Dear Members

Season’s greetings!!!
The Year started with great bang, Chapter had conducted 2 Learn and Sessions in a month for the first time. Design Thinking and Future thinking wherein Artificial Intelligence was expounded in detail in these sessions by the renowned speakers

Chapter also successfully conducted another L&E session in Bhubaneswar. Chapter organized strategic meet in Feb to present the strategy map for each portfolio, initiatives, objectives and key deliverables for 2018.

In addition, Chapter organized project management workshop for Save the Children NGO in March for 3 days. The workshop was based on Project Management mechanism for improved implementation of New Horizons Program

Chapter would like to thank volunteer leaders of the region across industries who had been volunteering for the Chapter for its activities on a continuous basis. We want to make the engagement of our volunteers rewarding and motivating. Encourage each one of you to join the chapter, be a volunteer for a cause and make a difference for yourself Looking forward for a very engaging 2018

Cheers,
Editor’s Desk

Cover Story: BENEFITS REALIZATION – MY PROJECT LIFE

Applying Project Management Lessons Learnt for Life

The Sixth edition of PMBoK has introduced the concept of benefits realization in Projects, and this set me thinking on how to achieve true benefits in Project Life. Most of us are jettisoned directly into working life immediately after our education and before we realize it the time and life has passed. To quote the famous singer John Lennon, “Life is what happens while you’re busy making other plans!” Combined pressures of performance and career building take their own toll and often impact our most key stakeholders. Those with a direct influence on Project Life - Our parents, our spouses, our children not to mention our wider social circles, friends, relatives, even acquaintances.

With work pressure reaching high levels and twelve hour work days being the norm rather than the exception, it does seem much like Alice in Wonderland where we constantly run, just to stay in the same place. Given the complex nature of the world around us, how does one ensure that they provide enough attention and thought to each of their stakeholders, and that we, and the others around us can reap the benefits of having a well managed life? Before we can answer that, we must first establish what these basic benefits are and what it is that a person desires from “Project LIFE”?

- Happiness
- Achievement
- Self Fulfillment
- Happiness of those around us
- Addressing needs, duties toward, and responsibilities for, those who depend on us

Project management effectively applied to any situation can help give us the best chance for an optimum outcome. “Tools and techniques” that we learn during PMP are useful to help us meet the targets above. Here are some which I have personally found very useful.
### 1. Agile methodology

The effectiveness of Agile methodology is so well accepted that now a section dedicated to Agile has been added to the PMBoK Sixth edition. The crux of Agile is simple. Take stock in short intervals or cycles, to review if work is on track. A good parallel of the morning stand-up meetings with a team can be a quick sit-in meeting with your own self—perhaps with a cup of steaming tea. This exercise to review the past day and reflect on what could be done better and what remains to be done is a great tool to set the tone on the day ahead. It can be meditative and allows focus. It could as well be the time to reflect on how your team can be happy and how you can motivate them better. Using the morning energy of our brains can help us reach unexpected and sometimes out-of-the-box solutions. In fact, this exercise can be supplemented by a family sit-in. This allows a structured space for family members to share their concerns. Your son may be worried about the math test, or your daughter a bit nervous about the school play, a parent may need to share a health issue. If an early morning, quick session is part of the daily routine it can energize you for the whole day with simply the assurance that you have shared the worries and concerns of your family. A disengagement from work also gives a welcome mental break to our grey cells, and family members will know that this is a standard time where you are “accessible” physically and mentally. One idea is to run family activities in a scrum form where we take time to capture requirements of stakeholders (family members). Then we define the exact budget we have, allocate to different activities and collectively take responsibility for the project.

### 2. Ground Rules

These days many professionals are given the option to work from home, and while it may improve quality of life by saving a long commute or help those with primary caregiver responsibilities, the most important and often forgotten aspect of this is to set up effective Ground Rules. These Ground rules must be sacrosanct and while one may face initial resistance on implementation, when regularly reinforced, there would be little digression. Ground Rules could be simple like setting up specific mealtimes (the same way that time for lunch is clearly defined at office it could be clearly defined at home as well). Making sure that family members share the mealtimes also improves communication. There’s an old saying - “A Family that eats together stays together”. With both parents now required to take equal responsibility for bringing up children, rules can foster discipline in young children. For young adults, rules like letting family members know where they are at any point of time can ensure their safety. Expectations must be clearly defined on both sides, through clear guidance and even documentation when necessary. Much like at work, it is imperative to maintain open lines of communication with our stakeholders. This helps in managing risk, and building confidence as well as good relationships on both sides.

