Chapter 3
Part 1 Introduction

Strategic Human Resource Management and the HR Scorecard

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Outline the steps in the strategic management process.
2. Explain and give examples of each type of companywide and competitive strategy.
3. Explain what a high performance work system is and why it is important.
4. Illustrate and explain each of the seven steps in the HR Scorecard approach to creating HR systems.
HR’s Strategic Challenges

- **Strategic plan**
  - A company’s plan for how it will match its internal strengths and weaknesses with external opportunities and threats in order to maintain a competitive advantage.

- **Three basic challenges**
  - The need to support corporate productivity and performance improvement efforts.
  - That employees play an expanded role in employers’ performance improvement efforts.
  - HR must be more involved in designing—not just executing—the company’s strategic plan.

The Strategic Management Process

- **Strategic management**
  - The process of identifying and executing the organization’s mission by matching its capabilities with the demands of its environment.

- **Strategy**
  - A strategy is a course of action.
  - The company’s long-term plan for how it will balance its internal strengths and weaknesses with its external opportunities and threats to maintain a competitive advantage.
Business Mission and Its Vision

➢ Vision
  - A general statement of its intended direction that evokes emotional feelings in organization members.

➢ Mission
  - Spells out who the company is, what it does, and where it’s headed.

Strategic Management Process (cont’d)

➢ Strategic management tasks
  - Step 1: Define the Business and Its Mission
  - Step 2: Perform External and Internal Audits
  - Step 3: Translate the Mission into Strategic Goals
  - Step 4: Formulate a Strategy to Achieve the Strategic Goals
  - Step 5: Implement the Strategy
  - Step 6: Evaluate Performance
Overview of Strategic Management

Figure 3–1

A SWOT Chart

**SWOT Analysis**
The use of a SWOT chart to compile and organize the process of identifying company strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Figure 3–2
Strategies in Brief

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Strategic Principle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dell</td>
<td><strong>Be direct</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eBay</td>
<td><strong>Focus on trading communities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electric</td>
<td><strong>Be number one or number two in every industry in which we compete, or get out</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Airlines</td>
<td><strong>Meet customers’ short-haul travel needs at fares competitive with the cost of automobile travel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard</td>
<td><strong>Unmatchable value for the investor-owner</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wal-Mart</td>
<td><strong>Low prices, every day</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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Types of Strategic Planning

- **Corporate-level strategy**
  - Identifies the portfolio of businesses that, in total, comprise the company and the ways in which these businesses relate to each other.
    - **Diversification strategy** implies that the firm will expand by adding new product lines.
    - **Vertical integration strategy** means the firm expands by, perhaps, producing its own raw materials, or selling its products direct.
    - **Consolidation strategy** reduces the company’s size
    - **Geographic expansion strategy** takes the company abroad.

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Types of Strategic Planning (cont'd)

- **Business-level/competitive strategy**
  - Identifies how to build and strengthen the business's long-term competitive position in the marketplace.
    - **Cost leadership**: the enterprise aims to become the low-cost leader in an industry.
    - **Differentiation**: a firm seeks to be unique in its industry along dimensions that are widely valued by buyers.
    - **Focus**: a firm seeks to carve out a market niche, and compete by providing a product or service customers can get in no other way.

Types of Strategic Planning (cont'd)

- **Functional strategies**
  - Identify the basic courses of action that each department will pursue in order to help the business attain its competitive goals.
Achieving Strategic Fit

- **Michael Porter**
  - Emphasizes the “fit” point of view that all of the firm’s activities must be tailored to or fit its strategy, by ensuring that the firm’s functional strategies support its corporate and competitive strategies.

- **Gary Hamel and C. K. Prahalad**
  - Argue for “stretch” in leveraging resources—supplementing what you have and doing more with what you have—can be more important than just fitting the strategic plan to current resources.
The Southwest Airlines’ Activity System

HR and Competitive Advantage

**Competitive advantage**

- Any factors that allow an organization to differentiate its product or service from those of its competitors to increase market share.
- Superior human resources are an important source of competitive advantage
Strategic Human Resource Management

- The linking of HRM with strategic goals and objectives in order to improve business performance and develop organizational cultures that foster innovation and flexibility.
- Formulating and executing HR systems—HR policies and activities—that produce the employee competencies and behaviors the company needs to achieve its strategic aims.

