Module 1: The Challenge

By

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**1.0 Overview of the Project**

The project was intended for accelerated skill development in Excel, mainly in presentation and analysis. There were two parts, which were the Outcomes based on Launch Date Chart and Outcomes based on Goals chart. Both required reading and understanding of Excel. The first question was the outcomes based on launch chart. The project is set up in a Venture Capital environment where outcomes are evaluated based on launch date and goals. Venture Capital portfolios will have some successful companies and some not so successful ventures. The project on the second part focused on the success rate or percentages of success and failure. Tables in Q2 will show this data.All ventures are not successful, but the overall portfolio is a success story.

**2.0 Analysis and Challenges**

The project was challenging in the sense, the commands were new. Excel has a wide array of options, and people can make a career as an Excel expert. Our focus was to use these commands effectively to demonstrate the value of this study. In a real live investment scenario, options are given to make choices to fund the project, delay it and/or drop it. In the first part Outcomes were plotted against time. It was shown that the May is the highest month for success. Although it is apparent, why a particular month may be more suitable than others, however our data provided that evidence. In the second part of the problem, Outcomes versus goals, provided an insight that some investments may yield no results because they were either too small or ill thought out. Anyway, our effort was not to analyze the project as a business proposition, but to learn the skills to do such work. It was an educational endeavor.

The challenges were many, but some of the challenges were time, and poor communications. In an in-person class this would not have occurred, but with background COVID-19 and technical difficulties, we did very well. The data set was reasonably good, but for the second question, there were gaps in the outcomes of positive results. For a modest investment, there was no success, and in some cases there were only failures and cancellations. Then other hand, when one looks at the plays, they are always successful. Initially, I started to do the analysis with the plays, but soon found out there were no failures, so it would be a very bland analysis. In the second question, the data set could not have zero success for some values. In a graph, with zero value, the graph will come down. The independent variable was the goals and the dependent variable was performance (positive outcomes or successes) in percentages. For some investment value, the outcomes were not positive and for others there were no failures.

In terms of learning commands, in particular the COUNTIF and COUNTIFS to sort out it was a little challenging because both commands are the same but are applied differently. They count the occurrences within a constraint set by the command. They are used to group data.

The challenge is an appropriate word for this exercise, as it stretched out both physical and learning endurance.

**3.0 Results**

- What are two conclusions you can draw about the Outcomes based on Launch Date?

Based on the graph, it shows a lot of activity in the summer, but no activity after Christmas. Normally the Success Rate is higher than the failure rate, but towards the end they seem to meet.

There is a break in cancellation between September and November. This suggests that there is little or no activity by years end.

- What can you conclude about the Outcomes based on Goals?

The Outcomes Graph shows very successful launches for under $1000. Normally, more money makes the venture profitable. This maybe an example of microfinance. The failures and success seem to be equally divided, so this graph is not a selling tool for investment. Crisscrossing of line would erode investor confidence.

- What are some limitations of this dataset?

The dataset has zero value at $40,000 to $50,000. Secondly it is fluctuating, creating uncertainty in investments.

- What are some other possible tables and/or graphs that we could create?

Graphs and Statistics are created for a purpose. If we want to attract capital, we must show return on investment and solid gains. The graph has to be steady. If it has large standard deviation, the stock becomes a suspect.