

BALAJI INSTITUTE OF I.T AND MANAGEMENT KADAPA

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

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(17E00401) STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Objective: The Objective of the course is to enable students have a grasp of various business strategies in general and functional management areas. It will provide a strategic orientation in conduct of the business

1. **Introduction- Concepts in Strategic Management**, Strategic Management as a process – Developing a strategic vision, Mission, Objectives, Policies – Factors that shape a company’s strategy – Environmental Scanning -Concepts of Core Competence, Crafting a strategy for competitive advantage.
2. **Strategic Analysis and Choice: Tools and techniques-** Porter's Five Force Model, BCG Matrix, GE Model, SWOT Analysis and TOWS Matrix,. Market Life Cycle Model - and Organizational Learning, and the Experience Curve.
3. **Strategy Formulation:** Formulation of strategy at corporate, business and functional levels. Strategy Alternatives:- Stability Strategy, Growth Strategy, Retrenchment Strategy, and Combination Strategy.
4. **Strategy Implementation:** Types of Strategies: Offensive strategy, Defensive strategy, vertical integration, horizontal strategy; Tailoring strategy to fit specific industry and company situations, Strategy and Leadership, Resource Allocation as a vital part of strategy – Planning systems for implementation.
5. **Strategy Evaluation and control** – Establishing strategic controls - Role of the strategist - benchmarking to evaluate performance - strategic information systems – Guidelines for proper control- Strategic surveillance -strategic audit - Strategy and Corporate Evaluation and feedback in the Indian and international context.

Text Book:

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- Strategic Management, P. SubbaRao, Himalaya.
- Business policy and strategic management, SukulLomash, P.K.Mishra, Vikas

4. STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVES

Strategic alternatives are strategies that a business develops to set the direction, for which human and material resources will be applied, for a greater chance of achieving selected goals. Generally, ***a company develops strategic alternatives when it's struggling and seeking a new direction to increase profits, or even simply to save itself from dissolution or bankruptcy.***

1. STABILITY STRATEGY:

When an enterprise is satisfied by its present position, it will not like to change from here and it will be a stability strategy. ***Stability strategy will be successful when the environment is stable.*** This strategy is exercised most often and is less risky as a course of action. **A stability strategy of a concern for example will be followed when the organization is satisfied with the same product, serving the same consumer groups and maintaining the same market share.**

STABILITY STRATEGIES CAN BE OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES:

(I) NO-CHANGE STRATEGY:

- Stability strategy is a conscious decision to do nothing new, that is to continue with the present work.
- It does not mean an absence of strategy, rather taking no decision in it is a strategy.
- When external environment is predictable and organizational environment is stable then a businessman may like to continue with the present situation. There may be major opportunities or threats operating in the environment.
- There may be no new threat from competitors or no new competing product may be coming into the market, under these circumstances it will be prudent to continue the present strategies.
- The small and medium firms generally operate in a limited market and supply products and services with the use of time tested technology, such firms will prefer to continue with their present work.

(II) PROFIT STRATEGY:

Sometimes things change in such a way that the firm has to adopt changes in its working. There may be unfavorable external factors such as increase in competition, recession in the industry, government attitude, industry down turn etc. Under these situations it becomes difficult to sustain profitability.

A supposition is that the changed situation will be a temporary phase and old situation will again return. The firm will try to sustain profitability by controlling expenses, reducing investments, raise prices, cut costs, increase productivity etc. These measures will help the firm in sustaining current profitability in the short run.

With the opening of markets, Indian industry is facing lot of problems with the presence of multinationals and reduction in tariff on imports. The firms will have to adjust their policies to the changing environment otherwise they will find it difficult to stay in the market.

Profit strategy will be successful for a short period only. In case things do not improve to the advantage of the firms then this strategy will only deteriorate their position. This strategy can work only if problems are temporary.

(III) PROCEED-WITH CAUTION STRATEGY:

- Proceed with caution strategy is employed by firms that wish to test the ground before moving ahead with full-fledged grand strategy or by those firms which had a rapid pace of expansion and now wish to rest for a while before moving ahead.
- The pause is sometimes essential because intervening period will allow consolidation before embracing on further expansion strategies.
- The main object is to let the strategic changes seep down the organizational levels, allow structural changes to take place and let the system adapt to new strategies.

2. GROWTH STRATEGY:

Growth may mean expansion and diversification of operations of the enterprise. The management is not satisfied with their present status, the environment is changing, favorable opportunities are available, in such cases growth strategy will be helpful in expansion as well as diversification. ***The***

growth strategy may be implemented through product development, market development, diversification, vertical integration or merger. In product development, new products are added to the existing ones or new products replace the old ones when they are obsolete.

In market development strategy, new customers are approached or those markets are explored which were not covered earlier. In diversification both new products and new markets are added. The enterprise may also enter entirely new lines. In vertical integration, the backward or forward lines may also be taken up.

A company may start producing its own raw materials or it may start processing its own output before marketing. For example, a weaving unit may start making thread and ginning of cotton (backward integration) or it may start producing readymade garments (forward integration).

In merger, two or more concerns may join their resources to take advantage of financial or marketing factors. ***Growth should be properly planned and controlled otherwise it may bring adverse results.*** Since growth is an indication of effective management it is not only essential but desirable too.

GROWTH STRATEGIES MAY BE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

(I) GROWTH THROUGH CONCENTRATION:

- Growth involves converging resources in one or more of enterprise's businesses in terms of their respective customer needs, customer functions or alternative technologies in such a way that it results in growth.
- This strategy involves the investment of resources in a product line for an identified market with the help of proven technology. It may be done in a number of ways.
- The enterprise may focus on existing markets with present products by using market penetration or it may attract new users for existing products or it may introduce newer products in existing markets by concentrating on product development.
- ***The concentration strategy will apply when industry possesses high growth potential and the firm should be strong enough to sustain the growth.***

(II) GROWTH THROUGH INTEGRATION:

- ***Under integration strategy the firm continues serving the same customers but increases the scope of its business definition.***
- Integration involves taking up more activities than taken up earlier. There can be ***backward integration as well as forward integration.***
- There are activities ranging from procurement of raw materials to marketing of finished products. The firm may move up or down of the value chain for increasing its scope of work.
- Several process based industries such as petrochemicals, steel, textiles etc. have integrated firms. These firms deal with products with a value chain extending from the basic raw materials to ultimate consumer.
- The firms operating at one end of the value chain attempt to move up or down in the process while integrating activities adjacent to their present activities.

While adopting integration strategy the firm must take into account the alternative cost of make or buy. If the cost of manufacturing one's product is less than the cost of procuring it from the market only then this activity should be integrated. Similarly, if the cost of selling the finished product is lesser than the price paid to the sellers to do the same thing then it will be profitable to move down on the value chain.

(III) GROWTH THROUGH DIVERSIFICATION:

- Diversification strategy involves a substantial change in the business definition, singly or jointly, in terms of customer functions, customer groups or alternative technologies of one or more of a firm's business.
- ***When an organization takes up an activity in such a manner that it is related to the existing business it is called concentric diversification.***
- The firm may market more products to the same customers, a new product or service may be offered to the same customers, these are the cases of diversification of business activities.
- Growth may also be undertaken by taking up those activities which are unrelated to the existing business, a cigarette company may diversify into hotel industry, and it will be a case of ***conglomerate diversification.***
- Diversification strategies are helpful in spreading risk over several businesses. If environmental and regulatory factors block growth then diversification may be a proper way.

(IV) GROWTH THROUGH CO-OPERATION:

- There is a view that firms operate in a competing market. When one firm gains in its market share then one or more firms lose this share.
- It is a win-lose situation where if one wins then one or several others have to lose. But thinkers like James Moore, Ray Noorda, and Barry J. Nalebuff are of the view that competition could co-exist with co-operation.
- The strategies could take into account the possibility of mutual co-operation with competitors while competing with them at the same time so that market potential could expand.
- The co-operative strategies can take the form of mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances.
- All these strategies taken separately or jointly can help the growth of a firm.

(V) GROWTH THROUGH INTERNATIONALIZATION:

- International strategies are a type of growth strategies that require firms to market their products or services beyond the national or domestic market.
- A firm would have to assess the international environment and evaluate its own capabilities and to form strategies to enter foreign markets.
- The firm may start exporting products or services to foreign countries or it may set up a subsidiary in other countries for producing and marketing the products or services there.
- In such situations the firm would have to implement the strategies and monitor and control its foreign operations.
- International strategies require a different strategic perspective than the strategies implemented in national context.

3. RETRENCHMENT OR RETREAT STRATEGY:

An enterprise may retreat or retrench from its present position in order to survive or improve its performance. Such a strategy may be adopted during a period of recession, tough competition, and scarcity of resources and re-organization of company in order to reduce waste. This strategy, though reflecting failure of the company to some degree becomes highly necessary for the survival of the company.

When an organization chooses to focus on ways and means to reverse the process of decline, it adopts a turnaround strategy. If it cuts off the loss-making units, divisions, curtails product line or reduces the functions performed, it adopts a disinvestment strategy. If these actions do not work then the activities may be totally abandoned and the unit may be liquidated.

(I) TURNAROUND STRATEGIES:

- Retrenchment may be done either internally or externally.
- Internal retrenchment is done to improve internal working. This usually takes the form of an operating turnaround strategy. In contrast, a strategic turnaround is a more serious form of external retrenchment and leads to disinvestment or liquidation.
- Turnaround strategies may be adopted in different ways. One way may be that the existing chief executive and management team handles the turnaround strategy with the help of specialist or external consultant. The success of this approach will depend upon the type of credibility the chief executive has with banks and other financing institutions.
- In another situation, the present chief executive withdraws from the scene temporarily and the work is done by the outside specialist employed for this job.
- The third approach to execute the turnaround strategy involves the replacement of the existing team or merging the sick organization with a healthy one.

(II) DISINVESTMENT STRATEGIES:

- It involves the sale or liquidation of a portion of business or major division or profit center etc.
- Disinvestment is usually a part of rehabilitation or restructuring plan.
- This strategy is adopted when turnaround strategy has failed.
- A firm may disinvest in two ways. A part of the company is divested by spinning it off as a financially and managerially independent company, with the parent company retaining or not retaining partial ownership. Alternatively, the firm may sell a unit outright.

(III) LIQUIDATION STRATEGIES:

- It involves the closing down of a firm and selling its assets.
- It is considered to be the last resort because it leads to serious consequences such as loss of employment for workers and other

employees, termination of opportunities where the firm could pursue any future activities and also the stigma of failure which will be attached with this action.

4. COMBINATION STRATEGY:

- A large firm, active in a number of industries may adopt a combined strategy.
- It represents mix of the three strategies mentioned above.
- A large concern may adopt growth strategy' on one side and retreat strategy in the other area.
- In order to make this strategy effective there should be right people who can take objective and intelligent decisions by considering various factors.

There may not be a concern which has adopted only one strategy throughout. The complexity of doing business demands that different strategies be adopted to suit the situational demands made upon the organization. A company which has adopted a stability strategy for long may like to use expansion strategy later. Similarly a firm which has seen expansion for quite some time may like to consolidate its working. Multi-business companies have to follow multiple strategies.

ADDITIONAL DATA:

What are some ways to implement a retrenchment strategy without creating a lot of resentment and conflict with labor unions?

- If the problems are not critical, the focus should be to reducing unnecessary overhead & the company should try to justify the cost of functional activities.
- At that stage, the HR department should be fully activated to emphasis & encourage the employee to involve in productive improvement.
- The History tells us that hundreds of companies become stronger & productive as well as organized by applying these discipline. On the other side many companies faces much destructive situation when they prefer downsizing to reduce the cost of company's activities.
- Through divestment, the company would be able to keep productive division on a track having much focus.
- Moreover, Strong board of director can keep the management on a right way because it is notice that when a company fell in crisis, the top

management usually perceives that crisis not harmful for company's strength. So they keep focus on profit maximization rather than making the ground safe to play a safe shot in future.

- After the layoff, remaining employees will also indulge in Ex-employees duties. The moral of productive employees also hampered & they feel their jobs unsecure.
- Ultimately, they will shift in another company for seeking better job. When they will do so, the overall performance will also fall down & company would have to face much more problems than past.

***“Be too forceful, output may improve
but vitality will take a hit”***

- It is proved that last in first out approach for layoff is better if company is near to sell out. The organization should route out long- standing activities that added little business value.
- The organization should consolidate or centralize key functions. Regarding Value chain, the company should analyze current supplier & procurement practices.
- Many organization stop overdoing on company's strength to reduce cost level. Hereby, the practice is written which was successfully implemented by the renowned company to handle the retrenchment strategy without resentment & conflicting with labor unions.

***“The management should make clear that every single one
would have to come up with ideas for cost cutting.”***

- ❖ To Conclude, by focusing on job rotation, value added jobs, empowering existing employees, keeping focus on future and outsourcing are the ways to implement a retrenchment strategy without creating a lot of anger and unhappiness regarding the job

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

1. What are some ways to implement a retrenchment strategy without creating a lot of resentment and conflict with labor unions?

CASE STUDY:**JACK IN THE BOX**

Jack in the box is a well known fast food restaurant chain in many parts of the south western United States and California. However the chain has not penetrated markets in much of the remaining sections of the country.

QUESTIONS:

1. SHOULD JACK IN THE BOX CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON A LIMITED GEOGRAPHICAL AREA?

2. IN AN INDUSTRY WHERE ALL COMPETITORS APPEAR TO MARKET SIMILAR PRODUCTS VIA A 99 CENT MENU, HOW HAS JACK IN THE BOX SUCCEEDED IN DIFFERENTIATING ITSELF FROM ITS RIVALS? WHAT MORE CAN AND/OR SHOULD BE DONE IN THIS REGARD?

3. JACK IN THE BOX HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEGUN TO COMBINE ITS RESTURANTS WITH ITS PROPRIETARY CONVENIENCE STORE, QUICK STUFF SHOULD JACK IN THE BOX PURSUE THE COMBIANTION STORE CONCEPT MORE?

1. SHOULD JACK IN THE BOX CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON A LIMITED GEOGRAPHICAL AREA?

ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION

More mentioned in the case Jack in the Box restaurants currently operate more than, 1,700 restaurants in the western and southern united states most of which are company owned. It is concentrating in particular geographical areas due to which it is unable to explore any more markets. Therefore it should not concentrate its efforts on limited geographical areas.

2. IN AN INDUSTRY WHERE ALL COMPETITORS APPEAR TO MARKET SIMILAR PRODUCTS VIA A 99 CENT MENU, HOW HAS JACK IN THE BOX SUCCEEDED IN DIFFERENTIATING ITSELF FROM ITS RIVALS? WHAT MORE CAN AND/OR SHOULD BE DONE IN THIS REGARD?

ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Jack in the box has succeeded in differentiating itself from its rivals by following ways.

