

With Details of All Cases

CASES

in

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Indian Experiences

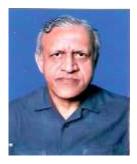
VOL. I- IV

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Teachers Day September 5, 2017 Lucknow

1

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Cases in Strategic Management

	vol. I	<u>Vol. II</u>	<u>Vol. III</u>	<u>Vol. I</u>	V	<u>Vol.</u> '	<u>V *</u>
						1	
S1.		Title of t	he Case		Teac	#	Case
No.					hing	Pages	Code
					Note	Text	
	Vol. I						
1	0.D.) Vi	Engineering Co kalpa Apr. 1982 Bank (Case on N		Case in	А	6	<u>c02</u>
2		Indian Manage	•			2	<u>c04</u>
3 4 5	Indian M Shilpi Lt	Bank (Case on S lanagement Aug d. (Case on SSI mpf (A) (Case o	/Sickness) \$	ement)	A A A	8 9 23	<u>c05</u> <u>c07</u> <u>c09</u>
6	Mein Ka	mpf (B) (Case of	-	o. n	А	16	<u>c10</u>
7	Structure	e) \$	Case on Strateg		А	16	<u>c11</u>
8	Manager	ment) \$ @	Case on Strateg		А	16	<u>c13</u>
9	Manager	nent) \$ @	ase on Strategic		А	14	<u>c14</u>
10	Manager	ment) \$ @	Case on Extrao		А	10	<u>c15</u>
11		· · /	prJun. 2001 @		А	33	c16
		Vol	II				
12	Strategic	Management)	ise Limited (Cas § @ Nigam (Problem		А	34	c17
13	Strategy	Formulation)\$	Hospital (A) (Ca		А	17	<u>c20</u>
14), (Co-authored)			А	8	<u>c21</u>

	Parc Tauli Consortium Hospital (B) (Case on			1
15	Mergers), (Co-authored) \$ @	А	14	<u>c22</u>
10	Parc Tauli Consortium Hospital I (Case on			
16	Mergers), (Co-authored) \$ @	А	19	<u>c23</u>
	Is Small Beautiful (A)? (Challenges to a new			
17	leader in public sector institution)	А	4	<u>c30</u>
	Is Small Beautiful (B)? (Challenges to a new			
18	leader in public sector institution)	А	4	<u>c31</u>
	Is Small Beautiful (C)? (Project Management			
19	as Road block in Strategy Implementation)	Α	12	<u>c32</u>
	Is Small Beautiful (D)? (Leveraging Delays in			
20	Project Management)	Α	7	<u>c33</u>
	Is Small Beautiful (E)? (Strategy			
21	Implementation)	Α	18	<u>c34</u>
	Is Small Beautiful (F)? (Strike- Managing by		_	
22	heart)	Α	7	<u>c35</u>
00	Is Small Beautiful (G)? (Containing faculty	•	7	26
23	politics)	Α	7	<u>c36</u>
24	Is Small Beautiful (H)? (How to improve	٨	6	-27
24	infrastructure/ asset utilisation)	A	6	<u>c37</u>
	Vol. III			
25	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not		2	C 20
25	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task)	А	2	<u>C38</u>
25	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks,	А	2	<u>C38</u>
	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy			
25 26	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation)	A	2 11	<u>C38</u> <u>c39</u>
26	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the	А	11	<u>c39</u>
	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities)			
26 27	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and	А	11 3	<u>c39</u> <u>c40</u>
26	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and Change)	A A	11	<u>c39</u>
26 27	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and Change) The Time Estimates (Project Management in	A A	11 3	<u>c39</u> <u>c40</u> <u>c41</u>
26 27 28	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and Change)	A A A	11 3 4	<u>c39</u> <u>c40</u>
26 27 28	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and Change) The Time Estimates (Project Management in Backyard)	A A A	11 3 4	<u>c39</u> <u>c40</u> <u>c41</u>
26 27 28 29 30	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and Change) The Time Estimates (Project Management in Backyard) The Power of Interior Design (Innovation in Strategy Formulation and Implementation) Institute of Information Technology (Problem	A A A A	11 3 4 2	<u>c39</u> <u>c40</u> <u>c41</u> <u>c43</u>
26 27 28 29	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and Change) The Time Estimates (Project Management in Backyard) The Power of Interior Design (Innovation in Strategy Formulation and Implementation) Institute of Information Technology (Problem of Portfolio Management and Implementation)	A A A A	11 3 4 2	<u>c39</u> <u>c40</u> <u>c41</u> <u>c43</u>
26 27 28 29 30	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and Change) The Time Estimates (Project Management in Backyard) The Power of Interior Design (Innovation in Strategy Formulation and Implementation) Institute of Information Technology (Problem of Portfolio Management and Implementation) UP State Tourism Development Corporation	A A A A	11 3 4 2 7	<u>c39</u> <u>c40</u> <u>c41</u> <u>c43</u> <u>c44</u>
26 27 28 29 30	The Fun of Case Writing (A) (Growth is not such a difficult task) The Fun of Case Writing (B) (Tasks, Complexities and Challenges in Strategy Implementation) The Power of Check Listing (How we miss the opportunities) Do We Matter? (Management Perspective and Change) The Time Estimates (Project Management in Backyard) The Power of Interior Design (Innovation in Strategy Formulation and Implementation) Institute of Information Technology (Problem of Portfolio Management and Implementation)	A A A A	11 3 4 2 7	<u>c39</u> <u>c40</u> <u>c41</u> <u>c43</u> <u>c44</u>

