

Risk and its management

MODULE 1

What is risk ?

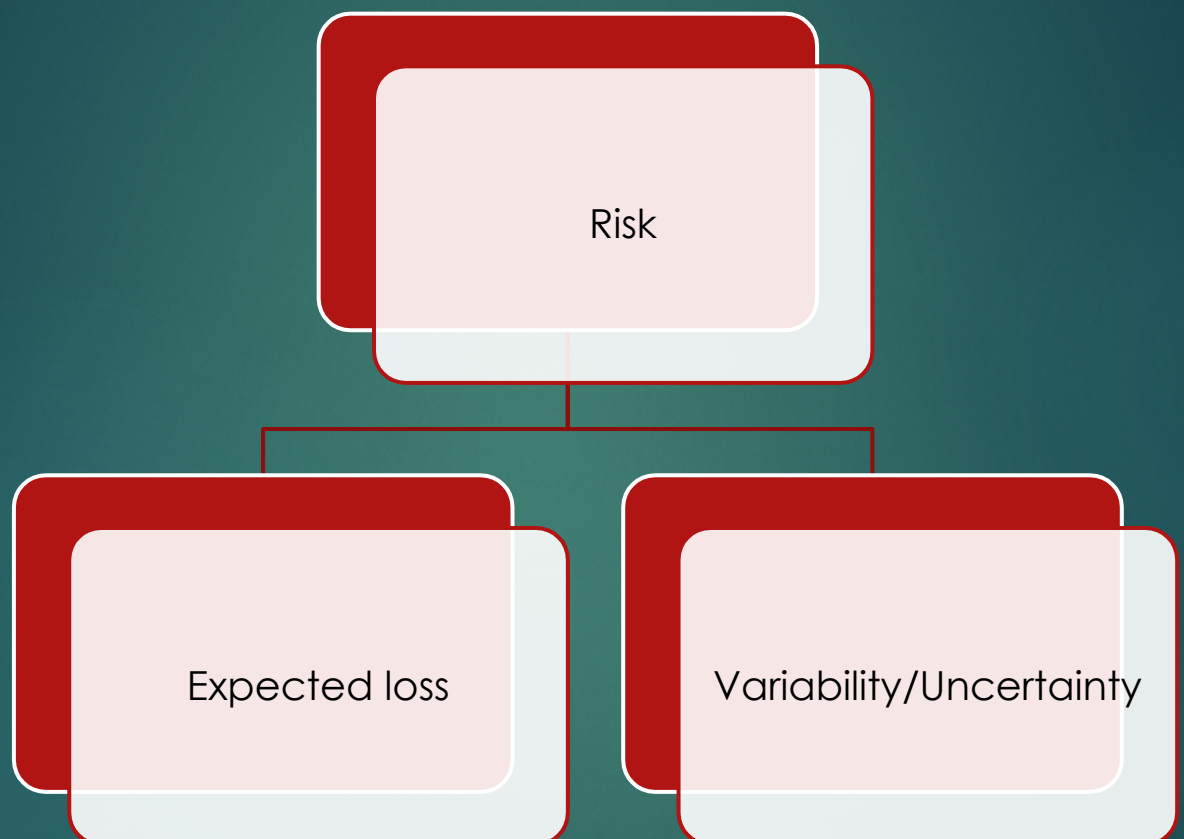
Risk is uncertainty about the outcome... in a general sense

Possible variability in outcomes around expected values....Specific meaning used in business events.

Expected value is outcome that would occur on average when a person or business is exposed repeatedly to the same type of risk.

Ex: Sachin's batting average is 67 based on historical data. So the expected score he is likely to hit is 67.

However, there is a degree of variability around the expected value. He might duck out or hit a century.



Risk v/s uncertainty

Risk	Uncertainty
Probability of the possible outcomes of the event is known	probability of the possible outcomes is not known
Dispersion of the probability distribution is risk	Lack of confidence that the estimated probability distribution is correct

Types of risks

► BUSINESS RISK

Business risk is possible reductions in value of business from a source. Business value depends upon size, timing and risk variation in cash flows. Unexpected changes in future cash flows can be business risk.

There are three main risks involved in business:

Price risk, Credit risk and Pure risk

1. Price risk:

Refers to uncertainty over magnitude of cash flows due to price changes in output and input prices. Analysis of price risk associated with sale and production of existing and future products gain strategic management. Three specific types of price risks are

Commodity price risk

Exchange rate risk

Interest rate risk (affects terms of credit, speed of repayment, cost of borrowings)

Types of risk

2. Credit risk:

Risk that a firm's customers and the parties to which it has lent delay or fail to make promised payments is called credit risk. Firms face credit risk from accounts receivables. Financial institutions face credit risk from loans. Firms carry risk of non-payment and bankruptcy of default by borrowers. Firms have to pay more to borrow money as risk increases.

