

MANAGING ENTERPRISES IN 21ST
CENTURY

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REFLECTIVE REPORT BASED ON EXPERIENCE DURING THE TEAM BUSINESS PLAN JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION

In this essay I will present my meditative feedback of the learning courses that I had taken during the team business plan seminars from the first university term. I will also talk about the development of my own skill set for self-employment. I am also going to talk about my thoughts on some weaknesses shortages and the way in which I can do better. I will also write about my team colleagues, their roles and how this impact the final result of the Business plan presentation.

In the next paragraphs I am going to use the reflective cycle by Graham Gibbs and the six steps that I have been taught and how this helped me to have a more complete opinion about this journey. Gibbs Reflective Cycle provokes people to see their experiences more methodically. Observation on these experiences can be divided in phases. This can make people think about that experience, activity or event more detailed, more often than not, and is keeping them aware of their own actions and. "By looking at both negative and positive impacts of the event, people can learn from it." (Mulder, 2018). This will help me to make sense of different situations, so that I can understand what I did well and what I could do better in the future.

The requirement is to create a reflective report about the experiences I had during team business plan interactions from first term. I will talk about distinct types of skills that I developed or I must have as a self-employer, which was of great help to have a clearer idea about what I have achieved during journey. As a part of my report research and writing process, I will manage an alongside process of reflective learning assuring to gather essential points of self-growth, learning and advancement resulting from this business plan journey.

Description

In term 1 I formed a group of 4 to prepare a presentation about a business plan for the module Managing Enterprise in the 21st Century, our lecturer being Dr. Isaiah Oino.

Cooperating with team colleagues to find solutions to problems and achieve objectives together is a common improving experience for many. "While some teams can accomplish extraordinary results, they can also deteriorate into an ineffective and immobilized group of frustrated individuals. As individuals join together and build trust, groups develop a shared identity and a common purpose as they progress through predictable stages of development." (Griffiths & Dunham, 2015) .

My group was formed by me, Cecil, Michael and Alan. In the first time we decided to have Alan as a team leader, but he told as is not ready for it, so we all decided that Michael is the best for this position. He gave us the responsibilities and he arranged all the meetings to get ready this presentation.

It was mentioned initially that between us we have 4 professions – Transport trade, Health care, Food industry and courier firm. With a brief discussion we pitched for either, The food industry (Restaurant) or a Car Wash (Motor Industry). Finally, a unanimous decision was in favour of the car wash on the assumption that no one else in class will go with that industry but maybe a few will go with Food industry (there are few in that industry in class) and we wanted to be different from the rest. Our business name was Motor Groom Car Wash Center.

The business set up was: The business, Our products and services, Marketing, Branding, Location, Cash flow (start up cost/profit and loss 12mth prediction), Personnel, Our competitors.

The first two responsibilities, The business and Our products and services, was assigned to Michael, therefore he came up with concept of business, its products and services offered to customers and traders.

My responsibility was to came up with branding of the business (logo) and how we will market and publicise the business.

Alan's responsibility was to find business location; determine size and cash flow 12mth predictions.

Cecil's part was to look at our competitors as well as how much people we needed to run operation.

Naturally we were all be helping one another if required but individually we all have been the above which are our main tasks. We had 2 meetings outside the classes, which on the first one I did not could attend, because of personal issues, but I was in contact with my colleagues trough WhatsApp phone call. The second meeting was arranged previously by Michael with the owner of a car wash, to be explained all the ups and downs of this business, how is working and to give us some tips. The meeting was very helpful, and we figured out that is not easy to run it, because is a seasonal business and every time the profit can change, so we done some changes and rectifications in out presentation project.

Feelings

Honestly, in the first time I was a little bit worried because I was the only women from the group, but my colleagues made me to feel no difference between me and them, on the contrary they tried to make me feel comfortable and secure with them. The team leader, Michael, was very involved and he helped me a lot with my assigned part of the presentation, giving me ideas and corrections. All the team was serious about it and I felt good spending all this journey with them. My mistake was that I have been started to work on my part not from when our team formed and decided the responsibilities of each of us , therefore I was a little under pressure to finish my work in time to meet the deadline.