	Vindhya Pradesh Forest Corporation (Case on			
33	Management Control System) \$	А	6	<u>c47</u>
	City Montessori School (Top Executive Values			
34	0	А	16	<u>c48</u>
25	Industrial Toxicological Research Centre		15	- 10
35	(Problems in Strategy Formulation)\$Rewards Galore (Case on Incentive System and	А	15	<u>c49</u>
36		А	7	<u>c50</u>
	Promoting Excellence (A) (Case on			
37	Management of Academic Personnel)	Α	6	<u>c51</u>
38			3	<u>C52</u>
20	Academic Resource Park (How do we miss		10	50
39	opportunities) The Management Case Tree (Advantages of	А	12	<u>c53</u>
40		А	4	<u>c54</u>
41	Creation of a Computer Centre for Training	А	5	c58
	Vol IV			
42	Rise and Fall of Kingfisher Airline	А	29	<u>c59</u>
	Power of a Missed Meal (Strike- Managing by		-	
43		А	2	<u>c60</u>
44	Promoting Excellence (B)	Α	8	c61
45	The Popat		2	<u>c62</u>
46	1	А	24	<u>c63</u>
	Is Small Beautiful (I)? (Diversification- There			
47		А	18	<u>c64</u>
48			1	<u>c65</u>
49	Kick of Creativity		2	<u>c69</u>
50	-	А	9	<u>c71</u>
51	Mission at Grassroots		2	<u>c72</u>
52			4	<u>c73</u>
53	A Livewire Information System		3	<u>c74</u>
54	The First Beneficiary of OBC Reservation		3	<u>c75</u>
55	—		7	<u>c76</u>
56			1	<u>c77</u>
57			3	<u>c78</u>
58	Assets or Liabilities		2	<u>c79</u>

6

59	Manpower		2	<u>c80</u>
60	Who is better off?		1	<u>c81</u>
61	Shabashi		4	<u>c82</u>
62	Whom do we follow?		2	c83
63	Short Stories on Case Writings		13	<u>c68</u>
		45	576	

	Vol V		
1	Marketing of Bank Services: The Case of		-01
1	Travellers' Cheque	A	<u>c01</u>
2	Janata Bank	A	<u>c03</u>
3	Viplav Bank	A	c06
4	Vikas Bank		<u>c08</u>
5	Bombay Bank Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic	А	<u>c12</u>
6	Plants	А	<u>c18</u>
7	The Molehill		<u>c19</u>
8	Suman Industries Ltd.	А	<u>c24</u>
9	Growth Pharma Ltd.	А	<u>c25</u>
10	Kaiserganj railway Workshop	Α	<u>c27</u>
11	Bharat Latex Ltd.	Α	<u>c28</u>
12	Surprise Institute of Technology		<u>c36</u>
13	The Essence of Case Writing		<u>c42</u>
14	Surprise Institute of Management (A)		<u>c55</u>
15	Surprise Institute of Management (B)		<u>c56</u>

Case numbers 17, 18, 19, 20,21, 25 and 26 are registered with **Case Centre** Cases marked \$ had been published in Cases in Strategic Management: Managerial Experiences (1996) Global Business Press. All red (**bold**) font nos. included in the book <u>Tales of Grand Father (English,</u> <u>Hindi, French, German and Spanish Languages)</u>

