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Bar-chart (Gantt chart) Planning Technique

❖ What is a Gantt chart?

A Gantt chart, commonly used in project management, is one of the most popular and useful ways of showing activities (tasks) displayed against time. On the left of the chart is a list of the activities and along the top is a suitable time scale. Each activity is represented by a bar; the position and length of the bar reflects the start date, duration and end date of the activity.

This figure shows an example of a Bar-chart (Gantt chart):



❖ Benefits of Using Bar-chart (Gantt chart) Technique For Project Planning

- Clarity: Gantt chart has the ability to show and clarify multiple tasks and timelines.
- **Communication**: It is a visual method to help project team members understand task progress.
- <u>Motivation</u>: Gantt charts offer project teams the ability to focus work at the front of, or at the tail end of a task timeline.
- <u>Coordination</u>: project managers use these charts to break down projects into manageable sets of tasks.
- <u>Creativity</u>: The use of Gantt charts often encourages new partnerships that might not have evolved under traditional task assignment systems.
- <u>Time Management:</u> Time scheduling is considered as one of the major benefits of Gantt charts
- Flexibility: It offers a view of project which can help team members adjust changes.
- <u>Manageability</u>: By using Gantt charts, project managers can make more focused, effective decisions about resources and timetables.
- <u>Efficiency</u>: Visualizing resource usage during projects allows managers to make better use of people, places, and things.
- <u>Accountability</u>: Using Gantt charts during critical projects allows both project managers and participants to track team progress.

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❖ Disadvantages of Using Bar-chart (Gantt chart) Technique For Project Planning

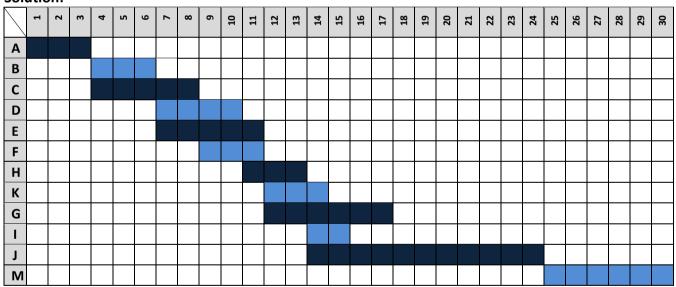
- They can become very complex
- The length of the bar does not indicate the amount of work
- They all the time need to be updated
- Difficult to see on one sheet of paper
- The Critical path (C.P) cannot be clearly indicated

***** Examples of Project Gantt charts

Ex.1/ using the details shown below, build a Bar-chart to find the project's total duration.

Activity	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	Н	K	G	I	J	М
Duration (days)	3	3	5	4	5	3	3	3	6	2	11	6
Followed Activity	В,С	D,E	F	Н	K	K,G	I,J				M	

Solution:



Project Total Duration is 30 days

(C.P=A,B,D,H,J,M)

Ex.2/ Find the project's total duration and date of completion (assume the project start date is 1st of December 2014). Use the following details to build the Gantt chart:

Activity	Α	В	С	D	G	E	F	L	I	J	М	К
Duration (weeks)	2	3	6	7	3	3	2	1	3	3	5	6
Following Activity	B,C,D	G	E	F	L	I	J	M	К	K	K	

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Solution:

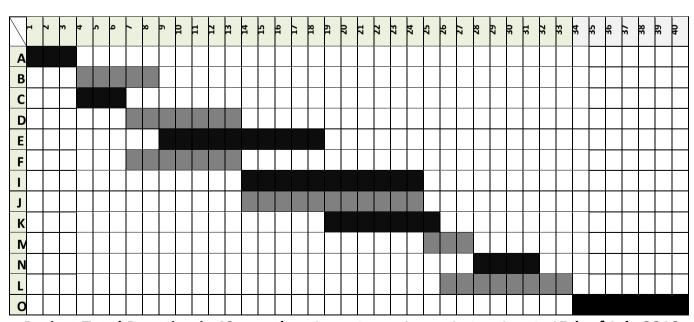
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Α																				
В																				
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Project Total Duration is <u>20 weeks</u>. The estimated completion date is 1^{st} of May 2015 (C.P= A,D,M,K)

Ex.3/ Find the project's total duration and date of completion (assume the project start date is 15th of March 2015). Use the following details to build the Gantt chart:

Activity	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	-	J	К	М	N	L	0
Duration (months)	3	5	3	7	10	7	11	11	7	3	4	8	7
Following Activity	В,С	E	D,F	I,J	K	I,J	M	М	L	N		0	

Solution:



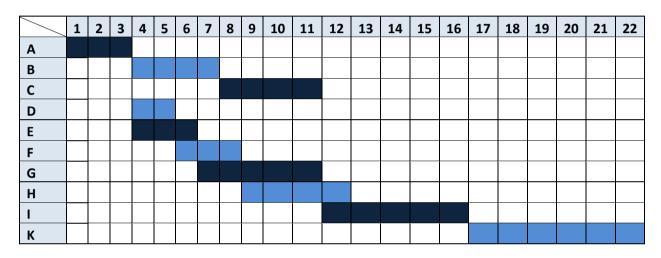
Project Total Duration is $\underline{40 \text{ months}}$. The estimated completion date is $\underline{15 \text{th of July 2018}}$ (C.P= A,B,E,K,L,O)

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Ex.4/ A project, its activities are shown below, was started on (20/1/2014). Use the Gantt chart technique to find its estimated delivery date.

Activity	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	I	К
Duration (weeks)	3	4	4	2	3	3	4	4	5	6
Following Activity	B,D,E	С	I	F	G	Н	I		К	

Solution:



Project Total Duration is <u>22 weeks</u>. The estimated delivery date is 7/7/2014 (C.P= A,B,C,I,K)

If the project shown above had a delay of (2) weeks after (6 working weeks), what would be its new delivery date?

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Α																								
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The project's new delivery date would be <u>21/7/2014</u>