

## **What Is Being A Manager Really Like?**

When most people think about management they envision high salaries and power. That is not always the case. There are many people that have started out low on the totem pole, and worked their way to the top to be successful. You may hear about managers and their large salaries, but what you do not hear about are the every day struggles of the average manager.

Managers and upper level employees work long hours. Many times they do not receive full credit for the time that they do spend on numerous tasks. Some managers make little or no more than their subordinates. They may come into the place of business for a long time before other employees arrive, and stay much later after everyone leaves. There is constantly work that has to be done that the manager must do as well as deal with unexpected events that pop up. Many managers travel and have to schedule long meetings into their work hours. It is not uncommon for a manager to make many personal sacrifices in order to be able to handle all of the responsibility of their position. This often involves a balancing act of activities outside of work and family life.

The work of a manager consists of many different tasks. This can either be good or bad depending on if an individual is adaptable. Managers are expected to know a little bit about everything that is going on in the business. Additionally, managers must be able to handle the many tasks that are thrown at them. Managers have to be a mix of many talents all rolled into one. Due to the many tasks that a manager must accomplish in one day, they may find it hard to sit down and have uninterrupted blocks of time. They get frequent phone calls and are expected to have the answers all questions or to be able to

find the answer quickly. This is why managers need lots of focus to keep on the task at hand.

Managers and people in positions of authority frequently have to deal with difficult situations. When problems occur, managers are the ones that are notified and they need to be able to provide guidance to others involved in the situation. Managers are responsible for such things as firing workers, hiring workers, and dealing with employee personal problems. Authority may be a luxury in some instances, but it brings along with it other tasks that are unpleasant for anyone to do. Would you be able to fire a less productive worker easily if you knew that one of his family members was battling an expensive health problem?

Managers must also have excellent communication and people skills. The whole day involves dealing with others and communicating through various forms of media. In one day they must come into contact with all types of people. It is important for them to make use of contacts that are developed outside of the business, as well as enforce ongoing relationships through adequate use of communication.

### Managers Loose The Right To:

1. Loose their temper
2. Be “one of the gang”
3. Bring personal problems to work
4. Vent frustrations and express every opinion
5. Resist change
6. Pass tough assignments onto others
7. Get even
8. Play favorites
9. Put self-interests first

Reference:

Kreitner, Robert. (1992). *Management 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Geneva: Houghton Mifflin.