3. Pure risk:

Risk management function traditionally concentrates on managing pure risk. Pure risk relates to losses associated with assets. It comes from

Damage to assets: (reduction of value of business assets due to fire, flood, damage, theft, and expropriation (seizure by foreign govt))

Legal liability: of harm to customers, suppliers, share holders, other

Worker injury: risk of paying compensation and damages to employees

Employee benefits: risk of death, illness and disability of employees/families as per contracts/Acts.

Types of risk

4. Personal risk:

Earnings risk: refers to potential fluctuations in a family's earnings which can occur as a result of decline in the value of an earner's productivity due to death, disability, aging, or a change in technology.

Medical expense risk:

Liability risk on auto and home

Risk of loss of value of physical assets like auto, home, boat, watercrafts, electronics. They can be lost stolen or damaged.

Risk of loss of value of financial assets like stocks and bonds.

Longevity risk refers to retired people outliving their financial resources.

This course...

- ▶ Much of this course talks about pure risk and its management.
- ▶ However, the principles and techniques discussed will apply to all types of risks.

Burden of risk

Risk results in certain social and economic effects

- ▶ Larger emergency fund: one needs huge fund to take care of emergency requirements of repair and loss of property. This affects business
- ▶ Loss of certain goods and services: because companies have discontinued manufacturing certain goods and services. Eg: certain vaccines, asbestos products, breast implants, birth control devices due to fear of law suits
- ▶ Worry and fear: induced in the mind of people when they encounter risk involved in jet flying, writing exams, skiing etc

Sources of risk

External sources:

- ▶ Business factors
- ▶ Natural factors – earthquake, famine, cyclone, lightning,
- ▶ Political factors – change of govt, civil war, riot changes

Internal sources:

- ▶ Operational -
- ▶ Technological
- ▶ Human factors
- ▶ Technological
- ▶ physical

Degree of risk/objective risk

- ▶ Degree of risk is defined as relative variation of actual loss to actual loss.
- ▶ Assume that out of 10000 houses, 1% ie 100 houses burn every year. In reality 110 houses or 90 houses may burn. Relative variation is 10%. This is objective risk or degree of risk
- ▶ Objective risk declines with increase in number of exposures. Specifically, objective risk varies inversely with the square root of the number of cases under observation.
- ▶ Assume that 1 million houses are insured. Expected houses burned is 1% ie 10000. 10% relative variation is 1000 houses. Objective risk therefore is $1000/10000 = 1\%$
- ▶ Therefore square root of the number of houses goes up 10 times from 100 to 1000, the objective risk comes down to 10% of the original level.
- ▶ Objective risk can be statistically measured by measures of dispersion like standard deviation. As the number of exposures increases prediction will be more accurate as variation is

Risk management

- ▶ Risk management is the identification, assessment and prioritization of risks followed by coordinated and economical application of resources to minimize, monitor and control the probability and/or impact of unfortunate events.
- ▶ Jorin defined risk management as the process in which various risk exposures are identified, measured and controlled.
- ▶ Risk management refers to the systematic application of principles, approaches and processes to the tasks of identifying and assessing risks and then planning and implementing responses.

Methods of risk management

- ▶ Broadly 3 methods:
 - ▶ Loss control
 - ▶ Loss financing
 - ▶ Internal risk reduction
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- ▶ 1 and 3 involves decisions to invest/not invest to reduce loss while 2nd one refers to how to pay for losses if they do occur

1. Loss control

- ▶ Actions that reduce the expected cost of losses by reducing the frequency of losses and/or the severity (size) of losses that occur are known as loss control. It is also sometimes known as risk control.
- ▶ Actions that reduce the frequency of losses are called loss **prevention methods**. Eg: routine inspection of aircrafts. Actions that reduce the severity of losses are called loss **reduction methods**. Eg: smoke detectors. Some examples: airbags in vehicles.
- ▶ There are 2 general approaches to loss control.
 - Reducing the level of risk activity (truck with toxic chemicals shifting over to other products)
 - increasing precautions against loss of activity

2. Loss financing

- ▶ Methods used to obtain funds to pay for or offset losses that occur is called loss financing
- ▶ Broad methods
 - retention: business retains the right to pay up losses. Also called self-insurance
 - Insurance: pay premium and receive funds to recover losses. Risk transferred to insurers.
 - Hedging: Derivatives like futures, forwards, options, swaps manage mainly the price risk.
 - Other contractual risk transfers: indemnity takeovers (contractors) for damage/injury etc.

3. Internal risk reduction

- ▶ Businesses can reduce risk internally
- ▶ 1. Diversification: Businesses spread across different areas can help reduce risk. Do not keep all eggs in the same basket.
- ▶ 2. Invest on information: in order to get superior forecasts of future cash flow thereby reducing variability.

Risk management process

- ▶ Identify all significant process
- ▶ Evaluate the potential frequency and severity of losses
- ▶ Develop and select methods for managing risk
- ▶ Implement the risk management methods chosen
- ▶ Monitor the performance and suitability of risk management methods and strategies on an ongoing basis.