### 3. Delegation

Delegation is a wonderful tool that helps us use our team’s competencies to the fullest. One of the first checks for whether any activity or task can be delegated is to weigh the value added by you carrying it out instead of delegating the activity. For example if cooking a meal or getting groceries is delegated to the household help, the quality may be slightly compromised and your taste buds may suffer. Weigh this against the outcome if you were to delegate homework supervision and tutoring of kids. The other important view of delegation, as in the workplace context, is the idea of delegating responsibility versus allocating tasks. While the first assumes Mcgregors Theory Y, the latter is completely based on the Theory X Manager.
For young children as well, this is a useful idea and helps them develop management approach to tasks. As an overworked parent you can ease a lot of tension by making the child understand that they are taking equal responsibility be it their academic performance, or a domestic chore. For example, when I delegated a simple task of cleaning the table after meals to my children they worked out a split of the total effort needed, established turns and allocated tasks. I discovered this quite by accident when one day I asked my daughter to fill the empty bottles - she turned around to tell me it was her brother’s task that day as she was assigned to clearing the plates. They had worked out their roster. Interesting to note that even young children can be effective managers – given the right amount of delegation and empowerment.

4. Prioritization

This is a tool which can really help us maximize what we enjoy most, which fits the goals we had set above. It is really important to focus on your priorities. While most people do focus on longer time priorities even in the short run, each event, activity needs you to focus on what is your key priority? Whether it is marriage of a close friend, vs. a school concert of your daughter, the priority of each must be identified. Even additional work taken on in the hopes of a promotion, every priority comes with an allocated cost to your time. Ask yourself how important it is, or how does it satisfy the benefits above? Sometimes we are dragged into forums where there is little value addition through our presence, and we are left with a feeling of dissatisfaction. It would be a better idea to opt out or politely decline from these, as a well worded letter of decline may save you a long commute and a boring event not to mention the frustrations of time.

5. Communication

This of course brings us to Communication. Clear, concise and well directed communication is one of the biggest responsibilities for any Project Manager and so it goes as well for Project LIFE – good communication with the right message delivered at the right time in the right manner is the key to success. Just as we focus on communication with our clients at the workplace, so too with our key stakeholders in life there must be equal focus on communication. Helping the family understand your priorities can go a long way in defining the success or failure of Project LIFE. A key part of communication, as we all know is active listening, something that we all need to cultivate while we deal with stakeholders, for work and life alike. We can apply many more tools like, Planning and Scheduling (yes, network diagrams can be very useful), Time Management (of course), Multi Criteria Decision Making (A formatted EXCEL sheet is a great help in making difficult decisions), Goal Setting (Knowing where to go), Leadership (You do lead the team at home) but perhaps more of these can be described in a future issue. To ensure a rich and fulfilling life we need to use all the tools at our disposal effectively. Project Management Skills are Life Skills, not just jargon for the workplace. Only when we embrace the true power of these tools for our own lives can we have Benefits Realization for Project “Life”.

This article was contributed by Ms. Alakananda RAO, PMP, Director and CEO, Alvari Systems Private Limited.
Learn & Earn – Design Thinking – an Immersive Workshop – 27 Jan

PMI WB Chapter had conducted a whole day session on “Design Thinking – an Immersive Workshop” on 27th January, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

The primary objective of this session was to review and discuss the phenomenon difference between Design Thinking and System Analysis, providing insight and understanding regarding the key concepts of innovation and digital transformation. Workshop ends with resolving a rational scenario based problem – the attendee PM Professionals were divided into groups and they had hands on experience in using and implementing the Design Thinking approach on real life situations.

Chapter president Mr. Sumit Kumar Sinha initiated the event by his opening speech and welcomed Mr. Asutosh Chatterjee and his subordinate Mr. James – the day’s speakers.

Mr. Asutosh who is also a chapter member, Director of Modern App Solution Centers, Microsoft co., has presented the topic – use of Design Thinking approach in project management with illustration. "It was an interactive work-shop with a case study on Local issue which has helped all to be involved throughout the session. The session was attended by PM Professionals from various industries.

The session ended at 05:15 PM, closed by PMI WB President Mr. Sumit Kumar Sinha and Vice President Mr. Tamal Banerjee, stressed on how design thinking can aid professionals in Project Management.
On 4th Feb 2018, Chapter conducted Strategic event at Indismart. The event was attended by Chapter Board members, Associate Directors along with Region 11 mentor, Girish Kadam, Yeeyoon, and Former Chapter president and founder member Ms Sonali Bhatacharya. The event started with discussion on Chapter 2017’s journey and success. Chapter presented the strategy map for each portfolio, initiatives, objectives and key deliverables for 2018. Well defined goals with plans for 2018 were discussed and formulated to take the chapter ahead to next level.
Learn & Earn in Bhubaneswar – 17 Feb

PMI West Bengal Chapter, in association with CSM Technologies, organized the 2nd Learn & Earn session on 17-Feb-2018 in Bhubaneshwar. The Chief Guest was Mr. Manoranjan Misra, Executive Engineer, Works Dept. Govt. of Odisha. Mr. Sunil Kumar Agrawala, Founder & Principal Consultant, Bharti Consulting & Mrs. Shradha Padhi, Associate Professor, KSOM were the speakers.

