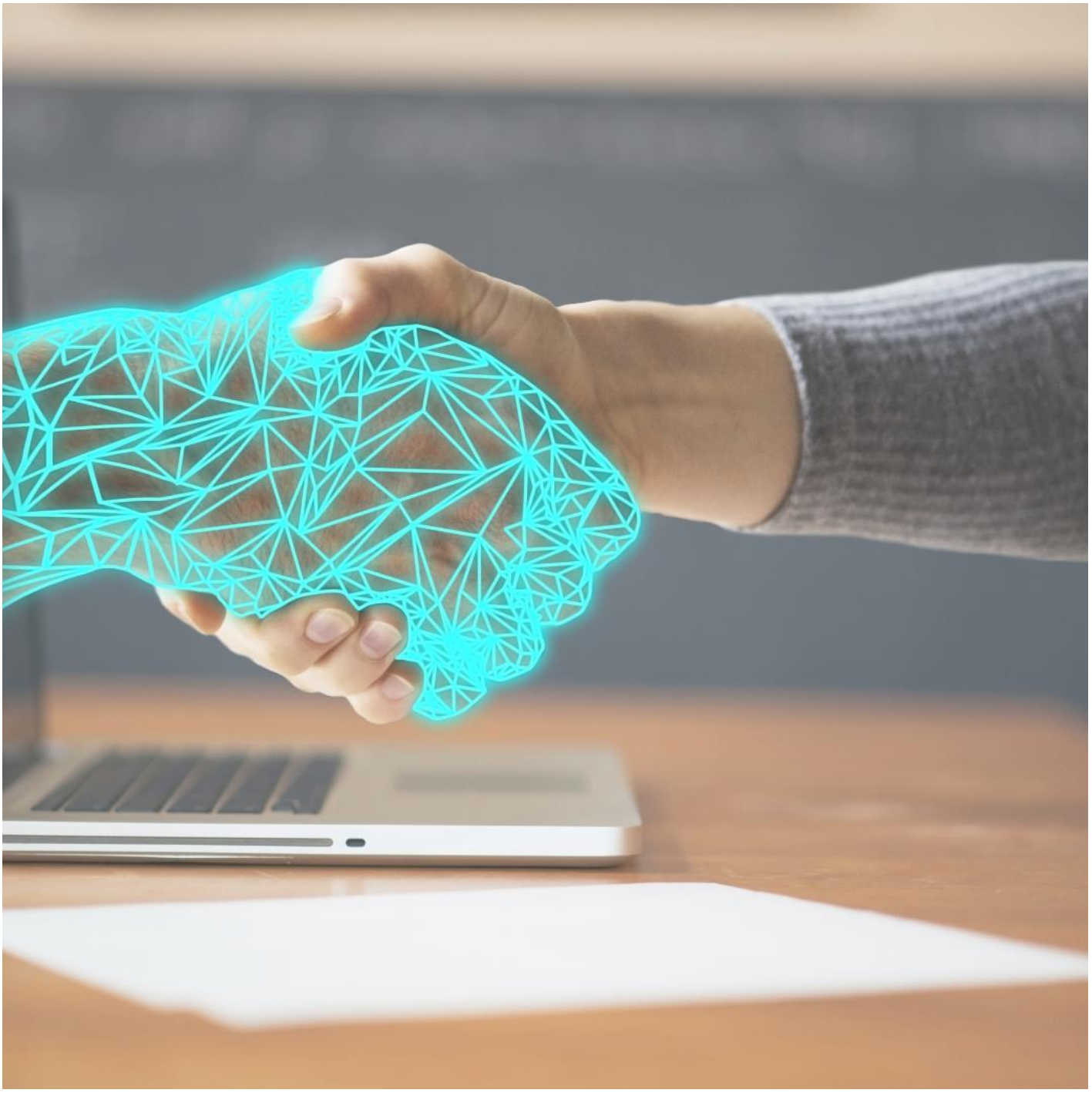
Project Management Institute Mumbai

PRAKALP

SEPTEMBER 2024



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The Mumbai Chapter is dedicated to advancing the practice, science, and professionalism of project management in Mumbai and the surrounding region. The Chapter has grown to a membership of more than 1500 professionals and students in various professional industries like public service, defence, health and construction.

Our Vision

"To be recognized as the organization of choice by evangelizing Project Management"

Our Mission

- Evangelize Project Management across industry, academia, community, and Government.
- Provide a forum for Project Management professionals to promote the principles and ethical standards of PMI.
- Promote networking among professionals, sharing project experiences and best practices, imparting training, and enabling PMI certifications and ultimately enhancing quality of life.
- Provide infrastructural facilities like library, portal & knowledge repositories.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this magazine represents the views of the individual writers discussed on date of publication. It should not be interpreted as a commitment on the part of PMI Mumbai Chapter, and PMI Mumbai Chapter cannot guarantee the accuracy of any information presented in the publication. This magazine is for information purposes only.

