

Paper –Principles and Practice of Management

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Topic- Implications of Systems Approach

Systems approach of management provides an integrated approach of managing. This considers management in its totality. The integrative approach of managing can be best understood by quoting Churchman on the system approach of management. He writes as follows: "There is a story often told in logic text about a group of blind men who were assigned the task of discovering an elephant. Each blind man was located at a different part of the body. A horrendous argument arose in which each claimed to have a complete understanding of the total elephantine system. What is interesting about this story is not so much the fate of the blind men but the magnificent role that the teller had given himself, namely, the ability to see the whole elephant and consequently the ridiculous behaviour of the blind system describers. The story is in fact a place of arrogance. It assumes that a very logically astute man always gets on the top of a situation, so to speak, and looks at the foolishness of the people who are incapable of seeing the whole. The quotation aptly describes how management problems should be seen to organisation, that is, by taking the totality of the organisation and not a part of it. This implies that there should be integration of various forces affecting management. We entered a period that forces us to find out more accurate answers to the questions involve the wholeness of an operation. This age of synthesis forces management to think out new and different ways, as suggested by the systems approach. In this view, the whole not merely a combination of its different parts but more than that. This more can be achieved by combining the various parts in a particular way.

Systems approach possesses the conceptual level of managerial analysis much higher than any other approach. It discards the simplistic approach of managerial analysis suggests that management of an organisation must be consistent with the demands of organisational environment and the needs of its members. It provides a framework through which organisation-environment interaction can be analysed and facilitates decision making, since the system within which managers make decisions can be provided as a mere explicit framework, and decision making is easier to handle.