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MANAGEMENT

This set of lectures contains:-

LECTURE 1 : A Theory of Organisation.

LECTURE 2 . A Reassessment of Organisation Theory.

LECTURE 3 : Organisational Objectives.

LECTURE 4 : Types of Organisation.

LECTURE 5 : Authority and Responsibility.

LECTURE 6 . Relationships and Responsibilities.

LECTURE 7 : Aids to Organisational Design.

LECTURE 8 : Industrial Organisation Design.

TEST GAJZ

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NOTE: The test on this set is bound in at the back of the book.

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16 371

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION

A. INTRODUCTION

In order to understand how the principles of human relations can be applied in business, we must begin by looking more closely at business itself. We need to see the "setting", as it were, inside which our techniques will work; and this involves us in getting to know the common features of "organisations" of various sorts, from banks to bridge clubs.

There are two distinct types of organisations which we can label-

1. Formal organisations, or "management systems"; and

2. Informal organisations, or "social systems".

Management systems deal with the rules and regulations in business; social systems often deal with the interaction between the workers. It is fairly obvious that management systems will tend to be "formal" and social systems will be "informal". Let's use these terms throughout this lecture.

B. WHAT IS ORGANISATION?

1. DEFINITION

"Organisation" may be defined in two separate ways, namely:

(a) as meaning a number of people united for a certain purpose, or

(b) as describing the total of arrangements existing for securing collaboration between the members of a group.

We shall now deal with these two meanings of organisation in turn:

(0) Under modern conditions it is unlikely that any single individual would be able to run a large business entirely on his own. Three factors are needed for success and unless they are possessed by one individual,

he will have to reach an agreement with others to work together with him. These three factors are:-

(i) CAPITAL, i.e. the money needed to start the business and to carry on until the business has reached the stage when profits are coming in.

(ii) HUMAN SKILLI ENERGY AND EXPERIENCEI i.e. the necessary manpower to manage and staff the business.

(iii) CONNECTION, i.e. the fact of having access to prospective customers, of being known by them.

This factor may either be introduced into the business by somebody possessing it, e.g., somebody already established in the line, or it may be gradually acquired through expenditure of CAPITAL AND ENERGY, e.g. in the form of advertising.

(b) Given these three factors, the question arises as to how the members of the group which we call "business" should be related to each other. That means, who is to give orders and who is to carry them out and to whom may orders be given and by whom. This brings us then to the second definition of the term "organisation", i.e. a total of arrangements existing for securing collaboration between the members of a group. Another way of putting it would be to call it the structure of relations between the members of a business.

A.L. Stinchcombe's definition of an organisation reads as follows:-

An organisation is a set of stable social relations, deliberately created, with the explicit intention of continuously accomplishing specific goals or purposes. This definition, broken down into its essential parts, effectively covers both the meaning and the function

,
o. formal organisation. 50 many businesses, political

movements, and welfare institutions use the word "organisation" in their titles that it is necessary to find a definition which can include all these groups. Much has been written about "organisation": do they allow man to remain an individual? Is a man who is part of an organisation as effective as the lone individual? Should there be less organisation and more individual effort?

These questions may never be fully answered. Certainly to-day more and more "organisation" takes place in every sphere of life, and the questions are important: but for practical purposes organisations exist and function, and therefore we must define them.

Let us now analyse our definition:

(a)

(b)

An organisation is a set of stable social relations "Stable" means "relatively unchanging, or of some permanence". The social relationships (people acting, or working, together) are expected to continue for a relatively long period. People working together to assist victims of an accident are not "an organisation" 05' they will not work together for more than a few hours. It must be emphasised however that this does not necessarily mean that Mr. X, Mr. Y and Mr. Z must all work together for years and that should one of them leave, the organisation ceases. It is the posts or roles that Messrs. X, Y and Z fill that need to remain. Obviously, if staff turnover is too rapid the organisation will become unstable, but in the normal run, staff changes should not upset the organisation if the vacant posts are refilled.

Stable relations are deliberately created

The people working together must have become part of the group through deliberate action by someone. An organisation is made up of members who qualify and are chosen in a deliberate manner. A casual gathering of friends is not an organisation.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 4.

(c) The explicit intention of an organisation is to achieve a continuous accomplishment of objectives. In this statement we see that to qualify for the title "organisation", a stable group of people must intend to accomplish something positively defined. An organisation cannot exist where people collect together with no specific purpose. The definition does state that the purpose must be good and useful to society, although that is expected. (In this respect the Mafia is an example of an organisation which has a deliberately created set of stable relations in order to manage various criminal activities). Short-term groups set up for fund-raising, for example, are not organisations since they do not exist for the continuous accomplishment of goals.

Let's summarise: "Organisation" assumes

Stability of posts or roles.

Purpose by deliberate creation.

Continuity and Continuity of accomplishment-

Specifics mentioned and specifics as to goals or objects.

THUS: An organisation is stable, deliberate, continuous and has specific goals.

C. ORGANISATION IS FORMAL OR INFORMAL

HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Roethlisberger, in his book "Man-in-Organisation", makes the distinction between formal and informal organisation by saying that:

(a) formal organisation is the result of logical efforts towards achievement of purpose, whereas

(b) informal organisation is the result of spontaneous social processes which have no planned common purpose.

Formal organisation thus leads to standard methods of procedure and, since they are logical, they can be changed relatively easily and rapidly.

Informal organisation, on the other hand, leads to customs, traditions, and ideals. They are less logical and less easy to alter. They are concerned with "ways of life" rather than straight-forward ways of accomplishing goals.

Any administrator must understand and accept that these two types of organisation exist within one business. The rules and regulations, while logical and important, do not always carry as much weight as "ways of life". Working hours are, for example, laid down by rules but workers generally have their own ideas and feelings about how hard or how long they need to work. It is informal organisation that believes that seniority for promotion should belong to the man who has worked longest for the firm even if he does not have the necessary qualifications for the senior post. The logic of formal organisations believes that a young man joining the firm with all the qualifications required for the post may, and perhaps should, be placed in the senior position. The human relations man who can understand that these two organisational systems exist side by side will be a far better administrator than the one who is simply sure of the logical rules of organisation.

Before we go on to discuss the "ingredients" of formal organisation, we must remember that logical as opposed to non-logical organisation does not mean good as opposed to bad. Too much logic will not allow for human failings and feelings; too little logic will not promote the practical functioning of the organisation at all.

FORMAL ORGANISATION HAS SEVEN ELEMENTS

Here we may modify a little the list of component elements given by Pfiffner (in "Human Relations in the Management of Men") and set down these six:

1. Hierarchy is basic.
2. Information means control.
3. Staff and Line-Roles are found.

Delegation is essential.

Unity of command is found.

Division of labour is Used.

Co-ordination counts.

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Now we'll look at each element in greater detail.

1. HIERARCHY IS BASIC

Whenever men get together and organise themselves in order to accomplish a particular purpose, they form a hierarchy. In any group there is a leader at the top, so to speak, with the followers on descending levels of authority. The hierarchy is best seen as pyramid since there is usually 22: chairman or president, two or three vice-presidents, several heads of departments, and so on down until there are, in big organisations, hundreds of workers at the base of the pyramid.

A very simple organisational pyramid might look like this:

GENERAL MANAGER

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

DEPUTY DEPARTMENTAL

G.M. G.M.

AREA AREA AREA AREA AREA AREA

MAN. MAN. MAN. MAN. MAN. MAN.

---- and so on, with each Area Manager supervising a number of Branch Managers.

In theory, a Branch Manager refers to his Area Manager, who in turn refers to his Deputy G.M. In fact, this over-simplifies what actually happens, because there is always a great deal of informal cross-communication at each level.

2.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 7.
INFORMATION MEANS CONTROL

Good formal organisation requires those in key positions to have access to all the information necessary to know whether the organisation is functioning as it should. The actions, and results of actions, of all personnel in the organisation must be checked and listed for the information of the management. If all this information is available the management can control the whole organisation effectively. In some organisations special departments exist to act as information centres to ensure that the knowledge and facts needed to reach effective decisions is available when needed.

STAFF-AND-LINE ROLES ARE FOUHD

In every discussion on management organisation the words "line" and "staff" crop up. Simply stated, "line" consists of the people who do the job, and the "staff" consists of the people who advise the line on how to do the job. To illustrate: Nurses do the job of tending the sick - they are the line and are supervised by line supervisors such as ward sisters or matrons. Doctors are the specialists who tell the nurses how to do the job - they are then the staff. The words "line" and "staff" are labels for differing functions of the people who make up a business. Every organisation has a specific purpose. Suppose the purpose is manufacturing and selling bicycles. The manufacturers, the actual makers of the goods, as well as the men who sell them, are the "line". The "staff" would be the people who design new styles of bicycles or work study officers who decide whether the job is being done in the most economical and efficient manner. Conflict often arises between line and staff. The line may say that staff tries to assume authority, or fails to "see the whole picture", or does not give sound advice. Staff may complain that line resists new ideas or does not make proper use of staff's special knowledge. The administrator needs to understand this conflict and to resolve it in as objective and practical a manner as possible. Where line and staff co-operate and respect the importance of each other's positions there is a healthy organisation.

4.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 8.

DELEGATION IS ESSENTIAL

Every administrator who has the authority to delegate must decide "who does what". He must tell A what work he is to do and then leave him to do it. He must trust his subordinates to do their work and must not try to control each small decision. He must be able to tell B what men should work with him and leave B to supervise those men. An administrator who cannot thus delegate authority is inefficient: it is impossible for one man personally to supervise all the men under him. Men to whom insufficient authority is given are similarly inefficient: most resent the implication that they are incapable of working alone.

UNITY OF COMMAND IS FOUND

This means that in each organisational unit there is 22: person who can make decisions for that unit. Each employee must know who his immediate superior is and must communicate with him. The line of communication from the worker to the manager via the foreman and assistant manager is called the "chain of command". This chain of command is the unifying force which keeps an organisation functioning. If the person in the middle of the chain is incapable of making suitable decisions, the chain is broken. For example: a salesman has difficulty with one particular customer; he applies to the sales manager for help. The sales manager cannot make a decision, nor does he take the problem further up the chain of command. The chain is thus broken, the salesman cannot function, and the whole organisation suffers.

DIVISION OF LABOUR IS USED

The best example of division of labour is the motor assembly line where one group of men deals solely with, say, the body work of the car, while others deal only with the engine. One group will paint and another will check defects. One group will have as its job the putting on of one small part and will do only this day after day.

Division of labour has been a source of argument and controversy for years. Some argue that only by division of labour can people become efficient since they need know only one small part of the whole job. Others believe that it destroys man's

individuality by turning him into an extension of a machine. Generally speaking, there is much to be said for both arguments and it should be possible for the management to see to it that workers have sufficient variety to keep them interested without burdening them with too many diverse jobs.

CO-ORDINATION COUNTS

Unless properly co-ordinated the units composing an organisation will tend to grow away from each other and become independent. Units that should work together resist co-ordination on the grounds that they are "different" and the rules do not apply to their particular group. Sales departments may refuse to co-ordinate with production departments or editorial departments of newspapers may resist co-operation with advertising departments. Human relations men should be able to see and understand this tendency for each unit in an organisation to isolate itself, and yet be able to co-ordinate them for the good of the organisation as a whole.

E. INFORMAL ORGANISATION IS A SOCIAL SYSTEM

A social system exists side by side with every formal organisation. This informal organisation may be healthy (when it is concerned with the same aims and purposes as the management) or unhealthy (when it is subversive or undercover in nature). It often seems to be illogical, based as it is on the sentiments, traditions and sympathies of people working together.

1.

HEALTHY INFORMAL ORGANISATION

Example of healthy informal organisation are:

- (a) Teamwork that increases production;
- (b) Social situations that make people happy at work;
- (c) Co-operation that "gets things done" even when management fails or is absent; and
- (d) The informal leader who controls the situation in times of emergency.

2.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 10.

UNHEALTHY INFORMAL ORGANISATION

Examples of unhealthy informal organisation might be:

(a) Rivalry between units of the formal organisation, which results in tension;

(b) Dissatisfied employees who agree to "go slow".

Informal organisation is an important factor in keeping lines of communication open between workers and management.

Should the formal chain of command not function, informal leaders will almost always carry information and/or complaints to the management.

Informal organisation, too, will set the work pace; members of the group who work either too fast or too slowly will earn disapproval. For example, a group of workers who generally stop work at the same time and catch the same bus home will resent one of the group constantly keeping them waiting by doing extra work at closing time.

F. INFORMAL ORGANISATION HAS SIX ELEMENTS

Here again, we may slightly modify Pfiffner's analysis.

INFORMAL GROUPS

1.

2.

3.

4

5.

6.

They cross hierarchical lines, not all informal groups are made up of workers of the same rank;

Produce informal leaders; and

Allocate special roles to individuals; so that

Communication inside the group is more rapid than in formal organisations;

A "belief-system" or "way of life" exists which does not always agree with management logic;

A struggle for power and position often creates conflict.

People band together in small informal groups in practically all activities of life. This tendency is universal and generally healthy both for the individual and for business.

Let's now formulate a definition of informal organisation:

Informal organisation is the spontaneous bonding together of individuals with common interests but not necessarily of the same rank. The group usually has a leader and members with special roles. Communication is rapid and the group has its own belief systems and hierarchy.

Organisation charts do not usually attempt to illustrate the inter-personal relationships which tend to develop when people work together in groups which may be called "natural unit groups" and which are often referred to as primary groups in an organisation. The larger bodies, such as departments, within which they function are described as secondary groups. The individual members of a primary group are linked by a personal relationship; not necessarily a feeling of liking for each other - indeed it may be dislike or indifference, but nevertheless a personal attitude of some sort which necessarily has a bearing on the work of the group as a whole. The inter-relationship of the secondary group is more formal, and the attitude of the individual members of each secondary group to the individual members of other secondary groups is determined largely by the extent to which the work of the two groups intertwines, or runs counter to the other.

The point to note is that although the primary groups are informal, they cannot be overlooked by management. Indeed, they may play a significant part in management. The group must inevitably acquire an attitude towards its job, towards the management of the organisation and to other groups; unless it is a very small group it will, perhaps subconsciously, choose a leader or a spokesman who may represent the small group in discussions with supervisors or senior executives. Further, it must inevitably feature in the lines of communication; information may go round the group informally by way of the "grape vine", but in spite of its unofficial nature, management should use this line of communication rather than attempt the probably impossible task of abolishing it.

It is generally recognised that informal groups play an important part in industrial relations, and in the maintenance of discipline in an organisation. To change human behaviour, 0

more effective attack may be made through a group than through each member of a group individually, and exercising legitimate control over social activities through the groups may have a better effect on discipline than trying to break them up on the misunderstanding that they are necessarily subversive in nature.

0. THE CLIQUE IS AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP

(You may not have met the word "clique": it is pronounced "cleek") People who associate on a fairly intimate basis and remain isolated from the rest of society are often said to belong to a clique. Pfiffner defines a clique as "an intimate association of a few; exclusive and isolated, and often snobbish".

The type of clique will depend on where the common interests are found. They may be:

1. COMMON INTEREST ON THE JOB, which may include proximity, seniority, or common work content. Formal organisation might arrange that A,B and C work at the same job or in close proximity to each other. Informal organisation will usually result in A, B and C forming a clique - a group with common interests.

2. COMMON INTEREST OUTSIDE THE BUSINESS, where such things as education, race, religion, even hobbies, contribute to the formation of cliques.

Administrators or supervisors must recognise these groups and either arrange for likely people to work together or try not to re-group already functioning groups. Grouping is natural and contributes towards the successful operation of a business. Employees may even turn down promotion in order to remain with their own group.

Now see it as a whole. Try to form a mental picture of a large business concern. It is run by the formal organisation - by the management, via a chain of command. The informal organisation takes care of the employees at a more personal (and often less logical) level. Within, and part of, the informal organisation are groups of people with common interests which contribute to their social satisfactions.

i. DESIGNING A STRUCTURE

"Organising" means creating a work structure by dividing and sharing out necessary work amongst personnel. A useful definition of the word "organisation" is given by Koontz and O'Donnell in their book "Principles of Management":

"The grouping of activities necessary to accomplish objectives, the assignment of these activities to appropriate departments, and the provision of authority, delegation and co-ordination?

There are two general guidelines to be borne in mind when designing such a structure:

1. FLEXIBILITY

.Flexibility is more vital now than it has ever been. The pace of change in the environment and the advancement of technology are both militating against rigidity. A structure which is incapable of rapid adaptation to change is increasingly in danger of failure.

An organisation must be structured in such a way that it can change direction to meet different needs. In systems terms it must have the characteristic of "equifinality".

The problem is how to attain a structure which is flexible, has equifinality, and yet is under control. The answer depends on another of the system's characteristics, namely "regulation".

Basically, the enterprise is regulated by plans, which guide the sub-systems towards system objectives. The system is controlled, then, by feedback of information compared with standards contained in the plans; this is the regulation process known as the "cybernetic" process.

The implications of this concept for organisational design are significant. The concept of cybernetic control implies that a closed system controls itself. In practical terms, this is the sort of system we want in a business sub-system. If it controls itself, in accordance with the plans given it, then less information needs to be passed, less centralised

control is necessary and so on. (Note that we are here talking of the sub-system in terms of its information flow, control procedures etc. Obviously, viewed as a social system it is not closed, nor can it be.)

The other type of regulation process is "learning", which is virtually identical in aim to the principle of flexibility we are discussing. The difference between the two approaches is one of degree. The traditional, principle recognises that there is something which needs periodic review. The systems designer would insist that somewhere in the organisation system there would be a sub-system with the specific objective of monitoring system performance and changing the structure in the light of that experience.

2. SIMPLICITY

Simplicity and clarity are important for the very important human reason that people like to know where they are. They like to know where they fit into the organisation they work for, what their role is, how their job relates to other jobs and so on. A serious cause of conflict in the organisation is frustration caused by the feeling that people are merely minor parts in a very large machine which they do not understand and do not know how to control.

I. SPECIALIZATION was originally known as the "division of labour" and students of economics will be aware of the many economic advantages and disadvantages resulting from the rigid application of the ideas of early pioneers like Adam Smith.

Very briefly, the factors for the division of labour are:

- (a) By concentrating on one small part of a job only, by doing the same job every day, a specialist is created.
- (b) Specialist workers achieve greater output and accuracy.
- (c) Control is facilitated.

Factors against the division of labour are:

- (a) Boredom can result.
- (b) Jobs become insignificant.
- (c) Workers use only a few of their abilities.

While traditional authors had many views regarding where the division of labour should start or stop, they all agreed that regardless of the extent of division amongst workers, ultimate control had to be centralised. The "scalar chain" and "span of control" (to be discussed) are of interest here.

Specialization has certainly survived to the present day (certain staff and functional departments are the best examples) but is not applied in the same dogmatic way for which it was justifiably criticised. Assembly lines still exist, it is true, but one generally finds that today, the accent is on specialist departments, not organisations.

Rigid structuring brought about by traditional specialization appears to be on the wane as well. The chief reason for this is undoubtedly that the pace of modern business can make a new department irrelevant by the time it is operational. The ability to adapt to change is essential for the organisation to survive, unlike those operating in the days of Smith.

