**Productivity & Automation**

Steven Munich

Eastern Florida State College

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Dr. F. D. Christopian

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My first question for this assignment is “Why is productivity important?” Well, lets look at the word itself. “Productivity” has the word “product” in it. In my last essay I concluded with the overall goal of operations as it relates to business, the output, or the results. To get the output/results an organization must need input, such as time & resources. I like the definitaion of Process Yield(output of product to raw material input ratio) because it really simplifies the concept of productivity for me.

If only life was that simple, there are several measurements for productivity and many variables to consider. The measurements are: Productivity, Partial, Multifactor, & Total. The Productivity measurements are simple input/out and Total is the complete input/output(considering all factors). Partial & Multifactor, on the other hand, take into consideration of things like: capital, labor, and energy. Which takes into account the expenses other than raw material. In a perfect world I could throw a tree into a sawmill and it’ll come out as a plank of wood, but I need someone to hold the wood and energy to power the saw.

This is why I like technology so much because I want to create that perfect world. I’ve used technology to automate personal things as well as things for my father’s real estate business. This article puts it in perfect words:  
“However, time is a limited resource, and you have only 24 hours to spend each day. The best way to maximize your time and increase your productivity is to automate mundane, repetitive tasks.” (Lando Loic. 2021)  
The key word for me is “Mundane”, as I have created software that takes care of that for me. It simulates mouse clicks & keyboard movement to perform simple but repetitive task, mainly data stripping. Productivity is how much data I actually get, while efficiency I consider my time I have to spend setting the automation up. I measured it around 20:1 ratio. Every 1 minute I spend the bot does about 20mins worth a data mining. So a 6 hour day for a bot takes about 20minutes of my own time.

Productivity is more related to output, whereas efficiency is more related to input.

“When you focus on efficiency, you focus on **achieving the same using fewer resources**.

Companies that improve labor efficiency are reducing hours, workforce, or budget to produce the same output. This is done to save and increase profitability

If productivity focuses on results, efficiency is all about the resources invested to achieve those results.” (Jelena Mraovic. 2022)

Automation(for the most part) increases productivity and efficiency, more output with less input.

In a perfect theoretical utopia where machines do all manual labor, society would still need

technicians to maintain those machines and to do that one needs to understand the technology

(locate bugs, fix configurations, etc). I don’t see this happening anytime soon, in fact technology

can actually make life harder. When I call the pharmacy instead of talking to a person I have to

navigate through a robot.

Now the marketing, financial department and human resources do not concern themselves with the actual production, that’s for operations. To focus on the process of production, what methods and technology is being used. This goes back to division of labor or separation of duties. According to our textbook, operations is itself a functional unit.

“Similarly, operations strategy must be consistent with the overall strategy of the organization, and with the other functional units of the organization. This requires that senior managers work with functional units to formulate strategies that will support, rather than conflict with, each other and the overall strategy of the organization” (Stevenson, 2020, P. 51).

Operations is the core and spine of a business. I think it’s very sad that in the 80’s CEOs became out of touch with operations because they were more focused on finances & marketing.

**References**

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Stevenson, W. J. (2020). Operations Management (14th ed.). McGraw-Hill Higher Education (US). <https://reader2.yuzu.com/books/9781260718447>