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# Construction project scheduling and control 4th edition

The business scenario is now project-based. Projects involve cross-functional teams, and diversity of opinion helps in innovation. The objective of many business projects is to meet and exceed customer expectations. Integrated project management is the new business mantra, wherein project management is an integral process of the execution of the strategic plan. Understanding the process of a project lifecycle is critical for all areas of work as it translates to better efficiency. Businesses often rely on "projects" to satisfy customer needs. A "project" is distinguished from everyday routine activities and long-term "programs" by certain characteristics. In order to be called a "project" a task should have a specific objective, should be a one-time effort with an established life span. Projects also have performance specifications and are limited by time, money, manpower and other resources. Each project lifecycle is characterized by four stages: the defining stage, planning stage, executing stage and delivering stage. Project management is the process of planning, scheduling and controlling projects. Several factors have led to increasing emphasis on efficient project management. Increasing global competition has led to compressed product lifecycles. Businesses are dealing with shorter "time to market" product development scenarios. The knowledge explosion with shared information networks and increased customer focus have contributed to greater complexity in the nature of projects. This requires an efficient management of cross-functional project teams. Companies are also performing numerous projects simultaneously. Therefore, allocation of resources and efficient project management is of strategic importance. Planning in the context of a project involves providing a roadmap for the proper execution of the project. The planning process involves defining the project, including the proposed outcome of the project. The planning process also involves clearly defining the goals and objectives of the project, the specifications of the quality, the budget and time estimates and control parameters. In short, the planning stage is a stage to review and reaffirm the project objectives and guidelines and resolve any undermining issues. Contingency approaches are also designed during the planning process to avoid pitfalls. Ideally, the planning process should involve all the team members. Scheduling projects involves breaking down the project to clearly defined simpler tasks. This is also known as the "work breakdown structure". This structure allows the team members to understand a complex project in terms of simple achievable tasks. Scheduling also involves assigning these tasks to the relevant personnel and establishing the time, money and other resource constraints for each task. For example, if the project is to organize a convention, then the work breakdown structure would involve tasks such as booking a hall or printing brochures. Specific people are assigned to each task with time, money and quality constraints. Execution of the project involves dealing with unexpected events. While establishing a clear plan and scheduling process minimizes ambiguities, careful control has to be exercised by the project manager in order to maintain the time, quality and budget requirements. Two elements of project control involve establishing and achieving clearly defined project milestones and maintaining clear lines of communication. Milestones help in monitoring progress, and communication helps in oversight and improving team effort. According to the Project Management Institute, 9.9% of every dollar invested in a project is wasted due to poor project performance. That's \$99 for every \$1,000 spent. If your projects are running over budget, take another look at how you're scheduling tasks and resources. Second only to selecting a good project team, a well-designed schedule is key to having a successful project. A project schedule identifies deadlines and interdependent tasks and assigns dates to required resources. As such, a schedule is an important tool for completing projects on time and budget. The project schedule should be based on a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), which lists all of the tasks and goals of the project. The schedule places these tasks into a sequence of linked events with dates and, in some cases, the times for each to be started and finished. The project schedule creates a model for the entire project to guide the work being done and to measure progress against a fixed timetable. If the project changes, the schedule details: Task time requirements. Interdependencies between different tasks and resources. Availability of resources, including team members. Time constraints and bottlenecks. The project schedule serves as a management tool for overseeing the progress of the project as well as for evaluating alternative strategies for accomplishing the project goals. It's also used for controlling costs and optimizing resources. How you manage resources can make or break a project. Resources can include people, equipment and tools, and locations. If equipment arrives late, people are scheduled for other projects, someone forgets necessary tools or a room you need to access is locked, the schedule is delayed and this could jeopardize the project. Resources should be scheduled into the project along with tasks. This not only ensures that the resources will be available when needed, but it can also reduce costs by ensuring that resources aren't reserved for the project until they're needed. For example, if you have to rent equipment for the project, you can schedule tasks that require the equipment as close together as possible, then schedule the equipment to arrive when it's needed and be returned as soon as the last task requiring it is completed. Project management software or project scheduling software is, by far, the best way to keep track of projects. Calendars and spreadsheets aren't much better than using paper and pen simply because they lack important features. The software you choose should: Define project workflows. Identify the project's critical path. Automatically adjust schedules when changes are made. Offer visualization tools like Gantt charts. Generate reminders and alerts when tasks are due or past deadlines. There are numerous project management and project scheduling apps available in a range of prices. Most of them also offer free trials, including: Forecast Celoxis Hive ProjectManager.com monday.com Mavenlink Workfront Microsoft Project Online Wrike Asana The scheduling process begins after you establish the project goals, select your team, determine a budget and develop a WBS. These represent the often complicated answers to four simple questions: What needs to be done? How much will it cost? When does it need to be finished? Who will do the work? Once these answers have been established, you can then begin assigning dates and resources to the required tasks listed in the WBS. Tasks need to be arranged according to their dependencies. If you're building a house, for example, the framing can't go up until the foundation has