|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristics** | **Agile approach** | **Traditional approach** |
| Organizational structure | Iterative | Linear |
| Scale of projects | Small and medium scale | Large-scale |
| User requirements | Interactive input | Clearly defined before implementation |
| Involvement of clients | High | Low |
| Development model | Evolutionary delivery | Life cycle |
| Customer involvement | Customers are involved from the time work is being performed | Customers get involved early in the project but not once the execution has started |
| Escalation management | When problems occur, the entire team works together to resolve it | Escalation to managers when problem arise |
| Model preference | Agile model favors adaption | Traditional model favors anticipation |
| Product or process | Less focus on formal and directive processes | More serious about processes than the product |
| Test documentation | Comprehensive test planning | Tests are planned one sprint at a time |
| Effort estimation | Scrum master facilitates and the team does the estimation | Project manager provides estimates and gets approval from PO for the entire project |
| Reviews and approvals | Reviews are done after each iteration | Excessive reviews and approvals by leaders |

**Difference Between DSDM and Traditional Approach**

**DSDM Addresses Key Project Problems**

A common mistake made when transitioning to Agile is to use the iterative and incremental way of working but constraining it by applying an overall Waterfall project lifecycle. The most common example is where iterative and incremental timeboxed development follows on from traditional analysis and design steps in the waterfall and is followed by a traditional testing step. Whilst this may appear at the team level to be Agile and is probably more efficient than a big poorly controlled block of development activity, it fails to exploit the full potential of early delivery of real business value and does not mitigate the risks associated with inadequate business engagement.

DSDM does just enough work up front to ensure clarity of objectives and to provide a foundation for solution development. This foundation is agreed before breaking the project down into Increments and within that to Timeboxes, ensuring the appropriate elements of detailed analysis, design, build and test at each level. Active engagement of business roles in the detail of development ensures the right solution evolves. This, in combination with the limited up-front work creates a truly Agile way of delivering benefits to the business.