Dear Project Management Colleagues,

PM Conclave-Nx 2024 – Our Annual Festival!

I hope you're all set for the upcoming *PM Conclave-Nx 2024*. This year's theme, *"Project Leadership Reimagined – AI as Your Copilot"*, promises exciting discussions on how AI is transforming project management. Scheduled for **October 19, 2024**, at **WeSchool, Matunga Mumbai**, this event is your chance to witness the latest AI applications in action. I encourage you to bring your colleagues and friends to join in the experience!

At PMI, our motto, *"We maximize project success to elevate our world,"* reflects in everything we do—events, editorials, volunteer work, and our personal and professional lives. Our magazine, *Prakalp*, serves as a rich resource, offering diverse insights and experiences from various domains. The theme of the Conclave is reflected in the ideas presented in this edition.

Single Membership – A Larger Responsibility

Since the launch of *Single Membership* on December 1, 2023, our chapter has grown significantly, now boasting over 2,500 members. This growth brings greater opportunities and responsibilities. I warmly welcome all new and existing members to actively contribute their talents. Volunteering not only helps society but also provides excellent networking, public speaking, and recognition opportunities. Let's continue building a dynamic and engaged community together.

Active Volunteers – Recognition and Reward

Our chapter's innovative approaches to member engagement have paid off. Many volunteers have become more active, taking on greater responsibilities. This year, instead of attending international events, our Board of Directors decided to invest in recognizing our active volunteers. Some received certifications, while others were sponsored to attend the *South Asia Conference* in Delhi, which provided invaluable learning and networking opportunities.

Annual General Body Meeting – A Pot Brewing New Ideas

The AGM this year was a great success. It was filled with ideas and decisions that reflect our forward-thinking community. The Board and volunteers have already started acting on the decisions made, ensuring continuous progress. We also reviewed past actions and discussed areas for improvement in a positive environment.

Board of Directors Elections – Volunteerism Next

After the *Conclave-Nx 2024*, we are fast approaching the *Board of Directors* elections. We urge interested and eligible members to step up and contribute their time and skills to drive the chapter forward. Accountability is key, and we also encourage members to actively participate in the voting process, ensuring we elect candidates committed to our shared goals.

Margdarshak – The Chapter Mentoring Program

Our *Margdarshak* mentoring program is in full swing, providing professional guidance to our members. If you'd like to contribute as a mentor, please present your credentials. This is another fantastic opportunity to give back to the community.

Our website – The Hub

Congratulations to our Marketing VP for successfully revamping our website without disrupting engagement! The planning and dedication involved are truly commendable. Our website, www.pmimumbaichapter.org, continues to be the central hub for news, opportunities, and member achievements. Don't miss out – engage with the content, explore learning opportunities, and share your thoughts. Plus, don't forget the PDUs you can earn through your active or passive participation!

Our Continuing Engagements – Window to Opportunities

Our *PM Forum*, *PITSTOP*, and *Chapter Xchange* programs continue to illuminate the path of knowledge. *Women Engagement Committee* has also been revitalized with its *Version 2.0*. Our Chapter's own *Women of Wonder* too follows suit with the *HOW to WOW (Transforming Mind)* program. I encourage all members to participate in the areas that resonate most with them. Explore our *Volunteer Engagement Platform* (VEP) or reach out to our VP Volunteers for exciting opportunities.

We are also strengthening ties with organizations like *VJTI*, *MET*, *SIOM*, *AIMA*, and *MCHI* to create broader opportunities for our members.

Let's continue to embrace the *PMI Culture*:
Make it Easy, Aim Higher, Be Welcoming, Embrace Curiosity, Together We Can!

Warm regards,
Dr. Oscar Leo D'souza
President, PMI Mumbai Chapter

Harnessing AI in Pharmaceutical Research and Development: A Game Changer for Project Managers

Sagar Kalantre
PMO Consultant, Project Management Coach, Process Excellence Consultant, PMO-CP, PMP, CSM, LSSBB

https://www.linkedin.com/in/sagarkalantre/

Project managers in the pharmaceutical industry are at the forefront of a rapidly evolving landscape where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping research and development (R&D). AI's integration into drug discovery, preclinical development, clinical trials, and manufacturing processes offers transformative potential, enabling more efficient project execution, reduced timelines, and enhanced outcomes. This article delves into how AI is being utilized in pharmaceutical R&D and the implications for project management in this sector.

