the study is necessary to determine whether the appraisal process supports career development, training needs identification, and reward management, thereby ensuring alignment between individual performance and organizational objectives.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine the existing performance appraisal system followed in the organization.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of the performance appraisal process in improving employee performance.
3. To identify the impact of performance appraisal on employee motivation and job satisfaction.
4. To analyze the relationship between performance appraisal and organizational productivity.
5. To assess employee perception regarding fairness and transparency in the appraisal system.
6. To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current appraisal practices.
7. To provide suitable suggestions for improving the performance appraisal system.

.SCOPE:

The study focuses on analyzing the performance appraisal system implemented within the organization and its impact on employee performance and organizational effectiveness. It covers various aspects such as appraisal methods, evaluation criteria, feedback mechanisms, employee perceptions, and the link between appraisal outcomes and rewards or promotions. The study is limited to

selected employees and departments within the organization and aims to assess the effectiveness, fairness, and overall contribution of the performance appraisal system toward achieving organizational goals.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology explains the systematic procedures adopted to collect, analyze, and interpret data related to performance appraisal practices in the organization.

1. Research Design

The study follows a **descriptive research design**, as it aims to describe and evaluate the existing performance appraisal system and its effectiveness in improving employee performance and organizational productivity.

2. Source of Data

- **Primary Data:** Collected directly from employees and HR managers through structured questionnaires, interviews, and discussions.
- **Secondary Data:** Gathered from company records, HR manuals, books, journals, research articles, and official websites related to performance appraisal.

3. Data Collection Method

- **Questionnaire Method:** A structured questionnaire consisting of closed-ended and open-ended questions was distributed to employees.
- **Personal Interviews:** Conducted with HR personnel and supervisors to obtain detailed insights.
- **Observation Method:** Used to understand appraisal procedures and documentation practices.

4. Sampling Technique

The study uses **simple random sampling** to ensure equal opportunity for all employees to participate in the research.

5. Sample Size

A total of **100 employees** were selected from different departments to ensure representation of various job levels and functions.

6. Tools for Data Analysis

- Percentage Analysis
- Tabulation Method
- Charts and Graphs
- Statistical tools

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study is limited to a specific organization, so the findings may not be applicable to other organizations.
- The sample size is limited, which may not fully represent the entire employee population.
- The study was conducted within a short time period, restricting in-depth analysis.
- Responses collected through questionnaires may be biased or influenced by personal opinions.
- Some employees may have been hesitant to provide honest feedback due to fear of management.
- Limited access to confidential organizational data related to performance appraisal policies.
- The study focuses only on selected departments and may not cover all job levels equally.

III. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

Once the employee has been selected, trained and motivated, he is then appraised for his performance. Performance appraisal is the step where the management finds out how effective it has been hiring and placing employees. If any problems are identified, steps are taken to communicate with the employee and remedy them.

Performance appraisal or merit rating is one of the oldest and most universal practices of management.

Performance appraisal often provides the rational foundation for the payment of piecework wages, bonus etc. the estimates of the relative contributions of employees help to determine the rewards and privileges rationally.

Performance appraisal serves as means for evaluating the effectiveness of devices used for the selection and classification of workers.

Performance appraisal has been considered as a most significant and indispensable tool for an organization, for the information it provides is highly useful in making decisions regarding various personal aspects such as promotions and increases.

According to Ronald Benjamin, “performance appraisal determines who shall receive merit increases, counsel’s employee’s ob their improvement determines training needs, determines promotability, identifies those who should be transferred”.



METHODS, TECHNIQUES FOR APPRAISING PERFORMANC

Several methods and techniques of appraisal are available for measuring the performance of an employee. They are:

1. Straight rank method
2. Man to man comparison method
3. Grading
4. Graphic rating method
5. Forced choice description method



6. Forced distribution method
7. Checklists
8. Free from easy method
9. Critical incidents
10. Group appraisal
11. Field review method

- B – Very good,
 C – Good or average,
 D – Fair,
 E – Poor,
 -B (or B-) very poor or hopeless.

Modern Methods:

1. Assessment center
2. Appraisal by results or management by objectives
3. Human asset accounting method
4. Behaviorally anchored rating sales

TRADITIONAL METHODS

1. Straight Rank Method:

It is the oldest & simplest method of performance appraisal, by which the man and his performance are considered as an entity by the rater. Then ranking of a man in work group is done against may also do that of another member of a competitive group by placing him as one or two or three in total group, i.e. persons are tested in order of merit and place in a simple grouping.

2. Man –To-man Comparison Method:

The USA army during the FIRST WORLD WAR used this technique. By this method, certain factors are selected for the purpose of analysis and a scale is designed by the rater for each factor. A scale of man is also created for each selected factor. The each man to be rated is compared with in the scale, and certain scores for each factor are awarded to him. This method is used in job evaluation, and is known as the factor comparison method.

3. Grading Method:

Under this system, the rater considers certain features and marks them accordingly to a scale. The selected features may be analytical ability, cooperativeness, dependability, self-expression, job knowledge, judgment, leadership and organizing ability, etc. they may be

- A – Outstanding,

The actual performance of an employee is then compared with these grade definitions; such type of grading is done in semester examinations and also in the selection of candidates by the public service commissions.

