

Mathematical Modeling Approaches for Strategic Manpower Planning in Large Organizations

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ABSTRACT

This paper reviews and synthesizes key mathematical modeling approaches applied to strategic manpower planning, including deterministic and stochastic models, Markov and semi-Markov processes, linear and integer programming, system dynamics, queuing theory, and simulation-based models. The models address essential manpower planning issues such as recruitment, promotion, attrition, training, succession planning, and skill-mix optimization across multiple time horizons. Emphasis is placed on balancing cost efficiency, service levels, and workforce sustainability while accounting for uncertainties in demand, employee behavior, and policy constraints. The study highlights the strengths and limitations of each modeling approach and discusses their applicability in large, hierarchical organizations. The paper concludes by outlining future research directions, including the integration of artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and hybrid modeling frameworks to enhance the robustness and adaptability of strategic manpower planning systems.

Keywords: Strategic Manpower Planning, Mathematical Modeling, Linear Programming, Stochastic Processes, System Dynamics, Simulation Models.

Introduction

Strategic manpower planning is a critical function in large organizations, where human resources represent both a significant investment and a key driver of organizational performance. In an increasingly complex and competitive environment, organizations must ensure that they have the right number of employees, with the right skills, in the right positions, at the right time. Poor manpower planning can lead to skill shortages, excess staffing costs, reduced productivity, and an inability to respond effectively to market or technological changes. Consequently, there is a growing need for systematic, data-driven approaches that support long-term workforce decision-making.

Traditional manpower planning methods often rely on managerial judgment, historical trends, and qualitative assessments. While these approaches provide valuable insights, they may lack precision and adaptability when applied to large organizations characterized by multiple departments, hierarchical structures, diverse skill sets, and dynamic external conditions. Rapid technological advancement, globalization, demographic shifts, and evolving labor market dynamics further complicate workforce planning. These challenges highlight the limitations of intuitive or purely descriptive methods and underscore the importance of rigorous analytical tools.

Mathematical modeling offers a powerful framework for addressing the complexities of strategic manpower planning. By translating workforce dynamics into quantitative relationships, mathematical models enable organizations to analyze current manpower structures, forecast future requirements, and

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evaluate alternative planning strategies under different scenarios. These models can incorporate key factors such as recruitment, training, promotion, attrition, retirement, and skill development, allowing planners to assess both short-term operational needs and long-term strategic goals.

A wide range of mathematical modeling approaches has been developed to support manpower planning in large organizations. Deterministic models, such as linear programming and goal programming, help optimize workforce allocation while satisfying constraints related to cost, capacity, and organizational policy. Stochastic models account for uncertainty in variables such as employee turnover, demand fluctuations, and promotion rates, providing more realistic and robust planning outcomes. Markov and semi-Markov models are particularly useful for analyzing employee movement across job grades and career paths over time. Simulation-based models allow planners to experiment with complex workforce scenarios and assess the impact of policy changes before implementation.

The integration of mathematical models into strategic manpower planning enhances decision-making by providing objective, transparent, and replicable results. These models support scenario analysis, enabling organizations to compare alternative workforce strategies and identify potential risks and trade-offs. Furthermore, advances in computing power and data analytics have significantly increased the practical applicability of mathematical modeling, allowing large organizations to process vast amounts of workforce data and generate actionable insights.

This study focuses on mathematical modeling approaches for strategic manpower planning in large organizations, emphasizing their theoretical foundations, practical applications, and advantages over traditional planning methods. By examining key modeling techniques and their relevance to real-world organizational contexts, this work aims to demonstrate how quantitative models can serve as effective tools for achieving workforce sustainability, operational efficiency, and long-term strategic alignment.

Manpower Model for Human Resource Planning Management

The purpose of manpower planning is to determine the future demand for human resources in relation to the anticipated supply, with an eye on the organization's overarching goals and policies. Finally, it includes integrating the strategy with the other HR strategies and supervising their execution and assessment. To see what is involved in personnel planning, have a look at Figure 1.

