**Week 1 Discussion Post**

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Strategic Application in Project Management

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# Lessons Summary

In Chapter 1 of the book by (Larson, 2020), several important concepts, methods, and terms are introduced to provide the basic understanding of modern project management. These include the topics such as significance of project management in today's world, differentiating projects from routine operations, the stages of a project life cycle and Agile project management.

Significance of Project Management: This chapter emphasizes the crucial role of project management in today's world. It discusses how business leaders and industry experts recognize project management as the medium to have a sustainable economic growth, job creation, and competitive advantage by means of constant innovation.

Distinguishing Projects from Routine Operations: While routine operations provide goods and services and sustain the world population, it is crucial to understand the difference between projects and routine operations. Projects are unique, temporary endeavors with specific objectives, while routine operations are ongoing, repetitive activities aimed at sustaining the business.

Stages of a Project Life Cycle: The next important thing discussed is the project life cycle. The different stages of a project life cycle and an overview of the typical phases a project progresses through, from start(initiation) to closure. Understanding these stages is essential for effective project execution.

Agile Project Management: This chapter also touches upon the latest trends in the project management, namely the concept of Agile project management. The differences of Agile project management from traditional project management is discussed. Agile project management is known for its flexibility and adaptability in managing projects with a high degree of uncertainty, making it a valuable approach in today's ever changing dynamic business environment.

Balancing Technical and Sociocultural Dimensions: While managing projects involves balancing the technical aspects, such as planning, budgeting, and resource allocation. The impact of project management on the sociocultural dimensions should also be kept in consideration. This entails that the project manager has a good understanding of the role of leadership, team dynamics, stakeholder management, and working across cultures. All of these factors significantly impact the success of a project.

I believe the concepts, methods, and terms introduced in chapter one by (Larson, 2020) are crucial for anyone aspiring to work in the field of project management.

# Graduate Level Response

A simple internet search has shown the multitude of marvels that humans have created. In the past 50 years, there are multitude of marvels that signify the project managements successes. I would like to bring forward the following as the most significant projects that have touched every person on the planet.

**International Space Station :** The international space station that was created with the collaboration of multiple countries to push forward the limits of human knowledge by exploring space and the space agencies of different countries (United States, Russia, Europe, Japan, and Canada) worked together to develop, maintain and upgrade the space station. (*International Space Station - NASA*, n.d.) discusses the advantages to humanity by this collaborative effort.

**Large Hadron Collider:** This is another science related mega project built by the European organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). It has a 27 kilometre circumference and is located approximately 152 meters below the earth surface. This entire collider is decked with active magnets, that can accelerate sub-atomic particles close to the speed of light and then the particles are allowed to collide to create an environment of how the universe has started. This is a collaborative effort by more than 10,000 scientists from 100 countries. (CERN, 2019) and (Wikipedia Contributors, 2019) discuss the benefits that humanity has continued to reap from the creation of this mega project.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Development:** The most recent mega project, that was an undertaking of many pharmaceutical companies in response to a very disastrous pandemic situation that has bought the world to a stand still for more than a year. The project to create a vaccine to reduce the effect of COVID-19 is a marvellous project and the testament to the best practices of project management. (*History of COVID-19 Vaccine Development*, 2021) discusses the various milestones achieved during the course of vaccine development in a very time sensitive duration.

# References

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