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Introduction

This project is based on an evaluation of the thoughts regarding the Crossrail project of the Elizabeth Line has been done which is the biggest railway project laid across railways for London and the South East of the United Kingdom. In Assessment 1, a critical analysis of the budget, stakeholders, risks and timeline has been analysed based on the Crossrail project and their achievement of milestones. Further this project will deliver a detailed narrative analysis regarding the past project through the adoption of a reflective framework. The approach of self-reflection helps to assess the learning in a systematic manner,

Further based on the assessment individual is able to focus on the areas of the knowledge gap and assess to choose the correct career path based on the skills in which an individual has their expertise and knowledge. This project will finally create an outcome regarding the knowledge and abilities of the researcher, as well as help to identify the loopholes to minimise it in future research studies relatable to the same approach. Further analysis of the project would be based on Gibbs' Reflective Cycle by separating the learning into six stages including "*description, feelings, evaluation, analysis, conclusion and action plan*". Miller *et al.* (2020) have exhibited that the Gibbs reflective cycle is considered to be a complete framework with a broader component to make understanding better about the past areas.

The Body

Description

The description stage of the cycle is associated with the evolution of the situation which has been faced by the author in the past. During assessing the first project, a critical understanding of the Crossrail project of the Elizabeth line has been understood. The line was seen to initiate its operation on Tuesday 24 May 2022 and connect stations of Paddington and Abbey Wood, in addition, it helped to make the connection with Heathrow station. After an assessment of the project, it is identified that the Elizabeth Fleet of CrossRail is responsible for handling 30 million passengers over six months of operation across the heart of London. This shows the significance of having the rail network in the prime locations of London and augmented its benefits by showing its capabilities to reduce the crowd (Crossrail, 2022).

Although, I have seen that due to major issues the project has been delayed by several days and resulting in a higher cost completion of the operation. Based on a review it is found that the service will start on 24 May 2022, although the full-service operation is expected to be open within 12

months of working. Although, the project had a scheduled deadline of 9 December 2018, which changed with the construction of the final infrastructure (Building, 2022). This shows a delay of over 4 years and still counting on, I think that the project lacks proper planning, development of strategies and maintaining the delivery of resources at a particular time. Time constraints of the project have affected its reputation across the global platform, as well as created a major challenge for the budget which had been proposed during the time of project initiation.

Feelings

I feel that the Crossrail project of the Elizabeth line can be considered a success because the reports have proven that the Elizabeth line can contribute over £42bn to the economy of the UK by improvement of links between London and the South East locations. Along with this, it has a major role in the creation of job opportunities and the transformation of public reliabilities for making transportation smoother in nature (Crossrail, 2022).

I feel that, in terms of social benefits, the Crossrail project of the Elizabeth line can be considered a success rather than a failure. Currently, the Crossrail line has employed a total of 10,000 people across its 41 sites, as well as, accounted for supplies from over 62% of the UK businesses. Additionally, this line of Cross Road has projected to grow the capacity of London Rail Capacity by 10%, which helps to relieve congestion on many existing rail and Tube lines (Gov, 2022). Additionally, the rail network will provide a chance for 1,000 apprenticeships across 10 different stations around 42km of the line (Gov, 2022). Along with this, the Elizabeth line is able to control an estimated 200 million people over the journey from Heathrow to the West End which takes around 30 minutes in comparison to 50 minutes in other transportation networks.

Based on the above analysis I am assured that the Crossrail project of the Elizabeth line is a story of success rather than failure. It is seen that the Crossrail Project has introduced several new job opportunities, transportation feasibility and higher contribution to the economy. Evaluation of the factors is positively associated with the growth prospects of the country. In future after the full completion of the project, this can result in good growth of the economy, employment sector and daily commute systems across Heathrow to the West End of the UK. During the evaluation, I have seen that the project is also associated with the Sourcing of raw materials from their local supplies around the UK, this helps to meet the need for growth for local suppliers and to be able to manufacture profit in a feasible time by the use of abilities of local companies.