Accelerating Drug Discovery with AI

Drug discovery has traditionally been a lengthy and costly process, often taking over a decade from initial research to market launch. AI is revolutionizing this phase by automating and optimizing the identification of new drug candidates. Machine learning algorithms analyze large datasets of biological and chemical information to predict the interactions between drug molecules and their target proteins, significantly reducing the time and cost involved in identifying viable candidates.

For project managers, this means that timelines for early-stage research can be compressed, allowing for more streamlined project planning and resource allocation. A prime example is AlphaFold, an AI system developed by DeepMind, which accurately predicts protein structures, a critical component in understanding drug- target interactions. This breakthrough enables faster, more informed decision-making during the drug design phase, leading to more efficient project execution.

Furthermore, AI facilitates drug repurposing by analyzing existing clinical and genomic data to identify new therapeutic uses for known drugs. This not only accelerates development but also mitigates risks, as these drugs have already been tested for safety, allowing project managers to fast-track certain projects with confidence.

Enhancing Preclinical Development Efficiency

The preclinical stage is critical in assessing the safety and efficacy of drug candidates, but traditional methods, such as animal testing, often fail to accurately predict human responses. AI-driven models, such as Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (QSAR) models, are now being used to predict toxicity and pharmacokinetic properties based on chemical structure data. This allows for the early elimination of non-viable candidates, optimizing the project timeline and reducing the likelihood of costly late-stage failures.

Project managers can leverage these AI tools to enhance risk management strategies, ensuring that only the most promising candidates advance to clinical trials. Additionally, AI enables systems biology approaches, which simulate complex biological interactions, offering deeper insights into drug mechanisms and improving the translational success from preclinical to clinical stages. By integrating AI into preclinical workflows, project managers can enhance decision-making processes, improving project outcomes.

Optimizing Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are often the most resource-intensive phase of drug development, with significant implications for project timelines and budgets. AI is transforming this phase by optimizing study design, patient recruitment, and real-time monitoring. AI algorithms analyze electronic health records (EHRs) to identify suitable patients for trials, ensuring a representative study population and increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

For project managers, this means more precise planning and resource allocation, reducing trial durations and improving success rates. AI also enables the design of adaptive clinical trials, which use real-time data to modify protocols, such as adjusting dosages or expanding patient cohorts, based on interim results. This flexibility allows for more responsive project management, ensuring that trials remain on track and within budget.

Moreover, AI-driven analytics provide real-time monitoring of patient data during trials, enabling early detection of adverse events or other issues. This capability allows project managers to make timely interventions, ensuring patient safety and improving trial outcomes. By incorporating AI into clinical trial management, project managers can achieve more efficient and successful project execution.

Streamlining Drug Manufacturing

The integration of AI into pharmaceutical manufacturing processes is revolutionizing production, ensuring higher quality and efficiency. AI-powered predictive maintenance algorithms monitor equipment performance, predicting failures before they occur and minimizing downtime. This capability is crucial for project managers overseeing manufacturing projects, as it ensures continuous production and reduces the risk of delays.

AI augments manufacturing processes by adjusting chemical reaction parameters in real-time to maximize yield and minimize waste. This level of process control enhances product quality and reduces costs, directly impacting project success.

Furthermore, AI-driven quality control systems analyze data from sensors and cameras to detect defects in drug products with greater accuracy than traditional methods. For project managers, this means improved quality assurance, reducing the risk of costly recalls and ensuring that projects meet regulatory standards and deadlines.

Addressing Challenges and Preparing for the Future

While AI offers significant advantages, its integration into pharmaceutical R&D presents challenges that project managers must navigate. Data quality and availability are critical concerns, as AI models require large, diverse datasets to function efficiently. Ensuring access to high-quality data is essential for the success of AI-driven projects.

Another challenge is the "black-box" nature of many AI algorithms, which can make it difficult to interpret their predictions. This lack of transparency can pose challenges for regulatory approval and stakeholder communication. Project managers must work closely with AI specialists to ensure that models are interpretable and aligned with regulatory requirements.

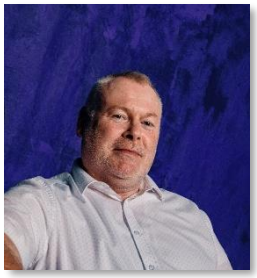
Ethical considerations are also paramount, particularly concerning patient privacy and the potential for bias in AI-driven processes, such as clinical trial recruitment. Project managers must ensure that AI systems are transparent, explainable, and free from bias to gain stakeholder trust and achieve project objectives.

