

CHAPTER 2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND INTERNAL RESOURCE ANALYSIS

NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Environment literally means the surroundings external objects, influences or circumstances under which someone or something exists. The environment of any organization is “the aggregate of all conditions, events and influences that surround and affect it.” Since the environment influences an organization in multitudinous ways, its understanding is of crucial importance. The concept of environment can be understood by looking at some of its characteristics which needs to be analyzed for formulation of business strategy. Environment can be classified into two – internal and external environment.

The internal environment refers to all factors within an organization that impact strengths or cause weaknesses of a strategic nature. The external environment includes all the factors outside the organization which provide opportunities or pose threats to the organization.

Hence, environmental analysis is a must for formulation of a right strategy for achievement of the corporate objectives.

Types of Diversification

Diversification is a strategic approach adopting different forms. Depending on the applied criteria, there are different classifications.

Depending on the direction of company diversification, the different types are:

Horizontal Diversification

acquiring or developing new products or offering new services that could appeal to the company’s current customer groups. In this case the company relies on sales and technological relations to the existing product lines. For example a dairy, producing cheese adds a new type of cheese to its products.

Vertical Diversification

occurs when the company goes back to previous stages of its production cycle or moves forward to subsequent stages of the same cycle - production of raw materials or distribution of the final product. For example, if you have a company that does reconstruction of houses and offices and you start selling paints and other construction materials for use in this business. This kind of diversification may also guarantee a regular supply of materials with better quality and lower prices.

Concentric Diversification

enlarging the production portfolio by adding new products with the aim of fully utilising the potential of the existing technologies and marketing system. The concentric diversification can be a lot more financially efficient as a strategy, since the business may benefit from some synergies in this diversification model. It may enforce some investments related to modernizing or upgrading the existing processes or systems. This type of diversification is often used by small producers of consumer goods, e.g. a bakery starts producing pastries or dough products.

Heterogeneous (conglomerate) diversification

is moving to new products or services that have no technological or commercial relation with current products, equipment, distribution channels, but which may appeal to new groups of customers. The major motive behind this kind of diversification is the high return on investments in the new industry. Furthermore, the decision to go for this kind of diversification can lead to additional opportunities indirectly related to further developing the main company business - access to new technologies, opportunities for strategic partnerships, etc.

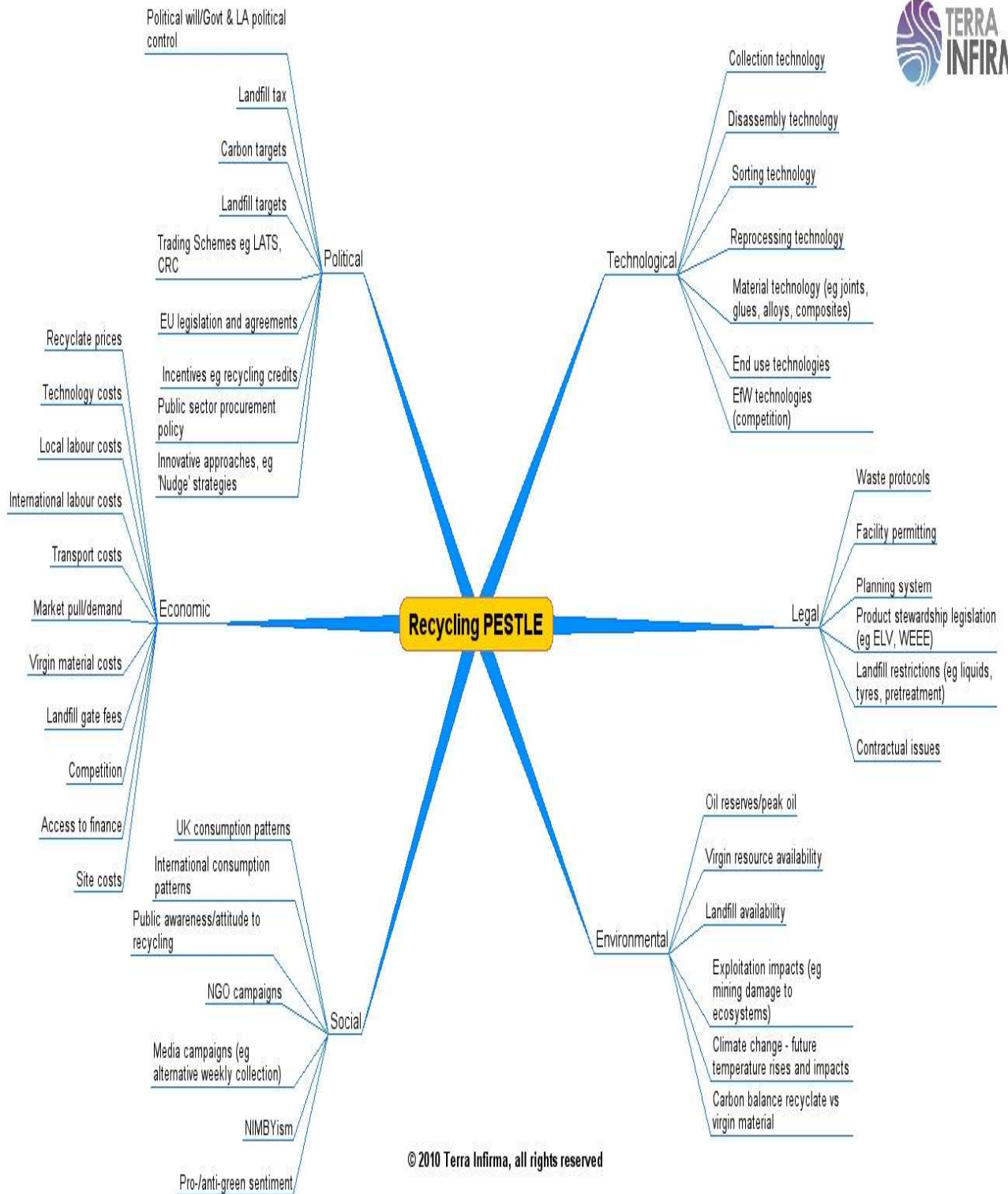
Business decisions are influenced by two sets of factors viz internal factors (the internal environment) and external factors (external environment).