Evaluation

Due to a delay on the Crossrail project, a budget variance has been witnessed; the costs finally ended at £19bn (\$23.7bn), whereas it was scheduled to be £14.8bn (\$18.5bn) in 2010 during the time of project scheduling. The establishment of the connection across 41 stations created major types of complexities that make the railway operation a huge task and complications. During the analysis, I witnessed that the Crossrail project does not have a viable plan for completion of the project and has a lack of transparency of the project due to the reasons of different administration conflicts. Based on the above statement it has been identified by me that, in terms of managing a project, the creation of proper planning and arrangement of the resources are necessary. On the Crossrail project, there are several issues associated with proper management collaboration, maintenance of a proper contingency plan and sufficient budgeting of the project. In projects the iron triangle is based on Three major factors including time budget and cost, whereas, the Crossrail project of Elizabeth Line seems to have major loopholes in the establishment of the iron Triangle based on the necessary need of completing the operations (Deloitte, 2022).

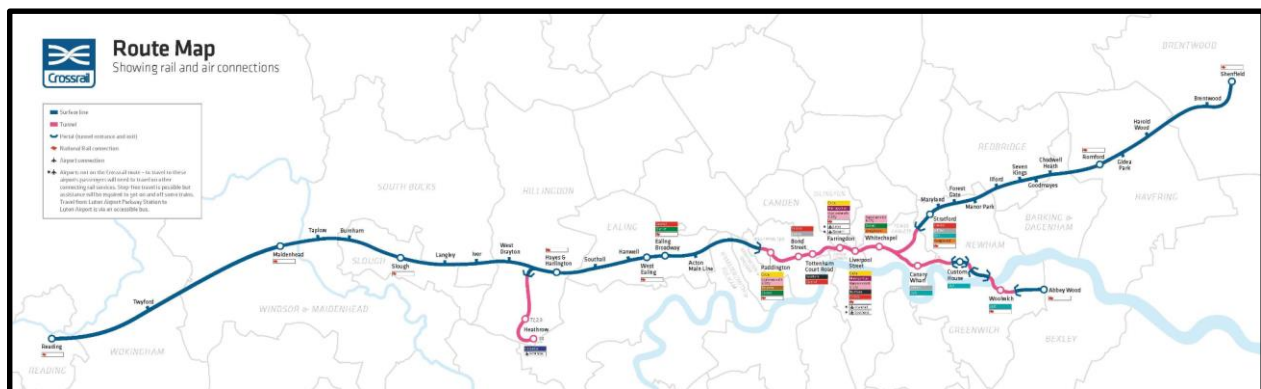


Figure 1: Crossrail Project

(Source: Networkrail, 2022)

During the time developing a project management plan for Crossrail Project (Elizabeth Line), I have seen that budgeting plays a major role in handling project resource needs. Eyibio and Daniel (2020) have exhibited that improper budgeting of projects can result in serious issues, which can be relatable to improper availability of resources, delay in construction and extensive amount of investments for completing the project. As seen in this project, due to proper budgeting there is a huge investment that has to be made by the project owners and contractors to make the project successful. The budgeting of projects is based on different types including *Master budgeting*, *Operating budget*, *Cash budget*, *Financial budget* and *Static budget* (Yılmaz, 2018). Accurate

budgeting helps to estimate better information on projects based on data that are necessary, this helps to calculate the actual costs of the projects based on the identification of the under-defined risks associated with the project operation. Kwon and Kang (2019) have exhibited that, due to the issue of inadequate contingency allowance, different budgeting operations of the project are insufficient due to the causes of cost overruns and several issues of unexpected risks. The Crossrail project is also associated with underlying challenges; one of the causes of those challenges is a lack of transparency and management conflicts during the time of operation. This causes major delays and cost overrun issues on the project which has created a bad reputation for the project and has resulted in a major loss.

Analysis

Based on the above analysis it can be analysed that the project is associated with several risks which can cause major disruptions in the project. The infrastructure manager of the Crossrail project has done Systems Integration Dynamic Testing (SIDT) to reveal future issues of the project where problems have been found on signalling and train control software across the central London stations, which might be a major challenge for the completion of the project. In terms of this, Crossrail's December 2020 funding deal has been signed with the TfL, which further helps to assist the project in future issues (Modern Railways, 2021). In terms of tuning work, the project has also faced critical issues which have been associated with critical real-time settlement control scenarios. Thus, I have seen that there are major challenges witnessed by the project in terms of proper management guidelines, which have caused inefficient operations as well.

