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ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE OF ERP

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ABSTRACT

ERP systems are information systems involving more diverse and integrated organizations through various functional areas. There are many cases where it has been observed that ERP systems become a failure, either in the design or implementation. A number of reasons contribute to the success or failure of an ERP system. The success or failure of the ERP system can be analysed by understanding advantage and disadvantage of ERP within the organization. In this paper you can see few major factors that affect the organization.

KEYWORDS

ERP, high-risk projects.

INTRODUCTION

ERP systems now have to repackage the current modules and action/strategies across all the department and enterprises. This change must be made based on the consequences of architectures of ERP systems and their current understanding of ERP transformation. ERP systems have advantages and disadvantages and this will impact their penetration into different markets. ERP is never ending chain of actions which is being evolved continuously. Therefore, vendor has to offer a lot more to the companies than ever before. In general, the ERP system is expected to improve the function of company. Institutions see many of the tangible and intangible benefits and plan strategically before opting for the ERP and its vendor. Therefore, it is very important for companies to know the advantage and disadvantage of the ERP.

WHAT IS ERP?

"ERP is an industry term for a wide range of software applications compatible with most other scabies company or business units that help the important parts of its business, including functional areas such as planning, inventory management, marketing, sales, manufacturing, accounting, distribution, human resource management, financial, project management, transportation and service and maintenance."

ADVANTAGES OF ERP SYSTEMS

1) INTEGRATED INFORMATION

ERP is the software that connects different departments into one. Therefore, this helps to seek information from one source. Integrated information means the data is well preserved and monitored. For example, if inventory department need approval for inventory the system will provide the details to the financial department for approval. Earlier one had to physically or by written communication have to reach out to various departments for approval. In ERP all the systems are integrated hence making the task much easy and faster.

2) AVOID DATA/OPERATIONAL DUPLICATION

All the department of the organization have centralized database; this means all the information entered is stored at one large common area. This helps the organization staff to access same data from multiple places and at the same time one cannot make duplication of the data by entering multiple times. Common database management system (DBMS), means consistent and accurate data.

3) DELIVERY AND CYCLE TIME REDUCTION

This can be illustrated with an example, in a manufacturing industry, if stocks are running out ERP system automatically checks and alerts nearest manufacturing plant or other department who can be responsible for instance the alert can be sent to finance department for raising sale invoice to order a fresh stock. All these automatic activities reduce the cycle time.

4) COST REDUCTION

Cost can be attributed to offerings, the best customer experience in relation to delivery, understanding the exact action by knowing when to make orders and how much to order. In other words, to forecast demand and thereby keeping the operation cost optimum. ERP also keeps a check on fraudulent activities and also checks the cost.

5) GLOBAL OPERATIONS AND ACCEPTANCE

ERP has been evolving over the years and many companies and vendors work together and committed to it. There have been extended modules of ERP like CRM & SCM. Do to the success of ERP the companies operating in different part of the world can have one single master database thus making the operations easy and smooth as if it been located in one area or compound.

DISADVANTAGES OF ERP SYSTEMS

1) TIME-CONSUMING

ERP is a very time consuming affair. Larger the organization longer the time required. This mainly because the Vendor has to study the company requirement and custom fit the ERP applications. There are challenges like for example not all modules are required by all company. The requirement of Manufacture Company may differ for the requirement of IT Company or marketing company. Generally, it takes from 6 months to three years for ERP implementation depending upon the size and the need of the company.

2) EXPENSIVE

The cost of implementing ERP is very high again varying due to the requirement of the company. Generally, it runs in hundreds of dollars spread over the life cycle of implementation and post implementations. The cost is high as vendor studies the company requirement and customize the application suiting to the company needs and demands.

3) MODULES COMPATIBILITY

The architecture and components selected by company must comply with the business processes, culture and strategic goals of the organization. There are barriers like language and IT infrastructures.

4) DEPENDENCY ON VENDOR

Once the agreement is made and Vendor starts working on implementation the company rely heavily on vendors for smooth process during the implementation stage. Vendor has access to lot of confidential data and company is always at risk and need to be watchful. There has to be proper training or handover by the vendor post implementation else the company will not be able to operate the operations efficiently. In this way companies rely heavily on vendors.

5) COMPLEXITY

Implementation of ERP is a very complex task, company generally change vendors as companies confront with vendors. Complexity is high if the company size is big and involves lot of modules. ERP has many features and modules therefore vendor and company has to analysis the right need and select the right features and modules from the long list of offering from ERP.

CONCLUSION

ERP implementations represent high-risk projects that need to be understood correctly. Organizations must study as to how to identify the critical issues that impact the implementation process and know when in the process to address them effectively to ensure that the promised benefits can be realized and potential failures can be avoided. By learning the advantage and disadvantages companies can simulate the complexity of ERP products.

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