

***Materials Management* by K. Shridhara Bhat, Himalaya Publishing House, New Delhi, 2011, 234 pages, ₹ 175, ISBN 978-93-5024-806-5.**

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This book is focuses on important aspects of material management. Management of materials in most organisations is crucial to their success because the cost of purchasing, storing, preserving, moving and shipping materials account for over half of the product's cost. Improving productivity is a major factor in facing the challenge of competition and this involves driving down the cost of all aspects of business activities. Efficient and effective management of materials has become the key to achieve higher productivity levels, especially in manufacturing organisations producing tangible goods, both consumer and industrial goods.

The main contention of the author is to give focus on the necessity of the material management in today's competitive era. He tries to emphasize why organisations will be worried about the material management. Author has tried to give focus on each and every aspects of material management and tried to framework the structure for managing the material. It has been pointed out at appropriate places discussed in various chapters about how in any manufacturing concern one can maximize the profit by reducing the material cost and loss of materials.

In the first chapter the author discussed that material consists of more than fifty percent in any product, the management of material is very important to control the cost of final product. The author explains how all the manufacturing concern more worried about importance of material after oil crisis in 1970's. According to author there are two main objective of material management. What are the challenges faced by the concern in case of material management is precisely mentioned by the author. At the end of the chapter the author graphically explain the supply chain management in material management in manufacturing concern.

The author has divided the second chapter in four different sections. In first section he has an attempt to explain about material planning and control. In the second section he has elaborated about the make and buy decision and in the third section different techniques of material control viz. ABC analysis, JIT purchase, VED analysis etc. In the forth section author has discussed about material requirement planning and its benefits for the manufacturing concern, how MRP operates and its different system. In the same section author has introduced with the enterprise resource planning.

In the third chapter the author wrote about purchasing management. Author explains about the functions of purchasing management and why purchasing is important. The parameters of purchase are mentioned like right purchase, right quality, right quantity, right store, right time, right contract were explain. Author has also explained about the supply chain classification, purchasing cycle. In the last section of this chapter the author has elaborated about the Global sourcing and problem and cost associated with global sourcing precisely.

In chapter four the author has explain about the need and objectives for vendor development. As per the author there are different levels of vendor assessment. The evaluation and selection process of vendor are clearly elaborated by the author in seven different steps. How to rate the vendors and choose the vendor who is having highest rating. At the end of this chapter the author has explained about the selection criteria of the vendor.

In chapter five author has successfully explained about the legal aspects of purchasing. Normally procurement practices and the buyer/ supplier relationships are dependent upon good faith and trust between the parties and are not dependent on legal conditions. But purchasing and selling interchanges and does give rise to legal and binding commitments. The author has explained about different Acts relating to material management viz. contract act, sale of goods act, negotiable instrument act, insurance act etc.

In the sixth chapter the author has explained about the stores management and its objectives by elaborating about place of store, layout of stores, stock verification and valuation even how to codify the stocks and in this attempt author has done well.

The author has briefly explained about the inventory management in the seventh chapter. He has nicely explain how to calculate the optimum size of order to be placed for material by applying economic order quantity method and graphically shown it, not only that the author also has tried to make differences in ordering cost at different size of quantity ordered.

In last chapter the author has explained about the evaluation of material management and same he has done by applying different index in managing the material for the manufacturing concern.

This book is recommended for all commerce and management students at both under-graduate and post-graduate levels. The book is an attempt to draw attention about materials management and the importance of materials in an organization and performance has resulted in the development of an organised body of knowledge on how to manage materials. This discipline is known as materials management.