To Explore the Project Management towards Academic Discipline and Practical Approaches

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Abstract: This paper aim is to explore Project Management in academic discipline and industrial approach. It describes that how exactly this field is being taught at university level, and what measures are taken now a day to implement the industrial areas of project management in academic field. The approaches of development have now been changed from traditional age and that's why failure of projects increasingly raised up to the mark. Past approaches for projects development are no longer working today. Hence, there must be the implementation of latest tools and technologies in order to develop successful projects and creating professionals at institutions level. Therefore, this paper explores the latest needs that must be included in academic discipline to prepare highly skilled individuals.

Keywords: *PM, Academic, Projects, Practical, Individuals, IPMA, PMP, Educational Institutes.*

1. Introduction

Project Management deals with commencing planning, execution, scheduling, and most important of all the clarity of goals to achieve success over specific times as shown in fig. 1. The field of project management have been playing a vital role in the establishment of modern standards since last many years [1].

Project Management is a competent approach to grip complex activities. The practice of bringing innovative projects into the marketplace, enforces the difficulties on launched industries that differ, in management techniques, from those usually maintain day to day operations. In such situations where organizations or industries have a fixed, exceptional, and unaware undertaking, the latest systems can be implemented there in the field of Project Management [2]. Over the past decade several, standards have been evolved that facilitated to increasing the need of highly skilled Project Management expertise. In Asia, Africa, and Europe, several members of the institutions are represented by International Project Management Association (IPMA) that supports the evolution of Project Managers and establishes the latest policies and get implement through educational institutes in order to produce skilled individuals to fulfil the market needs [3]. Practically, the areas of project management is broad not only academic discipline but also in practical development processes and shave been observed that Project Management is a super difficult from theory portion to practical development. Undoubtedly, project management has rapidly been exploring its boundaries since past three decades, but project fails at awful rate [4]. The greatest cause of failure of project management, without any doubt, is the lack of abilities of stack-holders. Hence, it is now importantly mandatory to set the standardized education for project management that must help them to develop necessary abilities to navigate the dynamic organizational environment and large complex projects [5].

Most organizations now require that stack holders must possess the soft skills, such as teamwork, time management, scheduling, and effective budget drive. However, individuals lack these skills. Now, it is the sole responsibility of institutions to prepare graduates with effective abilities of management [6]. Thus, it is the time to assess the consideration of educational institutions towards P.M afterwards finding the lacks about how they are developing professional individuals to practically deal with projects [7]. An organization that implements the tools and technologies will see a huge gain in both productivity and user satisfaction for minimal cost. A project manager who bulls the definite problem will enhance the productivity of an organization [8].

Figure.1. Project Management Process

2. Problem Statement

Educational institutes, today, possess less collaborations with industries, and as a result graduates face difficulty to acquire appropriate knowledge regarding project management. Hence, this leads to failure of developing demanded projects. Educational institutes focus more on

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academic theoretical side instead of covering enough practical work. Institutes have been creating individuals with lesser practical skills. They must take some stronger steps that could lead towards creating skilled individuals. Most industries require that employees must be passionate about work and market oriented as well and can effectively lead management of projects.

3. Literature Review

Since 1950s, Project Management has truly been considered as an academic "discipline" said Cleland and Gareis, 2006. Whilst, in these days, Project management has created its own sub-disciplines inside the entire management, and have provoked many paths of theoretical knowledge, roadmaps for experts' techniques, and a record collection of best practices. No doubt, theoretical knowledge is a backbone of any profession, but practical skills are more required because they separate it from expertise [9]. Mainly, the focus of our paper is to bring the theoretical concepts in existence with the equal practical workout. Afterwards, examining the skills of individuals by appropriate standardized examination system which can measure not only theoretical concepts but practical work too.

