

**IMPACT OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ON EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION FLOW: THE CASE OF
SHARP-ROXY CORPORATION**

by

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**A Thesis submitted to the Graduate School of Universiti
Utara Malaysia in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of**

Masters in Management Science

May 1994

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my thanks to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of Universiti Utara Malaysia, Prof. Madya Dr. Hj. Mohd. Salleh Hj. Din, my supervisors Tuan Hj. **Safri Samit** and En. Mohd. Taib **Ariffin** for their valuable time, guidance, opinions, suggestions and encouragement throughout the preparation of this thesis.

I would also like to express my gratitude to En. Akashah **Ismail**, En. Mohd **Ali** Hj. Ayub, Cik Asnidar Mohd Yusop and Mr. Lee Weng Choy of Sharp-Roxy Corp. (M) **Sdn. Bhd.**, Sungei Petani, Kedah, for their valuable time and assistance in helping me to conduct the study at their organization.

My special thanks are extended to Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam Malaysia for sponsoring me to pursue the Master's course at Universiti Utara Malaysia.

My sincere appreciation is also extended to my colleagues En. Shahril Hassan, En. **Sarani Dollah**, all my friends and staff of Universiti Utara Malaysia, particularly, Puan Rosnah **Othman** who have helped me in one way or another during the Master's course and completion of this thesis.

Finally and most specially, I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to my parents, Mr. SP. Venkatachalam and Mrs. V. Meenakshi for their encouragement, reassurances and support throughout my pursuance **of the course in Masters in Management Science** and ultimate completion of this thesis.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Accounts
AE	Assistant Engineer
ALIGN	Alignment
AM	Assistant Manager
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
ASSY	Assembly
BCD	Bachelor's Degree
CC	Confidential Clerk
CD	Compact Disc
CEN	Centralization
CK	Clerk
CL	Cleaner
CONT	Contract
CTRL	Control
DEP	Departmentalization
DF	Degrees of Freedom
DIPL	Diploma
DV	Driver
ECF	Effective Communication Flow
EF	Expected Frequency
ELEC	Electrical
EN	Eng ineer
ENGRG	Engineering
EX	Executive
FORM	Formalization
GM	General Manager
H	Hypothesis
H_A	Alternate Hypothesis
HIER	Hierarchical Level
H₀	Null Hypothesis
HSC	High School Certificate
INF	Informal structure
IQC	Incoming Quality Control
LL	Line Leader
MA	Manager
MC	Materials Checker
MD	Managing Director
ME	Mechanic
MECHA	Mechanical
MECHM	Mechanism
MGR	Manager
MIS	Management Information System
MS	Mean Square
NU	Nurse

OF	Officer
PGA	Personnel & General Affairs
PHD	Doctorate
PHSG	Purchasing
PROD	Production
PS	Production Staff
QA	Quality Assurance
QI	Quality Inspector
QLTY	Quality
SE	Senior Engineer
SG	Security Guard
SGM	Senior General Manager
SH	Storehand
SHPG	shipping
SOC	Span of Control
SPA	Spatial Dispersion
SPEC	Specialization
SRC	Sharp-Roxy Corporation
SS	sum of squares
TE	Technician
TP	Temporary Production Staff
TTL	Total
VE	Value Engineering

ABSTRAK

IMPAK STRUKTUR ORGANISASI KE ATAS ALIRAN KOMUNIKASI YANG BERKESAN: KES SHARP-ROXY CORPORATION

Komunikasi yang berkesan merupakan **penentu** utama untuk pengurusan yang efektif dalam organisasi, serta **juga satu cara** untuk mencapai objektif organisasi. Kedudukan dalam organisasi yang besar, biasanya tidak memudahkan komunikasi yang berkesan. Sumber masalah **ini** terletak dalam ciri-ciri struktur organisasi. Kajian **ini** tertumpu kepada impak angkubah-angkubah struktur organisasi ke **atas** komunikasi yang berkesan. Saluran-saluran komunikasi yang diwujudkan oleh struktur organisasi adalah penting untuk menjalankan **fungsi organisasi** melalui **aliran** komunikasi ke bawah, ke **atas** dan melintang. Maka struktur **organisasi haruslah** memudahkan **aliran** komunikasi yang berkesan.

