

*Research Article*

## Why Projects Fail

Utkarsh Giri\*, Akash Aggrawal and Shubham Pandey

Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences University in Prayagraaj, Uttar Pradesh, India

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### Abstract

*Projects that do not meet the original time, cost & quality requirements are said to be failed Projects. Four Pillars of Project: Man, machine, money & managements; if any of the four pillars get disturbed the building of projects fails. Research reveals that project management in many firms & companies currently ranges from undisciplined to confusion. Most of the project failure is related to the time, cost & quality paradigm is the motivation of research on this topic. This paper examines some of the issues & casual factors of projects failure.*

**Keywords:** Projects, risk, management, failure, resources.

### Introduction

<sup>1</sup>In modern era, failure of projects has become a common issue. Past history & records shows that there has been a lot of projects that are failed or on the verge of failure. Therefore, it's become very important to understand why projects fail so as to minimize the capital & time loss during the project. By use of formal methods and strategies & introducing the latest technologies in the projects, updating the procedures with new engineering discoveries, we can controls & minimize the failure of projects.

Generally, poor planning, lack of leadership, inadequate knowledge in employees, ego clash among the departmental people is cause of projects failure. So, various aspects of projects failures & its prevention has been described which should be considered by the project management committees.

### Poor visualization of the project objectives

When a project get distracted from its objectives & goals, then it is sure that it is going to fail. Projects management department should be clear with merits & de- merits of the projects. What problems the company is going to face while the execution of projects & its remedies should be discussed. Each and every strength & weakness, favorable & unfavorable conditions and circumstances should be monitored all risks should be discusses & a backup plan must be always ready.

### Project complexity

A well structured project is always easy to implement. Pre – planning & strategic management are the two aspects through which we can reduce the complexity of project. Effort should be made to make project a easy and clear to execute. Planning should be revised and updated as the projects goes on. Project should be clear simple and easy to undertake. An DPR (Detailed Project Report) should be made in which each and every detail of project is mentioned. With DPR we can reduce the project complexity.

### Over expectations

Projects should be well analyzed and researched so as to avoid over expectations. All the projects should be monitored & all risks related to the projects should be clearly taken under consideration. Latest techniques & information from the world market should be considered so as to overcome the over – expectation problem. Over – expectation leads to stress, failure & loss of money & time if the project doesn't go according to the expectations.

### Underfunding of the projects

Resources like manpower, machineries, money etc are important to make a project successful. Financial requirement are most important of all. Funds are needed to hire skilled manpower, good machineries and therefore success of the project .So underfunding the project directly leads to the failure of project. Funds are needed to collect & assemble all the resources which are beneficial for project. Above all,

\*Corresponding author's ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0386-9505  
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funds are needed for wages to labors & salary for employees.

### **Poor prioritization of tasks**

The series of task to be executed in given time interval should be pre – planned and should be continuously monitored & updated. Tasks should be re – examined or replaced if it is taking more time as before assumed in planning of project. Repetitive tasks should be minimized so as to save time to complete the projects. Projects manager should always examine the series of tasks to be performed and improvement should be made in intervals so that time can be minimized & therefore reduce the possibility of failure.

### **Communication management**

There should be smooth flow of information between various members at different levels of department in company. Each level of management must have proper visibility of ongoing projects. Poor communication between management committee leads to missing of the goal & aim of the project. Improvement in planning & execution of project can be done through good & smooth communication among the people of management. There should be unity of command & unity of power in the company.

### **Conflicts of interest**

It is evident that in the project where peoples at different level have interpersonal & intra-personal conflicts leads to distracted from its goal and objectives. Project should be well-guided and shared equally in planning and execution. If conflicts arise, it needs to be solved immediately with the help of leaders or supreme authority. Transfer of staffs among various departments should be done so as to reduce the misunderstanding among the workers & to make a cheerful environment at work place.

### **Failure to track requirements & progress**

While in an ongoing project, the project manager needs to focus on the needed resources and to maintain the demand on time. All the resources must be restored before its full consumption like cement, sand, aggregate.

The progress record should be maintained daily, weekly or monthly on a regular basis. By tracking the progress, we can improve the work methods and can complete the project on time.

### **Changes in governmental policies**

Government policies need to be kept in mind while planning & execution of project. Hike in the taxes may lead to unplanned expenses that may lead to loss or sometimes failure of the project. Changes in governmental policies should be monitored so as to save taxes & gain tax relaxations for the project. In India, the new tax policy GST (Good and Services Tax) is adopted which is on the theme of “One Nation One Tax”, all the clauses & laws of GST needs to be well studied before planning and execution of project.

### **Conclusion**

Project Failure-It is an important aspect to understand as the economy of country depends upon the success & failure of projects. Future of a country and its people depends greatly upon the success of projects in every field. Causes of project failures should be considered to avoid the risks of terminating valuable projects in future markets.

If we conclude some basic causes of project failure they may be, poorly defined project scope, inadequate risk management, failure to identify key assumption, lack of experienced & trained peoples, no use of formal methods and strategies, lack of effective communication at all levels, key staff leaving the project, ineffective leadership, lack of detail in project plans, inaccurate time & efforts estimates & cultural differences in global projects.

Last but not the least, the “Four M’s” of project-Man, Money, Machine & Management are the foundation & concrete of the projects.

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