P-Glossary

Best Practices

Best Practice is considered as a business buzzword used to describe the process of developing and following a standard way of doing things that organizations can use for management, policy, and operation. According to Wikipedia, it is a management idea which maintains that there is a technique, method, process, activity, incentive or reward that is more effective at delivering a particular outcome than any other technique, method, process, etc. The notion of 'best practices' does not commit people or companies to one inflexible, unchanging practice. Instead, Best Practices is an approach based around continuous learning and continual improvement. The APQC defines best practices as "those practices that have been shown to produce superior results, selected by a systematic process, and judged as exemplary, good, or successfully demonstrated". In short, best practices refer to proven methods that have contributed to superior performance or best meeting customer requirements. The word "best" is a relative term. It is a moving target and is also situation specific. There is no single type of best practices because best is not best for every organization. Each organization is different in some ways in terms of its mission, culture, factors affecting its business, and stage of development. Hence, an organization needs to assess whether a practice is significantly better than what currently exists in the organization and, if adapted and implemented, would produce superior results or performance. A best practice is any practice that works best for you to improve your situation.

See also: Benchmarking

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