Learning Journal
Software Project Management

Student Name: Snehil Sharma
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Key Concepts Learnt:

Chapter 4:

1. An **unexpected and unwanted** situation which could disturb the normal flow of project in a negative way can be considered as a risk to the project.
2. Risks can be in the form of **budget** assigned to the project, **timely** delivery of project, **quality** of product getting delivered or **resources** assigned to the project.
3. It is always better to do risk assessment at the **beginning** of the project by the project manager.
4. There are designated teams which work on **identifying** the risks on the project, **prioritize** those risks, **analyze**, and eventually **mitigate** those risks.
5. The skills of the developers who are going to work on the product are not always up to the mark. There is ample amount of time and resources required to train them.
6. Keeping **buffers** in terms of time, resources and most importantly budget is very crucial from the perspective of project manager.
7. Most of the times lack of skills in developers, lack of time or **over commitment** decreases the quality of project and contributes more to the risks being severe.
8. There is not fixed time when will the risk occur. They can occur **at any time** throughout the project creation; however, it becomes important to have proper plans for risk mitigation.

Application in Real Projects:

1. The **proactive** approach is very beneficial in software industry rather than letting the risk to occur at later point of time which can even lead to closure of software project.
2. Companies understand that in real-world no developer can learn every technology, hence they make partnerships with online learning platforms from where developers can gain knowledge.
3. **Inclusion of** automation frameworks and testing user stories helps to improve quality and reduces the risk of product quality being low at the time of delivery of project.

4. There is a huge **importance of controlling attrition** in the organizations as most of the times employees working on the project leaves the organization which puts the pressure on other team members.

Peer Interactions:

1. Interacted with many new classmates who were having different products and had a fruitful discussion about the topics and how do they think of the **market of the products** they are working on.
2. One of the points raised by a colleague that keeping buffers in between development cycles of quality control, removing technical debt improves the **longevity** of the product.
3. Fruitful discussion with professor that it is not only about the type of features that one can build in their product rather it is also about the **profits** that can be obtained by implementing the most important features.

Challenges Faced:

1. Is risk transfer or in other words distributing your workload on some party vendor is really a good idea from project manager's perspective?
2. How to **prioritize** risks? What if two scenarios which can cause risk are independent of each-other?
3. Team sync-up specially when everyone is involved in different courses is very difficult in case of project management at university level.

Personal development activities:

1. Market analysis of wedding planning project and innovative ideas shared with the teammates.
2. Read the impact of failure to deliver the product on time.
3. Read the articles analyzing the trade-offs between increasing the product budget or decreasing the number of features.

Goals for the Next Week:

1. Explore the platforms where wedding planning happens across Canada.
2. Analyze the products and figure out the features that can improve user experience and can generate **high revenue**.
3. Explore projects which were about to shutdown because of huge impact of risks and poor strategies of risk mitigation.
4. Read articles of some popular standard practices that project managers can follow for risk prevention.

References:

1. Ahmed, A. (2012). *Software project management: a process-driven approach*. CRC Press. Retrieved January 22, 2024, from https://concordiauniversity.on.worldcat.org/oclc/774289078