dried, carpenters are available and the lumber has arrived. Once the original schedule has been established, you'll need to confirm that the required resources are available on their required dates. If they aren't available, you'll need to reschedule those tasks or find replacement resources. This can happen throughout a project's life cycle. People get sick and supplies often arrive late. This is why you should always view a schedule as a living document that's updated as needed until the project has been completed. My Name is shailesh Rana, i am long time reader of hackernoon.com Renovation projects have a lot of moving parts that must work simultaneously. No wonder, large projects take 20% longer to finish than scheduled and are 80% over budget. From planning to budgeting to hiring to the actual remodeling, all processes have to be coordinated for the whole project to be completed. Whether it's the remodeling of government property, shopping mall, or residence, a typical renovation project involves architects, engineers, technicians, delivery drivers working closely on a site. This is why project managers need to effectively plan. They must determine estimates for material costs, hire the best labor, create workflows, and use timesheets that automatically track hours. In this article, you'll learn five time management tips for renovation project managers. Regardless of the kind of projects you manage, these tips will show you how building managers can improve productivity in the construction industry. These will help you complete projects in the most efficient way possible. 5 Phases of Renovation Projects There are five popular phases that a renovation project is expected to go through before it becomes completed. It doesn't matter if you're working on the remodeling of a bridge, hospital, stadium, train station, or even your new home. All these phases must be structured and coordinated for your renovation project to be completed within estimated timelines. Planning The planning phase involves understanding the client's requirements and choices. It also involves the labeling of features according to the level of importance and determining the style, size, and scale of the project. Remodeling projects can be as complex as new constructions. So, project managers must be willing to effectively plan and organize all the moving parts in order to avoid poor or delayed finishing. Budgeting After projecting the scale of a renovation, you have to work with other licensed engineers, architects, or contractors. You must work with them to determine estimates for materials and equipment that would be needed throughout the lifecycle of that renovation. Depending on the kind of project, you may require bulldozers for demolition, earth moving equipment, material delivery equipment, and even the workers to handle them. However, ensure that you're not spending on equipment or labor that you don't need. Demolition This phase involves removing parts of the building that have to be reconstructed to meet new requirements. Depending on the nature of the structure, you may have to deal with destroying walls, decks, floors, or even wiring. This stage can affect the estimated timeline of the project if attention isn't given to proper measurements and new fittings that must be constructed. Construction This involves building new features and reconstructing existing ones to meet the new requirement and style. This can take the longest time depending on the size of the project. If you're remodeling a granny flat, it shouldn't be so complex and time-consuming like the renovation of an entire property. Clearing Clearing up can be as labor-demanding as the other phases of renovation projects. It involves removing both demolition and construction debris that can almost take forever to be cleared. 5 Time Management Tips for Renovation Projects Plan Early and Create Timelines Planning is a critical phase that happens before work begins on the site. Oftentimes, it also needed across the lifecycle of the project. As you have seen before now, it involves determining the best construction methods, workers, and estimating timelines for different stages up till completion. Planning also means ensuring that the required materials, equipment, and resources are available when needed. The timely delivery of construction materials affects the overall time that would be spent on the whole renovation project. Contingencies can likely occur at any phase of a renovation project. Even so, setting objectives and estimated timelines would help you stay in control of the entire process no matter what goes wrong. Moreover, an average of 35% of all construction projects will have a major change before it's completed. Develop Benchmarks Construction project managers use benchmarks to determine and evaluate project performance. Without them, it's hard to estimate timelines, budgets, and accurately track the progress of the project. Benchmarking is highly important for managers who want to monitor the status and progress of construction projects throughout the entire lifecycle. Hire the Best and Adequate Number of Workers It's not enough to estimate timelines for a renovation project. Without the right contractors who can efficiently handle different tasks, your project will either be delivered poorly and/or late. Not all construction workers will be hired on a full-time basis, so you must properly identify who does what, why, when, and how. Depending on the size of the project, some workers may need to act as group managers that report to the project manager. This will shorten the feedback chain, save time, and make communication easier. Use Time Tracking Apps Cloud-based time tracking solutions are helping managers to assign tasks, record timesheets, and manage billings for construction workers. With a time tracker, you can create and categorize projects, as well as set up and assign tasks. You can even monitor the number of hours each contractor has worked for per day while seeing the progress on each project. However, there is a ton of productivity and time tracking software in the market. So, you must carefully analyze app features and determine their benefits before you choose a time tracker for your renovation project. Proper Delegation It's not enough to hire the best construction workers in their numbers. Without effective delegation, time is wasted and tasks will be left unattended. However, the distribution of tasks doesn't mean that you have to micromanage workers. It involves trusting them with new responsibilities that match their skills, ensuring they're able to deliver. Although it's hard to complete renovation projects without unforeseen changes, proper delegation makes it easier to handle challenges whenever they occur. Conclusion According to KPMG, only 25% of projects come within 10% of their original deadlines. That is why effective time management is required to complete renovation and/or construction projects. Of course, proper use of time is important in the construction industry. After all, the efficient use of energy and billable hours eventually lowers the actual overall cost of completing a project. Fore info about betting find on Android apps on bettingworx.com

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