ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING

INF 443E

CAT 1

NELSON MANDELA MUDANYA

IF/30/14

1. **Explain how ERP enforces “best practice business processes” in organizations.**

* It enables the organization to establish how a process should look post implementation rather than going straight into process of configuring and implementing ERP
* Enables the organization restructure the way of doing things to adhere to best practices.
* It automates business processes and thus able to understand how the process will be before implementing.
* It helps the organization to define the to-be business processes from the older business process through re-engineering of the current process and formulating how the new process will look like.
* Enables the organization to keep improving the processes. This is by aligning the business to the standards that are well accepted in the market and the business best practices.

1. **Explain the usefulness of knowledge of ERP.**

* Knowledge of ERP helps one to have an Enhanced technology.

It puts technology at par with the current changes thus speeding up the operations

* Knowledge of ERP enables one to Integrate information as they have ability to automatically update data between related functions and components, leading to better decision making.
* Having knowledge on ERP helps an organization have a competitive advantage thus increasing its profits.
* Knowledge of ERP allows for flexibility to capitalize on opportunities while they are available. To create a flexible organization that can adapt to the changes in environment rapidly.
* Knowledge of ERP enables one to have iimproved resource utilization by reducing forced outages and thus saving on cost making it cost effective.

1. **“ERP implementation is very costly” this is an ERP myth or is it not. Discuss in your own words with examples giving a conclusion.**

This can be argued to be a myth. The ERP can seem to be expensive but the end results proves it worth. The initial costs of acquiring will be scrapped out as the profits are rewarding. It will help the management to better plan for, budget for resources and thus removing any forced resource outages and thus cost effective.

Its technology enables the organization stay ahead of competitors and thus retaining customers and even gaining more.

It automates the processes and thus enabling smooth process flow with less man power and thus saving on costs.

ERP implementation can also be argued to be expensive. There is no cheaper ERP. The initial costs are much expensive and this is much hectic for small organizations. If there profit returns cannot meet the purchase of the ERP, it will be worthless for them have it in possession.

In conclusion, the initial price of ERP could be expensive but the returns proves it worth thus “ERP implementation is very costly” is just a myth.

1. **Explain five major reasons justifying ERP investments in a university scenario.**

* Better organization of data.

The use of ERP will enable the university have a much organised data flow. The data is well structured and thus being easily managed to bring about success of the transactions in the university

* Security of student’s data.

The students’ data will be kept secure as it puts mechanism in place to handle the data effectively and efficiently and preventing any loss.

* Cost effective.

ERP proves to be saving money as time goes. The automation of processes makes the transaction to be handled well with less man power. It can help the university better plan and budget for resources before purchasing and thus preventing any outages.

* Improves the university management process.

It enables the university management make better decisions as the processes are presented in a clear format. They can gauge on the future and plan.

* Automation and increased information accuracy.

The presence of an ERP leads to automation of processes and thus work is done more efficiently. The work that proves to huge is done more effectively and easily with less man power.

1. **The technologies when integrated with ERP system will enable companies to do business at internet speed. List and briefly describe FIVE technologies related to ERP**.

* Business process reengineering.

Business Reengineering is the fundamental rethinking and radical re-design of business processes to achieve dramatic improvements in critical, contemporary measures of performance. This leads to better improvements in service delivery.

* Data warehousing.  
  Data warehouse is a collection of data to support the management decision making. Data warehouse system includes operational data, data warehouse software, data warehouse database and information discovery.
* Data mining

It is the extraction of hidden predictive information from large data bases. It can help in the organization generate Supply chain management Automated prediction of trends and behaviors, Automated discovery of previous unknown trends and Database can be larger in both depth and breadth i.e can have more columns and rows

* Online analytical processing.

OLAP systems enable managers and analysts sto rapidly and easily examine performance data and perform powerful comparison and trend analysis, even on large data volumes. It is an integral part of data warehousing solutions.