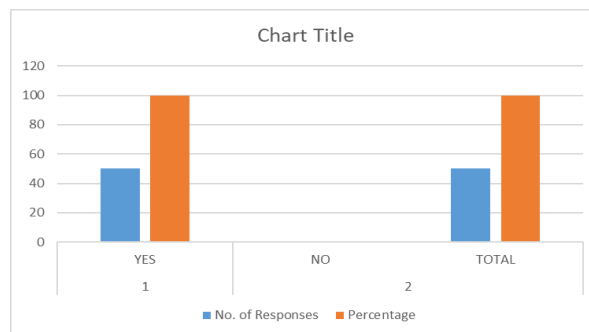
IV. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

Data analysis has been done by arranging the data in a simple table form and percentages are calculated. The quantitative data has been represented by drawing out the charts where ever necessary.

1. Do you think performance appraisal is needed in a company?

- (a) YES (b) NO

s.no	Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	YES	50	100
2	NO	0	0
	TOTAL	50	100



Interpretation:

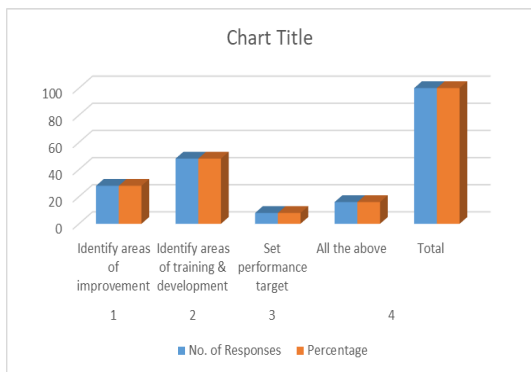
To above question, almost 100% of the employees thought that the performance appraisal is needed in a company.

2. Performance appraisal rating is used to

- (a) Identify areas of improvement
- (b) Identifying quality for unit of work

- (c) Set performance target
- (d) All the above

s.no	Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Identify areas of improvement	28	28
2	Identify areas of training & development	48	48
3	Set performance target	8	8
4	All the above	16	16
	Total	100	100



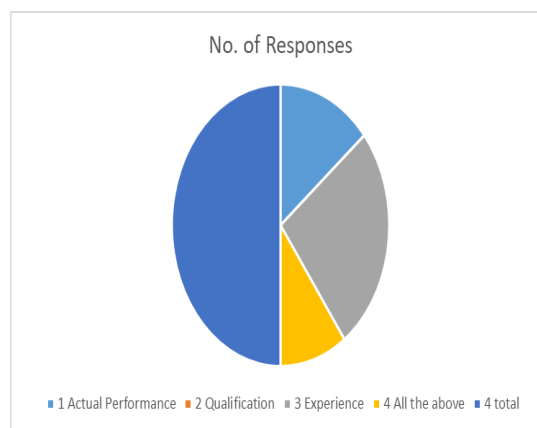
Interpretation:

About the useful of Performance appraisal system, 28% have said that appraisal system helped them to identify areas of improvement, to 48% it helped in identifying training & development needs, to 8% it helped in setting performance targets and to 16% it was helpful in all the above areas. By this we can say that P.A is helpful in one way or the other for the employees.

3. In your experience the outstanding Performance of an employee is due to:

- (a) Actual Performance
- (b) Qualification
- (c) Experience
- (d) All the above

s.no	Options	No. of Responses	Percentage
1	Actual Performance	28	28
2	Qualification	0	0
3	Experience	52	52
4	All the above	20	20
	total	100	100



Interpretation:

Above 28% of the employees responded that the outstanding Performance appraisal is due to Actual Performance, 52% of the employees is due to Experience and 20% of the employees is due to all the above.

V. FINDINGS

In the light of the above discussion the following findings are made.

1. It is revealed that the executive are getting feedback on their performance though which they can review their performance. Sort on the problems and can overcome the difficulties.
2. The management has a clear understanding about the problem that the workers are the best with moreover, they are eager to solve the problems of the workers as and when they arise.



3. The management was giving requisite training to workers in the areas where they are weak.
4. Workers awareness about the fact that the appraisal is one of the factors for promotion was cent percent.
5. Performance appraisal system is considered as a means that aim at identifying the areas of improvement, identifying areas of training and development setting performance target for future.
6. The management desire having cordial relations with the work to hold mutual discussions.
7. The performance appraisal system it exists as it exists now is properly worked out and appropriately evolved. This revealed from the opinion given by the majority of the employees.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

1. Establish clear and measurable performance standards.
2. Adopt modern appraisal methods like 360-degree feedback and MBO.
3. Provide proper training to appraisers to avoid bias.
4. Encourage regular and continuous feedback.
5. Link appraisal results with rewards and promotions.
6. Maintain transparency in the evaluation process.
7. Use technology-based performance management systems.
8. Focus on employee growth and development.
9. Involve multiple evaluators to reduce subjectivity.
10. Periodically review and improve the appraisal system.

VII. CONCLUSION

Performance appraisal is a vital component of human resource management that plays a

significant role in evaluating employee performance, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and aligning individual goals with organizational objectives. An effective appraisal system not only measures employee productivity but also enhances motivation, job satisfaction, and overall organizational efficiency. It provides a structured platform for feedback, career development, promotions, rewards, and training needs identification.

However, challenges such as bias, lack of proper training for evaluators, and unclear performance criteria can reduce the effectiveness of appraisal systems. Therefore, organizations must ensure proper planning, communication, and continuous review of the appraisal process. In conclusion, a well-designed and properly implemented performance appraisal system is essential for enhancing employee performance, achieving organizational goals, and maintaining a competitive advantage in today's dynamic business environment.

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