

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A GOOD CHARACTER IN THE WORKPLACE

by:
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One of the definitions of “character” provided by Merriam-Webster is that it is the complex of mental and ethical traits marking and often individualizing a person, group, or nation. Thus, character differs as regards persons and individuals as well as groups and communities. However, “good character”, in itself, eludes an exact definition. What may be considered as good character is a subjective matter which may be viewed by different individuals based on their varying point of views. Although good character has not yet been exactly objectified, it is undeniable that the possession of such is considered an advantage in majority of the industries that people work on.

Why is good character so important? We often hear the phrase, “no man is an island”. It is often true that no person can survive alone in this world especially in the work place. The workplace environment involves different processes, different relationships and different people. These different people have different behaviors, attitude and experience. This is where good character comes in since a person with a good character can adapt well in the workplace and can commingle with his peers in harmony easily. It is believed that people are more inclined to do business with partners they feel are honest and genuine. A person’s character will say a lot about his future potential.

Who is a person of good character with respect to the workplace environment? A person of good character is responsible, fair, trustworthy, caring, respectful and committed. A responsible person is one who has good judgment and the ability to act correctly and make decisions on his own. A responsible person is one who can be trusted in his work as regards to its execution and process since he follows the instructions very well and execute the process according to the best of his abilities. During the pandemic,

from 2020 to 2022, I was employed as a contact tracer under the Department of Interior and Local Government. In those trying times, my sense of responsibility was enhanced since my job entails not only the responsibility of finishing my tasks but more importantly, the responsibility of delivering my work in a timely, proper and efficient manner since correct contact tracing can help save lives.

On the other hand, fairness is the quality of treating people equally or in a way that is right, proper or reasonable. Thus, a fair person is impartial and decides on matters on the basis of well-established practice and rules and not on the basis of emotions or camaraderie with a concerned party. As a contact tracer, I encountered different kinds of people from various walks of life. I had to treat those persons on fairly and confidentially, no matter what their station in life are. From 2018-2020, I was employed as supervisor of Lims Enterprises wherein I was tasked to supervise ten employees. I treated these employees fairly as well as our clients whenever they transact with the establishment.

A trustworthy person is one who is reliable and dependable. He is a person of integrity, good faith and honesty. Being a supervisor, trust was reposed on me by my employer and I never broke that trust. One is caring when he is showing or feeling concern for or kindness to others. A caring person is emphatic and sensitive to the plight of his peers. A caring person cause no unnecessary harm to his peers and has a positive attitude toward everyone. My character of being caring to the plight of others was exhibited when I worked as a contact tracer. In the said job, we had to continuously communicate with numerous persons, share with their burdens and hear them out especially since the pandemic did not only bring physical ailments but more so, it brought emotional and psychological damage to the inhabitants of our community.

Being respectful is being characterized by or showing politeness or deference. Since respect begets respect, one needs to be respectful in order for him to earn the respect of his peers. Being respectful is one of the qualities that I observed when I was employed both as a contact tracer and as a supervisor. Respect was given not only to the superiors

but also to my peers and those under my supervision and guidance. A committed person is one who is loyal and willing to give his time and energy to something that he believes in. Although it was a great deal of a challenge, I stayed committed to my job despite the hardships and challenges that I encountered when I was still employed as such.

Character is deeply embedded in the personality of people. It is not something that can be learned, memorized and thereafter applied. It is a culmination of a person's experience in life and requires a continuous process of learning and adjustment. It requires a great deal of maturity and acceptance that we, as human beings, are not perfect, but a continuing work of art that can be improved by our resilience, adaptability and dedication. I am writing this paper in the hopes that the day will come when our workplaces are not only filled by competent and talented people but also people with good character.

References:

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