

Chapter 14

# Human Resources, Job Design and Work Measurement





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- Job Classifications and Work Rules
- Job Design
- Labor Specialization
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- Psychological Components of Job Design
- Self-Directed Teams
- Motivation and Incentive Systems
- Methods Analysis



#### **Objectives**

Describe Human Resource and Quality Management

Discuss Human Resource Strategy for competitive advantage

Describe labor-planning policies

Identify the major issues in job design

Use the tools of methods analysis



#### Introduction









#### **Human Resources and Quality Management**

- Quality management is an integral part of most companies' strategic design, and the role of employees is an important aspect of quality management.
- To manage human resources from this perspective, a company must focus on employees as a key, even central, component in their strategic design.





Companies that successfully integrate this kind of "employees first" philosophy into their strategic design share several common characteristics.







#### Human Resources Strategy for Competitive Advantage

Good human resource strategies are expensive, difficult to achieve, and hard to sustain.







# **Constraints on Human Resource Strategy**

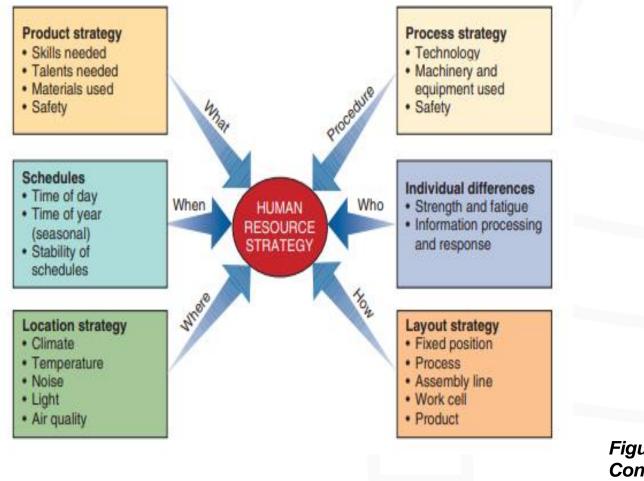




Figure 1.1 Constraints on Human Resource Strategy.



# **Job Classifications and Work Rules**

Many organizations have strict job classifications and work rules that specify who can do what, when they can do it, and under what conditions they can do it, often because of union pressure.

These job classifications and work rules restrict employee flexibility on the job, which in turn reduces the flexibility of the operations function.





### **Labor Planning**

#### **Employment-Stability Policies**

- Employment stability deals with the number of employees maintained by an organization at any given time. There are two very basic policies for dealing with stability:
- **1. Follow demand exactly.**
- 2. Hold employment constant.



# **Work Schedules**

> Flextime allows employees, within limits, to determine their own schedules.

Department:	Sunday	Monday 9a-5p	Tuesday 9a-5p	Week Of: Wednesday 9a-5p 8a-4p	Thursday 8a-4p	Friday 8a-4p	Saturday
Jane	Sunday			9a-5p			
-		9a-5p	9a-5p		8a-4p	8a-4p	
Joe				8a-4p	8a-4p	8a-4p	
							8a-4p







# **Job Design**

Job design specifies the tasks that constitute a job for an individual or a group.

#### We examine five components of job design:

- Job specialization
- Job expansion
- Psychological components
- Self-directed teams
- Motivation and incentive systems

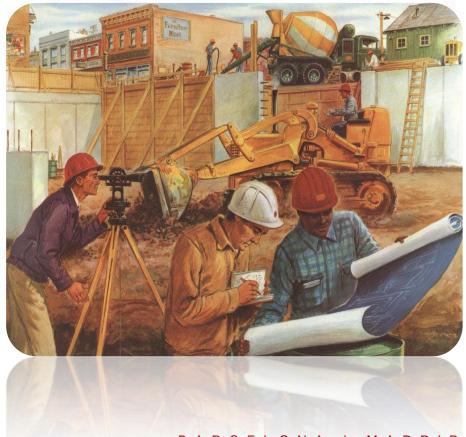






## **Labor Specialization**

Smith suggested that a division of labor, also known as labor specialization (or job specialization), would assist in reducing labor costs of multiskilled artisans.







#### **Job Expansion**

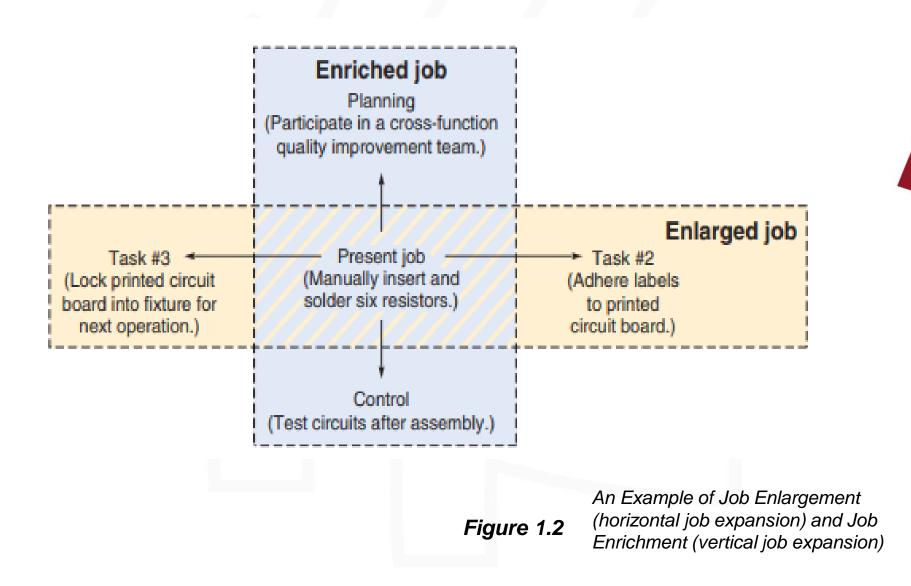
- Moving from labor specialization toward more varied job design may improve the quality of work life. The theory is that variety makes the job "better" and that the employee therefore enjoys a higher quality of work life.
- This flexibility thus benefits the employee and the organization. We modify jobs in a variety of ways.
- The first approach is job enlargement, which occurs when we add tasks requiring similar skill to an existing job.



