# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT



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**HYPOTHESIS (ES)** 

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION** 

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- Hunker, H.L. and A.J. Wright (1963), "Factors of Industrial Location in Ohio" Ohio State University, Nigeria.

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#### UNPUBLISHED DISSERTATIONS

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• Garg, Bhavet (2011): Towards a New Gas Policy, Political Weekly, Viewed on January 01, 2012 http://epw.in/user/viewabstract.jsp

#### NEED OF DESIGN THINKING AND INNOVATION IN BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Turbulent business environments, competition, globalisation and dearth of resources have put significant competitive pressures on many businesses. Rapid specialized technology developments and increased global access to geographically unlimited markets allow consumers seemingly to have infinite choices for the best satisfaction of their needs in choosing desired products. Providing value to customers becomes vital to any organization to sustain the business in future. As a main task of design through design thinking is to seek value to customers, fosters management thinking from chaotic fluctuations in external turbulence and enables sustainable order in actions. This is why awareness of extended design application is becoming crucial nowadays among academics and practitioners. Although Design is most often used to describe an object or end result, it is however a process which can become, if used efficiently, the most powerful tool and foundation for driving a brand or business forward. Design Thinking is a mind set to develop and deliver innovative ideas, change and solutions to complicated problems. It is an activity-based process with a strong emphasis on teamwork. The paper describes new roles for design Thinking in addressing emerging global challenges in business environment.

#### **KEYWORDS**

business, business environment, challenges, design thinking, innovation.

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

s Prof. Dorst states, 'Recently, design thinking is identified as an exciting new paradigm for dealing with problems in many professions—majorly business and IT sector.' Following the success of Apple, a huge debate took place on the framing, application and use of the term design thinking among large business enterprises. Design thinking term was coined by the business community to denote a process which would infuse creativity into management. Design thinking involves empathetic understanding of a problem, using creative skills to find solutions, and the application of process to derive home success.

CEOs such as Apple's Steve Jobs and Renault-Nissan's Carlos Ghosn have exploited the potential of design, placing design strategists in the boardroom to ensure that design is no longer an afterthought to the periphery, but is at the core of an organisation's business processes. Design Thinking provides a solution-based approach to solve problems. It is a way of thinking.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To understand the concept of Design Thinking.
- 2. The Need and Importance of Design Thinking as a 21st Century Skill.
- 3. How does Design Thinking help in solving problems in 21st Century?

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research paper is an attempt of exploratory research, based on secondary data sourced from journals, magazines, articles, newspapers and media reports.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Described as a human-centered approach to innovation, Design Thinking can be interpreted as a conceptualization of the way designers think and work (Brown, 2008; Johansson-Sköldberg et al., 2013; Kimbell, 2011; Liedtka, et al., 2013). Many proponents of Design Thinking describe how it takes account also of aspects such as feasibility and viability, and creativity within constraints (Brown, 2008). The most tangible representations of Design Thinking are put forward by IDEO. More recently, the use of Design Thinking has been proposed as a way for individuals to develop their 'creative confidence' (Kelley). This paper therefore seeks to complement the descriptions of Design Thinking in the literature by describing DT in practice, thus investigating what happens when the concept meets an organizational context.

#### **DESIGN THINKING PROCESS**

**Empathy**- It's the ability to see an experience through another person's eyes, to recognize why people do what they do. It's when you go into the field and watch people interact with products and services in real time. What we sometimes refer to as "design research."

**Define**-During the Define stage, we put together the information you have created and gathered during the Empathise stage. This is where you will analyse your observations and synthesise them in order to define the core problems that you and your team have identified. You should define the problem as a problem statement in a human-centred manner.

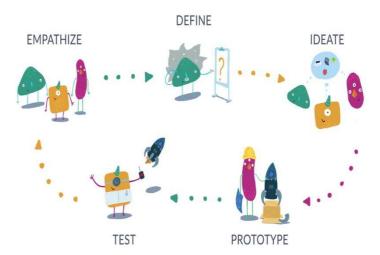
**Ideate-** In this stage, the team members can start to "think outside the box" to identify new solutions to the problem statement we created, and we can start to look for alternative ways of viewing the problem. There are various ways of Ideation techniques such as Brainstorm, Worst Possible Idea, and SCAMPER. Brainstorm and Worst Possible Idea sessions are majorly used to stimulate free thinking and to expand the problem space. It is important to get as many ideas or problem solutions as possible at the beginning of the Ideation phase.

