

# **Topic: Family Resource Management**

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## **Introduction to Family Resource Management**

### **Introduction**

Management is the manner of handling an institution- be it a firm, or farm or an industry or a family. Family Resource management cuts across different areas of living. This was earlier called as home Management. The home management term was first introduced by Maria parloa in 1880 which simply meant anything that need to be accomplished with in the household. It included all household activities like ironing, cleaning, planning a party/ function, social behaviour and so forth. Since Management relates to the resources, home management changed its nomenclature to family resource management. In simple words management means 'using what you have to get what you want'. Management is an important component of family living. Home management consists of purposeful behaviour of all family members leading to the creation and use of resources to realize the goals of family members. All modern management techniques are needed for efficient and economic handling of family resources. Family has greater dimensions as it relates to people living together with affinity, affection and mutual understanding. This necessitates identification and understanding of interpersonal relationships of all age groups within the family first and with the community at large. The Home maker is the central point of any family and its activities. All family activities revolve around her. Hence effective management depends on the managerial abilities, interest, and leadership qualities of the home maker and also her ability to motivate the family members in the right direction of achieving the desired goals. All management activities of the family are directed towards achievement of family goals, which ultimately leads to maximum satisfaction of the family members. For this the family members use the resources available with them and work towards creation of needed resources for achievement of family goals. These resources include time, energy, money along with the internal human resources like knowledge, skill, abilities etc.

### **Scope and Significance of Management**

During the present state of turmoil in the country, many political, social, economic, technological and other changes are taking place and the families have no other go except to cop up with the pressure of imbalanced economy and social life. Human needs and desires

change through time, research progress and development, new technologies created etc. In this process man gains more knowledge and controller over the natural and technological environment. To meet the modern time demands, there is a need for the members of the family to think and the make decision at each and every step. Hence here comes the role of management in the families. Let us now imagine what could have happened if you had not done or managed what you had planned to do, as listed earlier? Yes, you could have faced some of the following problems:

- You could have reached the station late.
- Without a proper ticket, you may have had to cancel your journey.
- You could have missed packing your food or drinking water.
- You may have found your grandparent's house locked when you reached there.

You will now agree that management is an important tool even to make a simple job like making your trip a success. Similarly, many other situations in our life also need management. We can therefore say that management plays a significant role in our day-to-day life. Management helps you to:

- Reach your goals,
- Achieve what you want,
- Utilize your resources properly,
- Make your life more systematic,
- Avoid wastage of resources,
- Increase efficiency in work situations,
- Achieve a better standard of life.

### **Philosophy of Management**

Management is a combination of fundamental philosophical thinking with simple techniques. It is essential to understand the depth and challenges of any home activity along with finding out the technique of performing it. Let us take managing the family income. Here budgeting technique is very important, where one plans the expenditure essential to be made well in

advance. If there is lack of awareness about the philosophical background for the budget planned, then it becomes impractical and questionable. The way a family uses its income whether blindly or consciously, is an expression of its philosophy of living. For example, if the family gives importance to day to day presentability of its living according to the changing trends, may decide to spend more on day to day living than saving for the future security. But families which give philosophical thinking to the future financial security, may sacrifice some of their present needs to save for the future. These families may use other resources instead of money, to meet their present needs. Hence it is necessary for the families to formulate its philosophy clearly so that it becomes easy for the family members to channelize the major resources for productive purposes. In order to succeed in utilization of resources, it is necessary to understand the fundamental values carefully. Once the philosophical choices are made and values are accepted, the technique of management falls in line readily.

### **Management Is Universal**

Management is universal to all organizations, be it a home or a public or private institution or a firm or a business. All members of the unit should work together to achieve common objectives of the organization in which they exist, along with pursuing their personal interests. Management is an essential component of any organization where two or more people work for a common objective with mutual cooperation. Thus, management is universal to all organizations including family. Every family manages its resources to achieve common goals. Some families are better in resources utilization than others, which signifies their understanding of the management process. Thus, management is essential to all families in every place, and there is greater need to understand and apply the art and science of management process.

### **Family Life in The Changing World**

Family is a social unit in the society which can be defined as ‘two or more individuals living together in the same house or shelter, who are related to each other by marriage or blood or by adoption processes. The relationships among the family members are intensified and stronger than any other social organization. In the family the members perform the important functions of a social unit like procreation, protection, education, recreation, economic etc. Family life is something like answering questions, what we want from life? How to differentiate between important and unimportant tasks. How to identity priorities in life? Etc. Answers to these questions provide direction to life in the changing world. Human needs and desires change through time, research and progress. New inventions, new sources of power are discovered.

Accordingly, the family systems life style and living changes. Family is an important unit in everybody's life and it also changes its behaviour with the changing world due to application of natural and human forces. Floods, storms, earthquakes are the examples of natural forces, whereas mobility, technological advancements, population growth etc. are human forces. The job, family occupation, income, location of the job, other social amenities etc. are the deciding factors of a person to choose the type of family life he or she wants. The research conducted by Hill discovered that family policies are the influential factors in attaining successful family life. Families having consistent policies about use of resources like money, time etc. are more successful in adjusting to change than who do not have such policies. Some examples of family policies are when to go for loans to achieve a goal, which needs are to be considered as priorities of the family, etc. The family members share the resources and work towards common goals of the family. The present society is greatly influenced by the technological advancement, industrialization and westernization. The livelihood is changing so fast that there is no similarity between each generation childhood and old age. The needs have changed the use of resources, have changed and the priorities and capabilities of human beings have changed to a great extent. Ultimately the quality of life is changing along with the changing world.

### **Quality of Life**

Quality of life- is the accomplishment of feeling of maximum satisfaction to the family members by the use of material and non-material resources. The quality of life can be measured within a society through some partial indicators like the material and non-material resources. The Gross National Product (GNP) is one of the measures to assess the quality of life which is based on the material resources. It is the total summary of the value of goods and services produced primarily through gainful employment. It is the average at national level usually only the positive growth is considered to assess the Gross National Product and the negative aspects like the effect of growth like environmental degradation, employment problems, health and occupational problems etc. are not taken into account. The non-material accomplishments or negativities like the feeling of satisfaction due to social change, change in life style etc. are left out due to the difficulty in measuring them. We do not have one set of standards which measures the quality of life by meeting all persons needs and services. Each country has its own standards to measure the quality of life. The life styles play an important role in deciding the quality of life.

### **Life Styles**

The life styles include different roles and role combinations like citizens, employee, parent, spouse etc. These roles are developed and nurtured in the family. These roles help the individuals to define the relationship to the family members, surrounding community and the world and adjust themselves accordingly. These role combinations shared by a group of people are termed as life styles. Feldman and Thiebar have said that the life style involves a central life focus such as rearing children, employment and community participation. Family plays a dominant role in defining the life style in the society. Family is defined as two or more persons living together who are related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption and who are economically and emotionally interdependent. All family members play an important role in developing a family life style. There may be more than one life style within a family depending upon the roles each individual performs. Ex: If the women has to look after the family and engage herself in employment her life style and that of her family differs from a similar family in which a woman is a full-time housewife.

- Life styles of nuclear families are different from the families having grandparents/joint families.
- Single parent families will have a different lifestyle. These examples help us to understand the type of family and the life styles each family adopts. The life styles serve as background to study the managerial situations and the problems each individual and family faces to achieve a particular quality of life.