

1.7 Operations Research Methodology

The basic dominant characteristic feature of operations research is that it employs mathematical representations or models to analyse problems. This distinct approach represents an adaptation of the scientific methodology used by the physical sciences. The scientific method translates a given problem into a mathematical representation which is solved and retransformed into the original context. Figure 1.3 depicts the OR approach to problem solving.

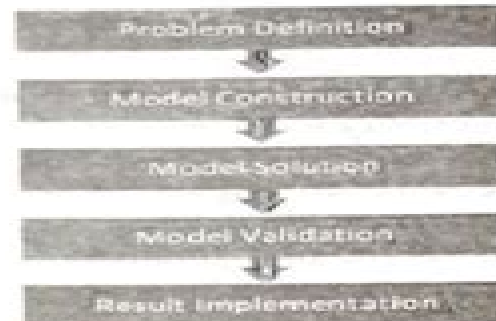


Fig. 1.3: Steps in the OR methodology

As shown in figure 1.3, OR methodology consists of five steps. They are - defining the problem, constructing the model, solving the model, validating the model, and implementing the result.

Let us now study the steps in detail.

1.7.1 Definition

The first and the most important step in the OR approach of problem solving is to define the problem. One needs to ensure that the problem is identified properly because this problem statement will indicate the following three major aspects:

- ✓ Description of the goal or the objective of the study
- ✓ Identification of the decision alternative to the system

Students Guide To Operations Research

**Chunyi Lin, Fong Peng Chew, Intakhab
Alam Khan, Catalin Popescu**



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