**What is Operations Management?**

Areas under operations management

1. Operational planning
2. Product design
3. Quality control
4. Forecasting
5. Strategy
6. Supply chain management

**What is operations management**

Operations management is a field of business concerned with the administration of business with administration of business practices to maximize efficiency within an organization. It involves planning, organizing and overseeing the organization’s processes to balance revenues and costs and achieve the highest possible operating profit. An operations manager is tasked with ensuring that the organization successfully converts inputs such as materials, labour, and technology into outputs in an efficient manner.

**Responsilities in operations management**

Operations management is a field of business that involves managing the operations of business to ensure efficiency in the execution of projects. It means that the individual in charge of the department will be required to perfom various strategic functions.

**Those functions include:**

1. **Product design**
2. **Forecasting**
3. **Supply chain management**
4. **Delivery management**
5. **Product design**

It involves creating a product that will be sold to the end cunsumer. It involves generating new ideas or expanding on current ideas in a process that will lead to the production of new products. The operations manager’s responsibility is to ensure that the products sold to consumers meet their needs, as well as match current market trends.

Consumers are more interested in the quality of the product more than the quantity, and the organization should create systems that ensure the products products produced meet the needs of the consumer. It involves the of imagining, creating and iterating products that solve users’ proplems or address specific needs in a given market. The key to successful product design is understanding the end-user customer, the person for whom the product is being created.

1. **Forecasting.**

Forecasting involves with the making of predictions of events that will occur in the future based on past data. One of the events that the operations manager is required to predict is the consumer demand for the company’s products.

The manager relies on past and present data on the uptake of the company’s pruducts to determine future trends in consumption. The forecasts help the company know the volume of products needed to meet the market demand.

1. **Supply chain management**

Supply chain management involves managing the production processfrom raw materials to the finished product. It controls everything from production, distribution, shipping, distribution to delivery of products.

The operations manager manages the supply chain process by mantaining control of inventory management, the production process, distribution, sales and sourcing of suppliers to supply required goods at reasonable prices. A properly managed supply chain process will result in an efficient production process, low overhead costs, and timely delivery of products to consumers.

1. **Delivery management**

The operations manager is in charge of delivery management. The manager ensures that the goods delivered to the consumer in a timely manner. They must follow up with consumers to ensure that the goods delivered are what the consumers ordered and that they meet their functionality needs.

If the customer is unsatisfied with the product or is complaining about certain features of the product, the operations manager receives the feedback and forwads it to the relevant departments.

**Ideal skills of an operational manager**

**1.Resourcefulness**

When you’re resourceful, you will have an easier time maintaining business processes. As an operation manager, you will have to manage your team and keep the company’s well-being front of mind. To handle these changes you need to be fast on your feet. In situations when you don’t have the tools you have at your disposal, its critical to think quickly and use what you have to come up with solutions.

1. **Financial planning**   
   Financial planning happens when you determine if your business has the budget to achieve strategic objectives and goals. To push your company leaders towards financial success, you will need to plan ahead. Keep production costs low by finding high quality vendors with low prices. You want to create a top notch product that stays within your customers’ budget.
2. **Data interpretation**

The ability to interpret data is a key skill for this function of operations management. As the operations manager, you must turn data into understandable directions. Your goals should be clearly communicate how you want your product to match or exceed other products on the market. Once you have a plan in place, streamline communication across teams by using one platform or tool. Create a central project plan to track action items, information, and feedback. Then share it in a project management tool so everyone can access it and view changes in real time.

1. **Conflict management**

Not every product will be top quality after one round through the production process. It may take many rounds of design and a few trips back to the drawing board to create a quality product up to standards. This type of feedback will ultimately make your product the best version of itself, but it can be hard to hear in the moment. In order to excel at this function of operation management, build strong conflict management strategies. That way, you can weather these items of uncertainty and create products that wow customers.

1. **Data driven decision making**

Data driven decision making will serve you will serve you well in many functions of operations management. The only way to make accurate predictions is to base your prediction on facts. Start by forecasting product demand by analyzing past trends. Then communicate forecast result to department leaders so they can adjust future plans accordingly.

1. **Critical thinking**

Critical thinking is important for the strategic function of operations management because its how you create thoughtful ideas and tie them back to fundamental points. When you logically think through concepts, you’re able to develop strong strategies. You can use research and data to support your ideas and then use what you’ve learned to make well supported decisions for your team.

1. **Proplem solving.**

As an operations manager, you will need to organize, plan and delegate. But to make your skills a step further, you must be a good proplem solver as well. There are many proplem solving strategies you can study and keep in your toolbox and your team members will appreciate your quick solutions when things get tough.

**Importance of operations management**

1. Motivates team members

The operations team members by keeping the workplace organized and improving workplace conditions.

1. Utilizes resources

Try to reduce costs whenever possible, stretch resources to fit project needs, and keep resources from going to waste.

1. Enhances co-operations

You can enhance team collaboration within your organization by improving decision making

1. Helps achieve product

You will help achieve business objectives by serving as a checkpoint for big decisions.

1. Improves productivity

Increase productivity by making the product’s delivery process more efficient.

**Reference**

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