Organisational Design

financial, human and physical resources into products and services), and (iii) environmental uncertainty (external environment).

Information technology and globalisation have had a tremendous impact on Information technology and globalisation and globalisation in the traditional organisation structures. Many of today's managers realise that the traditional organisation structures based on bureaucratic principles no longer productional organisation structures. Many of boas, organisation structures based on bureaucratic principles no longer provide organisation structures posed by the new paradigm environment. organisation structures based on buteautitude paradigm environment. The needs solutions to the challenges posed by the new paradigm environment. The needs solutions to the challenges, creativity, innovation, knowledge and solutions to the challenges posed by many innovation, knowledge and the of flexibility, adaptability to change, creativity, innovation, knowledge and the of flexibility, adaptability to change, and uncertainties are among the biggest ability to overcome environmental uncertainties. The result has a ability to overcome environmental and organisations. The result has been that the challenges facing many of the organisations. The result has been that the challenges facing many of the organization challenges facing many of the vertical (flat) structures are being replaced by horizontal (flat) structures, the vertical (tall) structures are being transformed in the vertical (flat) structures are being trans vertical (tall) structures are being transformed into ones with mechanistic structures are being transformed into ones with organisations with mechanistic structures are being transformed into ones with organisations with mechanistic organic structure. These shifts reflect a clear departure from the practice of organic structure. These sinus recentralised decision-making, from command to centralised decision-making to decentralised decision-making from command to centralised decision-making to the new forms of organisation structure that consensus based self-collidor. have emerged are: taskforce, network, virtual, boundaryless structures. The have emerged are: taskingto, interest types of organisation structures are briefly described salient teatures of diese and overview of different types of organisation structure and their suitability under different situations.

3.2 LINE ORGANISATION

Line organisation is the simplest form of organisation structure. The line structure is based on the scalar principle, which states that authority and responsibility should flow in a direct line vertically from the highest level of the organisation to the lowest level. The primary emphasis in the line organisation is upon the superior-subordinate relationship. Every person in the organisation is in the direct chain of command. (Figure 1).

General Manager Manager Manager Manager Production Finance Marketing Deputy Manager DeputyManager Production DeputyManager Finance Marketing Foreman Accountants Officers Workers Assistants Salesman

Figure 1: Line Organisation

One of the advantages of the line organisation is that it facilitates decision making and execution because there is a definite authority at each level of the the top level, the same is carried out simply without anybody down the line venturing to point out its deficiencies.

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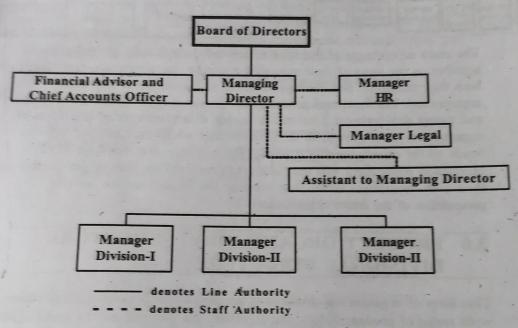
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3.3 LINE AND STAFF ORGANISATION

Most business organisations, except the very small, have this type of structure. As the organisations have grown complex, the problems of line executives have become sufficiently complicated. The line executives being generalists, need the advice of personnel with specialised knowledge and functions to tackle these problems. For this purpose, the staff positions are created in the organisation. In line and staff organisation, the line authority remains the same as it does in the line organisation i.e. the authority flows from top to bottom; and the line executives perform the major functions; the staff functionaries support and advise the line executives. For example, for sound management of human resources, the line managers are provided specialised assistance through personnel/Human Resource managers. As staff functionaries are employed to perform supportive role, they do not have any power of command in the organisation (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Line and Staff Organisation

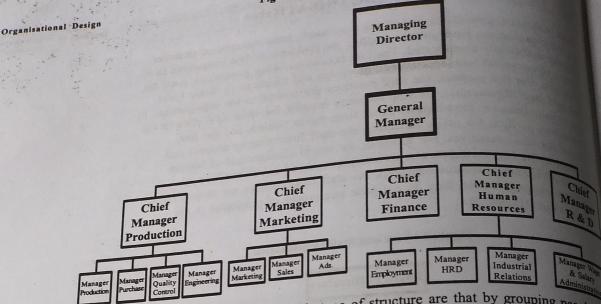


The main advantage of line and staff organisation is that the staff specialists relieve the line executives of the botheration of concentrating on specialised functions like selection, training, development, wage and salary administration, accounting, public relations etc. However, the disadvantage of this structure is that since functionaries are not accountable for the results, they may not be performing their duties effectively.

3.4 FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

This is the most widely used form of organisation structure because of its simple logic and commonsense appeal. Here the tasks are grouped together on the basis of common functions. So, all production activities or all financial activities are grouped into a single function which undertakes all the tasks required of that function. A typical chart of a functional organisation is presented in Figure 3.

The functional structure suits best to the small to medium organisations producing one or a few products, where the goals of the organisation emphasise functional specialisation, efficiency and quality.