The methods and techniques employed by an organization to monitor the environment and to gather data to decide information about the opportunities and threats that affect their business and the process by which organizations monitor their environment is known as environmental analysis.

Environmental analysis is defined as the process by which strategic managers monitor economic, governmental, legal, market, technological, demographic and social settings to determine opportunities and threats to their firms.

PESTLE ANALYSIS:Key external Variable factors





Political Environment:

Government policies also impact the business climate of a country. The recent policy of Globalization of the Indian economy, liberalization etc has created a good climate for private sector investment in the country several laws are enacted to protect companies from each other by preventing unfair competition. Some laws are intended to protect workers, consumers and communities from business firms.

The political atmosphere of the country is significantly relevant to business organizations. No business can think of expanding a diversifying its activity if the political atmosphere is unstable and in turmoil.

Economic Environment:

In recent years, the degree of competition in the world has increased tremendously. Costs controlled are profits earned. Market share of the competitors, pricing of product general level of profits are factors that affect a company's product / service. In analyzing the competitive environment, it should be the prime concern of the management to find out if there is a minimum market share of its product in relation to its competitors.

Social environment:

Demographic factors like the size of the population, age composition, sex composition, educational levels, language, caste, and religion etc are all factors which are relevant to business. E.g., a rapidly increasing population indicates a growing demand for many products.

The social changes occur gradually. The social environment consists for factors related to the consumption habits of the people, customs and traditions, tastes, preferences. People of varied culture use products in different ways. E.g.: Rice, wheat, etc are consumed by people by cooking it in different methods etc. Hence the buying and consumption habits differ from culture to culture.

Natural Environment:

Geographical and ecological factors such as natural resources weather and climatic location are all relevant to business. Climate and weather conditions affect the location of certain industries.

“PESTLE ANALYSIS”