Linking Corporate and HR Strategies

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Figure 3–6
HR’S Strategic Roles

- HR professionals should be part of the firm’s strategic planning executive team.
  - Identify the human issues that are vital to business strategy.
  - Help establish and execute strategy.
  - Provide alternative insights.
  - Are centrally involved in creating responsive and market-driven organizations.
  - Conceptualize and execute organizational change.

HR Involvement in Mergers

HR’s Strategy Execution Role

- The HR department’s strategies, policies, and activities must make sense in terms of the company’s corporate and competitive strategies, and they must support those strategies.

HR’s Strategy Formulation Role

- HR helps top management formulate strategy in a variety of ways by.
  - Supplying competitive intelligence that may be useful in the strategic planning process.
  - Supplying information regarding the company’s internal human strengths and weaknesses.
  - Build a persuasive case that shows how—in specific and measurable terms—the firm’s HR activities can and do contribute to creating value for the company.
Creating a Strategy-oriented HR System

**Components of the HR process**
- HR professionals who have strategic and other skills
- HR policies and activities that comprise the HR system itself
- Employee behaviors and competencies that the company's strategy requires.
The High-Performance Work System

- **High-performance work system (HPWS) practices.**
  - High-involvement employee practices (such as job enrichment and team-based organizations),
  - High commitment work practices (such as improved employee development, communications, and disciplinary practices)
  - Flexible work assignments.
  - Other practices include those that foster skilled workforces and expanded opportunities to use those skills.

Translating Strategy into HR Policy and Practice

Basic Model of How to Align HR Strategy and Actions with Business Strategy

Formulate Business Strategy

“What are the strategic goals of the business?”

Identify Workforce Requirements

“What employee competencies and behaviors must HR deliver to enable the business to reach its goals?”

Formulate HR Strategic Policies and Activities

“Which HR strategies and practices will enable HR to produce these employee competencies and behaviors?”

Develop Detailed HR Scorecard Measures

“How can HR measure whether it is executing well for the business, in terms of producing the required workforce competencies and behaviors?”

The HR Scorecard Approach

- **HR scorecard**
  - Measures the HR function’s effectiveness and efficiency in producing employee behaviors needed to achieve the company’s strategic goals.

- **Creating an HR scorecard**
  - Must know what the company’s strategy is.
  - Must understand the causal links between HR activities, employee behaviors, organizational outcomes, and the organization’s performance.
  - Must have metrics to measure all the activities and results involved.

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Strategic HR Relationships

[Diagram showing the relationship between HR activities, emergent employee behaviors, strategically relevant organizational outcomes, organizational performance, and achieving strategic goals.]

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Using the HR Scorecard Approach

- Step 1: Define the Business Strategy
- Step 2: Outline the Company’s Value Chain
- Step 3: Identify the Strategically Required Organizational Outcomes
- Step 4: Identify the Required Workforce Competencies and Behaviors
- Step 5: Identify the Strategically Relevant HR System Policies and Activities
- Step 6: Design the HR Scorecard Measurement System
- Step 7: Periodically Evaluate the Measurement System
Outlining the Company's Value Chain

- **Value chain analysis**
  
  - A tool for identifying, isolating, visualizing, and analyzing the firm's most important activities and strategic costs.
  
  - Identifying the primary and crucial activities that create value for customers and the related support activities.
    
    - Each activity is part of the process of designing, producing, marketing, and delivering the company's product or service.
  
  - Shows the chain of essential activities.
  
  - Prompts future questions.

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**Simple Value Chain for “the Hotel Paris”**

Figure 3–12

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HR Scorecard for the Hotel Paris International Corporation*

Note *(An abbreviated example showing selected HR practices and outcomes aimed at implementing the competitive strategy, “To use superior guest services to differentiate the Hotel Paris properties and thus increase the length of stays and the return rate of guests, and thus boost revenues and profitability”).

Key Terms

- competitive advantage
- strategic management
- HR Scorecard
- strategic plan
- leveraging
- strategy
- metrics
- SWOT analysis
- mission strategic control
- value chain analysis
- strategic human resource manager
- vision

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