

Collaborative Discussion 1: Project Failures Study

Summary Post

In my initial post, I outlined the three main reasons for project failure: unclear goals, scope creep, and poor communication, answering the first question, 'What do you believe are the three most common reasons for project failure?'. These factors can lead to an unsuccessful project, so it is important to keep them in mind when planning any project (Kissflow, 2020).

In response to my colleague Elliot's post, which mentioned the Lehtinen et al. (2014) study. This study not only provides valuable insights into project failures but also equips us with practical strategies that are designed to be easily implementable, giving us the confidence to steer our projects towards success.

I also pointed out that Elliot's post could be improved by considering the impact of project failures. Ascertra (2017) notes that the PMI study reveals ineffective communication hurts project execution. Therefore, it is recommended that communication be improved by tailoring it to stakeholder groups and implementing standardised practices. Additionally, project failure can occur for various reasons but still result in significant consequences. To avoid it, it is essential to set clear objectives, define scope creep, set SMART goals, allocate limited resources, and ensure proper communication (MacNeil, 2022).

Furthermore, it is worth highlighting the lessons we can learn from notoriously failed projects as examples of failed projects. Malsa (2018) notes that these failed projects can be powerful learning tools for project managers, inspiring them to grow professionally and avoid future problems. By studying these cases, we can gain insights into what went wrong and how to avoid similar pitfalls in our projects.

To summarise and make the most of the opportunities presented by failed projects, we must adopt a positive mindset, embrace accountability, foster collaboration, maintain perspective, and take proactive steps towards improvement. We must also take full responsibility for our projects' outcomes, acknowledge strengths and weaknesses and consistently maintain a growth mindset (Magarey, 2017). This requires a relentless focus on enhancing processes and reevaluating assumptions to minimise errors in future projects.

References:

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