

Planning

- It is one of the basic managerial functions. Planning is defined as thinking in advance what is to be done, when it is to be done and by whom it is to be done. Planning bridges the gap between where we are standing today and where we want to reach in future. Planning involves setting objectives and developing appropriate course of action to achieve those objectives.
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Nature of Planning

- (i) Planning is Goal Oriented
- (ii) It is primary function of management
- (iii) Planning is all pervasive
- (iv) It is a continuous process
- (v) It is futuristic
- (vi) It is a mental exercise
- (vii) It involves decision making.

- (i) Planning is Goal Oriented :- Planning is purposeful. We cannot think of planning in absence of the goal.
- (ii) Planning is the Primary Function of Mgt. :- It is the first function performed by every manager. It lays down the base for other functions of management. No other function can be performed without planning.
- (iii) Planning is All pervasive :- Planning is required in all the levels of management as well as in all the departments of the organization.
- (iv) Planning is Continuous :- Plans are required for a specific period of time, maybe for a month or a year. At the end of that period, there is need for a new plan to be drawn on the basis of new requirements.
- (v) It is Futuristic :- Planning always means looking ahead, it is never for the past. All the manager's make predictions and assumption for future.
- (vi) It is a mental exercise :- It is thinking process rather than doing process. It requires application of mind involving foresight, intelligent imagination and sound judgement. It requires logical and systematic thinking rather than guesswork and wishful thinking.
- (vii) It involves decision making :- It involves the choice of many of the best alternative out of various alternatives.