Role of Independent Directors in Decision Making --Value Addition, Committees with Induction Training and Stakeholder's Expectations

CA. Bimal R. Bhatt Vadodara, Gujarat, Mother India

- If you think of Money, you cannot do the right thing. Money will come, once you do the right thing.
- The unpredictability of the battle for market share and mindshare, the volatility of the environment and the rapid-fire changes that are happening in the business and political landscape have all the trappings of a full-scale war. A mere firefighter cannot pretend to be a warrior. The ability to deal with the emergent conditions of the war demands much more than functional skills. It requires a rare leadership virtue called- Awareness. This start with Self-Awareness

Relevance Of.....

Genetic Science

DNA-Deoxyribonucleic Acid

- Environment (internal & external)
- Education
- Experience
- Enjoyment

Where Do I stand?

Self-Governance

Ethics, Values, Principles

- Self-Control
- Self-Monitoring
- Self-Discipline
- Self-Knowledge
- Self-Image

Challenges of

- Change
- Utility
- Technology
- Knowledge
- Identity
- Image
- Integrity
- Character

Divinity v/s Devility

<u>Divinity</u>	<u>Devility</u>
Truth=Sita	Futility=Mandodari
Ethics=Rama	Aggression=Ravana
Economy=Laxman	Stubbornness= Kumbhakarna
Expectation-Shatrughan	Gentleness=Vibhishana
Enlightenment= Bharat	Lust= Shoorpanakha
Empathy=Shabari	Intoxication=Khara
Positive Forces=Monkeys	Harmfulness=Dhooshasan
Effort=Sugreeva	Negative Forces= Asuras
Inspiration=Jambuvan	(Devils)
Devotion=Hanuman	Ego=Vaali
Illumination=Vashishta,	Deceit= Indrajeet
Vishwamitra,	Island of Negativeness = Lanka
Agastya	Illusion= Mareecha
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Interaction of a Company with Society for Accountability

- **Investors and Lenders:** accounting, auditing, laws, stock market, regulations
- The direct participants in the corporate value creation process: customers, employees, vendors, consumer protection, labour laws, commercial contracts, etc.
- For the effect of operations on the physical environment: Environment regulations
- For the human condition around their operations: related to health, education, employment, cultural need of the community, etc.
- For the political health of the societies in which they operate: human rights, fair democratic practices, etc.

"A company's value system is the guiding light in its hours of darkness, confusion, and selfdoubt and when faced with moral dilemma."

- N.R.Narayana Murthy (Founder, Infosys)

"Corporate governance is about the spirit in which you do business and about credibility and accountability as shareholders want to be assured of a board's independence and its willingness to act in their best interest.

- Deepak Parekh (Chairman, HDFC Ltd.)

Has Current Corporate Governance Failed?

- Failure of Ethics?
- Failure of Internal Controls & Internal Audit?
- Failure to adhere to Risk Management Practices?
- Failure of Independent Directors?
- Failure of Chairman of the Board of Directors?
- Failure of Credit Rating Agencies?
- Failure of Statutory Auditors, wherever relevant?
- Ultimately Regulators to blame? What is the status of investigation against "Satyam" Independent Directors?
- Failure of Stakeholders in understanding their correct role?

Independent Director

An independent Director is one who is objective in Board decisions. Generally, this independence stems from stature, competence, integrity, character, upbringing, confidence in oneself, openness and not having material income derived from the company while he/she is on the board. Leaders of innovation teams are successful when they collaborate, engage in discovery-driven learning and make integrative decisions.