Title of case no. 2 is changed to punctuality

Cases 38 (c51) and 44 (c61) not being shared for the time being

From the Same Author(s) For details visit www.ekhaikk.in

1 **Tales of Grandfather**

- English 1
- 2 Hindi
- 3 French
- 4 German
- 5 Spanish
- 6 Mandarin

Case Method in Management Education

7 English

2

- **Understanding Strategic Management in a** 3 8 **Simple Manner with Focus on Implementation** 4
 - **Cases in Strategic Management**
 - 9 Vol I
 - 10 Vol II
 - 11 Vol III
 - 12 Vol IV
 - 13 Vol V
- **Post Liberalisation Developments in India:** 5 A 25 Years Research Journey of India-**From Management Perspective**
 - 14 Vol I
 - 15 Vol II
 - 16 Vol III
 - 17 Vol IV
 - 18 Vol V

Case Analyses and Instructors' Guide

19 Vol I

6

- 20 Vol II
- 21 Vol III
- 22 Organisation and Ownership 7
- 8 23 **Miscellaneous Papers and Articles**

Dedicated

То

My Students and Faculty Fraternity

Who Inspired Me for Over

Three Decades to

Develop Teaching Material

CONTENTS

PR	EFACE	14
02	Talkshila Engineering Corporation Limited*	
<i>04</i> .	Punctuality	
05	Growth Bank*	
07	Shilpi & Company	
<i>09</i>	Mein Kamph (A)	
10	Mein Kamph (B)	66
11	First National Bank	
13	Scooters India Limited (A)	
14	Scooters India Limited (B)	114
15	Scooters India Limited (C)	128
16	Scooters India Limited (D)	138
17	Apollo Hospital Enterprise Limited	170
20	Vindhya Matsya Vikas Nigam Limited	
21	Parc Tauli Consortium Hospital (A)	221
22	Parc Tauli Consortium Hospital (B)	229
23	Parc Tauli Consortium Hospital (C)	
30	Is Small Beautiful (A)?	
31	Is Small Beautiful (B)?	
32	Is Small Beautiful (C)?	270
33	Is Small Beautiful (D)?	
34	Is Small Beautiful (E)?	
35	Is Small Beautiful (F)?	307
36	Is Small Beautiful (G)?	314
37.	Is Small Beautiful (H)?	

<i>38</i>	The Fun of Case Writing (A)
39	The Fun of Case Writing (B)
41	Do We Matter?
<i>43</i>	The Time Estimates
44	The Power of Interior Design
45	Institute of Information Technology
46	UP State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC)
47	Vindhya Pradesh Forest Corporation
4 8	City Montessori School (CMS)
<i>49</i>	Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC)
50	Rewards Galore
52	Research Incentives
53	The Academic Resource Park (ARP)
54	Getting Multiple Returns: Writing A Management Case
58	Creation of a Computer Centre For Training
<i>59</i> .	The Rise and Fall of Kingfisher Airlines
60.	Power of a Missed Meal
62	The Popat
63.	Adani Enterprises Ltd 490
64	Is Small Beautiful (I)?
65	The Thieves
69	The Kick of Creativity
71	The Experiment
72	Mission at Grass Roots
73	The Two Worlds

74	A Livewire Information System	550
75	The First Beneficiary of OBC Reservation	553
76	The Birth of an Orphan	556
77.	The Hanumans of India	563
78.	Gifts of God	564
7 9 .	Assets or Liabilities?	567
<i>80</i> .	Manpower	569
<i>81</i> .	Who is Better Off?	571
82.	Shabashi	572
83.	Whom do we follow?	576
68	Stories of Case Writing Experiences	578
Ins	tructor's Manual for Cases	591
Cas	se Abstracts	591
Use	eful Research Papers Related To Strategic Management	592
Cas	se Settings	597
Use	e of Cases In Strategic Management Courses	602

Case Material in this book is prepared only as a basis of class discussions.

Cases are not designed to illustrate either correct or incorrect handling of managerial/ administrative situations

Cases are also not a substitute for learning to be imparted by the instructors through cases and other pedagogical tools

PREFACE

This case book emanates from my (Krishna Kumar) earlier effort Cases in Strategic Management published by Global Business Press (1996). However, it is different in many ways. The text part of the book has been taken out as a separate short book (Understanding Strategic Management in Simple Manner: with Focus on Strategy Implementation), to keep the size handy. The Case Book has also been split into four volumes for the same reasons. Provision has been made to read individual Case / Chapter one at a time also. The internet break through allows one to read the cases from anywhere in the globe (including ICUs), at any time in any time zone. The smart phones allow it to be read in flight while waiting for delayed flights, and making use of minutes available from time to time. This all allows necessary flexibility to make use of precious time and increases convenience of reading. One has to remember just one address ekhaikk.in to read all that we write on strategic management, sometimes updated daily. Both the text and case book are available on the same website, along with other works.