It is important to remember that we are here discussing specialization and how it affects the organisational structure, for to say the specialists are on the wane would be completely contrary to observable facts: Neither are we looking at the economic or social influences on the labour market and employment prospects for the specialists.

One can say that in general (with notable government organisations and others as exceptions) the organisation of today has used the best parts of the theory and discarded the worst - the objective being a fluid management structure working with a dynamic personnel within a progressive organisational framework.

Once, structure was determined by various principles and theories. Today, practical considerations and the exigencies of market situations make such policies a luxury of the past.

J. SHAPE OF THE STRUCTURE

1.

SCALAR CHAIN

The shape of the traditional organisation structure is that of a pyramid. It takes the form of a hierarchy. Through this hierarchy runs what is known as the scalar chain.

When Fayal first formulated this concept he felt it to be one of the most important principles of organisation. As he saw it, there must be a clear line of authority stretching from the lowest level in the hierarchy to the highest. In his view any communication going to or coming from the chief executive (or any other executive for that matter) must pass through the hands of every intermediate level on its way to its destination. No-one must be by-passed.

This is still held to be true, as is seen by a quotation from Kroontz and O'Donnell who state:

"A clear understanding of the scalar principle is necessary for proper organisation functioning. Every subordinate must know who delegates authority to him, and to whom matters beyond his own authority must be referred. Although the chain of command may be safely departed from for purposes of information, departure for purposes of decision making destroys authority and undermines managership itself". The hierarchy, then, is seen as a series of job positions tied together by authority.

The principle of unity of command is, of course, closely related to the scalar chain. The problem with this apparently obvious idea of "one man, one boss" is that it works best in an enterprise which is not subject to rapid change and which does not depend on a highly advanced technology. In a system which characteristically changes rapidly and which continually experiences technological innovation, it does not work well at all.

For example, the change agents in the system (those people

who bring about, or act as catalysts for, change) may well be subordinates with such highly advanced technical specialisms that they cannot be given sensible orders because their "superiors" simply do not understand what is going on.

Furthermore, there are more and more situations in modern industry where no one man knows or can know sufficient about a project to be able to manage it on his own. In these circumstances the "manager" will be a team.

As Hopemcn says in "Systems Analysis and Operations Management":

"If you see the firm as made up of information Flows and decision centres, it is possible to visualise a exnomic structure where the hierarchy loses its effect; where a project controller will have many bosses, each with a different decision area".

For these reasons, several new forms of organisation structure have evolved in recent years, particularly for producers of large, technologically advanced, one-off products, e.g. consensus committee management, project management and matrix management.

(a) Committee Management

Until recently, a committee was normally seen merely as a staff body, giving advice to whomsoever instituted it. This is not the type of committee we mean here.

In the sort of highly technological and complex business we are discussing here it is often impossible for one man to grasp all the relevant factors required in managing the organisation. To overcome this there has grown up a kind of executive committee which is in effect a body of people acting jointly as a manager.

(b) Project Management

Project management is a rather more important newcomer. The fundamental idea is to create a flexible organi-

sation structure which will change as current needs change. To do this, the structure consists of a basic semi-permanent structure of strategic planning and functional management areas, and a superimposed pattern of changing operational managers. Thus, against a fairly conventional organisational background, here are a series of people who have responsibilities for specific projects, and whose job will disappear when the project is completed, when personnel will be re-allocated. Of course, many such projects continue for a long period of time.

This sort of flexible management appears in various guises. In its most extreme form it is an organisation which is identical with primary product departmentation. At the other end of the scale is the situation where the product manager is a staff man reporting to the chief executive. In the middle is the so-called matrix management structure.

A typical use of project management is the method known as product or brand management used by many marketing oriented companies.

The pure project-based organisation would look something like Figure 1.

Here we see that the project manager is virtually autonomous and has been given complete control of all the resources and skills he needs for his projects. Indeed, he has virtually a mini-firm of his own. This is identical with the large profit-decentralised Firms working under the traditional theory.

This indicates the main disadvantage of this type of structure for a multi-project firm. For many firms, the duplication of resources and facilities is often too great to prove economic.

Furthermore, as the functional specialists (Finance, Marketing, etc.) on the top level are simply staff departments, there is nowhere for the project Functional staff to go to when the project finishes. Nor is there any co-ordinated effort at improving the company's functional expertise.

MD.

I I l I . __7

Finance Engineering Operations Marketing etc.

Project Project

A B

Finance Engineering Production Finance Production etc.

Marketing Engineering Marketing

FIGURE 1.

On the other hand, because there is one man clearly responsible for each project, with line authority over every aspect of its, the project itself will receive a full measure of support.

The opposite type of structure would look like Figure 2.

MD

Project Manager

Engineering Finance Production Marketing etc.

FIGURE 2.

Here we see a completely traditional structure where the Project Manager is a staff man reporting to the Managing Director. In this situation he has no line authority whatsoever. All he can do is to act as a liaison officer dealing with all aspects of the project. Clearly, officially he makes no decisions; these are made by his boss, the Managing director. Nor can he force any of the functional managers to act in a specific way. He must depend on personality, competence, persuasion and a subtle use of the power structure.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. v_Aga; zo_.

NUMBER OF LEVELS AND SPAN OF CONTROL

The actual shape of the pyramid is controlled by two opposing principles, namely the principle of minimum number of levels in the hierarchy and the principle of the span of control.

(a)

(b)

Number of levels in the hierarchy

The more levels there are in the hierarchy, the more difficult and lengthy become the communication lines. Decisions which need to be taken at the highest level take a dangerous length of time to be put into effect at the lower levels, slowing down the organisation's reaction to threat. Changes at the operating level or also slow in reaching the ears of the top ranks, equally slowing down reactions.

Furthermore, if there are a large number of levels between an operator or supervisor and the chief executive, there tends to be an exaggeration of the "them v. us" feeling which is so dangerous to co-operation.

Span of control

The span of control principle, stated at its simplest says that the number of people supervised by any individual should be kept to a minimum - figures between four and seven have all been offered as maxima by various authorities.

Before going on to discuss this principle at greater length, it must be said that these two principles conflict. The reason for this should be clear. Take the situation where you have 64 operatives. If the span of control is eight, then you need eight supervisors, each with eight men. These eight supervisors can be supervised by one man. Thus, you need three levels only. However, if you limit your span to four, you need sixteen first-line supervisors each with four men. To supervise that sixteen, you need another four, and to supervise these highest four, you need one more. You have thus got four levels.

3.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 21.

There have been many attempts to define a standard figure for a maximum span, beginning with Foyol's belief in four. There is even a well-known formula for working out the number of inter-relationships which exist within a working group of any particular size, based on the argument that the number of these inter-relationships is what makes supervision complicated. The formula, as worked out by Groicunas 15:

n

$x : n (g e n - 1)$

where x : number of relationships and n : number of subordinates.

Most modern theorists, however, refuse to offer a specific figure, and it is interesting to see that practitioners have no fixed ideas either. Indeed, a survey, carried out as long ago as 1952, showed that American firms were, in practice, ignoring the guides even at the top level.

The American Management Association surveyed 141 companies "with good organisational practices". The number of subordinates reporting to the President (MD) ranged from 1 to 24. The Presidents of 55 of the companies had a span of 10 or more. The median for the 100 large companies (5 000 employees or more) was between 8 and 9. The median for the remaining A companies (500 employees or more) come between 6 and 7.

However, although no firm guide to an exact number of subordinates can be given, the concept is important if only because it makes managers consider the question explicitly.

LIMITING FACTORS ON THE SPAN OF CONTROL

There are five main considerations likely to be of influence:

(a)

The nature of the superior

- (i) His ability (or willingness) to delegate authority;
- (ii) His ability to train and motivate his subordinates successfully;
- (iii) His ability to plan and clarify objectives. This is especially true in the context of making policy;
- (iv) His personality (his "charisma");
- (v) Even his physical fitness, and the amount of energy he has.

(b) The nature of the subordinate

- (i) His ability (willingness) to work without close supervision;
- (ii) His technical competence;
- (iii) His personality, energy and health.

Note: This depends on proper selection and proper training to a large degree.

(c) The technicolitx/complexitx of the Brocess involved
The effect of technology on span of management was demonstrated very clearly by a study carried out by Jean Woodward between 1953 and 1957 in South-East England. It showed:

Number reporting to:

1st Line Super-

Chief Executive visor

Unit and Small Batch 4 22

Large Batch and Moss 7 48

Process 10 12

FIGURE 1.

(d)

(e)

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 23.

The Figures shown here are median figures, and Joan Woodward was able to show that the more successful firms tended towards the median, whereas firms which were unsuccessful did not. Significantly, the highly technical process industries had larger spans at the top level, but smaller spans at the lower level. This is because there is more delegation in this type of industry. The role of the chief executive is different, in that he does not make technical decisions - these are made at lower levels.

Stobilitx of the entererise

Rapidly changing situations demand rapid and frequent decisions at high level. Therefore, the number of subordinates which the higher executives can handle is fewer.

The amount of assistance Brovided

If the manager has specialist "staff" assistance from outside his own department to help him collect and analyse information for decisions, he can handle more people.

REASONS FOR EXPANDING SPAN WHERE POSSIBLE

(a)

(b)

By expanding the spun at each level the humber of levels in the hierarchy is reduced giving better communication, quicker decisions, and fastei reaction shop-floor emergencies. Furthermore, the lowest levels do not, perhaps, feel so much like cogs in a machine if the hierarchy doesn't tower too high above them. It forces the superior to slocken supervision. There are several studies which show that there is a correlation between relaxation of supervisidn 0nd "productivity-with-morole high", especially at the level of clerical operators.

There is one fascinating case study at a somewhat higher level. While Robert Brook was president of Sears, Roebuck, he carried out an exercise in which he arranged his many stores into two groups. The

first group was of stores where the Store Managers organised their stores in such a way that Up to 30 departmental heads reported directly to the Store Manager, i.e. the span was 30. The second group was of stores where the 30 departmental heads reported to another level of management below the Store Manager, himself, i.e. where the top man's span was about ten or fewer. The first group, with spans of 30, were found to give higher sales, profit and morale than the more traditionally arranged group. Surprisingly, the study also revealed that communications between managers and subordinates, and vice versa, were greatly improved.

(0) To force managers to delegate, and thereby fit their subordinates for future higher roles.

K. i GENERAL CRITICISM OF TRADITIONAL THEORY1

There was a time when management was neither a science nor an art not anything but a series of unenlightened, ad hoc, trial and error attempts to get things done. Taxlor introduced certain principles of scientific management. The classical school (or traditionalists) adopted Taylor's principles but sadly misinterpreted them. The human relations approach (or the behaviouralists) were critics of the classical approach. The "human relations" approach began, therefore, as a reaction against what was seen as the traditionalists' lack of humanity. It was a reaction against the unenlightened practices and excesses of those managers who misinterpreted Taylor's principles of scientific management; these managers looked upon workers simply as extensions of the machines and not as individual human beings.

I. THE BEHAVIOURALIST VIEWPOINT

The behaviouralists made certain claims which may be summarised as follows:

- (a) People are a vital component of any organisation, both as job holders and as people in their own right -
- an organisation is a social thing as well as a

- (b)
- (C)
- (d)

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 25w

work thing. The classicists, it is argued, do not recognise the non-work aspect of people, nor do they take into account the influence different organisational arrangements have on the behaviour of members. There is, in other words, a reaction between the way in which a structure is built and the people in it. The traditional manager, so it is said, does not consider this interaction.

There is a tendency for the classical approach to concentrate on the physical and technical capabilities of employees (perhaps with the addition of intelligence) to the exclusion of all others. For example, a man's emotions such as pride, the need for comradeship, the liking for a challenge, etc. are not considered in classical structuring.

Traditionally, following early motivation, it was believed that workers were similar to "economic man" in that they would always react in a way which would reflect their own individual interest. This was interpreted to mean that if you paid a man more he would work harder. Again, if you threatened him he would be more careful to do what you wished. This is known as the "carrot and stick" approach.

The basic belief of traditionalists, then, is that individuals are passive instruments content to do as they are told rather than individuals who demand the right to help create their own environment and future. They do not take account of the wide range of interests most employees have, many of which do not conform to the company's needs.

2. AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT

- (a)

Specialisation

Those favouring the "human approach" are, in general, much less willing to advocate specialisation in order to obtain skill at the job. Efficiency in this narrow sense is not what they aim at. They argue that although (or because) specialisation reduces learning time and makes a job easier, the resultant jobs are insignifi-

(b)

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION PAGE 26.

cannot; there is nothing in them to satisfy the highest needs of any human being. Thus, people come to work merely to gain the wherewithall to satisfy their basic needs, and fill all others outside. This means that their highest endeavours are never used in the work situation.

In short, this school of thought dislikes the idea of forcing a man to use only a few of his many abilities. Unity of direction

The classical argument is that efficiency increases if each unit has a single activity (specialisation) which is planned and directed by the leader of the unit. But, say the behaviouralists, this ignores the individual's need for psychological growth, and this is achieved only when the individual is able to define his own goals in relation to his inner needs. Thus, unity of direction without genuine involvement in planning and decision making will disturb the psychological make-up of the work force and so attack the efficiency it was aiming to produce.

Scalar chain

The classical concept of authority running as a clear line from top to bottom of the organisation is seen by the human relations exponents as being a further destroyer of the psychological health of the subordinate. As Argyris points out in his book, "Personality and Organisation", this idea means that individuals must be motivated to accept direction, control and co-ordination from above. The impact of this is to make them "dependent on, passive toward, and subordinate to the leader". These are the characteristics of the child, not the adult. We are treating our work force as children.

Some researchers would go further than this. Argyris claims that practising the classical concept of authority is inadvisable and counter-productive. Writers like Barnard, and Tannenbaum argue that it is impossible that such authority does not exist.

(
x
.d)

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGL 27.

The classical definition of "authority" is the 'right and power to command' Barnard and Tannenbaum both argue that even if the right exists, there is no power. "The real source of the authority possessed by an individual lies in the acceptance of its exercise by those who are subject to it. It is the subordinates of an individual who determine the authority he may wield". (Note: 'Recognition of authority' would reflect the 'subordinates' attitude more accurately). In practice this is quite true. There are a myriad ways in which a subordinate can prevent the exercise of a superior's formal authority, often without the superior being aware of it - slow work, mistakes, "lack of knowledge", "sickness", etc. Indeed, even if the subordinate is discovered and sacked, the superior has still not exercised his authority - he still has not got the job done and the order still has not been obeyed.

Span of control

The principles that the span should be kept small enough to ensure close control from above is also attacked. (Note that here the school is attacking an extreme view of the traditional school - many traditionalists do not believe that the span should be small.)

Where the span is small, it is said, supervision must become tighter which of necessity lowers work-force morale and increases the feelings of dependence, submissiveness and passivity talked of earlier. There are several studies which claim to show that morale is lowered by tightness of supervision, but unfortunately some of which show that productivity can increase under the same conditions. The link between morale and productivity is a very tenuous one which has not been researched sufficiently to give a definitive answer.

However, it is a reasonable assumption from experience that close supervision, especially over a very long period of time, does not help the subordinate to grow. In order to develop a man's potential he must be allowed, to some extent, to go his own way, to make his own mistakes, and to "carry his own con".

L-

This theory gives a great deal of weight to the relationship between the organisation and its environment. The basic idea of the contingency theory is that the nature of the organisation's technology, its size, its legal incorporation, the character of its markets, and other factors confront the organisation with some opportunities as well as constraints and problems and therefore determine the organisation structure. This idea is an extension of the biologist's view of the adaptation of living forms to their environment.

A contingent relationship can be simply thought of as an "if-then" functional relationship. The "if" is the independent variable and the "then" is the dependent variable. In contingency management the environment serves as an independent variable. For example, if prevailing social values are oriented toward nonmaterialistic, free expression and the organisation employs professional personnel in a high technology operation, then a participative, open leadership style would be most effective for goal attainment. On the other hand, if prevailing social values are oriented toward materialism and obedience to authority and the organisation employs unskilled personnel working on routine tasks, then a strict, authoritarian leadership style would be most effective for goal attainment.

Although the environment variables are usually independent and the management concepts and techniques are usually dependent, the reverse can also occur. In some cases management variables are independent and the environment variables are dependent. For example, if a very participative, open leadership style is instituted by top management, then personnel will respond by exhibiting self control and responsible social values.

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One of the first studies on Contingency Theory was done by Joan Wood 0rd in 1958. She found that the differences in technology accounted for differences in organisational structure(Further studies were done by Paul Lawrence and Jay Lorsch. Contingency Theory has had a profound impact on contemporary organisational theory and design particularly as the classical approaches to management can be incorporated into the contingency framework.

Its most important advantages are in identifying the variables that have a major impact on the overall design of the organisation, such as size, technology, and the nature of the environment, and then in predicting the differences in the structure and functioning of organisations that arise because of differences in these variables.

An important thing to remember is that for such contingency relationships to be part of contingency management and serve as effective guidelines for practitioners, they must be empirically validated.

M. "THE ORGANISATION MAN"

We will now discuss the theorising of W.H. Nhyte, published in his book "The Organisation Man". Whilst the book has suffered the usual criticism of theory not based on research, it puts forward interesting and controversial views on organisations today and how they affect the individual.

thte writes about the organisation man as a person who is neither an executive nor a blue-collar worker. He could be described as a junior executive. These are workers who will never reach the heights of management and yet are prepared to diminish the importance of their home life (in suburbia) and make it subservientto that of the organisation. The typical organisation man is found normally in large organisations but he can also be found in small companies.

The Social Ethic

"Organisation man" believes in the social ethic, which is a body of thought legitimising pressures of society against the individual. The social ethic includes three main propositions:

(a) A feeling that nothing can be achieved unless it is rooted in a group. The group is the source of creativity and at the same time security for the individual.

(b) Only as a member of the group can the individual feel a sense of belonging.

(c) Group aims can be met only by the application of science.

Needless to say, the social ethic is a utopian ideal.

Basically, it holds that there is no real difference between man as an individual and man as a member of a group. Only by sublimating individual aims in the aims of the group as a whole can achievement be brought about.

Associated with the social ethic is Scientism - the belief that all aspects of society can be studied scientifically. Even human happiness is seen as capable of being studied scientifically so that the conditions leading to happiness can be identified. So great has this passion for measurement become that we are bombarded by a mass of pretentious facts. Whyte denies that the richness of human society can be reduced simply to cold scientific theory. Let us see what he says:

Whyte's Critique

The sense of belonging to organisations has developed as organisations themselves have grown. There is nothing wrong in feeling secure in belonging to a group. Indeed we belong to many groups and it is the breakdown in some of these groups, such as the family, and the fact that they have not been replaced, which has led to feeling of

insecurity in many individuals. What then does Whyte believe is wrong about this emphasis on groups?

- (a)
- (b)
- (C)

Firstly, he sees nothing wrong in an individual belonging to many groups; the rich social nexus can benefit him as an individual. But the over-emphasis on one group to the detriment of all others is not so healthy. The group which has generally taken over as the dominant one at the present time is the organisation.

Secondly, there is the belief in the group as a creative vehicle; yet as Whyte notes people think as individuals, not as members of a group, and they create as individuals as well. By concentrating an agreement the group inhibits creativity, although it is a suitable vehicle for carrying out agreements.