Prof Linda A Hill, Harvard University

Few Independent Directors

- CA. Bansibhai S. Mehta
- CA. Shailesh V. Haribhakti
- Shri R. A. Shah
- Shri Cyril Shroff
- · Shri R. A. Mashelkar
- Shri O. P. Bhatt
- Dr. J. J Irani
- Prof. Ram Chandran
- CA. Dileepbhai C. Chokshi
- Ms. Rama Bijarpurkar
- Shri Omkar Goswami
- CA. Mukundbhaic Minal Chrittal Cra, Gujarat,

Understanding of Business Objectives

Financial Performance

- Achieve Revenue Growth
- Sustain Profitability
- Increase Revenue Productivity

Customer and Market Focus

- Grow Customer Relationships
- Differentiate Customer Offerings
- Broaden Geographical Footprint

Execution Excellence

- Leverage Global Delivery Model
- Control Operational Costs
- Improve Quality and Productivity

Organizational Development

- Develop and Retain Competencies
- Develop Global Workforce
- Develop Tiers of Leadership

Induction Training

- 1.Board Governance Document with Strategy Blue Print
- 2.Terms of Reference of the Risk and Audit Committee, CSR Committee, Nomination and Remuneration Committee, Stakeholder Grievance Committee
- 3. Corporate Governance Statement (included in the Last Annual Report)
- 4. Memorandum & Articles of Association
- **5.Securities Dealing**
- 6. Corporate Governance Compliance Report

- 7. Code of Business Conduct
- 8. Market Disclosure and Communications
- 9.Plant/s and Office/s visit
- 10.Audit Report on Accounts, Internal Audit Reports and any other Reports-Previous 4(Four) Quarters
- 11. Minutes of Audit Committee, Board Meetings, and other Committees-Previous 4(four) Quarters
- 12.One to One meeting with the CEO/MD and Board members

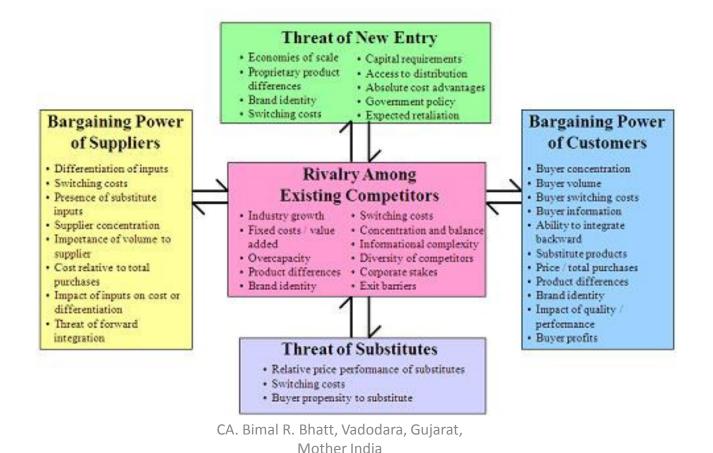
Sustainable Working of a Company

- Values, Vision and Strategy
- Operational Management
- Human Capital Management
- Accounts, Audit, Finance and Secretarial

Business Model

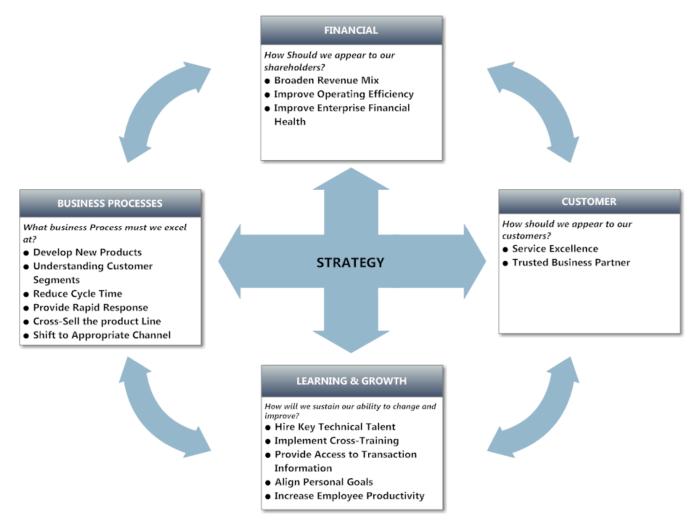
- Consists of four interlocking elements that, taken together, create and deliver value—
- 1)Customer Value Proposition
- 2) Profit Formula
- 3) Key Resources
- 4) Key Processes.

