

**GROUP TECHNOLOGY - A MANAGEMENT TOOL IN
NON-MANUFACTURING SITUATIONS**

N.R. Arthenayake
Open University of Sri Lanka.

Group Technology (GT) is a manufacturing philosophy involving the application of knowledge about groups. The objectives of GT are to derive the benefits of mass production in job shop or batch size production, by formation of machine - component cells in which the machine cells are responsible for the complete or near complete manufacture of a family of components. The machine cell is a cluster of dissimilar machines or processes located in close proximity and dedicated to the manufacture of a family of components. The components are similar in their processing requirements.

It is also well recognised that GT has been one of the key issues in the successful implementation of Flexible Manufacturing Systems. However, the reported applications of the concept of GT are limited to manufacturing situations. This study presents the concept of GT as a management tool in the non - manufacturing areas such as purchasing, sales and services and also in cost estimation. It also presents the benefits which are inherent in the methodology as applicable in these situations.