As exhibited by the study by Tahir (2019), the project manager is associated with a major important role that helps to make the foundation of pillars across the operations. The project manager acts as a leader who focuses on mostly the development of hard or technical skills among them. Thus, relevant education on the chosen field by the project managers is necessary to execute the stages of planning, evaluation, monitoring, scheduling, and risk management. Along with this, it has been seen that project managers are not able to meet long-term resourcing requirements on the Crossrail operations. This has further resulted in resource shortages and highlighted real-life problems in the operations. Due to this, the project has been estimated to cross their budget by £3bn, which should be an expected loss the company will face in future (Railtechnologymagazine, 2019).

Based on the above issues, I can assume that in making a project successful there is a major contribution done by the project manager. I have seen that the hard skills of a project manager play

a major role in the achievement of *resources, budding, scheduling, handling and stakeholders* of the project. Development of hard skills, project managers are able to accomplish the goals of every project which further helps to maintain accuracy in activities such as communication, interpersonal, coordination, team building and delegation. Further, this helps to accomplish the challenges of missed deadlines, productivity loss and business internal conflicts in the project operations. I have further analysed that, projects are dependent on their schedule creation majorly, which also helps to make approval of budgeting and other activities as well. based on proper scheduling, the expected project budget and other resources can be identified. These resources include humans, raw materials, supply of different goods and technical equipment across the project operations.

Conclusion

Further, based on the analysis it can be concluded that the Crossrail project is a major success in the transformation of the Transportation system across England, mostly for the heart of England. Although, some critical issues have been found on the project which makes it difficult to consider it an engineering marvel, which is associated with the challenges of clear project carter, proper budgeting of the resources and transparency among the team members or project coordinators, which makes the project difficult to achieve its success on the projected time. In my view, the Crossrail project of Elizabeth lane can be a future success apart from the technical and management problems. As this helps to increase the feasibility of transportation across England, reach destinations in a shorter time and make employment opportunities for more people. In terms of being successful in project management operations, I have to further review my soft and hard skills, which further I might be able to be a successful project coordinator and manager who can lead success in particular operations.

Action plan

<i>Skills</i>	<i>Development needs</i>	<i>Development plans</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
<i>Hard skills</i>			
<i>Technical knowledge</i>	<i>Yes, needed</i>	<i>Need to be participative across different operations</i>	<i>6 months</i>

<i>Prioritisation abilities</i>	<i>I have to improve. I have to develop my project Prioritisation abilities so that I can focus on tasks that are needed to complete to make other tasks successful.</i>	<i>I have to create a checklist of different tasks and have to sense the urgency of every task in a proper manner.</i>	<i>3 months</i>
<i>Writing habits</i>	<i>I have to develop my writing habits better.</i>	<i>I have to make a journal of different activities in my regular life, this will teach me about the role of writing operations.</i>	<i>4 months</i>
<i>Soft skills</i>			
<i>Leadership skills</i>	<i>Need development</i>	<i>In order to be a good leader I have to set clear goals in my academic life.</i>	<i>4 Months</i>

Table 1: Action plan
(Source: Self-Developed)

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the above project, in assessment 1 a critical understanding of what budget, Time and scheduling matter in successful project management is identified. Further, in the assessment of this in the current study, it is identified that successfully orienting a project by their lead manager is necessary. It is clear that a project operation is fully controlled by successful coordination and interaction between the management team, which the Crossrail project isn't able to adapt effectively. While creating the budget and timeline for the same Crossrail project I

identified several mistakes that have been made by the management while they are working on the project. I believe that a lack of transparent behaviour and coordination among the managers has led to a situation where they have to face a loss of 3 billion euros to perfectly complete the task. Further, this project is associated with some areas of improvement which can be done in future project management studies by comprehending the learning of Crossrail project operation and my project analysis abilities.

Recommendations

- It can be recommended that I need some improvement in my critical analysis abilities. This is an important part of project planning as an analyst makes a checklist of what is needed and what is not from a project operation. Imparting a critical view I might be able to solve problems such as the development of project purpose, goals and mission which can be achieved in future.
- I have to develop an understanding of how a project goal is associated with its strategy creation and resource management operation. As seen in the Crossrail project there are major planning and resource management problems were present, which further delayed the operation due to a lack of sources for accomplishing a particular task.

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