Porter's Five Forces Analysis

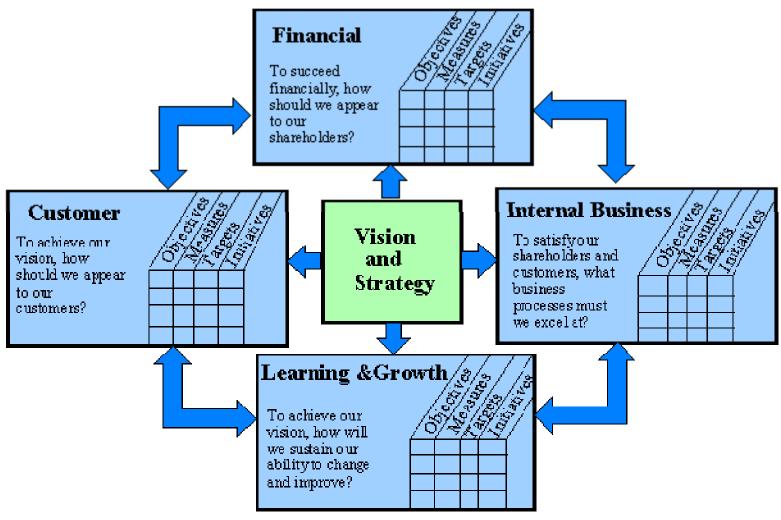


Balance Scorecard

 A strategic, measurement based management system, proposed by Robert Kaplan and David Norton, which provides a method of aligning business activities to the strategy and monitoring performance of strategic goals over time. Originally, a balanced scorecard is a format for communication about activities consisting of four perspectives each of which should include a small number of important metrics. These should be linked through the business logic inherent in the strategy.



Balanced Scorecard Framework*



^{*} Adapted from Kaplan & Norton, 1995. The Bolomed Scorecord. Harvard Business School Press: 9. Original from HBR, Jan/Feb 1996, p. 76.

Major Issues

- Growth Trajectory-Slow
- Competition-fierce, unhealthy, unexpected
- New Role by Governments across Globe.
- Culture Transformation –voluntary and compulsion
- Capitalism v/s Socialism-Fight for Political Supremacy among Regions.
- Future and Approach of WTO-IMF- ADB- World Bank.
- Most Vital—Nature and it's impact on Society.

Agenda Papers-Information Architecture

Boards need the right information (internal and external sources) in the right format at the right time.

- Relevant
- Timely
- Adequate
- Transparent
- Confidential
- Trust

Audit Committee

- Annual Budget
- Capital Expenditure-3 to 5 Years with Strategy
- Internal Control Mechanism
- Risk Management Practices
- Scope of Internal Audit-Internal or External
- Discussion with Internal and Statutory Auditors
- Compliances
- Quarterly and Annual Accounts-Credibility



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Risk Management

- Who is overall responsible?
- Internal control mechanism
- Specified areas of risk
- People identification for different risks
- Areas of concern
- Maintenance of records
- Consequences of failure to comply with Laws
- Monitoring by the Board of Directors
- Certification by the Statutory Auditor/ Practicing Company Secretary

Remuneration and Nomination Committee

- Organization Structure
- Family Involvement
- Authority-Responsibility Clarity
- CEO Selection and Remuneration
- Selection of Directors including Independent Directors
- Role Expectations from Independent Directors
- ESOP-Challenges
- Training
- Appraisal

Stakeholder's Interest Committee

- Philosophy of Management
- Role of FIIs, Mutual Funds and Minority Shareholders
- Treatment with Shareholders
- Participation level

Stakeholder Engagement

- Providers of Financial Capital
- Customers
- Employees
- Supply Chain Members
- Farmers
- Government and Regulatory Authorities
- Local Communities
- Civil Society
- Media

An Alert & Knowledgeable Independent Director should lead to...

- Better Internal Control and Internal Audit
- Good Accounting & Financial Monitoring and Reporting
- Adherence to Laws
- Right Compensation Structure
- Better Execution of Strategy
- Better Dividend Policy
- Respect in the Society
- Responsible Behavior by Executive Management
- Better Communication with the Outside World
- Better Brand Equity

Good Wishes for Co-creation of a Better Corporate Citizen.

Thank you.