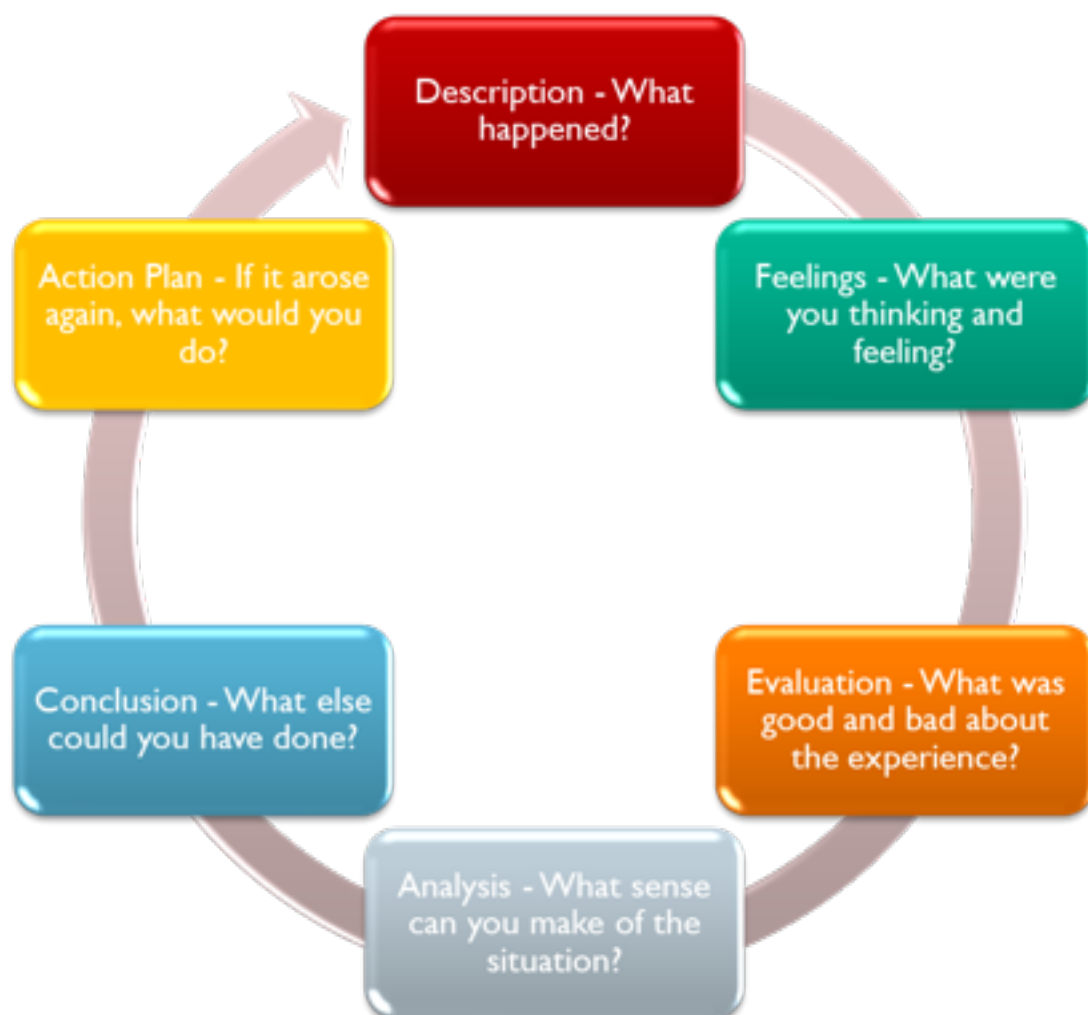


Reflective Report

Introduction

I will reflect on my experience in the project about the recycling industry. The process itself was quite inspiring, as I was grouped with people I didn't originally know at first. Throughout the duration of this project, not only did I gain a variety of skills, I have also enjoyed the experience I have had with my peers. As quite an independent individual, I have learnt the value of collaboration, not to mention I also learnt the true value of time and managing it (time management). In this project, not only myself, but my peers in my group have also faced this, which could have been a major downfall in the project, but it luckily did not as we worked together to sort this out since we're facing a similar difficulty as one another. There are many recycling industries around the world not just the UK, something not many people would want to research about or get to know. Without recycling, it would have a large impact on the environment, such as releasing harmful chemicals and greenhouse gases released from the rubbish in landfill sites. Recycling companies help us, with commercial recycling (Veolia UK), to prevent this from happening and actually try to protect our surroundings. In my reflection I will be using Gibbs's Model of Reflection theory (Gibbs, 1988).



Description

To begin with the tutor arrived, forming us into a group. We began a group discussion so we came to the conclusion on what to choose for our project. Everyone in the group came up with ideas and we all shared our opinions and propositions but the ideas a lot of us came up with were weak or not liked by the majority of the group. One of the members in our group, came up with the idea of a recycling company which appealed highly to everyone in comparison to the other ideas that were previously brought up. This idea was Sorin's, which everyone quite liked a lot. The idea was unique as not many would think of it. Everyone in our group quite liked the idea as it inspired us, recycling is an idea that is not acknowledged by many and therefore is frowned upon. We then began to start our plans in regard to this project, which was exciting as I had in experience when it came to this project. This was the main complication faced by many of us in the group, except for one who did have knowledge in this path of expertise, but we overcame the lack of information we originally had due to the researching segment. This was incredibly significant for many of us in the project, as without this component throughout the duration of the project, this was the key element in which many of us gained a lot of knowledge about our chosen project. We would discuss things about our project together quite frequently, almost weekly to see how much progress is being made and if anyone requires any help.

Feelings