<p><u>POLITICAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory bodies and processes <input type="checkbox"/> Government policies <input type="checkbox"/> Government term and change <input type="checkbox"/> Trading policies <input type="checkbox"/> Funding, grants and initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> Home market lobbying/pressure groups <input type="checkbox"/> International pressure groups <input type="checkbox"/> Wars and conflicts/terrorism. 	<p><u>ECONOMIC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Home economy situation/Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Home economy trends <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas economies and trends <input type="checkbox"/> General taxation issues <input type="checkbox"/> Level of savings <input type="checkbox"/> Industry properties <input type="checkbox"/> Taxation specific to product/services <input type="checkbox"/> Market and trade cycles <input type="checkbox"/> Specific industry factors <input type="checkbox"/> Market routes and distribution trends <input type="checkbox"/> Customer/end-user drivers <input type="checkbox"/> Interest and exchange rates
<p><u>SOCIAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lifestyle trends <input type="checkbox"/> Demographics <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer attitudes and opinions <input type="checkbox"/> Media views <input type="checkbox"/> Brand, company, technology image <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer buying patterns <input type="checkbox"/> Fashion and role models <input type="checkbox"/> Major events and influences <input type="checkbox"/> Buying access and trends <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic/religious factors <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising and publicity 	<p><u>TECHNOLOGICAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Competing technology development <input type="checkbox"/> Research funding <input type="checkbox"/> Associated/dependent technologies <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement technology/solutions <input type="checkbox"/> Maturity of technology <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing maturity and capacity <input type="checkbox"/> Information and communications <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer buying mechanisms/technology <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation potential <input type="checkbox"/> Global communications
<p><u>LEGAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Current legislation home market <input type="checkbox"/> Future legislation <input type="checkbox"/> International legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Law changes affecting social factors <input type="checkbox"/> Technology legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Technology access, licensing, patents <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property issues 	<p><u>ECOLOGICAL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Weather/climate <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability? <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological/environmental issues <input type="checkbox"/> Ethical issues

OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

“SWOT ANALYSIS”

SWOT is an acronym for the internal **strengths** and **weaknesses** of business and environmental **opportunities** and **threats** facing that business. SWOT analysis is a systematic identification of the factors and the strategy that reflects the best match between them. It is based on the logic that an effective strategy maximizes the business's strengths and opportunities but at the same time minimizes its weaknesses threats.

Strengths Strength is a resource, skill or other advantage relative to competitor's and the needs of the markets and organization serves or anticipates serving. Strength is a distinctive competence that gives leadership, and buyer-supplier relations are examples.

Weaknesses A weakness is a limitation or deficiency in resources, skills, and capabilities that seriously impedes effective performance. Facilities, financial resources, management capabilities, marketing skills and brand image could be sources of weaknesses. Understanding the key strengths and weaknesses of an organization in narrowing the choice of alternatives and selective a strategy. Distinct competence and critical weakness are identified in relation to key determinants of successes for different market segments; this provides a useful framework for making the best strategic choice.

Opportunities An opportunity is a major favorable situation in an organization's environment. Identification of a previously over looked marketing segment, changes in competitive or regulatory circumstances, technological changes, and improved buyer or supplies relationships could represent major opportunities

Threats A threat is a major unfavorable situation in an organization's environment. The entrance of a new competitor, slow market, growth, increased bargaining power of key buyers or suppliers, major technological change, and changing regulations could represent major threats to an organization's success.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong brand image <input type="checkbox"/> Strong distribution network <input type="checkbox"/> Deep product mix <input type="checkbox"/> High quality product	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor brand image <input type="checkbox"/> Weak distribution network <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow product mix <input type="checkbox"/> Low product quality
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<input type="checkbox"/> Large and growing market <input type="checkbox"/> Delicensing and import liberalization <input type="checkbox"/> Advantage of a good product range <input type="checkbox"/> Economic boom <input type="checkbox"/> Fast increase in income of people	<input type="checkbox"/> Fierce international competition <input type="checkbox"/> Prices down, cost of production up <input type="checkbox"/> High job attrition (employees leaving) rates <input type="checkbox"/> Political instability <input type="checkbox"/> Economic recession

S W O T analysis studies important factor that affects the performance of the company is the forces that constitute the company's immediate environment. They include some factors like:

Physical assets and facilities: Like capital equipment production capacity, technology, logistics etc

R & D and technological capabilities: Like ability to innovate and compete.

Marketing Resources: like brand, image, good distribution network etc.

Financial factors: like financial policies, financial position, capital structure etc.

Human Resources: like skill, morale, attitude, commitment etc.

Finance:

1. High credit rating	1. Low credit rating
Large amount of internally accrued money	2. Poor receivables management

Production:

1. State of the art of technology	1. Obsolete technology
2. Strong R & D support	2. No R & D support
3. Efficient inventory management	3. Poor inventory management

Personnel:

1. Qualified and experienced human resource	1. Unqualified & inexperienced work force
2. Good industrial relations	2. Poor industrial relations
3. Motivated Human resources.	3. Low morale work force.

Organization:

1. Efficient Board of directors	1. Inefficient board of directors
2. Efficient and motivated managers	2. Conflict between managers.



IHM NOTES