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Information aspects of management

Abstract: For the effective use of modern information technologies in management, it is necessary to determine the information essence of its system elements and their correlations.

Regardless of its varieties, directions, concepts, and functions, management is a form of human activity. Therefore, the foundation of its research and development should be any meaningful human or organizational activity and the ways in which they exist.

Keywords: information; management; information background; information flow and fields; functions of elements.

The information revolution, which has driven the rapid formation and development of global information networks, presents management with new challenges in improving efficiency through the skilled and extensive use of modern information technologies [7].

It seems that, first and foremost, it is necessary to accumulate the systemic factors of the informational aspects of management, which we conventionally classify as the informational background, information flows, and fields.

Regardless of its varieties, directions, concepts, and functions, management is a form of human activity. Therefore, the foundation of its research and development should be any meaningful human or organizational activity and the ways in which they exist [11].

All forms of human activity, including management, collectively form the stages of existence and unfold over time. Periods of time characterized by relative stability in the traits and features of human activity, along with the totality of events that occur within them, constitute the informational background of specific events and activities [2].

It appears that the informational background (hereafter referred to as “the background”) is a scientific category that allows an event or fact to be considered not in isolation but in conjunction with and in correlation to data (information) about the specific social, political, economic, and cultural environment of a given time period, within its context [1].

The background represents a system of events (phenomena) defined by temporal and spatial scales, depending on their significance and duration.

Every individual’s life has its own background, which changes as the individual changes, since they are inextricably linked. A person is as much a product of their era as the era is a product of human activity. However, this pattern is often overlooked. Meanwhile, management as an activity always becomes a distinct, tangible background for an individual, influencing their behavior, psychology, health, responses to various external stimuli, and even reassessments of their own and others’ actions [9].

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In everyday language, the phrase “current moment” is often used very accurately. Time cannot be stopped - it can only be captured in a single frame, artificially interrupting its irreversible flow. However, management is a living, ongoing process in time, and one cannot ignore the changes occurring within a person and their perception of their past and present background. These backgrounds shape their relationships with leadership, colleagues, and partners, among others. Under the influence of this background, behavioral patterns and decision-making processes are formed, leading to either conflict-ridden or conflict-free situations. Their totality should be considered as fragments of the micro-historical background of management activity, while also recognizing its connection to the background of the state, the region, and ultimately, humanity as a whole. The essence, elements, and phenomena of management can be properly assessed only within this dialectical interconnection between the particular and the general, in their continuous development and transformation [4; 5; 6].

It appears that the concept of background, in terms of its significance, belongs to the category of concepts whose development influences the advancement of management science as a whole. This assertion follows from the fact that the background determines the nature, method, and other circumstances of human activity, its guidelines, and conditions of implementation, as well as influencing the choice of methods and their tactics. The assessment of the background is realized precisely in tactical and methodological decisions, which find their external expression in activity planning.

The factors influencing the formation of the background and the perception of its components are common across different types of activities.

As a scientific category, the background represents a system of events that have occurred over a specific period of time. In turn, each event is a complex system interconnected with the background system and other events [8].

Schematically, the background can be represented as a moving ribbon with conditional designations of events at different levels. These events occur in time and space. An event at one level consists of events from other levels, and so on - smaller-scale events take place against the background of larger-scale events. At the level of a specific event, a new event may occur, linked to the previous one, but in all cases, the sequence is strictly defined, and there is always a time interval between events. Major events consist of lower-level events, which collectively form their system.

The ribbon of events moves through time, continuously distancing the first event from the most recent ones, which together form its system.

The structure of the background is shaped by both objective and subjective factors. Objective factors influencing the formation of the background include natural phenomena and the consequences of natural forces, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, droughts, and so on.

An example of the aforementioned concepts includes droughts and floods in Africa, the COVID-19 pandemic, earthquakes in Turkey, Afghanistan, and Morocco, abnormal heat waves in Europe, wildfires and hurricanes in the U.S. and Canada, and many other events.

Subjective factors influencing the formation of the background include the consequences of human activity, such as changes in domestic and foreign policy, war, and similar events.

Undoubtedly, such factors include the events in Nagorno-Karabakh, Russia’s so-called “special military operation” in Ukraine, the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States, his “transactions”, and decisions in international relations with Canada, Denmark, China, and other countries.

