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Case Study: Wal-Mart Stores 1. Situational assessment 2. Wal-Mart is a very competitive company. The company is a retail store that provides general merchandise. Its primary competitors are Kmart, Costco, Soriana, commercial Mexicana, and giant tiger. Wal-Mart participates in a fair competition with other retail stores. Its management ensures the business abides by the government regulations. Though lack of government regulation would be advantageous to Wal-Mart, the store follows all the government conditions. They do not want to form monopolies and suppress other small competitors in the markets.   
3. The store felt the effect of slow economic growth. For example, in 2010 the company recorded low profits for the holiday quarter. The management blamed the sluggish global economy for the decrease in profits. Additionally, the Wal-Mart’s management argued that the cuts in food stamps would have a negative impact on the profits. They further singled out high taxation, reduce in government benefits, and tighter credit as threats to the store’s profits.   
4. The store evolves around with social trends. For instance, Wal-Mart’s top management has embraced online shopping. Additionally, the business goes in line with the customers’ demand for healthier foods. However, Wal-Mart did not embrace the use of technology early. The store’s founder, Sam Walton, did not care about technology. Currently, the store’s website is behind its competitors. Their marketing in the social media did not yield much success.   
5. The store has plans to cover any potential risk factors. The factors include the natural disasters that may happen in the future. Natural disasters include earthquakes and floods.   
SWOT analysis   
STRENGTHS   
Good in information systems   
Low cost of operations   
Wide range of goods and services   
International business   
Large scale of operations   
WEAKNESSES   
Lawsuits related to labor   
High employee turnover   
Poor public image   
Little differentiation   
OPPORTUNITIES   
Growing retail markets in emerging economies   
Rise in acceptance of own label products   
Trends towards healthy living   
Growth in online shopping   
THREATS   
Increase in competition especially from brick and mortar competitors.   
Increasing resistance from local communities   
Rising commodity prices   
Deteriorating global economy   
6. Problem statement   
The statement of the problem is how will Wal-Mart increase more sales with improvement the management did on operations?   
7. Alternatives   
The alternative is for the store to give the best customer experience to its customers and hire employees that would give better service to the customers. Additionally, they have to make their business more attractive by making classy colors inside the store. Furthermore, the store has to give low prices to their goods.   
8. Evaluation   
An improvement in the store’s public image will be a sign that they have improved the customer experience. If there will be an increase in the number of customers, it will be evident the store has reduced its prices and the goods are more affordable to all. A general rise in the profits will indicate the store has implemented all its alternatives.   
9. Analysis of alternatives   
The company will be in the right direction if it improves the customer experience. However, no one can fulfill human wants because they are insatiable. Additionally, a reduction in price in order to attract more customers would hurt the store’s profits.   
10. Recommendations   
The paper recommends the store to open more branches. It will make the store become more popular globally. The management should consider more convenient places to open branches to attract additional customers. An increase in branches will increase the sales.   
11. Action plan   
For the plan of action, the store has to look for investors. The investors will bring in capital that will open new branches. Additionally, it is important for the management to choose a convenient place to open branches. The store should hire more employees who would work in these stores.   
12. Contingency plan   
In case the action plan does not work; the store should form business collaborations with its competitors. It will help maximize the customer base and increase the number of sales. (Joy, 2013)   
References   
Joy, M. (2013). Extreme Makeovers Wal-mart Edition. Wal-mart case study, 1-20.