Looking forward, advances in AI technology, such as the development of more interpretable models and the integration of multi-omics data, will further enhance its utility in pharmaceutical R&D. Project managers who embrace these innovations will be better positioned to lead successful projects in this rapidly evolving landscape.

Conclusion

AI is rapidly becoming an indispensable tool in pharmaceutical research and development, offering project managers new ways to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve project outcomes. By integrating AI into R&D processes, project managers can accelerate drug development timelines, optimize resource allocation, and deliver higher-quality products. However, realizing the full potential of AI requires overcoming challenges related to data, transparency, and ethics. As AI continues to evolve, project managers must stay ahead of the curve, leveraging this technology to drive innovation and success in pharmaceutical R&D projects.

AI is Here: Transforming Project Management for Tomorrow



Prof. Éamonn V. Kelly, PMP®
Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. IRELAND

https://www.linkedin.com/in/evkellydba/

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries across the globe, and project management (PM) is no exception. The integration of AI into PM processes represents a fundamental shift that has the potential to redefine how projects are planned, executed, and evaluated. As AI technologies mature, they offer unprecedented opportunities to improve efficiency, accuracy, and decision-making within project management. This article explores the impact of AI on the future of project management, the opportunities and challenges it presents, and the evolving role of the project manager in this new landscape.

AI as a Transformative Force in Project Management

The integration of AI into project management is not merely a future prospect - it is already reshaping how projects are managed today. According to the 2023 Project Management Institute (PMI) Annual Global Survey on Project Management, 21% of respondents reported frequently using AI in their project management processes. Additionally, 82% of senior leaders anticipate that AI will have a significant impact on project management within the next five years.

However, these statistics also reveal a significant challenge. Despite the growing use of AI, a substantial skills gap remains. Research shows that only 20% of project managers possess extensive or good practical experience with AI tools, leaving 80% either underprepared or completely unprepared to harness AI's potential. This gap presents a critical issue for organizations aiming to maintain competitiveness in an increasingly AI-driven environment.

But this challenge also presents a significant opportunity. Organizations that invest in AI training and adoption stand to gain a competitive edge. For instance, AI has the potential to automate up to 45% of the tasks currently performed by project managers, including routine administrative duties and complex data analysis. This automation can reduce project costs, improve accuracy, and allow project managers to focus on strategic activities that drive business value.

Consider the example of a leading construction firm that integrated AI into its project management processes. The firm implemented an AI-driven scheduling tool that considered variables such as weather forecasts, resource availability, and supplier timelines. This tool reduced project delays by 20% and cut costs by 15%, demonstrating the tangible benefits of AI-driven automation in complex project environments.

Moreover, AI's predictive capabilities offer a transformative opportunity for decision-making. AI can analyze vast datasets quickly and accurately, providing insights that would be impossible to derive manually. For complex projects, where the margin for error is slim, these insights can make the difference between success and failure. Yet, despite this potential, only a small percentage of organizations fully leverage AI's predictive power, leaving a significant opportunity for those willing to embrace this technology.

An example from the healthcare sector illustrates this potential. A large hospital network used AI to predict patient admission rates, which in turn informed staffing and resource allocation for upcoming construction projects. The AI tool analyzed historical data and current trends, allowing the project management team to anticipate bottlenecks and allocate resources more efficiently. The result was a smoother project execution with fewer disruptions and lower costs.

In summary, AI's transformative potential in project management presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Organizations that address the existing skills gap will be well-positioned to capitalize on AI's ability to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and strategic decision-making. Those that fail to adapt risk falling behind in a rapidly evolving industry. The time to act is now, and the companies that lead the way in AI adoption will define the future of project management.

The Three Pillars of AI in Project Management
AI's impact on project management can be categorized into three main pillars: automation, assistance, and augmentation.

Automation
AI excels in automating routine, low-complexity tasks, freeing up project managers to focus on higher-value activities. Tasks such as generating reports, analyzing documents, summarizing meeting notes, and performing calculations can be efficiently handled by AI, significantly reducing the time spent on administrative duties and minimizing human error.

For example, a global logistics company implemented an AI-driven reporting system that automatically compiles data from various sources to generate real-time project status reports. Before AI, project managers spent hours each week gathering and compiling this data manually. With AI, reports are generated in minutes, allowing managers to quickly identify issues and focus on problem-solving rather than data collection. This not only improved efficiency but also enhanced the accuracy and timeliness of the information provided to stakeholders.

Assistance
Beyond automating routine tasks, AI can assist project managers by offering data-driven insights and preliminary analyses. For instance, AI can perform initial risk assessments or cost-benefit analyses, which project managers can then refine and validate. This assistance enables more detailed and accurate project planning and execution.