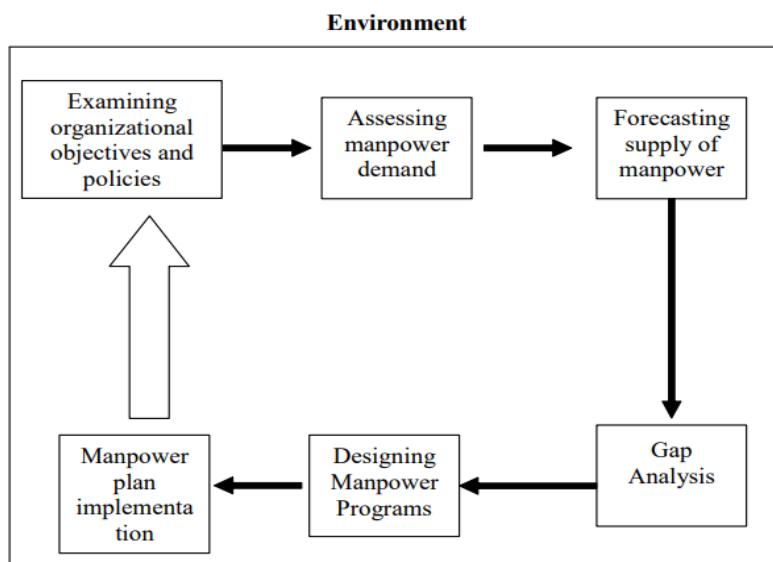


Figure 1: Steps in Manpower Planning

- **Examining organizational objectives and policies:** Manpower planning starts while investigating the group's overarching goals. It is essential that the overall goals be considered when developing the staffing strategy. The goals of the organization will determine the manpower needed to carry out its activities. A solid personnel strategy can only be established after a thorough understanding of the organization's overall goals.

- Second, you need to figure out how many people are needed to do all of the current tasks. This is called the manpower requirement. Creating an estimate of the number and calibre of workers that will be needed in the future is what is known as a demand forecast for manpower.
- Predicting the availability of human resources: This is sometimes called an inventory of human resources. The purpose of conducting a personnel inventory is to determine the quantity and quality of available human resources for the purpose of filling open positions within the organization. Data on the current human resource supply should be created according to the following criteria: components, number, designations, and department. It is important to think about possible staffing cuts here. Human resource losses may occur as a result of a variety of causes, including but not limited to: deaths, retirements, dismissals, layoffs, disablement owing to illness or accidents, and voluntary retirements. Work conditions, promotions, demotions, and transfers all have an impact on the availability of workers.
- Analyzing the gap: Analyzing the gap involves finding the difference between the organizations actual and projected staffing levels. This helps in figuring out how many and what kind of workers is required. The amount of new employees needed to fill the voids is shown by this gap.
- Creating workforce programs: The development of different programs pertaining to personnel is the subsequent stage in manpower planning. Here, it's important to think about things like how the product or service is changing inside the organization, how the competition is changing, and any demands from within the union. The manpower strategy specifies the necessary staffing levels. This should serve as the basis for the organization's recruiting effort. A well-designed selection program will take into account both the recruiting source and the specific job requirements. After receiving training on the billing mechanism and technology, retail employees who sort shelves may be promoted to the position of billing assistant. They are motivated and satisfied since they get promoted to higher-level positions. To keep current employees happy and productive, training and development are essential. Training program frequency, budget, trainer quality, training kind, training techniques, and number of trainees may all be determined with the use of a manpower plan.
- The next step is to put the manpower strategy into action, which is called implementation. Many different programs are used to put the manpower strategy into action. It should be mentioned that the other component of the HRM department need close cooperation throughout the implementation phase.
- Evaluation and feedback: We need to assess how well different strategies and programs worked once we put them into action. The goals of the manpower strategy are considered throughout the review process. The degree to which goals are achieved within the allotted time is assessed using certain criteria. It is possible, though not always, for personnel strategies to be prepared in an overly cautious fashion. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct critical feedback in order to ensure that the highlighted shortcomings are not repeated in the following plans. This made sure that the workforce planning became better over time.

Mathematical Modelling

To better understand real-world circumstances and make educated guesses about the future, "Mathematical Modeling" involves applying mathematical principles to real-world problems.