3.1 How industries select project managers

There are numerous standards and phases that are organized and developed as shown in figure.2. These phases even help to bring growth in the value of project management and individuals. There are also higher chances of jobs if they possess soft abilities of how to effectively lead a team and projects within specific amount of time. Not only has this but, the International Project Management Association (IPMA) set its own standards and certification programs. For example, "National Competency Standard" for Project Management was published by the Australian Institute of Project Management (AIPM). On the other hand, modern organizations require Project Management Professional (PMP) certification when hiring project managers that is called an entrance into the preparation of project management [10]. The educational institutes must have strong collaborations to help their individuals how to earn earlier certifications on project management. Hence, they could be able to acquire theory portion, practical knowledge, and certifications in their field to make future safe.
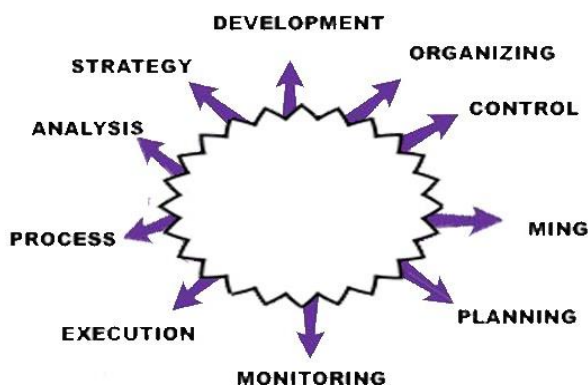

Figure.2. Phases of Project Management

4. Aims and Objectives

Aim: To introduce and apply latest strategies of project management in academic area that are currently being used by industries.

Objectives:

1. To make strong ties in between academic institutions and industries
2. To get familiar with Industries
3. Institutions must adopt the recommended latest tools and technologies of project management
4. To organize seminars of project management for the sack of awareness

5. Results

These days, the backbone problem, most of the organizations face is the continuous failing in project management. To identify why projects fails? The root cause is, no doubt, the lack of skilled professionals and deficiency in learning P.M skills at educational institutes. It has been found that new graduates face critical problems while managing large projects. Further, they lack the skills of budget evaluation, managing time deadlines and strong negotiations. Consequently, they become answerable to fulfilling market demands. Thus, industries have shown great interest to collaborate with institutes for the betterment of creating highly skilled individuals. This way is the best solution to enhance project management successful ratios in the development of projects. They have continuously been finding the best measures to bring latest improvements in project management. These organizations, therefore, use project management as a tool to adopt change. Finally, solution to the problem is to prepare highly skilled and professional individuals through providing proper academic practical knowledge at universities as shown in Table 1.

Table-1 Questionnaire based on Project Management

Sr. No	QUESTIONNAIRE
Q No.1	Do educational institutes provide individuals the latest tools and technologies?
Q No.2	Do educational institutes provide individuals theoretical or practical or both environment?
Q No.3	Do educational institutes facilitate individuals to enhance managerial skills such as, scheduling, time deadlines, and budget evolution?
Q No.4	How many individuals of educational institutions that have been evaluated to different industries per year?
Q No.5	Are latest techniques being implemented at educational institutions?
Q No.6	Do educational institutions have strong relations with industries?
Q No.7	Do You believe your institution will give chance to work in a industry?
Q No.8	Do educational institutes constantly try to keep collaborations with industries?

The survey report represents the result of eight questions asked to the individuals at different institutions. It describes the overall percentage of each option as shown in Table-2.

Table-2 Survey Report (%) taken at different Institutes.

Q.#	Agree	Dis agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Uncertain
1	22	56	09	13	0
2	31	09	42	08	10
3	41	23	31	4	1
4	33	20	28	12	7
5	41	22	30	7	0
6	39	34	22	3	2
7	36	23	25	14	0
8	44	20	13	17	6