Consider the case of a financial services firm that used AI to assist in resource allocation across multiple projects. The AI tool analyzed historical data to predict potential resource bottlenecks and suggested optimal allocation strategies. By following these recommendations, the firm was able to reduce project delays by 25% and improve overall resource utilization. This example illustrates how AI can assist project managers in making more informed decisions that enhance project outcomes.

Augmentation
At its most advanced, AI augments the capabilities of project managers by providing insights that enhance strategic decision-making. AI tools can help navigate complex interdependencies, develop comprehensive business cases, and support decisions involving multiple variables. In these scenarios, AI does not replace the project manager but enhances their ability to manage complexity and deliver successful outcomes.

For instance, a multinational technology company leveraged AI during the development of a new software product. The AI tool simulated various market scenarios based on historical data, predicting potential customer responses to different features and pricing strategies. This enabled the project team to refine their product launch plan, resulting in a 30% increase in initial sales compared to previous launches. This example highlights how AI can augment decision-making by providing project managers with deeper insights and more precise predictions.

Opportunities and Challenges of AI in Project Management

While AI offers numerous opportunities to enhance project management, it also presents significant challenges that must be addressed.

Opportunities:

Improved Decision-Making

AI's ability to process vast amounts of data quickly and accurately is one of its most significant contributions to project management. In complex projects, where multiple variables and uncertainties must be managed, AI can provide data-driven insights that inform better decision-making. For example, a leading retail company used AI to analyze customer feedback during the rollout of a new store layout. The AI tool identified common customer complaints that had gone unnoticed in previous feedback reviews, allowing the project team to make adjustments that significantly improved customer satisfaction post-launch.

Enhanced Efficiency

AI-driven automation reduces the time spent on routine administrative tasks, allowing project managers to focus on more strategic aspects of their work. For instance, an IT services company used AI to automate project scheduling, which had previously been a time-consuming manual process. The AI tool considered various factors such as team availability, task dependencies, and project deadlines to generate optimal schedules. This automation led to a 30% reduction in project lead times and allowed project managers to dedicate more time to innovation and client interaction.

Scalability

AI tools can be scaled across multiple projects and teams, providing consistent support and standardizing processes across an organization. A pharmaceutical company, for example, implemented an AI system across its research and development teams to standardize project management processes. The AI provided real-time updates, predictive analytics, and consistent reporting formats, which led to faster drug development cycles and more consistent project outcomes. The ability to scale AI solutions across an organization ensures that all teams benefit from improved efficiency and consistency.

Challenges:

Skill Gaps

Despite its potential, there is a significant skills gap among project managers when it comes to AI. Research shows that only about 20% of project managers have extensive or good practical experience with AI tools, and nearly half have little to no experience【8†source】. This gap presents a barrier to the effective adoption of AI in project management.

To address this challenge, organizations must invest in AI training for their project managers. PMI offers several online courses designed to bridge this gap, including "Data Landscape of GenAI for Project Managers," "Generative AI Overview for Project Managers," and "Talking to AI: Prompt

Engineering for Project Managers." These courses provide project managers with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively integrate AI into their workflows.

Ethical Considerations
As AI becomes more integrated into project management, ethical considerations such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and transparency in AI decision-making processes must be addressed. For instance, a financial institution that implemented AI to assess project risks found that the AI tool was unintentionally biased against certain types of projects due to historical data that reflected past biases. Addressing these ethical challenges is crucial to ensure that AI tools are used responsibly and that their outputs are trustworthy.

Resistance to Change
Adopting AI in project management may face resistance due to a lack of understanding of AI's capabilities, fear of job displacement, or reluctance to change established processes. Overcoming this resistance requires educating stakeholders about the benefits of AI and demonstrating how it can enhance, rather than replace, the role of the project manager. For example, a manufacturing company that introduced AI tools faced initial resistance from its project managers, who feared the technology would replace their jobs. Through a series of workshops and training sessions, the company demonstrated how AI could assist with routine tasks, allowing managers to focus on more strategic aspects of their roles, ultimately leading to greater acceptance and enthusiasm for the technology.

The Evolving Role of the Project Manager
As AI becomes more integrated into project management, the role of the project manager will inevitably evolve. To thrive in this new environment, project managers will need to develop new skills and adapt to new responsibilities.

AI Literacy
Project managers will need to become literate in AI, understanding how AI tools work, what they can do, and how to interpret their outputs. This literacy is crucial for effectively integrating AI into project workflows and ensuring that AI tools are used appropriately. PMI's online courses, such as "Generative AI Overview for Project Managers" and "Talking to AI: Prompt Engineering for Project Managers," are excellent resources for developing this literacy.

