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The Human Factor in Project Management
Author: Denise Thompson
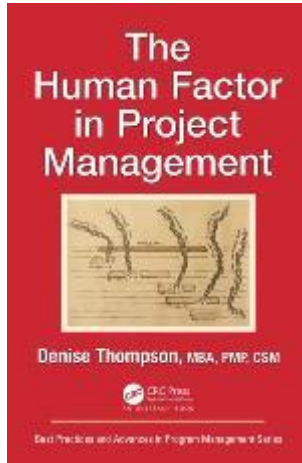Book Review   Reviewer: Leticia Peevy

BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: ***The Human Factor in Project Management***

Author: **Denise Thompson**

Publisher: CRC Press

List Price: $74.95

Format: Hardcover, 180 pages

Publication Date: 2019

ISBN: 978-1138064195

Reviewer: **Leticia Peevy, PMP**

Review Date: February 2020

Introduction

This book is less about project management and more about behaviors and relationships. It focuses on the relationships among all members of a project, from the project manager to the team members to the stakeholders, as well as the relationship of the project manager with themselves. It yearns the reader to look inward and dig deep to understand themselves first, in order to interact and understand others.

The book also provides numerous examples and stories that all weave back into the central theme that tools and processes help one understand project status, but don't control it. People and behaviors are the true controllers of project outcomes.

Overview of Book's Structure

This book consists of 10 chapters with 180 pages. The book has both an index and a references section at the end. The structure of the book feels more like a textbook than a reading book. The chapters are also organized in work breakdown structure format, with Chapter 1 having its sub-sections numbered 1.1, 1.2, and so on.

The font used in the book is small, and there is a lot of information provided, so this is not a quick read. There are several multi-day case scenarios that are used to lead up to a point and provide thorough background for the reader to ponder and relate to real life scenarios.

Highlights

The book has many great points and references several relevant events in modern society and ties those back to the human factors at play on projects. What is our commonality? We are human! And there is a universal set of principles that work on us all. Understanding what those principals are and how we can use those to work for us instead of against us is the big highlight of this book.

Highlights: What I liked!

The two major takeaways for me from the book are the "10 Steps to Leadership" and the concept of the "Timbuktu Methodology".

All 10 leadership steps are solid advice, but the one I enjoyed reading about the most was "Step 1. Find Your Tiger". This concept urges the reader to find their passion and use it to overcome their fears while pushing themselves out of their comfort zone to improve and stay relevant.

The project methodology I have been using my entire career now has a name! It's "Timbuktu Methodology". This concept is something that most project managers have been doing all along. It is the practice of implementing the methodology (or combination of) that works best for the project, the people and the processes. It's more like a recipe than a methodology, a little Agile here, some waterfall there, and voila, you have a customized best of breed that is a recipe for success.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Any person in a leadership position would benefit from this book. Project management concepts transcend industries, cultures and backgrounds, because they are always deeply woven with relatable leadership lessons. The concepts discussed in this book are relevant to anyone seeking a better understanding of how to successfully work with groups and collaboratively achieve common goals, while building lasting productive relationships.

Conclusion

Overall the book "The Human Factor in Project Management" is a very informative book and gives the reader ample scenarios to explain the points. It is written with simple language such that even if the reader is not familiar with project management practices, the concepts being described are easily understood.

For more about this book, go to: *(https://www.crcpress.com/The-Human-Factor-in-Project-Management/Thompson/p/book/9781138064195)*

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About the Reviewer

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Leticia Peevy, PMP, is a Project Manager Specialist with 22+ years' experience managing development, implementation, upgrade and conversion IT software projects. The bulk of her experience is with large projects including bank conversions, application upgrades and development. Leticia is a certified JMT member and enjoys conducting leadership training and consulting. She is also a co-founder of "Connective Journey", which hosts emersion and masterclass courses as well as overnight retreats.

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