# Fairness and Diversity in the Workplace



#### Agenda

- What is organizational justice? What is fairness?
   What is trust?
- How do perceptions of injustice impact the workplace?
- What is diversity? How can we manage diversity?
- What are EEO and AAP? How are AAP related to perceptions of justice?

What is organizational justice? What is fairness? What is trust?

- Organizational justice: A
   belief about the fairness
   of an organization,
   manager, or event
  - Includes considerations of organizational procedures, outcomes, and interpersonal interactions



#### What is fairness?

- Various definitions of what is "fair"
  - Equality norm: People should receive equal rewards
  - **Equity norm**: People should receive rewards based on their contributions or merit
  - Need norm: People should receive rewards in proportion to their needs





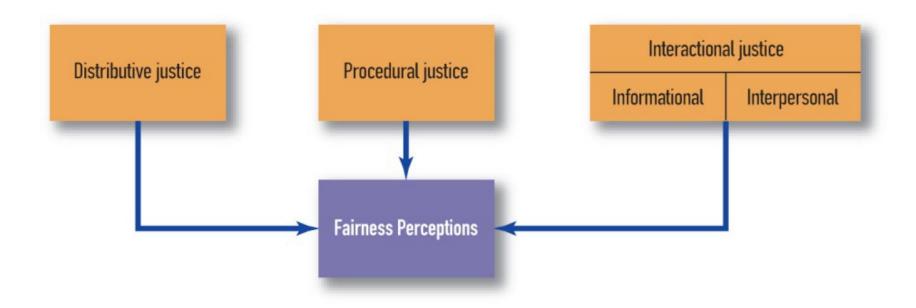




#### What is trust?

- Trust: A belief or expectation about how a person or organization will act in the future
- Trust in organizations has eroded since the 1960s
- Difficult to rebuild
- Timely explanations can minimize retaliation

# FOOL ME ONCE, SHAME ON YOU. FOOL ME TWICE, SHAME ON ME.

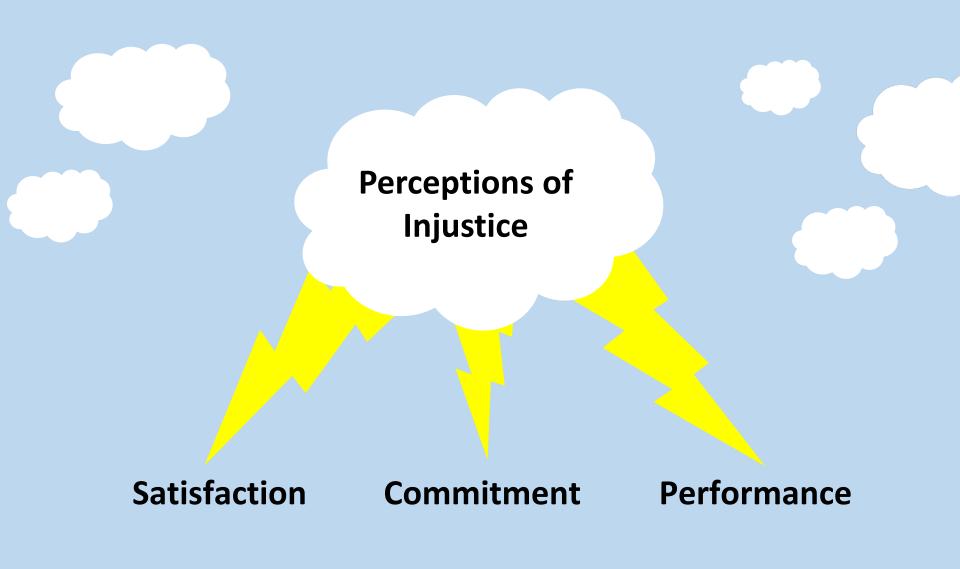


- Distributive justice: Beliefs about the fairness of a particular outcome
- Tips:
  - Communicate the link between performance and rewards
  - Select trustworthy leaders and managers



- Procedural justice: Beliefs about the fairness of the process used to determine outcomes
- Tips:
  - Be consistent in the application of processes
  - Create an appeals process and communicate the steps
    - Voice: Having the possibility of influencing or expressing an objection to a process or outcome
  - Encourage participation