Thirdly, there is the emphasis on groups which don't exist! There is a tendency to refer to groups when they should more properly be seen as just collections of people. It takes more than this to form a group. But over-emphasis on group belonging has a practical value. By being inculcated in "group norms" and overcome by the sense of belonging we are less able to see any deviations from group norms as being desirable. There is no feeling of hardship about this. We are delighted to act as free-thinking members in a democratic arrangement. We see benefits in the current situation, but are they false? Is both the individual and the organisation the poorer for the over-emphasis on the individual as a member of a group?

The conclusions Whyte draws about the social ethic are dampening. The most depressing features of the ethic are:

- (a)
- (b)

That people have begun to feel a moral obligation to be gregarious and to seek pleasure in group rather than isolated activities.

That people have an unwarranted belief that they are pawns in the environment of organisation systems. No longer looking for ways in which they can adapt the environment, they are happy to be swept along by it.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 32.

(c) The belief in the rightness of the group and the way the group is operating at any one time, i.e. there is a tendency to inhibit innovation.

(d) Over-emphasis on the importance of the group as a provider of a sense of belonging for the individual. Research has shown that supervisors who concentrate on creating a tightly-knit, happy group may create a group with a sense of belonging but not much else! Productivity and happiness don't necessarily go together.

5 U M M A R Y

A. 1 THE MEANING OF ORGANISATION1

There are two definitions of Organisation:

1. A number of people united for a certain purpose.

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The total of arrangements existing for securing collaboration between the members of a group.

The organisational framework has two distinct parts:-

E Informal organisation or social systems; and

2. Formal organisation or management systems.

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B. i ORGANISATION IS FORMAL OR INFORMAL!

Definition: Formal organisation is a set of stable social relations deliberately created, with the explicit intention of continuously accomplishing some specific goals or purposes.

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Definition: Informal organisation is q sponfcnequs bonding together or lndlvlduuls wltl commcn lnteresfs but no SpEClTIC common goals.

1. NECESSARY FACTORS IN FORMAL ORGANISATION

-
- (0) Stability.
 - (b) Deliberate creation, on purpose.
 - (c) Continuity of accomplishment.
 - (d) Specific goals.

2. COMPARISON BETWEEN FORMAL AND INFORMAL ORGANISATION

_____._____.

Formal Informal

- (0) Logical effort towards (a) No conscious common goals. purpose.
- (b) Deliberate creation of (b) Spontaneous creation of group. group.
- (c) Standard methods of (c) Nonustandord methods of procedure. prodedure.
- (d) Often written rules (d) No written rules but custom and tradition.
- (e) Patterns can be ' (e) "Ways-of-life" resist logically changed. change.
- (f) Too much logic ignores (f) Too little logic human feelings. results in mal-functions.

3. THE COMPONENTS OF FORMAL ORGANISATION

Hierarchy is basic.
Information means control.
Staff and Line Roles are found.
Delegation is eSSential.
Unity of command is found.
Division of labour is used.
Co-ordination counts.

I. THE SOCIAL ASPECT OF INFORMAL ORGANISATION

VOsUI-th-I

E.

F.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 34.

Healthx informal organisation promotes the aims of management.

Unhealthz informal organisation results in rivalry and dissatisfaction.

Informal organisation:

1. Keeps lines of communication open.

2. Sets the work pace.

THE COMPONENTS OF INFORMAL ORGANISATION

Informal groups not necessarily according to rank.

Informal leaders.

. Special roles.

Rapid communication.

. A "belief-system".

Struggles for power.

EXCLUSIVE GROUPS

An isolated group of a few people with an intimate association

Is called a clique.

O&UI-thri

Cliques are made up on two bases - work interests and social interests (or personal interests). Cliques generally contribute towards the satisfactory running of organisations.

DESIGNING A STRUCTURE

Organising means creating a work structure by dividing and sharing out necessary work amongst personnel. When designing a structure FLEXIBILITY and SIMPLICITY are extremely important guidelines.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 35.

Remember the concept of the Scalar Chain which runs the hierarchy of the organisation. The Span of Control relates to the number of levels in the hierarchy.

Limiting factors on the span of control are:

- (a) the nature of the superior.
- (b) The nature of the subordinate.
- (c) the complexity of the process involved.
- (d) the stability of the enterprise.
- (e) the amount of assistance provided.

Components of the structure are determined by the objectives of the enterprise.

H. GENERAL CRITICISM OF TRADITIONAL THEORY

1. BEHAVIOURALIST VIEWPOINT

Managers looked upon workers as mere extensions of the machines and not as individual human beings. The behaviouralists made the following claims: I

- (a) An organisation must recognise the fact that employees are human beings in their own right just as much as they are workers. '
- (b) Employees' emotions and aspirations must always be considered.
- (c) The "carrot and stick" approach was to be discouraged in favour of more modern forms of motivation.
- (d) Workers are individuals who have the right to help create their own environment and future.

2. AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT

- (o) Specialisation leaves nothing in a job to satisfy the highest needs of a human being.

(b) Unity of direction without involvement in planning and decision making will erode the very efficiency aimed for by management.

(c) Conventional organisation leads to workers being treated like children, "dependent on, passive toward, and subordinate to the leader".

(d) Where the span of control becomes smaller, supervision becomes tighter and morale and independence suffer accordingly.

I. CONTINGENCY THEORY

The basic idea of contingency theory is that the environment of the organisation determines the organisation's structure. It relies on the "ifhthen" idea.

This theory has had a profound impact on traditional approaches to management.

Its most important advantage is in identifying the variables that have a major impact on the overall design of the organisation.

J. THE "ORGANISATION MAN"

The "Organisation Man" idea is based on thte's work. It is based on the social ethic which emphasises the importance of the group and the impact of science. Whyte crtiticises this approach strongly. Study his criticisms again.

Once you feel that you have understood and remembered the topics covered in this lecture, try this:

SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

- (0) Quote Stinchcombe's definition of an organisation.
- (b) What are the four main characteristics of a formal organisation?
- (0) What are considered as six elements of formal organisation
- (b) How does Roethlisberger differentiate between formal and informal organisation?
- (0) What is the chief criticism levelled at classical or traditionalist theory?
- (b) What criticism can be levelled against behaviouralists' early research?
- (a) Behaviouralists attack four specific tenets of traditional belief: say what these tenets of belief are.
- (b) Human relationists base most of their theories on the findings of
- (a) What appears to be the human relationists' principal tenet of belief?
- (b) Upon what aspect of an organisation did they apparently concentrate?
- (c) What kind of organisation did they envisage? What would be the aim of such an organisation?
- (0) Research in group behaviour has produced five important findings: what are they? '
- (b) Give five reasons why role and status are important to a worker. _ .

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 38.

- (a) Formal organisation has a ethos; informal, organisation has a ethos (characteristic system).
 - (b) Give four examples of healthy social organisation.
 - (c) What can cause an unhealthy situation to arise?
- List Pfiffner's six elements of an informal organisation.

ANSWERS TO SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

- (0) 'An organisation is a set of stable social relations, deliberately created, with the explicit intention of continuously accomplishing specific goals or purposes.'
- (b) Four main characteristics:
 - (i) Stability of posts or roles
 - (ii) Purpose, deliberately created
 - (iii) Continuity of accomplishment
 - (iv) Specificity as to goals or objectives.
- (0) Elements according to Pfiffner (slightly modified):
 - (i) Basic hierarchy.
 - (ii) Information facilitates control.
 - (iii) Responsibility is delegated.
 - (iv) Unity of command exercised.
 - (v) Division of labour organised.
 - (vi) Coordination is effective.
- (b) Roethlisberger's differentiations:
 - (i) Formal organisation is the result of logical (i.e. based on reason) efforts towards achievement of purpose.
 - (ii) Informal organisation is the result of spontaneous

social processes without planned purpose.

(Note: Or you could look at it this way -

- People are 'tailored' to fit into a formal organisation.

- They drift together to form an informal organisation.)

(0) Traditionalists criticised - they treated men as if they were machines.

(b) Criticism of behaviourists - they treated people as if they were human beings, certainly, but exhibited a tendency to regard them as human laboratory subjects, and seemed to expect them to behave according to preconceived theories.

(0) Tenets of traditional belief attacked were:

- (i) the value of specialisation

- (ii) unity of direction

- (iii) limitation of span of control

(Note: This was a controversial point, even among traditionalists.)

- (iv) scalar chain of command.

(b) The behaviourists.

(Note: There is a subtle difference between pure behaviourists and human relationists:

Behaviourists are interested in behaviour as such - not unlike a child at the zoo, who, when you identify an animal for him, says, 'Oh. What does it DO?'

Human relationists, who are often do-gooders, concentrate more on feelings than on behaviour).

(a) Human relationists held that the right kind of organisational environment will stimulate people to exert themselves for overall goals.

(b) They concentrated on the creation of the right sort of environment to lead the worker to identify himself with the firm and its goals.

(Note: Their ideas are well-meaning, but often woolly: it is as if they believed that a man in the right environment couldn't do the wrong thing.)

(c) They envisage a firm in which

(i) the objectives of the concern can be achieved while satisfying at the same time the objectives of its members.

(ii) absenteeism can be reduced by encouraging high productivity.

iii) the stimulation of co-operation will have the effect of avoiding destructive industrial strife.

(0) Getting more out of the workers by keeping them happy, in their work.

(b) Herzberg would have reminded them that what motivates a worker does not emanate from environment and administration, however good.

(a) Group research findings:

(i) The importance of social considerations;

(ii) The cohesiveness of work groups and the control that they exert;

(iii) Many people foolishly gauge the status of others by the make of their car or the size of their office.

(iv) Too much emphasis on status raises barriers between people; communication and co-operation are ruined.

A THEORY OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 41.

(v) Expectations officially aroused may differ wildly from reality experienced: this destroys trust.

(Note: The details of this section are very important: study them thoroughly.

(b) Reasons for the importance of status and role:

(1) A person's formal (work) role inevitably differs from his informal (social) role.

(ii) Conflict arises when a person is placed in an unsuitable position: psychological tension results.

(iii) Many people foolishly gauge the status of others by the make of their car or the size of their office.

(iv) Too much emphasis on status raises barriers between people; communication and co-operation are ruined.

(v) Expectations officially aroused may differ wildly from reality experienced: this destroys trust.

(a) (i) A working or economic ethos;

(ii) a social ethos.

(b) A healthy organisation is one where:

(i) Good team spirit exists; this increases productivity.

(ii) A happy atmosphere arises from sound social relations.

(iii) Co-operation is the norm, whatever happens.

(v) In on emergency, informal leadership is accepted.

(c) Jealousy.

_____. _____
n
9. Pfiffner's six elements of informal organisation:

- (i) They cross hierarchic boundaries - not all workers in informal groups have the same rank.
- (ii) Informal leaders are produced without volition.
- (iii) Members of informal groups seem to drift, as it were, into characterisitic roles.
- (iv) Communication within the group is extremely rapid, much more so than in a formal organisation of communication.
- (v) The logic or reasoning behind managerial viewpoints does not often coincide with that of a group.
- (vi) A microcosmic struggle for power often goes on within a group, and can destroy it.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

What is an "organisation"?

Explain the differences between formal and informal, organisations

Provide a critical appraisal of traditional organisational theory

Name and discuss the six components of formal organisation

Name and discuss the six components of informal organisation

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N213: The above questions can be answered from the text and will provide valuable revision.

16 372

A RE-ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL ORGANISATION THEORY.

. SYSTEMS THEORY

Let's re-state what we mean by systems theory:

(1) General

Systems theory is applicable to all Fields of study and is being employed because of its analytical strength in virtually every branch of science. One of its more recent uses is as a tool of managers.

(2) Definition

When we use the word "system" in everyday conversation, we use it in one of two ways.

(a) System Composition

One way is to refer to a collection of things which seem to hang together; things which are interrelated, e.g.

(i) The solar system;

(ii) A system of rivers;

(iii) A gas distribution system.

These things with their interrelationships form a kind of network.

(b) System Operation

The other way is to mean a collection of rules or a procedure, e.g.

(i) A stock control system;

(ii) A system for betting on horses;

(iii) A selection system.

A system, then, has a composition and an operation, i.e. a

A RE-ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL ORGANISATION THEORY. PAGE 2
structure, and a set of interrelationships. This is the
essence of the concept of a system - the interrelatedness of
its parts.

Anything which consists of parts connected together may be
viewed as a system. For example, a game of football is a
system, a pair of scissors is a system, a person is a system,
a house is a system and so on.

Anything, at some level of abstraction, can be seen as a
system. The football is a system of pieces of leather and
rubber; each side is a system of eleven men; the game is a
system of twenty-five men and a ball; the football ground is
a system, etc.

8. RE-ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL ORGANISATIONAL THEORY

It is necessary to study the implications of 0 systems theory
for the traditional organisation theory. The following is a
series of comments from the systems viewpoint on the principles
of the Traditional Organisation Theory.

1. Structure and Objectives of the Enterprise

One of the principles of the traditional organisation
theory is:

"The shape and content of the structure must depend on the
objectives of the enterprise."

Certainly the systems man is not going to disagree with
this statement. Indeed, the stress on objectives is of
prime importance to him. Where the disagreement comes is
rather in the definition of what constitutes a department,
a subject which will be discussed under the "specialisation"
principle.

However, it is worth commenting here on the overall shape
of organisation structures. We know that any system may
be shown to be a part of a larger system, and that it will
itself have other systems (sub-systems) within it. These
systems and sub-systems form a hierarchy - the hierarchy of
systems.

Obviously, we are saying nothing new by stating that a business organisation takes the form of a hierarchy _ usually in the form of a pyramid. We know that firms operate at a number of levels, and indeed we often refer to "the hierarchy" not letting us do something we wish to do.

This usage indicates the way in which the traditional school explain the existence of the hierarchy. They see it as a command structure necessitated by the span of control concept. They see the hierarchy as based on authority, with the scalar chain running from top to bottom. In other words, hierarchies exist because that is the only way to exercise authority and the right to command.

But, if we see the firm as a system, we would expect to find a hierarchical form anyway, and obviously, if it is a general characteristic, it cannot spring simply from the need for authority relationships for we find it in systems where authority and commanding do not exist.

Why this is so is suggested by J.C. Emery in his book "Organisational Planning and Control Systems", where he says:-

"The hierarchical character of organisation stems from the need to reduce the apparent complexity of the system it results from the factoring of global objectives into a hierarchy of more manageable sub-objectives."

If we take this view, then the departmentalisation and decentralisation, and therefore the hierarchy, are all a result of the attempt to factor objectives. The link between hierarchy and objectives, then, is rather more subtle (it is claimed) than the traditionalists suggest.

A hierarchical shape exists in the structure because the system is Burgosive. It has an overall objective which must be split into sub-objectives in order to be attainable. This splitting determines organisational shape.

This also implies, of course, that to the proponents of this approach it makes much more sense to talk of levels or layers of planning than of authority levels, when

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describing a structure.

The Scalar Chain

The principle of the scalar chain indicates a belief that the most important axis in the structure is the vertical one, i.e. that the really important work of the business happens vertically. Information flows upwards; decisions and orders flow downwards. Position in the hierarchy indicates importance; the higher you are, the "better" you are. The most important decisions are made at the top of the hierarchy, etc. These are some of the propositions that may be said to follow from the idea of the scalar chain and they are closely linked with the ideas of authority and order giving.

Yet, as we saw earlier, authority as a key co-ordinating feature is lessening both in importance and effectiveness, if only because of social changes. But more important is the fact that technical expertise of a highly developed character is becoming more necessary. It has been recognised for some years that the role of a first-line supervisor has been decreasingly one of supervision and increasingly one of speedily obtaining specialist help for his men. In other words, the technically competent, high-salary man is needed at the bottom of the hierarchy just as much as at the top. A man whose importance and salary indicate that he should be a "top" man may spend his whole working life making decisions at the "bottom" level.

Unity of Command

This principle is, of course, closely related to the previous one. The problem with this apparently obvious idea of "one man, one boss" is that it works best in an enterprise which is not subject to rapid change and which does not depend on a highly advanced technology. In a system which characteristically changes rapidly and which continually experiences technological innovation, it does not work well at all.

For example, the change agents in the system (those people who bring about, or act as catalysts for, change) may well be subordinates with such highly advanced technical

specialisms that they cannot be given sensible orders because their "superiors" simply do not understand what is going on.

Furthermore, these are more and more situations in modern industry where no one man knows or can know sufficient about a project to be able to manage it on his own. In these circumstances the "manager" will be a team.

As Hopeman says in "Systems Analysis and Operations Management":-

"If you see the firm as made up of information flows and decision centres, it is possible to visualise a dynamic structure where the hierarchy loses its effect; where a project controller will have many bosses, each with a different decision area."

For these reasons, several new forms of organisation structure have evolved in recent years, particularly for producers of large, technologically advanced, one-off products, e.g. consensus committee management, project management and matrix management.

(a) Committee Management

Until recently, a committee was normally seen merely as a staff body, giving advice to whomsoever instituted it. This is not the type of committee we mean here.

In the sort of highly technological and complex business we are discussing here it is often impossible for one man to grasp all the relevant factors required in managing the organisation. To overcome this there has grown up a kind of executive committee which is in effect a body of people acting jointly as a manager.

(b) Project Management

Project management is a rather more important newcomer. The fundamental idea is to create a flexible organisation structure which will change as current needs change. To do this, the structure consists of a basic

semi-permanent structure of strategic planning and functional management areas, and a superimposed pattern of changing operational managers. Thus, against a fairly conventional organisational background, there are a series of people who have responsibilities for specific projects, and whose job will disappear when the project is completed, when personnel will be re-allocated. Of course, many such projects continue for a long period of time. This sort of flexible management appears in various guises. In its most extreme form it is an organisation which is identical with primary product departmentation. At the other end of the scale is the situation where the product manager is a staff man reporting to the chief executive. In the middle is the so-called matrix management structure.

A typical use of project management is the method known as product or brand management used by many marketing oriented companies.

The pure project-based organisation would look something like Figure 1.

Here we see that the project manager is virtually autonomous and has been given complete control of all the resources and skills he needs for his projects. Indeed, he has virtually a mini-firm of his own.

This is identical with the large profit-decentralised firms working under the traditional theory.

This indicates the main disadvantage of this type of structure for a multi-project firm. For many firms, the duplication of resources and facilities is often too great to prove economic.

Furthermore, as the functional Specialists (Finance, Marketing, etc.) on the top level are simply staff departments, there is nowhere for the project functional staff to go to when the project finishes. Nor is there any co-ordinated effort at improving the company's functional expertise.

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Finance Engineering Operations Marketing etc.

Project Project

A B

Finance Engineering Production Finance Production etc.

etc. Marketing Engineering Marketing

Figure 1

On the other hand, because there is one man clearly responsible for each project, with line authority over every aspect of it, the project itself will receive a full measure of support.

The opposite type of structure would look like

Figure 2.

MD

Project Manager

Engineering Finance Production Marketing etc.

Figure 2

Here we see a completely traditional structure where the Project Manager is a staff man reporting to the Managing Director. In this situation he has no line authority whatsoever. All he can do is to act as a liaison officer dealing with all aspects of the project. Clearly, officially he makes no decisions; these are made by his boss, the Managing director. Nor can he force any of the functional managers to act in a specific way. He must depend on personality,

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competence, persuasion, and a subtle use of the power structure.

