Industrial relations

- Industrial relations include the whole range of relations between workers, managers and government which determine the conditions under which work is done in all types of enterprise. (An organization created for business ventures)
- 'Managers' are those who have the responsibility for the work of others in the organization
- 'Workers' are those for whose work managers are responsible
- Government' directly legislate certain terms of employment and regulate the interaction of managers and workers in varying degrees

Industrial relations

- Industrial relations commonly denotes "employee- employer relations"
- Industrial relations are born out of employment relationship in an industrial setting
- Industrial relations with people who are the base of the industry

The field of industrial relations (also called labour relations) looks at the relationship between management and workers, particularly groups of workers represented by a union.

Objectives of Industrial relations

- Congenial labor management relations
- Regulate the production by minimizing industrial conflict thereby contributing to economic progress
- Workers to have a say in decision making
- Encourage and develop trade union
- Avoiding industrial conflicts
- To boost the discipline and morale of workers

There are three majors players in industrial relations

- Management / employers
- Labour /workers /employees
- Government / regulator
- To maintain harmonious relations between all three major players.
- To contribute to economic prosperity of the country.

IR covers some of the following Areas

- Collective Bargaining: Negotiation about working conditions and terms of employment between employer and employee to reach an agreement
- Role of management, unions and government
- Machinery for resolution of industrial disputes :works committee ,
 Concillatory officer(settlement) ,labor courts etc.
- Grievances, labor welfare and security
- Trade unions, workers participation
- Labour legislation : Internal social responsibility to provide some basic

amenities apart from pay, protect interest of workers, social welfare

Three actors to IR

Employee

Employer

Government

Employee

- Improve their condition of employment
- Views in any grievances
- Exchange view and ideas with management
- Share in decision making

Trade Unions

- To redress the bargaining power of Individual worker.
- To secure improved terms and conditions of employment.
- To secure improved status for the worker in his or her work.

Employer

The employer see IR as

- Creating and maintaining employee motivation
- Obtaining commitment from workforce
- Achieving high levels of efficiency
- Negotiating terms and conditions of employment

Government

- The govt. regulates the relationship between the management and the labour and seeks to protect the interest of both the groups.
- The authority of the courts to settle legal disputes.

Conditions for Good Industrial Relations

- History of industrial relations (harmonious or rivalry)
- Economic satisfaction of workers (basic survival need)
- Enlightened and responsible labor unions
- Negotiation skills and attitude of management and workers (varying backgrounds, must possess empathy)
- Legislation :Govt intervention
- Social and psychological satisfaction : supportive climate along with economic rewards

Cause of Poor Industrial Relations

- Uninteresting nature of work : due to automation –role of worker reduced
- Political nature of unions : inter union rivalry, multiple unions, political parties involvement
- Poor wages : Inequity in wages , complicated wage system
- Occupational instability: donot want changes in the job-fear or insecurity

Effects

Resistance to change, frustration and social cost, multiplier effect (total loss)

Suggestions to improve Industrial Relations

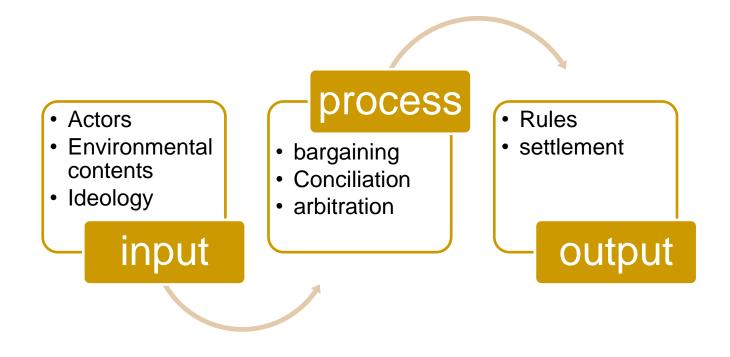
- Both management and union should develop constructive attitude towards each other
- All basic policies and procedures relating to IR should be clearly communicated to all
- Right kind of union leadership

Share more @

Approaches to IR

Systems approach

Systems framework by John Dunlop



- Actors: managers, workers and government agencies
- Actors influenced by several forces in environment technology, markets and power relation in society
- Ideology: Though there is conflict among the actors but there is also a shared ideology and compatibility of ideas which help to resolve conflict by framing rules
- The network or web of rules

Unitary approach

The organisation is, or should be, an integrated group of people with a single authority/loyalty structure and a set of common values, interests and objectives shared by all members of the organisation.

- Management's prerogative (i.e. its right to manage and make decisions) is regarded as legitimate, rational and Accepted
- Opposition to it (whether formal or informal, internal or external) is seen as irrational
- In short:
- the organisational system is in harmony
- conflict is unnecessary and exceptional

Pluralist approach

- Based on assumption that organization is composed of individuals who make up distinct sectional groups, each with its own interests, objectives and leadership.
- Recognition of diverging interests between workers, employers and government
- Conflict is the total range of behaviour and attitudes that express opposition and divergent orientation and it is perceived as both rational and inevitable.
- But focus is on framework of regulating work
 relationships-balance of power between management and trade unions
 - Conflict is necessary ,but it can be and needs to be managed and resolved

Marxist Approach

- If shared ideology than why is that conflict never ceases.
- Conflicts can never cease until capital accepts that labor has right to an equal share in power.
- Production system is privately owned and is motivated by profit.
- IR is the study of 'processes' of control over work relations, Its about who controls, how, what and why.

Trusteeship

- Proposed by Mahatma Gandhi
- Company accepts its total responsibility and management role becomes that of balancing all the claims upon the company.
- Inherent responsibility to its consumers, workers, shareholders, and the community
- Greater good

So long as 60% of the workforce is in agriculture and contributes to 25% of the GDP, the lot of the workforce in agriculture cannot and will not improve. Discuss the strategies to deal with the issue?