**Learning Journal**

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**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** https://github.com/aleenabudhathoki/SOEN6841/blob/main/LJ1.docx

**Dates Rage of activities:** 9 Sept – 21 Sept

**Date of the journal:** 21 September 2024

**Key Concepts Learned**

* We learned what a project is and what makes it different from other jobs and activities, also what makes software projects different from other projects
* Resources are allocated for a duration. After the closure of the project all

resources should be released.

* Project consumes time, resources and budget.
* Project phases include project initiation, planning, monitoring and control, and project closure
* The different phases of project management align with different steps of software development lifecycle.
* Project charter, made by the top management, includes all information related to project such as the scope, objectives, duration, budget and so on.
* We also learned how project scope is different from project objective, where scope defines the boundaries and objectives should be SMART.
* We can use experience-based techniques or algorithmic cost modeling to determine the for effort and cost estimation.
* Some popular experience-based techniques include estimation by analogy and estimation by expert judgement where both of these have their pros and cons.

**Application in Real Projects:**

* Project initiation and planning is necessary so that the software features developed will be well within the scope of the project and determine that we don’t miss our deadlines.
* Work break-down structure (WBS) is very important for resource planning and estimation of

the overall project.

* Individuals completing their specific tasks will eventually lead to the team completing their objectives.

**Peer Interactions:**

* I had a discussion with my classmate about how we can differentiate between the scope and objective in a project. With this, I came to an understanding that scope defines what we can include or what not to include in a project whereas objective defines what we aim to achieve at the end of the project.
* We also discussed about the most important characteristics a project manager should have but we had different opinions about this, as for me, its communication but for her it was leadership skills. So, we can say that a project manager should have many such skills to be successful.

**Challenges Faced:**

I think estimating cost is one of the main challenges that I faced till now. Cost estimation is very subjective because of different capability of different individuals. Also, there may be various risk factors like changing the said individuals in the middle of the project. How accurate is cost estimation or how we can handle things like missed deadline, damage etc. So how is cost estimation handled in these different scenarios?

**Personal development activities:**

I tried to analyze how the software project management activities fit into a payroll application that I am currently working on. How the scope and objectives are defined on a large project, and how accurate can be the cost estimation.

**Goal for the Next Week:**

* Better understand how software project management phases align with actual agile projects.
* Understand how cost estimation considers various risk factors.