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 Student’s Profile

 **Project Planning & Management.**

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##

## Introduction

What is project? Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines a project as-an important and carefully planned piece of work that is intended to build or produce something new.

From this simple definition, we can see that a project, apart from being important, should be carefully planned so as to produce something.

When talking of project planning and management, it is important to first understand what is project planning because it after planning the project then you manage it. (MOSES) Defined project planning as part of project management, which relates to the use of schedules to plan subsequently report progress.

In this case project’s scope is defined and appropriate methods for completing the project are determined. Duration for the various tasks necessary to complete the work are listed and grouped into a work breakdown structure.

To my understand, in order to deliver a successfully project, you must plan your project to be able to organize different areas of project, such as project plan, workload and the Management of teams.

According Dr. Jacob, Director of project and planning Nile Petroleum Corporation, the logical dependencies between tasks are defined using an activity network diagram that enables identification of critical path. Adding that project planning must be done before the project is actually started.



Therefore, the duration of the tasks is often estimated through a weighted an average of optimistic normal, and pessimistic cases.

In the planning to anticipate potential delays in project execution. The schedule can be calculated using project management software.

Personally I believed in order to have successful project, one must dream of how he/she want final product look like. Example, when we were constructing our house, we sat down with my husband and decide what kind of the house we want and how many rooms should it have, and when should it be completed.

After having the idea of what we wanted, then we approached the engineer to come up with design and cost of each level of project, such as cost of foundation, wall, roofing and much more.

In this stage the necessary resources can be estimated and costs for each activity can be allocated to each resource, giving the total project cost.

(MOSES) Stated project schedule may optimize to achieve the appropriate balance between resources usage and project duration to comply with the project objectives.

Once established and agreed, the project schedule becomes what is known as the baseline schedule. Progress will be measured against the baseline schedule throughout the life of the project.

Analyzing progress compared to the baseline schedule is known as earned value management.

Project management is the planning, organizing, directing and controlling of resources for a relatively short-term objective that has been earlier established to complete specific goals. Project management comes in handy to provide much needed expertise.

According to (Jacob, 2022) every project must have objectives and one of the objective is completion time.

Most projects, when formulated, have completion times. Normal football match lasts for about 90 minutes. It is the duty of the referee to ensure that the football match is completed within the set time. Most public sector projects even at the time they awarded or initiated always have a time frame attached to them.

For example Nile Petroleum Corporation (NILEPET) – South Sudan national oil company awarded contract of building its headquarter to Chinese company. The duration was to be three years but unfortunately the project is still not complete even after five years.

This forced government to reappoint the former Managing Director of NILEPET; because the existing Managing Director was not focusing on the project e.g. failure to pay the contractor the agreed installment., Which led to delay .With this example it is worth mentioning that delay in project completion can be from either side.

Another point to note about completion time of project is that completion or delivery of agreed project will not please the sponsor of a project.

Another important objective is performance; all projects have objectives that they set out to achieve. For example, a public hospital project should have the objective of providing safe and affordable healthcare to the community. Apart from the performance objective, most projects have a quality objective

 All projects involve financial outlays. The financial outlays (expenditure attached to a project are usually controlled by the budget. The budget sets a limit as to the quality of funds a project can consume.



## Discussion

Project Management Institute (PMI) defines project management as ‘’ the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to project activities to meet the project requirements.

A basic Project management lifecycle covers four stages.

1. Initiation
2. Planning
3. Execution
4. Closure

(Jacob, 2022) From the onset, it will be necessary to stress that many projects are very complex in nature. The complexities may be introduced by the nature of technology required to execute the project. A good example is a census project, which is one of the most difficult and complex projects that public sector managers may face. Also, managing the national elections.

Most projects such as we mentioned might require elements of critical risks and uncertainty. For example, how do we predict what will happen next year? Even if we could predict the political future with a measure of certainty, predicting the moment of prices and costs of materials involve a lot of risks and uncertainty.

In all cases therefore, we would say that the purpose of project management is to foresee the future and associated problems and therefore, plan, organize and control the key activities so that project are complete successfully and on time too.

If we see project management from that perspective, it follows logically that project management starts even before financial resources are committed and lasts until the completion of the project.

According to lucidchart.ccom the main purpose of project management is to plan and manage a project to successfully complete its listed goals and deliverables.



A good project manage is important since it holds project together and ensures quality and objectives are met on time and on budget.

According to Project Management Institute (PMI), organizations that under value project management report an average of 50% more of their projects failing.

With those facts, it worth mentioning that project management is more than simply tracking deadline and setting a budget. It is therefore a role of a good project manager to take control of a project from beginning to end, ensuring that the initiatives and goals are strategically aligned, the project has stakeholder support and everyone is on the same page.

PMI found that organizations using any type of project management methodology are better at meeting budget, staying on schedule and meeting scope, quality standards and expected benefits.



2) Discuss five tangible projects you may find in a new emerging city.

(MOSES) Outlined that tangible projects are those projects whose output are tangible and can be seen with the naked eye.

From the definition, it is easy to identify tangible project even by looking a round us.

The following are good example of tangible project.

1. **Hospital building project.**

This to my understanding can be classifieds under tangible project.

There will be need for procurement of land. There will also be need for architects to design the hospital. There will be need for structural engineers, civil and building engineers and electrical engineers.

Different types of equipment will be sourced for e.g. X-RAY machines, laboratory equipment, etc. to equip the hospital.

1. **A Mike manufacturing plant**

There will be need for procurement of land. There will also be need for architects to design the mike manufacture plant. There will be need for structural engineers, civil and building engineers and electrical engineers.

1. **A water borehole project**

This will go through the process of purchase of the land or if it is for the community then the land will be identify. There will be need for drilling company to be contracted to do the work.

1. **School project.**

I happened to witness a project of school construction in my area, where the land was purchase next to my house. They then went a head to give contract to the engineer I knew. After the construction, they acquire all the items necessary to operate the school, and hire the teachers.

1. **Play ground project**

This will also go the process of acquiring the land. The architects design and structural engineers civil and building engineers. After that they will purchase equipment.

Having outlined the example of the tangible project, it is also essential to get to know the important of tangible and these are as follow.

1. Realistic project planning

According to twproject.com, a good project manager considers the big picture and sets realistic and achievable goals, budgets, and timelines.

1. Increase project productivity

A tangible project benefit is increase productivity that may allow people to work more.

1. Process Improvements

Processes can improve the time required to complete a given project.

1. Resource cost savings

(twproject) Some times, adjustment to the system or the renovation of work processes aim to make the cycle of a project more efficient.

##

## Conclusion

For the project to be successful the project must be monitored and failure to do so in some cases may lead to exhaustion of funds and abandonment of the project in question. (MOSES)Project has three main objectives, namely: time, performance and budget objectives.

However a major task facing project managers is how to balance these three objectives. What it means is that all times the focus of managers must be on the three items.

To my understandings, time, performance, and budget are the most important items in project delivery, for example exhaustion of funds can affect the project.

Personally, I have seen a lot of public and private projects stuck due to exhaustion of funds, this explain better how budget is important in this aspect.

Time is equally important, I have had situation whereby I start a project opening a shop, I contracted someone to fix shelf in my shop, but the contractor took more time than I expected which was inconvince for me, because I wanted to open in Dec 2021.



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