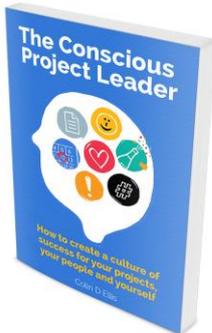


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***The Conscious Project Leader***

Author: Colin D Ellis

Publisher: Colin D Ellis

List Price: 29.95 AUD Format: soft cover

Publication Date: 2016 ISBN: 978-0-9945376-0-7

Reviewer: **Vickie Carvajal, PMP**

Review Date: June/2016

Introduction

In this book, the author's focus was to highlight details of what makes a Conscious Project leader and introduces the Consious Project Leader Model, for which key components are Leadership, Culture and Methods.

The author highlights the differences between traditional project managers and conscious project leaders. He reviews the differences between leadership and management as that's what the author sees as key to understand in order to be a conscious project leader.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book was structured in three sections:

- Section 1 – Leadership
- Section 2 – Culture
- Section 3 – Methods

Within each section, the author provided supporting documentation via multiple chapters. There are 52 chapters in the book. At the end of each chapter, the author provides recommendations on items to read, watch, do or post that are in line or support the content of each chapter.

Highlights

Section 1: Leadership

In the Leadership section, the author provides insight into the leadership component of the conscious project leader model. He defines leadership for the reader and confirms that in order to become a conscious project leader, a project manager

should have an understanding of and desire to practice leadership by being a person that serves others and be the kind of person others would like to be. The author also goes into detail on how certain traits and skills such as humor, gratitude, active listening, self-awareness, empathy, generosity, relationship-building and understanding of the team members, among others, are key to becoming an effective leader that others want to follow.

Section 2: Culture

In the Culture section, the author provides details regarding the culture component of the conscious project leader model. He reviews the four types of cultures found in projects: 1) Stagnant, 2) Pleasant, 3) Combatant, 4) Vibrant. He encourages the project manager to review and understand the project culture and, if not already there, focus on moving the culture to Vibrant in order to ensure a positive work environment and effective project team.

In addition, he provides guidance on how to address team disruptors such as gossip, and addresses how to communicate with introverts and extroverts. In this section the author also spends time reviewing how to conduct project meetings so they are productive.

The main components of this section focus on how to develop a Vibrant team culture by using the proper collaboration tools, focusing on innovation, developing a vision, making work fun, and celebrating the project milestones and events.

Section 3: Methods

In the Methods section, the author focuses on the necessary tools used to achieve a successful project completion that meets requirements set forth by stakeholders. He recommends the readers to educate themselves on various project management tools accessible to project managers such as PMBOK, Scrum, etc. and also to understand how to use them in their projects. He also highlights techniques that are encouraged and discouraged from use in successful projects.

The author starts by reviewing in detail the pros and cons of the most widely used project management approaches: waterfall and agile. He reviews the importance of a project plan and how methods should be used as a guide to best achieve positive project outcomes.

He also reviews the importance of a project plan and understanding the goal and benefits of the project in order to understand why the project was required in the first place. He closed this section by reviewing in detail recommended approaches on estimating, risk management, issue management, proper project reporting and measurement of successful projects, emphasizing understanding and using appropriate methods and techniques.

Highlights: What I liked!

What I liked most about the book is that it is straightforward and engaging. I also found it easy to use as a reference book after I was done reading it. The author invested a lot of effort in developing useful references, techniques, and tools that the reader can apply; these are especially useful if you want to apply conscious project leader principles as one evolves as a conscious project leader.

Who might benefit from the Book?

The book will best appeal to project managers that want to be leaders. The book is especially helpful for those who are early in their exposure to project management as it provides guidance on how to become a conscious project leader. The author provides blogs, worksheets and other tools that can be used to practice and increase knowledge of what it is to be a conscious project leader. In addition the author provides means to access his blog and provide direct feedback on the topic so all the book readers have an opportunity to share ideas and gain insight from other project leaders.

Conclusion

This book introduces the Conscious Project Leader Model and provides details on each of the model's components. The author provides information on the traits and behaviors of a good leader, how to create the proper team culture and how to optimize the use of methods applicable to a specific project. The book and author's goal is to provide the tools for a project manager to become a Conscious Project Leader by understanding and applying the traits, techniques and approaches recommended by the author and achieving the proper balance of leadership, culture and methods in each project.

For more about this book, go to: www.collindellis.com/book/

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About the Reviewer



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Vickie Carvajal, PMP has more than 20 years of experience working in application services and consulting. She has provided project management for a variety of clients in various industries and countries. Vickie has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Angelo State University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Southwest Texas State University.