(Detailed explanations given in guide)

Risk management by individuals and corporations

► ASSIGNMENTQUESTION

Objectives of risk management

- ▶ To be consistent with corporate objectives of revenue and safety
- ▶ To provide good service to customers
- ▶ Initiate action to reduce or prevent risk and its consequences
- ▶ Minimise human costs of risk
- ▶ To meet statutory and legal obligations
- ▶ Minimise financial losses and claims
- ▶ Minimise the risks associated with new developments and activities.
- ▶ To be able to make informed decisions and make choices on possible outcomes.

Need for a rationale for risk management in org

► ASSIGNMENT QUESTION

Cost of risk

- ▶ We know the actual cost only ex-post. Ex-ante estimate of loss is done on the basis of
 - ▶ 1. expected loss
 - ▶ 2. cost of loss control
 - ▶ 3. cost of loss financing
 - ▶ 4. cost of internal risk reduction
 - ▶ 5. cost of any residual uncertainty that remains after 2,3,4 are implemented

Cost of risk

- ▶ 1. Expected loss = direct loss of the value of the asset + indirect losses arising out of the event. If a house is destroyed additional indirect losses occur because of hotel expenses, additional food expenses, additional travel costs etc. This is in addition to the direct loss of house.

If a factory is destroyed, then,

- ▶ direct loss is the value of the factory, cost of repair, cost of compensation, /claims, cost of defending liability claims.
- ▶ Indirect losses are:
 - Loss of normal profit,
 - Extra operating expenses
 - Higher costs of funds
 - Legal expenses and Bankruptcy costs
 - Foregone investments
 - Reorganisation and liquidating costs.

Cost of risk

► 2. cost of Loss control

Cost of actions that reduce the expected cost of loss by reducing the frequency of losses and/or the severity of losses.

eg: cost of testing facilities, lost profit because of limited distribution of defective goods.

► 3. cost of loss financing:

Cost of methods used to obtain funds to pay for losses or to offset losses that occur is called loss financing. This includes cost of maintaining reserve funds for self-insurance- tax on interest and opportunity cost, insurance premiums, transaction cost of arranging and negotiating and enforcing hedging arrangements and other risk transfers

Cost of risk

- ▶ 4. Cost of internal risk reduction methods:
- ▶ Transaction costs associated with achieving and managing diversification and cost of obtaining and analysing data to obtain more accurate cost forecasts. This may include consultancy costs of procuring more accurate data.
- ▶ 5. Cost of residual uncertainty:
- ▶ Cost of uncertainty left over after selecting and implementing loss control, loss financing, internal risk reduction is called cost of residual uncertainty. This increases the risk of business and increases the cost of holding that stock. Employees require higher wages.

Cost tradeoffs

- ▶ 1. Trade off between expected cost of direct/indirect loss and loss control costs
- ▶ 2. Tradeoff between expected cost of indirect loss and cost of loss financing /internal risk reduction
- ▶ 3. Tradeoff between cost of loss financing /internal risk reduction and cost of residual uncertainty.

An increase in the cost of one would reduce the cost of the other. Companies have to decide on the right mix of cost of each risk management tool.

Individual risk management and cost of risk

- ▶ Apart from pure risk under business risks, concept of risk management applies to individual risk management as well. An individual would consider expected loss (both direct and indirect) from accidents, loss prevention activities (driving less at night), loss reduction activities (buying insurance), cost of gathering weather information etc. An individual would also consider cost of residual uncertainty which depends upon the person's attitude towards risk.
- ▶ Amount of risk management undertaken by an individual depends upon degree of his risk aversion. Risk aversion is the tendency to choose alternative with lesser outcome variability. Eg: 100, -100 v/s 1000, -1000.
- ▶ Most people are risk averse. They are willing to pay to reduce risk (more insurance). They also need to be compensated for taking risk.

Risk management and societal welfare

- ▶ How to reduce the total aggregate cost of risk: cost of losses, cost of risk control, loss financing, internal risk reduction, and residual uncertainty.
- ▶ Minimising the cost of risk for the society: finding an efficient level of risk. Efficient level is where the marginal benefit of risk reduction equals the marginal cost of these methods.
- ▶ Maximising the value of resources with minimum cost of risk makes the economy more efficient.
- ▶ Differential insurance premia in the society (and differential taxes) works against maximisation of wealth to some extent.

Risk management and societal welfare

- ▶ Minimising the cost of risk for a business does not lead to minimising cost of risk to the society. It works adversely as the employees/contractors/suppliers etc get exposed to more risk. Therefore, the business must build in the social cost of risk into its own private cost of risk. (Total cost to society). Business value maximisation does not result in minimising total social cost to society.
- ▶ Regulation from the government legally takes care of the fact that businesses do not concentrate on reducing private cost to maximise profits which results in a higher risk to the society.