Strategic Thinking
AI can provide project managers with data and insights that inform strategic decision-making. However, project managers will need to refine their strategic thinking skills to effectively interpret these insights and apply them within the broader context of their projects. This involves understanding the business implications of AI-driven decisions and ensuring that AI tools are used in a way that aligns with organizational goals.

Interpersonal Skills
Despite AI's capabilities, human skills such as communication, leadership, and stakeholder management will remain essential. AI cannot replace the human touch needed to manage teams, negotiate with stakeholders, and navigate the complex interpersonal dynamics of project management. As AI takes over routine tasks, project managers will have more time to focus on these critical interpersonal aspects of their role.

Conclusion

The future of project management is inextricably linked with the development and integration of AI. Project managers who embrace AI and develop the necessary skills will be well-positioned to lead successful projects in this new era. However, the journey toward AI-driven project management will not be without its challenges. Organizations and project managers must invest in AI education, address ethical and operational challenges, and adopt strategies to overcome resistance to change.

AI is more than a tool for improving project management; it is a catalyst for rethinking how projects are managed. By embracing AI, project managers can enhance their capabilities, deliver better outcomes, and ensure that they remain at the forefront of a rapidly evolving profession. As AI continues to evolve, so too must the project management profession, adapting to new challenges and opportunities and redefining what it means to manage projects in the 21st century.

For those looking to enhance their AI capabilities, PMI offers a range of online courses, including "Data Landscape of GenAI for Project Managers," "Generative AI Overview for Project Managers," and "Talking to AI: Prompt Engineering for Project Managers." These resources provide the knowledge and skills necessary to leverage AI effectively in your project management practices.

Practical Applications of AI In Construction Project Management

Ashok Cherian, PMP®
Project Manager for UltraTech Cement Limited

https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashok-cherian-pmp%C2%AE-8a9993167/?originalSubdomain=in

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the field of construction project management by introducing advanced solutions that enhance efficiency, accuracy, and informed decision-making. AI-driven tools are reshaping how construction projects are planned, executed, and monitored. From predictive analytics that anticipate potential risks and optimize resource allocation to AI-powered scheduling systems that streamline workflows and mitigate delays, AI is redefining traditional project management practices.

In this article, we will explore some practical applications of AI in construction management and highlight several AI tools designed for these purposes.

Design Applications

Generative design is a groundbreaking innovation in the design phase of construction project management. By inputting various constraints such as requirements, performance metrics, materials, and costs, generative design explores a vast array of possible solutions. This process enables architects and builders to develop optimal designs based on real-world data. In this collaborative process, designers and construction professionals work alongside computers to co-create efficient building designs.

Generative design tools are integrated into platforms like AutoDesk's Fusion 360 and Revit, allowing users to explore multiple design alternatives and select the best solutions. Similarly, CATIA employs performance-driven generative design solutions to create high-performance designs. AI integration with tools like STAAD enables automation in design processes. Also, BIM 360 incorporates advanced AI technology to improve design review and progress tracking.

Progress Tracking

AI is transforming project monitoring and control by improving accuracy, efficiency, and decision-making throughout the project lifecycle. EarthCam, a leader in live camera technology, uses AI to monitor construction site progress, enhancing transparency. OpenSpace AI captures 360° images of construction sites, comparing them with design plans to quickly identify discrepancies.

AI-powered tools like Drone Deploy, Kespry, and Pix4D utilize drones to capture aerial imagery and create 3D models of construction sites which in turn are used for tracking progress, conducting quality checks, and ensuring safety. Additionally, Spot, a robot developed by Boston Dynamics, is used to inspect sites and collect data, reducing human intervention in hazardous environments and improving safety and efficiency.

Risk Management

AI is increasingly becoming a vital tool in construction risk management, offering advanced solutions to identify, assess, and mitigate risks throughout the project lifecycle.

Construction IQ by AutoDesk leverages machine learning and AI to assist project leaders in managing risks related to cost, schedule, quality, and safety. By identifying and prioritizing issues, it ensures that project teams focus on the most critical tasks at the right time. Another tool Buildots uses advanced analytics to predict potential delays, helping project managers make informed decisions to avoid costly hold-ups.

Tools like PredictHQ provide actionable insights into event times, attendance, and geographic impacts, enabling smarter decision-making. It also forecasts weather conditions, allowing project managers to reschedule activities to avoid delays.

IBM's Geospatial AI minimizes risk by analyzing land usage, environmental conditions, and infrastructure proximity to determine the best sites for construction, streamlining site selection and land surveying processes.

