RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHESS AND MANAGEMENT –
AN OVERVIEW

Annotation. This article intent to find the relationship between chess and management with suitable chess positions linking with business. Chess has a relationship not only with management but with life itself. Chess helps to improve decision making, analysing the situation. Past researchers have worked on these gaps, especially De Jorge-Moreno, J. (2020) [1] study has shown significant relationship. This current study has illustrated different management lessons linked with chess positions.

Key words: Chess, Management, Business Strategy
**Introduction.** Chess is not a game. Chess is a well-defined form of computation. You may not be able to work out the answers, but in theory, there must be a solution, a right procedure in any position - John von Neumann Chess is a combination of tactics, strategy and player psychology. Tactics are the actions taken to support strategy. Therefore, Chess and Management have a relationship, especially planning for future moves, place the pieces at the right place in the chess board. To defend the opponent ideas or implement your own ideas, it requires appropriate strategy. The managers have to use fundamentals of management principles of different purpose in an organization. For e.g., make use of the human resources in the planned way, right people for the right job, try to understand the competitor’s business strategy., etc. Graber (2009) [3] states that the importance of deep and long-term thinking, which is associated with business and game of chess.

**Objective of the Study**
1. To understand the relationship between game of chess and management.
2. To know how chess strategies are linked with business strategies.

**Review of literature.** Kende, G., & Seres, G. (2004) [4] study states that chess helps to improve developing the memory, decision making ability, systematic thinking and evaluation of the situation. Examples of discussions of the importance of long-term planning in chess are found in Euwe and Meiden, 1966 [2] and Shenk, 2006 [5]. All the mentioned variables are important in the business context too. Hence, this study has exhibits eight different positions liking with management lessons.

**Position 1:**
In the first moves, you try to capture the centre of the board, if you play with the white pieces. If you capture the centre, you control the board. It is related with
management is that leader firm dominate the sector and following companies could dominate the sector.

![Chessboard image](image1)

**Fig. 1. Centre square shown the domination of leader in sector**

**Position 2:**
In chess, how we tactically deploy pieces is related to the Strategic Management in terms of Resources and capabilities of the firm, how managers deploy their resources & How CEO’s manage HR, and technology.

![Chessboard image](image2)

**Fig. 2. Right pieces at the right place linked with right person for the right job**

**Position 3:**
The double attack involves the simultaneous execution of two simultaneous attacks that the opponent cannot counteract at the same time, usually due to
weaknesses. This is related to business; diversification, Product and process innovation, Vertical integration processes and investment in R&D.

![Fig. 3. Double attack linking with business diversification](image)

**Position 4:**

The destruction of the defence is a tactical process, it is achieved when an opponent piece is directly removed (Remove the defender), which controls important lines or squares, this is related in business with Organisational restructuring, the reorientation of the activity, the reduction of the field of activity.

![Fig. 4. Remove the defender is linking with organization restructuring](image)

**Position 5:**
Deviation is a tactical process that consists of forcing an opponent piece to leave its current square, giving our pieces access to decisive squares or lines. In business, Market counter-segmentation, exclusive access to suppliers with new technology, Product/process differentiation.

**Fig 5. Deviation as tactics links with product/product differentiation**

**Position 6:**
When you move the Queen or your Bishops, you consider doing it in wide range diagonals, to take full advantage of the capabilities of this resource, this is related to business in terms of optimization of resources.

**Fig. 6. Activities of pieces in chess has a link with optimization of resources in business**
Position 7:

In chess, incorrect movements of the own pieces block the king’s movements, making it easier for the opponent to checkmate. In business, it relates to power and influence of stakeholders towards management and conflict of interest and balance for survival.

![Chess Board Image](image)

**Fig. 7.** Internal politics stops own company growth is linking with blocking king movement by own pieces.

Position 8:

When a passed pawn (reaches the other side of the board) becomes another piece much more powerful, this is related to business, an effective HR leader develops HR skills, Efficient leadership / management turn weaknesses into strengths. In chess, it is necessary to study the present in depth and evaluate alternate moves for the following moves, this is related business, Decision Trees.

Chess players often analyse their own moves to correct mistakes and design strategies. In business, Strategic implementation, Organizational adjustment and change, Evaluation and selection of strategies, Strategic adaptation (relationship between strategy and the company’s mission and objectives), Strategic feasibility (possibility of implementing a strategy), Strategic acceptability (consequences of choosing a strategy).
Fig. 8. Main variation, sub variation helps to take right decision in chess, and it has link with business decision

**Suggestion & conclusion.** Modern education has integrated with different fields, including sports & arts. Chess has high relevance with life and business. Across the globe, chess has recognized an intellectual game and it helps to improve decision making skills and self-development. The authors confirmed that the past researchers have already studied the relationship between chess and business but it has not linked with chess positions for better understanding. Hence, the authors have tried to link with chess positions. The authors suggests that the school education, higher education institutions, especially business schools have to teach chess and it has benefits for both personal and professional way for an individual.

**References**


