

Week 2 Individual Assignment

[Student name]

[Course]

Topic: Explain the three-sphere model for systems management. Why is it important to understand an organizations structure when managing IT projects? Discuss organizational culture (its meaning and how it can be applied to managing projects). What is the difference between the project life cycle and the product life cycle?

Discussion

Using a systematic approach to a project means taking a step back to look at the entire extent of the project. It's understanding all the operations involved in the project as well as how everything will work and function. Systems approach applies to project management because it allows further understanding of a project and different scenarios that may occur which will lead to an overall better performance in project management. "A systemic approach implies looking at projects as though they are a system designed with a specific goal in mind (Devine, 2008).

Three-Sphere Model

The three-sphere model of systems management incorporates aspects of business, organization, and technology in an organization. These models play a major role in project management because it ensures the project is managed efficiently and the closing stages are successful. The model helps come up with solutions to challenges when they occur in a project.

The three aspects. In the business aspect, the project is set to constantly meet company goals. This aspect requires adequate planning in order to get all the required elements to make it successful. It needs to understand the market of the product or service which the project will be offering, competitors and other external factors that will affect the project. In the organization aspects, stakeholders are deliberated in order to understand how the project will be handled and managed. This is the aspect where the project manager and their team are guided on how to take control of the project and ensure that the required results are met. In the technology aspect, all the tools such as the hardware and the software should be critically analyzed so that their cost, benefits, and limitations are determined.

Key factors. There are key factors which ensure that the three aspects are happening as they should. To ensure that the business aspect is going well, common and distinct goals are set so that everybody working on the project has the same goal to achieve. By doing this, it increases the likelihood of the business aspect succeeding and going as planned. The company should ensure that it maintains steady communication with stakeholders to ensure that the organization of the project is at its highest level ensuring that everything goes well. For example, a practical budget and schedule should be created to ensure smooth operations of the project. The hardware and software, which are used in making the project successful, should meet the standards that the project requires.

Good management practices. The project should be well planned and the schedule created should be strictly followed. This ensure that all the phases related to the project run as they are supposed to therefore giving the expected results at the end. Also, the plan should be flexible so that when unavoidable challenges occur during the project, the plan of the project can be modified to adapt to the changes and the project can go on. The team in charge of the technological aspects should be nearby to monitor everything technology wise to make sure it runs effectively. All members and teams involved in the project should be communicating openly so that everyone works in harmony to ensure that the project is successful in the end.

Organizations Structure

Every organization has a structure and they operate according to that structure. When this process is not followed, team members get confused on how to proceed with the work, who to report to, and what the requirements are for the project. All projects need to flow according to the organizations structure so that the work will be completed on time and with efficiency. IT

project management needs proper planning and cooperation from all team members. The projects occur as a result of the culture, policies, procedures, and structure of the organization.

Influence. When managing IT projects, the organizational structure has a major influence on the execution of the project. The organizations structure is used to decide the resources, the communication methods, and other aspects of the project management. When organizations have simple structures it allows planning, execution, and project management of projects to be easy.

Projectized organizational structure. A projectized organizational structure is where the project follows a chain of command where the project manager is the head of the team. All the team members report to the project manager. This structure has its own advantages and disadvantages. While this structure helps in fast decisions and has a single point of authority, it can be complex and problematic if the project manager is not experienced.

Organizational Culture

Organizational culture holds all the beliefs, values, symbolism, understanding and consideration that are established in an organization. Organizational culture encompasses the values and behaviors which contribute to the social and psychological environment of the organization. “Culture is a means by which messages about what the organization stands for is conveyed to employees and other stakeholders. When individuals become committed to the organization's beliefs, those beliefs become internalized and individual members hold them as their personal beliefs” (Suda, 2007).

Importance. The organizational culture is connected to the success or failure of a project in an organization which can include the processes, management styles, time and also the training. Understanding organizational culture and its connection with project management can help

organizations decide which projects are worth pursuing. Organizational culture sets the tone that ultimately shapes the shared experiences of project team members.

Influence. Project work is directly affected by the organizational culture. It can create the feeling of community in which everyone has the same mission or goal. The organizational culture can influence a project and project management by how it's managed and executed.

Project and Product Life Cycles

Project life cycle is the series of stages from which a project goes through. This cycle describes the time and work that has been put in from start to finish in a project. The stages in project life cycle are: initiation, planning, execution, and closure. Product life cycle is the cycle which shows how a product survives in a market. Product life cycle is a series of stages for the amount of revenue a product generates over time, from its launch to the point where it's discontinued. The stages in product life cycle are: introduction, growth, maturity, and decline.

Differences. The difference between the two cycles is that project life cycle is the first point where a product is developed, then after that product life cycle starts. Project life cycle is mostly related to project management while product life cycle is mostly associated with marketing. Project life cycle is overseen by the project managers while product life cycle is overseen by the marketing managers.

Strategies. In project life cycle, strategies can be used as risk analysis strategies to analyze the risk at initiation phase (Taylor, 2019). In product life cycle, product innovation strategies can be used to make a product more in demand.

References

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