Functions & Skills of a Manager

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- Enterprise functions vary according to the nature of enterprise.
- Functions like production, marketing, finance, and personnel noticed in typical industrial undertakings.
- ▶ If you take a transport undertakings, the main functions are operations, traffic and finance.
- ► However, the managerial activities grouped into functions are basic for all managers at all levels in all, types of enterprises.

- As all functions are not equally important for all managers, time spent by them for each of these functions varies according to their levels in the organisation.
- These functions has been discussed below:
- A. Planning
- B. Organising
- c. Staffing
- D. Directing
- E. Controlling

Planning

- Planning refers to anticipating the future conditions and choosing from among the alternative future courses of action.
- The planning process generally includes the following activities:
- i) Forecasting is looking ahead to anticipate the opportunity, problems and conditions in a future period of time.

- ▶ ii) Establishing objectives means setting the end results to be accomplished by directing organisational efforts.
- iii) Scheduling is deciding on time sequence for programme steps.
- iv) Budgeting is allocation of resources to minimise costs.
- v) Developing policies involve establishment and interpretation of standing decisions that apply to repetitive questions and problems of significance to be organisation as a whole.

Organising

- ► The organising function of management is the process of defining and grouping of activities and creating authority relationship among them. It consists of:
- ▶ i) Developing the organisation structure which involves identification of task and grouping them into units or departments for performance.
- ii) Delegating authority to the managers and making him responsible for group performance.
- iii) Establishing relations creating conditions necessary for mutually cooperative efforts of people in the organisation.

Staffing

- Planning the organisation with suitable personnel constitutes the staffing function.
- ▶ It involves selection, training and development, compensation, and appraisal of subordinates by the manager.
- Manpower planning and manpower management looks after these activities and try to ensure suitable methods of remuneration and performance appraisal of the employees.

Directing

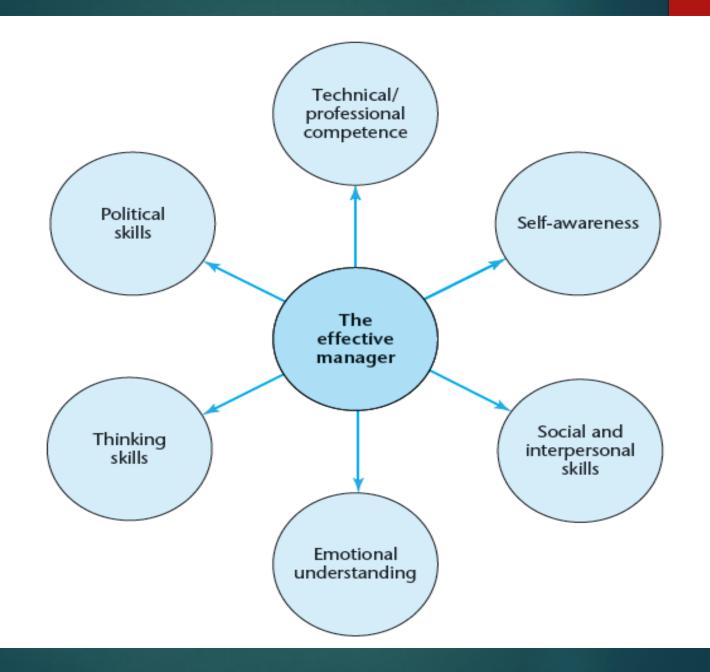
- Directing involves managing people and the work through the means of motivation, proper leadership, effective communication and coordination.
- ▶ A manager must develop ability to command.
- He should issue orders and instructions without arousing any resentment among the subordinates.
- He must be able to secure willing obedience from his subordinates without destroying their initiative and creativity.

Controlling

- Controlling enables management to ensure that achievement is in accordance with the established plans. It involves
- i) Establishing performance standards for evaluating results.
- ▶ ii) **Performance** on the basis of records and reports on the progress of work.
- iii). Performance evaluation against the standards set.
- iv) Corrective action to regulate operations, remove deficiencies and improve performance.

Skills of the Manager

► To perform his duty effectively and efficiently managers' have to equipped with some of the skills.



Technical competence

- Management is a practical subject which aims to have an impact on the real world, so it requires functional knowledge and skill in applying a body of professional practice.
- Here we are talking about knowledge of product technology, marketing techniques, engineering, accountancy, knowledge of relevant legislation, knowledge of basic management principles and theories.
- which help the practitioner with 'best
- practice' in planning, organising and controlling

Self-awareness

- The knowledge we have acquired about ourselves, which makes up our self-concept, is central to improving our management skills.
- Knowing ourselves helps us understand our own assumptions, our categories for defining situations and people, our sensitivities, strengths and weaknesses.
- This knowledge is self empowering.
- ▶ It is the first step in making any changes to ourselves which are needed to develop the skills we think we need.

Interpersonal and social skills

- They largely mean to working with and through other people and using careful judgement.
- ► They imply sensitivity to people and situations and skill in persuading people to achieve a common goal.
- e.g. balancing the often conflicting expectations of customers, suppliers, employees, superiors.

Emotional Understanding

- ► The 'management of emotion' is also an important social skill for the manager.
- The manager's job requires a high level of emotional strain, a result of working In situations of endless demands, conflicting pressures, lack of time, lack of resources and lack of clarity in knowing what is expected and how to achieve it.

Good Emotional quotient seems to have a strong positive relationship with success in handling difficult social situations and relationships.

Thinking skills

- Managers need the ability to think.
- That does not mean that they have to be original conceptual thinkers, but they do need to have good, clear minds and to be able to see the whole picture
- they should be a sharp decision makers and smooth problem solvers.

Political skills

- Organisations are ultimately political systems.
- Organisational politics involves:
- senior managers building up their departments by fighting for additional resources and authority;
- senior managers engaging in debate over the 'meaning' of the strategic plan so that definitions favourable to their interests prevail;
- conflict between departments over equipment, space, budgets, staff, etc.;
- individuals jockeying for position to advance their careers.

Conclusion

- Management is a complex activity.
- It requires highly developed cognitive,
 - interpersonal, presentational and political skills.
- The qualities which make up a successful
 - manager are numerous and varied.

▶ Discuss the emerging trends and challenges of management in present business scenario?

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