Defined Responsibility and Authority in Writing)

All schools of management thought would agree that responsibility should be clearly defined, although the insistence on writing it down may not be accepted.

To the systems proponent this is a key axiom, particularly as he lays such great stress on the importance of clear objectives. To him the definition of responsibility is couched in terms of the objectives the manager must meet. The clear definition of authority is often not quite so feasible, especially in the types of organisation mentioned before, where flexibility and conflict are designed into the system.

Parity of Responsibility and Authority

The systems proponent does not believe that this principle need exist. Of course, he is not saying that it should never exist; only that in certain dynamic situations it is neither necessary nor even desirable.

As we have seen, there are project managers and product managers who have virtually no line authority at all, and yet they have enormous responsibility. Although this imposes an immense strain on the man involved, it has compensating advantages. Authority, in the classical sense of "right and power to command", is just not seen as the important co-ordinating factor. The authority of competence and merit is the mainspring of action.

Responsibility Absolute

The principle that responsibility is absolute is fully accepted by the systems proponent.

Delegation of Responsibility

"Authority should be delegated as low in the hierarchy as possible."

One of the guiding principles that classical theory offers is that decisions should be made at the point in the structure where all the information is first available. Clearly this is strongly held, too, by the systems school, and indeed forms a basic determinant of structure. "factoring" of the "global objective"). This fragmentation into sub-systems increases the problem of co-ordination. The more there are, the more difficult it is to co-ordinate. Therefore, the scope of each sub-system should be as comprehensive (or autonomous) as the information/decision flow system will allow, because this will result in fewer divisions, fewer interfaces and therefore less friction. It is important to realise that the restriction on size is imposed not by the span of control principle, but by the capacity of the information/decision system. The restriction is imposed, in fact, by how much information a manager can handle usefully to make decisions, which is affected not only by his own capability but also by the type of information available, the amount of information and how it is analysed, the number of relevant critical sources and so on.

On this theory, then, each sub-system within the system structure should be as complete and independent of the other sub-systems as possible; interactions between and among sub-systems should be kept to a minimum. Otherwise, of course, each sub-system must receive detailed information about every other sub-system.

That is to say that the systems approach tends strongly towards decentralisation of decision-making, particularly in the operations area, and towards product departmentalisation rather than functionalism as a primary division.

Span of Control

"The smaller the span of control is, the better."

To a large degree questions about span of control or span of management are inappropriate to the systems way of thought because the concept is based on the questions of supervision of work, authority in the classical sense etc. The systems analyst, in approaching the same problem, would tend to ask a different set of questions, such as what information channels feed into this particular decision centre, how complex are the decisions to be made, etc. In a very complex situation where a large number of sources were necessary and detailed analysis needed to be carried out, the span recommended would grow.

Minimum Number of Levels in the Hierarchy

Again, the question tends to be inappropriate to the systems manager in so far as it refers to authority levels. However, the reason behind the principle (i.e. the communication difficulties caused by tall structures) is evidently true.

It is worth restating, though, that the systems analyst does not see the organisation as a series of authority levels, but rather as a number of layers of planning. Within these, the organisation is a collection of flow networks, e.g. the materials flow network, the manpower flow network, the capital equipment flow network, etc.

Specialisation

Traditionally, specialisation has been seen as Functionalism, i.e. splitting up the company into such departments as Production, Marketing, Finance, etc. It is this type of division of labour which is often attacked by the systems school.

All "open" systems have the characteristic of "differentiation", i.e. they tend to become more complex, with Specialist sub-units appearing. Large units tend to Split, with each of the fragments specialising in one part of the old area.

This is a basic problem of growth which inevitably causes stresses, if only because there are more interfaces. The type of departmentalisation (specialisation) we choose will have a major effect on the degree of interaction amongst sub-systems. Friction will be lessened if units which strongly affect each other are within the same department or sub-system.

A systems manager is essentially a resource controller. He controls the inputs to his system and allocates them to the transformation process for which it exists. It is the flow of inputs through a process to become outputs which is his reason for existence. In virtually every case these systems flow across functional lines. As Hopeman says in "Systems Analysis and Operations ManagementE-

"Functionalism separates; systems analysis integrates."

If we take stock control as an example, we can see what this means. Almost every function has objectives within the field of stock control, but they conflict. They differ with regard to the quantity they wish to keep and the variety of items stocked. Their wishes are shown in tabular form in Table 1.

Table 1

Finished Raw V . t

Goods Materials arie y

Marketing

Production

Finance

Purchasing

The problem is that all the functions control a part of the material flow and can take decisions which affect it. Unfortunately, they will normally make the decisions in the light of their own objectives, not those of the firms. Thus, by optimising in their own area, they cause sub-optimisation in the firm as a whole.

The systems answer to this is the adoption of a department which might be called the Material Flow Department, of which there would be a manager of material flow. Consider, too, the effect on decision-making of having the market research section as part of the Marketing and Sales department. In fact, the system which most needs its help (the company's corporate strategy group) is a secondary user, and the research could be slanted towards what may be entirely the wrong questions for the company's future survival.

The argument here is that, traditionally, the wrong criteria have been used for departmentalisation. Functionalism leads to dysfunctional effects.

11. Separation of Line from Staff

"Line should be separate from staff."

Recognising the difficulties imposed by the need for specialist expertise, classical theory adopted the Staff role from the army. The expert, though, must have staff authority only, because of the principle of unity of command. He cannot be allowed to make decisions, except in the line manager's name. The growth of what is called "functional authority" recognises this problem of having the man who is expert in a particular situation barred from making the relevant decisions.

The systems school has recognised it even more clearly.

It suggests that separating line and staff does not solve the problem of conflict at all. Nor can arbitrating bodies like committees do so. The systems engineer would prefer to abandon the concept completely. It would be replaced by the type of manager we discussed when we talked of project managers and product managers - people who combined the style and functions of both line and staff personnel and who were trained essentially as decision-takers.

12. Flexibility

An organisation must be structured in such a way that it can change direction to meet different needs. In systems terms it must have the characteristic of "equifinality".

The problem is how to attain a structure which is flexible, has equifinality, and yet is under control. The answer depends on another of the system's characteristics, namely "regulation".

Basically, the enterprise is regulated by plans, which guide the sub-systems towards system objectives. The system is controlled, then, by feedback of information compared with standards contained in the plans; this is the regulation process known as the "cybernetic" process. The implications of this concept for organisational design are significant. The concept of cybernetic control implies that a closed system controls itself. In-practical terms, this is the sort of system we want in a business sub-system. If it controls itself, in accordance with the plans given it, then less information needs to be passed, less centralised control is necessary and so on. (Note that we are here talking of the sub-system in terms of its information flow, control procedures etc. Obviously, viewed as a social system it is not closed, nor can it be.)

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The other type of regulation process is "Learning", which is virtually identical in aim to the principle of flexibility we are discussing. The difference between the two approaches is one of degree. The traditional principle recognises that there is something which needs periodic

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A RE-ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL ORGANISATION THEORY. PAGE 14.
review. The systems designer would insist that somewhere in the organisation system there would be a sub-system with the specific objective of monitoring system performance and changing the structure in the light of that experience.

13. Clarity

It is accepted that clarity of structure helps efficiency, though the systems approach, in insisting on a dynamic system rather than a static structure, is obviously less likely to achieve apparent simplicity and clarity than the traditional approach.

OVERALL ORGANISATION SYSTEM

The result of these considerations is an organisation which has a different shape from the traditional one. Figure 4 is an attempt to present a model of what an organisation constructed on systems lines would look like.

You will note the three layers of planning, i.e. corporate, resource, Operations. You will note also that position on the model used need not indicate status or rank, e.g. the manager of project C might well be of much higher status than the organisation theorist reporting to the corporate strategy group, and the resource group managers (functional managers) will probably be of the same rank as the project system manager. Pay will tend to differ because most users of this approach believe in differential salaries based on objective achievement. The facilitating systems are set up to cater for areas which it would be uneconomic to divide amongst the operating divisions; e.g. it would perhaps be more effective and economic to have one large computer installation rather than several small ones.

The standard production units are those which are relatively static; where the products have been developed reasonably for. Being in a systems organisation, the general manager will control many of his own areas of staff Support to control himself, i.e. he will have his own accountants, market research staff, personnel officers etc and they will work directly for him and will receive only advice (not orders) from their counterparts at the first and second planning layers. The division would probably use product managers.

Both the facilitating systems and the production systems would, in fact, be virtually autonomous bodies, strongly decentralised with profit being the main control factor. They may well treat each other as outsiders, e.g. the head of the computer facility will charge the production unit, for its services at a reasonable market price. The production unit, on the other hand, if it can get the same service elsewhere at a lower price, is permitted to do so. Indeed, a production unit will buy components from the source which best suits itself, even though someone in the same company is making the same item. In other words, the systems approach uses to the full the ideas of profit decentralisation worked out within the traditional framework.

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The project systems are most likely, of course, to be designed on the matrix model and will appear and dissolve as and when there is a project which requires it, e.g. the development of a new product, when the project team might be converted on completion into a production unit, with more or less no Change Of personnel.

MD

RESEARCH SECTIONS

R & D

Market Research

Orgn. Theorists

Legal Advisors etc.

First

Planning

Layer

Corporate

Strategy

Group

Corporate

Finance

RESOURCE GROUPS OPERATING GROUPS

Second Materials Manpower Equipment Cash Systems

Planning System System System System Design

Layer Manager Manager Manager Manager Manager

W

Facilitating Standard Prolect

Systems Production System

System

. I_L'_V_q

Thlrd A g C A B C

Planning

Layer A

Figure 4.

A RE-ASSESSMENT OF TRADITIONAL ORGANISATION THEORY. PAGE 16.

The corporate strategy group is that part of the system whose job it is to provide the adaptability of the system. It is on the environmental interface, senses long-term changes in the environment, and plans to meet the changes within the system.

The resource groups will be seen as flow systems or networks. They contain the functional executives of the firm whose job is to control the allocation of resources, build up the company's functional expertise, and provide a reservoir of such expertise when required for project work.

Note that where the word "manager" appears in the model, it may or may not be a single manager; it could be a group or specialists acting as a manager.

Notice too that one of the resource groups is called "systems design." Its job is to maintain a continuing audit of the effectiveness of the organisation systems.

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This is not a true summary, but rather a list of what has been studied in this extremely important lecture.

(A) Definition of Systems Theory

(B) Evaluation of the Traditional Principles of Organisation in the light of Systems Theory:

These principles are discussed under these heads:

(0) Structure and Objectives of the Enterprise

(b) The Scalar Chain

(c) Unity of Command - Committee Management

-.Project,Management

) Defined Responsibility and Authority (in writing)

) Purity of Responsibility and Authority

) Responsibility Absolute I

) Delegation of Responsibility

) Span of Control

-) Specialisation
-) Separation of Line from Stuff
-) Flexibility
-) Clarity

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Overall Organisation System - an organisation constructed
on the systems theory approach.

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PROGRESS QUESTIONS

1. "The unity of command as a principle of management no longer has any value." Discuss.
2. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the matrix type of organisation structure.
3. "Functionalism separates; systems analysis integrates."
How true is this?

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ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

A. OBJECTIVES ARE GOALS

All companies need established goals to guide the efforts of each of their components. No organisation can grow and change in an orderly manner unless it has such goals. In fact, well managed companies establish objectives not only for the company as a whole but for all levels of management. They spell out divisional and departmental goals which serve as specific guides for subordinate units. The absence of firm objectives can result in the uneconomic commitment of capital, poor utilization of people and mediocre operating results over the long term.

We may speak of two categories of objectives - economic and social.

ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES RELATE TO THE MARKET PLACE

Here the two crucial questions are -

1. What kind of business is the company in? and
2. What does the company intend to accomplish in that business? T

Now, though these questions may seem simple enough to answer, it is surprising how seldom they are actually asked. The consequences of their not being considered can be fatal.

Let's look at an example cited by Louis A. Allen in Management and Organisation:

"A highly specialized electronic components manufacturer, during and immediately after World War II, accumulated a healthy cash reserve.' With a dwindling military market for its products in sight, the president decided that diversification was in order. He and his staff looked around for likely acquisitions. , First they Found a healthy, profitable small chain store operation which made candies and chocolates. The owner had recently died and the heirs wanted to sell. The electronics company bought their interests.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES. PAGE 2.

At this time, air conditioning was getting considerable attention. The electronics manufacturers found a small plastic: company engaged in producing framing members, cabinets and base plates for window air conditioners. - Effective command of this enterprise was secured.

Next, a company manufacturing radiator grills and decorative trim for automobiles was acquired.

Thus the available funds of the electronics manufacturer were exhausted. The company tried to digest and integrate its acquisitions. This proved impossible. At the end of five years each of the once profitable subsidiaries had lost both market share and profitability. Finally the company disposed of all three. Only at this point did the board of directors sit down to decide what business the company was in. They decided that their facilities were best suited to the rapidly expanding civilian electronics market. Once this course had been firmly set, the company invested the funds: it had salvaged in finding new markets, in designing, manufacturing and marketing electronic components for television, computer, data recording and other allied fields. Its latest annual report shows a healthy profit and a promising future."

C. ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES GUIDE OPERATIONS

If economic objectives are itemized, they can be used to guide and channel the operations of a company on a day-to-day basis.

The objectives, for this purpose, may be itemized as follows:

1. General Objectives are stated in terms of

- (a) Sales Volume.
- (b) Market Share.
- (c) Profit in Rupees.
- (d) Profit Margins.
- (e) Return on Invested Capital.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES. PAGE 3.

Example: A bed manufacturer may have the overall objective - to purchase chain and steel at favourable prices and to manufacture and sell at a profit steel bed frames and head boards.

Corollary Objectives are then established -

- (a) To increase sales volume from, for example, 10 000 to 12 000 units in 18 months,
 - (b) To increase market share from 3% to 6% in the steel frame market,
 - (c) To reduce overheads by 3% in three years by tailoring production facilities,
- and so on.

D. IECONOMIC OBJECTIVES CAN CHANGE

Major changes are sometimes necessitated. What is likely to provide the impetus for change?

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Declining markets n major upheavals such gs world wars, the development of synthetics which replace the company's present product etc. can result inta decline in consumption.

Poor profit potential - the cost of inputs may increase to the point where it is no longer profitable to continue producing a particular product.

These factors can change economic objectives to the extent that the company leaves one mqjor field of endeavour and establishes itself in another. The change-over is often effected by merger or acquisition of a company already established in the new field.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES. PAGE 4.

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES RELATE TO EMPLOYEES, SHAREHOLDERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

Social objectives encompass all aspects of the business which do not refer to the market place.

The following are examples of specific social objectives.

1. To provide employees with good working conditions - the objectives of the entire organisation and of its component parts must be in harmony with the relevant needs and desires of the great majority of its employees. The objectives must be designed in such a way that employees are highly motivated to achieve them. The reward system must be such that employees feel that salaries, wages and bonuses yield them compensation for their efforts.
2. To provide shareholders with dividends and interest payments which yield them equitable compensation for their contributions.
3. To be a good neighbour in the community in which they are located and to foster and promote activities directed towards the fundamental improvement of these communities.

S U M M A R Y

A. OBJECTIVES ARE GOALS

No organisation should operate without establishing specific objectives.

In every healthy organisation there exists an unending process of examining and modifying organisational objectives as well as the method of achieving them.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES. PAGE 5.

B. ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES RELATE TO THE MARKET PLACE.

Every organisation should establish -

- 1- What kind of business it is in.
2. What it intends to accomplish in that business.

C. ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES GUIDE OPERATIONS.

If economic objectives are to be used to guide operations they should be itemized by -

1. Sales Volume.
2. Market Share.
- 3- Profit in Rands.
- 4- Profit Margins.
5. Return on Invested Capital.

D. ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES CAN CHANGE.

The economic objectives are not stable or unchanging. factors which influence change are -

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1. Declining markets. and
- 2., Poor profit potential.

Thus, objectives must change to meet the requirements of changing technologies, changed conditions, and the changes of the needs and desires of those involved in the organisation or served by it.

E. SOCIAL OBJECTIVES RELATE TO EMPLOYEES, SHAREHOLDERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

Social objectives cover all aspects of the business which do not refer to the market place. I

Examples of social objectives are given in the body of this lecture.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

Write a note on the need for objectives in an organisation and outline what you consider to be the objectives of an organisation in which you have been involved.

_____.

_____.

_____.

Distinguish between economic and social objectives giving examples of each.

_____.

_____.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION

Various attempts have been made to classify organisations from the point of view of the kind of structure adopted. In practice none of these elemental types of organisations will ever be found in a pure state; we rather tend to meet mixtures of them, adjusted according to the needs of any particular business enterprise. This does not mean to say, however, that it is useless to study the elemental types of organisation as we may learn a great deal from any advantages or disadvantages they may possess. The three elemental types of organisation are:

A. LINE (OR MILITARY, OR DEPARTMENTAL) ORGANISATION.

B. FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION

C.

LINE AND STAFF (FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION) - COMBINATION

I shall examine these three types of organisation critically and in some detail. If you happen to be working in a business organisation yourself, it might be a good idea to compare the organisation of your Firm with the models I am going to outline.

A. THE LINE ORGANISATION IS BASED ON THE DIVISION OF THE BUSINESS INTO SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS

You will understand the meaning of this form of organisation if you compare it with the working of the High Command of an Army.

The Army will be divided into Army groups, they in turn into divisions, the divisions will consist of regiments, the regiments of companies and the companies of platoons.

In a "line" organisation each subordinate is responsible to one superior only and the person in charge of any group, whether it is a division or a platoon, has complete and sole authority and responsibility for everything taking place within his group.

(a) Commands may be given to subordinates by their immediate superiors only.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 3.

(b) Commands may be received from one superior only.

(c) There exists a limit (known as the span of control) to the number of subordinates which any superior is effectively able to control. The higher up the ladder a superior happens to be, the fewer subordinates he is able to supervise. Although there does not exist any hard and fast limit for the span of control, the maximum of six has been suggested for the higher ranks of management, while about 20 to 30 is the limit for lower management.

THE ADVANTAGES OF THE LINE SYSTEM OF ORGANISATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) Discipline is easily secured, as there is one person responsible for it in each group.

(b) Duties and responsibilities are clearly defined, i.e. it is impossible for any matter to be passed from hand to hand. If any two departments disagree as to which of them should handle any matter, the person who is superior to both departments will decide as to who should deal with it. '

(c) It is very simple to understand.

THE MAIN DISADVANTAGES OF THE LINE SYSTEM OF ORGANISATION ARE:

(a) It relies too much on the skill, energy and power of a very few people to maintain discipline. If they should fail to come up to the expectations, the organisation might break down.

(b) It tends to be rigid and inflexible, i.e., difficulties arise if any new department is to be added, as that may disturb the existing span of control which is of particular importance under this system.

(c) It promotes "red tape". Whenever an employee wants to contact an employee of another department, the official note has to go via the person to whom both are responsible, i.e. any official communication say from an employee in the Sales Department to somebody in the

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 4.

Planning Department would have to pass through the office of the General Manager. A glance at Fig. 1 will explain to you why this has to be the case.

