Cheatography

Organizational Theory Cheat Sheet

by vanya via cheatography.com/95059/cs/20739/

Introduction

Three goals of theory

- * To explain events in the past -- why did that outcome, known as the dependent variable (DV), happen?
- * To predict events in the future -- what will happen?
- * To possible control events in the future -- how can I influence/change the outcome (DV)?

Theory validity base for frames

- * Does it meet the assumptions?
- ^ Underlying beliefs, things we take for granted about the subject under study
- * Does it meet the scope conditions?
- ^ Limits under which the theory holds or applies
- * How can we make a valid test of the theory?

Difference between Causal Relationship (positive or negative) and Correlation

- * Changing one variable does not cause the other variable to change, but changes in both variables can mean a correlation.
- * Correlation =/ causation.

Chapter 4

Structural dilemmas

- * Differentiation vs integration
- division of labor
- * Gaps vs overlaps incomplete tasks vs duplication, waste of resources
- * Underuse vs overload
- ^ Overloading leads to turnover: lower consistency, more money spent or absenteeism: lower productivity and consistency, more overwork (other employees pick up slack), more money spent (overtime)
- * Lack of clarity vs lack of creativity
- * Excessive autonomy vs excessive interdependence
- ^ Self-governance vs dependent on other people
- * Structure too loose vs too tight
- * Goal-less vs goal-bound
- * Irresponsible vs unresponsive
- ^ Not being held accountable to rules/policies vs not accommodating customers caught up in "red tape"

Generic issues in restructuring

- * Strategic apex pushes for more alignment, centralization.
- * Middle managers try to protect autonomy and room to run their own units.

Chapter 4 (cont)

- * Technostructure pushes for standardization, believes in measurement and monitoring.
- * Support staff prefers less hierarchy, more collaboration.

Why Restructure?

- * Technology change
- * Environmental shifts
- * Organizations grow
- * Leadership changes

Making Restructuring Work

Basic principles of successful restructuring:

- * Develop new goals & strategies to reflect current challenges
- * Used experimentation to try things out, retain what worked and discard what didn't

Management Thinking

<i>Traditional</i> Management Thinking	Artistic Management Thinking
See only one or two frames	Holistic, multi-frame perspective
Try to solve all problems with logic, structure	Rich palette of options
Seek certainty, control; avoid ambiguity, paradox	Develop creativity, playfulness
One right answer/best way	Principled flexibility

Theoretical Frames

	Structural Frame	Human Resource Frame
Metaphor for organization	Factory or machine	Family
Central concepts	Rules, roles, goals, policies, technology, environment	Needs, skills, Relationships
Image of leadership	Social architecture	Empowerment
Basic leadership challenge	Align structure to task, technology, environment	Align organization and human needs

	Political Frame	Symbolic Frame
Metaphor for organization	Jungle	Carnival, temple, theater
Central concepts	Power, conflict, competition, organizational politics	Culture, meaning, metaphor, ritual, ceremony, stories, heroes
Image of leadership	Advocacy	Inspiration
Basic leadership challenge	Develop agenda and power base	Create faith, beauty, meaning

Chapter 1

Strategies for improving organizations

- * Better management
- * Listening to employees
- * Manager needs to learn different management styles
- \rightarrow management training or workshops
- * Bringing more people into management → bringing in new people if needed
- * Consultants
- * Different perspective, usually unbiased
- * Government policy and regulation
- * External forces that are brought in to help improve or change orgs

Theory base for frames

Theoretical frame: A set of theories that allow us to explain, predict, and control behavior

* Used to understand and analyze situations, diagnose problems, and formulate solutions

Frames and reframing

- * Frame: a metaphor to describe how we perceive and therefore interpret reality (mental map, window, tool, etc).
- * Theoretical frame: a set of theories that allow us to explain, predict & control behavior.



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Chapter 5

Basic structural team configurations

One Boss

* Structure is fast & efficient, works well with simple tasks & situations

Dual Authority - divisible tasks

* Added layer limits and slows communication between boss and lover levels, team morale and performance may then suffer

Simple Hierarchy

* One middle manager reports to the boss while supervising and communicating with team members

Circle

- * Information and decisions flow sequentially among members
- * Relies only on lateral coordination and each person only deals with two other members
- * A weak link can undermine the team; complex tasks can create problems

All Channel

- * Information and communication flows freely, between all members, high morale
- * Effective for complex tasks requiring creativity
- * Not suited for simple tasks -too slow and inefficient

Teamwork and interdependence (sports examples)

Chapter 5 (cont)

Baseball (LOW interdependence)

- * Team goal met via individual players meeting goals
- * Individual efforts usually autonomous (self-control), loose coordination between specific teammates
- * Managers' decisions are tactical, (ex. substitutions) Football (MODERATE interdependence)
- * Players work in close proximity, individual efforts are tightly synchronized, all members involved in a "play"
- * Integration through planning and top-down control; different units have own coordinator (ex. offensive)
- * Tougher to swap players from teams due to different philosophies, cultures, and systems Basketball (HIGH interdependence)
- * Players work in very close proximity, switching roles
- * Individual efforts reciprocal, depend fully on others' performance & can anticipate moves over time
- * Coaches serve as integrators, reinforce team cohesion and lateral coordination

Chapter 5 (cont)

Team structure and high performance

- * Translate purpose into specific, measurable goals
- * Manageable size (smallest size possible to get job done)
- * Common commitment (social contract to guide behavior)
- * Collectively accountable Self-managed teams

