

Harvard Business Review challenges the recruitment process used by most organisations.....

In one of the largest studies of its kind, the Harvard Business Review released findings by H & J Greenberg about the importance of establishing JobFit (JobFit is the ability to match people to roles based on the critical success attributes of the role, not on the individual's experience, educational qualifications, age, gender or race). The findings were based on a 20 year study of 360,000 individuals in the United States, Canada and Western Europe from the following industries:

- Automobiles
- Banking & Finance
- Chemical Manufacture
- Data Processing
- Life Insurance
- Machinery
- Manufacturing (Heavy)
- Manufacturing (Light)
- Media & Publishing
- Pharmaceutical
- Printing
- Property & Casualty Insurance
- Real Estate
- Stock Brokerage & Mutual Funds

There were some alarming discoveries that challenge the current recruitment practices of most organisations by proving that experience and educational qualifications are not statistically reliable predictors of future high performance in a role. For example:

“Experience is usually a principle criterion for making hiring decisions..... Yet we found little difference in performance between these experienced individuals and those with no experience. The person with no experience, given training and supervision, is as likely to succeed as the person with two or more years of experience”

“There is an old saw that 20 years’ experience reflects one year’s bad experience repeated 20 times. Our findings confirm that this is often the case. Too many people cling tenaciously to their unsuitable jobs and do just well enough not to be fired. Thus they accumulate years of “experience”.”

“As a value to be cherished and encouraged in our society, education cannot be challenged. The use of formal degrees as the criterion for judging someone’s potential effectiveness in a job, however, must be challenged....The results of our probing show that people with little education can do the job as effectively and as readily as those with college degrees.”

The study goes on to state:

“In view of these findings, an obvious question arises: If these long used criteria are invalid, what criteria can industry use to better predict job performance? The answer is: criteria that make a better match between the person and the job.”

The ability to establish JobFit by identifying and quantifying the critical success attributes of a role (such as the mental demands, the environment, behavioural traits and the occupational interests), allows organisations to increase the success rate of employing future high performers by up to 300%.

If you would like to know more about JobFit and how it increases productivity and workplace engagement, please email Mark Purbrick (mark@profiles.net.au)

“...people leave managers.....they rarely leave companies...”