Kajian **ini** meneliti **hubung** kait di antara angkubah-angkubah tertentu dalam struktur organisasi dan struktur informal, dengan **aliran** komunikasi yang berkesan di kalangan pengurusan di Sharp-Roxy Corporation (M) Sdn. Bhd., **Sungei Petani, Kedah**. Angkubah-angkubah struktur **organisasi** yang dikaji ialah pengkhususan, penjabatan, hirarki, **linkungan** kawalan, serakan kawasan, formalisasi dan pemusatan, serta struktur informal. Faktor-faktor demografi seperti jantina, **umur, bangsa**, jawatan, pengalaman kerja dan penempatan **juga** dikaji untuk **menentukan** impaknya ke **atas aliran** komunikasi yang berkesan, serta **perbezaan** di **antara** berbagai kumpulan yang dikelaskan mengikut faktor-faktor demografi.

Maka kajian **ini cuba** mencari jawapan kepada **soalan-soalan** penyelidikan yang berikut:

1. Adakah faktor-faktor demografi mempengaruhi **aliran** komunikasi yang berkesan?
2. Adakah angkubah-angkubah struktur organisasi menyumbang kepada keberkesanan **aliran** komunikasi di kalangan pihak pengurusan?

Kajian **ini** telah dijalankan ke **atas satu** sampel yang **terdiri** daripada 68 responden dari berbagai golongan pengurusan dan jabatan di Sharp-Roxy Corporation (SRC). Responden-responden **ini** telah menyempurnakan Soalselidik Pandangan **Komunikasi**. **Alat** kajian **ini** merekodkan persepsi responden terhadap komunikasi mengikut dimensi angkubah struktur organisasi.

Penemuan utama kajian **ini** ialah impak angkubah-angkubah struktur **organisasi** ke **atas** keberkesanan komunikasi. Tujuh angkubah bebas (struktur organisasi) **ini** telah menerangkan 67.2 peratus daripada keberkesanan angkubah bersandar (**aliran** komunikasi yang berkesan).

Daripada angkubah-angkubah **ini**, formalisasi dan pengkhususan, muncul sebagai angkubah yang paling **signifikan**. Maka disimpulkan bahawa tahap angkubah struktur organisasi yang wujud, memudahkan **aliran** komunikasi yang berkesan di SRC. Tiada terdapat **perbezaan** yang **signifikan** mengikut faktor-faktor demografi seperti jantina, **bangsa**, jawatan, atau pengalaman kerja terhadap keberkesanan komunikasi. Walau

bagaimanapun, terdapat perbezaan yang **signifikan** di antara kumpulan umur di **mana** responden dalam kumpulan berumur 40-49 merasa lebih keberkesanan dalam **aliran** komunikasi. Perbezaan yang **signifikan juga** terdapat di antara responden-responden yang ditempatkan di jabatan-jabatan yang terpilih di SRC.

Pandangan responden terhadap iklim komunikasi dan saluran komunikasi **juga** diperolehi. Jawapan-jawapannya menunjukkan bahawa **konflik** diselesaikan melalui saluran komunikasi yang sesuai, tahap kepercayaan terhadap **pengurus** atasan dan di kalangan **para** pekerja adalah tinggi, dan organisasi tidak kerap menjalankan kursus dalam komunikasi. Saluran komunikasi yang paling kerap digunakan dan paling disukai ialah komunikasi bersemuka dan telefon.

