

Preface

Navigating the intricate realm of operations management stands as a fundamental undertaking across diverse business domains, whether in the realms of manufacturing or services. The orchestration of business operations entails the assimilation of inputs, and their meticulous processing, culminating in the generation of tangible products or intangible services. This symphony of inputs may encompass raw materials, physical infrastructure, energy reservoirs, the invaluable investment of human endeavor, and an array of machinery. Customers' expectations are dynamic in nature; therefore, product innovation must take place continuously through appropriate and necessary design of products and processes. It's within this dynamic interplay that the tenets of innovation must find root, perpetually refining products and processes to harmonize with the cadence of customer demands.

Within this grand tapestry of operations, supply chains and logistics weave an intricate narrative, playing a pivotal role in amplifying the efficacy of business undertakings. Indeed, the success of a business operation is underpinned by its ability to render products and services that not only fulfill but also exceed the tapestry of customer desires. The contours of quality, price, and timely delivery etch a portrait that customers scrutinize with discerning eyes. A number of areas that need to be looked into for making business operations successful are operations strategy, productivity, quality management, production planning, capacity planning, location analysis, layout analysis, inventory control, supply chain management, lean management, and so on. It is a sine qua non for an operations manager to pay attention to all these factors. Furthermore, since every business operation requires human intervention, managing human resources, especially those who are directly tasked with operations, is an important task for an operations manager.

In the annals of business, the resounding success of operations hinges on the strategic symphony that resonates across numerous arenas. From sculpting operational strategies to nurturing productivity, from sculpting the finery of quality management to choreographing the dance of production and capacity planning, each note in this symphony reverberates with meaning. Even the delicate choreography of location and layout analysis, the precision of inventory control, and the intricacies of supply chain management and lean practices contribute their unique harmonies to this melodious composition.

At the heart of this opus lie human resources, the virtuosos who execute these meticulous orchestrations. Within this domain, the stewardship of human capital, particularly those directly engaged in the opus of operations, emerges as a pivotal task. Yet, this book extends beyond conventional boundaries, its essence interwoven with the rich tapestry of Islamic perspective. Islamic banking, finance, and insurance have made a mark on the global financial setting, and the use of Islamic principles in general management has also gotten a lot of attention. However, operations management has remained a relatively uncharted area, which is noteworthy. Although sporadic articles on operations management from an Islamic perspective have surfaced, a comprehensive exploration has remained elusive, until now.

In this book, we aim to bridge this gap – a long-standing void awaiting fulfillment. This book unearths the intricacies of operations management, illuminating its facets through the prism of Islamic thought and ethos. It embarks on an intellectual odyssey, where operations strategy, quality alchemy, production choreography, and the rhythm of supply chain management converge with the tenets of Islamic perspective.

This book is a compass for scholars, researchers, and practitioners alike – a compendium offering guidance to those traversing the landscape of operations management through the lens of Islam. It extends its hand to those who aspire to delve deeper into this domain and beckons to professionals, inviting them to wield the principles and tools that govern operations with an Islamic ethos. In this symphony of knowledge, we hope to strike chords that resonate far beyond these pages, fostering a harmonious blend of operations and Islamic wisdom.