(d) It ignores the fact that specialists are required for most businesses. Many executives do not truly fit into the line organisation, e.g., the accountant is concerned with all departments.

4. THE LINE SYSTEM OF ORGANISATION IS APPLIED VERY RARELY IN PRACTICE.

For the reasons mentioned above we do not find often in practice examples of a pure line organisation. Small establishments engaged mainly in simple processes may adopt, but more complex businesses would hardly find it useful.

THE FUNCTIONAL TYPE OF ORGANISATION PROVIDES THAT FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE COMMON TO ALL DEPARTMENTS SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF SPECIALISTS DOING THE SAME JOB FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS

You will appreciate the difference between the functional type of organisation and the line organisation easily enough. In the letter we have seen one person having to give all his attention to AEE types of work in 95g department, while under the functional system one person concentrates on QEE type of job in ALE departments.

Take the work of typists as an example. Under the line system each department would have to have one person acting as typist and if that should not be a full time job, then she would have to spend the rest of her time doing something else. Under the functional type of organisation, there would be a pool of specialised typists doing nothing but typing in some centralised typing office but working for all departments requiring their services.

We see then that this system of organisation is based on a large degree of specialisation. Its originator, Mr. Frederick W. Taylor on American efficiency engineer who first introduced this method of organisation at the end of the last century defined in his "Shop Management" a functional organisation as consisting -

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 5.

"In so dividing the work of management that each man from the assistant superintendent down shall have as few functions as possible to perform".

He applied the division of functions not only in the higher ranks of management, but also among the most junior members of the management, the foremen.

Instead of the old-fashioned type of foreman who is mainly a shop disciplinarian and acts as a kind of jack-of-all trades, he proposed no less than eight functional foremen, each having a separate function to fulfil and each entitled within the scope of his function to give orders and instructions to the workmen.

Instead of having one superior, as under the departmental organisation, each person may have up to eight superiors to whom he will be responsible for different aspects of his work. Graphically, this system of organisation might be illustrated as in Figure 2 and Figure 20.

N.B. This simple chart should indicate the nature of the functional organisation. Each specialist deals with his work in all departments. Clearly, in practice, this type of organisation in its pure form would be most unrealistic.

GENERAL MANAGER

HEAD OF

PLANNING & WORKS CHIEF

PROGRESS MANAGER ENGINEER

DEPT.

FUNCTIONAL

FOREMEN

1 4 5 6 7 8

WORKERS

FIGURE 2.

'TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 6.

TAYLOR SYSTEM

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

FINANCIAL COST

ACCOUNTANT SECRETARY ACCOUNTANT

ALL DEPTS. FOR

WORK RELATING TO

ACCOUNTANCY AND

SECRETARIAL WORK

FIGURE 20.

1. REQUISITES

If the functional system of organisation is to work effectively, the following principles will have to be obeyed:

(a) The functions handed out to the various specialists should be collectively exhaustive, i.e., there must not be any aspect of the work which is not somebody's task to see to.

(b) The functions must be mutually exclusive, i.e., there should be no overlapping of the functions of different individuals.

(c) Each division of work should contain only matters which are related to each other so that, e.g., a person should not be simultaneously entrusted with welfare work and the purchasing of raw materials.

2.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 7.

THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS TYPE OF ORGANISATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-
- (a)
 - (b)
 - (C)

Every member of the organisation is able to specialise in some line in which he may then obtain greater experience and efficiency. People having the right background of training and experience may be chosen for work for which they are specially suited.

It is possible to separate functions requiring mental activity from those requiring physical exertion. The same people will not necessarily possess both "brain" and "brawn" and if you do not ask them to exercise unduly those of their capacities which are weaker, they are likely to be happier and more efficient members of your organisation.

Each subordinate will get advice from a real expert and will be told exactly how to do the job he may be given, so as to complete it in the shortest possible time.

THERE EXIST HOWEVER A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT DISADVANTAGES,

J L
NAMELY .

- (a)
- (b)
- (d)

Discipline is likely to suffer as there are too many people entitled to give orders and these orders may sometimes conflict with each other.

As most orders will have to be handed out in writing, there will be too much clerical work which is both costly and time-wasting in nature.

If subordinates are given such detailed instructions as the working of the system requires, their initiative may be destroyed and they tend to become mere robots incapable of any independent thought.

The supervisors on their part may easily become too specialised in their line and lose the broad approach of their work which is necessary in every organisation.

These limitations are well realised by all managers and so this system is also not used in practice in its pure state.

C. LINE AND STAFF (FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION) - COMBINATION

1. STAFF

Before proceeding to illustrate a combined relationships chart the term "staff" will be discussed. Much confusion exists regarding this relationship and so care must be taken, when answering examination questions, to show that you understand the term.

Writers on management, when they have come to combine the line and functional relationships, often refer to the functional relationship as a staff relationship.

The word "staff" in connection with organisation structure is not used in the sense of meaning weekly or monthly paid employees as opposed to hourly paid employees. Rather it has the same meaning as the words "General Staff" with reference to any army. The task of a staff member is to advise others; the line and to a lesser extent functional members carry out the work.

No doubt the controversy regarding the word "staff" arises from the fact that the functional executives advise as well as take responsibility for a particular function. However, since the prime responsibility of a specialist is the carrying out of his particular work he may rightly be regarded as a functional member. An exception is the Personnel Manager who advises workers but has no authority over them. "Line" members rely on "staff" for various services and expert advice.

2. ADVANTAGES OF THE USE OF STAFF AUTHORITY

- (i) Allows for the use of increased specialism at higher levels, thus making expert advice more freely available.
- (ii) It frees the line executive from the work of detailed collection and analysis of facts prior to his decision making.

(iii)

(iv)

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 9.

Staff positions are often used effectively as training grounds for young managers, where they can more quickly get a better overall view of the total firm than they might in a line unit. The results of their actions are less likely to cause speedy disaster. Being only advisory, the "expert" cannot become too powerful.

3. DISADVANTAGES

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

As the expert has no power to enforce the decisions which he feels should be made, there is a danger that the best advice may be ignored.

On the other hand, lack of authority in this sense can tend towards refusal to accept responsibility for the outcome of his recommendations. The man with staff authority can always say afterwards "well, it's not my fault it didn't work. I accepted it, and they gave the orders".

In a very real sense what he says is true, for another of the accepted principles of organisation is that "responsibility is absolute". The man who is responsible for a department is held accountable for its running even though he must take advice and cannot possibly know everything that is going on.

The staff situation can cause resentment, especially if such staff advice is coming from a centralised unit which is likely to be resented in any case.

There are several reasons why such advice is resented. Firstly, it may appear to undermine the line manager's authority, especially if the advisor has a strong, dynamic personality and if he enjoys the backing of higher managers.

Secondly, there is a regrettable tendency for outsiders to think in a vacuum, thinking only of their own area of expertise and ignoring the multitudinous other problems of the line. They are often said to live in ivory towers.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 10.

This conflict gives rise to a further basic principle of organisation, which is that line should be clearly separated from staff. This, of course, involves close and detailed definition of areas of responsibility and authority.

If you are asked a question which requires a line and staff organisation chart you are advised to reproduce a chart similar to the one which follows pointing out that the functional relationships are also regarded by some authorities on management as staff relationships. Remember that within "staff" departments 0 "line" chain can occur.

ELE. With Ell charts you should include footnotes which briefly explain their nature.

LINEI STAFF AND FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION CHART

Before we go on to discuss line, staff and functional organisation charts, let us clarify exactly what an organisation chart is!

It is, of course, a diagram indicating the allocation of responsibility within a business. These may be prepared by the management of a business to assist them in organising a business, or to introduce changes (e.g. the beginning of new functions or departments) as a business expands, but you should note that they may also serve as a channel of communication between management and staff. A chart may be displayed on the premises or in a staff handbook to indicate to each employee how he fits into the general organisation and who is immediately senior to him and responsible for him.

Note that the Assistant to the General Manager cannot be regarded as a specialist and so he may be termed a "staff executive". The other executives are specialists and they are, therefore, "functional".

_____.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ASSISTANT TO
GENERAL MANAGER
_.WORKS"--#. CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
PRODUCTIOFZEtJemggsz/ ' SECRETARY
CONTROL 1
MANAGER MAINTENANCE FOREMAN SALES
FOREMAN ELECTRICIAN "geggggg _____
_____ BRANCH PUBLICITY
PROGRESS PLANNING WORKS MANAGERS
& DESIGN SUPERINTENDENT I
SALESMEN
FOREMAN FOREMAN FOREMAN
DEPTI'J DEPT. 2 DEPT. 3
CHARGEHANDS CHARGEDHANDS CHARGEHANDS
OPERATIVES OPERATIVES OPERATIVES
KEY:
LINE RELATIONSHIPS

_____ STAFF RELATIONSHIPS

FIGURE 3.

m

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 12.

You will have noted that this system or organisation attempts to include all the advantages of the departmental and functional system of organisation while trying to steer clear of their most obvious defects. For this reason it is the system of organisation most widely to be found in practice.

D. MATRIX ORGANISATION

The most important type of project organisation lies somewhere between these two extremes of line and functional organisation. The matrix organisation is difficult to draw because its authority lines do not travel only up and down. They also travel horizontally. A matrix chart would look something like Figure 3.

Note that personnel in the various operating groups have at least two bosses, i.e. their functional superior and their project superior. Normally they will get "what to do" and "when" instructions from their project manager, and "how" instructions from their functional manager.

On the occasions when the expectations of these two people conflict, the staff member's responsibility is to draw the attention of both of them to the clash and get them to settle it. He has no superior commitments to either as they are both on the same level.

Clearly the likelihood of conflict between functional and project managers is very real, especially in the sensitive area of resource allocation. The functional managers are responsible for the optimum use of the resources they manage. This obviously clashes sometimes with the project manager's desire to achieve project performance.

This conflict is recognised and is often felt to be desirable because it forces decision disagreements into the open. The managers are expected to resolve the conflict at their own level and only in exceptional circumstances to refer the decision upstairs.

Remember that conflict exists in the traditional organisation structure as well, but is too often along the lines of empire building and self-aggrandisement and its solution is not oriented towards the good of the project.

Project Mgr.A
Project Mgr. 8
Project Mgr. C
-%

—.
Finance
Finance
Group A
Finance
Group B
Engineering
Engineerlng
Group A
Engineering
Group B

— —
8C.
FIGURE 3.
Production
Production
Group A
Production
Group B
8C.
Marketing
I
Marketing
Group A
Marketing
Group B
6C.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 13.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 14.

The advantages of matrix organisation are well summarised by Claland and King in their book "Systems Analysis and Project Management" as follows:

- (i) The project is emphasised by designating one individual as the focal point for all matters pertaining to it.
- (ii) Utilisation of manpower can be flexible because a reservoir or specialists b maintained in functional organisations.
- (iii) Specialised knowledge is available to all programmes on an equal basis; knowledge and experience can be transferred from one project to another.
- (iv) Project people have a functional home when they are no longer needed on 0 given project.
- (v) Responsiveness to project needs and customer desires is generally foster because lines of communication are established and decision points (for the project) are centralised.
- (vi) Management consistency between projects can be maintained through the deliberate conflict operating in the project-functional environment.
- (vv) A better balance between time, cost, and performance can be obtained through the built-in checks and balances (the deliberate conflict) and the continuous negotiations carried on between the project and the functional organisations.

5 U M M A R Y

A. LINE ORGANISATION is based upon the division of the business into separate departments.

1. ADVANTAGES

- (0) Discipline is easily secured.
- (b) Duties and responsibilities are clearly defined.
- (c) 1? is simple to understand.

2. DISADVANTAGES

- (a) Relies too much on the skill of certain key persons.
- (b) It tends to be rigid and inflexible.
- (c) It promotes red tape.
- (d) It ignores the fact that specialists are required for most businesses.

For these reasons this system is hardly ever used in practice.

B. THE FUNCTIONAL SYSTEM provides that functions which are common to all departments should be entrusted to specialists carrying them out for all departments.

1. REQUISITES OF THE FUNCTIONAL SYSTEM

(0) Functions must be collectively exhaustive and mutually exclusive.

- (b) Each function should contain related matters.

2. ADVANTAGES

- (a) Every member of Organisation may specialise and gain so in experience and skill.
- (b) Mental and physical work may be separated.
- (c) Each subordinate will be assisted by experts.

OJ

DISADVANTAGES

(0) Discipline may suffer owing to abundance of supervisors.

- (b) Too much writing means higher costs.
- (c) Subordinates lose possibilities of initiative.
- (d) Too much specialisation not good For experts.

Not very Frequently used in practice.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 16.

C. THE LINE AND STAFF ORGANISATION is a combination of the preceding types of organisation. All members of the organisation are either "staff", i.e., mainly engaged in planning and thinking, or "line", i.e. mainly engaged in carrying out the ideas of the others. This is the most popular type of organisation.

D. MATRIX ORGANISATION

The three types of organisation mentioned earlier in the lecture are the traditional types. More modern theorists have put forward the idea of Matrix Structures, of which the interdepartmental committee or task force is the classic example. Typically the organisational member is a member of two units, one of which is a more or less permanent posting, the second being usually a temporary unit. As a principle it is being applied widely in organisations such as engineering-oriented firms that do business in the form of a number of distinctive projects. (For this reason they are also called project structures). In these firms, technical personnel are located in the appropriate functional departments but are then assigned to one or more projects. On completion of these projects, they revert back to their respective departments, until the next assignment to a project. Typically these projects require the use of personnel from a number of technical disciplines, so they are really like miniature but temporary divisions and strive for self-sufficiency at least in technical manpower. Thus the so-called matrix structure is a combination of the principle of specialised departments with the principle of self-sufficient, more or less autonomous units or divisions, in situations where a number of temporary divisions or autonomous units need to be created.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION. PAGE 17.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

Compare and contrast the principles of functional and line organisations.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages found in using staff and functional organisation.

How does matrix organisation differ from traditional forms?

16 373

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

A. INTRODUCTION

Directing is that function of the manager which involves getting people to do necessary work, showing subordinates the way towards organisational objectives and inducing their movement towards them.

Success at directing, then, assumes that the manager has authority and is capable of motivating his subordinates to follow his leadership. These three concepts - authority, motivation, and leadership - will form the basis of our studies in this area.

8. SOURCE AND NATURE OF MANAGERIAL AUTHORITY

Louis Allen ("Management and Organisation") defined authority as "the sum of powers and rights entrusted to make possible the performance of the work delegated". In other words, authority is given to a man to enable him to do a job. If he has not got the power to get that job done, then it is ridiculous to say that he has the authority to do it; he has merely been given permission, not authority. It is self-contradictory, in this context, to say that a manager has authority to do something, but no power.

1. CLASSICAL THEORY

If we examine the one-man business, it is quite clear where his authority comes from, i.e. from himself. He has the authority to buy stock, convert it, sell it, put up buildings, hire assistants, etc. because he owns the business. He makes the decisions, and his few staff do what he tells them to do because he is the owner.

When the firm gets bigger and the owner hires an assistant manager, this latter is given the authority to act for him.

If the owner retires from active business life, then this deputy may be left in complete charge, again getting his authority from the owner.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. PAGE 2.

Thus, in this line of argument, ultimate authority lies with, and comes from, the owner. Our society believes in the right to own property, so we can say that managerial authority is founded on the institution of ownership of property.

This theory can be said to apply in large firms also, with authority coming from the shareholders (owners), through the board, down to every manager, supervisor and decision-maker, It can even be made to apply to nationalised industries, with authority coming from society (theoretically the owners), through Parliament, to the manager.

According to this theory, authority is something which goes with the job. As Wilfred Brown puts it ("Exploration in Management"): "authority is an attribute of a role". It does not matter who holds the position of manager; the amount of authority is the same because it goes with the job. "The boss is the boss because he is the boss."

However, we are today in a dynamic situation where such social institutions as private property are being questioned. It is being asked in some quarters why ownership should give authority, why, in fact, the owner should have the right to expect obedience from workers just because he owns the place.

Even apart from this social attack, there are logical grounds for querying the theory. Peter Drucker pinpointed one grave objection in 1954 when he wrote: "Management power today is illegitimate power. It is not controlled by any social principle accepted by society as a legitimate basis of social and political power. But today, managerial power is independent of, and not responsible to, the shareholders." What Drucker is saying is that a complete split has developed between managing and ownership. In the large firms, it is simply not true any more that the shareholders elect the board: most of them do not even know who is on the board. Only a small proportion of them actually interest themselves in the running of their company. Consequently, its managers are not controlled by them. Within very wide limits, company management can do as it pleases - or it could do, if its power were not restricted in another way.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. PAGE 3.

The questioning of authority is potentially active in the industrial field. In the U.K., a group of toilet cleaners at Fords threw the entire organisation into peril; an engineering firm was brought to a halt because the price of a cup of tea in the canteen went Up; almost every day we hear of some new refusal by workers to accept the authority of managers. The blatant truth is that management no longer has the power to enforce its wishes against organised labour. In other words, the formal authority that it exercised is disappearing.

2. THE "CONSENT" FOR "ACCEPTANCE" THEORY

The realisation of the strength of organised labour has led to an entirely opposite theory of authority, which is known as the "consent", or "acceptance" theory. According to this theory, authority comes not from above, but from below. The exponents of the "consent" theory reason this way: An individual may possess apparent formal authority, but such possession is meaningless unless the authority can be effectively used - and it can be used effectively only if it is accepted by this individual's subordinate. Formal authority, in fact, is only nominal; It becomes real only when accepted. If this is true, then, as Tannenbaum claims ("Leadership and Organisation"): "The real source of the authority possessed by an individual lies in the acceptance of its exercise by those who are subject to it. It is the subordinates of an individual who determine the authority he may wield."

In other words, you may well receive the right to give orders from above (and even that is questioned) but only your subordinates can give you the power to get them obeyed. In practice, this is quite true. There are myriad ways in which a subordinate can prevent the accomplishment of a superior's plans, often without the superior's being aware of it. Slow work, mistakes, "lack of knowledge", "sickness" - all of these can thwart the boss. In fact, even if the subordinate is discovered and sucked, the superior has still not got his own way for his order has still not been obeyed. So, the superior may often be subordinate.

With this theory, we have created a rather different concept of what authority is. As Tannenbaum says: "The concept 'authority' describes an inter-personal relationship in which one individual accepts a decision made by another individual, permitting this decision directly to influence his behaviour". It follows from this that an individual may have authority, without having any formal status at all. This concept assumes that authority is accepted from various directions, not necessarily from the people we call managers and supervisors. This, of course, explains the obvious authority a shop steward has (or a trouble-maker) in a much more satisfactory manner than the formal theory - that authority is vested in, or conferred upon, a selected person.

(a) Barnard's theory

According to the holders of the "consent" theory, when a man receives an order he looks at it, and decides whether or not to obey it. Barnard says (in "Functions of the Executive") that there are four criteria which are used in making this decision. An order will be obeyed if:-

- (i) The subordinate understands it;
- (ii) The subordinate believes the order is consistent with the purpose of the organisation, i.e. if the order fits in with what he feels they should be doing;
- (iii) He feels it is compatible with his personal interest, i.e. he is going to get something out of it, or he would be hurt if he disobeyed;
- (iv) He is physically and mentally capable of carrying it out.