The modelling process sheds light on the situation under examination. After understanding what "Mathematical Modelling" the question that arises is – why is it so important?

The reasons for choosing "Mathematical Modelling" are given below:

- "Mathematical Modelling" has many justifiable answers. Justifying solution is a critical aspect of the process. "Mathematical Modelling" require answers that not only use valid mathematical arguments but also make sense in context.
- Modelling makes problem solving as creative, iterative process instead of being complicated and difficult.
- It is indispensable in several applications and gives a precision and direction for problem solution.
- It allows optimum utilization of the recent computer capabilities.
- It enables a way for better design and control of several systems.

- Necessity of "Mathematical Models"
- To perform experiments.
- To solve real world's risky, expensive & time consuming problems.
- Emerged as powerful tool. This tool is indispensable. The uniqueness of the tool lies in studying a variety of problems in "scientific research", "product and process development" and "manufacturing".
- To improves the "quality of work".
- To reduce "changes", "errors" and "rework".
- To facilitate to handle "large scale" and "complicated problems".
- Increasing computation power and computing methods helps in solving "real world problems".

Types of "Mathematical Modeling"

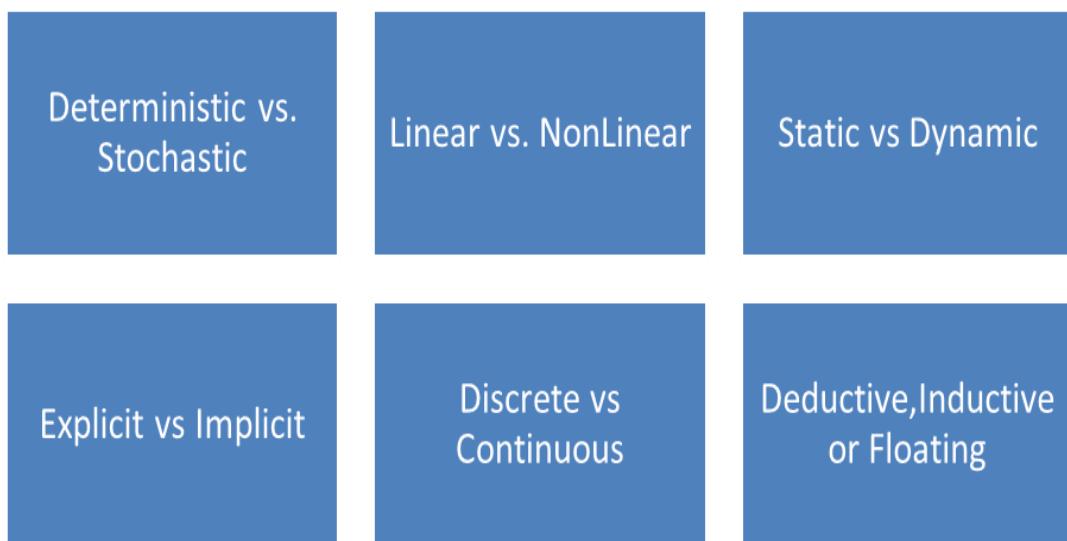


Fig. 2: Types of "Mathematical Modelling"

- **"LINEAR v/s NONLINEAR"**: The term "Linear" is used to describe a "Mathematical Model" when all of the operators are linear. "Nonlinear models" tend to be more involved. Although it's not always effective, "linearization" can be applied.
- **"STATIC v/s DYNAMIC"**: A "dynamic model" depicts how the system evolves over time. Contrarily, a system at equilibrium is depicted by a "static" model, sometimes called a steady-state model. This means that it remains constant over time. The "dynamic models" are usually represented using differential equations.
- **"EXPLICIT v/s IMPLICIT"**: An "explicit model" is one in which all of the model's input parameters are known and the output parameters may be calculated using finite series.
- A model is referred to be a "implicit model" when all that is known are the output parameters and the matching inputs must be solved repeatedly.
- **"DISCRETE v/s CONTINUOUS"**: In computer science, a "discrete model" is one that views things in a discrete manner. Example: "molecular model" particles.
- A "continuous model" is a type of model that consistently depicts objects. Case in point: the velocity field of a pipe flow.
- **"DETERMINISTIC v/s STOCHASTIC"**: The phrase "deterministic model" describes a type of model in which the past and current states have a unique determining effect on the state variables.
- A "stochastic model" describes a model that includes some degree of chance. In this case, probability distributions characterize the states of the model.