- Jack in the box has implemented the Hazard analysis and critical control points system for managing food safety quality which is first in the industry.

- Jack in the box support
- Tougher legislation to mandate food safety systems.
- It also actively partners with national consumer organizations to educate the public about the best techniques families can use to protect themselves against home based food poisoning.
- Jack in the box has introduced the first breakfast sandwich.

Jack in the box should do following things,

- Explore more geographical areas
- Target children and youth people also.

3. JACK IN THE BOX HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEGUN TO COMBINE ITS RESTAURANTS WITH ITS PROPRIETARY CONVENIENCE STORE, QUICK STUFF SHOULD JACK IN THE BOX PURSUE THE COMBIANTION STORE CONCEPT MORE?

ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Yes jack in the box should continue to combine some of its restaurants with convenience stores due to following reasons.

- It will attract people of all ages to sit in the restaurants as well as purchase items from the store
- It will increase the sales
- People will find more options at one place in one time

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UNIT-4

STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION:

Strategy implementation is the translation of chosen strategy into organizational action so as to achieve strategic goals and objectives. Strategy implementation is also defined as the manner in which an organization should develop, utilize, and amalgamate organizational structure, control systems, and culture to follow strategies that lead to competitive advantage and a better performance. Organizational structure allocates special value developing tasks and roles to the employees and states how these tasks and roles can be correlated so as maximize efficiency, quality, and customer satisfaction-the pillars of competitive advantage. But, organizational structure is not sufficient in itself to motivate the employees.

An organizational control system is also required. This control system equips managers with motivational incentives for employees as well as feedback on employees and organizational performance. Organizational culture refers to the specialized collection of values, attitudes, norms and beliefs shared by organizational members and groups.

Strategic implementation is critical to a company's success, addressing the who, where, when, and how of reaching the desired goals and objectives. It focuses on the entire organization. Implementation occurs after environmental scans, SWOT analyses, and identifying strategic issues and goals. Strategy implementation is the time-taking part of the overall process, as it puts the formulated plans into actions and desired results.

PREREQUISITES OF STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION:

I. INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF STRATEGY:

First of all the strategy is to be institutionalized, in the sense that the one who framed it should promote or defend it in front of the members, because it may be undermined.

II. DEVELOPING PROPER ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE:

Organizational climate implies the components of the internal environment that includes the cooperation, development of personnel, the degree of commitment and determination, efficiency, etc., which converts the purpose into results.

III. FORMULATION OF OPERATING PLANS:

- Operating plans refers to the action plans, decisions and the programs, that take place regularly, in different parts of the company.
- If they are framed to indicate the proposed strategic results, they assist in attaining the objectives of the organization by concentrating on the factors which are significant.

IV. DEVELOPING PROPER ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

- Organization structure implies the way in which different parts of the organization are linked together.
- It highlights the relationships between various designations, positions and roles.
- To implement a strategy, the structure is to be designed as per the requirements of the strategy.

V. PERIODIC REVIEW OF STRATEGY:

- Review of the strategy is to be taken at regular intervals so as to identify whether the strategy so implemented is relevant to the purpose of the organization.
- As the organization operates in a dynamic environment, which may change anytime, so it is essential to take a review, to know if it can fulfill the needs of the organization.

NOTE:

Even the best-formulated strategies fail if they are not implemented in an appropriate manner. Further, it should be kept in mind that, if there is an alignment between strategy and other elements like resource allocation, organizational structure, work climate, culture, process and reward structure, then only the effective implementation is possible.

PROCESS OF STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION:

To ensure an effective and successful implementation of strategies, following steps are needed;

STEP-1: EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN:

- The strategic plan, which was developed during the Strategy Formulation stage, will be distributed for implementation.
- However, there is still a need to evaluate the plan, especially with respect to the initiatives, budgets and performance. After all, it is possible that there are still inputs that will crop up during evaluation but were missed during strategy formulation.
- There are several sub-steps to be undertaken in this step.
 - **Align the strategies with the initiatives.** First things first, check that the strategies on the plan are following the same path leading to the mission and strategic goals of the organization.
 - **Align budget to the annual goals and objectives.** Financial assessments conducted prior will provide an insight on budgetary issues. You have to evaluate how these budgetary issues will impact the attainment of objectives, and see to it that the budget provides sufficient support for it. In the event that there are budgetary constraints or limitations, they must first be addressed before launching fully into implementation mode.
 - **Communicate and clarify the goals, objectives and strategies to all members of the organization.** Regardless of their position in the organization's hierarchy, everyone must know and understand the goals and objectives of the organization, and the strategies that will be employed to achieve them.

STEP-2: DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE:

- The next step is to create a vision, or a structure, that will serve as a guide or framework for the implementation of strategies.
 - Establish a linking or coordination mechanism between and among the various departments and their respective divisions and units. This is mainly for purposes of facilitating the delegation of authority and responsibility.
 - Formulate the work plans and procedures to be followed in the implementation of the tactics in the strategies.

- Determine the key managerial tasks and responsibilities to be performed, and the qualifications required of the person who will perform them.
- Determine the key operational tasks and responsibilities to be performed, and the qualifications required of the person who will perform them.
- Assign the tasks to the appropriate departments of the organization.
- Evaluate the current staffing structure, checking if you have enough manpower, and if they have the necessary competencies to carry out the tasks. This may result to some reorganization or reshuffling of people
- Communicate the details to the members of the organization. This may be in the form of models, manuals or guidebooks.

STEP-3: DEVELOPMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS:

- Some call them “strategy-encouraging policies” while others refer to them as “constant improvement programs”.
- Nonetheless, these are policies and programs that will be employed in aid of implementation.

A. Establish a performance tracking and monitoring system. This will be the basis of evaluating the progress of the implementation of strategies, and monitoring the rate of accomplishment of results, or if they were accomplished at all. Define the indicators for measuring the performance of every employee, of every unit or section, of every division, and of every department.

B. Establish a performance management system. Quite possibly, the aspect of performance management that will encourage employee involvement is a recognition and reward structure. When creating the reward structure, make sure that it has a clear and direct link to the accomplishment of results, which will be indicated in the performance tracking and monitoring system.

C. Establish an information and feedback system. that will gather feedback and results data, to be used for strategy evaluation later on.

Again, **communicate** these policies and programs to the members of the organization.

STEP-4: BUDGETING AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES:

- It is now time to equip the implementers with the tools and other capabilities to perform their tasks and functions.
- a. Allocate the resources to the various departments, depending on the results of financial assessments as to their budgetary requirements.
- b. Disburse the necessary resources to the departments, and make sure everything is properly and accurately documented.
- c. Maintain a system of checks and balances to monitor whether the departments are operating within their budgetary limits, or they have gone above and beyond their allocation.

STEP-5: DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

- It is time to operationalize the tactics and put the strategies into action, aided by strategic leadership, utilizing participatory management and leadership styles.
- Throughout this step, the organization should also ensure the following:
 - a) Continuous engagement of personnel by providing trainings and reorientations.
 - b) Enforce the applicable control measures in the performance of the tasks.
 - c) Evaluate performance at every level and identify performance gaps, if any, to enable adjusting and corrective actions.

1. TYPES OF STRATEGY:

Types of strategies include the following;

- i. Competitive Strategy
- ii. Corporate Strategy
- iii. Business Strategy
- iv. Functional Strategy and
- v. Operating Strategy

I. COMPETITIVE STRATEGY:

- Competitive strategy is the first of the types of strategies in strategic management
- Competitive strategy refers to a plan that combines the influence of external situation along with the integrative apprehensions of the inner situation of an organization.

- The competitive strategy aims at gaining competitive advantage in the marketplace against the competitors.
- Examples of the competitive strategy include differentiation strategy, low-cost strategy, and focus or market-niche strategy.
- The objective of the competitive strategy is to win the customer's heart by satisfying their needs, and finally to outcompete the competitors and attain competitive advantages.

II. CORPORATE STRATEGY:

- It is second of the types of strategies in strategic management. Corporate strategy is formulated at the top level by the top management of a diversified company (in our country, a diversified company is popularly known as 'group of companies', such as Bashundhara Group, Partex Group, Beximco Group, Square Group and 5M Group).
- Such strategy describes the company's overall corporate strategy defines the long-term objectives and generally affects all the business-nits under its umbrella.
- A corporate strategy, for example of Bashundhara, may be acquiring the major tissue paper companies in Bangladesh in order to become the unquestionable market leader.

III. BUSINESS STRATEGY:

- Business strategy is formulated at the business-unit level. It is popularly known as 'business-unit strategy'.
- This strategy emphasizes the strengthening of the company's competitive position of products or services.
- Business strategies are composed of competitive and cooperative strategies.
- The business strategy covers all the activities and tactics for competing in contradiction of the competitors and the behaviors management addresses numerous strategic matters.
- Business strategy is usually formulated in line with the corporate strategy. The main focus of the business strategy is on product development, innovation, integration, market development, diversification and the like.

IV. FUNCTIONAL STRATEGY:

- Functional strategy refers to a strategy that emphasizes a particular functional area of an organization.
- It is formulated to achieve some objectives of a business unit by maximizing resource productivity. Occasionally functional strategy is named departmental strategy.
- Examples of functional strategy comprise production strategy, marketing strategy, human resource strategy and financial strategy.
- The functional strategy is concerned with developing distinctive competence to provide a business unit with a competitive advantage.
- Functional strategies are adapted to support the competitive strategy. For example, a company following a low-cost competitive strategy needs a production strategy that emphasizes on reduction cost operation and also a human resource strategy that emphasizes on retaining the lowest possible number of employees who are highly qualified to work for the organization.
- Other functional strategies such as marketing strategy, advertising strategy, and financial strategy are also to be formulated appropriately to support the business-level competitive strategy.

V. OPERATING STRATEGY:

- Operating strategy is formulated as the operating units of an organization.
- A company may develop operating strategy. As an instance, for its sales territories.
- An operating strategy is formulated at the field level usually to achieve immediate objectives.
- In some companies, managers develop an operating strategy for each set of annual objectives in the departments or divisions.

2. OFFENSIVE STRATEGIES:

An offensive competitive strategy is a type of corporate strategy that consists of actively trying to pursue changes within the industry. Companies that go on the offensive generally invest heavily in research and development (R&D) and technology in an effort to stay ahead of the

competition. They will also challenge competitors by cutting off new or underserved markets, or by going head-to-head with them.

Defensive competitive strategies, by contrast, are meant to counteract offensive competitive strategies

2.1: OFFENSIVE COMPETITIVE STRATEGY TYPES:

There are several types of offensive competitive strategies, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

- a) An "**end run strategy**" eschews direct competition and instead seeks to exploit untouched markets or neglected segments, demographic groups or areas.
- b) A "**preemptive strategy**" is simply the natural advantage a company has when it is the first to serve a particular marketplace or demographic. It can be exceptionally hard to unseat. Also known as "first-mover" advantage.
- c) A "**direct attack strategy**" is more aggressive than the end run or preemptive offensive competitive strategies. Such a strategy may entail comparisons to competing products or companies that are unflattering, a price war, or even a competition as to who can introduce new product features at a faster pace. The direct attack may also borrow tactics of the previously listed strategies, all with the goal of taking charge of the public conversation through marketing campaigns.
- d) An "**acquisition strategy**" seeks to remove a competitor by buying it. As such, it is a strategy employed by the wealthiest or best capitalized competitor. Such a strategy offers the advantage of instantly incorporating new markets, customer bases or corporate intelligence. Since it is such an expensive strategy it must be used judiciously, and with the possibility of corporate antitrust rules or local competition laws in mind.

3. DEFENSIVE STRATEGY:

Defensive strategies are management tools that can be used to fend off (defend oneself against) an attack from a potential competitor. Defending your business strategically is about knowing the market you're best equipped to operate in and about knowing when to widen your appeal to enter into new markets.

In contrast to offensive strategies -- which are aimed to attack your market competition -- defensive strategies are about holding onto what you have and about using your competitive advantage to keep competitors at bay.

3.1: APPROACHES TO DEFENSIVE STRATEGIES:

There are two approaches to defensive strategy in strategic management;

- i. The ***first approach is aimed at blocking competitors who are attempting to take over part of your business's market share.*** Cutting the price of your products, adding incentives or discounts to encourage customers to buy from you or increasing your advertising and marketing campaigns are the best common ways of going about this.
- ii. The ***second approach is more passive. Here, you announce new product innovations, plan a company expansion by opening a new chain or reconnect with old customers to encourage them to buy from you.*** This is still a method to prevent the competition from taking away your customers and earning, but it is done in a more relaxed and less-aggressive manner, whereas the first approach is active and direct.

3.2: TYPES OF DEFENSIVE STRATEGIES:

- i. Retrenchment
- ii. Divestiture
- iii. Liquidation

I. RETRENCHMENT STRATEGY:

- When the organization faces declining sales & profits then it considers the retrenchment strategy in which it reorganizes its activities by reducing its assets & costs.
- By doing so the organization actually reverses the affects of declining profit & sales.

- It is also called as reorganization or turnaround strategy. The basic distinctive competence of an organization is fortified through effectively designed retrenchment strategy.
- When an organization applies retrenchment strategy, pressure is exerted from shareholders, media & employees on the strategists who perform their functions with limited resources.

II. DIVESTITURE:

- Divestiture is one of defensive strategies in which part or division of an organization is sold. For further strategic investments or acquisitions, certain capital is raised through divestiture.
- It is considered to be component of retrenchment strategy in which those projects of the Business Organization are closed that need heavy capital, are unprofitable & that are not suitable with the other activities of the business organization.

III. LIQUIDATION:

- Liquidation is the selling of all the assets of the organization in parts in order to cash their tangible worth. It is quite difficult emotional strategy as the element of defeat is recognized in it.
- Therefore in the condition when the organization is bearing loss completely then it is wise act that all the operations of the failed business should be closed down so that there should not be any further loss of money.

4. VERTICAL INTEGRATION:

Vertical integration is when a company controls more than one stage of the supply chain. That's the ***process businesses use to turn raw material into a product and get it to the consumer.*** There are four phases of the supply chain: commodities, manufacturing, distribution, and retail. A company vertically integrates when it controls two or more of these stages.

There are two types of vertical integration;

- i. **Forward integration** is when a company at the beginning of the supply chain controls stages farther along. Examples include iron mining companies that own "downstream" activities such as steel factories.

- ii. **Backward integration** is when a business at the end of the supply chain takes on activities "upstream." An example is when a movie distributor, such as Netflix, also manufactures content.

4.1 **TYPES OF VERTICAL INTEGRATION:**

I. FORWARD OR DOWNSTREAM INTEGRATION:

- When the company takes control over its consumer company or say distribution centre, to which the company sell its products, it is known as forward integration.
- The strategy aims at attaining higher economies of scale and occupying larger share in the market.
- Due to the drastic change in the technology, in the 21st century and increase in the number of internet users, the forward integration strategy gained much importance.
- There are a number of manufacturing entities, which exist online, and sell their items directly to the customers, thus bypassing the intermediaries in the supply chain process.

