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Organizational Management
Business and Ethics
Unethical Organizations

Nestle has been accused of unethical business practices for several reasons, including promotion of infant formula over breastfeeding. Nestle has been criticized for aggressively marketing its infant formula in developing countries, often to mothers who are unable to read the labels or afford the formula. This has resulted in malnutrition and illness among infants who are fed with formula instead of breast milk. They've been criticized for the exploitation of natural resources, it is said that they take advantage of weak regulations in developing countries to exploit natural resources such as water. In certain cases, Nestle has been accused of depriving local communities of access to water resources for their own profits.

They also have labor violations, Nestle has been accused of exploiting labor in its supply chain, including using child labor and unsafe working conditions. In 2019, Nestle was implicated in a report that claimed the company sourced cocoa from farms that use child labor in West Africa. They have been accused of misleading advertising, including claims that it's products have health benefits that are not supported by scientific evidence. At one point they said it's KitKat chocolate was a healthy snack. I remember listening to a TED talk of a company marketing expert and she said the way companies market to people is through "strategic communication" also known as "manipulation". They get consumers to believe a certain thing and rely on the consumers inability to fact check to continue with their practices.

Nestle has also been accused of price fixing, including colluding with other companies to fix the price of chocolate in Canada. The company says that it has taken some steps to address these issues, yet many believe that more needs to be done to ensure that Nestle operates in an ethical and responsible manner.

Nestle is one of the 10 major companies that own the majority of the products in our food supply. With being a majority owner I would suggest that they begin thinking in terms of what is socially beneficial for all rather than in a capitalistic mindset that makes them think what is best for the the profit of the company. But before looking at the company as a whole I consider that it is individuals that run the company and that they have selfish motives, this is what impacts the entire organization. Knowing that individuals have a moral compass and ethical values will help the company to move forward in an ethical fashion.

It seems like top executives from companies should go back to kindergarten and be taught the concept of right and wrong. It's the only way we can start to develop fundamental concepts such as, using child labor is morally wrong, children "should be" enjoying themselves, playing and be free of slavery in any forms. A company by itself is like a car, it takes someone in the drivers seat to drive the car, a car can't harm something by itself; it needs an operator to set the intention of where it's going and what it is going to do.

Top 20 unethical companies in the world (allegedly). ClimateRealTalk. (2023, February 24).

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