

The Systems Approach

What is a System?

- A set of interrelated and interdependent parts arranged in a manner that produces a unified whole.
- A collection of parts that operate interdependently to achieve a common purpose.

Systems Approach

- Posits that the performance of the whole is greater than the sum of the performance of its parts.
- Seeks to identify all parts of an organized activity and how they interact.

General Systems Theory

- An area of study based on the assumptions that everything is part of a larger, interdependent arrangement.

Levels of systems

- Each system is a subsystem of the system above it.
- Identification of systems at various levels helps translate abstract systems theory into more concrete terms.

Closed Versus Open Systems

- Closed system
- A self-sufficient entity.
- Open system
- Something that depends on its surrounding environment for survival.
- A perspective which holds that organization depends on the external environment for resources.
- Affect that environment through their output and consist of internal subsystems that transform inputs to outputs.