**Prototypes**- Prototypes may be shared and tested within the team itself, or on a small group of people outside the design team. This is an experimental phase, and the aim is to identify the best possible solution for the problems identified during the earlier stages of this process. The solutions are implemented within the prototypes, and, one by one, they are investigated and are either accepted, improved and re-examined, or rejected based on the requirements.

**Test-** Evaluators test the complete product using the best solutions identified during the prototyping phase. This is the final stage of the model, but in an iterative process, the results generated during the testing phase are often used to redefine one or more problems and inform the understanding of the users, the conditions of use, how people think, behave, and feel, and to empathise.

#### FIGURE 1: DIAGRAM SHOWING DESIGN THINKING PROCESS

## We are all DESIGNERS!



Design Thinking is a process where we are constantly being questioned so it can help us redefine a problem in an attempt to identify alternative strategies and solutions that might not be instantly apparent with our initial level of understanding. Design Thinking is often referred to as 'outside the box thinking', as designers are attempting to develop new ways of thinking that do not abide by the dominant or more common problem-solving methods – just like artists do.

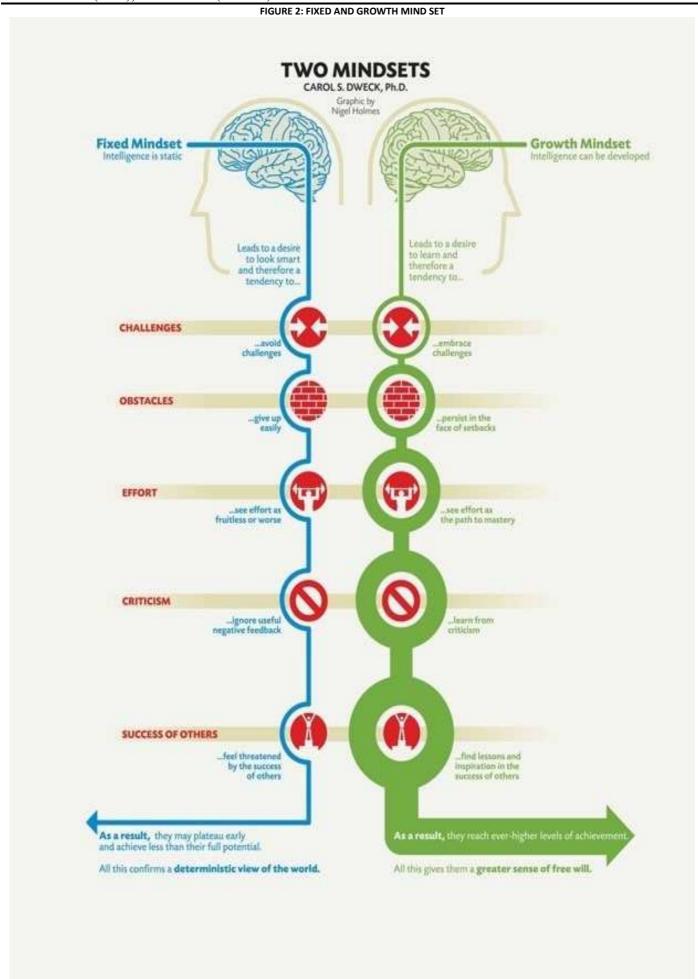
#### **NEED OF DESIGN THINKING AND INNOVATION IN BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**

Businesses have slowly come to recognize that design can be used as a differentiator to respond to changing consumer behaviour. Again and again, Fortune 500 names such as Apple, Microsoft, Disney, and IBM have demonstrated the intrinsic value of "design thinking" as a competitive advantage that drives business growth. It is a methodology that employs unique and creative techniques to solve complex problems and find desirable solutions. Traditionally, design thinking was considered as a method used only by designers. However, it is applicable to anything that entails creating innovative ideas and solving problems. Various businesses and organizations use it to solve existing problems and discover new opportunities. A fundamental element of design thinking is simply thinking and ideating on a solution to address a problem or to meet a customer needs.

Design thinking should be at the core of strategy development and organizational change in order to create a culture that's focused on this way of solving problems. This way of thinking can be applied to products, services, and processes; anything that needs to be improved.

