

LECTURE SESSION SIX

FUNDAMENTALS OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Lecture Outline

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6.1 Introduction

Welcome to this sixth lecture in project management. In this lecture, we shall explain the meaning of a project and project management. As we explain this term, we shall gain an understanding of project management skill that are necessary to implement a project.



6.2 Learning Outcomes

At the end of this lecture, you should be able to:

- i. Define Project Management
- ii. Explain the need for Project Management
- iii. Discuss project Management Skills

6.3 Project Management

Project is a **temporary** endeavor undertaken to create a **unique** product or service.

- Projects are unique.
- Projects are temporary in nature and have a definite beginning and end date.
- Projects are completed when the project goals are achieved or it is determined the project is no longer viable.
- A successful project is one that meets or exceeds the expectations of your stakeholders.

Program management involves centrally managing and coordinating groups of related projects to meet the objectives of the program. In some cases, Project Management is a subset of Program Management. The project manager may report to the program manager in such cases

Let us start our discussion by asking ourselves this question.



Question 1: List the various stages/phases of basic characteristics of a project time.

Wonderful! You will realize that the tasks are so many and sometimes you failed to complete the tasks as the specifications of the owner. Project Management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to project activities to meet project requirements.

Project management is accomplished through the use of the processes such as:

- Initiating
- Planning
- Executing
- Monitor and Controlling
- Closing

**Take Note**

Project managers or the organization can divide projects into above phases to provide better management control with appropriate links to the ongoing operations of the performing organization. Collectively, these phases are known as the project life cycle.

Having looked at the meaning of project management, we shall now turn our attention to benefits of project management.

6.4 Need for Project Management

We need project management to manage projects effectively and drive them to success. Project Management starts with the decision to start a project upon weighing its need and viability. Once a project starts, it is crucial to watch the project progress at every step so as to ensure it delivers what all is required, in the stipulated time, within the allocated budget.

The drivers that influence the need of project management include:

- Exponential expansion of human knowledge
- Global demand for goods and services
- Global competition
- Team is required to meet the demand with quality and standard.

- Improved control over the project
- Improved performance
- Improved budget and quality



Activity

Explain why project management is important in delivery of projects objectives.

Well done. You have understood the importance of project management. Let us now discuss p project Management Skills

6.5 Project Management Skills:

Many of the tools and techniques for managing projects are specific to project management. However, effective project management requires that the project management team acquire the following three dimensions of project management competencies:

- **Project Management Knowledge Competency:** This refers to what the project management team knows about project management.
- **Project Management Performance Competency:** This refers to what the project management team is able to do or accomplish while applying their project management knowledge.
- **Personal Competency:** This refers to how the project management team behaves when performing the project or activity.

Interpersonal Skills Management:

The management of interpersonal relationships includes:

- **Effective communication:** The exchange of information
- **Influencing the organization:** The ability to "get things done"

- **Leadership:** Developing a vision and strategy, and motivating people to achieve that vision and strategy
- **Motivation:** Energizing people to achieve high levels of performance and to overcome barriers to change
- **Negotiation and conflict management:** Conferring with others to come to terms with them or to reach an agreement
- **Decision Making:** Ability to take decision independently.
- **Political and cultural awareness:** Important to handle various personal and professional issues.
- **Team Building:** Ability to create a productive team.



6.6 Summary

We have come to the end of lecture six. This lecture laid the background management of projects defining the term project management.



6.7 Review Activity

1. Explain the meaning of project management
2. Explain the benefits that accrue to project owner who apply project management skill
3. List the various project management skill



6.8 References and Further Reading

Desai, V. & Potter, R. (2014). *The Companion to Development Studies*. (3rd Ed.). London: Routledge. ISBN-13:978-1444167245.