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#### Introduction

- Planning is essential in every walk of life. Each and every person has to frame a plan to recede in his activities. The plan period may be short or long. Planning is the first and foremost function of management.
- Effective planning facilitates early achievement of objectives, which depends upon the efficiency of the planner. A planner can develop his efficiency by preparing himself to face the functional developments.

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Does water flowing in a distant mountain think about its distance from the ocean?

The distance between my current position and my desired goals is very big.

But I shall reach my goals.

#### **Meaning of Planning**

Planning is an intellectual process of thinking resorted to deicide a course of action which helps achieve the predetermined objectives of the organization future. Separate plans are prepared for various departments, and then the top executives of the organization take steps to co ordinate the various departmental plans.

#### **Definition**

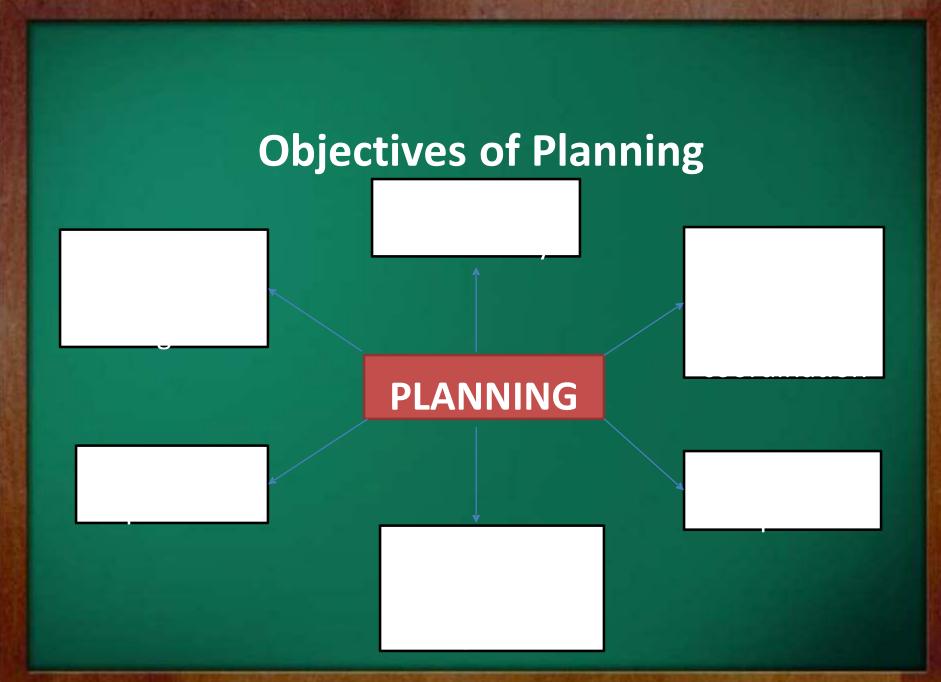
There are various definitions by various eminent writers in the field of management. But in nut shell Terry has rightly said that "Planning is the selecting and relating of facts and the making and using of assumptions regarding the future in the visualization and formulations of proposed activities believed necessary to achieve desired results

# **Characteristics of Planning**

- Following are the characteristics of planning.
- Planning is looking into the future.
- Involves pre determined line of action.
- It discovers the best alternative out of available many alternatives.
- It requires considerable time form implementation.
- It is a continuous process.
- Its object is to achieve pre determined objectives in a better way.
- It integrates various activities of organization.

# **Characteristics of Planning**

- It is done for a specific period.
- It not only selects the objectives but also develops policies, programs and procedures to achieve the objectives.
- It is required at all levels of management.
- It is an interdependent process which co ordinates the various business activities.
- It directs the members of the organization.
- Growth and prosperity of any organization depends upon planning.



#### **Nature of Planning**

- Economy and certainty are considered while selecting the best alternative among the available ones.
- The nature of planning is as below that is self explanatory.
- Primary Function
- Planning contributes to objectives
- Planning is an intellectual activity
- Planning results in higher efficiency
- Planning is a continuous process

#### Nature of Planning

- Planning is flexible
- unity and consistency
- Planning is common to all
- Basis for all managerial functions
- Getting coordination
- Considering limiting factors

## **Planning Vs. Forecasting**

Remember planning is not forecasting. Forecasting is guessing of the future course of events correctly, whereas planning is a wider term that includes forecasting and it is part of planning and is based on the past experience.

## **Importance of Planning**

Through planning objectives are achieved and anticipates the achieved well in advance. Defective planning leads to failure of the organization. Effective planning can anticipate the uncertain events and help prepare the workforce to meet the situation to survive. Planning helps the business man get early success.

#### Importance of Planning

To manage by objectives

Convert uncertainty into certainty

Help in co ordination

Economy in operation

Tackling increasing complexities of business
Effective utilization of resources

**Effective** control

**Avoiding** business failures

## **Advantages of Planning**

- Better utilization of resources
- Helps in achieving objectives
- Economy in operation
- Minimizes future uncertainties
- Improves competitive strength
- Effective control
- Motivation

#### **Advantages of Planning**

- Cooperation
- Promote growth and improvement
- Develops rationality among management executives
- Prevents hasty judgment
- Reduces redtapism
- Encourages innovative thought

## Advantages of Planning

- Improves ability to cope with change
- Creates forward looking attitude in management
- Development of efficient methods
- Delegation of authority facilitated
- Anticipation of crisis

#### Steps of planning process

Analysis of external Environment

Analysis of internal environment

Determination of Objectives

Determining planning premises and constraints

Examination of alternative Courses of action

secondary plans

Follow up and evaluation

> Securing participation of employees

Determining \_\_\_Formulation of action programs

> Establishing the sequence of activities

Selection of the best alternative course of action

Weighing alternative course of action

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## **Methods of Planning**

#### **Objective plans**

 Objectives are treated as basic a plan that is necessary for all types of planning operations.
 Objective also play role in organizing, directing and controlling.

#### **Standing plans Standing plans**

It includes policies and procedures and is liable repetitive actions. Actions can be repetitive and non repetitive. It helps ready guidelines for solving recurring problems. Recurring problems are solved in different way

#### Master plans

• Master plan covers the complete course of action along with consideration of time and strategy. Plans may be either broad or detailed in character

# **Limitations of Planning**

- •Inflexibility
- Limitation of forecasts
- •Unsuitability
- Time consuming
- Costly
- Mental ability

# **Limitations of Planning**

- False sense of security
- Delay during emergency period
- Capital Investment
- Political climate
- Trade unions
- Technological changes

## **Obstacles of Planning**

- Unreliability of forecasts
- Recurrence of same type of problems
- Expensive
- Loss of initiative

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