- **"DEDUCTIVE, INDUCTIVE, OR FLOATING":** We say that a model is "deductive" if it follows a certain pattern of reasoning.
- "Inductive model" is the name given to a model that is grounded in actual data.
- A "floating model" is one that successfully captures an expected structure that is not grounded in theory or evidence.

Details of the Model

Think about a two-tiered company that has a bivariate recruiting strategy and experiences staff depletion at each decision epoch. When one employee leaves, there is a corresponding decrease in available workers. The cutoff values are continuous random variables that follow exponential distributions and are independent. There is no correlation between the threshold values of the two classes and the rate of manpower depletion. The times between decisions are random variables with identical distributions and are considered independent. The time it takes to make a choice and the amount of man-hours lost are thought to have exponential distributions. Recruiting takes place when reaching a certain integer, or when the overall number of choices surpasses a certain threshold, whichever comes first.

Model I

To ensure that the manpower system continues to function normally, this model transfers people to the grade that has suffered the most loss. The presumption is that the man-hour loss criteria are the upper limit of the two categories. When the total number of decisions hits b , or when the cumulative loss of manhours surpasses $\text{Max}(Y_1, Y_2)$, whichever comes first, recruiting is initiated. Then, after time t , the likelihood of the personnel system failing is given by

$$P(W > t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty}$$

{Probability that there are precisely k policy decision in $(0, t]$ with $k < b$ } x {Probability that the accumulated harm in the manpower system does not surpass its threshold level}

$$= \sum_{\{k=0\}}^{\{\infty\}} [F_{k(t)} - F_{\{k+1\}(t)}] P \sum_{i=1}^k X_i < \text{Max}(Y_1, Y_2) | k < b$$

$$= \sum_{\{k=0\}}^{\{b-1\}} [F_{k(t)} - F_{\{k+1\}(t)}] P \sum_{i=1}^k X_i < \text{Max}(Y_1, Y_2)$$

The functions $F_0(t)$ and $F_b(t)$ are both defined as 1. Y_1 and Y_2 are both distributed exponentially with parameters θ_1 and θ_2 correspondingly, therefore we may deduce that

$$P[\sum_{i=1}^k X_i < \text{Max}(Y_1, Y_2)] = \int_0^{\infty} Z_k(x) [e^{-\theta_1 x} + e^{-\theta_2 x} - e^{(\theta_1 + \theta_2)x}] dx$$

$$= z_k * (\theta_1 + \theta_2) - z_k * (\theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

Equation is then transformed into

$$P(W > t) = \sum_{\{k=0\}}^{\{b-1\}} [F_{k(t)} - F_{\{k+1\}(t)}] [z_k * (\theta_1) + z_k * (\theta_2) - z_k * (\theta_1 + \theta_2)]$$

$$= \sum_{\{k=0\}}^{\{b-1\}} [F_{k(t)} - F_{\{k+1\}(t)}] [(z * (\theta_1))^k + (z * (\theta_2))^k - (z * (\theta_1 + \theta_2))^k]$$

$$= 1 - \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z * (\theta_1))}^{\{k-1\}} + \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z * (\theta_1))}^k$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^2))}^{\{k-1\}} + \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^2))}^k + \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^1+\theta^2))}^{\{k-1\}} \\
& \quad - \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^1+\theta^2))}^k \\
= & 1 - (1 - z * (\theta^1)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^1))}^{\{k-1\}} \\
& + (1 - z * (\theta^1 + \theta^2)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^1+\theta^2))}^{\{k-1\}}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
L(t) &= 1 - P(W > t) \\
&= (1 - z * (\theta^1)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^1))}^{\{k-1\}} + (1 - z * (\theta^2)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^2))}^{\{k-1\}} \\
& \quad - (1 - z * (\theta^1 + \theta^2)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} F_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^1+\theta^2))}^{\{k-1\}}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
I(t) &= (1 - z * (\theta^1)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} f_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^1))}^{\{k-1\}} + (1 - z * (\theta^2)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} f_{k(t)(z^*(\theta^2))}^{\{k-1\}} \\
& \quad - (1 - z * (\theta^1 + \theta^2)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} f_k(t)(z^*(\theta^1 + \theta^2))^{k-1}
\end{aligned}$$