Kajian **ini juga** mengemukakan cadangan-cadangan **dan** syor-syor **untuk** kajian **lanjutan** dalam bidang **ini**. Faktor-faktor seperti 'intrapersonal' dan 'interpersonal' perlu dikaji. **Juga** kajian dalam **skala** 'longitudinal' dalam pelbagai persekitaran organisasi perlu dijalankan.

ABSTRACT

IMPACT OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FLOW: THE CASE OF SHARP-ROXY CORP.

Effective communication complements managerial effectiveness in organizations and is also a means of achieving organizational objectives. The settings in large organizations often makes effective communication **difficult**. One source of this lies in the characteristics of organizational structure. This study confines to the impact of organizational structural variables on effective communication in organizations. The communication channels created by the organizational structure serve specific functions through downward, upward and lateral communication. Thus an organization's structure must facilitate this effective flow of communication.

This study examined the relationship of selected variables of organizational structure and the informal structure to effective communication flow among the managerial ranks at Sharp-Roxy Corp. **(M)** Sdn. Bhd. in Sungei **Petani**, Kedah. The organizational structural variables examined **were** specialization, departmentalization, hierarchical level, span of control, spatial dispersion, formalization and centralization, and the informal structure. Additionally, the demographic factors of gender, age, race, position, years of company experience, and emplacement were investigated to determine their impact on communication effectiveness as well as the differences among the various groups classified by the demographic factors.

The study thus sought answers to the following research questions:

1. Did selected demographic factors **influence** the effective communication flow?
2. Did the organizational structural variables and informal structure contribute significantly to the effective communication flow among the managerial ranks?

This study was conducted on a sample of 68 respondents from various managerial ranks and departments of Sharp-Roxy Corporation (SRC), who completed the Communication Opinion Questionnaire. This instrument recorded the respondents' perception of communication effectiveness along the dimensions of organizational structural variables.

The major finding of the study was the impact of the organizational structural variables on communication effectiveness. The seven independent variables of organizational structure, explained 67.2 percent of the dependent variable of communication effectiveness. Of the variables examined, formalization and specialization, emerged as most significant in explaining the variance in effectiveness. It was concluded that the existing levels of the organizational structural variables facilitated effective communication flow in the organization. There was no significance found for effectiveness by demographic factors of gender, race, position, or years of company experience. However, significance was found for age groups, where respondents between 40-49 years old perceived the most effectiveness in communication flow. Significance was also found for the variable of emplacement where respondents among selected departments of SRC perceived differences in

communication effectiveness.

Opinions on communication climate and channels of communication were also sought. The responses conveyed that conflicts were handled through proper communication channels, trust with senior management and among co-workers was fairly high, and that not enough training programs in communication were conducted by the organization. The channels of communication most used and most preferred were face-to-face and the telephone.

The study also made some suggestions and recommendations for further research in this field of inquiry. Of note are the need to study other intrapersonal and interpersonal factors affecting communication effectiveness. Also, research on a longitudinal scale in various organizational settings is needed.

CHAPTER I

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is pervasive in all areas of organizational life. It is the means by which organizational members collect and disseminate the information that they need and it is also a means by which they achieve coordination and cooperation (Chung, 1987). Several studies suggest that managers spend about eighty percent of their time communicating with other people, including subordinates, peers, superiors, clients, and suppliers (**Mintzberg, 1973/1975**; Megginson, Mosley & Pietri, 1989; Kovach, 1989; Mondy, Sharplin & Premeaux, 1991.).

Chester I. Barnard (**Ruch & Crawford, 1991**), described the value of communication in organizations in his book, "The Functions of the Executive". He connected organizational structure and scope to communication techniques, saying that communication should occupy a central place in organizational life. Accordingly, the variables that influence communication in an organization concern both structure and management. Child (Frank & Brownell, 1989), **Robbins (1990)**, Wagner & Hollenbeck (1992), **Ruch & Crawford (1991)**, posit that three dimensions of organization structure: specialization, formalization and centralization influence the flow of communication in **organizations**.

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