II. BACKWARD OR UPSTREAM INTEGRATION:

When the company acquires its suppliers and manufacturer of raw materials, then the merger is termed as backward integration. In upstream integration, the company enters the business of input providers, so as to create effective supply and possess greater dominance over production. The strategy aims at improving the company's operational efficiency, save costs and also increases the profit margins.

NOTE:

When it comes to implementation, vertical integration is the most difficult strategy, which is not only expensive but also hard to take back.

III. BALANCED INTEGRATION:

- Balanced integration is the combination of both forward and backward integration.

4.2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF VERTICAL INTEGRATION:

A. ADVANTAGES:

I. POSITIVE DIFFERENTIATION CAN BE CREATED:

- Vertical integration creates predictability because more information is available to the organization.
- There is more access to production inputs.
- Retail channels produce real-time information that isn't filtered by third parties.
- Distribution requirements can be adjusted to promote specific items to unique demographics.
- By being in more control, from start to finish, an organization can adapt quickly to changes so that the most effective result can be achieved.

II. ASSET INVESTMENTS CAN FOCUS ON SPECIALIZATION:

- Instead of seeking out vendors and contractors with specific skill sets, vertical integration allows an organization to invest into internal assets that can specialize in the skill set that is required.
- This allows a company to differentiate itself from others within its industry, creating a specific brand message and value proposition that resonates consistently with its customer base.

III. IT CAN INCREASE A BRAND'S LOCAL MARKET SHARE:

- Because an organization controls more of its supply chain, it can leverage specific benefits that a local demographic may need.
- This allows the organization to obtain a larger market share because they can create a value proposition that is better than what the competition offers.

IV. TRANSACTION COSTS ARE LOWER THROUGHOUT THE SUPPLY CHAIN:

- With a high level of vertical integration, brands can reduce the transaction costs that occur throughout their supply chain.
- This is done through the power to leverage the size and scope of the supply chain when dealing with suppliers and vendors that are not part of the integrated process.

V. QUALITY ASSURANCE CAN BE BUILT INTO THE SYSTEM:

- When vertical integration is successful, it allows an organization to put more eyes on the quality of what is being produced.

- From the initial supply to the final sale, a better Q/A process within the system creates a value proposition that is more reliable.
- In return, greater customer satisfaction occurs, which builds brand loyalty and return revenues.

VI. IT OPENS NEW MARKETS:

- Whether an organization moves forward or backward with their vertical integration, the process can open new markets to the business.
- By partnering with or purchasing other vendors, proprietary information, property, or technologies can create local access that may have been unavailable to a brand and business before the acquisition or partnership.
- When this occurs, more profits can be achieved because there is a bigger base of leads to pursue.

VII. STABILITY IS CREATED:

- Companies that have vertically integrated can withstand economic changes than companies that have not.
- The stability that is created with supply chain control eliminates unpredictability.

B. DISADVANTAGES OF VERTICAL INTEGRATION:

I. IT REDUCES FLEXIBILITY:

- Brands that work with several vendors or contractors have a certain flexibility that vertical integration normally does not provide.
- Businesses that have integrated vertically may have a few choices with their supply chain, but a business that uses third parties can make changes whenever they wish without maintenance costs within their infrastructure.

II. THERE MAY BE UNFORESEEN BARRIERS WHEN ENTERING A NEW MARKET:

- Vertical integration does limit competition, but only when the corporation focused on this process has access to the materials necessary to be competitive in the first place.
- If raw materials are scarce or a brand's information access to a local demographic is limited, then even with vertical integration firmly in place, market entry may not be possible.

III. CONFUSION IS CREATED EASILY AND OFTEN:

- Vertical integration falls under one specific brand, but the entities within the supply chain may operate as a distinct business. This creates confusion because customers think they are working with one company, only to realize that they are working with a different company.
- Google is an example of this. It operates as a subsidiary of Alphabet Incorporated, along with companies like Waymo and Verily.

IV. IT ISN'T A CHEAP INVESTMENT:

- Capital is required to make a vertical integration effort possible. Even if the integration occurs through partnerships, an investment into specific patents, processes, or proprietary data is often required as part of the deal. New forward or backward vertical integration efforts may require building new facilities, hiring new staff, and understanding new processes that are unfamiliar to the corporation.

V. ITS NOT SIMPLE:

- Vertical integration requires companies to get involved in new aspects of the supply chain where they are usually unfamiliar.
- If you are in the retail sector and sell shirts, you know how to present that product to the customer in the most effective way.
- If you were asked to create that shirt from scratch, you would struggle to produce it.
- You would even need to source the raw fabrics. When fully integrated, vertical integration saves time and money, but it isn't a simple process to get there.
- The advantages and disadvantages of vertical integration show it is a useful investment to make if the capital exists to make it.

5. HORIZONTAL STRATEGY:

It is a type of integration strategies pursued by a company in order to strengthen its position in the industry. A corporate that implements this type of strategy usually merges or acquires another company that is in the same production stage. **For example**, Disney merging with Pixar (movie production), Exxon with Mobile (oil production, refining and distribution) or the infamous Daimler Benz and Chrysler merger (car developing, manufacturing and retailing).

The purpose of horizontal integration (HI) is to grow the company in size, increase product differentiation, achieve economies of scale, reduce competition or access new markets. When many firms pursue this strategy in the same industry, it leads to industry consolidation (oligopoly or even monopoly)

HI can occur in a form of mergers, acquisitions or hostile takeovers.

- **Merger** is the joining of two similar sizes, independent companies to make one joint entity.
- **Acquisition** is the purchase of another company.
- **Hostile takeover** is the acquisition of the company, which does not want to be acquired.

5.1: HORIZONTAL STRATEGY MAY BE AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY WHEN:

- i. Organization competes in a growing industry.
- ii. Competitors lack of some capabilities, competencies, skills or resources that the company already possesses.
- iii. Horizontal strategy would lead to a monopoly that is allowed by a government.
- iv. Economies of scale would have significant effect.
- v. The organization has sufficient resources to manage M&A(mergers and acquisitions).

5.2 HORIZONTAL INTEGRATION EXAMPLES:

Companies using horizontal integration	
ACQUIRING COMPANY	ACQUIRED COMPANY
<u>Amazon.com</u>	Whole Foods
Porsche	Volkswagen

Companies using horizontal integration	
ACQUIRING COMPANY	ACQUIRED COMPANY
Daimler Benz	Chrysler
Kraft Foods	Cadbury
Quaker Oats	Snapple
<u>PepsiCo</u>	Quaker Oats
Pfizer	Wyeth
Pfizer	Pharmacia Corporation
Glaxo Wellcome	SmithKline Beecham
AT&T	T-Mobile
AT&T	Bell South
Mittal Steel	Arcelor
<u>HP</u>	Compaq
Oracle	PeopleSoft
Delta	Northwest Airlines

Companies using horizontal integration	
ACQUIRING COMPANY	ACQUIRED COMPANY
United Airlines	Continental
JPMorgan Chase	Bank One
<u>Microsoft</u>	Taleo
Microsoft	Yahoo!
Apple	Authentic
BP	Amoco

5.3 ADVANTAGES OF HORIZONTAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY:

I. HIGHER EFFICIENCY:

- Since the companies work together, they yield more services or products.
- However it cost less to purchase an existing product than to start another one from score.
- Horizontal integration becomes more profit when the company grows in size.
- Cost of developing is less when compared to total income. This helps the company to save money and increase profits. They also have more strength over supplier and distributor. It reduces the competitor.

II. ECONOMIES OF SCALE:

- Economies of scale give expense-playing point to the companies through extension of their product yield.

- The point when products are prepared in bigger amounts, the normal expense for every unit decreases; in this manner we expand the productivity of the company.
- Incorporating evenly furnishes the companies with more extensive access to diverse unreached markets, bringing about an increment sought after of their product.
- Achieving to economies of scale by HI can help the company to accomplish require imposing business model and ignore from the business sector.

III. ECONOMIES OF SCOPE:

- Horizontal integration allows achieving economies of scope.
- Since companies sharing the resources, it helps removing cost redundancy.
- It is likewise less expensive to offer the same product from different areas than it might be to present a totally new product extend.
- Horizontal integration brings interaction between the companies.

IV. INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

- Integrating horizontally helps the company to enter outside businesses immediately.
- This diminishes the expense of international trade by permitting the company to both handle and offer the product in the foreign market.

5.4 DISADVANTAGES OF HORIZONTAL STRATEGY:

I. DESTROYED VALUE:

M&A rarely add value to the companies. More often M&A fail and destroy the value of the companies involved in it because expected synergies never materialize.

II. LEGAL REPERCUSSIONS:

HI can lead to a monopoly, which is highly discouraged by many governments due to lack of competition. Therefore, governments usually have to approve any larger M&A before they can happen.

III. REDUCED FLEXIBILITY:

Large organizations are harder to manage and they are less flexible in introducing innovations to the market.

6. TAILORING STRATEGY TO FIT SPECIFIC INDUSTRY AND COMPANY SITUATIONS:

INTRODUCTION:

The variety of factors that dominates in the industry as well as the level and extent of competition among the players in the industry has a vital role in determining the situation in the industry or sector itself. In many cases regardless of the extent of competition however there is prevailing industry situation that business organizations have to live with.

The variety of factors prevailing in the industry and the environment at large redounds to industry categories groups or types which are discussed below.

6.1 STRATEGIES FOR COMPETING IN EMERGING INDUSTRIES OF FUTURE:

As the term implies new or emerging industry refers to a kind of market or industry situation in the early stages of development and typically with small number of players.

The industry is characterized by any of the following.

1. New and unproven market
2. Proprietary technology
3. Low entry barriers
4. Experience curve effects may permit cost reductions as volume builds.
5. Buyers are first time users.
6. Marketing invokes inducing initial purchase and overcoming customers' concerns'
7. Possible difficulties in securing raw materials and
8. Firms struggle to fund research and development operations and build resource capabilities for rapid growth.

CHALLENGES IN EMERGING INDUSTRIES:

1. TECHNOLOGY IN UNCERTAIN AND UNIT COSTS ARE HIGH:

Early on it is neither clear which product configuration will be the most successful nor is it known what the most efficient production methods will be. Such uncertainties prevent standardization and this drives up costs. With time and volume it is possible to reap the benefits of economies of scale and experience but until that point is reached doing

business acquiring clients delivering the product or mitigating the entry of competitors is an expensive and often losing game.

2. KEY RESOURCES ARE SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE:

In emerging industries suppliers tend to be scarce and unreliable. Under a restricted offering of suppliers in conjunction with a growing demand for them prices go up quickly.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE IS ABSENT:

A developed infrastructure underlying the take off the industry does not exist in emerging niches. There are no appropriate distribution channels and marketing tools qualified employees and so on.

4. QUALITY OF PRODUCTS OR SERVICES IS LOW AND TRANSFER COSTS AND PERCEIVED OBSOLESCENCE ARE HIGH:

The emerging industry has to learn how to operate optimally and while doing so its products, services may suffer all kinds of quality problems which in turn depress demand. High initial switching costs the cost to customer for changing suppliers may also put the brakes on the growth of demand. Also as customers become increasingly aware of how one generation of a product is quickly outdated by the next one they may decide to delay their purchase to await later and greater improvement.

5. CONSUMERS ARE INEXPERIENCED AND CONFUSED:

The combination of numerous offerings and an uneducated customers base exacts a high labor costs to industry participants first it is necessary to convince consumers of the advance of the generic product then it is necessary to engage in the fierce competition to differentiate a specific offering from that of others in the industry.

6. LOW ENTRY BARRIERS AND A FLOOD OF ENTREPRENEURS:

New industries with low entry barriers may attract many individuals who decide to resign from their secure permanent jobs and jump into the market as entrepreneurs. A cascade of small new companies may thus flood the industry.

7. REGULATIONS MAY BE DETRACTORS:

The emergence of rules and regulations can abruptly slow down the development of the embryonic industry.

8. STRATEGY IS UNCERTAIN:

In an emerging industry no one has identified the appropriate strategy thus there may be as many strategic approaches combinations of market performance cost technology and scale as there are competitors. Some may work others will not only the future will tell.

9. THREATENED INCUMBENTS MAY RETALIATE:

Well established resource abundant competitors in other industries indirectly competing with the new industry may fiercely resist the emergence of the later.

STRATEGY TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN EMERGING MARKET:

To be successful in an emerging industry companies usually have to pursue one or more of the following strategic avenues. Try to win the early race for industry leadership with **risk taking** entrepreneurship and a **bold creative strategy**. Broad or focused differentiation strategies keyed to technological or product superiority typically offers the best chance for early competitive advantage. **Push to perfect the technology to improve product quality** and to develop additional attractive performance features. **Form strategic alliances with key suppliers** to gain access to specialized skills technological capabilities and critical materials or components. **Try to capture any first mover advantages associated with early commitment to promising technologies** allying with the most capable suppliers expanding product selection improving styling capturing experiences curve effects and getting well positioned in new distribution channels. **Pursue new customer groups, new user applications and entry into new geographical areas** (perhaps utilizing strategic partnerships or joint ventures if financial resources are constrained).

6.2. STRATEGIC FOR COMPETING IN RAPIDLY GROWING MARKETS:

To be able to grow at a pace exceeding the market average a company generally must have a strategy that incorporates one or more of the following elements.

I. DRIVING DOWN COSTS PER UNIT SO AS TO ENABLE PRICE REDUCTIONS THAT ATTRACT DROVES OF NEW CUSTOMERS:

Charging a lower price always has strong appeal in markets where customers are price sensitive and lower prices can help push up buyers demand by drawing new customers into the marketplace. But since rivals can lower their

prices a company must really be able to drive its unit costs down faster than rivals such that it can use its low cost advantage to under price rivals.

II. PURSUING RAPID PRODUCT INNOVATION:

Pursuing rapid product innovation both to set company's product offering apart from rivals and to incorporate attributes that appeal to growing numbers of customers. Differentiation strategies when keyed to product attributes that draw in large numbers of new customers help bolster a company's reputation for product superiority and lay the foundation for sales gains in excess of the overall rate of market growth. If the market is one where technology is advancing rapidly and product life cycles are short then it becomes especially important to be first to market with next generation products.

III. GAINING ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS AND SALES OUTLETS:

Pursuing wider distribution access so as to reach more potential buyers is a particularly good strategic approach for realizing above average sales gains. But usually this requires a company and forcing rivals into playing catch up.

IV. EXPANDING COMPANY'S GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

Expanding into areas either domestic or foreign where the company does not have a market presence can also be an effective way to reach more potential buyers and pave the way for gains in sales that outpace the overall market average.