Our discussions weren't merely on just the project, we would also check up on each others' wellbeing regularly. This would ensure that if the workload was getting a bit too much for a member of the group, we can distribute it to either ease it for the member, or we'd sit together as a group and help the person overcome their anxieties over something they're stuck on, helping them get back on track and back to complete the project to the best ability possible. In this process, I have learned that I intend to waste no time and if a person was stuck or anxious, the best solution is to not ignore, but to quickly and efficiently resolve this issue in order to minimise the amount of time about to be wasted. For me, I would utilise my time by either researching, or seeing if anyone needs any help/feels overwhelmed. Projects like these should have workload that is both challenging and fairly balanced so that it can be distributed equally between group members and so that no member feels that they have more of a role than others - everyone should be treated just. With using the group chat, the difficulties faced were that if a member of the group asked a question, it would take a brief while for every member in the group to respond. However, no other issues were faced whilst using social media to stay in contact with the group - no one was inconsiderate or underperforming, everyone agreed with each other. Everybody was assigned with different roles, so it was easier to complete the project at a much faster process, When we completed our segment of research, we distributed the knowledge gained with other members in the group. The emotions and feelings I have experienced throughout this project have been excitement and passion. These two, excitement and passion because in the duration of the process of my analysis research, I felt sudden excitement because I was interested and knew more about the recycling industry after having time to research.

Analysis

The significance of this project was, in my point of view, the collaboration skills I gained and I also acknowledged the fact that more can be achieved when being part of a group. In comparison to individual work, being in a group means you get things done quicker, as the work is being divided to the people in the group. This gave me a major understanding that maybe collaborating in a group to get things done isn't so bad. Working in a team fosters the aspects of teamwork, time management in addition to learning problem solving skills. It also meant that again, if a member was underperforming or felt overwhelmed and was stuck, there are multiple members to help bring the person back on track as there is support when being in a group. I enjoy helping people who are stuck, as I personally used to be a struggler, but wouldn't receive help from peers as I'd normally work individually. This contrasted when I helped my peers, as it gave me a sense of enjoyment and satisfaction that I brought someone on the right track when they were struggling the most. All in all, the project was successful as there were no negatives and only positives as we all collaborated and worked well together. The negatives of this experience was, I'd say, the lack of knowledge I originally had to bring, but I was quite relieved to find out that I was not the only member of the group that barely had awareness and expertise on this as recycling isn't exactly my forte.

