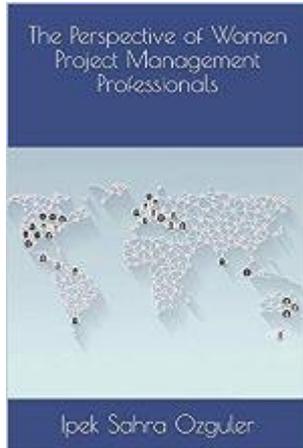


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: **The Perspective of Women Project Management Professionals**

Author: **Ipek Sahra Ozguler**

Publisher: Ipek Sahra Ozguler

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Reviewer: **Jason Loman**

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Introduction

“The Perspective of Women Project Management Professionals” is a collection of 29 interview questions from various women in project management as well as a short introduction and summary detailing Ozguler’s approach to developing the questions, statistics on the interviewees and the estimated benefits of project management. Ozguler also summarizes the responses of the interviewees in a qualitative manner that allows the reader to get a sense of the responses.

Each interviewee was asked the same group of questions intended to give the individual a well-rounded opportunity to explain how and why they got into project management, as well as important issues surrounding project management. All of the women interviewed had a good mix of experience and credentials. Women were chosen from all over the world to provide the reader with an accurate snapshot of the global opinion of women in project management.

Overview of Book’s Structure

“The Perspective of Women Project Management Professionals” consists of the dedication, acknowledgements, foreword, introduction and summary and each interview response. 29 women’s responses were recorded, each approximately two to three pages. All the interviewees had the same set of questions:

1. Describe your journey as a project management professional.
2. Why did you choose to become a project management professional?
3. Have you encountered any related obstacles in advancing your career?
4. Why is it important that more people work in the project management area?

5. How can we encourage more people to pursue project management as a career?
6. What do you think are the top issues that project managers face today?
7. Do you think there is a stereotype attached to project management?
8. Why is it important to celebrate international women's day?
9. On international women's day, what is the most important message you offer to project management professionals?

Highlights

Ozguler's book records the responses of all 29 interviews in qualitative form and presents them as an insight for the reader to glean information at will. Each woman's thoughts and opinions were her own, but several common themes emerged. Almost all of the women fell into a project management position, enjoyed it and then decided to stay and earn various certifications to further their career. Most of the problems experienced, with respect to the top issues facing PM's today, were related to the perception of companies, managers and employees as to the role of project managers and what they were and were not capable of. Many of the interviewees referred to the maturity level of the organization as the compelling factor for PM support.

The unique perspectives of each individual produced varied opinions on PM stereotypes, the importance of celebrating international women's day and the message they would offer to other PM professionals. If I had to pick a few common themes, they would be:

1. Project management is a difficult but rewarding profession.
2. Women seem to experience more bias or difficulty related to their gender earlier in their career as opposed to later.
3. International Women's Day gives us all a chance to celebrate the achievements of women.
4. Project managers need familiarity and experience with Agile and hybrid PM practices.
5. Project managers should push back against the stereotype that we are administrators, inflexible and uninvolved in the decision-making process.

Highlights: What I liked!

From a male perspective of a female perspective of project management I was a bit surprised, encouraged and discouraged at times reading this book. I was a little surprised that so many of the opinions reached consensus, I thought difficulties and stereotypes would be more varied. I was encouraged that some individuals felt they hadn't experienced any bias, or that the bias they experienced was early in their career. I was discouraged that people experienced bias at all. Project management is a difficult profession and requires that the PM call on a multitude of skills and talents to bring a project to fruition. The difficulties we experience shouldn't be the result of our gender, male or female. What I liked most about this book was the underlining

hopefulness and determination of the individuals to do the best job they could which I believe will be the vehicle that brings us closer to parity between the sexes.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Ultimately anyone would benefit from reading this book, but probably most of all younger female project managers or women interested in project management. It provides unfiltered opinions and perspectives on what being a project manager is like and how people got into the profession in the first place.

Conclusion

This book functions as a platform for women to highlight issues that they've experienced that might differ from the experiences of a man, although I think it's fair to say most of the issues brought up were common to both sexes. Ozguler's book is a point of data in a sea of data that the project management world can use to chart our course and move the profession further forward. I appreciate the opportunity to read Ipek Sahra Ozguler's book and the opinions of all 29 women in it. I encourage anyone to do the same.

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.amazon.com/Perspective-Women-Project-Management-Professionals/dp/B0863RT9ZB>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [PMI Dallas Chapter](#). Authors and 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. PMI Dallas Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published.

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About the Reviewer



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Jason Loman is a husband and father to an adorable family as well as a business owner and entrepreneur. He earned his BS in Technical Management from Embry-Riddle with a major in Project Management. He holds a CAPM with an eye on the PMP certification and an interest in achieving a master's in engineering management. Jason has been a project manager since 2009 in the aviation industry.

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