In some ways, then, Barnard sees it as quite a complicated decision.

(b) Tannenbaum's theory

Tannenbaum sees it as being even more complex. He says that the decision to obey or to disobey depends on a weighing up of all the factors in the situation. A man will obey an order if the advantages at obeying it outweigh any disadvantages which might be consequent upon disobedience. There are at least six advantages to be thought of, says Tannenbaum, and several disadvantages.

(C)

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. PAGE 5.

The advantages are as Follows:-

(i) By obeying, the man would help towards the attainment of company objectives (very like Bornard's second_criterion).

(ii) By obeying, he may gain approval from fellow members of the group; in settled circumstances, there is always a pressure to conform.

(iii) Obedience often brings rewards - increased pay, promotion, prestige and status. (See Bernard's third criterion.)

(iv) Obeying is easier, sometimes, than accepting the responsibility of refusing.

(v) By obeying, he may be acting in accordance with his own moral standards; some individuals believe that it is their duty to obey people in authority.

(vi) He may be swayed by the personality and leadership qualities of the person who gives the order, i.e. he may get satisfaction from pleasing his superior.

The disadvantages are obviously all the paraphernalia of factory discipline - Falling foul of his mates, wage deductions, demotions and, ultimately, losing his job altogether.

Criticism of the theories

Now clearly, these theories, if taken literally, simply will not hold water. We know that, for most orders, men do not undertake an involved evaluation of pros and cons; they do not make a conscious, analytical decision. After all, we are trained from birth to obey.

Authority is often accepted where conscious processes are not involved. Such acceptance does not entail a conscious choice between acceptance and rejection; it is a reflection of unconscious, habitual processes.

Furthermore, the theory is contrary to the way we feel; we feel inside ourselves that some people are bosses, and some are not. There is a sub-theory of authority which suggests that some people are like men's image of "the leader" and so exert automatic authority which is, equally automatically, obeyed. This is the theory known as the "Ideocrotic Authority" theory:

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. PAGE 6.

Another important factor is what is called "social distance". How much authority management has depends, in practice, partly on the size of the gap which exists in class and education between management and workers; Admittedly, this gap is narrowing, which is presumably one of the reasons why managerial authority is declining, but it still exists.

In any case, if the theory were true, just as stated here, how would we ever get anything done at all? He would spend our entire lives wondering about whether to grant authority to the latest order-giver. If these criticisms are true, then this theory is no more universal than the formal theory.

Barnard himself recognised the strength of these criticisms, and tried to answer them by putting forward three reasons why orders may be obeyed apparently instinctively:-

(i) He said that most orders in normal organisations fitted in with the Four requirements he said were needed for obedience, and therefore were accepted habitually.

(ii) There is a group pressure towards conformity, and conformity usually includes obeying recognised bosses.

(iii) In any case, there is a "zone of indifference" for each individual, an area of types of order which he does not care whether he obeys or not.

Many writers feel that, by making these admissions, Barnard has weakened his argument completely, and admitted that there are large areas where managerial authority does not depend on acceptance.

This is particularly true when you think about the individual worker when he is not backed up by the union. The manager's weapons are so much stronger, in the final analysis, than the individual's, that the individual does not really stand much chance. There is often precious

little choice for the worker who is told to "obey or collect your cards".

Furthermore, however, even if you accept Bernard's qualifications as fair defence, and even if you see the theory applying to groups of subordinates rather than to individuals, there are still one or two other areas of managerial authority which his theory does not explain. For example, who grants the managers the right (and power) to negotiate with, and even fight, the unions, and who grants managers the authority to raise capital on the stock market, put up new buildings, or begin to manufacture a new product? Finally, who grants the manager the right to close down his factory, thus throwing the entire stuff out of work?

Reluctantly then, it must be admitted that the consent theory is not universal. Although it explains certain facts well, it leaves other areas untouched.

3. THE "MULTIPLE SANCTIONS" THEORY

"Sanction", as a noun, is used in two ways. It can be a reward or a punishment for following or not following some command, or it can mean permission by someone in power. As a verb it means to "ratify" or to "authorise". We use the word here with all of these meanings. Thus; if we think of the 90 k.p.h. speed limit, it contains a punishment for going over 90, but it also permits you, or authorises you, to go at 90 or any lesser speed. Similarly, the law says you will be imprisoned for assault if you use undue violence in defending yourself. There is a punishment (i.e. imprisonment) and a permission (i.e. to use as much violence as is necessary). In the "multiple sanctions" theory of authority we look at those factors in business life which act as sanctions, i.e. those things which, by telling us what we cannot do, imply permission for what we do.

The manager's authority, including both rights and power, comes from all of these sanctions. The following figure shows a breakdown of the factors which grant and which limit the authority of a manager.

aBpaIMoux pun
saj4onnb Tnuosxad
PAGE 8.
AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.
UNO SIN Jo (TVLNBidVS '
asnooaq pa;daaoo (
5? JBBDqu 9H1 (DilVHDOEGI -
suorun _ HEMOd d0089 '
GBLTHSNOD 38
01 GNVNBO .STVOGIAIGNI
NOLVNI080_OD
SV 3108 S.EBOVNVN 3H1 -
NOilVHlIS 3H1 jo MV1 3H1 -
TVNBBLNI
'IVDISOWON-DBL
1VNO\$83d
DILVUUONBO
XSVL 3H1
ldVHlNOD 3H1
A;;Joq;nn 5o
aou04daaa (NOILVOHGE
u: Buyuynxl (SWVEON
SMVW
SlHXHVN
(JFJOJd 9
aqnw o; A;l111q;suodsaz
Sa4uaw350unw) SHOLSBANI
WVNHBLXS
SNOildNVS
SGUVGNVlS
ALINnNHOD
WVDILITod
DINONODB
05
3
1

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Authority, in the classical sense of "the right and power to command" is seen by many as being the chief co-ordinating factor within the organisation.

Unfortunately it sometimes found that a person in authority abuses the very authority he has been given, either by:

- (a) Requiring impossibly high performance levels from subordinates, or
- (b) Adopting a dictatorial attitude towards subordinates.

Managements normally devise a system of safeguards against this malpractice which gives the humblest of employees the right to refer a problem to someone in charge of both the employee and delinquent supervisor, to obtain redress.

The question which arises at this point is whether to refer the complaint to the manager immediately in charge of the supervisor, or to a more senior member of the line personnel.

There are obvious advantages and disadvantages in either course of action and all that can be said with confidence is that imeartial arbitration must be the result.

One of the principal tenets of traditional theory is that both authority and responsibility should be clearly defined, preferably in writing, so that everyone should know exactly what he is supposed and permitted to do. If everyone has a full and clear picture of his duties, and knows precisely in what areas he can give orders and take decisions, then there will be no need for extra co-ordinating activities becausc there will be no overlap of functions and none not covered.

In the same way, it is argued that there must.be strict parity between responsibility and authority. No one must be held accountable for any action unless he has the necessary authority to command all the facilities needed for success.

There are two major difficulties with these two, apparently obvious, statements:-

(b)

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. PAGE 10.

It is incredibly difficult to define responsibilities so totally that there are none left uncovered, especially when one remembers the amazing rate of change in all aspects of business today. We just do not know what the main problem areas will be within a short time of setting up the organisation.

It is equally difficult to draw up jurisdictional boundaries in such a way that there are no overlapping areas. How, for example, do you deal with resource allocation which impinges on each and every area of the firm? You may say that you will hold a manager responsible for the profitability of his production unit, but can you as truthfully say that you will (or can) give him authority in all areas affecting it? To do so he must be permitted to hire and fire all his own staff, buy or scrap all his own equipment, spend as much or as little as he wishes on advertising, etc. To make decisions over this breadth of territory he would have to be a genius. He obviously needs help. This help he obtains from what are called "staff" personnel.

C. FEATURES OF GOOD ORGANISATION

Experience has shown that there are Four main attributes of good organisation. They are:

1. RESPONSIBILITY IS PAIRED WITH AUTHORITY;
2. DELEGATION IS EFFECTIVE;
3. CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN FUNCTIONS IS ACHIEVED;
4. COMMUNICATION EXISTS BETWEEN FUNCTIONS.

Let us devote a little time to each.

1.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. PAGE 1L
RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

To give a man authority without responsibility encourages irresponsibility in him and resentment in others. Conversely, to saddle him with responsibility, but to give him no authority, ties his hands and extinguishes his value. We must therefore establish clear lines of supervision (sometimes called "lines of authority"; down which orders are given, and authority exercised, and 22 which information is channelled by way of reports and requests for guidance.

These lines must be clear and precise, and are best defined in writing. Everyone must know to whom he reports, who should be the same person from whom he receives instructions; and as far as possible, there should be only one such person. Only in this way can misunderstanding be avoided.

Arrangements should be made for this control/report functional relationship to continue even in the cases of absence for illness, leave, or duty, by the training of "stand-in" executives who can take over in need. Thus, a Production Manager controlling three Product Supervisors should ensure that one of them at least is trained to take over temporarily in an acting role. This not only promotes the continuation of the control/report function: it also provides trained succession and an incentive to promotion.

We are here dealing with the usual line relationships in a company. You will understand that the staff (advisory), and functional (parallel) relationships depend on other factors, since normally people thus related are not in authority one over the other.

DELEGATION

"The higher up the ladder you climb the less you have to do; provided (1) you have some courage, (2) you have some trust, (3) you have your office so organised that you don't have to deal with more than three or four responsible

heads ...If big men are overwhelmed with detail it is always their own fault". The Soul and Body of an Army - Sir Ian Hamilton.

No man can do everything. He should be big enough to contemplate the possibility of some error since no one is infallible, but errors can be put right and the greater the responsibility delegated, the greater the moral effect and the fewer the errors.

That is one reason for delegation. There are additional reasons:

- (a) Free a manager to concentrate on major matters and avoid unnecessary detail, whilst ensuring that there is effective management.
- (b) Enable certain matters or aspects of management to be brought within the province of a specialist for greater efficiency.
- (c) Solve geographical separation by delegation.
- (d) The more managers delegate work, the more opportunity they have to seek and accept increased responsibilities from higher management.
- (e) Causes employees to accept responsibility therefore trains people and can improve their self-confidence.

09erotional and Functional Delegation

Delegation may be ogerotional, i.e., where command of the basic activities of the enterprise are delegated, like manufacturing and distribution, or functional, where services ancillary to the main activities of the enterprise are delegated to specialists.

Functional delegation, however, gives gall the reSponsibility for ensuring that all matters pertinent to the particular specialist Function, are carried out in accordance with the general policy of the enterprise and the specific duties laid down For the functional

manager. It does not place the Functional manager in charge of the operational manager. Nevertheless management must ensure co-operation between the two for the smooth working of the enterprise and the acceptance by the operational manager of such advice as the functional manager may deem advisable. This is effected by Motivation or Leadership, and through managerial meetings aimed at co-ordination.

Always remember there can be no true delegation of responsibility without corresponding delegation of authority.

In those aspects where functional and operational managers meet there is always a danger point. If each manager is "big" enough mentally to be able to take advice as well as give it, to be reasonably tolerant as far as possible, and to be tactful in approach, there should be little trouble. But nevertheless it is on this point that the senior executive should keep constant watch, using his own personality to smooth over any signs of difficulty. Efficiency depends upon appropriate delegation, which in turn depends Upon the soundneSs of the structure of_organisation, but even more so does the whole depend upon the personalities of the staff upon whom the duties of management devolve. It also depends very much Upon the Leadership or Motivation from top level downwards and this is something which cannot be delegated.

Problems associated with delegation

Managers are still responsible for the work they delegate to others. They may have no confidence in the ability of their subordinates.

Secondly a manager may feel threatened if his subordinates become capable of doing his own work equally satisfactorily.

Thirdly managers may just be too disorganised to delegate work efficiently!

CO-ORDINATION

The Dictionary gives the following definition of the word "co-ordinate":

"To bring into such relation that all the things co-ordinated take part in a common action".

Co-ordination is bringing together, and is closely allied with co-operation which is working together; both are essential for the smooth working of any organisation.

Its essential characteristic is its aim for unity. Henri Fayol considered the main aim of all organisation was to ensure co-ordination. This view has been considerably modified by subsequent writers, but the importance of co-ordination has been increasingly stressed as an essential basic element of sound Management.

With increasing specialisation due to increased knowledge and research into all aspects of commerce and industry, the burden placed on management to ensure co-operation has increased enormously.

Delegation or division of responsibility takes a great burden off the executive, but to counter this he must assume responsibility for organising to ensure a co-ordinated whole. As an enterprise grows, delegation and specialisation are essential. For greater efficiency, but it must be ensured at all levels that all sub-units co-operate and aim towards the one goal, i.e. the benefit of the whole unit, continuously and as a team.

Many procedures or techniques have in themselves strong co-ordinative forces. Budgetary Control is a good example of this for the master budget represents essential unity with the plans and targets for every section of Management completely integrated.

Communication also has a strong effect on co-ordination, and various methods considered later will all have their effect. Knowledge of the work, responsibilities and duties of others, all aid co-ordination for they enable each person to realise just how his duties depend on others and how others depend on him.

Special action may be necessary to ensure co-ordination, although it should not be needed if the organisation has been properly planned and responsibilities properly specified. Perhaps also it will still not be effective, until it is fully realised that it is very much a basic responsibility of all managers to ensure and work for full co-ordination. Indeed if they carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the declared Policy of the enterprise and within the spirit of the schedules of responsibilities, co-ordination will be automatically ensured, for in no sense then can a manager work in a vacuum, isolated from his colleagues.

Assuming the need for special action, these methods may be used:

(a) Committees may be formed, Usually for advisory purposes, consisting of executives from all the areas between which co-ordination is sought.

(b) Departmental Meetings help to keep everyone advised of the policy being followed and the progress being made.

(c) Coey-Files, containing letters, memoranda, drafts of plans, can be circulated between departments so that everyone is "in the picture".

(d) Joint Training Programmes, in which executives from various departments join, may-be a useful aid in getting to know each other's problems and progress.

CWICATION

If co-ordination is one side of the coin of organisation, communication is the other, For the former cannot be achieved without the latter. Effective management at any level becomes impossible without good communication.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. PAGE 16.

What do we mean by this? Simply, that everyone should know what the policy is, what actions are being initiated, what progress is being made, so that they are equipped with both the knowledge and the Sense of Participation needed to act and to decide.

Communication must be:

- (a) Clear, simple, positive. It must avoid ambiguity, or "woolly" thinking.
- (b) Creative, since it is designed to improve morale and to develop a unity of purpose.
- (c) Effective, in ensuring that plans and developments are known to all who should know.
- (d) Two-way, to provide not only instructions from above but also "feed-back" reports, questions or suggestions from below.

To achieve these ends, it must be deliberate top management policy to encourage full communication at all levels of business, with the single exception that confidential matters should be restricted to specific lists of those "entitled to see".

This is NOT an easy task. The need for effective communication is at its greatest in times of stress, when the overall situation may be fluid or confused, and executives at full stretch, unable to find time to keep colleagues or subordinates fully advised. Nevertheless, this is when the effort must be made, and information pooled.

S U M M A R Y

A. INTRODUCTION

Success at directing assumes that the manager

- (a) has authority
- (b) can communicate the requirements for action,
- (c) is capable of motivating his subordinates.
- (d) to follow his leadership.

THE SOURCE AND NATURE OF MANAGERIAL AUTHORITY

W

C

There are various theories:

- (0) the classical theory
- (b) the "consent" theory
- (c) the "multiple sanctions" theory.

The last of these seems to be the most acceptable for our purposes.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Y.

N

Authority means "the right and power to command".

With authority goes responsibility. Clear lines of supervision are needed, as is delegation, co-ordination and communication.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

What features would you consider to be essential in good organisation? Which, in your view, is the most important one? Why?

_____. _____-_____-_____-_____-_____-
_____. _____-_____-_____-_____-_____-
_____. _____-_____-_____-_____-_____-
_____. _____-_____-_____-_____-_____-
_____. _____-_____-_____-_____-_____-

Increased worker participation is sometimes seen as dangerous because it lessens management's authority. How far do you agree with this?

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. PAGE 19.

Compare the two principles "responsibility is absolute" and "authority should be delegated as low as possible".

M

N

"The only measure of performance which is necessary to control a subordinate division is its profit figure". Discuss.

R

16 37:1 '

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

- THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ORGANISATION CHART

You must be careful not to say that an organisation chart is an organisation structure; it is not, it is really nothing more than an illustration of the basis on which responsibilities are divided between various members of the staff, and may also indicate the relationships between different posts within the organisation. You must also be careful not to give the impression that you believe that if a manager draws a chart, he has fulfilled that section of his planning function relating to the setting up of an organisation. Such a chart may be useful in demonstrating the frame-work of the organisation to Boards of Directors or even to members of the staff who appear in it, but it certainly does not establish a clear definition of responsibilities of various occupants of the positions and posts referred to in it. This can only be done by the drawing up of a detailed schedule setting out the duties of each executive, the person to whom each executive is responsible and the persons who are in turn responsible to each executive.

. ORGANISATION STRUCTURES!

There are two other pitfalls which you should take care to avoid. The first is to make reference to a typical organisation. There is no typical organisation structure any more than there is a typical industrial organisation; we can refer to a broad common pattern of allocation of duties and responsibilities, but it must be remembered that this may be modified to greater or lesser extent in particular enterprises.

The second pitfall is to refer to the types of organisation structures sometimes referred to as "line", "line and staff" and "functional", as alternative types of organisation, whereas, almost every organisation set up in practice is partly "line" and partly "staff", i.e., line and staff. There are very few undertakings today which can operate on a line, or military type of organisation in which there are no specialist executives performing functions which are virtually ancillary to the main operations of the business (e.g., a personnel manager), and in which all authority is delegated in a direct chain from senior to subordinate; On the other hand, it is ludicrous to

consider an organisation based upon the services of functional experts only. In other words, the attempt to categorise organisation structures into rigid groups, though it may assist the understanding of the theory of these structures, is not true to real life.

A more realistic approach to the task of describing structures is to refer to the relationships between different executives on the staff.

C. DIRECT RELATIONS

The relationship which exists in an organisation structure between a senior and his subordinates, or vice versa, is referred to as a direct relation. In other words, the relationships illustrated in an organisation chart by vertical lines are direct relations. In more detail, the relationship is one of instructions or orders being given by the senior, and of compliance by the subordinate. The relationship between a works manager and departmental foreman who works under him, or between the chief accountant and the book-keepers, clerks and typists who work under him are direct relationships.

There must be a clear line of authority running through the organisation so that instructions can be transmitted effectively from top management to the lowest level of workers. In this way unity of command can be ensured.

The chain of superiors, ranging from the ultimate authority to the lowest ranks, is known as the scalar chain, and it forms the framework of delegation. This is the process by which authority operates from the man at the head of the organisation right down the scale. According to this process, each man in the hierarchy recognises the authority of the one immediately above him, thus helping to create an efficient and integrated force.

This chain of authority should be kept wherever possible, but it should not be so rigid that it is incapable of modification in exceptional cases, where it might prove beneficial to the organisation.