Evaluation

The role I was given was Site Manager and was given the subject PESTLE (Political, Economic, Sociological, Technological, Legal and Environmental) Analysis. The Political Factor has a huge impact on business organisations in multiple ways. The Economic factor gives more job opportunities, adding more money to the economy. The sociological aspect explores the main social factors, which impacts on what customers need. Technological considers the new RDF recycling technology, which can be one of the most important factor to help improve the business' income. The legal section is essential for investment in intermediate infrastructure due to ratification, and Environmental is a sustainable business plan, according to the UK requirements. I was also given SWOT Analysis, and I noticed during my research that there were more strengths than weaknesses. There were also few threats which was good, but not that many opportunities. One of the good things that happened in my group, was that we stayed to ourselves and didn't invade anyone's area or work or we did not compete against each other to see who would win or compare the quantity or quality of our research to each other. We valued the group, especially each and everyone, for us it was not a competition but we just simply wanted to complete the project together. The workload was also not overbearing with tons, or felt light with too little, which was a great balance as I felt I contributed significantly in regards to my section of research.

Conclusion

I have learnt the importance of accepting help if necessary and actually working in a group. It does not make you look weak, but in fact stronger because you can experience from it and learn from it, and you get things down at a much higher rate rather than being by yourself. The only thing I wish that I could have changed is the meetings as we all live quite far from each other which made it difficult to achieve meetings together. However, this had a minimal impact to our entire project, as we still worked together and we all did attend the meetings when it was arranged together. The lack of knowledge we had could also be an improvement, but this could also be seen as a positive as majority of the group had very limited and lack of knowledge when it came to the recycling industry, and the project research ensured that we knew. The project research allowed us to actually learn about what our project is about, as only one person in our group had good knowledge about the industry we decided to research about, which was Sorin as he originally came up with the idea and presented it. As for time management, this was solved by having set times for people, which proved to be effective. If it was up to me, I would have avoided the whole project concept (which was the recycling enterprise) as it didn't seem too appealing or interesting at first. But, as I researched and indulged deeper into my analysis, I realised that it wasn't as boring as I thought it was. From this experience, it taught me to never judge a book by its cover, and I should be more open minded and give things a chance, even if it is boring ideas that doesn't exactly appeal to me at first. This project was very interesting as I haven't really come across recycling much, especially to research an industry that is mainly based on that, which appealed to me quite a lot.

Action Plan

In order to improve for next time, time management should be taken into consideration highly as that is always an issue when it comes to group/team projects. This can be achieved by utilising time effectively, with no time to slack and be on it. Time could also be broken down and portioned for different sections so that you're spending a fair amount of time on each sector and that you're not prioritising or spending too much time on one part. Next time, the same strategies should be used as to what my group did; checking and ensuring frequently that the work is not overbearing, also checking that there is work being done, dividing the workload between the peers fairly as well as balanced and ensuring that you have contact just in case a member needed to ask a question. Not the lack of knowledge, but I would have wanted to improve the lack of time we had, as the researching part was interesting (I learned quite a lot about the roles I had been giving). Time management during the process and decision making were the most challenging aspects in this process. To overcome this, decision making was solved by having a team leader. In addition, next time there should be more discussions in regards to the project in person so that the entirety of the group know what the plan would be. This is imperative and better than over social media, such as through the WhatsApp messaging app as it doesn't always allow people to have a say and not everyone in the group will reply on time to conclude with the decision.

References

(Veolia UK) <https://www.veolia.co.uk/our-services/what-we-do/recycling-and-waste-services/businesses/commercial-recycling>
(Gibbs 1988) <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/upgrade/study-skills/reflective-writing-gibbs/>