

DEVELOPMENT OF A STIMULATION PACKAGE FOR SCHEDULING
AND ITS APPLICATION AS A MANAGEMENT TRAINING MODEL

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The computer revolution in recent years has had a two fold effect on the manufacturing sector. The development of computer aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) techniques have revolutionised manufacturing in developed countries and the application of computer aided production management (CAPM) techniques have resulted in more efficient production planning and control (PPC).

Most developing countries do not have the capital resources and the technological know-how to implement CAD/CAM systems and this inability brings in a new dimension to the problem of "Technology Transfer". A major factor retarding industrial development in developing countries has been identified as the inadequate and improper use of production management techniques and hence developing countries should look seriously at the benefits to be derived from CAPM.

This paper reports the development of a micro computer based simulation package for PPC work in complex multiple batch production situations. This package generates the optimum schedule out of numerous alternatives, which would not have been possible in a manual system. Further, the package offers a novel approach to production management decision making, where the problem is looked at as a dynamic system (traditionally considered static) and assists the user to formulate decisions on such matters as optimum product mix, marketing strategies and alternative costing procedures. This package can also be used to train production managers and management students, both in the use and advantages of CAPM as well as to create an awareness on the need to modify conventional production management practices, with the introduction of CAPM.

References

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