#### WHERE DOES DESIGN THINKING ADD VALUE?

Businesses have a never-ending list of goals, from constantly releasing new products that increase sales by resonating with customers to providing better customer support. When a business decides on a new product, a massive, expensive machine shifts into high gear, especially at large corporations. Applying design thinking can help to direct the attention to the specific solutions people need. It has become clear that using design in numerous ways and on a strategic level creates competitive advantage, boosts innovation capacity, adds value across the whole value chain and has a positive impact. It adds value to both users and businesses. For this one needs to have a growth mindset, it creates a psychological safety for risk taking and for collaborations.



#### **COMPANIES USING DESIGN THINKING**

There are many examples that use design thinking in their day-to-day operations, like Apple and Google. Design thinking can and does work for all types of organizations, big and small. Yes, it can be challenging to implement at a more established company where process and systems run amuck, but the benefits outweigh the process of cutting through all the red tape.

#### **IBM**

IBM has taken numerous steps to cultivate design thinking into its culture by increasing the number of designers on its workforce from one for every 33 coders, to one for every eight. It got to know its users – in this case, all employees in the organisation. It built empathy maps and personas, and observed the way that its people worked. Once the business understood the current scenario, it then identified pain points, and from that started to imagine things that could help solve them."

#### INFOSYS

Infosys uses design thinking as it offers the most effective model to cultivate the creative power and potential of the enterprise. The company applies design thinking process and practices to increase opportunities for innovation and optimize their employees' problem-solving skillsets. Infosys has used design thinking workshops to change the mindset of its 170,000+ employees.

#### FIDELITY LABS

Fidelity Labs, has 8 global locations, 150 people, and over 200 patents. The three foundations of Fidelity Labs' design thinking methodology are "scan," "try," and "scale." They first "scan" across industries to find opportunities for innovation, then "try" to quickly prototype and test products with customers, and finally "scale" by identifying opportunities and delivering them to their 22 million customers and partners.

#### PEPSICO

Pepsico is also using Design Thinking to address the user experience. It tried Design Thinking a little differently. They decided to take the top-down approach. The CEO Indra Nooyi had the mandate to innovate and she believed doing it the design way. She hired Mauro Porcini, who till then led design at 3M, as the first-ever chief design officer at Pepsico. PepsiCo launched Lifewtr, a premium-priced bottled water featuring labels that are designed by artists and change several times per year.

#### **TOSHIBA**

Toshiba had been struggling with their disused factories that were once actively churning out floppy disks. When floppy disks lost their charm, the factories remained shut for a decade. After applying design thinking, Toshiba decided to convert these factories into vegetable farms, growing lettuce, spinach, and other green leafy vegetables. Toshiba is growing over 3 million units of vegetables annually since 2015. In the future, they are also planning to introduce robots that pick vegetables.

#### **BRAUN**

The team at design company Industrial Facility were given the challenge of creating a better experience with the Oral B electric toothbrush. Instead of looking at the client's idea of tracking a user's brushing performance, the company looked at the problems the customers had. These included forgetting to purchase replacement brush heads and the toothbrush running out of power. As a result, Industrial Facility created toothbrushes with charging capabilities. The toothbrushes were also fitted with a button that users could press that would send a reminder to their smartphone to purchase a replacement.

#### **CAPITAL ONE**

Capital One has adopted design thinking as a mantra to reinvent itself as a software company and innovation incubator. After acquiring design firms Adaptive Path and Monsoon, Capital One has recently rolled out fresh digital features, from an emoji-enabled SMS chatbot to GPS-tracked transaction histories.

#### **DESIGN THINKING IN VARIOUS DOMAINS**

Nowadays, Design Thinking is used in every domain. Organizations are implementing Design Thinking to gain more productivity and to become more customer oriented.

#### 1. DESIGN THINKING IN MARKETING

Design Thinking looks at people, products, place, process and performance. Marketing meets at design thinking in branding and service design. Design Thinking influence branding and helps in expanding innovation. Design and market should work together to solve customer problems. It also provides a structured approach for service and product development.

#### 2. DESIGN THINKING IN INNOVATION

Design Thinking puts a tool set for creativity in hands of people. It involves collaboration across multiple disciplines. Its helps to create effective strategy development, organizational change and business transformation. Through design thinking right problems can be solved and appropriate solutions can be tested. Design Thinking in Innovation goes through three phases LEARN, CREATE, MAKE.