The visual representation of the individuals agreed in regards of exploring the theoretical and practical areas of Project Management by methods. While, certain number of graduates at different institutes disagreed the current methodologies used and applied in educational institutes. Similarly, many of them strongly agreed the latest approaches of project management that must be added to practically implement it at educational institutes. While, some strongly disagreed that institutions are not properly taking strong measures to prepare individuals market-oriented with higher degree of skills. Finally, certain number of candidates are uncertain about what should the new implementations in project management as shown in Figure. 3.
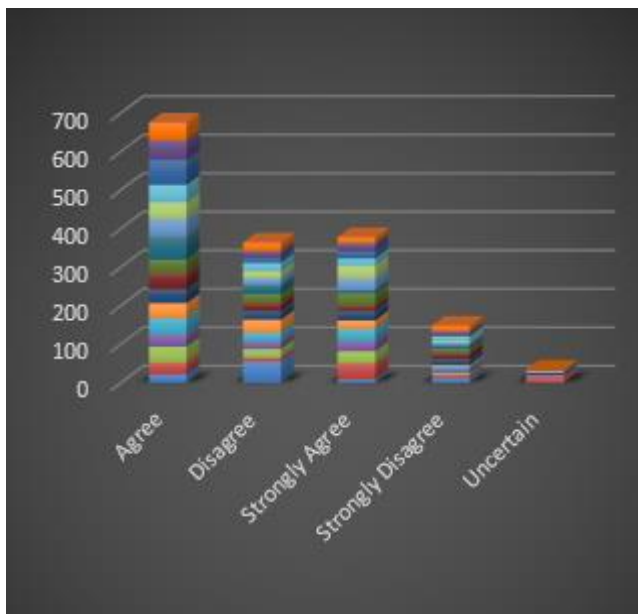

Figure. 3. Representation of findings of Questionnaire of Table 1.

There are some descriptive questions that pertains to causes that apart institutions from industrial relationships, and motivations that persuade to have a strong relationship with industries as shown in Table-3.

Table-3 Representing the Questions of Causes and Motivations

Q No.9	What are the main causes that educational institutes do not touch with industrial areas?
QNo.10	What are the motivations that education institutions are linked with industrial areas?

The survey report of causes and motivations represents the result of two descriptive questions asked from individuals at different institutions. It describes the overall percentage of each option as shown in Table-4.

Table-4 Results of Causes and Motivations

Questions #	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Uncertain
Cause # 1 Lack of High Qualified Faculty	33	24	33	10	0
Cause # 2 Lack of standard projects	60	23	07	10	0
Cause # 3 Lack of practical environment	45	17	30	7	1
Cause # 4 Theoretical Burden	44	19	35	4	0
Motivation # 1 Collaboration increases	45	21	18	12	4
Motivation # 2 Alumni Record Increases	65	13	18	2	2
Motivation # 3 Easy Job placement chances	51	18	21	10	0
Motivation # 4 Institute Rank increases	46	22	16	15	1

There are different shocking findings by indivduals that is concerend with what causes produce lack of colaoboration with industries. Most of the cadidates agreed of high qualified faculty and practical oriented-faculty. Whereas, some disgreed on that but agreed on the cuase of practical enivirment, and practical burden that keep them apart from industrail learning environment.

Certain number of graduates went uncertain to know what is around them. On the side of motivations of linking, most of the candidate agreed on that strong coloboraion is the greatest motivation. Good number of candidate think that alumnai record is the best motivation.

While, certain students attempted job placment and instutions rank motivate them to be linked with moder industres as shown in Figure.4.
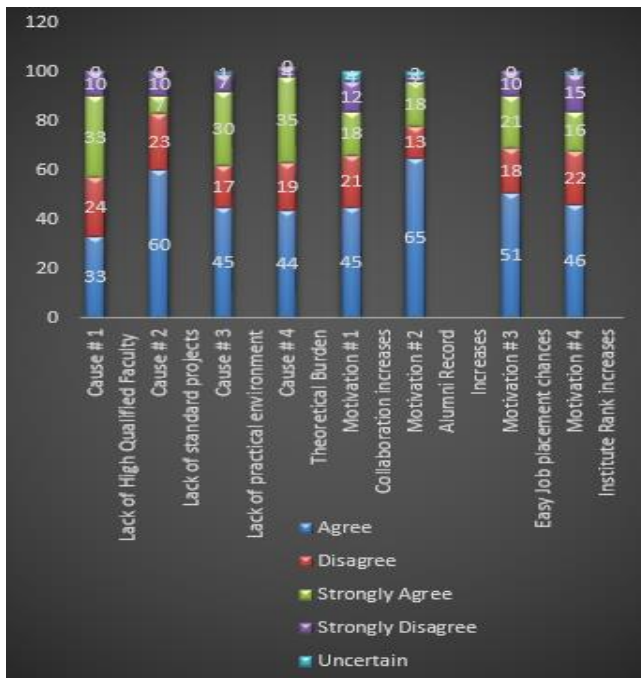

