**Student Name:** Thansil Mohamed S

**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** https://github.com/ThansilMohamedS/SPM

**Dates Rage of activities:** 16/01/2025 to 23/01/2025

**Date of the journal:** 28/01/2025

**Key Concepts Learned:**

Software Project Management involves planning, organizing, and overseeing software development projects to ensure they meet objectives within scope, time, and budget constraints. Project charter basically defines the purpose for starting the project. It defines what is needed i.e the final result of the project. The scope includes what functionalities are needed in the software product to be developed. It will also define level of quality needed in the software product. The scope includes what functionalities are needed in the software product to be developed. It will also define level of quality needed in the software product.

**Project’s budget estimation is one of the key activities to be performed during project initiation.** Risk management is crucial, identifying potential threats such as technical failures, budget overruns, or schedule delays. Risk response strategies comprises of avoidance, mitigation, transfer, and acceptance aides in minimizing disruptions.

Good teamwork and clear communication with stakeholders are key to completing a project successfully. When companies use best practices like strong CM, risk management, and well-planned workflows, they can avoid costly mistakes, keep software quality high, and quickly adapt to changes.

**Application in Real Projects:**

Every concepts that we learned can be directly applied in real life. Whatever project that we decide to do upon requires a well structured plan and a scope of what is needed of the assignment. While working in a group it would be easier for everyone to be at the same page with well defined plan and flow of work. The effort and cost estimation techniques where we compared it to a similar past project, made planning more accurate. Risk assessment gives a proper mechanism to tackle the problems that we might face. Tommorow’s problems can be identified and errors can be cleared in prior making it more efficient.

**Peer Interactions:**

Engaging with peers throughout the learning process enhances understanding and application of project management concepts. Discussing project initiation with classmates helped me see how different teams approach defining a Project Charter and setting SMART objectives. Some peers focused more on stakeholder alignment, while others prioritized scope clarity, reinforcing the idea that real-world projects require balancing multiple factors.

Learning from different viewpoints can refine our project management skills and give us different perspective when combining multiple ideas from different people. Each person has their own ideas which result in a well defined and a strong project.

**Challenges Faced:**

Me and my friends faced lots of issues and problems studying together and we had different approaches. One of the biggest challenges in project management is estimating effort and cost accurately. When working on software projects, it’s difficult to predict exactly how much time and resources will be needed. Sometimes, a task seems simple at first but ends up requiring more effort due to unexpected complications. Predicting a big task might not always be right and if you make a slight mistake, the entire plan collapses and changes.

Another major challenge is managing risks. Every project has uncertainties, but not identifying risks early can lead to serious problems. I also learned that team coordination and communication also present challenges. In group projects, different members have different working styles, which can slow down progress if roles are not clearly defined and if both doesn’t have an open minded approach.

**Personal Development Activities:**

To develop my understanding in the course as I enrolled late, I had to watch multiple videos to get a deep understanding of the subject. A youtube channel called ProjectManager help me understand the basics that were required and the risk analysis was the most major topic that I mastered from that. I also track my activities and have a to do list that I had to complete. The last two days, I dedicated my entire time studying every minor and major concept in order to get in track spending more than 10 hours in the past two days.

**Goals for next week:**

Improve my knowledge in whatever I have learnt and exploring further topics to understand the practical application.

Refining my skills in effort estimation.

Investigating the pros and cons of iterative and waterfall models in order to enhance my learning.

Utilise tools like Jira to get a visualised idea of how it works.