- Interactional justice: Beliefs about the fairness of how we are treated
  - Informational justice: Beliefs about the fairness of how relevant information is shared with us
  - Interpersonal justice: Beliefs about the fairness of how others treat us with dignity and respect
- Tips:
  - Minimize interpersonal bias
  - Communicate consistently and frequently



- Perceptions of injustice can lead to:
  - Retaliation
  - Reduced effort
  - Reduced motivation
  - A lasting impact on attitudes, emotions, and behavior

- Reactions to selection procedures
  - Influence applicants' decision to accept/reject an employment offer, the organization's reputation, and the likelihood of litigation
  - Most favorable when applicants have the "opportunity to perform" and when the test has high face validity

- Reactions to performance evaluation
  - Related more to the fairness of the process than the content of the evaluation
  - Impacted by voice, feedback, participation, and managers' perceptions of justice



What is diversity? How can we manage diversity?

- **Diversity**: Differences in individuals' characteristics
  - Surface-level diversity: Differences in demographics (e.g., gender, race, ethnicity, age)
  - Deep-level diversity: Differences in values, interests, experiences, attitudes, and KSAOs
- Inclusion: The process of establishing a work environment that makes all employees feel included

	ATTRIBUTES MORE LIKELY TO BE TASK-RELATED	ATTRIBUTES MORE LIKELY TO BE RELATIONSHIP-ORIENTED
Readily detected attributes	Department/unit membership Organizational tenure Formal credentials and titles Education level Memberships in professional associations	Sex Socioeconomic status Age Race Ethnicity
Underlying attributes	Knowledge and expertise Cognitive skills and abilities Physical skills and abilities	Religion Political memberships Nationality Sexual orientation Gender Class identity Attitudes Values Personality Sexual identity Racial identity Ethnic identity Other social identities

- Benefits of diversity:
  - Enhances creativity and decision-making
  - Enhances credibility and legitimacy
  - Enhances performance and effectiveness over time (i.e., homogenous groups initially perform at higher levels)

- Groups tend to be homogeneous!
  - Consequence of social processes (e.g., similarity)
  - Enhances trust, communication, satisfaction, and commitment,

- In diverse groups:
  - Differences in values and perceptions lead to differences in vision
  - Differences in vision and expertise lead to disagreements

- **Diversity management** is an organization's deliberate attempt to create a workplace that values and supports all employees.
- Begins with recruitment, selection, training, and retaining diverse employees
- Involves effective diversity training

- Ineffective models:
  - Assimilation model: Recruit, select, train, and motivate employees so that they share the same values and culture
  - Protection model: Identifies disadvantaged and underrepresented groups and provides special protections for them

- Ideal model:
  - Value model: Values each element of an organization for what it uniquely brings to the organization

**Ambitious** 

Brave

Compassionate

- 1. Recruit specifically with diversity in mind
- 2. Make career development available for everyone
- 3. Develop connections to broader culture groups
- 4. Seek input from diverse group members
- 5. Provide diversity training
- 6. Provide support

- Diversity training: Specific programs that teach employees the how to succeed in a diverse work environment
  - Identified through needs assessment,
  - Part of a larger diversity effort,
  - Supported by leadership and delivered by managers,
  - Based on the values model,
  - Based on input from diverse stakeholders,
  - Designed to enable face-to-face and hands-on activities.

What are EEO and AAP? How are AAP related to perceptions of justice?

#### What are EEO and AAP?

- Equal employment opportunity (EEO): Equal opportunity to secure and retain employment in a company
  - Hiring practices based on qualifications and merit
  - Based on equity definition



#### What are EEO and AAP?

- Affirmative Action Programs (AAPs): Collections of HR practices designed to eliminate discrimination against historically disadvantaged groups
  - Based on equality and need definitions



#### What is affirmative action?

- Examples:
  - Specialized recruiting programs
  - Validated selection procedures
  - Training programs
  - Feedback programs
  - Specialized mentoring and coaching programs

#### What is affirmative action?

- **NOT** hiring quotas (outlawed by the CRA of 1991)
- Reactions to AAPs:
  - Tend to be positive when focused on deep-level diversity and merit
  - Tend to be negative when focused on surface-level diversity

# How is affirmative action related to perceptions of justice?