Several compelling reasons have led to preparation of these new books. The first and foremost is the concern for giving an appreciation of a important discipline, strategic management, to a large number of senior and middle level practicing managers who face and can help their organizations make a headway in facing strategic challenges (but do not have a formal education/ training in management). This appreciation has to be brought in a simple manner, without overloading with complexities and advance level knowledge right away and at the same time providing an opportunity to understand the latter as the interest in the subject develops. This has been done by giving adequate number of references to masterpieces and hyperlinking cases and notes written by authors for the purpose.

The second reason has been to give a complete overview of the strategic management subject. It is observed that in many books of strategic management, including masterpieces, the strategy implementation issues are not adequately covered. Appreciation of the whole strategic management functions requires an understanding of approaches for visualization of nature and scope of strategy implementation tasks and also of what makes these tasks complex and demanding. Scant attention is paid to change issues in carrying out a large number of small and

medium size changes that are associated with strategy implementation. It is also observed that although there is a good number of books on strategic changes of mega size like turnaround and transformations, mergers and acquisition etc., but they are more descriptive and not written in the building block manner, covering various conceptual underpinnings and techniques that can help a beginner in understanding tasks and challenges of strategy implementation.

The third concern has been to share learnings emanating from meaningful case studies (developed by/ in association with authors of the book), which are embedded in the unique socio-economic- techno-political-regulatory-judicial and cultural context of Indian business environment. The cases cover a large variety of case situations, size, industry and types of ownership, which will help the readers in appreciating wider generalizability of strategic management concepts, approaches, tools and techniques.

Such experiences should help in instilling confidence to face strategic challenges; be it turning around a sick company making losses for 24 consecutive years, or increasing MBA batch size three fold in four months, creating computer centre at 1/3 of expected cost, or meeting the challenge of increasing MBA intake to meet the OBC quota requirement in less than stipulated time. Many cases are short but rich ones which can be easily comprehended for meaningful class discussion.

The cases would also help identify the readers some new concepts and techniques for use in strategic management, not available in many books of strategic management like the technique of check listing, use of intermediate solutions, identifying organization slacks and building strategy on that, identifying idle resources into strategic strengths, turning great threats into unique and wonderful opportunities and so on.

From the original case book 5 old cases have been deleted, 18 retained and 38 new have been added, most of them being short cases, or long cases written in short case format. Some very old cases have been kept as they have still retained the gloss to bring home key lessons and no comparable cases could be identified which illustrate some unique aspects in management. Twenty four other, older cases (including 7 mentioned above) have been kept in a (separate) volume V for their historical value as they give the glimpse of the economy, technology, infrastructure, pressures in the bygone era, through which the country has

passed which can enable the current generations about the managerial challenges that the older generations had faced, to help them appreciate the task performed by them.

It may be mentioned here that rich short cases may need careful handling as messages may at times not be visible in a straight forward manner. Perhaps lot more skill is required for the instructors to use them in the spirit of "cases are designed as a *basis* for class discussion" not as a substitute for the expertise of faculty. The internet helps in condensing even a long case into short case and downloading details as required for making class discussions rich and meaningful, subject to time constraints.

To help teachers and trainers bring home as many points as possible in the class, an Instructors' Manual has also been prepared which may be shared on charge basis, with faculty members. A short abstract of the cases has also been given therein to enable teachers and trainers in selecting cases for designing courses and in-house training programmes on strategic management.

While it is always desirable to go through case method of teaching through an expert teacher/ trainer, the cases are equally relevant for collegiate system of learning by faculty members. For beginners (those who have not been through formal management education), twenty five short cases have been taken out to make a small book under the title "Tales of Grand Father" (in English, Hindi, French, German and Spanish languages) to help in having a glimpse of strategic management subject. Indeed this book can help in conducting up to a week- long management/ faculty development programme.

A good number of cases have been drawn from academic setting, because the firsthand experience tells that basics of strategic management are applicable to them as much as they do to other kinds of organization. This useful realization dawned upon me when I developed the Apollo Hospital case study and applied the learning in conceptual terms to management institutions settings. Such learning especially those related to strategy implementation) have been duly incorporated in text book also. It is for the readers to test how much of such learning they can apply to their own organizations.

Towards the end of Volume IV, case setting and use of cases for illustrating different topics of Strategic Management, has been given to

help the faculty members select the cases for designing the courses and programmes.

Hope the faculty members and other readers will find the Case Book useful and interesting.

Prof. Krishna Kumar Prof. Ritu Srivastava Ruchi Srivastava

Teachers Day September 5, 2017 Lucknow