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ERP

(contd.....from 1st Febraury 2008 under domain It's IT)

How are ERP & BPR related?

BPR as an acronym stands for Business Process Reengineering. It used to be a buzzword until a few years ago.

Overzealous BPR pundits caused so much havoc through job cuts, it is a controversial subject today in many countries. An organization can go for standalone BPR or they can choose ERP.

Since ERP anyway comes bundled with several of the best practices, a well implemented ERP exercise leads to some amount of BPR, though the reengineering effort may not be full-blown. However, reengineering through ERP, generally termed package enabled process reengineering (PEPR) leads to less drastic change in an organization. Such package enabled reengineering through ERP has been received much better by the end users rather than stand alone BPR in many companies around the world.

Should BPR & ERP be taken in any order?

There is no easy algorithm that can give a simple answer. A BPR exercise preceding the ERP implementation can help the organization significantly. It may also increase a combined time of implementing BPR and ERP significantly.

There is also a risk that a particular ERP software selected later may not be able to implement the reengineered processes. A simultaneous BPR and ERP exercise saves time and also minimizes the risk of sequential implementation of BPR followed by ERP. One rarely comes across the instance where BPR is followed by ERP. As such the ordering of ERP & BPR must be based on the needs of a specific organization.

What are the typical modules of ERP?

Typical Modules of ERP include sales (sales forecasting, customer prospecting, customer follow-up, support for telemarketing, database marketing), order processing (inquiry handling, order taking) shipping, transportation, invoicing, finance (G/L, AR, AP), asset management, cost accounting, financial accounting, manufacturing and materials management.

Optionally quality project, warehouse, continuous production and other modules are also present in different ERP software. Industry specific modules to cater to hospitals, retail, banking, insurance, oil, shipping and transportation are also available from some vendors.

(Concluded)

Source : <http://www.iiitb.ac.in/ss/erp-faq/main1pg1.htm#7>

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