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Course: SOEN-6841 (SOFTWARE PROJECT MANAGEMENT)

Journal URL: https://github.com/Sasikiran-31/SOEN-6841-40267002

Chapters Covered (1 to 4)

Dates Range of activities: [01-16-25 to 01-27-25]

Date of the Journal: [01-28-2025]

Learning Journal - 1

1. Key Concepts Learned:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction to Software Project Management**
  Key processes include initiation, planning, execution, monitoring, control, and closure. The project manager plays a critical role in leadership, stakeholder communication, and decision-making.
- **Chapter 2: Project Initiation Management**
  A feasibility study ensures technical, operational, and financial viability. A project charter formalizes objectives, stakeholders, risks, and resources.
- **Chapter 3: Software Project Effort and Cost Estimation**
  Effort estimation techniques include Function Point Analysis, Wide Band Delphi, and COCOMO. Accurate cost estimation and resource scheduling are essential for project success.
- **Chapter 4: Risk Management**
  Key risks include budget, schedule, resources, quality, and technology. Risk identification, analysis, and mitigation are crucial for successful project outcomes.

2. Application in Real Projects

- **Practical Implications**:
  - **Chapter 1**: Understanding the basics of project management is crucial for aligning project goals with business objectives.
  - **Chapter 2**: Initiating a project effectively ensures stakeholder alignment and avoids delays.
  - **Chapter 3**: Accurate effort and cost estimation help in resource allocation and budget planning.
  - **Chapter 4**: Proactively managing risks reduces project disruptions.
- **Challenging Component**: Innovative application involves integrating AI-based tools for cost estimation and risk prediction to enhance efficiency.

3. Peer Interactions/ Collaboration:

- **Discussion Insights**: Engaged in discussions about challenges in cost estimation and risk identification.
- **Feedback and Growth**: Feedback from peers helped refine my understanding of COCOMO models and their practical applications.
- **Breakthroughs**: Collaboration highlighted the importance of considering cultural factors in global projects.

4. Challenges Faced

- **Effort Estimation Techniques**: Difficulty in selecting the most suitable technique for different scenarios.
- **Risk Categorization**: Struggled with identifying overlapping risks.
- **Solutions**: Researched additional resources and consulted peers to address gaps.

5. Personal Development Activities

- **Learning Tools**: Used tools like Microsoft Project and JIRA to practice effort estimation and risk tracking.
- **Professional Growth**: Attended a webinar on "Advanced Risk Management in Agile Projects."
- **Reflection**: These activities provided hands-on experience and enhanced my understanding of project management tools.

6. Goals for the Next Week

- **Immediate Goals**:
  - Practice Function Point Analysis with real-world datasets.
  - Create a mock project initiation plan including a project charter and risk management framework.
- **Long-Term Goals**:
  - Develop expertise in agile project management.
  - Explore advanced cost estimation techniques like Monte Carlo simulations.