

UNIT-5

Pitfalls in MIS Development

* Fundamental Weakness —

Following are the fundamental weaknesses of the MIS development :-

(i) No Management System to Build Upon :-

The MIS must be built on top of a management system that includes the organizational arrangements, the structure and procedures for adequate planning and control, the clear establishment of objectives, and all the other manifestations of good organization and management. The lack of managerial and operational application is serious because it implies that the process is not being performed well. Thus, we can say that the information is the raw material of decision making, and if information is not generated, then no system—manual or computer—is going to solve the problem.

(ii) What business are we in? :-

If it is not clear that what business we are in, then company will face new challenges everytime from the ground up. So, challenges must be analyzed and dealt routinely.

(iii) Company's Objective :-

Written objective are also often missing in the company. A firm without objectives is much like a company without a statement of mission and purpose.

(iv) Emphasis on Clerical System —

The clerical system has to be upgraded to a management system.

(v) Communication gap between Computer Technologist and Manager/User —

Ensuring maximum co-operation and co-ordination between computer personnel and managers is necessary.

(vi) Lack of a Master Plan —

A systematic long range plan is necessary for establishing an effective Management Information System.

(vii) Lack of Managerial Participation —

The involvement and support of top management as well as participation of all managers in the design of their own MIS are necessary.

(viii) Lack of Resources and Trained Personnel —

Lack of trained personnel consisting of system analysts, system designers, programmers and chief information officers who are business trained and/or have a basic business prospective is a handicap.

(ix) Voluminous and Unstructured Nature of Data : —

Sometimes the volume of data itself can be a hurdle unless careful shifting is done. It can also be difficult to locate and retrieve relevant data.

(X) Enormous Time, Effort and Resources Required : —

MIS budget includes data processing costs, hardware costs, personnel costs, supplies, services etc.

* Soft Spots in Planning and Design Problems.

The soft spots in planning & design are as follows : —

(i) Alignment of MIS plan : —

It is often difficult to ascertain the strategies and goals to which the information system plan is to be aligned, but without this alignment the information system plan will not obtain long term organizational support.

(ii) Design of information System Architecture : —

The system architecture also includes databases, model bases and supporting software along with management activities.

(iii) Allocation of development Resources : —

The allocation of development resources among competing units is difficult. The functional organization unit requirement should conform to an orderly framework to establish competencies and when this conformity is achieved, this problem of rational allocation arises.

(iv) Completion of Projects in Schedule : —

Project plans are seldom accurate as time and resource requirements

are generally underestimated.

(iv) Selection of Methodologies :-

There are number of methods for developing application portfolios and allocating the resources. Each method has a set of circumstances under which it has an advantage.

Q. Difference between MIS and DSS.

Ans.

MIS

DSS

(i) A complementary network of hardware and software co-operating to collect, process store and distribute information to support the managerial role.

(ii) MIS stands for Management information system.

(iii) Focuses on operational efficiency.

(iv) Flow of information is from both sides, up and down.

(v) Uses an input of large volume of data, and output is summary reports.

(vi) Simple model characterizes MIS.

(vii) The report is usually not flexible.

(i) An information system that supports business or organizational decision-making activities.

(ii) DSS stands for Decision Support Systems.

(iii) Focuses more on making an effective decision or in other words helping the company to do the right thing.

(iv) Flow of information is only upward.

(v) Uses an input of low to volume of data, and output is decision analysis.

(vi) Interactive model characterizes DSS.

(vii) The report can be flexible.

MIS

(viii) Supports structured decision making.

(ix) Provides information to support internal operations

(x) Used by middle and low-level management.

DSS

(viii) Supports unstructured or semi-structured decisions.

(ix) Provides information to support specific situations.

(x) Used by senior managers and analysts.