Quality Management

AI significantly enhances the accuracy, efficiency, and consistency of quality inspections through automated inspection processes, predictive analytics, anomaly detection, and root cause analysis.
Tools like Cognex In-Sight and Keyence are widely used for visual inspection and defect detection.
IBM's Smart Edge for Welding (SE4W), in collaboration with AWS, utilizes AI, acoustic, and visual insights to provide near-real-time weld quality insights. This technology enables faster defect diagnosis and resolution, ultimately improving overall project quality.

Safety Management

Safety is a critical concern in construction, and AI can greatly improve safety management by enhancing hazard detection, ensuring compliance, and addressing potential risks proactively.

ViAct uses AI to monitor construction sites for safety compliance, detecting unsafe practices and alerting supervisors to take corrective action, thereby minimizing accident risks. Another tool, Rhumbix can be used to track safety compliance through the analysis of site data, ensuring that all safety protocols are followed diligently.

Fleet Management

AI-powered fleet management is enhancing the efficiency, safety, and cost-effectiveness of managing construction vehicles and equipment. Caterpillar (CAT) and Ctrack, for example, use AI to monitor vehicle locations, fuel consumption, and maintenance needs. Autonomous vehicles and equipment are becoming increasingly common, reducing the need for manual labor and improving project efficiency.

3D Printing & Modular Construction

3D printing and modular construction are innovative technologies transforming the construction industry by enhancing efficiency, reducing costs, and enabling complex, customized building solutions. ICON, a leader in 3D printing, uses AI to oversee printing processes, ensuring precision and reducing material waste. Tools like nTopology and Ultimaker utilize AI to optimize designs for 3D printing, streamlining the construction process.

Robot-Assisted Construction

Robot-assisted construction addresses labor shortages while improving precision, efficiency, and safety on construction sites. Robots can perform tasks ranging from bricklaying to assembling prefabricated components. Build Robotics, for instance, automates heavy equipment for tasks like excavation and grading. SAM (Semi-Automated Mason) and FBR HadrianX specialize in bricklaying, significantly reducing the time and labor needed for construction.

Sustainability

The integration of IoT and AI is driving substantial advancements in sustainable construction practices, enabling efficient resource management, reducing environmental impact, and supporting smarter decision-making. AI optimizes energy consumption, manages waste, and helps in the selection of eco-friendly materials, contributing to de-carbonization efforts. Johnson Controls integrates IoT and AI to manage building systems, optimizing energy use and enhancing occupant comfort. BuildingIQ uses AI to analyze data from IoT sensors, improving energy management and operational efficiency.

FUTURE SCOPE

AI's role in construction will continue to grow, with technologies like generative AI, digital twins, and sustainability driving change. AI's integration with BIM, modular construction, and digital twin technologies will unlock new efficiencies and smarter decision-making.

Generative AI will enable more innovative and optimized designs, while digital twins will enhance real-time project monitoring, predictive maintenance, and performance tracking. Sustainability will take center stage, with AI helping to optimize energy use, reduce waste, and select eco-friendly materials, supporting greener construction.

AI holds immense potential to transform the construction industry, promising a future where projects are safer, more efficient, and more sustainable.

kytes

Empowering Project Success with AI-Enabled PSA Solutions: Kytes

At Kytes, we are transforming how enterprises manage their projects and professional services with our AI-enabled Professional Services Automation (PSA) software. Our comprehensive PSA solution is designed to digitize and streamline every aspect of project operations, from project deliveries and resource management to project financials and new product development (NPD).

Kytes PSA caters to industries such as IT/ITES, Pharmaceuticals, Lifesciences, and Professional Services, seamlessly integrating all facets of project management. Whether you're managing complex project deliveries, aligning resources efficiently, tracking financial performance, or driving new product development in highly regulated industries like pharmaceuticals, Kytes PSA ensures projects are executed with precision and speed. Our solution enhances collaboration across teams, mitigates risks, and leverages AI for smarter, data-driven decisions.

Our Journey and Rebranding

Many in the industry know us as ProductDossier, a name synonymous with project management excellence. However, as our product capabilities evolved and we expanded globally, we recognized the need to align our brand with our vision of the future. This led to the rebranding of ProductDossier to Kytes, a name that carries deeper significance. The "Y" in Kytes symbolizes that it's about You—the organization, the individual, or the employee—navigating you towards success. We believe our success lies in your success. Our focus is on enabling our clients to achieve excellence in their projects, with Kytes as the trusted partner on that journey. While our name has changed, our commitment to project management excellence remains unwavering.

Realizing Value with Kytes PSA

Organizations that have adopted Kytes PSA experience substantial improvements in key business metrics. Our solution drives higher productivity, optimized margins, and greater operational efficiency. By enabling better resource utilization and providing a single version of the truth, Kytes PSA empowers decision-makers with real-time insights to make more informed choices.

