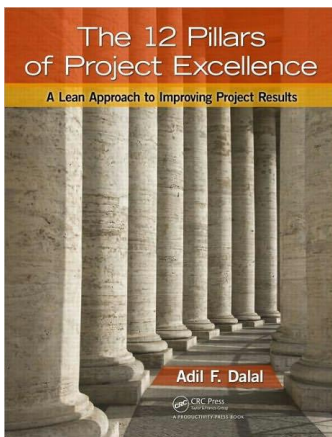


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***The 12 Pillars of Project Excellence: A Lean Approach to Improving Project Results***

Author: **Adil F. Dalal**

Publisher: **CRC Press – Taylor & Francis Group, LLC**

List Price: US\$57.56 Format: Soft cover; # 691 of pages

Publication Date: 2012 ISBN: 978-1-4398-4912-5

Reviewer: **Manjeeta Sitaula** Review Date: 11/2014

Introduction to the Book

It is very seldom that a non-fiction book can captivate the readers to the very last chapter. However, "*The 12 Pillars of Project Excellence*: by Adil P. Dalal, not only provides practical examples but is full of witty illustrations that entice the readers and help relate the daily experiences a professional in the field of project management encounters.

Oftentimes a project manager plateaus at the level of managing project constraints: scope, time and budget, and lacks a greater vision of leading and influencing the team to reach established objectives. This book inspires managers to become better leaders and highlights qualities imperative for the success of an organization.

The author provides insight on the qualities of a dynamic leader, the concept of lean thinking, eliminating unnecessary components of projects. He also discusses organization cultures, reasons for project failures and the lessons that can be learnt from them. With exercises presented behind the chapters, this book provides plenty of opportunity for self-assessment.

Overview of Book's Structure

The twelve pillars of project excellence are presented in individual chapters and warm-up introductions. From chapter to chapter, the transitions appear to be seamless. The titles of the chapter have a strong statement in themselves, for instance, 'Be a Project Leader' to 'Invest in Your Appreciating the Assets.'

The summary and conclusion sections capture the quintessence of all twelve chapters. The key points are tabulated and illustrated through pictures and analogies. Upon the completion of the book, the reader feels empowered and prepared to set high goals for a successful project.

Highlights: What's New in this Book?

The concept of "Lean thinking" is a recurring theme throughout the book. The author provides examples of the power of lean thinking to eliminate non-value added elements. He emphasizes transforming managers into leaders and ultimately exceeding customer's expectations on a project through continuous process improvement.

Highlights: What I liked!

Oftentimes, a project does not have adequate planning or a clear goal. This requires "power of visualization". As mentioned in the book, "Being able to visualize is a tremendously valuable power that will transform the path into a reality". This statement along with the explanation of science and power of visualization required to eliminate the non-value added tasks for a successful project was a major win for me.

Who might benefit from the Book?

This is a very insightful book and captures audience on a very broad range. Mr. Dalal has presented his own experiences on dealing and overcoming challenges to excel in a career path. This book can act as a guide to not only those who are aspiring to grow in the field of project management but also to experienced professionals as well as executives and the entire organization.

Conclusion

Mr. Dalal has presented distinct tools that help one evaluate, facilitate and enhance their skills for advancing into a project leader. Advice and guidelines to improve project organization structure and encourage leaders to develop habits leading to project excellence are discussed in the book. This book portrays the essence of project leadership and provides insightful concepts that can be applied to an organization, personal and professional growth.

The 12 Pillars of Project Excellence: A Lean Approach to Improving Project Results, by Adil F. Dalal, published by CRC Press; 2012, ISBN 9781439849125; \$57.56 USD; 691 pages; soft cover. <http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781439849125>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of cooperation between the publisher, PM World and the Dallas Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI Dallas Chapter – www.pmidallas.org). Publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. Reviewers can keep the books and claim PDUs for PMP recertification. PMI Dallas Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@pmworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



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Manjeeta Sitaula is a professional in the field of Civil Engineering and has been certified as a PMP since 2013. She has been involved in the industry for five years and is working towards becoming a certified Risk Management Professional and a Professional Engineer. She can be reached at manjeetas@gmail.com.