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**Course:** SOEN 6841 (Software Project Management)

**Journal URL:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14N5d6GxNLMIZPKXzIVcxOQ2LopnyeFDg/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114831848354758574535&rtpof=true&sd=true>

**Dates Rage of activities:** 10th September – 16th September

**Date of the journal:** 21st September

**Key Concepts Learned:**

**Introduction to Project Management:** Focuses on managing resources, time, and budget efficiently.

**Project Phases:** Include Initiation, Planning, Monitoring & Control, and Closure.

**Project Initiation Tasks:** Involves scheduling, charter creation, defining scope and objectives, estimating effort and costs.

**Project Development Initiation Tasks:** Includes market analysis, development cost estimation, feature selection, channels, delivery methods, and final product or service planning.

**Waterfall Model:** A traditional linear project management methodology.

**Metrics Characteristics:** Should be relevant, meaningful, practical, calibrated, and aligned with the activity level.

**Project Charter:** Created by top management to define timelines and allocate human resources.

**Project Scope:** Establishes the project’s boundaries, quality standards, and function points.

**Project Objectives:** Aims to improve customer satisfaction from 92% to 99.5%.

**Effort and Cost Estimates:** Focuses on measuring human resources in terms of time.

**Key Roles:** Include the customer, expert, and service provider, all contributing to project success.

**SMART Objectives:** Goals should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

**Application in Real Projects:**

This week’s concepts, including project characteristics, SDLC, and the Waterfall model, offer valuable frameworks for improving real-world project management. By defining SMART objectives, teams can set clear, measurable goals, while understanding scope and effort estimation ensures better resource allocation and cost control. The structured phases of the Waterfall model can be beneficial in projects with well-defined requirements, helping to avoid scope creep. One challenge may be accurately predicting time and costs, especially in complex projects, but using these tools provides structure and helps mitigate risks. The benefits include more efficient project tracking, optimized use of resources, better communication, and increased likelihood of meeting both deadlines and customer satisfaction goals.

**Peer Interactions:**

This week’s chats with my peers were really insightful. We discussed effort estimation and how tricky it can be to balance time and resources, especially when project requirements change. One peer shared how they break tasks into smaller parts to stay flexible, which sparked a great conversation. We also debated Waterfall vs. Agile, with some preferring Agile’s adaptability and others valuing Waterfall’s structure. It was fun hearing different perspectives and realizing there’s no perfect method, it all depends on the project.

**Challenges Faced:**

This week, I found effort and cost estimation to be particularly challenging, especially in understanding how to accurately predict resources for complex projects. Balancing time, budget, and scope requires more practice and insight. Additionally, fully grasping the Waterfall model and when to apply it effectively, compared to more flexible approaches like Agile, felt a bit unclear at times. I also need to spend more time on understanding the intricacies of project initiation tasks, such as creating detailed schedules and effort estimates, to ensure better project planning.

**Personal Development Activities:**

This week, I focused on improving my project management skills by taking an online course on Agile methodologies. The course gave me a deeper understanding of Agile practices and how to apply them in real-world scenarios, especially in dynamic environments where flexibility is key. I also practiced using tools like Jira to manage project tasks more effectively. Additionally, I spent time reading about effort estimation techniques, which helped clarify some of the challenges I encountered during my studies. These activities were really beneficial in enhancing both my knowledge and practical skills in project management.

**Goals for the Next Week:**

My main focus for the upcoming week is to build a deeper understanding of the key concepts I’m working on. I plan to address any challenging areas by exploring various resources and clarifying difficult points. Alongside this, I’ll prioritize preparing for our scheduled Group Discussion session, ensuring that tasks are clearly distributed between the two groups of two members. I’ll review the task allocation to ensure everyone’s responsibilities are balanced and aligned with our project timeline, setting clear performance goals for the team to stay on track.