The event was centered on below 2 Topics:
The concept of "An insight into Critical Chain method" was discussed:
1. Challenges in Typical Scheduling techniques
2. Concepts of project buffer & Feeding Buffer
3. How scheduling is done using critical chain method
4. Benefits of Critical chain method

The concept of "Ethics and Project Management" was discussed:
1. Perception of ethical behavior by Project Managers in the conduct of a software project
2. Impacts of ethical behavior of PMs on Project performance

Overall, it was an interactive session supported by case studies & validation of concepts with practice. This was a great value add to the PM community to build awareness about Project Management.

This was followed by a brief discussion on the Strategy of PMIWB on spreading awareness on project Management in the Eastern region focusing Odisha and North East region and seeing more and more number of people in the industry get trained on Project Management.
Project Management Workshop for Save the Children- March 2018

Started in 2018 in India, and registered as ‘Bal Raksha Bharat’, Save the Children has active presence in 19 states working on 5 core thematic areas - Child Protection, Child Poverty, Education, Health & Nutrition and Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptations in collaboration with Government, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. Save the Children works for and with children, it works for equality, equal education, equal nutrition, equal health, equal opportunities, gender equality, humanitarian situations and relief during natural disasters. Through programs Save the Children address children’s unique needs, giving them a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. “New Horizons” is a skill development and employment generation program initiated by Save the Children in Kolkata, India, in 2008 under its Child Poverty thematic priority. Volunteers from PMI West Bengal Chapter conducted three days of workshop on Project Management mechanism for improved implementation of New Horizons Program for ‘Save the Children’ on 10, 11 and 17 March 2018.

The workshop was divided into three streams. Day 1 of the program focused on work stream 1: basics of Project Management for participants from Partner NGOs of Save the Children. Core elements and attributes of project management pertinent to organizations in developing sector was the theme for the workshop.

Various aspects of risk management for ongoing programs was the focal theme for workshop on Day 2. Understanding the difference between risk and issue, Risk profiling techniques and strategies, risk analysis, probability-impact analysis was covered under work stream II of the workshop. Participants from both Save the Children and from Partner NGOs took part in this workshop.

Detailed analysis, brain storming sessions and structured discussion took place on day 3 with participants from Save the Children only. This workshop under work stream III was designed to understand the pain points of the ongoing projects identified by the participants during workshops on Day 1 and Day 2. Response strategy for some of the perceived risks of the on-going projects, identified by the participants were also discussed during the workshop.
Chapter welcomes our new members

A warm welcome and hearty wishes for a successful career in project management.

Mr. Anirban Biswas
Mr. Debabrata Choudhury
Mr. Aniruddha Das
Mr. Parthasarathi Das
Mr. Bidhu Bhushan Datta
Mr. Pallab De
Mr. Anirban Dutta
Mr. Mittun Hazra
Mr. K.G. Insan
Mr. Sibasish Kundu
Mr. Rajendrakumar Mishra

Mr. Sourav Majumder
Mr. Soumya Pal
Mr. Tanmoy Pal
Mr. Rama Manas Panda
Ms. Roseleena Parveen
Mr. Santosh Pati
Mr. Rabi Paul
Mr. Subhankar Paul
Mr. Anirban Saha
Mr. Ayan Samaddar
Ms. Dipanwita Roy Chowdhury

Mr. Chinmaya Samantsinghar
Mr. Prabin Sarangi
Mr. Nirupam Satpati
Mr. Sandipan Sen
Ms. Shemanti Sen
Mr. Jaydip Sengupta
Mr. Satyajit Shadangi
Mr. Abhishek Shadangi
Ms. Pradipta Swain
Mr. Vivek Trivedi

Etc that matters

http://www.pmi.org.in/apps/awards2018/

Volunteer of the Quarter

“Those who can, do; those who can do more, they volunteer”

Special Appreciation as “Volunteer of Quarter, Spring 2018” goes to Anirban Dasgupta

PMI West Bengal Chapter leadership would like to thank Anirban for his continuous contribution to the chapter initiatives for Training portfolio. This prestigious award of the chapter is in recognition of your leadership to take forward PMI West Bengal Chapter initiatives in the region successfully aligned with its vision.

Congrats Anirban!

Announcing PMI India National Conference 2018

Theme: India In 2022 - Leading In A Globally Disruptive Market – Oct 12-13 2018, New Delhi
http://www.pmi.org.in/pmn2018/

India at 75: Opportunities & Challenges

PMI India in association with Forbes and CNBCTV18 has released a White Paper
http://pmi.org.in/reports.aspx?id=White-Papers

Share your thoughts and suggestions to pmiwbc.communication@pmiwbc.org

Visit Chapter Website http://www.pmiwbc.org/

PMI West Bengal Chapter