V. EXPANDING THE PRODUCT LINE TO ADD MODELS/STYLES THAT APPEAL TO WIDER RANGE OF BUYERS:

- Offering buyers a wider selection can be an effective way to draw new customers in numbers sufficient to realize above average sales gains.
- Makers of MP3 players and cell phones are adding new models to stimulate buyer demand.

6.3: STRATEGIES FOR COMPETING IN MATURING INDUSTRIES:

A maturing industry is one that is moving from rapid growth to significantly slower growth. An industry is said to be mature when nearly all potential buyers are already users of the industry's products and consists mainly of replacement sales to existing users with growth hinging on the

industry's ability to attract new buyers and convince existing buyers to up their usage.

1. SLOWING GRWOTH IN BUYER DEMAND GENERATES MORE HEAD TO HEAD COMPETITION FOR MARKET SHARE:

Firms that want to continue on a rapid growth start looking for ways to take customers away from competitors. Outbreaks of price cutting increased advertising and other aggressive tactics to gain market share are common.

2. BUYERS BECOME MORE SOPHISTICATED OFTEN DRIVING HARDER BARGAIN ON REPEAT PURCHASES:

Since buyers have experience with the product and are familiar with competing brands they are better able to evaluate different brands and can use their knowledge to negotiate a better deal with sellers.

3. COMPETITION OFTEN PRODUCES GREATER EMPHASIS ON COST AND SERVICE:

As sellers all begin to offer the product attributes buyers prefer buyer choices increasingly depend on which seller offers the best combination of price and service.

4. FIRMS HAVE A TOPPING-OUT PROBLEM IN ADDING NEW FACILITIES:

Reduced rates of industry growth mean slowdowns in capacity expansion for manufactures and slowdowns in new store growth for retail chains. With slower industry growth adding too much capacity too soon can create oversupply conditions that adversely Affect Company profits well into the future.

5. PRODUCT INNOVATION AND NEW END USE APPLICATIONS ARE HARDER TO COME BY:

Producers find it increasingly difficult to create new product features find further uses for the product and sustain buyer excitement.

6. INDUSTRY PROFITABILITY FALLS TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY:

Slower growth increased competition more sophisticated buyers and occasional periods of overcapacity put pressure on industry profit margins. Weaker less efficient firms are usually the hardest hit.

STRATEGIC MOVES IN MATURING INDUSTRIES:

1. REDUCING MARGINAL PRODUCTS AND MODELS:

A wide selection of models features the growth stage when buyer's needs are still evolving. But such variety can become too costly as price competition stiffens and key demand thus profit margins are squeezed. Maintaining many product versions works against achieving design parts inventory and production economics at the manufacturing levels and can increase inventory stocking costs for distributors and retailers.

2. MORE EMPHASIS ON VALUE CHAIN INNOVATION:

Efforts to re-invent the industry value chain can have a fourfold pay-off lower costs better product or service quality greater capability to turn out multiple or customized product versions and shorter design to market cycles. Manufactures can mechanize high cost activities re-design production lines to improve labor efficiency, build flexibility into the assembly process so that customized product versions can be easily produced and increase use of advanced technology (robotics computerized controls and automatic guided vehicles). Suppliers of parts and components, manufactures and distributors can collaborate on the use of internet technology and e-commerce techniques to streamline various value chain activities and implement cost saving innovations.

3. INCREASING SALES TO PRESENT CUSTOMERS:

In a mature market growing by taking customers away from rivals may not be as appealing as expanding sales to existing customers. Strategies to increase purchase by existing customers can involve providing complementary items and ancillary services and finding more ways for customers to use the product.

- **For example**, convenience stores have boosted average sales per customer by adding video rentals, automated teller machines, gasoline pumps and deli counters (a small shop that sells high-quality foods).

4. PURCHASING RIVAL FIRMS AT BARGAIN PRICES:

Sometimes a firm can acquire the facilities and assets of struggling rivals quite cheaply. Bargain priced acquisitions can help to create a low cost position if they also present opportunities for greater operating efficiency. The most desirable acquisitions are those that will significantly enhance the acquiring firm's competitive strength.

5. EXPANDING INTERNATIONALLY:

As its domestic market matures a firm may seek to enter foreign markets where attractive growth potential still exists and competitive pressures are not so strong. Many multinational companies are expanding into such emerging country markets as China India Brazil Argentina, and Malaysia where the long term growth prospects are quite attractive. Strategies to expand internationally also make sense when a domestic firm's skills reputation and product are readily transferable to foreign markets.

6. BUILDING NEW OR MORE CAPABILITIES:

The stiffening pressures of competition in a maturing or already mature market can often be combated by strengthening the company's resource base and competitive capabilities. This can mean adding new competencies or capabilities Deeping existing competencies to make them harder to imitate or striving to make core competencies more adaptable to changing customer requirements and expectations.

6.4: STRATEGIES FOR FIRMS IN STAGNANT OR DECLINING INDUSTRIES:**STRATEGIC OPTIONS IN A STAGNANT OR DECLINING INDUSTRY**

As a business ventures is destined to continue doing business in a varying market condition sometimes adverse and at other times favorable it has to keep up the fight and compete in declining market scenario or else fold up and start another new business.

To be able to compete in a stagnant or declining markets or industry doing the following strategies options will be of help.

1. PURSUE FOCUS STRATEGY:

- Stagnant or declining markets like other markets are composed of numerous segments or niches.
- Frequently one or more of these segments is growing rapidly despite stagnation in the industry as a whole.
- An **astute**(showing an ability to accurately assess situations) competitor who zeroes in on fast growing segments and does a first rate job of meeting the needs of buyers comprising these segments can often escape stagnating sales and profits and even gain decided competitive advantage.

2. STRESS DIFFERENTIATION BASED ON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT OR PRODUCT INNOVATION:

- Either enhanced quality or innovation can rejuvenate demand by creating important new growth segments or inducing buyers to trade up.
- Successful products innovation opens up an avenue for competing besides meeting or beating rivals prices.
- Differentiation based on successful innovation has the additional advantage of being difficult and expensive for rivals firms to imitate.

EXAMPLE:

Sony has build a solid business selling high quality TVs, an industry where market demand has been relatively flat in the world's industrialized nations for some years.

3. WORK DILIGENTLY FOR COST REDUCTION:

Companies in stagnant industries can improve profit margins and return on investment by pursuing innovative cost reduction year after year. Potential cost saving actions includes.

7. STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP:

Leadership is one of the most relevant aspects of the organizational setting. **Leadership is described as the process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support others in the accomplishment of a common task.**

According to **ALAN KEITH** leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen.

Leadership is highly significant determinant in implementing managerial strategy. The structural determinates provide a foundation and base line for implementing strategy and the process determinants provide guidelines channels media and systems through which strategy is implemented.

7.1: LEADERSHIP STYLES:

Leadership style refers to the approach taken by the leader in trying to evoke compliance and elicit acceptance from follower. Leadership style is also referred to be various other designations models of leadership. Theory of leadership system of leadership pattern of leadership and managerial grid

Style of leadership can be of following three types.

1. AUTHORITARIAN STYLE:

Autocratic leader is also known as a dictator. It could also be considered as one man show. The role of the leader is restricted merely to dictating the instructions to his subordinates. In this leadership style leader does not get involved with the members of the team. He decides the policies and procedures without discussing with his subordinates. In this style of leadership all decisions are taken by the leader only.

2. BEHAVIOR STYLE:

In this style of leadership the authority rested with leader is decentralized. Leader takes every decision in coordinates with the team members. This style of leadership is people oriented and direct supervision of the staff is not required. This type of leadership style keeps the employees well informed about the policies of the organizations and work is delegated to achieve better results. Instead of acting as a leader he considers himself to be a member of the group

3. SITUATIONAL STYLE:

Free rein or laissez leadership style refers to a condition where the leader does not lead but leaves the major decisions on the group itself. Such a leader is represented by the chairperson who is dependent on his

subordinates. All the goals are decided by the group. The group members have to solve problems and motivate themselves. Leader job is to keep contact with outsiders and give information to his term.

7.2: KEY STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP ACTIONS:

1. DETERMINING STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:

Determining the strategic direction involves specifying the image and character the firms seeks to develop over time. The strategic direction is framed within the context of the conditions strategic leader expect their firm to face in five in five ten or more years.

The ideal long term strategic directions have two parts.

- a. **CORE IDEOLOGY:** it motivates employees through the company's heritage.
- b. **ENVISIONED FUTURE:** it encourages employees to stretch beyond their expectations of accomplishment and requires significant change and progress in order to be realized. The envisioned future serves as a guide to many aspects of a firm's strategy implementation process including motivation leadership employee empowerment and organizational design.

2. EFFECTIVELY MANAGING THE FIRM'S RESOURCE PORTFOLIO:

- Effectively managing the firm's portfolio of resources may be the most important strategic leadership task.
- The firm's resources are categorized as financial capital human capital social capital and organizational capital.
- Clearly financial capital is critical to organizational success strategic leaders understand this reality.

3. SUSTAINING AN EFFECTIVE ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE:

- Organizational culture as a complex set of ideologies symbols and core values that is shared throughout the firm and influences the way business is conducted.
- A firm can develop core competencies in terms of both capitulates it possesses and, the way the capitulates are leveraged new strategies to produce desired outcomes.

4. EMPHASING ETHICAL PRACTICES:

The effectiveness of processes used to implement the firm's strategies increases when they are based on ethical practices. Ethical companies encourage and enable people at all organizational levels to act ethically when doing what is necessary to implement the firm's strategies. In turn ethical practices and the judgment on which they are based create social capital in the organization in that goodwill available to individuals and groups if the organization increases. Alternately when unethical practices evolve in an organization they may become acceptable to many managers and employees throughout the organization.

8. RESOURCE ALLOCATION AS A VITAL PART OF STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION:

Resource allocation deals with the procurement and commitment of financial, physical and human resources to strategic tasks for the achievement of organizational objectives. Resource allocation is both a one time and continuous process. When a new project implemented it would require the allocation of resources. An ongoing concern would also require a continual infusion of resources. Strategy implementation should deal with both these types of resource allocation.

In strategic planning, a resource allocation decision is a plan for using available resources especially human resource especially in the near term to achieve goals for the future. It is the process of allocating resources among the various projects or business units.

Resource allocation is a major management activity that allows for strategy execution. In organization that does not use a strategic management approach to decision making resource allocation is often based on political or personal factors.

8.1 FACTORS AFFECTING RESOURCE ALLOCATION

1. OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZATION:

Employees of any organization tend to judge the importance given by strategists to tasks on the basis of the amount of resource allocated to them.

2. PREFERENCE OF DOMINANT STRATEGISTS:

The dominant strategists most often the CEO tend to affect the process of resource allocation. Their preferences are reflected in the way the resource gets allocated.

3. INTERNAL POLITICS:

Resource is often misconstrued as power. Those departmental units which are able to attract more resource are perceived as being more powerful.

4. EXTERNAL INFLUENCES:

Apart from internal politics external influences also affect resource allocation. These influences arise from two government policies and stipulations, the demands of external shareholders, financial institutions, community and others.

8.2: APPROACHES TO RESOURCE ALLOCATION:

The experts think of three broad approaches to sound resource allocation which are as follows.

1. USING ANALYTICAL CONCEPTUAL MODELS:

- These are growth share matrix, stop light and sectional policy.
- Matrix models are widely used for resource allocation especially in case of multi-SBU's firms.
- The rationale behind resource allocation is governed by the factors of competitive capabilities, market share, business strengths on one hand and growth prospects and industry attractiveness of business segments on the other.

2. PRODUCT LIFE SYSTEM OF BUDGETING:

- This approach suggests that resource allocation is expected to match the stages in the life cycle of a product.

- The resource requirements vary with each stage of product life cycle as these stages have their own characteristics and implications.
- **For example;** when the firm wants to go in for retrenchment strategy in case of a product division one might think of zero based budgeting that means that resource allocation should depend on budget requests are justified right from its scratch where previous year reference will not come at all.
- The other ways are traditional capital budgeting and performance budgeting in addition to zero base budgeting.

3. CAPITAL BUDGETING:

- Capital budgeting is the planning of deployment of financial resource of an organization for the purpose of maximizing the long term profitability of the organization. In this budget various techniques like average rate of return payback period internal rate of return and net present value are used to determine where a rupee put will earn maximum profit.

4. PERFORMANCE BUDGETING:

A performance budgeting is an input/output or cost/result budgeting. It emphasis on financial measurements of performance which can be related to financial measurement in explaining changes and deviations from planned performance.

a. ZERO BASE BUDGETING:

Zero base budgeting is based on a system where each function irrespective of the fact whether it is old or new must be justified in its entirety each time a new budget is formulated. It requires each manager to justify his entire budget in detail from scratch that is zero bases. Each manager states why he should spend any money at all.

b. STRATEGIC BUDGETING:

Budgets drive business and organizations by laying out its financial limitations and tracking spending and revenue throughout time. Strategic budget management refers to the process of altering

budgets to meet goals and bringing costs in line with earnings to avoid long and short term deficits. While strategic budget management can't solve every financial problem it is essential to operating an organization smoothly.

9. PLANNING SYSTEMS FOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION:

The normal of form strategic planning is sufficient to permit every manager to develop and implement a system appropriate to his circumstances a system that will produce significantly greater benefits than costs. At the same time it can be said that there are big gaps in the knowledge which when filled makes it easier for managers to design and implement formal strategic planning systems for organization.

It is not that strategic planning less attention to operational planning. Rather emphasis is on implementations of strategies. The reason is that environments are likely to become more turbulent and complex making it even more essential that a company pursue those strategies that will best adapt the organization to changed circumstances.

The business plan is an important tool in the implementation process. The business plan is typically a short term and more concrete document than the strategic plan and it tends to focus more closely on operational considerations such as sales and cash flow trends.

9.1: TYPICAL PLANNING SYSTEMS FOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION:

Therefore the implementation process needs some plans to be made which are as follows,

1. TIME FRAME:

Since the implementation process takes much time than to formulate it. Therefore a timeframe must be predefined before implementation so that all the processes can be completed within time limit.

2. COST-EFFICIENCY:

The management should select only those strategies to be implemented which are economically feasible or cost efficient. If any strategy needs more than budgeted cost for implementing then it is better to drop it.

3. MEANINGFUL CHANGE:

The implementation of a strategy causes some changes in the existing system. The important thing is that the changes occurred in the system must be meaningful or can be said that leads to benefit or no loss.

4. ADAPTABILITY:

A strategy should be implemented only when the existing system is sufficiently flexible or it has the adaptability to accept the change.

5. TRAINING SESSIONS:

Before completely working on implemented strategy the employee and staffs should be trained so that they can work on it. Because in the absence of employee support the implementation will not be successful.

6. MEASURABLE IN TERMS OF PERFORMANCE:

The effect of strategy implementation should be efficiently measurement in terms of the performance or outcome of the system so that it can be judged that it is affecting negatively or positively.

