Capital Structure:

The capital structure is the particular combination of debt and equity used by a company to finance its overall operations and growth. Debt comes in the form of bond issues or loans, while equity may come in the form of common stock, preferred stock, or retained earnings. Short-term debt such as working capital requirements is also considered to be part of the capital structure.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Capital structure is how a company funds its overall operations and growth.
- Debt consists of borrowed money that is due back to the lender, commonly with interest expense.
- Equity consists of ownership rights in the company, without the need to pay back any investment.
- The Debt-to-Equity (D/E) ratio is useful in determining the riskiness of a company's borrowing practices.

Understanding Capital Structure:

Both debt and equity can be found on the balance sheet. Company assets, also listed on the balance sheet, are purchased with this debt and equity. Capital structure can be a mixture of a company's long-term debt, short-term debt, common stock, and preferred stock. A company's proportion of short-term debt versus long-term debt is considered when analyzing its capital structure.

When analysts refer to capital structure, they are most likely referring to a firm's debt-to-equity (D/E) ratio, which provides insight into how risky a company's borrowing practices are. Usually, a company that is heavily financed by debt has a more aggressive capital structure and therefore poses greater risk to investors. This risk, however, may be the primary source of the firm's growth.

Debt is one of the two main ways a company can raise money in the capital markets. Companies benefit from debt because of its tax advantages; interest payments made as a result of borrowing funds may be tax deductible. Debt also allows a company or business to retain ownership, unlike equity. Additionally, in times of low interest rates, debt is abundant and easy to access.

Equity allows outside investors to take partial ownership in the company. Equity is more expensive than debt, especially when interest rates are low. However, unlike debt, equity does not need to be paid back. This is a benefit to the company in the case of declining earnings. On the other hand, equity represents a claim by the owner on the future earnings of the company.

Gordon's Model

Definition: The **Gordon's Model**, given by Myron Gordon, also supports the doctrine that dividends are relevant to the share prices of a firm. Here the **Dividend Capitalization Model** is used to study the effects of dividend policy on a stock price of the firm.

Gordon's Model assumes that the investors are risk averse i.e. not willing to take risks and prefers certain returns to uncertain returns. Therefore, they put a premium on a certain return and a discount on the uncertain returns. The investors prefer current dividends to avoid risk; here the risk is the possibility of not getting the returns from the investments.

But in case, the company retains the earnings; then the investors can expect a dividend in future. But the future dividends are uncertain with respect to the amount as well as the time, i.e. how much and when the dividends will be received. Thus, an investor would discount the future dividends, i.e. puts less importance on it as compared to the current dividends.

According to the Gordon's Model, the market value of the share is equal to the present value of future dividends. It is represented as:

P = [E (1-b)] / Ke-br