Ethics and regulations in Project Management



#PMIcXpS5E5

SPOTLIGHT CHAPTER



The Xchange Effect Map

This map shows that there is room to expand the Exchange Effect in regions such as Latin American (ongoing), Scandinavian Countries, Russia and China (and neighboring countries).



349 Attendees

4 / Countries*

05 Continents



Notes:

*45 countries correspond to attendees. There were attendees 1. This is the registrations' map. with no Country data available.

PM

7



Srilanka Nihal Premachandra

Land Land

Question:

How PMI code of Ethics and professional conduct can help the project manager in executing projects?

Answer:

(Project Managers (PM) face challenging situations where PM will be under pressure to compromise personnel integrity and values. In such situations PM can refer to PMI code of Ethics as a guide in making sound decisions to handle such situations while upholding trust in project management profession. PMI code of ethics is developed based on 4 principles of Respect, Responsibility, Fairness and Honesty identified by the global project management community as core values. The credibility and reputation of the project management profession is shaped by the collective conduct of individuals. If the individuals act against the recommendations of PMI code of ethics it can be harmful to both parties tarnishing reputation of the project management profession as well as the organizations involved. When i was managing a warehouse construction project in Sri Lanka for the state distilleries corporation it was noted contractor is delaying the installation of fireproof fittings having executed all other work diligently and the project is nearing completion. Contractor was pushing to get approval for the fire retardant fittings while specification demands installation of fire proof fittings. We rejected the fire retardant fitting submission and the contractor rnade an attempt to get fire retardant fittings approved with a bribe. We then went into details of the case to find Contractor has front loaded the BOQ and claimed all his money upfront and struggling to deliver fireproof fittings at a cost of 1.1 million rupees. Tender evaluation report indicated the Contractor is the 2nd lowest tenderer and we felt the Contractor may have spent some money to secure the contract paying up front as kick backs as well. We issued notices and ultimatum to correct the situation to find no result. Then we forfeit the performance bond of the contractor by a demand letter to the bank and the bank issued the check to the Employer seizing asserts of the Contractor forcing him to declare bankruptcy. Hiring relative or friend as a subcontractor or a supplier receiving kick backs or bribes is a clear conflict of interests case. It is a violation of Aspirational Standard of conduct under the fairness principle. Which resulted in the bankruptcy of the Contractor. Under the mandatory standards of conduct of PMI ethics, favouritism, favouring friends and relatives in giving jobs or contracts or bribes is a clear violation of PMI code of Ethics of fairness principles. When Mandatory PMI standards of conduct are violated the practitioner is subject to disciplinary procedures of PMI Ethics review committee, if a substantiated Ethics violation complain is made to the PMI ethics committee. This committee can limit or prohibit the practitioner's behaviour as per the current regulations.

Question:

What ae the conducting standards applicable in implementing recommendations of PMI code of ethics?

Answer:

PMI code of Ethics consist of 2 types of standards of conduct. Standards that we aspire to uphold in our practice is called PMI Aspirational standard of conduct. Conduct standards that are Mandatory to adhere by the practioners is referred to as Mandatory conduct standards. Any violation of Mandatory conduct standards can result in disciplinary procedures by PMI ethics committee by limiting or prohibiting practitioners behaviour if a claim is logged with PMI. Project Managers should be aware the fact that conduct covered by Aspirational standards and Mandatory standards are not mutually exclusive. If you violate Aspirational standards of conduct, the likelihood of you violating Mandatory conduct standards are also very high and vise versa. It is not easy to measure the adherence of Aspirational standards by a practioner either. You aspire to achieve Respect, Responsibility, fairness and honesty as key principles of PMI code of Ethics and it is in your heart and mind. How do you measure it? You cannot! However achieving Aspirational standards of conduct is not optional. Hence Project Management practitioners must learn to do what is right and honorable. I have a clear incident happened with me during my involvement of construction of Kuala Lumpur international Airport in Malaysia by which this scenario can be explained with a situation actually happened. I will do so if time permits



Canada Cecilia Clara Garcia

Question:

Why are ethics important in project management, and what principles should guide project managers' behavior?

Answer:

In the realm of project management, ethics serve as the guiding star that illuminates our path towards not just successful completion, but also the righteous execution of our projects. The significance of ethics in our field cannot be overstated. They are the silent sentinels that safeguard the integrity of our work, the trust of our stakeholders, and the satisfaction of our team. Ethics are the foundation upon which the edifice of our project's success is built. They ensure that every decision we make is not only effective but also equitable. They foster an environment where trust flourishes, collaboration thrives, and innovation is nurtured. They protect the interests of all—be it the client, the community, or the environment. As project managers, we are the custodians of these ethical standards. By steadfastly adhering to these principles, we do more than just manage projects—we lead by example. We set a precedent for what it means to not only do things right but to do the right thing. For in the end, it is not just the milestones we reach that define us, but the ethical paths we choose to get there.



Question:

How do regulations impact project management, and what are some key regulatory frameworks that project managers must adhere to?

Answer:

Regulations are the guardrails that ensure our projects not only achieve their goals but do so within the bounds of legal and ethical standards. As an experienced project manager, I've come to appreciate the profound impact that regulations have on the way we manage projects. They shape our planning, execution, and delivery, ensuring that we are compliant with the laws and standards that govern our work. As project managers, we must navigate a complex landscape of regulatory frameworks. Some of the key frameworks to consider are PMI's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, ISO Standards, Health, Safety, and Environmental Regulations and Industry-Specific Regulations. In essence, regulations are not just about compliance; they are about commitment (a commitment to excellence, safety, and integrity). They compel us to look beyond the immediate project goals and consider the broader impact of our actions. By adhering to these frameworks, we not only fulfil our legal obligations but also contribute to a culture of trust and reliability that benefits everyone involved.



USA Olivier Lazar



Question:

Why are ethics important in project management, and what principles should quide project managers' behavior?

Answer:

Ethics is a guideline to shape decision making, but there are several layers in ethical decision making. That's what I call the Ethical Decision Making Framework. The first layer corresponds to your " Capability", that one is easy: You can do what you foresee doing, or not. It's a matter of resources. You have them or not. The second layer is the Legal one. It's not because you can do something (you have the capability to do it) that it's legal, the simple question here is "are you allowed, by the law to do it, or is there anything in the law that prevents you from doing it?". But being able and not refrained legally from doing something is of course not sufficient. This is where the Ethical layer comes into the picture, the one that asks the question "Should you do it?", even if you can and no law prevents you from doing it. Often here we look at a code of ethics that shapes the rules to be applied to a specific kind of activity (project managers, doctors, engineers, etc.), often dictated by a trade and to which we usually abid voluntarily. But all of that is not yet enough. There is a fourth layer to this, which is the layer of Values; your own personal values, that are shaped by your beliefs, your education, your family, your experiences... And this is the most important one. What do you believe being Right or Wrong according to your own perception of the world. It's only when a decision to be made checks all of these boxes that you can say you are actually making a good decision.

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Have a suggestion?

Feel free to drop a note to the PMI Chapter Xchange team by sending email to: pmichapterxchange@gmail.com