7. NEW OPPORTUNITIES:

A strategy is implemented to gain competitive advantage in the cut throat competition. Therefore the implementation of strategy should lead to new opportunities for growth and achieve benefits.

8. AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES:

A strategy should be implemented when there is chance of availability of resources required for implementation. If the resource are hardly available or costing much then the management should either take alternative solutions or make necessary changes in it.

9. ACHIEVABLE TARGET:

Only those strategies should be thought to implement whose target can be achieved by the system. If the target is not achievable due to any combination of constraints then better is to leave it.

10. AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES:

The management should evaluate the existing alternatives in terms of various constraints so that it proves to be best alternative to be implemented and can be successfully implemented.

CASE STUDY:

CASE STUDY - 1

BIG LTD

The managing director of big Ltd. Called an internal meeting of senior managers to discuss issues involved in acquiring small Ltd for about 700 crore. He started the meeting with following observations.

After acquiring small we will become the second largest consumer goods company in India with sales of over 9.000crore. We will have more money for marketing initiatives product launches and aggressive price cuts. The key reason behind buying small is to create shareholder value over and above that of the sum of the two companies. Recent years have been tough for both the companies with strong competition.

The merged company hopes to gain a greater market share and achieve greater efficiency. Different issues were discussed between the managers. Pertinent points that were raised were as follows.

HEAD PRODUCTION

Although I am involved little till now in the discussion regarding the acquisition. I have closely studied various production facilities available to both companies. I feel production facilities of both companies need to be synergized. There is also need to close down production facilities of two locations out of seven locations of small. The cost of production of these locations is very high and also they are located in eastern India whereas our major sale is in south and west.

HEAD MARKETING

We need to analyze it further. The market of the products is in mature phase with low growth rate. Small Ltd. has little presence in some regions and is not a major competitor for us. Further there is marginal gap between our existing third position and second position. We can easily achieve second position if we are able to fully utilize our capacities.

QUESTIONS

- a. CONDUCT SWOT ANALYSE FROM THE FACTS GIVEN IN THE CASE.
- b. IN A LOW GROWTH PRODUCT WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO A COMPANY.

a. CONDUCT SWOT ANALYSE FROM THE FACTS GIVEN IN THE CASE.**ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION:****SWOT ANALYSIS:**

A SWOT analysis is a simple but widely used tool that helps in understanding the strengths weaknesses opportunities and threats involved in a business activity. It starts by defining the objectives of the business activity and identifies the internal and external factors that are important to achieving those objectives. Strengths and weaknesses are usually internal to the organization while opportunities and threats are usually external.

This approach tries to identify the strong and the points of the organization. The SWOT analysis for the Big Ltd. Would be as follows.

1. STRENGTH:

- Strong brand value
- Acquires second position after acquisition
- Synergized resources (i.e., increase in total volume of resources)
- Lower cost of production
- Economies of large scale production marketing finance etc.
- Technologies superiority
- Strong financial position (i.e., sales turn over expected to go upto 4,500crore)
- The valuation of shares will be more than the respective values of share of both companies.

2. WEAKNESS:

- The production units which are costly need to be closed (i.e., two out of 7 production units of small Ltd. Need to be closed)
- With the acquisition the newly formed company will acquire second instead of third position in the market while the gap between second and third position is marginal. This can be achieved even without the acquiring simply by making sales promotion efforts in the same market (market development strategy)
- The small Ltd. Is not a great competition of big Ltd.? And it has marginal presence in eastern region so this acquisition strategy will not serve the purpose.
- After acquisition the organization does not develop in north.

3. OPPURTUNITIES:

- Entries or expansion in sales territory or market i.e., big Ltd which was dominant in south and west will proliferate in eastern region also as small Ltd. Has strong presence in that region.
- With the acquisition there will be opportunity to dominate the market.
- There may be expansion in product range.

4. THREAT:

- The products of both organizations are in matured phase. As a result greater returns are not expected.
- Even after acquisition the big Ltd. Acquires only the second position in the market and not the first position. Also the acquisition process creates confusion and system has to be developed in entirely new basis. Meanwhile the organization which is there at first position may also consolidate its position.

B. IN A LOW GROWTH PRODUCT WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO A COMPANY.**ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION****DIFFERENT OPTIONS IN CASE OF LOW GROWTH PRODUCT**

The products which have low growth rate in the market are known as dogs in the BCG model. However if we apply the product life cycle hypothesis then the product in the mature stage is going to face the decline stage sooner or later.

Here the firm can go for the following strategy

- The firm can expand marked segments. It can try to attract non users of the product. It may also try to attract competitor's customers. Moreover it may try to get customer to use the product more frequently (e.g., brushing teeth twice a day in case of a product like toothpaste).
- It may resort to product modification by means of quality improvement. Features improvement may be undertaken by adding new features to expand the products attract attraction. It may also make style improvements e.g., American companies introduce new car models periodically. This is known as preservation strategy.
- Marketing mix modification is also an improvement strategy. It can modify one or more marketing mix elements like price distribution channels advertising sales promotion personal selling services etc., and

study their relative outcomes and ultimately find out the optimal marketing mix.

IMPORTANT PREVIOUS QUESTIONS:

1. Broadly explain the planning systems for strategy implementation.
2. Critically evaluate the tailoring strategy to fit specific industry and company situations.
3. Explain the importance of resource allocation as a vital part of strategy.
4. What is strategy information system? What is its role in evaluation of organization strategy?
5. Explain how leadership will influence its strategies in an organization. Explain with an example.

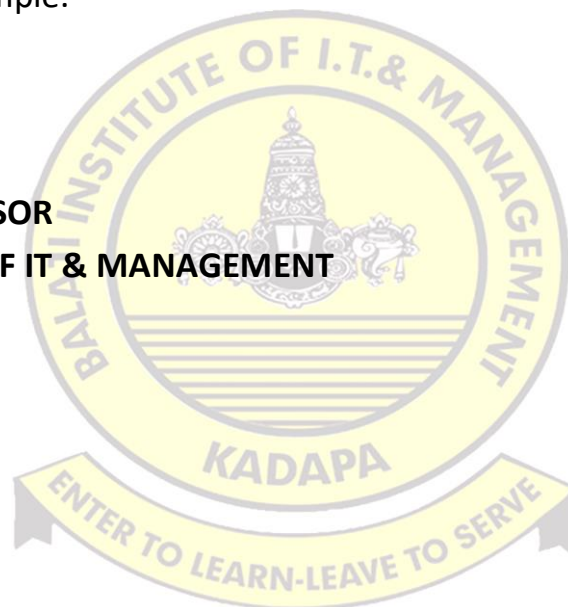
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(17E00401) STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Objective: The Objective of the course is to enable students have a grasp of various business strategies in general and functional management areas. It will provide a strategic orientation in conduct of the business

1. **Introduction- Concepts in Strategic Management**, Strategic Management as a process – Developing a strategic vision, Mission, Objectives, Policies – Factors that shape a company's strategy – Environmental Scanning -Concepts of Core Competence, Crafting a strategy for competitive advantage.
2. **Strategic Analysis and Choice: Tools and techniques-** Porter's Five Force Model, BCG Matrix, GE Model, SWOT Analysis and TOWS Matrix,. Market Life Cycle Model - and Organizational Learning, and the Experience Curve.
3. **Strategy Formulation:** Formulation of strategy at corporate, business and functional levels. Strategy Alternatives:- Stability Strategy, Growth Strategy, Retrenchment Strategy, and Combination Strategy.
4. **Strategy Implementation:** Types of Strategies: Offensive strategy, Defensive strategy, vertical integration, horizontal strategy; Tailoring strategy to fit specific industry and company situations, Strategy and Leadership, Resource Allocation as a vital part of strategy – Planning systems for implementation.
5. **Strategy Evaluation and control** – Establishing strategic controls - Role of the strategist - benchmarking to evaluate performance - strategic information systems – Guidelines for proper control- Strategic surveillance -strategic audit - Strategy and Corporate Evaluation and feedback in the Indian and international context.

Text Book :

- Strategic Management – J.S.Chandan& Nitish sen Gupta, Vikas

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- Strategic Management, P. SubbaRao, Himalaya.
- Business policy and strategic management, SukulLomash, P.K.Mishra, Vikas

UNIT-5**STRATEGY EVALUATION AND CONTROL****INTRODUCTION:**

Strategic evaluation and control could be defined as the process of determining the effectiveness of a given strategy in achieving the organizational objectives and taking corrective action wherever required. The final stage in strategic management is strategy evaluation and control. All strategies are subject to future modification because internal and external factors are constantly changing. In the strategy evaluation and control process managers determine whether the chosen strategy is achieving the organization's objectives.

- The fundamental strategy evaluation and control activities are:
 - reviewing internal and external factors that are the bases for current strategies,
 - measuring performance, and
 - Taking corrective actions.

THE PROCESS OF STRATEGY EVALUATION CONSISTS OF FOLLOWING STEPS:**1. FIXING BENCHMARK OF PERFORMANCE:**

While fixing the benchmark, strategists encounter questions such as - what benchmarks to set, how to set them and how to express them. In order to determine the benchmark performance to be set, it is essential to discover the special requirements for performing the main task. The performance indicator that best identify and express the special requirements might then be determined to be used for evaluation. The organization can use both quantitative and qualitative criteria for comprehensive assessment of performance. Quantitative criteria include determination of net profit, ROI, earning per share, cost of production, rate of employee turnover etc. Among the Qualitative factors are subjective evaluation of factors such as - skills and competencies, risk taking potential, flexibility etc.

2. MEASUREMENT OF PERFORMANCE :

The standard performance is a benchmark with which the actual performance is to be compared. The reporting and communication system help in measuring the performance. If appropriate means are available for measuring the performance and if the standards are set in the right manner, strategy evaluation becomes easier. But various factors such as manager's contribution are difficult to measure. Similarly divisional performance is sometimes difficult to measure as compared to individual performance. For measuring the performance, financial statements like - balance sheet, profit and loss account must be prepared on an annual basis.

3. ANALYZING VARIANCE :

While measuring the actual performance and comparing it with standard performance there may be variances which must be analyzed. The strategists must mention the degree of tolerance limits between which the variance between actual and standard performance may be accepted. The positive deviation indicates a better performance but it is quite unusual exceeding the target always. The negative deviation is an issue of concern because it indicates a shortfall in performance. Thus in this case the strategists must discover the causes of deviation and must take corrective action to overcome it.

4. TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Once the deviation in performance is identified, it is essential to plan for a corrective action. If the performance is consistently less than the desired performance, the strategists must carry a detailed analysis of the factors responsible for such performance. If the strategists discover that the organizational potential does not match with the performance requirements, then the standards must be lowered. Another rare and drastic corrective action is reformulating the strategy which requires going back to the process of strategic management, reframing of plans according to new resource allocation trend and consequent means going to the beginning point of strategic management process.

SIGNIFICANCE OF STRATEGIC EVALUATION AND CONTROL:

- ***The significance of strategy evaluation lies in its capacity to co-ordinate the task performed by managers, groups, departments etc, through control of performance.*** Strategic Evaluation is significant because of various factors such as;
 - Developing inputs for new strategic planning.
 - The urge for feedback, appraisal and reward.
 - Development of the strategic management process.
 - Judging the validity of strategic choice.
 - They ***provide direction***. They enable management to make sure that the organization is heading in the right direction and that corrective action is taken where needed.
 - They ***provide guidance to everybody***. Everyone within the organization, both managers and workers alike, learn what is happening, how their performance compares with what is expected, and what needs to be done to keep up the good work or improve performance.
 - They ***inspire confidence***. Information about good performance inspires confidence in everybody. Those within the organization are likely to be more motivated to maintain and achieve better performance in order to keep up their track record. Those outside – customers, government authorities, shareholders – are likely to be impressed with the good performance.
 - Controls do not just guard the money: they also provide data for decision-making.
 - ***Provide constant feedback*** on the extent to which the strategies are achieving their goals.
 - Identify potential problems at an early stage and propose possible solutions.
 - Monitor the accessibility of the strategies to all sectors of the target population.
 - Monitor the efficiency with which the different components of the project are being implemented and suggest improvements.
 - Evaluate the extent to which the strategy is able to achieve its general objectives.
 - Provide guidelines for the planning of future projects.

1. ESTABLISHING STRATEGIC CONTROLS:

Strategic control processes ensure that the actions required to achieve strategic goals are carried out, and checks to ensure that these actions are having the required impact on the organization. An effective strategic control process should by implication help an organization ensure that is setting out to achieve the right things, and that the methods being used to achieve these things are working. Establishing strategic control system includes following steps;

I. DETERMINE WHAT TO CONTROL:

The first step in the strategic control process is determining the major areas to control. Managers usually base their major controls on the organizational mission, goals and objectives developed during the planning process. Managers must make choices because it is expensive and virtually impossible to control every aspect of the organizations.

II. SET CONTROL STANDARDS:

The second step in the strategic control process is establishing standards. A control standard is a target against which subsequent performance will be compared. Standards are the criteria that enable managers to evaluate future, current, or past actions. They are measured in a variety of ways, including physical, quantitative, and qualitative terms. Five aspects of the performance can be managed and controlled: **quantity, quality, time cost, and behavior**. Standards reflect specific activities or behaviors that are necessary to achieve organizational goals.

III. MEASURE PERFORMANCE:

Once standards are determined, the next step is measuring performance. The actual performance must be compared to the standards. Many types of measurements taken for control purposes are based on some form of historical standard. These standards can be based on data derived from the **PIMS (profit impact of market strategy)** program, published information that is publicly available, ratings of product / service quality, innovation rates, and relative market shares standings. Strategic control standards are based on the practice of competitive benchmarking – the process of measuring a firm's performance against that of the top performance in its industry. The

proliferation of computers tied into networks has made it possible for managers to obtain up-to-minute status reports on a variety of quantitative performance measures. Managers should be careful to observe and measure accurately before taking corrective action.

IV. COMPARE PERFORMANCE TO STANDARDS:

The comparing step determines the degree of variation between actual performance and standard. If the first two phases have been done well, the third phase of the controlling process – comparing performance with standards – should be straightforward. However, sometimes it is difficult to make the required comparisons (e.g., behavioral standards). Some deviations from the standard may be justified because of changes in environmental conditions, or other reasons.

V. DETERMINE THE REASONS FOR THE DEVIATIONS:

The fifth step of the strategic control process involves finding out: “why performance has deviated from the standards?” Causes of deviation can range from selected achieve organizational objectives. Particularly, the organization needs to ask if the deviations are due to internal shortcomings or external changes beyond the control of the organization.

- **A general checklist such as following can be helpful:**

1. Are the standards appropriate for the stated objective and strategies?
2. Are the objectives and corresponding still appropriate in light of the current environmental situation?
3. Are the strategies for achieving the objectives still appropriate in light of the current environmental situation?
4. Are the firm’s organizational structure, systems (e.g., information), and resource support adequate for successfully implementing the strategies and therefore achieving the objectives?
5. Are the activities being executed appropriate for achieving standard?

