**Learning Journal Template**

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**Course:** SOEN 6841 - Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** [**https://github.com/mihirgediya2001/spm\_2024**](https://github.com/mihirgediya2001/spm_2024)

**Week 3-4:** 23/09/2024 – 04/10/2024

**Date of the journal:** 05/10/2024

**Key Concepts Learned**

* Software projects are effort-driven and rely on accurate estimation techniques.
* Experience-based and algorithmic cost modelling are crucial for project estimation.
* Function Point Analysis provides a consistent measure of software functionality.
* Risk management involves identifying, analysing, and mitigating risks.
* Risk response strategies include acceptance, avoidance, transference, and mitigation.
* Top-down and bottom-up planning strategies offer different ways to approach project estimates and tasks.

**Application in Real Projects**

* Accurate effort estimation is essential for setting realistic project goals and allocating resources efficiently.
* Experience-based estimation by analogy helps forecast costs for new projects based on historical data.
* Function Point Analysis is useful in evaluating user requirements and setting functionality benchmarks for software projects.
* Identifying and mitigating risks early on ensures smoother project execution and minimizes disruptions.
* A structured approach to planning, like top-down or bottom-up strategies, is key to managing large and complex software projects.

**Peer Interactions**

* Discussed the challenges of applying experience-based and algorithmic techniques with peers during group discussions.
* Shared insights on using estimation by analogy for software projects and its practical advantages.
* Engaged in collaborative exercises on Function Point Analysis to improve understanding of software measurement.
* Brainstormed potential risks in software projects and discussed response strategies for effective risk management.
* Collaborated with peers to compare top-down and bottom-up planning techniques in managing project costs and schedules.
* Reviewed case studies with peers on successful risk mitigation approaches in software projects.

**Challenges Faced**

* Difficulty in fully understanding the practical application of algorithmic cost modelling in dynamic project environments.
* Struggled to attribute accurate values to parameters in quantitative models for risk estimation.
* Learning to balance the trade-offs between top-down and bottom-up planning approaches for complex projects.
* Difficulty in applying Function Point Analysis to unfamiliar or rapidly changing project requirements.
* Encountered challenges in forecasting the potential impact of specific risks during project planning.
* Needed further clarification on how to adapt traditional project management techniques in Agile environments.

**Personal Development Activities**

* Explored additional resources on algorithmic cost modelling to strengthen understanding of estimation techniques.
* Reviewed real-world examples and case studies on successful risk management in software projects.
* Studied various project planning methodologies, particularly top-down and bottom-up strategies, to enhance personal knowledge.
* Attended seminars on risk management methodologies to better understand proactive response strategies.
* Engaged in self-paced learning modules on estimation and planning techniques to improve application in future projects.

**Goals for the Next Week**

* Deepen understanding of algorithmic cost modelling by seeking additional practical examples.
* Explore case studies where risk management played a crucial role in project success.
* Research how Function Point Analysis can be applied to Agile projects.
* Engage with peers in a mini-project to apply top-down and bottom-up planning strategies.
* Review Agile methodologies and risk mitigation strategies to bridge traditional and modern project management techniques.