

Paper –Principles and Practice of Management

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Topic- Types of control:

Types of control: Depending on the 'time' at which control is applied, controls are of following types:

1. Historical (Feedback) control
2. Concurrent control
3. Predictive (Feed forward) control.

1. Historical (Feedback) control: Most of the time control is called historical as the control measures the result after the performance. Control provides information as to how the goals of the organisation are met or not met. Income statements and position statements are examples of this type of control. Here the control is seen as a post-mortem of events the purpose of which is to improve in the future.

2. Concurrent control: Also called as real time control or steering control, refers to considering immediately any problem and analyse it to take necessary and corrective steps before any major damage is being done. Examples are control charts.

3. Predictive control: Here the control system anticipates the problem and take the corrective action. It is also called as feed forward control, attempts to anticipate problems or deviation from the standard in advance of their occurrence. It is thus more aggressive, active approach to control allowing corrective action to be taken in advance of the problem. This is the important characteristics of feed forward control.

Feed forward and concurrent controls are sufficiently timely to allow management to take corrective changes and still achieve objective. But there are several other factors to be considered:

1. They are costly.
2. Many activities do not lend themselves to frequent and continuous monitoring.
3. At some point, excessive control becomes counter productive.