VI. TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION:

- The final step in the strategic control process is determining the need for corrective action.
- Managers can choose among three courses of action:
 - a) They can do nothing.
 - b) They can correct the actual performance.

- c) They can revise the standard.
- When standards are not met, managers must carefully assess the reasons why and take corrective action. Moreover, the need to check standards periodically to ensure that the standards and the associated performance measures are still relevant for the future.

1.1: PREMISE CONTROL:

The business strategy you've chosen was likely based on some assumptions you made about what you believed would happen several years in the future. Whether those assumptions are about your target audience, your competitors, or product development, premise control lets you test those assumptions to see if they're still valid.

- **For example**, if you own a skateboard company, you may have assumed that your ideal buyers were Millennial, but you may discover that premise was flawed after premise control measures reveal that the fastest-growing skateboard consumers are actually an entire generation younger.

1.2: STRATEGIC SURVEILLANCE CONTROL

- It's impossible for you to anticipate every external threat that could impact the success of your business, which is why strategic surveillance control lets you identify information sources that monitor these external forces.
- Examples of these information sources are financial journals, trade magazines, newspapers, economic forums, and industry conferences.
- These sources are often the first to identify the potential challenges that businesses in your industry will face, and may even offer potential responses to these challenges.

1.3: SPECIAL ALERT CONTROL:

- At some point in time, your company will go through a rough patch that's triggered by some kind of unexpected occurrence that impacts your business in a negative way.

- This could include a sudden crash in the U.S. stock market, a domestic terrorist attack, or even a natural disaster that affects your customers' buying habits.
- Special alert control helps your business respond to these events without having to change your entire strategy to deal with this new event.
- For example, after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the U.S., many commercial airlines were forced to adopt stricter safety protocols to account for the intense fears that passengers had about flying on a plane.

1.4: IMPLEMENTATION CONTROL

- As you begin to implement a business strategy, you must use implementation control measures to assess whether or not your plan needs adjustment.
- Common types of implementation control include setting performance standards, measuring actual performance, analyzing the reasons your staff failed to meet specific performance standards, and developing a plan to correct performance deviations.
- Implementation control also includes things such as budgets, schedules, and milestones that the company is trying to achieve.

2. ROLE OF THE STRATEGISTS:

There are various kinds of strategists like **managers, board of directors, chief executive officers, entrepreneurs, senior management, SBU-level executives, corporate planning staff, consultants, middle level managers, executive assistants.**

I. BOARDS OF DIRECTORS:

- **Boards of directors** are the owners of an organization such as shareholders, controlling agencies, government, financial institutions, etc.
- They are responsible for governance of an organization, technology collaboration, new product development and senior management appointments.
- They guide the senior management in setting and accomplishing objectives, review and evaluate organization performance.

II. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

- **Chief executive officer** is answerable for all aspects of strategic management from the formulation to the evaluation of strategy.
- They play a major role in strategic decision making and provide the direction for the organization so that it can achieve its purpose.
- They assist in setting the mission of the organization.
- They are responsible for deciding the objectives, formulating and implementing the strategy.

III. ENTREPRENEURS:

- Entrepreneurs are strategists who start a new business, initiator, searches for change, and respond to it and exploits it as an opportunity.
- By their nature, entrepreneurs play a proactive role.
- They are implementers and evaluators of strategies.

IV. SENIOR MANAGEMENT:

- Senior management or top management consists of managers at highest level managerial hierarchy. They look after renovation, technology up progression, diversification and expansion and also focus on new product development.
- They assist the board and chief executives in formulating, implementing and evaluating the strategy.

V. SBU LEVEL EXECUTIVES:

- **SBU level executives** are profit center heads or divisional heads.
- They manage a diversified company as a portfolio of businesses, each business having a clearly defined product-market segment and a unique strategy.
- SBU executives maintain harmonization with other SBUs in the organizing, formulating and implementing the SBU level strategy.

VI. CORPORATE PLANNING STAFF:

- Corporate planning staff plays a supporting role.
- They put in order and communicate the strategic plans.
- They make available administrative support and fulfill the function of assisting the introduction, working and maintenance of strategic management system.

VII. CONSULTANTS:

- Consultants may be individuals, academicians or consultancy companies who are specialized in strategic management activities.
- They will advise and assist managers to improve the performance and effectiveness of an organization.
- They provide services of corporate strategy and planning.

VIII. MIDDLE LEVEL MANAGERS:

- Middle level managers look after operational matters, so they rarely play an active role in strategic management.
- They are the implementers of decision taken by top level and followers of policy guidelines.
- They contribute to generation of ideas and in development of strategic alternative.
- They also help in setting objectives at departmental level.

IX. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:

- An executive assistant will assist the chief executive in the performance of his duties in various ways.
- They assist the chief executive in data collection, analysis and in suggesting alternatives.
- Coordinating activities with internal staff and outsiders and acting as a filter for information are also performed by the executive assistant.

THE ROLE OF STRATEGIST IN ORGANIZATIONS:

A powerful strategist plays the major important roles like sooth sayer, sculptor, politician, and guru and jail buster. A strategist must be a **soothsayer or seer** who helps his team to imagine the future world within which they will be competing. They begin by reading the palm of the organization and also identify its competencies and unique strengths. They then use the crystal ball of scenarios, and imaginative thinking to help the team to visualize the future within which the business will operate. A strategist should also be a **sculptor** like an artist 'who carves a form' out of raw materials. The sculptor strategist creates a unique role or purpose for the organization. They predict the reason why the organization will be successful within the soothsayer's imagined future. The sculptor begins by defining the organization's future target markets. They then provide the future shape of the organization by defining why its future customers will choose to support it, rather than any

future imagined competitor. So the strategist changes systems, structures, rewards, alliances, products and services to ensure that everything supports the organizational purpose.

- A **politician** is someone who is 'skilled in the art of maneuvering and manipulation.' The politician strategist knows the power players in the organization. They know what drives each leader and they also know who is motivated by what external and internal factors.
- A **guru** is 'a person who gives personal spiritual guidance to his disciples.' The strategist guru, shows how each individual employee in the company, can contribute to the greater, noble goal. They help individual employees to discover their inimitable personal purpose. Then they show them how to channel their energy and talent towards living their purpose, whilst acting in ways that support the company's goal. A strategist must also play a role of **jail buster**, while at work, many employees find that their talents, passions, creativity, imagination, and energy are locked behind bars of the company culture. Timid managers who want to 'be in control', and 'avoid making mistakes', often hide the keys to creativity, energy, passion, self-assurance, and innovation. The jail buster strategist shows employees how to break out from their prison of tediousness and fear without alerting their fearful managers. They provide the key to unlocking their talents, creativity, and energy.

3. BENCHMARKING TO EVALUATE PERFORMANCE:

WHAT IS BENCHMARKING?

Benchmarking is a process where different companies compare their nature of work with other companies in the same field of business and they set certain type of standard of working. It is a matter of work from different companies which creates some standard for the work they deliver. And this standard of their work is considered and called as benchmarking. This benchmarking allows different companies to compare their **work ability** with other companies.

3.1: SOME TYPES OF BENCHMARKING:

Benchmarking is mainly used to assess the competitive insight and also gather the information based on the performance which was done throughout the product or organization development process. With the

help of this benchmarking process, we can evaluate and identify the process to eliminate hindrances which helps further in improving and enhancing our performance.

There are two primary types of benchmarking:

INTERNAL BENCHMARKING:

In this type of benchmarking the comparison of practices and performance is done between teams, individuals or groups within an organization.

EXTERNAL BENCHMARKING:

In external benchmarking process, the comparison of organizational performance towards the company peers or across companies.

These above discussed benchmarking processes can be further diluted as follows;

1. PROCESS BENCHMARKING:

Benchmarking is usually a process to see how the competitors are working or how they are able to gain success. When using process benchmarking, the data is gathered via research, surveys, and website visits. All these information is helpful for people who are working on similar kind of tasks and objectives.

2. PERFORMANCE METRICS:

Here when comparing competitors or analyzing clients, numerical metrics are gathered as information. The details later are used to identify performance gaps, prioritize tasks, etc., and then work accordingly.

3. STRATEGIC BENCHMARKING:

Strategic benchmarking analyzes how top companies compete and use best strategies to achieve success in this competitive market. This type is mainly helpful for all the organizations which are aiming for their long term goals. There are different types of benchmarking which helps in understanding the actual concept of the benchmarking process. Most of the benchmarking process involves a **legitimate competitive element** in different types of business.

4. SWOT:

- As per the abbreviation goes, it can be elaborated as **strength, weakness, opportunities and threat.**

- It is a combination made of strength & weakness with opportunities & threat.
- In this type of benchmarking process, most of the companies provide their own strength, weakness, opportunity and threat.
- And finally, the result of all this analysis covers up a new idea of change inside the company itself.

5. PEER BENCHMARKING:

There is some kind of criteria which needs to be considered while benchmarking and these criteria provide some sort of dimension for all the companies. And in this peer benchmarking the competition is among those industries or companies which deal with a similar field of work. Therefore, the comparison is among those companies which deliver similar work field.

6. GROUP BENCHMARKING:

It is one of the forms of combined benchmarking where in which a group of companies joins hands with some relevant association and that association helps them provide the report that can be necessary to deliver their benchmarking aspects. Therefore, group benchmarking or collaborative benchmarking allows all the information of the different companies through those associations and actual work of those associations is that they need to provide better reports of benchmarking of their companies.

7. BEST PRACTICE BENCHMARKING:

In this form of benchmarking the companies look forward to those companies which already made their impression on the business field. The practices which they followed to be in the top list of the best companies are followed and incorporated by the rest of the company which aspire to be similar like that successful company. Therefore, it is necessary to create benchmarking where in which it includes all the best practices delivered and reported by the company.

3.2: BENCHMARKING PROCESS:

Benchmarking process is a process in which all the different steps are included which helps all the companies from the similar or different work field find out their strengths and weakness. These steps provide all

the aspects of the companies which can provide them an actual success rate of their company.

1. DETERMINING ASPECTS OF THE COMPANY:

In this phase of benchmarking the company identifies all the aspects of their company which can help them determine their benchmarking criteria with the rest of the company. Therefore, in this phase of work the company finds out all the important aspects of their companies, which can rank them as one of the best in the industry and also can deliver information such as their success rate and element of their work order.

2. PLANNING AND RESEARCH:

In this planning and research phase, the company provides necessary information about the different aspects of their company. After understanding all the aspects of the company, the company arranges for planning phase where these aspects of companies are examined for the goodness sake of the company and finally it goes through a research phase where all the planned aspects are researched completely for the best of the companies.

3. COLLECTION OF DATA:

At this stage of benchmarking, all the data collected from the planning and research department are maintained through some sort of methods and measures. Therefore, these methods help the company provide the final and comparative aspects of the company which can consider themselves different from the rest of the company. And the final data collected through this collection stages are considered as a fact of comparison.

4. EXAMINATION:

In this stage of benchmarking all the finding and output delivered by the planning and research department are examined for the purpose of overall development of the company. Therefore, this stage examines or analyzes all those findings from the previous phase to deliver the final word of benchmarked aspects of the company

5. DEVELOPMENT:

At this stage of benchmarking the final examined data collected from the examination stage can be provided with the necessary recommendation

of development of the company. After examining the output of the benchmarking aspects of the company, the same company will create some development programs within the company to improve their working efficiency of the company.

6. INCORPORATION:

In this final stage of benchmarking all the aspects that are examined and developed are finally incorporated in the company for the overall development of the company. After finding the aspect which needs to be incorporated in the company, the company can provide a particular supportive environment for such change in the company. Therefore, all the necessary facts and those matters of the company which can turn it into a successful company need to be incorporated in the company.

3.3: ADVANTAGES OF BENCHMARKING:

There are several advantages of benchmarking. Most of the common benefits of the benchmarking help to improve the productivity of the company. Moreover, these advantages can provide a clear picture about the key factors of benchmarking in the company. And an increased productivity elements, display the successful features of the company.

1. IMPLEMENTS CREATIVE IDEAS:

- One of the common type of benchmarking where in which all the beneficial aspects of the company are creatively implemented for the overall development of the company.
- The benchmarking process helps the company find out their key features and after finding out the key features of their company, that company compares it with another company to complete the picture.
- And if there are any filling to be needed, then the company starts implementing creative ideas for the company.

2. INCREASED COMPETITIONS:

- Most of the time while doing business and while running a successful company, that company faces some strong competition from the rest of the companies.
- And that competition helps the current company to maintain their position even better in terms of their success rate of the company.
- Therefore, as per the statement of benchmarking process it definitely increases healthy competition among different companies.

3. DEVELOPING IMPROVEMENT:

- It is clear about benchmarking that it deals with those findings of the company and another company which helps them find their position in the business market.
- And if there are any chances or space available for improvement in the company activities, then the company needs to develop those improvements in the company for the growth of the company in its own terms.

4. IDENTIFIES ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES:

- One of the best possible advantages of the benchmarking is that it can help all the companies to identify their own essential activities that can improve the profits of the company.
- Therefore, after benchmarking it is very much important for all the companies to be identified in the list of companies, which is in a run and where it can deliver the victory of their company effectively.

5. QUALITY OF WORK:

- Because of benchmarking once the company identifies their strengths and weakness compared with the rest of the company, and then it is quite clear that all the aspects of the company need to be improved at a time to time basis.
- And finally the company can deliver some sort of ways which can deliver quality in their working order. Therefore, benchmarking makes things clear and creates some sort of awareness among the company working environment.

6. INCREASED PERFORMANCE:

- As it is explained earlier that the benchmarking process, identifies all the features and elements of the company which can lead them towards its success.
- And eventually, it also provides essential signals regarding the need and wants of the company.
- Once the company finds out about the actual requirements of the company, then it can increase its work performance as per the comparison aspects.

3.4: DISADVANTAGES OF BENCHMARKING:

As the company can receive some sort of benefits from these benchmarking processes, then it is quite obvious that the company can be covered with some of the disadvantages as well. And those disadvantages are as follows.

1. STABILIZED STANDARDS:

- Most of the company compares their working environment with another company which is earning quite well in the similar field of work.
- After finding out the reason for the improved success rates, the company can incorporate those ideas of that company to improve their productivity.
- And eventually, they stabilize their standard to that one aspect, without its course of action.

2. INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION:

- Sometimes it happens that while comparing the aspects of different companies, the information acquiring company can be left behind with their information gathering techniques.
- And that is why it can face tremendous loss in their business because of insufficient information about the company.
- Therefore, it is very essential for all the companies that they need to be sure of their information about that another company.

3. DECREASED RESULTS:

- Most of the time when a company sets its standard and try to improve that standard by implementing some new and creative ideas, then at that time the company need to look at those companies which are doing quite good in their similar type of business.
- And analyze the actual problem in their company.
- Once the company finds out the actual reason, then they need to research well about the element that whether it is feasible for the company or not.

