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THE SYSTEM ANALYST'S BOOK

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The System Analyst's Book recently printed by the Scientific and Enciclopaedic Publishing House is a synthesis work in which the authors aim to present the main methods of a new profession which, as the authors point out, although has not been officialized by academic diplomas, is being intensively practised, on a wide-scale and with a high efficiency in all the economically developed countries. The character of a synthesis of the work with all its 400 pages is due to the extremely vast field covered by this profession. Beginning with the methodologies of informational-decisional analysis and design, continuing with the methods of operations research and of informatics, the field of system analysis includes a number of methods borrowed from cybernetics, the general systems theory and even from psychosociology. Special chapters are devoted to all these methods in the book, chapters in which the analyst, a beginner or advanced, may find the main ideas and techniques of the profession.

The authors' effort for a synthesis is quite special and the effect obtained — a handbook of only 400 pages for the presentation of methods requiring a much ampler space in an exhaustive presentation. Of course, some unequilibrated treatments and even some deficiencies have resulted from this effort. Thus, we consider that the space devoted to the psychosociological methods is too small in the general economy of the work, just as we consider that elements of macroeconomic analysis should have also been included. Their absence, however, make us consider that the authors have oriented their work exclusively towards the analysis of the systems of the enterprise micro-level.

Despite its character of a handbook, the book comprises a number of original ideas of the authors, a result of the activity of research and practical application in the field of systems analysis. Quite remarkable is the systematization of the informational-decisional analysis and design methodologies. Presenting their own methodology in which the analysis and design is subordinate to the basic objectives of the analysed system, the authors also criticize the outmoded methodologies, such as those for the simplification of documents and the unilateral outlooks which are exclusively oriented towards the endowment with computation technique, of some of the informatic systems analysis and design methodologies.

Another original idea is the outlining of the fact that the informational-decisional analysis and design achieves in a nonanalytical way exactly what the transfer function of a system proposes to describe:

it establishes correspondances between the informational inputs and the informational outputs subordinated to the achievement of the system's objectives.

Besides those shown above, we could underline other qualities of the work, such as an ample reference information, the clear style, the numerous practical examples.

We conclude that it is a remarkable work of great utility to all those working in scientific management. Despite the relatively big number of copies (4700 copies), the book was quickly sold out in the bookshops. A good mark for the authors but also for the readers.

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