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A B S T R A C T

The rise and fall of a company or corporation hinges on the real-time decision-making ability of top-level and middle-level managers. To make good decisions, managers must have access to the latest and most accurate corporate data. Management information systems are designed to deliver this information to managers in a timely manner. MIS is considered of recent origin in management but it had always been in existence in past as well. Of course, It was not in a refined form then. Thus, what is new in MIS, is only its computerization which perhaps has become necessary because of environmental pressures on modern business organizations. MIS is an acronym of three letters i.e. M (Management), I (Informations) and S (system). Management is to plan, organize, staff, direct and control business resources to achieve predetermined objectives. For performing all these functions, a manager has to take an array of decisions. For taking rational decisions, information's is an essential input. Information, which is processed data becomes Information when it is used in decision-making and follows certain characteristics, like it is timely, relevant, accurate, current, adequate without superfluous data, clear in form and non repetitive.

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Introduction:-

The effectiveness of management information systems (MIS) depends upon their impact on the quality of managerial decision making. A management information system is a system that has important tools to supports, analyze, delivery and adding reliability to any organization. Also this helps to solve business problems. The term MIS is often used to submit to a group of information management methods tied to the support of human decision making, e.g. Decision Support Systems, Expert systems, and Executive information systems.

Objectives:

The objectives of MIS in an organization are :

1. Deliver the right information to the right people, at the right time, with the right form.

Ultimately, MIS should improve the workers' productivity.

2. To standardize the system of obtaining reports and statistical information from the various hierarchical levels on top, middle as well as lower level people.

3. To record such information on CD's or drives on an organization and send to BOD's for budgeting, information storage, analysis and retrieval purposes.

MIS and decision making:

Management Information System (MIS) is basically concerned with the process of collecting, processing, storing and transmitting relevant information to support the management operation in any organization.

Thus , the success of decision making , which is the heart of administration process, is highly dependent partly on available information , and partly on the

functions that are the components of the process. For example : If managerial objectives are absent or unclear, probably due to inadequate information, there is no basis for the search. Without information obtain through a search, there are no alternatives to compare, and without a comparison of alternatives the choice of a particular course of action is unlikely to yield the desired result.

Purpose of the Study:

On the basis of the purpose of the decision making activities, Robert B. Anthony (1965) has differentiated organizational decisions into three categories, namely,

Strategic Planning decisions

Management control decisions

Operational control decisions

Strategic Planning Decisions are those decision in which the decision maker develops objectives and allocates resources to achieve these objectives. Decision in this category are of long time period and usually involve a large investment and effort. Such decisions are taken by strategic planning level (Top level) managers.

Management Control Decisions are taken by management control level (middle level) managers and deal with the use of resources in the organization.

Operational Control Decisions deal with the day-to-day problems that effect the operation of the organization.

The role of an information system in providing information to support decision making in an organization. Simon's model of decision making proposes three stages in the decision making process. MIS plays its role in all three stages.

Impact of decision making in MIS :

The Management Information System ensures that an appropriate data is collected from the various sources, processed, and sent further to all the needy destinations. The system is expected to fulfill the information needs of an individual, a group of individuals, the management functionaries: the managers and the top management.

The MIS helps the middle management in short them planning, target setting and controlling the business functions. It is supported by the use of the management tools of planning and control. The MIS helps the top management in goal setting, strategic planning and evolving the business plans and their implementation.

Conclusion and Recommendations:-

Despite the positives associated with the role of MIS in decision making process, there are a few challenges that are believed to limit the efficacy of MIS.

They include :

1. The dynamic nature of MIS makes it difficult for some organizations to keep up with the principles, strategies, propositions or even ideas.

2. Different situations call for different decisions to be made. This poses challenges to MIS theorists since some MIS tend to not be adaptable.

3. The programming, monitoring and evaluating MIS requires a lot of expertise - something which numerous organizations lack.

Based on these limitations plus other underlying issues that arises from the main discussion, the following recommendations are suggested :

1. There should be an increased monitoring of MIS so as to avoid falling victims of unobserved MIS which has dire ramification.

2. Managers and business owners should find a way of tailoring information in a way that it fits various decision making processes in variant businesses.

3. The management should encourage the effectuation of a mutually interdependent and balanced MIS where workers and automated systems are handled with due respect.

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