Promotion by Skills vs Promotion by Connections (vsdiff.com)

Criteria	Promotion by Skills	Promotion by Connections
Definition	Advancement based on individual competencies and qualifications.	Advancement based on relationships and networks.
Criteria for Advancement	Performance metrics, skills acquisition, and relevant achievements.	Personal connections, recommendations, and social capital.
Impact on Workplace Culture	Encourages meritocracy and fosters professional growth.	Can lead to favoritism and a non-transparent culture.
Long-term Viability	Promotes sustainability through continuous skill development.	Relying solely on connections can jeopardize organizational integrity.
Influence on Employee Morale	Boosts morale by recognizing hard work and skills.	May lead to dissatisfaction among employees feeling overlooked.

Source: https://vsdiff.com/promotion-by-skills-vs-promotion-by-connections/