LEARN to identify the challenges and the right problem to solve it.

CREATE implies doing research to form ideas and prototypes are made to bring possible solutions.

MAKE is implementing the process. Things can always be made better so iterate, iterate and iterate.

#### 3. DESIGN THINKING IN HUMAN RESOURCE

Human needs are the centre of design thinking. Design thinking learns actual needs of people through qualitative and effective research.

"Empathy maps reveal perceptions from the user's point of view, and by forcing research that looks at both emotions and reason, gets a truly people-centric view of a situation."

Design Thinking evolves a robust selection process that yields best fit of the candidate to the job profile.

#### 4. DESIGN THINKING IN INTERNET OF THINGS

Design Thinking develops end user to focus on solutions to complex problems. It empathizes phase end users. It gets to the bottom of real problem with current technologies and products. Design Thinking helps in testing multiple prototypes and looking for more input from end users. By applying Design thinking to internet of Things, we can implement intentional innovation to solve the challenges in Internet of Things such as architecture, verticals and other related domains.

#### 5. DESIGN THINKING IN FUELLING BRAND STRATEGY

Design thinking act as a linking between design and business and look at design from a wider perspective of business approach. In the book, Design Management: Using Design to Build Brand Value and Corporate Innovation, Brigitte de Mozota categorized design contribution inside organizations into three domains: Operational design involves design tasks such as creating graphic design materials, designing products, and digital user interfaces.

Functional (tactical) design involves the design process such as arranging the cooperation between departments and different stages of the design process.

Strategic design involves looking to the design from a strategic perspective that links between the company strategy and consumer needs such as building the

company brand and reflecting it to the above two types of design inside the organization.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Design thinking is at the core of effective development and organizational change. It defines how organizations learn from one another, and pushes teams to explore new horizons. The design way of thinking can be applied to anything from systems, to procedures and user experiences. Ultimately, it is there to improve quality of life and create a better world for all. This process requires more than a single process adoption but transformation in the mind-set of the organisation. It means changing the way people in the organisation think, and the way organisation is structured so that the internal processes are adaptive. This will allow the flexibility to create agility, adaptability, and innovation as one of the means to create people centred, entrepreneurial and meaningful organizations. It can create an ecosystem of co-creation that allows various stakeholders, such as employee, management, end users, to be a part of decision making, and making the organizations more meaningful.

In pursuit of innovation, not just the big players but start-ups and small businesses can also employ design thinking considering it as imperative to their success. Design thinking is a tool for simplifying and humanizing. Adopting it is not easy. However, doing so is empathetic, as it is a more thoughtful and human approach to business.

#### **LIMITATIONS**

The findings of the study indicate that when organisations implements design thinking, the main use of this method is during early or innovation stage and less in phase of product development which where design is already included. Also, our study finds that design thinking cannot replace the traditional system, but rather adds a new field of work. Moreover, in order to implement design thinking the organisations needs to have right mindets, collaborations and conductive environment which is tough to get in an organisations as people of various mindsets are working together under one roof.

#### **FUTURE SCOPE**

Design Thinking has become a game changing competency for majority of enterprises. Design Thinkers need to take a step back and re-think how to take this concept forward. The Design Thinking community will then follow and respond. Design Thinking needs a new lifting up into both tactical and strategic approaches. As we face the task of solving complex and strategic problems, it is the time for Design Thinking to step-up and become a key component on how to do this in order to understand customer needs, and to solve organizational challenges that corporations and society are grappling with. The ability to extract from Design Thinking methodologies can significantly help in the future. What is increasingly demanded today is to solve more complex problems in creative ways, and Design Thinking needs to work in harmony with many other thinking skills to make its contribution. It can connect to a wider universe of problems and complexity of design itself, over the centuries it broke out of past confines. Design thinking makes us all design-conscious if we allow it to. It is the human-centred design that can draw out the best of our thinking if we do allow it to. As Design Thinking has taken hold, there has been an increasing demand to raise up its capacity to help solving problems in our business complexities, in our countries and in our lives.

Implementing design thinking is definitely not an easy task, but with it, you can create a workplace where employees look forward to work and innovate. This cultivates empathy for customers and paves the way for rapid prototyping and user testing to launch innovative products quickly to the market. Through design thinking approach, enterprises have seen dramatic improvements in their top and bottom lines, companies have been able to completely transform their lines of business and fight the disruption.

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