

includes all types of persuasion means, by a seller, viz., advertising, personal selling and other methods.

Modern Concept of Salesmanship:

In olden days, a salesman takes an order. He shows the goods. He waits for an order. Then he receives the payment. He never attempts to guide, or help or persuade the consumers. But the modern concept of salesmanship is entirely different from the old concept of salesmanship. Modern concept is creative in approach. He creates needs and converts them into wants. Customer satisfaction is the main problem of salesman. Mutual profit is essential both for the buyer and the seller. Salesman guides the customer to buy things which satisfy his want. Salesman motivates the feelings of the customers to act.

Importance of Salesmanship:

In the present day, salesmanship plays an important part. Salesman is the connecting link between sellers and buyers at every step., i.e” from the collection of raw materials to the finished products. , Of all, customers are the most benefited by salesmen. Present era is of large-scale production, which is in anticipation of demand. The market expands along with competition. This makes distribution a difficult and a complex factor in the face of still competition. The expansion of the market, growing competition etc., invite a better salesmanship.

1. Important to Producers:

Salesmanship is important to producers and manufacturers. For pushing products into the competitive market, salesmanship is necessary. To capture new markets also salesmanship is very important. Salesmen increase the sales volume. It brings larger profits to the manufacturers. Salesmen work as the “eye and ear” for the manufacturers.

They improve their products according to the taste of the consumers. They improve their sales policies by keeping in mind the suggestions, impressions and complaints of the consumers. He is the creator of demand. Hence it leads to increased production and increased business activity. As such it increases employment opportunity as well as personal incomes.

2. Important to Consumers:

Salesman educates and guides the consumers. He gives them more satisfaction. ‘Consumers are right’ in the marketing. As such, he gives more importance to them.

Salesman helps the consumers in making the right decision and proper selection of the products which they want to buy. Salesmanship increases the rate of turnover, and hence reduces unsold stock. As such it minimizes the economic stagnation. Consumers can select the best products according to their requirements, taste and money.

Duties of a Salesman:

1. The principal duty is to make sales of products or services.
2. He has to do the assigned duty (travelling).
3. He has to make collection of bills relating to sale.
4. He has to make report-Sales made, Calls made, Services rendered, customers lost, competition and any other matters, relating to firm.
5. All complainants must be satisfied peacefully.

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6. He has to attend sales meetings.
7. A salesman with his experience must supply information in order to solve problems relating to product or the firm.
8. He must maintain a good relation with the customers.
9. He must assist the customers to make good selection.

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10. He must develop a goodwill for the firm and the products.
11. He must have cooperative habits.
- 12 He takes periodic inventories of the stocks.

Characteristics or the Qualities of a Successful Salesman:

Reid gives the following characteristics of a good salesman:

1. Establishing good relationship with a variety of people.

2. Learning quickly and adapting smoothly.
3. Planning ahead and efficiently managing his time and efforts.
4. Working hard to achieve his goals, dedicating himself to provide long-term service, rather than having a get-rich-quick attitude.
5. Communicating clearly both in speech and in writing.
6. Thinking analytically and learning to break problems down to their basic components.
7. Producing constantly both in quality and quantity rather than performing erratically.
8. Persisting steadily his goal and not giving up easily.
9. Possessing and living up to high moral characteristics that enable people to admire,, respect and trust him.

“Personality is the personal distinction or dynamic force which is felt by everybody who comes within the radius.” Personality is the sum total of the impressions made on people with whom one comes into contact. The impression is the result of many qualities that one possesses. There are a number of qualities which make a salesman successful.

To become a successful salesman, he must master all the traits. A number of evidences as given by RG Walters, J.W. Windate, Russel etc., divide the qualities of a successful salesman into the following major factors. They are: 1. Personality of a salesman, 2. Knowledge of the product and, 3. Knowledge of the customers and their buying motives.

Type of Salesmen:

1. Manufacturer's Salesmen:

(a) Missionary Salesmen:

They are also known as Creative Salesmen or Pioneer Salesmen. They are employed by manufacturers and do the work, of missionary nature. They create demand for the products. They usually develop goodwill. They call on distributors- wholesalers, retailers, customers, in order to educate, train and induce them to promote the

products. Manufacturers of medical supplies use this type of salesmen to promote their products.

(b) Merchandising Salesmen:

They assist dealers by giving suggestions on display, store- layout, service facility etc. They arrange wide publicity and conduct demonstration for dealer salesmen, by even working along with them. They are largely involved in drugs, medicines, grocery etc. There is a wide scope for this category.

(c) Dealer-Servicing Salesman:

These salesmen call on retailers in their territory and visit them often. They bring samples of new products, take orders and make up window display.

(d) Sale Promotion Salesmen:

They are also known as Retail Salesman. They are specialised in promotional work. They are representatives of medical firms or publishers. They may not take spot orders but they try to convince people like doctors about the new drug, research work, testing, result etc. They create demand by calling on customers,

(e) Technical Salesmen:

They are trained technically. They provide technical assistance to company's customers on matter connected with the product, its quality, its design, its installation etc. Generally these types of salesmen deal with computers, equipment's, machinery items, chemical products etc.

2. Wholesaler's Salesmen:

Products reach the hands of customers through a number of channels, the main channel being wholesalers. They are the nerve-centres of distribution between manufacturers and retailers. These salesmen are mainly concerned with retailers through whom the products are to be marketed.

Their main concerns are:

1. To guide the wholesalers in giving credit transaction to retailers,
2. To collect bills from retailers and customers,
3. To collect information of the market trend,

4. To help retailers to improve sales and

5. To take orders from retailers.

3. Retail Salesmen:

They are of two types: 1. Indoor salesmen and 2. Outdoor Salesmen. Indoor salesmen work within the store—counter sales over the counter. They do not need training as they have to face only customers and not the prospects. They deal with regular buyers. They are order filling salesmen.

They receive orders and execute them. They must have good manners and a helpful attitude. They must be able to guide the customers and help them to make quick decisions. They must also be knowledgeable and honest. Above all, they must maintain products in the shelves in an attractive manner.

Outdoor salesmen may also be called travelling salesmen. Their main job is to make regular travels, visit customers, canvass orders etc. They must possess all the qualities of ideal salesmen.

4. Speciality Salesmen:

They are to sell speciality products-expensive durable goods, furniture, books, house furnishings, washing machines, automobiles, refrigerators etc. People purchase these products only after a personal and careful selection, because they do not buy them frequently. Salesmen of this kind must be masters of the art of salesmanship. They are representatives of manufacturers, who produce special items.