- Job rotation is a version of job enlargement that occurs when the employee is allowed to move from one specialized job to another.
- Variety has been added to the employee's perspective of the job.
- > Another approach is job enrichment, which adds planning and control to the job.









# **Psychological Components of Job Design**

#### **Core Job Characteristics:**

They suggest that jobs should include the following characteristics:

- Skill variety
- Job identity
- Job significance
- > Autonomy
- Feedback



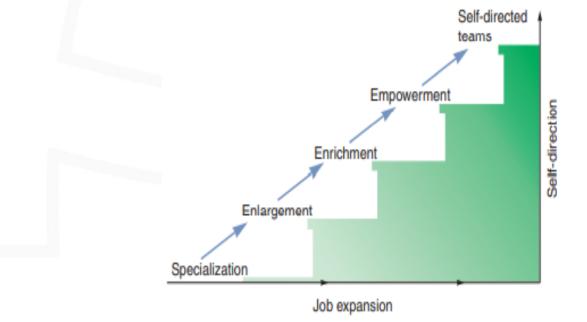


# **Self-Directed Teams**

> A group of empowered individuals working together to reach a common goal.

#### Here are a few limitations of expanded job designs:

- Higher capital cost
- Individual differences
- Higher wage rates
- Smaller labor pool
- Higher training costs





# **Motivation and Incentive Systems**

- Monetary rewards take the form of bonuses, profit and gain sharing, and incentive systems.
- Bonuses, in cash, stock ownership, or stock options, are often used to reward employees.





- Production incentives often require employees or crews to produce at or above a predetermined standard.
- > The standard can be based on a "standard time" per task or number of pieces made.







### **Methods Analysis**

Methods techniques are used to analyze:

- Movement of individuals or material.
- Activity of human and machine and crew activity.
- Body movement (primarily arms and hands).

#### Process charts use symbols to help us understand the movement of people or material.

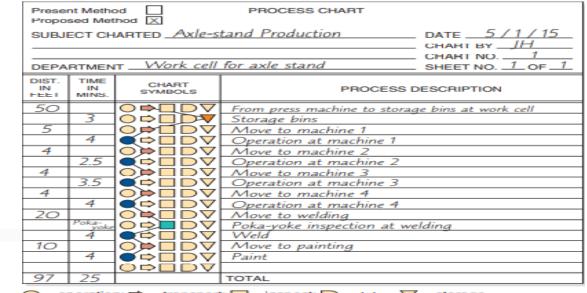
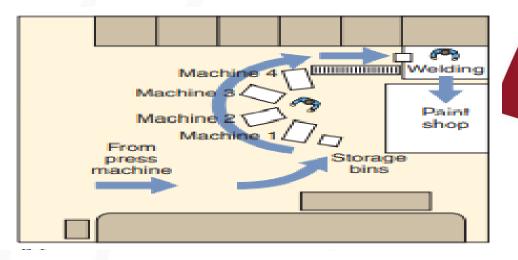


Figure 1.3

○ = operation; ⇒ = transport; = inspect; = delay; = storage

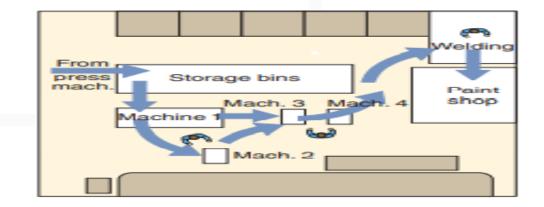


Flow diagrams are schematics (drawings) used to investigate movement of people or material.



Activity charts are used to study and improve the utilization of an operator and a machine or some combination of operators (a "crew") and machines.

Figure 1.4





#### **Summary**

- > Outstanding firms know that their human resource strategy can yield a competitive advantage.
- > Often a large percentage of employees and a large part of labor costs are under the direction of OM.
- Consequently, an operations manager usually has a major role to play in achieving human resource objectives.
- A requirement is to build an environment with mutual respect and commitment and a reasonable quality of work life.
- Successful organizations have designed jobs that use both the mental and physical capabilities of their employees.



#### References

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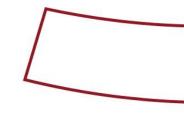
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# Thank You!

