



The Snakes And The Ladders: What It Takes To Move Up The Corporate Ladder

The corporate ladder is today a commonly used term in the corporate world and is a figure of speech used to describe the process of advancing in your career. Advancing here means taking up progressively higher job responsibilities, securing promotion at the work place and attracting better levels of remuneration. The job ladder has been integral part in instilling a culture of hard work and reward in corporate America. It is what drives employees to always aim for the highest possible position that their skills and core competencies can afford them.

The techniques for climbing corporate ladders have changed over the years with the changing face of the business environment. For instance, in times past, employees would only be too happy to work for the same employer for many years (in fact it was not unusual to find someone had worked for the same employer for their entire career) and work their way upwards from within.

However, nowadays, many individuals are of a different view and prefer moving from one employer to another each time aiming for a higher position. Regardless of which path one believes in or prefers to use, there are certain fundamental tenets that must be adhered to if the journey to the top is to not only be fast but also sustainable.

Education

One of the best shots in the arm that you can have when climbing the ladders is advancing your core skills through education. The corporate ladder always seems to favor those who have advanced in their education. It is therefore important to identify the various courses that are most relevant to your career then develop a plan as to which ones you would like to take up immediately and which ones to do later.

Advancing your education could mean taking up a masters or a doctorate degree, enrolling for professional certification courses, attending workshops at your place of work or going for conferences and seminars facilitated by a person or institution that is considered an authority in the industry. You should prepare an elaborate budget for your education and factor in potential savings from a sponsorship or concession from your employer.

Being confident and effective in your work

Few managers will trust their subordinates with greater responsibility if they have not proved



competent in what they are currently charged with. Being efficient and effective in your current role is a powerful way of making your way up the ladder. By working not just hard but smart, by understanding all the policies and procedures around your role and by taking time to figure out the repercussions of doing your job well or poorly, you automatically start to brand yourself positively and become of great value not only to your boss but your organization.

Top management will therefore easily consider you for greater responsibilities since you have already demonstrated the core skills of a good manager. Do not be afraid of taking up new challenges as long as you have a plan on how to execute them without compromising your existing responsibilities. Apply for higher **job opportunities** when they do arise; it shows you are personally convinced of your readiness to move up the corporate ladder.

Good working attitude

Having a positive attitude towards your job works wonders in keeping you passionate about achieving your goals. Remember that even when you put your best foot forward, your ascent up the ladder may not always work out as fast as you planned it or in the exact path that you had anticipated. You should not be surprised to find yourself stuck for a while at a certain position. Sometimes, it may very well seem that your colleagues are advancing faster than you are or that your boss does not appreciate your work.

Even though all these factors can be a source of negative energy, always put up a positive front at your job. This does not mean that you should not raise your concerns through the appropriate forum at the place of work. But you never want to come across as someone that is fond of complaining or acting like a victim-show enthusiasm and a 'bigger picture' attitude in what you have been tasked with and your commitment to assisting your boss and the business at large in achieving its objectives will soon be noticed and push you up the ladders.

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