0- LATERAL RELATIONS

These are the relationships between executives or supervisors at the same level of responsibility in the organisation. They are relationships which become essential for co-ordinating and co-operating in the tasks of the organisation as a whole because each executive cannot devote his attention only to his direct relationships with his subordinates; he must also keep in contact with and aim to collaborate with his colleagues in the organisation. Indeed in many cases he can perform his own role effectively only if this collaboration is exercised.

These lateral relations may be prescribed in a comprehensive schedule of responsibilities and relationships in which case they may be called formal lateral relations, but very often they arise purely informally as a result of management in action. Lateral relations can exist only when there is more than one executive of a similar grade and may be illustrated on an organisation chart by horizontal lines.

E. FUNCTIONAL RELATIONS

These relationships arise if the organisation employs one or more specialist executives such as a personnel manager, or clerical methods manager, because the executive in question is responsible for providing a service to some or many different parts of the organisation. He cannot be held responsible to a particular executive beneath the level of General Manager, because his services are not restricted to the sphere of a particular executive. His responsibility may be defined as being to the Managing Director or the General Manager, but if the specialist function is performed by a department rather than by one individual, there will be direct relationships between the members of this specialist department. These relationships may be drawn on organisation charts by means of diagonals, or dotted lines connecting up the Functional or specialist executive to the different sections of the organisation in which he plays a part.

The area of the responsibility or jurisdiction of a functional executive may be more difficult to define than that of other executives, but it is a common rule in organisations which employ

these functional experts, that the specialist concerned must be consulted before a decision is taken on any matter which may be considered within the scope of their responsibilities.

F- STAFF RELATIONS

A relationship which is not found so frequently as the three types referred to above is that which arises when a senior executive or manager appoints a personal assistant. In a military organisation this type of relationship exists between a staff officer and a regimental officer. This personal assistant or staff officer in effect carries a responsibility which is derived only from his immediate senior. He has no formal relations with other executive members of the staff and has no authority or responsibility in his own right.

6- DEVISING AN ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

In devising an organisation structure, a manager will have to depend largely upon his personal judgment; there are no basic rules or patterns from which he can draw guidance, but the following points may be of interest in this connection:-

1. If an existing organisation structure is being re-modelled, the existing organisation should be used as a starting off point. The best results will probably be achieved by enlisting the co-operation of the existing executives rather than by making changes in responsibilities without consulting them. In the case of a new business, the grouping of responsibilities will be arrived at by formulating the aims and policy of the management.
2. No business is too small to profit from a formal demarcation of responsibilities. Such a demarcation may be made as soon as two or three managers or supervisors are brought into existence through the growth of the scale of operations, and in any event those who participate at any level at all in

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 5.

the work of the organisation will appreciate a picture of the way in which the management works. To say that he knows exactly what his colleagues are doing, and that no precise definition of the relationships between himself and his staff is called for displays a lack of understanding on the part of a manager of the motives behind the definition of responsibilities.

Organisation is one of the refinements of management, and without the preparation of formal charts or schedules, no weakness in organisation may develop without being realised.

In deciding what activities to delegate, and what he should continue to perform himself, a Manager should take into account, considerations similar to those applied to the theory of foreign trade by the theory of comparative costs in economics. A manager should retain for his own performance, those tasks which he can perform relatively more effectively than the subordinate members of his staff. He may, in fact, be able to discharge all responsibilities better than the subordinate; he cannot continue to discharge them all, however, and it is best to delegate those which will suffer least by being performed by a less efficient executive, namely those which the executive can perform relatively more effectively.

The organisation structure should be devised with the existing personnel, if any, in mind and not purely on the policy and production requirement of the business, without any reference to personalities. More precisely, the procedure is first, to group and establish the relationships between the responsibilities and supervisory functions which have to be carried out; secondly, to determine which qualifications and experience will be required to perform these tasks more effectively, and finally, to allocate the tasks and responsibilities to the existing personnel bearing in mind their qualifications and experience. Finally, some attention must be paid to the span of responsibility of the senior executives.

There is a limit (known as the "Span of Control") to the number of subordinates whom any executive can effectively control. The higher up the ladder of seniority the executive is, the fewer subordinates he can supervise efficiently. There can,

obviously, be no hard and fast limit for the "Span of Control", although the maximum of six subordinates has been suggested in the higher ranks of management. This is merely a guide; conditions vary tremendously.

It is not simply the supervision of, say, six subordinates that is involved, but the problems of the relationships between them, which increase out of all proportion as the number of subordinates increases. It should be noted, of course, that this term does not refer to the control exercised over operatives, or over clerks in an organisation - it refers only to the control by an executive over management or supervisory subordinates responsible to him.

The problem arises from four factors, which are:-

(a) The span of attention, which can be defined as the range of items which the human brain can collate and consider at any one time.

(b) Interruption, since clearly the greater the number of subordinate managers or supervisors the greater the degree of interruption, and the greater the consequent emotional burden. There must be a limit to the number of discussions, telephone calls, meetings, and interruptions of other sorts to which any executive can be exposed if he is to carry out his functions efficiently.

(c) Time, by which is indicated the fact that there is only a certain amount of time that an executive can devote to the problems brought to him by each subordinate. In addition, the more subordinates, the more expensive time is wasted as they await their turn for discussion with their chief, and the more danger there is that their own problems will not be fully discussed, and morale therefore impaired.

(d) The nature of the responsibilities which an executive carries should, as far as possible, be of a generally homogeneous type. The greater the number of persons responsible, the more danger there is that the executive will be called upon to attempt to deal with widely different problems, for which he may have no background at all.

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 7.

In general terms, the span of control will depend upon the executive, the organisation, and the nature of the work involved; but it is a factor which must be taken into account at each stage of the planning of an organisation.

ISUPERVISIONI

In any business concern when the strategic planning has been done, the production drawings and specifications issued, the methods laid down, and the materials and machines provided the actual job still has to be performed. When there are more than two or three people concerned in the doing, then someone must be responsible for seeing that the job is done. This is supervision.

Supervision is part of management as we interpret it today, and all levels from Managing Director down spend a varying proportion of their time supervising. This has been simply illustrated by the following diagram from E. Brech's "Principles and Practice of Management".

Managing
Director
Works
Manager
Department
Foreman
Managerial Skill
Chargehand
Technical Skill

 THE ROLE OF THE SUPERVISOR

The primary responsibility of the supervisor is the control and oversight of the work of a group of employees in an undertaking He may in the course of his day-to-day work be concerned with the planning and allocation of work; the quantity and quality of production, and avoidance of waste and keeping down costs; maintenance of plant, conditions and methods of work, observance of works rules, training of operatives, and generally dealing with the problems and difficulties of the employees under his control.

The degree of his responsibility for dealing with these and other matters will depend on the policy of the management and organisation of the firm. Within the limits of his authority, however, his efficiency and competence can materially affect the quantity, quality and costs of production. He is the representative of management on the shop floor and has to interpret the decisions of management to the employee for whose control he is responsible. He is in touch with them throughout the day and is often regarded as "the boss" he can influence significantly relations between management and employees.

If we carefully examine the content of these two paragraphs we must agree that supervision is concerned more with people than with paper. It is a truism that as persons differ, that we act from different motives, move in different directions, etc. One of the principal tasks then of supervision is to make persons react in the same direction; and the first-line supervisor brings out the worker's ability to work, emphasises the difference between good and bad performance, and highlights what the worker needs for peak performance. One might say that today specialists are now employed to carry out much of the work previously done by the supervisors, but it would be nearer the truth to say that they are employed to advise and assist supervision. Inspiration, communication, co-ordination, integration, or in other words the creation of an atmosphere in which persons work with a will, effectively and with maximum

Jvr, r: t' : w 'rv"_zci'xs c? :Nhervision.

THE ROLE OF MANAGEMENT

Poor quality supervision can often be laid at the door of senior and specialist management, the former for giving inadequate support, the latter for the lack of advice and assistance.

High quality supervision will invariably be found where full support is given by higher management with sound advice and assistance from the specialists, and in connection with this we should expect to find the following covered:

- (a) The duties and responsibilities of the supervisors should be fully defined, and the necessary authority given to enable these duties and responsibilities to be adequately carried out.
- (b) Supervisors should be "kept in the picture", not bypassed, and "kept in the picture" in as detailed a way as necessary to ensure they fully understand.
- (c) Supervisors should be consulted before decisions are finally taken that affect them and their subordinates. Innovations and changes should be frankly discussed.
- (d) The status of the supervisors should always be maintained in relation to subordinates, and higher management should ensure supervisors have the support needed in relations with other departments and functions.
- (e) Supervisors should be given full opportunity to pass information upwards and downwards whilst higher management must listen and take supervisors seriously.
- (f) At all times should higher management's treatment of supervisors be consistent, rewarded in line with duties and responsibilities, and provided with incentives for advancement.

3. CONCLUSION.

Finally, consider this extract from P. Drucker's "The Practice of Management", in which he says, in respect of supervision:

"The job itself should make clear beyond doubt that its holder is the legitimate successor to the master craftsman of yesterday - a master craftsman who, instead of plying the trade of shoemaker or stonemason, practises Management".

___-000--__

S U M M A R Y

An Organisation Chart may be regarded as a tool of management in that it expresses the structure of a business in a concise manner, so that the main outlines of the Structure of Organisation can be taken in almost at a glance. It would not be true to say that such a chart is the structure of organisation; it merely illustrates it.

It does permit, however, a ready grasp of the grouping of jobs and departments within the establishment and the lines of demarcation between them and also gives an indication of the types of relationship between the incumbents of the various posts.

The three types of relationships between posts are:-

(a)

(b)

Line or Direct. This type of relationship exists for example between a chief inspector and his foremen, or between the foremen and the artisans working under them. It is a relationship involving the issue of instructions on one part and compliance on the other.

Lateral relationship. This is the relationship which exists between executives and supervisors functioning at the same level of responsibility and collaborating on points of mutual interest.

(c) Functional relationship. This exists when an executive, or an official with a standing equivalent to that of an executive has a specialised or functional authority over a group of activities not necessarily directly related to the production activities of the business, e.g., a factory medical officer. The functional executives operate, in other words, service departments.

(d) Staff relations. The Fourth type of relationship which is not found so frequently as (a) to (c) is the staff relationship. These may also be of a functional nature, but the authority attached to them is derived immediately from a particular officer or executive who is in the direct line of authority.

No business is too small for the responsibilities of the staff to be allocated clearly, and as soon as there are two or three managers or supervisors, there is scope for an organisation chart. In preparing this organisation structure or chart, the manager will have to consider which functions he himself will delegate; he will also have to consider the staff he has available. It has often been said that a good staff can sometimes succeed with a bad organisation, but a poor staff may fail even with a good organisation. If the task in hand is the remodelling of an existing organisation structure, the procedure will be somewhat different. There will already have been a demarcation of authority and responsibility, and the existing supervisory executives should be taken into the confidence of the manager to assist in drawing up the new structure.

SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS!

1. (a) What is an organisation chart?

(b)

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 12.

What does it show?

What does it NOT show?

Define

(i) scalar chain

_____._____--___

(ii) unity of command.

_____._____--

What is the connection between the two?

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGL lg.

Give a brief explanation of

- (i) direct relationships
- (ii) lateral relationships
- (iii) functional relationships.

(a) What contribution did F.N. Taylor make to organisational structure?

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 14.

(b) What Has his aim?

(c) Outline briefly two present-day modifications of functional organisation.

Growth of an organisation demands changes in its structure. Indicate four points which should be considered when devising some change in on existent organisation.

_____.
_____.
What consideration should be given to the scope of senior
or top managers in defining their duties and responsibilities?
(Note: You should say a few definitive words about each
point mentioned.
Behavioural Research is pertinent here).

_____.
_____.

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 16.

What task is specifically allotted to a consultant brought in to advise on re-organisation of a concern? List the main principles of organisation with which he must comply.

- 3.
- (in)
- (b)
- (c)
- (o)
- (b)

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 17.

ANSWERS TO SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

An organisation chart is a diagrammatic representation of the manner in which the basis of the allocation of responsibilities is determined.

It shows the relationships of the functions within the organisation, and who bears the responsibility for those functions.

It does not indicate the duties connected with the responsibilities, nor does it show the relationship between the holders of responsible positions.

(i) The Scalar Chain is the linkage of authority, through delegation, which runs from the chief executive right down to the lowest level on the scale.

(ii) Unity of Command means that although authority may be delegated, as the Scalar Chain indicates, to managers at different levels lower down in the organisation, final responsibility and total authority belong to only the chief executive.

(iii) 'Scalar chain' and 'Unity of command' both mean the same thing - that final responsibility and authority belong only to the chief executive - but 'scalar chain' evokes a clearer visual image.

A direct relationship exists between a manager or senior and his subordinates: vertical lines on an organisation chart, whether they go up or down, indicate this. While primarily the relationship is one of command and compliance, it can develop into a co-operative one founded on reliance and trust.

A lateral relationship exists between managers or seniors on the same level of responsibility and, to a slightly lesser extent, seniority. The relationship is based on co-ordination and co-operation in the work, at that level, of the organisation.

(C)

(b)

(C)

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 18.

Functional relationships are less clear-cut because responsibilities and their commensurate authority are not only flexible but often amorphous. Relationships between practical men and theorists sour easily: for this reason, relationships tend to be ingrown, and co-operation is more readily achieved between the specialists themselves.

F.N. Taylor's contribution to more scientific management in the shape of organisational structure was his recognition of the need for specialisation of function in an organisation; he designed an organisational structure embodying his ideas.

His aim was to lighten the load of management in such a way that each manager had only one special function for which he would be responsible.

Two present-day modifications are:-

(i) A decentralised organisation of function in which a large concern may establish branches in distant localities, but while the various managers in the branches would have authority commensurate with their responsibility in each branch, their counterparts at head office would have the final authority.

(ii) A geographical grouping of specialists whereby each group would preserve its identity irrespective of the line manager at any level. They would, in that case, be accountable to only the chief executive, and thus independent of the influence of any line manager.

When a manager is either faced with or contemplating some change in an existing structure in an organisation, he should

(a)

discuss with his senior men the need for change and enlist their co-operation in formulating the revised aims and policies of the establishment.

He should endeavour to keep as many of his old hands as possible if their reliability and loyalty to the organisation have been proved over a period of time.

(C)

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 19.

In deciding who is going to carry what new responsibilities and the authority to be delegated to these men, he should retain for his own performance the most difficult tasks, to make sure that these are expertly done, and that the subordinates do not carry a load to which their strength is unequal.

He must delineate the areas of responsibility and new limits with the utmost care so that each man carrying new responsibilities knows exactly what he has to cope with.

6. In view of the load of work Upon the shoulders of every manager, consideration should be given in respect of

(a)

(b)

(c)

The span of attention which he has to bring to bear on the problems of the groups subordinate to him at any one time. Behavioural researchers concluded that there were at least 62 areas in which management should be expert, but a span of 22 is about the most any manager can adequately and effectively cope with.

Interruptions. A manager while he must, in the interests of the organisation, always be accessible, cannot afford the time to be forever at the beck and call of everyone at any hour. He must be screened from undue interruption. This is why most managers employ a personal assistant or a private secretary, one of whose jobs is to protect him against constant interruption, both telephonic and personal.

Time is limited for everyone in business, but for none more severely than for a manager. His time for his duties must not be left to chance, but must be organised in such a way that certain times are allocated to the doing of certain work as far as is humanly possible. This precludes, too, any waste of subordinates or business visitors' time waiting for him to put in an unpunctual appearance.

(C)

(d)

RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. PAGE 20.

The span of a manager's control should be neither so wide nor so diverse that he is driven to make uninformed or insufficiently knowledgeable decisions. The nature of his responsibilities should always be within the range of his own expertise or that of his immediate advisers.

When, in the face of contemplated change, a business consultant is brought into the concern to assist in its reorganisation, his first specific task is that of job analysis.

He must comply most strictly with the objective of the organisation so that work can be co-ordinated to the realisation of the aims of the concern.

There must be a clear-cut separation of the functions of the concern with no over-lapping, i.e. no manager at any level should have two diverse functions, simply because he is good at both, nor should any subordinate be obliged to be accountable to more than one supervisor. A clear line of authority must be established and preserved.

Adequate authority must be vested in all those who carry responsibilities.

The whole organisation should be flexible enough to be able to face changing situations without buckling and becoming impotent.

PROGRESS QUESTIONS

1. Compare and contrast the principles of functional and line relationships in an organisation structure.
2. As a business consultant you have been called in to investigate the organisation structure of a sole proprietorship which began operations five years ago to manufacture and distribute cosmetics. The business expanded rapidly and now employs a sales manager, a production manager and an accountant, and has separate design, stores, buying, inspection and maintenance departments. Detail briefly how you would set about your task.

NOTES ON QUESTION 2

A consultant called in at this stage in the expansion of a business will have to exercise patience, and be exceedingly tactful in questioning members of the staff if he is to discover weaknesses in the structure or find ways of improving Upon it.

The first task will be to find out exactly what duties each employee is carrying out, and it is then a useful step to prepare detailed descriptions of each of the jobs in question, referring to the duties, the responsibilities carried by the job, the conditions under which it is performed, and the relationship of the worker performing the duty to other workers in the same or in other departments.

The subsequent analysis of the resultant job descriptions will indicate which kinds of work belong together and it may be possible to re-allocate certain responsibilities and duties in this connection. The consultant would no doubt find it useful to draw a number of diagrams from his job description sheets, and also a complete organisation chart. Such a chart expresses the structure of the business in a concise form and facilitates revision of the organisation structure in sections where it might be defective.

Finally, the consultant should check to see that the following main principles of organisation are being complied with:-

(1) There is a clearly determined objective and all activities contribute towards the attainment of this objective.

(2) The structure falls into clearly defined basic groups such as finance, production, marketing and accounting. Although there are alternative groupings of functions of this kind, it is preferable that the organisation should be based on a clear separation of them, no one executive being required to perform two entirely different functions merely because he happens to have abilities or training which fit him for them both.

(3) There should be no overlapping or conflicting responsibilities, and no employee should be in a position to receive orders from more than one person, this person generally being his immediate superior. '

(4) A clear line of authority, sometimes called the scalar chain should run through the organisation, but it should not be possible to by-pass, except under most unusual pressure or emergency, any particular subordinate link in this line of authority.

(5) Each member of the organisation should have whatever authority is necessary to enable him to carry out his responsibilities and duties adequately.

(6) The span of control should not be exceeded in any particular area, i.e., no executive should be required to exercise supervision over 0 number of subordinates which is unduly large.

(7) The organisation structure should be sufficiently flexible to make it possible to introduce adjustments when changed circumstances make this desirable.

AIDS TO ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN.

There are numerous aids to the design of organisation. The following are some of the main ones:-

1. RECORDS

These give a background picture which can aid organisational change. Personnel records enable personnel to be accurately evaluated and this aids job selection.

2. ORGANISATION CHARTS

(a) The Vertical Chart: This is the traditional kind of chart. The superior is near the top of the page, the subordinates below.

(b) The Horizontal Chart, can be seen overleaf. It is simply a different way of presenting the same information.

Progress

Production Works

Control Superintendent

Manager Planning and

Design

Maintenance

Works Foreman

Engineer

Foreman t

General Electrician

Manager

Branch

Managers

Sales

Manager

t-- Publicity and Advertising

Chief Atcountant Secretary

Figure 2.