Figure.4 Represents results of causes and motivations

The Grand total of our Survey that represents different findings for different questions. Most of the students agreed that educational institutes really provide them latest tools and technologies to prepare them with soft managerial skills. As, graph shows out of one thousand, 676 only agreed. Less number graduates also agreed on practical or theoretical environment provided by their institute and the results depicts that it must be improved. Average students strongly agreed on different questions pertaining to job placement, learning outcomes, theoretical burden etc. Less answered uncertain that even did not know what are the latest and needs improvements in educational institutes as shown in Figure. 5.
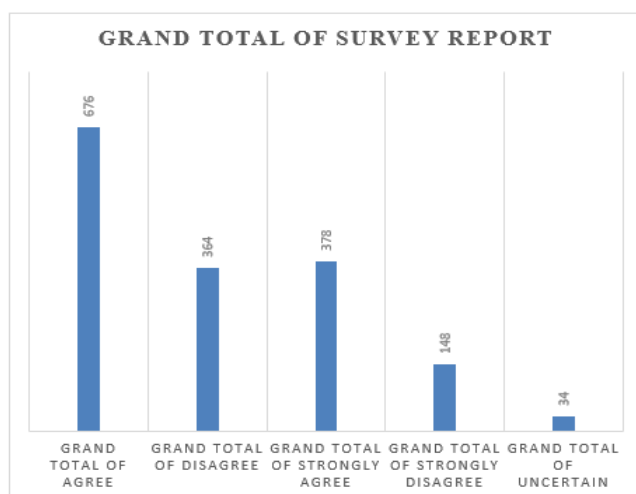

Figure.5 Representation of grand total of survey report

Following results shows the percentage manner of survey report. It includes 67.6 % agree, 36.6 % disagreed, 37.8 % strongly agreed, 14.8 % strongly disagreed and 3.4 % are uncertain as shown in Figure.6.
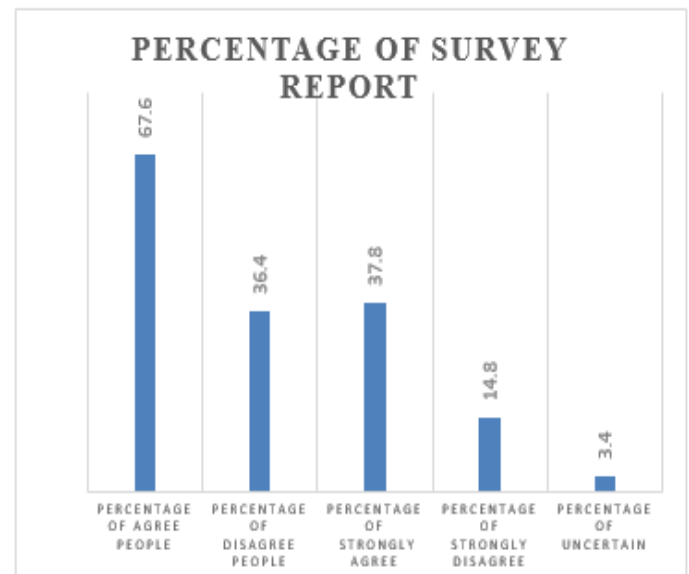

Figure. 6 Survey report in Percentage manner

6. Discussion

The concern research finally showed that educational institutes must work on some new reforms. First, to implement latest tools and technologies, reducing theoretical burden, enhancing practical approaches, exploring new doors of management, and most important of all the collaborations our research would strongly suggest.

7. Conclusion

To conclude, we suggest that educational institutions must adopt the industrial demanded systems in project management to meet the raising necessities of individuals and projects. As, history suggests that individuals who newly join organizations, face critical problems to achieve managerial goals. This may directly shade light upon lower standards and workless reform of educational institutions towards low practilism that is responsible for not getting practical results in many areas.

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