4. LACK OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION:

- Most probably during the benchmarking process the company finds out those outputs which can need to be improved and developed for the sake of the overall growth of the company.
- Hence, for that the company needs to look into the matters which can increase their productivity along with their customer satisfaction.
- Therefore, instead of incorporating the ideas that another company used in their company, it can check for its feasibility in their own company.

5. LACK OF UNDERSTANDING:

- As most of the companies keep an eye on their competition instead of their own growth, it is quite clear for all the company that such type of obsession with another company cannot lead the company anywhere.
- Therefore, it is advisable for all the companies that they need to understand the need for benchmarking in their company instead of spying on another company.

6. INCREASED DEPENDENCY:

- Most of the companies think that benchmarking helps they improve their company position as it helped those successful companies to be in the top.
- But most of the companies forget that those companies which made themselves to that top position have earned their hard work.
- Therefore, instead of depending on the ideas which made that company successful, they can build their own network to make them independent for the better future.

4. STRATEGIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

Strategic information systems (SIS) are information systems that are developed in response to corporate business initiative. They are intended to give competitive advantage to the organization. They may deliver a product or service that is at a lower cost, that is differentiated, that focuses on a particular market segment, or is innovative.

Strategic information management (SIM) is a salient feature in the world of information technology (IT). In a nutshell, ***SIM helps businesses and organizations categorize, store, process and transfer the information they***

create and receive. It also offers tools for helping companies apply metrics and analytical tools to their information repositories, allowing them to recognize opportunities for growth and pinpoint ways to improve operational efficiency.

Strategic Information Systems are different from other comparable management information systems as:

- They change the way the firm competes.
- They are associated with higher project risk.
- They are innovative (and not easily copied)

4.1: CHARACTERISTICS OF STRATEGIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

I. AUTOMATION:

IT professionals design strategic information management systems to automate the management of incoming and outgoing information to the greatest possible degree. While each company has its own unique IT needs, strategic information management systems typically include built-in controls that filter, sort, categorize and store information in easy-to-manage categories.

II. CUSTOMIZATION:

Strategic information management systems are typically customized to meet the unique needs of each individual company. Incoming and outgoing data can be sorted and cross-referenced according to a wide range of individually specified controls and parameters, which include the company's business verticals and horizontals, individual clients, demographics, geographic location and business function.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ACCESS:

Strategic information management systems are extensively categorized, allowing for an optimal level of organization. Access controls can be as strict or as lax as the client wants, allowing for company-wide access to information databases or limiting information accessibility to key personnel. User-specific controls can also be set, in case employees need access to certain information but management wants to limit their access to sensitive data.

IV. BENEFITS:

The benefits of strategic information management can be felt from the executive level right down to the functional staff level. It can help businesses expand their operations into new areas, set goals, measure performance and improve overall productivity. Have an external (outward looking) focus.

V. RISKS:

Some of the risks involved with strategic information management systems include implementation challenges, incompatibility with client databases and human error. As with other IT management techniques, data protection and information security is also an ongoing concern.

4.2: USES OF STRATEGIC INFORMATION SYSTEM:**I. CREATING HURDLES FOR THE ENTRY OF A COMPETITOR:**

- In this, a firm uses information systems to supply products and services that are hard to duplicate or that are used primarily to aid highly specialized networks of business.
- This strategy stops the entry of competitors in the market as they find the cost of giving such services at a very high price.

II. IMPROVING MARKETING BY GENERATING DATABASE:

- Information system also gives the firms and organization an edge over their competition by generating stronger databases to enhance their sales and marketing tactics.
- It treats existing information as a useful resource.
- **For instance**, a business firm may use its updated databases to monitor the purchase of the customers and to locate many segments of the market.

III. LOCKING CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS:

- It is an essential way of getting the advantage of competition by making the customers and suppliers permanent.
- In this information systems strategy are implemented to provide benefits to the customer and the suppliers so that it may change their mind and it becomes hard for them to switch over to the other competitor so that they continue to provide the services.

IV. LOWERING THE COSTS OF THE PRODUCTS:

- It may help the firms lower their costs and allowing them to give products and services at a much smaller cost than their competitors.
- Thus such a strategy can provide the expansion and growth of the firm

V. LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY IN THE VALUE CHAIN:

- In this way, the organizations pinpoint the particular activities in the business, where competitive market strategies can be applied and where the strategically information systems can be more effective.

5. GUIDELINES OF PROPER CONTROL:

Measuring performance is a crucial part of Evaluation and Control. The lack of quantifiable objectives or performance standards and the inability of the information system to provide timely, valid information are two obvious control problems.

In designing a control system, top management should remember that controls should follow strategy. Unless controls ensure the use of the proper strategy to achieve objectives, dysfunctional side effects may completely undermine the implementation of the objectives.

The following guidelines are very important to develop the control system in any organization:

- Controls should involve only the minimum amount of information needed to give a reliable picture of events. Too many controls create confusion. Focus on the strategic factors by following the 80/20 rule: Monitor those 20% of the factors that determine 80% of the results.
- Controls should monitor only meaningful activities and result. .
- Controls should be timely.
- Controls should be long term and short term
- Controls should pinpoint exceptions.
- Controls should be used to reward meeting or exceeding standards rather than to punish failure to meet standards.

6. STRATEGIC SURVILLIANCE:

Compared to premise control and implementation control, strategic surveillance is designed to be a relatively unfocused, open, and broad search activity."*... Strategic surveillance is designed to monitor a broad range of events inside and outside the company that are likely to threaten the course of the firm's strategy.*"

The basic idea behind strategic surveillance is that some form of general monitoring of multiple information sources should be encouraged, with the specific intent being the opportunity to uncover important yet unanticipated information.

Strategic surveillance appears to be similar in some way to "environmental scanning." The rationale, however, is different. Environmental scanning usually is seen as *part* of the chronological *planning cycle* devoted to generating information for the new plan.

By way of contrast, strategic surveillance is designed to safeguard the *established strategy* on a continuous basis. Small businesses use strategic surveillance to observe events inside and outside the business that will likely affect its strategy. ***The goal of this surveillance is to keep ahead of competitors and changes in the business climate.***

6.1: EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIC SURVILLIANCE:

Reviewing Outside Literature

- One example of everyday strategic surveillance by small business is the review of outside literature relating to business activities. This literature can include reading **The Wall Street Journal, Business Weekly, or any other trade publication.** These **newspapers and periodicals** offer insight into business trends or trends that are becoming outdated. This is a relatively inexpensive way for small businesses to observe business trends that will affect their company strategy.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Watching environmental factors is another example of strategic surveillance.

- **For example,** the mad cow epidemic immediately affected what the fast food industry served. Restaurants stopped serving beef and began serving chicken and vegetarian alternate dishes. The fast food industry knew that this epidemic would immediately affect their business so it changed its menu to avoid revenue losses.

ATTENDING TRADE CONFERENCES

Another example of strategic surveillance is attending trade conferences in your line of business. Every type of business holds various trade conferences throughout the year to introduce new products and to discuss ideas for the future. These conferences are a perfect way to view the competition and to test new ideas or products. Customers also attend these conferences so small businesses can view how the customers will react to possible changes.

SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES

- Another example of strategic surveillance is watching social networking websites.
- This is an inexpensive way to observe how clients and competitors will react to a company changing strategy and to receive their comments.
- **For example**, most companies place on their websites "Follow us on Face book and Twitter." This enables consumers to connect with companies on these social websites by making comments about problems with the company or posting things they like about the company.
- These comments are then read by the company and other consumers.

7. STRATEGIC AUDIT:

A strategic audit is an examination and evaluation of areas affected by the operation of a strategic management process within an organization.

A strategy audit may be needed under the following conditions:

- Performance indicators show that a strategy is not working or is producing negative side effects.
- High-priority items in the strategic plan are not being accomplished.
- A shift or change occurs in the external environment.
- Management wishes:
 - (1) To fine-tune a successful strategy and
 - (2) To ensure that a strategy that has worked in the past continues to be in tune with subtle internal or external changes that may have occurred.

A strategy audit is a review of a company's business plan and strategies to identify weaknesses and shortcomings and enable a successful development of the company. The strategy audit secures that all necessary

information for the development of the company are included in the business plan and that the management supports it.

A **strategic audit** is an in-depth review to determine whether a company is meeting its organizational objectives in the most efficient way. Additionally, it examines whether the company is utilizing its resources fully. A successful **strategic audit** is beneficial to any company.

7.1. PROCESS OF STRATEGIC AUDIT:

The process of conducting a strategic audit can be summarized into the following stages:

I. RESOURCE AUDIT:

The resource audit identifies the resources available to a business. Some of these can be owned (e.g. plant and machinery, trademarks, retail outlets) whereas other resources can be obtained through partnerships, joint ventures or simply supplier arrangements with other businesses.

II. VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS:

Value Chain Analysis describes the activities that take place in a business and relates them to an analysis of the competitive strength of the business. Influential work by Michael Porter suggested that the activities of a business could be grouped under two headings:

1. **Primary Activities** - those that are directly concerned with creating and delivering a product (e.g. component assembly)
- **Support Activities**, which whilst they are not directly involved in production, may increase effectiveness or efficiency (e.g. human resource management). It is rare for a business to undertake all primary and support activities. Value Chain Analysis is one way of identifying which activities are best undertaken by a business and which are best provided by others ("outsourced").

Primary Activity	Description
<i>Inbound logistics</i>	All those activities concerned with receiving and storing externally sourced materials
<i>Operations</i>	The manufacture of products and services – the way in which resource inputs (e.g. materials) are converted to outputs (e.g. products)
<i>Outbound logistics</i>	All those activities associated with getting finished goods and services to buyers
<i>Marketing and sales</i>	Essentially an information activity – informing buyers and consumers about products and services (benefits, use, price etc.)
<i>Service</i>	All those activities associated with maintaining product performance after the product has been sold

Secondary Activity	Description
<i>Procurement</i>	This concerns how resources are acquired for a business (e.g. sourcing and negotiating with materials suppliers)
<i>Human Resource Management</i>	Those activities concerned with recruiting, developing, motivating and rewarding the workforce of a business
<i>Technology Development</i>	Activities concerned with managing information processing and the development and protection of "knowledge" in a business
<i>Infrastructure</i>	Concerned with a wide range of support systems and functions such as finance, planning, quality control and general senior management

III. CORE COMPETENCE ANALYSIS:

Core competencies are those capabilities that are critical to a business achieving competitive advantage. The starting point for analyzing core competencies is recognizing that competition between businesses is as much a race for competence mastery as it is for market position and market power. Senior management cannot focus on all activities of a business and the competencies required undertaking them. So the goal is for management to focus attention on competencies that really affect competitive advantage.

IV. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS:

The resource audit, value chain analysis and core competence analysis help to define the strategic capabilities of a business. After completing such analysis, questions that can be asked that evaluate the overall performance of the business. These questions include:

- How have the resources deployed in the business changed over time? This is **historical analysis**
- How do the resources and capabilities of the business compare with others in the industry? This is **industry norm analysis**

- How do the resources and capabilities of the business compare with "best-in-class" - wherever that is to be found? This is **benchmarking**.
- How has the financial performance of the business changed over time, and how does it compare with key competitors and the industry as a whole? This is **ratio analysis**.

V. PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS:

Portfolio Analysis analyses the overall **balance** of the strategic business units of a business. Most large businesses have operations in more than one market segment, and often in different geographical markets. Larger, diversified groups often have several divisions (each containing many business units) operating in quite distinct industries. An important objective of a strategic audit is to ensure that the business portfolio is strong and that business units requiring investment and management attention are highlighted. This is important - a business should always consider which markets are most attractive and which business units have the potential to achieve advantage in the most attractive markets.

VI. SWOT ANALYSIS:

- SWOT is an abbreviation for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.
- **SWOT analysis** is an important tool for auditing the overall strategic position of a business and its environment.

SWOT analysis is a method for analyzing a business, its resources and its environment. It focuses on the internal strengths and weaknesses of an organization.

- SWOT analysis aims to discover:
 - What the business does better than the competition
 - What competitors do better
 - Whether it is making the most of the opportunities available
 - How a business should respond to changes in its external environment

8. STRATEGY AND CORPORATE EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK IN INDIAN CONTEXT:

The final stage in strategic management is strategy evaluation and control. All strategies are subject to future modification internal and external factors are constantly changing. In the strategy evaluation and control process in India managers determine whether the chosen strategy is achieving the organizations objectives. The fundamental strategy evaluation and control activities are reviewing internal and external factors that are the bases for current strategy measuring performance and taking corrective actions. Some of the examples of strategy and corporate evaluation process adopted by Indian companies are as follows.

1. STRATEGIC EVALUATION AND CONTROL AT THE APOLLO HOSPITALS NETWORK:

Apollo hospitals enterprise limited (AHEL) has the distinction of being the first and the largest corporate hospital network in modeled on the hospital corporation of America the world's largest private healthcare providers.

The Apollo network owns and manages more than 40 hospitals in India and some neighboring countries. It serves 7.4 million customers and aims at increasing bed capacity by around 30% every year. There are more than 50 clinical departments for patient care manned by about 7000 medical professionals. The technological capability of AHEL is seen in the state of the art equipments for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes and in cases of using advanced medical procedures. The strategic control appears to be centralized in the executive team led by Dr. REDDY.

The performance evaluation model at AHEL called the Apollo clinical excellence model is based on the identification of key performance areas such as clinical professionals support personnel equipment patients and environment of care.

2. STRATEGIC EVALUATION AT CENTAL PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN INDIA:

The government of India is the owner of 245 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) employing 16.5lac persons with a cumulative investment of over ₹76,000crore net worth of over ₹4,00,000crore generating net profit of over ₹76,000crore in 2006 that is about 11% of the GDP of India.

In 1987-88 the government of India introduced the system of memorandum of understanding for performance evaluation of CPSEs. MOU is a freely negotiated agreement between the public enterprise and the administrative ministry. Under the agreement the enterprises undertake to achieve the targets set in the agreement at the beginning of the year. The MOU covers both financial performance as well as non financial performance. Under this system performance of the company is categorized into five categories namely excellent, very good, good, fair and poor. The measurement of performance is based on the standards devised through balanced scorecard approach and includes both financial and non financial parameters having equal weight of 50% each. The non financial parameters are further divided into dynamic parameters (30%) enterprise specific parameters (10%) and sector specific parameters (10%).

3. TATA AND BALANCED SCORECARD:

Balanced scorecard is a comprehensive performance measurement system that balances traditional financial measures with operational measures. **TATA MOTORS** is the largest and most prominent market leader in the manufacture of commercial business vehicles in India. In the year 2000 its **commercial vehicles business unit (CVBU)** suffered its first loss in its more than fifty years history. This loss was motors to take a profound look into itself to find reason in this debacle.

