


INF20028: Assignment 2

Group Dynamics Reflection

Group 2:

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Link to presentation video:  Asm2 INF Video.mp4

Transcript

1. Introduction

Minh: In this presentation, we would like to reflect upon and discuss the dynamic of our group to draw out our experiences and solutions towards building an effective group. Because this exercise can help us re-evaluate and leverage our learnt experience to better solve problems and engage in more refined communication as Stephen D 2017 argues, critical reflection helps us to take informed actions, develop a rationale for practice, ..., keep us fully engaged in work, model the democratic impulse, and increase trust.

2. Reflection

a. Introduction

Huy: Out of all the class activities our group performed, we believe that the marshmallow tower challenge was particularly important and decisively defined the concept of “group” for us. The process of forming a group, realizing each other’s roles and finally taking on the challenge has left us with a lot to reflect on, a process akin to that of Tuckman’s Stages of Group Development. First, we will be exploring group roles and how it affects a team’s dynamic, then, we will be on the marshmallow tower challenge. For the discussion of group roles I will bring you to Minh.

b. Role

Minh: When discussing the role in which each member plays, I would like to think that we are composed of the facilitator, initiator, critic, and compromiser (Canvas, 2024). While facilitator leads, initiator comes up with a solution, initiator and compromiser holds the group together and creates a cohesive mass. The combination of these elements creates a dynamic and effective group, which given the right circumstances, outperform anything an individual can achieve (Brown, 2001).

c. Marshmallow Tower reflection with Gibbs Reflective Cycle

Hai: Moving on to the main part of this presentation, I would like to reflect upon the most prominent challenge in the course with the help of the Gibb's reflective cycle.

Hai: As I remember about the challenge. We had to build the tallest tower of spaghetti with a limited amount of noodles and only use a marshmallow.

Hai: At first we felt excited and a bit nervous because I wasn't sure how to stand the tower would be to become the tallest.

Hai: We approached this task by first breaking down the requirements of the challenge. Applied the Agile strategy to develop our plan then we started to build the tower.

Hai: Communication within our group was great. We listened to each other's ideas and collaborated effectively. By applying Agile strategies, we fortified the tower, ensuring its strength extended from the steel base up to each floor.

Hai: With the contribution from each of us. We won the challenge, however, the tower looks very fragile and not very eye-catching as you can see here...

Hai: I can say the tower adapted to the requirement although we had a lack of resources.

Hai: Through this challenge, we learned that teamwork and adaptability are crucial in problem-solving, developing and getting achievement.

d. Challenge

Thy: Other than the marshmallow challenge, we also faced a couple of challenges while trying to get our weekly tasks done as a group. It seems like communication was the main issue, and it led to some other tricky situations. You know, good communication is key to making group stuff work smoothly.

Thy: In our team, we encounter various challenges while striving to accomplish tasks such as misunderstandings, unclear messages and sometimes lack of information. That's why we believe that communication significantly impacts our collaborative efforts.

Thy: To improve this situation for the upcoming assignments, I want to introduce the cognitive-affective model of organizational communication framework published by Dov Te'eni-the director of Bar-Ilan University.

Thy: This model outlines steps to optimize communication within the group. It comprises three key perspectives: action, relationships and choice, in which that communication plays a central role and is often considered the foundation for most activities.

Thy: Following these criteria allows us to channel the most effective communication techniques, improve understanding, and increase our collective productivity.

3. Conclusion

Huy: In conclusion, this reflective exercise has allowed us to delve into our group dynamics and experiences, particularly focusing on the marshmallow tower challenge. Through the exploration of roles, analyzing the marshmallow tower, we have gained valuable insights and identified areas for growth and improvement in our group dynamics. By applying these learnings, we aim to build a more effective and cohesive group in our future endeavors.

References

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