Why You Must Take Project Management Seriously

By Eyitayo Ogunmola, PMP

It’s amazing!! According to reports and expert discuss, Project Management has become one of the fastest growing professions and the most sought after professions in the world. One of the reports I perused emphasized the detailed importance and the global demands of project management by many establishments. It is becoming a global and industrial demand; business necessity and strategic importance.

There is an increase in global awareness as relating to the practises and principles of Project Management and more and more companies and organizations are beginning to realise the value it offers. Without professional sentiments, I can respectfully say that Project Management is the value driver that helps various companies get the most out of its performance.

Project Management is business engineering. And this truth compels me to educate younger professionals about the necessity of Project Management growth quest. It doesn’t end at the certification level. Never!!! It is absolutely wrong to believe that your performance would be measured against your PMP certification. I quite acknowledge that the ‘PMP’ is a coveted certificate among competitions but it’s noble to develop your project management skills beyond the now.

I have seen some written arguments about the traits of Project Managers but I must say that Project Management is not hereditary neither is it controlled by some kind of inborn genes- it’s an art and hence, can be taught and leaned.

Let me share some basic Project Management Skills with you- Grow UP.

Communications

This is simply not just the PM BoK. It’s real. It’s an art. When I started out as a project manager, I faulted in this demand. To say the least, I wasn’t a good communicator. After long hours working on projects, reporting was a ‘devil’. Trust me, I feel your pain. It’s quite difficult communicating to the top management board. At the beginning of my career, I had lots of complains about the breech of reporting. It was a challenge connecting with my team members. You have to have lots of these: This includes meetings, status reporting, e-mails, phone calls, coordinating, talking to people, and completing documentation. The truth be told - Communication Is key to project survival.

It is said that more than 50% of a project manager’s time is spent in some aspect of communication. Some studies have shown that verbal and written communications take up 80% of the job. You have to learn to communicate. You have to do effective communication.
Practice this: Set alarms, use a reminder, use your visual sense. Think communications.

Team Leadership

Some of us work best alone. OMG! Are you one? I am actually not a self person, but I have met a couple of people who probably feel optimized working alone. It is wrong to assume that you are not cut out to be a project manager if you’re a concentric person. I would only recommend you to step up. After all, we all have our strengths and weakness. I am bent to trust you grow. Concentric people (introverts) may find it difficult working with lots of people, but you need to start doing it NOW. Project management involves spending a lot of time with clients, stakeholders, and team members - it’s a bit simple. You need to be out there doing things. Project management is not just done within the four walls of your office.

Hence, you have to imbibe the new attitude of team leadership. You need to challenge yourself and work more with people. You need to listen empathically, respect others opinion, do more constructive criticism and follow excellently.

Clean the Dirts

Oh! Please, don’t crucify me yet. Sincerely, project Managers clean ‘shits’. Since, people are tools to project Delivery, project managers must be willing to work with all kinds of people. And that’s the shit. You don’t have much of a project if you’re the only resource. Yes, and that’s true. If you want to be a good project manager, you need to be able to manage people. You will not have 100% responsibility for people, but you will need to show leadership, hold them accountable, manage conflict, etc.

It’s always interesting when I see my team work under my pressure and at the same time trying to ease up the stress. Most times I need to force the best out of them and still influence them to work effectively. You would need to help your team make the right decisions and at the same time educate them on what is proper. You will have to deal with the ‘head logs’ and the ‘I don’t cares’. Leadership is not a bed of roses. You will have to carefully commit project responsibilities to your team.

Cleaning dirts isn’t fun at all!

I can go on and on. But Permit me to stop here. I need to take a NAP.
About the Author

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Eyitayo Ogunmola is the Founder and the Project Team Lead of PM Hub Nigeria, a Project Management training, consulting and solution organization in Nigeria. He is also a Project Management Training Consultant to Chartered Institute of Project Management, Ghana.

He holds a Project Management Professional Certification form Project Management Institute, Pennsylvania, United States. He is a Green Belt Lean VI Sigma professional and also holds a Certification in Professional Scheduling (PMI-SP). He is the Project Coordinator for ProMaCoN, an organization committed to institutionalizing project Management in Africa. He worked with a team of international participants in the just concluded IPMA Young Crew global e-Collaboration Competition (a congregation of 64 young project managers from around the world) where his team came 2nd runner up. He is a trainer for Acceltage Consulting, Oak Interlinks among other project management consulting companies. He leads the faculty of project management of the College of Supply Chain and Warehousing Management.

Eyitayo was selected to participate in a training in Entrepreneurship and Ventures Creation with Columbus Business School, US.

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