

Reflection on the Concept of Business Continuity Plan

Most businesses are designed to operate efficiently and effectively through established routines and processes. However, disasters can happen when they are least expected. Whether it is Information Technology (IT) related like cyber-attacks and data breaches or unplanned outage (interruption to utility supplies, pandemic or supply chain disruptions), all businesses are at risk. The impact of a disaster on a business without a plan for addressing these challenges could be far worst than they need to be. As at June 2021, about 6.2 million people in the United States of America (USA) were unable to work because employer closed or lost business due to the COVID-19 pandemic (US Bureau of Labour Statistics, 2021). The loss of jobs and businesses is significant and could impact the national development and security negatively. Păunescu, C., & Argatu, R. (2020) opined that a business continuity plan could help re-establish business operations quickly in the event of disruptions. Simply put, it involves what procedures a business needs to follow to ensure that critical business operations are not disrupted in the event of disaster.

While researching literatures for the assessment on business continuity plan, it was discovered that there were no standard elements that constituted a business continuity plan. In my view, despite the necessity of the business continuity plan, the lack of completeness of elements in the plan could affect its effectiveness. Muflihah, Y & Subriadi, P (2018) corroborated this view and reported that the reason some companies do not have a business continuity plan was because they are not aware of what it is or what it would take to make one. Unlike the disaster recovery plan that involves IT recovery, the business continuity plan concerns the whole business and it should be comprehensive indicating every resource necessary for recovery. Overall, the business

continuity plan is a key concept and should be given adequate attention by researchers and practitioners to ensure its effectiveness.

References

Muflihah, Y. & Subriadi, P. (2018). A basic element of IT business continuity plan: systematic review. *Jurnal Informatika*, 12(1), pp. 17-23.

Păunescu, C. & Argatu, R. (2020). Critical functions in ensuring effective business continuity management. Evidence from Romanian companies. *Journal of Business Economics and Management*, 21(2), pp. 497-520..

US Bureau of Labour Statistics (2021). *The Economic Daily*. Available from: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2021/6-2-million-unable-to-work-because-employer-closed-or-lost-business-due-to-the-pandemic-june-2021.htm>. [Accessed 21 October 2022].