Preface

The current work provides a basis for advanced treatment of concepts in project management. In this world, where most questions are answered through Google or the internet, the knowledge element in *project management* has come under the influence of disruptive technologies. In other words, the 'number of points' given to a project manager for knowing something that is easily available/obtainable on the internet has come down. This is having far-reaching consequences. The reader needs to orient toward newer benchmarks of what is required for success in the business cases. Thus, we deal with a few advanced concepts in this book.

As the name implies, it is not an elementary book to read and get to know the first level of the topics. Rather, it is an advanced-level treatment of the subject, to be initiated after the preliminary study has already been completed.

The book is designed for practicing project managers, engineering, MBA, as well as Ph.D. students who need to understand the various dynamics that are typically encountered in a project environment. Undergraduates can use this as a manual if they are interested in pursuing a career in a projectized environment. For researchers, this book provides ample ideas on potential areas of research in the domain of applied project management.

Most projects today do not follow the conventional route ending up in parallel activities. Staffing and capability issues can be dominant in most such projects. Further, not all projects need 'equal' emphasis in all areas… some areas, therefore, are more 'mucked' than others! Therefore, all said, *practice differs from theory*! This book is all about bridging that gap and giving the project manager a strong platform to work on.

The content in the book is taken from several books and training programs. I have also tried to use discussion threads from various fora on project management. Many of the tools have been developed on the basis of modeling and simulation methods. They are specially designed by me and are copyrighted under the IP of Consulting Connoisseurs. And these were tested at several projects across the globe.

Most of the exercises in the book are actually meant for you, the reader, to perform them as you go. Therefore, this book does not have a 'read-all' and 'come back later' kind of design. On the contrary, the approach is to use the 'learning' by 'doing' paradigm, whereby the reader is expected to do the exercises at that time before reading on.

Finally, as a fellow member of the project management community, I would ask you to enjoy your work and try to gain as much as possible from this book. So, happy reading and happy learning.

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