From the Laplace transform of $I(t)$, we may deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
I^*s &= (1 - z^*(\theta^1)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} f * (s))^k (z^*(\theta^1))^{k-1} + (1 - z^*(\theta^2)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} f * (s))^k (z^*(\theta^2))^{k-1} \\
& \quad - (1 - z * (\theta^1 + \theta^2)) \sum_{\{k=1\}}^{\{b-1\}} (f * (s))^k (z * (\theta^1 + \theta^2))^{k-1} \\
&= (1 - z * (\theta^1)) f * \frac{(s) \left[(f * (s)) z * (\theta^1) \right]^{\{b-1\}} - 1}{f * (s) z * (\theta^1) - 1} \\
& \quad + (1 - z * (\theta^2)) f * \frac{(s) \left[(f * (s)) z * (\theta^2) \right]^{\{b-1\}} - 1}{f * (s) z * (\theta^2) - 1} \\
& \quad - (1 - z * (\theta^1 + \theta^2)) f * \frac{(s) \left[(f * (s)) z * (\theta^1 + \theta^2) \right]^{\{b-1\}} - 1}{f * (s) z * (\theta^1 + \theta^2) - 1}
\end{aligned}$$

Parameters δ and β govern the exponential distributions of total manhours lost and inter-decision delays. It or they in equation transform into