* Plan, organize, lead and staff by themselves

- * Assign tasks and roles to members
- * Plan and schedule work (set deadlines, etc)

Chapter 2

Common fallacies in organizational problem diagnosis

- * Blame people bad attitudes, abrasive personalities, neurotic tendencies, stupidity, or incompetence
- * Blame the bureaucracy organizations are stifled by rules and red tape
- * Black thirst for power organizations are jungles filled with predators and prey
- `Human tendency is to find simple solutions to complex problems

Chapter 2 (cont)

- `We satisfice (settle on the first available solution) instead of searching for the option that will maximize decision quality
- `While common fallacies might contain some truth, they oversimplify reality and only give a partial perspective
- ^ Ex. "the bureaucracy" perspective is better at explaining how organizations should work rather than explaining why they often don't work

Sources of Ambiguity

- * Not sure what the problem is or what's going on
- * Not sure (or can't agree) on what we want
- * Don't have the resources needed
- * Not sure who's supposed to do what, how to get what we want, or how to determine if we succeeded or failed

Coping with ambiguity & complexity

- * You see what you expect (expectation bias), and what you want to see (selective perception)
- * Can lead to confirmation bias



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Chapter 6

Maslow's Hierarchy

- 5. Self-actualization
- 4. Esteem
- 3. Belongingness, love
- 2. Safety
- 1. Physiological

Theory x & y (McGregor)

Theory X assumes people are passive, lazy, prefer to be led, & resist change. Leads to micromanaging and less trust in employees.

Theory Y assumes people are proactive, curious, responsible, & trustworthy.

Leads to more freedom, no micromanaging - trust employees to do the work.

Personality & organization (Argryis)

Workers adapt to frustration in several ways:

- * Withdraw absenteeism/presenteeism or quitting
- * Become apathetic, psychologically withdrawn
- * Resist top-down control through restricting output, deception, featherbedding, or sabotage
- * Climb the hierarchy to escape lower levels
- * Form alliances to redress power imbalances (ex. labor unions, support groups, etc)
- * Train children to believe work in unrewarding

Lean and mean vs Invest in people

Win through low costs

Chapter 6 (cont)

- * downsize ("dumbsizing"), outsource, hire temps & contractors
- * yields short term benefit
- * corrosive effect on worker commitment & morale
- * approach can work well in an economic downturn

Win with talent

- * build skilled, well-trained workforce
- * yields long-term payoff
- * during economic booms,
 companies compete over
 workers due to skill shortages →
 competitive edge

Chapter 3

Structural assumptions

Organizations exist to achieve established goals and objectives Specialization and division of labor increase efficiency and performance

Structure must align with circumstances

- ^ Can be internal...
- ^ ...or external (competition, laws and regulations, economy, resource availability, time of year/fluctuations in demand or business)

Problems arise from structural deficiencies

Basic structural tensions

* Differentiation: dividing work, division of labor

Chapter 3 (cont)

- ^ business function (marketing, accounting, etc), time, product, customer, place, process
- * Integration: coordinating efforts of different roles and units
- * Suboptimization: occurs when units focus on local concerns, losing sight of the big picture

Vertical coordination

Coordination following the chain of command:

- * Authority: the boss makes the decisions
- * Rules and Policies
- ^ Provides standards to ensure behavior is predictable and consistent

Lateral coordination

- * Lateral coordination forms tends to be more informal & flexible, and often simpler & quicker than vertical forms.
- ^ Meetings
- ^ Task forces
- ^ Coordinating roles

Structural imperatives

- * Size and Age:complexity & formality increase with age
- * Core Process: must align with structure
- * Environment: stable \rightarrow simpler ; turbulent \rightarrow more complex structure
- * Strategy and goals: structure must adapt for goal clarity & consistency

Chapter 3 (cont)

- * Information technology: increased IT permits flatter, increased flexible structures
- * People/Nature of Workforce: increased skilled/professional, increased demand more autonomy

Chapter 7

Build and implement an HR philosophy

- * Develop a public statement of the org's HR philosophy
- * Helps translate words into specific actions and for accountability purposes
- * Build systems and practices to implement the philosophy

Hire the Right People

- * Hire people who bring the right skills and attitudes to the job and org and that"fit" the org mold.
- * Can reduce turnover, cut recruiting, selection, and training

Keep Employees

- * Reward well, protect jobs to build loyalty, promote from within
- * Increases trust and loyalty
- * Capitalizes on knowledge & skills, reduces errors, increases the likelihood of longer-term thinking

Invest in Employees



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Chapter 7 (cont)

- * Undertrained workers can affect productivity, leavels, lower quality, and make costly mistakes
- * Training (short-term focus, immediate costs) vs development (longer-term investment, delayed benefits)
- * Use a variety of methods: on the job, mentors, classroom, team-b-uilding activities

Empower Employees

- * Make performance data available and teach workers how to use them
- * Encourage workers to think like owners
- * Everyone gets a stake in the financial success
- * Foster autonomy and participation
- * Redesign work
- * Build self-managing teams

Promote diversity and inclusion

- * Develop an explicit, consistent diversity philosophy and strategy to execute it daily
- * A commitment to treating all employees well
- * Employees reflect your customer base, and news of bad treatment (ex. racism) spreads quickly
- * Tailor recruiting practices to diversify hiring

Chapter 7 (cont)

* Hold managers accountable by tying rewards to meeting diversity goals and targets



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