After the second meeting with the car wash owner, I was a little bit disappointed and asked myself if this business type is ok for us, because of the complications and the costs that he presented to us. But we took this as a challenge and in the final everything went good.

Being my first presentation, before it, I started to be anxious, nervous, being concerned that I will display everything I have learned in front of my teachesrs and the class. While I was presenting, everything gone smoothly, and I calmed myself. We were the first team presenting, therefore I was taken by surprise.

After the presentation I felt relieved and proud of my team. I think everything went very good, and the most important all of us passed this exam.

The external environment, the treatment the person is getting and the external motivation to make the work effective influence the human behaviour. The motivation comes out to be the best option to influence human psychology and make them work in a team in any working domain or spheres. In an optimistic group, the motivation and the drive is to make a person motivated and work effectively (Sandler, 2018). On the other hand, teamwork and the communication are co-related to each other as an effective communication can make an effective team where the group will work together in coordination and collaboration. I believe that our team had a strong communication and all the decisions we made together lead us to build an effective teamwork.

Evaluation and Analysis

From this experience I have learned how to work in a team, how to be connected to the group and the importance of choosing the right team. Also, I have learned how to develop my own skill set for self-employment, dealing with the tasks that I have been asked to conclude and how to work on time limit and self-organization. The collective skills of the team members have made the group more informative and driven to work hard even under pressure. Moreover, our decision-taking skills also made an effective body in the group and we have been able to achieve our goals and objectives successfully.

I, also, have understood that it is crucial to accept and evaluate any weakness and work more effectively as a team, all to have the same purpose.

I think that everything went smoothly because each of us had an input in the final version of the presentation we wanted to pursue on, and in this way we had the and we split up in groups base on people's own preferences and strengths. I was very accomplished with my part of the presentation, and this helped me to get ready in time my slides, and to not be stressed regarding the deadline.

Belbin's team work theory helped me to recognize the meaning of a team work and how this can be productive. "A team member character's compliments or influences another team member's character's and behavioural patterns to make progress in a company or workplace." (Belbin, 2010) Therefore, Belbin theory suggests that every person own a unique set of qualities and flaws they bring in the team. Although we did not see our colleagues with the same eyes Belbin would, efficient team work and better work rate are a result from using people's strengths to their advantages. Every person of my group has a different personality, the coordination, and the respect towards each other helped in making our operations successful and achieves for all the team goals and objectives. The Belbin theory influences the maintenance of one's natural behaviour and the acceptance of every individual's behaviour. The Belbin theory explains the probability of a team whether they will succeed, or they will fail according to their personality traits and behavioural approach.

CONCLUSION – What could I have improved my assignment?

From this experience I have learned different skills that I must possess in order to be part of a successful team, also which are my qualities and flaws regarding teamwork and self-employment. I now have a better understanding of the impact of self-reflection and learned how to come up with an action plan based on any set of strengths and weaknesses that I have and how I can improve on this.

Action plan

This helped me to have a better view on what I need to improve on my decision-making skills, because this skill is very important when you work under pressure and deadline time. Therefore, I have decided that when I will be working in a group next time, I will focus more on my set time and starting to work on my part earlier and not to be stressed about deadline. I also plan to share this new insight with other members of my team as, in the same time, it helps me to reflect better on it. Moreover, I will plan to start reading books about how big and strong teams work. I will not find it too hard to overcome my weaknesses when I acknowledge that I need to learn continuously.

Conclusion

In this document I presented my perspective on the skills that I gained from experiences this journey I had with my team, and to defeat any obstacles that seemed harder to overcome at the beginning of this term. I understood the ways that I can improve on my employability skills and accepted the fact that I have to create an action plan for improving. Also, I have learned that better exploiting people's different strengths is more effective, planning in advance how we want the final result to look.

References

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