$$\begin{aligned}
 l^*(s) &= \frac{\sum_{\{i=1\}}^{\{2\}} \beta \theta \left[(\beta \delta)^{\{b-1\}(\beta+s)^{\{1-b\}}(\delta+\theta_i)^{\{1-b\}}} - 1 \right]}{[\beta \delta - (\beta + s)(\delta + \theta_i)]} \\
 &\quad - \frac{\beta(\theta^1 + \theta^2) \left[(\beta \delta)^{\{b-1\}(\beta+s)^{\{1-b\}}(\delta+\theta^1+\theta^2)^{\{1-b\}}} - 1 \right]}{[\beta \delta - (\beta + s)(\delta + \theta^1 + \theta^2)]} \\
 E(W) &= - \left[d l^* \frac{s}{d} \right]_{\{s=0\}} \\
 &= \left\{ \sum_{\{i=1\}}^{\{2\}} [\beta \delta - \beta(\delta + \theta_i)] (\beta \delta)^{\{b-1\}(\delta+\theta_i)^{\{1-b\}} \beta^{\{-b\}}} + (\beta \delta)^{\{b-1\}(\delta+\theta_i)^{\{2-b\}} \beta^{\{1-b\}}} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - (\delta + \theta_i) \right\} / (\beta \theta_i) \\
 &\quad - \left\{ [\beta \delta - \beta(\delta + \theta^1 + \theta^2)] (\beta \delta)^{\{b-1\}(\delta+\theta^1+\theta^2)^{\{1-b\}} \beta^{\{-b\}}} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (\beta \delta)^{\{b-1\}(\delta+\theta^1+\theta^2)^{\{2-b\}} \beta^{\{1-b\}}} - (\delta + \theta^1 + \theta^2) \right\} / (\beta \theta_1 + \theta_2) \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^2 [(\delta + \theta_i)^b - \delta^{b-1}(\theta_i + \delta)] / [\beta \theta_i (\delta + \theta_i)^{b-1}] \\
 &\quad - \{(\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^b - \delta^{b-1}[(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + \delta]\} / \beta(\theta_1 + \theta_2)(\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{b-1} \\
 E(W^2) &= [d^2 l^*(s) / ds^2]_{s=0} \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^2 \{ \beta(\theta_i)^2 b(1-b) \theta_i (\delta)^{b-1} (\delta + \theta_i)^{1-b} \beta^{-1} \\
 &\quad + 2 \beta \theta_i \theta_i (1-b) (\delta)^{b-1} (\delta + \theta_i)^{2-b} \\
 &\quad - (\delta)^{b-1} (\delta + \theta_i)^{3-b} + (\delta + \theta_i)^2 \} / \beta(\theta_i)^3 \\
 &\quad - \{ [\beta(\theta_1 + \theta_2)]^2 b(1-b) (\theta_1 + \theta_2) (\delta)^{b-1} (\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{1-b} \beta^{-1} \\
 &\quad + 2 \beta(\theta_1 + \theta_2) [\theta_1 + \theta_2] (1-b) (\delta)^{b-1} (\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{2-b} \\
 &\quad - (\delta)^{b-1} (\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{3-b} + (\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^2 \} / [(\theta_1 + \theta_2)]^3 \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^2 \left[\frac{b(1-b)(\delta)^{b-1}}{\beta^2 (\delta + \theta_i)^{b-1}} + \frac{2(1-b)(\delta)^{b-1}}{\beta^2 \theta_i (\delta + \theta_i)^{b-2}} + \frac{2[(\delta + \theta_i)^{b-1} (\delta)^{b-1}]}{\beta^2 (\delta + \theta_i)^{b-1}} \right] \\
 &\quad - \frac{b(1-b)(\delta)^{b-1}}{\beta^2 (\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{b-1}} - \frac{2(1-b)(\delta)^{b-1}}{\beta^2 (\theta_1 + \theta_2) (\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{b-2}} \\
 &\quad + \frac{2[(\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{b-1} - (\delta)^{b-1}]}{\beta^2 (\theta_1 + \theta_2)^2 (\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{b-3}} \\
 &= \frac{b(1-b)(\delta)^{b-1}}{\beta^2} \left[\sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{1}{(\delta + \theta_i)^{b-1}} - \frac{1}{(\delta + \theta_1 + \theta_2)^{b-1}} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \frac{2(1-b)(\delta)^{b-1}}{\beta^2} \left[\sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{1}{\theta_i (\delta+\theta_i)^{b-2}} - \frac{1}{\theta_1+\theta_2 (\delta+\theta_1+\theta_2)^{b-2}} \right] \\
 & + \frac{2}{\beta^2} \left[\sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{(\delta+\theta_i)^{b-1} - (\delta)^{b-1}}{\theta_i^2 (\delta+\theta_i)^{b-3}} - \frac{(\delta+\theta_1+\theta_2)^{b-1} - (\delta)^{b-1}}{(\theta_1+\theta_2)^2 (\delta+\theta_1+\theta_2)^{b-3}} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

Equations may be used to compute the variance.

Conclusion

Mathematical modeling plays a critical role in enabling strategic manpower planning in large organizations by transforming workforce management from a reactive function into a proactive, data-driven decision process. Through the use of quantitative approaches such as forecasting models, optimization techniques, simulation, Markov models, and system dynamics, organizations can better anticipate workforce demand and supply, identify skill gaps, and evaluate alternative staffing strategies under varying scenarios.

These models provide a structured framework for analyzing complex workforce dynamics, including hiring, attrition, promotions, training, and retirement, while accounting for uncertainty and long-term organizational objectives. By integrating internal workforce data with external labor market trends, mathematical models support more accurate predictions and cost-effective manpower decisions. Moreover, scenario analysis and sensitivity testing allow decision-makers to assess risks and adapt strategies in response to economic, technological, and demographic changes.

Despite their advantages, the effectiveness of mathematical models depends heavily on data quality, appropriate model selection, and alignment with organizational strategy. Human factors, organizational culture, and managerial judgment remain essential complements to quantitative results. Therefore, successful strategic manpower planning requires a balanced approach that combines mathematical rigor with qualitative insights and continuous model refinement.

In conclusion, mathematical modeling approaches offer powerful tools for strategic manpower planning in large organizations, enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness. As organizations increasingly adopt advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and big data technologies, these models will continue to evolve, providing more robust and flexible support for long-term workforce planning and strategic decision-making.

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