These listed factors define the background and influence the formation of other systems that makeup its structure, including the system of specific situations. The concept of background is broader than that of a situation, which, as an element of the background, represents a set of circumstances determining a specific environment.

As noted earlier, the parameters of the background are duration and scale. Depending on the scale, the background can be classified into several levels: global, national, regional, etc. The structure of the background consists of political, economic, legal, social, natural, informational, and other components, which can be conventionally divided into: a) foreign policy-related; b) economic; c) natural; d) social; e) legal. These components are interconnected and interdependent. For example, changes in foreign policy lead to economic and social consequences; social changes affect legal aspects; natural events influence foreign policy, and vice versa.

The evaluation of the background and its connections, as a thought process influenced by various factors, is a cognitive activity carried out by individuals (managers, employees). It involves the analysis and synthesis of information, as well as determining its nature and possible applications to ensure the successful achievement of organizational (or enterprise) objectives.

A correct assessment of the background and the selection of strategy and tactics based on it are the most important conditions for the goal orientation of management, the adoption of scientifically grounded and optimal decisions of tactical, methodological, and technical nature. A general assessment of the background helps determine the most successful ways of using information, including information about events that comprise it. At the same time, an incorrect assessment of the background can lead to the loss of important reference points, unjustified decisions, and actions. It should be noted that a subjective assessment of the background does not affect its essence; it does not change because of it [10].

At the core of the concept of an information flow as a dynamic category lies a scientific understanding of information, which is understood as the data through which the mechanisms of management and its structure are comprehended, new information is sought, and strategic and tactical tasks are solved.

In management, an information flow is understood as the concentration and movement of information in a direction that ensures the resolution of specific tasks. It is impossible to separate an information flow from human activity, as it is formed only because such activity exists.

Information flows characterize the cognitive activity of an enterprise (or institution) employee, in which significant importance is placed on the mental reconstruction of the management mechanism, establishing its goals, tasks, participants, their status, and functions.

The methodological function of the concept of information flow lies in its orientation towards the search, study, evaluation, and application of diverse information.

The process of forming and the specifics of information flows are determined by the laws studied in informatics. First and foremost, these laws relate to the mechanism of management, which should be understood as a complex dynamic system that includes an organization, its employees, their duties and rights, partners, parameters, and activity characteristics.

Like any system, the management mechanism is formed and functions under the influence of certain laws, including:

- a) the laws of formation, selection, and implementation of activities;
- b) the laws of the emergence and development of connections between elements of the management mechanism;

c) the laws of the emergence and development of phenomena conditioned by the activities being carried out.

Information flows are subject to the above-mentioned laws, as well as the laws characterizing the nature of information itself.

The next group of laws influencing the formation of information flows consists of those characterizing the activities of managers and employees of an enterprise, as well as the general laws of the cognitive process, taking into account their transformation in relation to the specifics of the activity being carried out.

A significant feature of information flows is the merging of multiple sources of information and data obtained from these sources. The possibility and, moreover, the necessity of merging depend on a number of factors, the primary ones being the tasks that arise and need to be solved.

The information field, in relation to management, represents the totality of information about characteristics that define individual elements or the mechanism as a whole.

Some general laws of information field formation can be conditionally distinguished, namely:

- The formation of information fields in management is determined by its mechanism;
- The structure of the information field reflects the characteristics of the mechanism depending on the type of activity being carried out;
- The information field is a collective concept. Many information flows are concentrated in the information field, forming its variable and dynamic structure.

Some of these flows have common sources of information, generating multiple flow in different directions. Others may have a unique, singular information source.

The movement and concentration of information flows in specific “segments” of the information field do not occur randomly but depend on the purposeful activities of enterprise employees. The information field is the result of their joint work and the collaborative resolution of set tasks.

The concentration of information flows in the information field is determined by the objective laws of the interconnection and interdependence of information. The proper use of these laws allows for the identification and selection of the necessary information during the work process, thereby forming the information field.

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Информационные аспекты менеджмента

Аннотация: Для эффективного использования в менеджменте современных информационных технологий необходимо определить информационную суть его системных элементов, их корреляции.

Независимо от разновидностей, направлений, концепций и функций менеджмент это вид человеческой деятельности, а потому основу его исследований и разработок должна составлять любая осмысленная активность человека или организации, способы их существования.

Ключевые слова: информация; менеджмент; информационный фон; информационный поток и поля; функции элементов.

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