Subsequently the executive director of CBVU, Mr. RAVI KANT called for stringent cost cutting across unit operations supported by more effective formulation and execution of strategy. To augment this process the management of TATA MOTERS resolved to adopt the balanced scorecard and performance framework as the key tool in the endeavor to re-build the organizational performance chart. The challenge here was to undertake deployment of the balanced scorecard across all the functional units and departments of the CBVU.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Some of the examples of strategy and corporate evaluation processes adopted by international companies are as follows.

1. BSC AT PHILIPS:

When a management tool becomes popular it is only logical to question whether it is a fad or the future. One has broad appeal. Approximately 50% of

fortune 1,000 companies in north America and about 40% in Europe use a version of the BSC according to a recent survey by Bain and Co. the number of software and consulting firms currently providing BSC related products and services supports these statistics. But do companies think the BSC is here to stay? Philips electronic does. This worldwide conglomerate has gathered its more than 250,000 employees in 150 countries around the card because it sees this tool as the future not a trendy tool. The key benefit for Philips: management can streamline the complicated process of running a complex international complex with diverse product lines and divisions. Here is how it cascades throughout the organization.

The drive to implement the balanced scorecard at Philips electronics came from the top down as a directive from the board of management in Europe to all Philips divisions and companies worldwide. The directive went to all Philips divisions and companies and their quality departments with the effort in the medical division headed by the quality steering committee that reports to the president of Philips medical systems.

Philips electronics has used the balanced scorecard to align company vision focus employees on how they fit into the big picture and educate them on what drives the business. An essential aid to communicating the business strategy the BSC works as a vehicle to take key financial indicators and create quantitative expressions of the business strategy. In fact Philips electronics management team uses it to guide the quarterly business reviews worldwide in order to promote organizational learning and continuous improvement.

The tool has helped Philips electronics focus on factors critical for their business success and align hundreds of indicators that measures their markets operations and laboratories. The business variables crucial for creating value which are known as the four critical success factors (CSFs) on the Philips electronics BSC are,

- a.** Competence (knowledge, technology, leadership, and teamwork)
- b.** Processes (drivers for performance)
- c.** Customers (value propositions) and
- d.** Financials (value, growth and productivity)

2. BENCHMARKING AT XEROX

The history of Xerox goes back to 1938 when **CHESTER CARLSON** a patent attorney and part time inventor made the first xerographic image in the U.S Carlson struggled for over five years to sell the invention as many companies did not believe there as a market for it. Finally in 1944 the battle memorial institute in Columbus Ohio, contracted with Carlson to refine his new process which Carlson called electro photography.

- a. Xerox defined benchmarking as the process of measuring its products service and practices against its toughest competitors identifying the gaps and establishing goals. Our goal is always to achieve superiority in quality product reliability and cost. Gradually Xerox developed its own benchmarking model. This model involved tens steps categorized under five stages planning analysis integration action a **PLANNING**: determine the subject to be benchmarked identify the relevant best practice organizations and select/develop the most appropriate data collection techniques.
- b. **ANALYSIS**: assess the strengths of competitors and compare Xerox's performance with that of its competitors. This stage determines the current competitive gap and the projected competitive gap.
- c. **INTEGRATION**: establish necessary goals on the basis of the data collected to attain best performance integrate the goals into the company's formal planning processes. This stage determines the new goals or targets of the company and the way in which these will be communicated across the organization.
- d. **ACTION**: implement action plans established and assess them periodically to determine whether the company is achieving its objectives. Deviations from the plan are also tackled at this stage.
- e. **MATURITY**: determine whether the company has attained a superior performance level. This stage also helps the company to determine whether benchmarking process has become an integral part of the organizations formal management process.

Xerox collected data on key processes of best practice companies. There critical processor were then analyzed to identify and define improvement opportunities. For example Xerox identified ten key factors that were related to marketing. These were.

1. Customer marketing
2. Management
3. Asset management
4. Business management
5. Human resource management and
6. Information technology. Customer engagement
7. Order fulfillment
8. Product maintenance
9. Billing and collection
10. Financial

These ten key factors were further divided into 67 sub-processes. Each of these sub-processes then became a target for improvement. The five stage process involved the following activities.

Purpose of acquiring data from the related benchmarking companies Xerox subscribed to the management and technical databases referred to magazines and trade journals and also consulted professional associations and consulting firms.

CASE STUDY:

CASE STUDY – 1

CASE EAST INDIA HOTELS

After 58 years of peddling hospitality through its chain of luxury hotels the famous Oberoi name is about to be transformed into a consumer products brand. East India hotels have drawn up plans to become a multi products multi-divisional empire through a series of diversification moves.

The expansion will see the high profile hotel group venture into unfamiliar terrain food processing edible oils tissue paper and health care. These will be in addition to the existing software division. The management has been restructured over the past year. More professionals have been brought in to take charge of operational responsibilities. Certain directors were also relieved of their operational duties in order to permit them to pay full attention to diversification.

The first move will see the launch of a variety of processed foods covering every meal from breakfast to dinner as well as chocolates spices and mineral

water. But can a service name be used to sell food products? The plan is to target only the up market segment by feeding on as well as nourishing the brands reputation. Edible oil for instance will be positioned as a product of specialty cooking. The Oberoi brand name is also to be extended to international quality tissue paper. The Oberoi after the experience of managing the catering division of a major hospital in Delhi with US or Australian collaboration. The Oberoi software division has already started selling its hotel management packages in the domestic market and is planning to enter the international market using an international tie-up.

What links these projects together is the fact that each of them will have the expertise of a foreign collaboration with an equity stake in joint ventures.

Meanwhile the hotel business is still part of the main blueprint and three star hotels are coming up at 18 locations across the country with a joint venture through ACCER of France. The international presence is also being strengthened through hotels coming up at Budapest, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Recently, Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi, chairman of EIH Ltd. – which runs India's second biggest hotel chain – and his family had sold 55.4 million shares a 14.12% stake in the company to an investment arm of reliance industries Ltd for 1,021crore.

QUESTIONS:

- A) HAS EAST INDIA HOTELS CAPITALIZED ON ITS STRENGTHS IN ITS GROWTH PLAN? IF SO, HOW?**
- B) WHAT ARE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WEAKNESSES THE COMPANY HAS ATTEMPTED TO OVERCOME IN ITS GROWTH PLAN, AND HOW?**

A) HAS EAST INDIA HOTELS CAPITALIZED ON ITS STRENGTHS IN ITS GROWTH PLAN? IF SO, HOW?

ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION:

The India Hotels have capitalized their strength in their growth plan. This can be shown by various examples given below;

- 1)** In healthcare section the East India Hotels Limited (EIH) is planning to open a 250 bed hospital in Delhi at a cost of 40 crore in collaboration with U.S and Australia. This is backed by their experience of managing the catering department of a major hospital in Saudi Arabia to enter into the healthcare sector.

2) In IT sector East India Hotels already has a software division selling hotel management packages in domestic market for quite some time and they are planning to go international using international tie-ups. In the IT sector they have to capitalize on their strength of hotel management software packages in developing other types of software, so that company's experience is fully utilized in developing other offerings.

3) They are also planning to enter into processed food where they will produce and sell every kinds of meal from breakfast to dinner including chocolate, spices, mineral water. Since the group has a vast experience and competency in this sector, it will not only help to grow, but also develop a specific brand name for products as this sector in India is currently at a growth stage and the group has very good chance of capturing market at early stages.

4) The organization is also trying to enter into edible oil market and trying to position itself as specialty cooking oil under its brand name. This provides them the cost effectiveness in terms of supply of edible oil for their hotel chain a sin case of reliance industry limited they have their own refinery to produce fiber or yarn for their textiles units. Oberoi can promote its brand through chain of hotels and vast experience in food and catering industry.

5) Tissue paper business is relatively new for the Oberoi group but with the help of international and foreign collaboration they can overcome this problem and introduce national quality tissue paper under their brand name in domestic as well as in international business.

6) In the hotel sector the company is planning to open 3 star hotels in 18 locations across the country with a joint venture through ACCER of France. It is also trying to strengthen its international presence by starting hotels in Indonesia, Budapest, Saudi Arabia.

B. WHAT ARE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WEAKNESSES THE COMPANY HAS ATTEMPTED TO OVERCOME IN ITS GROWTH PLAN, AND HOW?

ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION:

The various internal and external weaknesses of group in the specific sectors and steps taken to overcome them are given as follows.

- In the healthcare sector the company does not have an previous experience in core hospitality like medical services/facilities staffing, availability of medicine vendors suppliers and other area of expertise. One more area is of hospital administration and medical equipments

expertise. To overcome this lack of experience the group is trying to have collaboration with foreign firms i.e., U.S. and Australia.

- The food processing industry which is another unfamiliar diversification and already developed market area, consist of many existing player so, it is hard for the company to diversify within existing products.
- In software division the company is producing and selling its hotel management software packages only in domestic markets. The company requires the expertise of IT firms to develop various kinds of software solutions packages not only domestically but also for international markets. This can be done by collaborating with prominent and experience domestic and international IT firms.
- Similar in the case of tissue division the group will again face problem in the form of experience to make and built plan for its marketing and positioning.

CASE STUDY – 2

ARTOS INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Artos soft drinks limited ramachandrapuram was one of the leading soft drinks industrial units during 1960s in Andhra Pradesh. In fact the varieties of soft drinks available in the market were a few. The market in Andhra Pradesh was rather unorganized during 1960s. The transport facilities and other infrastructural facilities for marketing soft drinks were not developed. The cultural of the customers was not in favor of consumption of soft drinks. In fact consumption of soft drinks was a luxurious item of most of the consumers during this period in the region.

Strategic themes of the company during this period include

- Develop its brand as a major brand with market leadership
- Sophisticated yet efficient operating systems
- Create the awareness among consumers about soft drink consumption

The company could implement the first strategy. It could become the leader in the area through its niche strategy with a few followers. The company's closest competitor was M/s Raju soft drinks company, Vijayawada. This company could not perform well in the market due to low demand and as such offered a merged proposal with Artos soft drinks limited in 1971. The management of

Artos soft drinks limited accepted the proposal and executed the merger in 1972.

The new company's product range includes

- Artos orange
- Artos lemon
- Artos grape and
- Artos pineapple

The company's capital went up from 1lac to 50lac the sales increased from 15lac to 10crore per year during the period between 1960 and 1975.

The return on investment has gone up from 18% to 24% during the period. Company also expanded its market to the neighboring states during the period 1972 to 1975. During this period environment was favorable to the economic growth population growth increased awareness of the soft drink consumption and the like.

Moreover the environment was marked by the negligible competition in the soft drink industry.

The new brands of soft drinks gold spot Limca, Kismet, were introduced in 1976 in different sizes, attractive bottles and attractive flavor. Added to this these new brands were advertised extensively. The high income bracket customers who generally consume soft drinks frequently shifted their loyalty to the new brands. The new company offered concessional price for bulk purchases for marriages and other functions. These factors created threats to Artos soft drink limited.

The management called for a meeting of its board of directors to decide upon the future strategy of the company. The board of directors considered several alternative strategies including.

- Conversion of soft drink manufacturing plant into beer manufacturing plant with additional investment.
- Turnaround the existing company
- Diverting the present company as it is
- Merge with the new company

The board of directors after considering SWOT analysis of each of the above strategies selected the strategy of converting the existing plant and facilities to produce beer as the competition in beer industry was significantly less. The

company mobilized the additional capital through loans and advances from the banks and the board of directors.

The process of conversion was completed in 1982. The company changed its name as Artos industries limited in 1982.

The company followed the strategy of penetration pricing policy for the Artos Beer and advertised about the product extensively. The company could generate surplus cash reserves by 1989.

The management of Artos industries invested their entire cash surplus and turned around their textiles business. The textile business introduced a number of changes including new designs improving the quality extensive advertisement and reducing the prices. These strategies of the company had started producing the results in the form of increase in sales gross profit and net profit since 1991.

The competition in beer business started intensifying from the year 1990. It reached its peak level in 1995. Artos industries had been affected severely by the mounting competition. However the management called for an urgent meeting of the board of directors to discuss the issue and formulate the future strategies.

STRATEGIC OPTIONS AVAILABLE

The strategic options to the board of directors were,

- Harvesting the assets of the beer business
- Turnaround the beer business by investing additional finances generated by the textile unit.
- Firing the chief executive of the beer unit and appointing the new chief executive.

QUESTIONS:

A. WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THE ORGANISATION

B. WHAT STRATEGIES OPTION YOU SUGGEST AND WHY?

A. WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THE ORGANISATION?

ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION:

ARTOS INDUSTRIES LIMITED was a running well but due to increased competition it lost its market and suffered loss.

The main reasons behind its failure were,

- 1. UNAWARE ABOUT MARKET CHANGES:** It was not aware about the changing environment due to insufficient research data. It was unaware about the changes in the market environment. Its unawareness gave it a jerk and lead to divestment and merger.
- 2. LACK OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:** it has lack of research and development resources because of that it has lost its market as competitors introduced new and improved products in the market.
- 3. LACK OF IMPROVED MARKET STRATEGIES:** as their strategies were just framed for better packaging they did not focused on distribution production and pricing. This area was remain untouched by the company and was traced by other companies.
- 4. LACK OF CORE COMPETENCY:** company was unable to develop its core competency. Due to this it always had a tough competition.
- 5. INEFFICIENT MARKETING STAFF:** marketing department was unable to analyze the competitor's strategies and changing customer taste and trends.
- 6. UNORGANISED FINANCIAL PLANNING:** company does not have any proper financial planning for its future development and upcoming hazards. Company was not prepared for future problems.
- 7. LACK OF GOOD STRATEGIES:** the strategies of the company were not having long term vision capacity due to which the company was not prepared for any hurdle.

These were the few major problems which were encountered by the company during its journey whether it was soft drink manufacture or it was a bear manufacturer.

B. WHAT STRATEGIES OPTION YOU SUGGEST AND WHY?

ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION:

According to the present situation and past experience I will suggest the company should go for **TURNAROUND STRATEGY**.

The company should revive its business strategy and remain attached to the same business this will help the company to develop niche and core competency. As if the company will keep on switching its business it will become insolvent as it affects badly the financial resources.

Company should revise its strategy and develop some new strategies regarding mobilizing its financial resources utilization of resources and

marketing strategies. So the company can better analyze its market and competitors strategy.

IMPORTANT PREVIOUS QUESTIONS:

1. Critically evaluate the role of corporate strategist in business world?
2. Compare the strategy and corporate evaluation and feedback in the Indian and international context?
3. What are the salient techniques of strategic evaluation and control?
4. Write a short note on;
 - a. What is strategic audit?
 - b. How do you establish strategic controls?
 - c. Explain the process of corporate strategic evaluation in India?
5. What is strategic control? Discuss the purpose of strategic control?

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