

Insecurity, Instability and Lack of Benefits: Factors Reasonable For Poor Performance among “Contract Workers” In South Africa

Charmaine Pillay

Walter Sisulu University, South Africa

Abstract

Employees in both public and private sectors are expected to contribute significantly to the growth and development of the organization that employs them. Good working conditions are directly linked to the optimum output emanating from the workforce's excellent performance. Insecurity, instability and lack of benefits negatively impact on the employees' commitment to their job. This is a qualitative case study that comprised forty (40) “Contract Employees” (Academic and Supporting staff) in the Faculty of Health Sciences, Walter Sisulu University, Mthatha, Eastern Cape, South Africa. A questionnaire, as instrument of data collection, was used to obtain qualitative data. Data collected were categorized into themes and sub-themes for analyses and discussion.

The Findings showed that “contract Employees” are highly demoralized due to job insecurity and nonbenefits, among other factors, which directly affect their overall output in discharging their duties. The case study at Walter Sisulu University typifies the generalized challenges faced by workers on contract basis in South Africa. It is therefore, recommended that employers hire their workforce on a permanent basis or, where “Contract Employment “is inevitable, similar conditions that go with permanent employment should be incorporated in the contract terms of “Contract Employees”. This serves as impetus for optimum performance.

Keywords: Challenges; growth; highly demoralized; development; working conditions