

The Role of Critical Thinking in Management and Decision Making.

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Abstract

In an increasingly multifaceted business environment, characterized by fluidity, diversity and plurality of all forms, managers find themselves faced with dilemmas of different options and opinions. An ability to think critically becomes essential for managers in their endeavour to find solutions and navigate the turbulence. However, as a discipline, critical thinking has not been given due attention as an essential tool of management considering. This paper has endeavoured to discuss some of the major theories underpinning critical thinking process and link them to management decision making. The paper relied heavily on the different existing literature on theories and principles of critical thinking. Some of the theories discussed in the paper include: **Coherence** theory which emphasises clarity of decisions, Dialogue theory which emphasises discussion between two or more people, mental models theory and Reliability theory. The paper asserts that critical thinking is important in helping managers have accurate view of reality when confronted with issues and enable them make quality decisions especially in providing solutions to emerging challenges. In its conclusion, the paper underscores the role of critical thinking in aiding managers to be objective and holistic so as to make coherent and reliable decisions that are creative and instrumental towards organizational success. Finally the paper recommends that managers invest in sharpening their critical thinking skills to aid them towards proper, sound, and strategic decisions

.Key word: Critical thinking, strategic decisions, coherence

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