

Project Management Cycle

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Project

- A project consists of a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product, services or results.
- Project is the sequence of task to achieve the pre-set goal and objectives in a given time frame.
- **Project management** is discipline of organizing and managing resources in such a way that project is completed with in defined scope, time and cost.

Project Management Cycle

- Project management cycle (PMC) is the process of planning, organizing, coordinating, and controlling of project effectively and efficiently from start to the end in order to achieve pre-defined objectives.
- Project management cycle involves the series of activities that is followed through stages of project completion to achieve its goal.

Phases of Project Management Cycle

- In general, Project Management Cycle consists of four major phases.
- Some methodology also uses the fifth phase, known as monitoring.
- Here, this fifth phase is included under the execution and closure phase.
- Four phases of PMC are:
 - Initiation Phase
 - Planning Phase
 - Execution Phase
 - Closure/Termination Phase



1. Initiation Phase

- This is the beginning phase of the project.
- Project has not been formed yet.
- This is the phase where literature review and secondary data analysis is done.
- It includes information such as:
 - Purpose, vision and mission of the project
 - High level project description
 - Summary milestones of the project
- The problem is identified and checked if the project can solve it.
- Basically, the feasibility of the project is assessed and identified.

Things to complete during this phase include

- Undertaking the feasibility study of the study
- Assessing the scope of work of the project
- Identifying the deliverables
- Identifying stakeholders of the project
- Comparing the potential costs and benefits of the project



2. Planning phase

- Planning phase is an important phase of project. The better the plan, easier will be the execution.
- In this phase, we need to break down larger activities into smaller tasks.
- > Plans for conducting the project are formed in detail.
- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound) goals and objectives are set.
- It includes planning of resources, risk, finances etc.
- Roles and responsibilities of the staffs are clearly defined.
- At the end of this phase, the plan is documented for the future purpose.

Project planning involves two parts:

- **Strategic Planning:** Here, we develop overall approach to the project.
- *Implementation Planning:* Here, we figure out the details of how the project will be implemented.



Things to complete during this phase include

- Creating a project plan
- Creating workflow documents or process maps
- Estimating budget and creating a financial plan
- Gathering resources
- Anticipating risks and potential quality roadblocks

3. Execution Phase

- Project execution is the phase where plan is now brought into action, after the final approval and completion of all planning.
- A series of activities is carried out to meet the goals.
- Monitoring of the work goes side by side during execution.
 - Monitoring is done to ensure that the activities are moving on track, as planned.
 - Moreover, it will also involve immediate rectification and changes required to meet the overall goal and objective of the project
- > This phase also involves mid-term evaluation of the project.

Steps for project execution phase include

- Creating tasks and organizing workflow
- Provide necessary guidance, briefing and trainings to the team members
- Regular communication with the team members
- Monitoring the quality of work
- Managing budget



Things to ensure during this phase include

- Time management
- Cost management
- Quality management
- Change management
- Risk management
- Issue management etc.



4. Termination Phase

- This phase is also known as the closure step or closure phase.
- As the project is temporary it has to come to an end.
- closure phase provide final deliverables, release project resources, and determine the success of the project.
- At the end evaluation report is created that would evaluate the overall success of the project and are useful for future reference as well.

Things to ensure during this phase include

- Analysis of project performance regarding its goals and objectives.
- Analysis of team performance.
- Documentation of project closure.
- Conducting a final analysis of the project.
- Closing the finances and budgetary aspects of the project.



Characteristics of a PMC

ConsistencyFlexibilityTransparency



Advantages of the PMC

- Goal Achievement
- Effective use of Time and Resources
- Better Communication
- Risk Assessment



Disadvantages and Limitations of PMC

- High Cost
- Complex
- Lack of Creativity



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