AIDS TO ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN. PAGE 2.

(c) The Concentric Chart: Again, simply another way of presenting the same information.

G.M. : General Manager

P.C. : Production Control

W.E. : Works Engineer

S.M. : Sales Manager

C.A. : Chief Accountant

_____.
The Concentric Chart (Figure 3) consists of circles which indicate echelon levels, with the general manager in the centre. These charts eliminate the status implications in 'the other charts i.e. above and below, first and last. The distance from the centre indicates the relationship to the general manager. Each sector shows different divisions and there are no appendages to the organisation, i.e. no one is at the bottom of the organisation.

No diagram can of course effectively convey the reality of executive responsibilities. Organisation charts are an endeavour to record formal relationships in an organisation; they show some relationships, the main lines of communication and the flow of authority and responsibility to all levels of the management hierarchy.

(0) Advantages

(i) Constructing the charts needs careful thought by senior executives.

(ii) People who wish to know about the enterprise e.g. new entrants can see the broad outline of the organisation.

(iii) Charts can form the basis of organisational change as they can be projected into the future to aid evaluation of organisational planning.

(b) Disadvantages

(0) They do not show human relationships.

(ii) They soon become out of date.

(iii) Rigidity is brought into relationships as people tend to keep within their charted area and become too conscious about boundary lines.

(iv) They are costly to prepare, revise and store.

(v) Status problems are introduced.

E. ORGANISATION CHARTS

The remainder of this lecture is devoted to a number of Charts illustrating the departmentalization which might exist in

- (c) a Hote;
- (b) a Manufacturer's Business;
- (c) a large Shipping Company;
- (d) 0 Departmental Store, and
- (e) a Hospital.

You should study these charts carefully.

AuditorM
Ledger
Keepers
MSecretary
Accountant Cashier Steward I
%
Invalce Wages
Clerk Clerk
(Costs)
Purchases Residents
and
Visitors'
Accounts
ORGANISATION OF A HOIEL.

—·————·————·——·
DIRECTORS.

1
Manager
Housekeeper
Petty Cashier
Post Clerk
Chef Storekeepers Waiters Head Porter
Under. Cooks Washers Junior Pages
Porters
Chef
Linen and Chamber Cleaning
Serving Maids Staff
Maids
AIDS TO ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN. PAGE 5

ORBAN;VA71aN OF A MANUFACTURER'S BUSINESS.

GENERAL MANAGER

and

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECRETARY

Organisation

Staff Administration

Staff Auditor

_/

-'_#'_#_ Professional Auditor

TECFNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT

r-J-rg'i

Technical Works Drawing Store- Chief Chief Soles Chief CorreS-

Experts Manager Office keeper Accountant Cashier Manager pondence Clerk

Book- Invoice Collec- POY

Foreman Works Time keepers Clerks tors Clerks

Clerks Kee ers __L.__

L__9p TWTT TTTTT

Cost Estimating Order Wages

l Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk T

Skilled Labobrrers Appren- ,TTTJ

Tradesmen tices X"'T_TT ! l l

S T A T I S T I C 5 Agent: Travellers Branch Adve;tising

Manager

Corres- Filing Typists Mess-

pondence Indexing enger

' Clerks Clerks

l

I

Warehouse & Packing &

Stores Clerks Forward Department

AIDS TO ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN. PAGE 6.

AIDS TO ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN. PAGE 7.
LARGE SHIPPING COMPANY.
ORGANISATION CHART
3:
BOARD OF
SECRETARY
3%
g%
DIRECTORS
GENERAL
MANAGER
. lNHHlHVdBU
9N13318VH3
lNBNlHVdBO
ONITWVHLDIA
1N3N18Vd30
3NI8VH
1N3N18Vd30
ONISILEBAOV
lNENLUVdBO
HEONRSSVd
1N3HlMVd30
1H9138J
inaulquaa
SlNGODDY
FLEET or SHIPS
(47)
SlN39V
xN31380:!
x

Chief Accountant
Cashier Book-
keepers
ORGANISATION OF A DEPARTMENTAL STORE
W
GENERAL MANAGER
Asst.
General Manager
Advertising Provisions Her ware Staff Maintenance
Manager Manager Manager Manager Expenses
Goods
Inward:
Staff
Painters Carpenters
Secretory
Typists
Filing
Clerks
etc.
AIDS TO ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN. PAGE 8.

Secretary
Accountant Typists
Book-
keepers
& Clerks
Cashiers

ORGANISATION OF A HOSPITAL

_____._____._____.
SUPERINTENDENT

Matron

Asst. Matron

I

Resident Surgeon

Housekeeper

Ambulance

& Emergen-

cy Staff

Nurses Dieti- Maids -Kitchen

cians

Staff

Maintenance Expenses

Electri- Carpen-

cians ters

Laun- Medical

dry Students

Painters

AIDS TO ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN. PAGE 9.

AIDS TO ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN. PAGE 10.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
f
REGIONAL BOARDS ----- BOARD COMMITTEES
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER
DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER
General General General General General
Honcger Manager Manager Manager Manager
(Development, (Finance) (Computers) (Mortgages (Planning
Branches and and and
Agencies) Personnel) Marketing)
Chief
Secretary
Secretar
Chief Assistant Assistant Assistant
Accountant General General General
Manager Manager Manager
(Surplus (Personnel) (Mortgages)
Funds)
Chief Assistant
Surveyor General
Manager
(Branches
& Agencies) Mortgage Deeds Mortgage
Manager Admin. Accounts
Manager Manager
Mar sting Premises Business
Manager Manager Development
Manager
ORGANISATION CHART OF A BUILDING SOCIETY
16 375

A. ALLOTMENT OF DUTIES IN AN ORGANISATION,

1.

INTRODUCTION.

The duties or activities in an industrial organisation are allotted to individuals by several different methods, of which the following are the most important:-

(a) By Persons. An executive or supervisor is given authority over, and made responsible for certain subordinates.

(b) Within territorial boundaries. An executive or supervisor is given supervision over a room, a department or a production centre.

(c) By production. An executive or supervisor is given supervision over the manufacture of a particular item of product, or a certain line of product.

(d) By Process. An executive or supervisor is given supervision over a particular manufacturing process or over a series of such processes.

(e) By equipment. An executive is given supervision over a particular group of machines or class of equipment.

The allotments given above are in the nature of vertical subdivisions where each executive's or supervisor's authority is exercised within his determined sphere of control but subject to higher line authority and to functional or expert staff advice.

THE LADDER OR BRIDGE OF FAYOL.

In addition to the vertical relations, there are horizontal relations which have received little attention. In this connection there is a nearly unexplored field, where the vertical lines of authority cross and conflict with the horizontal lines of relations. This situation is made plain by a consideration of the following figure.

GENERAL MANAGER

WORKS MANAGER

SUPERINTENDENT C

DEPARTMENT HEAD D -----

SUPERVISOR E -----

WORKMAN -----

CROSS CONTACTS OR RELATIONSHIPS ILLUSTRATED

BY THE "LADDER" OR "BRIDGE" OF FAYOL.

This diagram represents two lines of authority with the general manager at the apex and in each case following through 0 works manager, superintendent and so on to the operator. To perform duties assigned to each line - assuming they are in the same industrial organisation - there must be some contact, communication and relationships between individuals at each level of authority in the two converging lines for the performance of duties assigned to each line. Such cross relations may be concerned with

(a) jurisdiction, that is, a determination of which line is to do certain work;

(b) co-ordination of policies and operation methods necessary to obtain uniform operating results;

(c) review of work which may occur where work is transferred from one line of authority to another in order to complete succeeding operations;

(d) division of overlapping duties. The points where vertical authority and cross relations meet are indicated by the small dots in the diagram.

In practice these relations are real and continuing and give rise to points of possible friction and conflict.

_____.^m_____._____._____
3- MAINTAINING INTERSECTING RELATIONSHIPS

intersecting relationships on a properly managed basis. His solution is a recess of self ad'ustment.

(a) Contact should be initiated

(b) Before any action is taken

immediate line superiors.

B. INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION.

, it must be approved by the

2. A TYPICAL LINE OF INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY

GENERAL

MANAGER

LINE OF

----- SUPERINTENDENT

AUTHORITY RESPONSE

FOREMAN FOR MAN

OPERATORS OPERATORS 1 OPERATORS '

Five levels of authority are shown in this diagram. The left hand arrow indicates the flow of authority and issuing of orders from the general manager, level by level to the operators.

The right hand arrow indicates the line of response whereby reports and returns flow upward to whatever level they are directed. This line of response should be open for operators to send suggestions, make complaints and ask for adjustment of grievances.

3. CERTAIN CONTROLLING FACTORS. These are essential to avoid friction in the operation of organisational lines of communication. They may be listed as:-

(a) Channels of communication must be definitely known.

(b) A definite, formal channel of communication is required for every member of an organisation.

(c) The line of communication must be as direct and short as possible.

(d) The complete line of communication should always be used.

(e) The competence of the persons serving as communication centres, i.e. officers, supervisory heads must be adequate.

(f) The line of communication should be open during working hours.

(g) Every communication transmitted along the line should be authenticated.

(9) Every communication transmitted along the line should be authenticated.

4. TYPICAL DEGREES OF RESPONSIBILITY coupled with the general duties of the several positions are shown in the Following table.

' Performance
administrative ' of a
definite
General
policies.
job
manage-
ment

5. DIVISION OF LABOUR IN AN ORGANISATION

This allocation of separate duties is necessary because of:-

(a) the volume of work to be done;

(b) the differences in the natures, capabilities and skill of the men;

(c) the range of knowledge required in an organisation which is so extensive that one individual can command only a fraction of it.

There are, however, definite limitations beyond which work division should not be carried out -

(d) no advantage is gained by sub-dividing work so minutely that the resulting task is less than that which a man can perform when working continuously;

(e) technology and normal practice make it impracticable to sub-divide certain kinds of work, although the influence of these factors is subject to change;

(f) a job must not be divided and sub-divided and re-subdivided until it becomes so fragmented that it loses all meaning for those to whom the fragments have been allotted, for with the loss of meaning in the work will go the workmen's interest in doing it at all.

C. CO-ORDINATION IN ORGANISATION

When duties and activities are sub-divided and allotted throughout a production organisation, means must be provided to have all of them performed and all the product turned out on time; that is, everything must be completed according to a pre-determined schedule. This process of timing activities and re-uniting sub-divided work is called co-ordination. The normal routine through which co-ordination is achieved is the system.

Co-ordination means to combine activities into a consistent and harmonious action.

The highest form of co-ordination in industry is that in which an entire group accepts the objectives and policies laid down and acquiesces in the disciplines which are necessary to achieve that purpose, in short, where an entire group does the job it is paid to do.

Many procedures or techniques have in themselves strong co-ordinative forces. Budgetary Control is a good example of this, for the master budget represents essential unity with the plans and targets for every section of management completely integrated.

S U M M A R Y

. ALLOTMENT OF DUTIES IN AN ORGANISATION

1.

Duties in an industrial organisation are allotted to individuals by several different methods, i.e. by persons; within physical boundaries; by production; by process and by equipment.

These allotments are in the nature of vertical sub-divisions where each executive's authority is exercised within his own sphere of control but subject to higher authority.

The Ladder or Bridge of Fayol illustrates the cross contrasts or horizontal relationships within an organisation. These may be concerned with jurisdiction i.e. the bound of authority which has been delegated; co-ordination of policies; review of work; division of overlapping duties.

Maintaining Intersecting Relationships.

Fayol's solution to this is a process of self-adjustment. He pointed out that executives at any level may contact one another, reach decisions and initiate action provided contact is initiated with the consent of the immediate line superior, and that any action taken is approved by the immediate superior.

and

B. INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION DESIGN

1. Industrial organisation design recognises levels of authority and degrees of responsibility.

The line of authority goes from a higher to a lower level of authority, the line of response is in the reverse direction. The former is the channel through which orders flow from the general manager to the operators; the latter is for the flow of reports and returns to whatever level they are directed. It is also used for suggestions, complaints, etc.

2. Work division is the foundation of the approach to

_____._-_-_-

determine the relation of duties and the selection of individuals who are to perform these duties.

The allocation of separate duties is necessary because of the volume of work to be done, the differences in the skill of the operators and the range of knowledge

There are, however, required in an organisation.

on should not be definite limits beyond which work division should be carried out.

C_ CO-ORDINATION

Co-ordination is the 0 allied to co-operation which is the act of work act of bringing together and is closely ing together.

Both are essential for the smooth working of any organisation. Its essential characteristic is its need for good team-work.

With increasing specialisation, the burden placed on management to ensure co-ordination has increased enormously.

As an enterprise grows, delegation and specialisation are essential for greater efficiency, but it must be ensured at all levels that all sub-units cooperate, their common aim the common objective.

SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

Draw a diagram of Fayol's Ladder, and briefly explain it.

M

M

(b)
(b)
(C)

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION DESIGN. PAGE 10.

State five ways in which vertical delegation of authority may be determined.

_____. ____-____-____
What do you think the result of too rigid observance of the lodder's steps would tend to be?

_____. ____-____-____-____
If the ladder principle were followed too closely, what other aspect of the whole organisation might well be adversely affected?

_____. ____-____-____
What could quite possibly happen in this direction?

_____. ____-____-____
_____. ____-____-____-____
_____. ____-____-____

How would it affect
(i) the manager himself?
(ii) the employees in general?

_____.
(d) If you were the manager, how would you remedy this?
(Think! - because this is a beast of a question in
which the answers to b, c and d depend on
your getting (a) right.)

W

M

M

M

m ____-

Exactly the same unhappy situation can easily arise in a big
office, for the some reason. What thsicol steps are
popularly token now-o-doy to prevent this?

Mm

KM

KN

ME

What do you think the phrase, '0 process of self-adjustment',
means?

_____, _ H

(a) What do you understand by the term, 'co-ordination'?

(b) Fill in the missing word:

(i) Co-ordination refers to

(ii) Co-operation refers to

(c) By what single means can co-ordination be made effective?

(0) Why is division of labour frequently necessary in certain sections of an industry?

(b) When should work not be divided?

What one thing is essential to any form of communication within any organisation?

_____. _____ -
----oOo----

_____._____._____i.
ANSWERS TO SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

1. GENERAL MANAGER

WORKS MANAGER A

SUPERINTENDENT B

DEPARTMENT HEAD C

SUPERVISOR D

FOREMAN E

WORKMAN F

U WORKS MANAGER

V SUPERINTENDENT

W DEPARTMENT HEAD

X SUPERVISOR

Y FOREMAN

Z WORKMAN

no-aoa-u

onouoouaoo

oooo-oooooua

o-atuo-onooooao

Ionaooooooxoo)lo

oceoou-u-oooooonoo

This diagram represents two departments in one organisation, or two products manufactured by the same firm

Each of these two is in its turn divided into sections, and each section is under the authority of one man, his designation being indicated as from A to F on the one hand, and from U to Z on the other. The authority at the very top is the general manager, who bears the responsibility for the smooth working of the whole. Concerning cross-relationships are indicated by large dots.

2. (a) Delegation of authority may be determined by

(i) formal appointment of a general manager by the Board of Directors

(ii) the need to have someone with special knowledge in a certain job at a certain level

(iii) the personality and drive of an applicant for a post of responsibility. i

(iv) the seniority of someone within the organisation itself

(v) the demonstrable qualities of leadership of an employee

(b)
3- (o)
(b)
(C)
(d)
4.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION DESIGN. PAGE 14.

The creation, by the heads of any or even all the separate sections, of little empires within the organisation.

Communication.

Rivalry or some feud between heads of sections can lead to the delaying or to the withholding of some item of information which all should have, thus causing disruption in the flow of work.

(Note: This nasty little practice is by no means uncommon, and, indeed, has been observed to have been done.)

This would affect

(i) the manager, who might be kept in ignorance of the real cause of perceptible disruption and thus is unable to sort the problem out without loss of valuable time

(ii) the employees themselves, for whole section rivalries or schismo can easily arise.

If I were manager, I would insist that all communication be written; each recipient would be instructed to initial and to date the receipt of the communication, and a reliable clerk would be instructed to keep a record - there are many easy ways in which this may be done - of all written communications, checking up carefully on their circulation, noting relevant dates of the passing on of the communication.

The latest attempt to stop "little empires" being created in large offices involves the design and layout of an 'open plan' office; all the clerical staff is herded into one area by this means

(Note: This popular modern gimmick has many observable drawbacks and disadvantages. While this is no part of the present course, you might do well to think about it when you have opportunity and time to do so; part of your future job in the managerial field

might well be to or

ganise a trouble-free office
staff.)

'A process of self-adjustment' is evasive jargon, and I regret
that I simply do not know what it means! _ unless it implies
that each man to whom authority on the 'ladder' principle has
been given adjusts himself to his place in the hierarchy,
establishes a good relationship with his
iors, and controls the group under him wi
kind or for any reason.

the parts may be.

- (b) (i) things to be done
- (ii) the people who do them.
- (c) By proper control.

7.

(a) Division of labour may be necessary
(i) because of the volume of work to be done
(ii) because of the different skills to be applied in doing it
(b) Work should not be divided
of one man to do it alone;
which is impossible to split
such small portions that it
when it is well within the capacity
it may be of some technical kind
, and it must never be divided into
becomes fragmented, so that those
who do the parts of the job
cannot fit the parts together in
the mind, and thus tend to lose all interest in doing the job
at all. '

Comprehensibility.

'--w000nnn

PROGRESS QUESTIONS I

The duties in an industrial organisation are allotted to individuals by several different methods. What are the most important of these methods?

2, What is meant by Work Division in

is it necessary.

xxx

xxx

xxx

-----oOo-----

8647

T H E R A P 1 D R E S U L T S C O L L E G E

_ - _ 000 _ -

MANAGEMENT

TEST GAJ2

(Time allowed : 3 hours)

_ - _ 000 _ - _ -

Notes:

1. Credit will be given for neatness and method.
2. Answer all of number specified questions.
3. Scale of marks is indicated at the end of each question.
4. Leave sufficient space at the head of your answer paper for

V001

(A

tutor's comments.

Answer each question on a separate sheet of paper.

Attach this entire question paper to your answers.

PLEASE FILL IN SHDENT DETAILS (N THE FORM AT THE EM) OF
THIS TEST AM) ATTACH IT TO Yul? ANSWERS.

_ - _ 000 _ -

(o) What are the various fields of management?

(b) Write a full account of the role of the director.

(25 marks)

discuss Organisational Objectives under the following
vadings:

:3 Economic Objectives as a guide to operations.

(D) Social Objectives.

(c) Change and Economic Objectives.

(25 marks)

(0) Explain the meaning of 'Orgonisation'.

(b) What is an informal organisation?

(25 marks)

4. Discuss the "Consent' or 'Acceptance' theory, pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of this theory.
(25 marks)

TEST GAJ2.

STUDENT M) :

0.9. E026

(Obtainable from your Programme of Studies)

YOUR ADDRESS:

Now attach YOUR ANSWERS to this coupon, cutting along the dotted lines as shown, and post to the address appearing on your Programme of Studies.

Your corrected script will be returned with a guide to the answers. 16 371

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.Y. , WQIATEItI

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