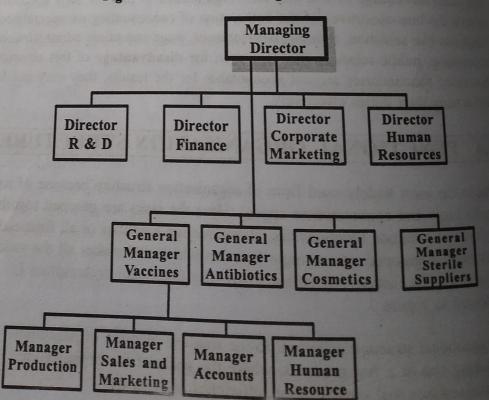


The main advantages of this type of structure are that by grouping people together on the basis of their specialist expertise, the organisation can facilitate both their utilisation and their coordination in the service of the whole organisation. The functional grouping also provides opportunities for promotion and career development. One of the major disadvantages of this form of organisation is the growth of sectional interest which may conflict with the needs of the organisation as a whole. For example, the members of the production department will see their activities from the narrow perspective of their own department rather than viewing the same from the broader perspective of the entire organisation.

3.5 PRODUCT ORGANISATION STRUCTURE / DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

This form of organisation structure is adopted by large companies producing a wide range of products. Here, the activities are grouped on the basis of the

Figure 4: Product-based Organisation Structure



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individual products manufactured by the company. Thus, one finds autonomous "little companies within the company" adopting this type of organisation structure. As such, within each of these little independent units, we find all important functions viz. production, marketing, finance and human resources. The organisation structure of a large multi-product pharmaceutical company is illustrated in Figure 4.

One of the advantages of the product organisation is that it enables diversification of the products to take place with minimal effort. Another advantage is that it can cope better with technological change by grouping people with expertise and their specialised equipment in one major unit. The main disadvantage of the product organisation is that each product division may promote its own product group in a way that creates problems to other product divisions of the company.

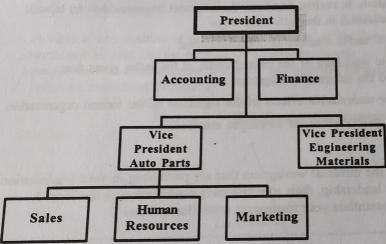
3.6 HYBRID STRUCTURE

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The hybrid form combines features of both functional and divisional forms. When an organisation starts to get very large, it establishes some self-contained units. Functions that are considered important to each product are decentralised to the units; however, some functions like finance and accounting are centralised at headquarters for practical reasons (Figure 5).

Figure 5: A Hybrid Organisation Structure

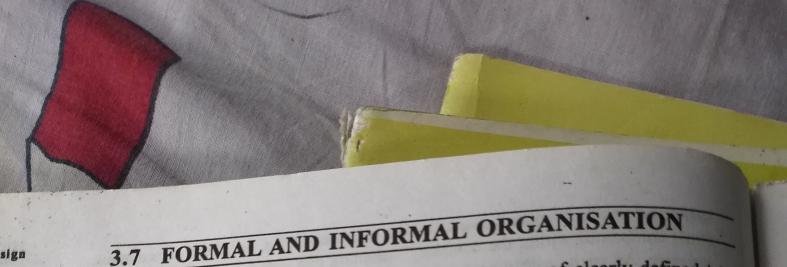


The functional part of the organisation is reflected in the departments centralised at the corporate level. However, each of the product divisions has specialists in functional areas for necessary assistance.

The important advantages of hybrid structure are:

- 1. The overall organisation enjoys the benefits of both functional and product (decentralised) structures.
- 2. It provides the opportunity to improve coordination both within and among divisions.
- 3. It enables the organisation to pursue an adaptive strategy within the product divisions while at the same time achieving efficiency in the functional departments.
- 4. It helps in proper alignment of corporate and divisional goals.

A major disadvantage of the hybrid structure is that it often leads to excessive duplication of activities between functions and divisions. Another disadvantage is its tendency to create conflict between headquarters and divisional functions.



The formal organisation structure refers to a structure of clearly defined jobs each bearing a definite amount of responsibility and authority. The formal organisation lays down formal procedures, rules and regulations, which guide the behaviour of individuals performing these jobs.

The informal organisation is the outcome of social interaction that takes place between the individuals of the formal organisation. When people work together they tend to form informal work groups, often spontaneously, because of physical proximity, commonality of interest etc. These informal groups are collectively known as informal organisation. Unlike the formal organisation, the informal organisation is unstructured and not given. Generally, it is an unofficial organisation born out of a formal organisation. An informal organisation has its own structure, roles, procedures, norms and values which are unwritten and are evolved through consensus among the members of the informal groups. An informal organisation does not have a fixed chain of command. It is based on the sentiments of the members. The communication patterns are not fixed and as such communication may flow in any direction.

In contrast to formal organisation analysis, the dysfunctional aspects of informal organisation such as conflicting objectives, restriction of output, resistance to change have received more attention than the functional ones. In other words, the informal organisation is often projected to be counter-productive to the formal organisation. In reality, however, the informal organisation can benefit the formal organisation in the following ways:

- 1. It serves as a useful channel of communication
- 2. It lightens the workload of the management, if the latter gives due importance to the informal workgroups
- 3. It reduces the undesirable effects of the rigidities of the formal organisation 4. It provides a safety valve for employee emotions.

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