Companies benefit from enhanced compliance, faster project delivery, and reduced risks, ultimately leading to improved financial outcomes. With Kytes, businesses realize the value of streamlined processes, maximized resources, and higher profitability across the board.

Empowering Enterprises Across the Globe

As Kytes expands globally, our commitment to driving excellence through innovation remains at the heart of our operations. We are proud to serve enterprises worldwide, from established industry leaders to global corporations. With a growing presence in key global markets, including the United States, Kytes is positioned to support businesses wherever they operate. Our team of experts is passionate about delivering solutions that address the complex needs of modern enterprises, empowering them to thrive in an increasingly competitive and fast-paced environment.

As we continue to grow, our mission remains unchanged: to provide cutting-edge, AI-driven PSA software that empowers organizations to achieve project excellence. Kytes is your trusted partner in navigating the complexities of today's global business landscape.

S.P. MANDALI'S weschool Welingkar Education

"WeCatalysts"

"Catalyst", is someone who can be described as the one to precipitate change. In a world which is transforming daily at a rapid pace and in multiple ways, the role of a Catalyst in business and society cannot be emphasised more. The entire WeSchool ecosystem is built to nurture catalysts equipped to bring about this transformation.

Three things that describe the soul of the ecosystem at WeSchool are the 3 T's which eventually build T Shaped professionals – those with the depth of business sector understanding and the vision of the width covered through various functions such as marketing, finance, human resources, operations, consulting among others.

Thinking – the Design Way, a non-linear, iterative process that teams use to understand users, challenge assumptions, redefine problems and create innovative solutions to prototype and test.

Technology – in Application, the body that transforms ideas to reality and provides possibility of scale and increased impact.

Triple Bottom Line – Acting responsibly as citizens and leaders, the mindfulness that requires focus on social and environmental issues as much as on profits. (Planet, People and Profits). The triple bottom line concept has today morphed into the use of 'environmental, social and governance' factors, or ESG, which now forms the bedrock of most sustainable investing processes

Thinking – the Design Way: Publications like Forbes and Harvard Business Review have repeatedly emphasized the necessity of adapting design thinking to gain a competitive advantage. Design thinking builds the capacity to problem solve creatively. The process is focused on developing people, and teaches skills that can lead to increased innovation within an organization. Global organizations such as Google actively use Design Thinking as part of building its Innovation culture. More and more Indian Leaders and organizations are advocating the design thinking approach as an integral catalyst to innovation and growth. WeSchool pioneered bringing in Design Thinking as an integral part of Management Education. WeSchool launched the full-time program PGDM Business Design program in 2007. However, besides the program, the bigger inclusion was including the Design thinking approach across all its programs, and the student learning and engagement approach WeSchool first immersed its faculty into learning Design Thinking from leading organizations across the globe known for Design thinking and Innovation. This included, IDEO, a Leading Global Design & Innovation Firm Transforming Businesses to learn the design thinking approach to problem solving and building businesses. WeSchool also worked with the Stanford Design School on projects in Rural India and used tools such as ethnographic studies as part of the research process used when studying people and new geographies for business solutions. This resulted in Design Thinking becoming an integral problem-solving tool that students use hands-on through live projects and practical application.

WeSchool has also set up INNOWE, an Innovation Lab with Design Thinking led Innovation at its core. A unique concept in itself, Innowe is where students from various backgrounds work and interact with interdisciplinary teams on innovative ideas and assignments that evolve into prototypes of scalable

Business Plans. All the 6 key aspects of Design thinking empathize, define, ideate, prototype, test, and implement are applied practically when solving real-time challenges shared by Industry or in Society. As an outcome, WeSchool students eventually work in Strategic roles across organizations such as Mahindra & Mahindra, Accenture, IBM, Morgan Stanley, Capgemini among several others and roles that involve integrative and sustainable thinking.

Technology – in Application, the body that transforms ideas to reality and provides possibility of scale and increased impact We continually hear about new technical developments whirling across sectors and introducing changes at a pace faster than expected. While there is a fear of minimal human intervention, there is also an anticipation of faster and accurate work through automation. In today's competitive work environment, organizations are looking for ways to increase their productivity and so many of them are considering new technologies to embed into their business processes and products. Technology is changing not only the way a company does business but also the way people are valued by a company. There are two types of professionals, experts who have a complete knowledge of tech and the others who are evangelists. A Management student is expected to be both, a person with expert knowledge and being able to see where and how technology becomes the catalyst, as well as becoming an evangelist, making technology and processes using technology more inclusive. WeSchool chooses to look at technology as an Art and Science and teaches the Science of it through programs. Having pioneered the PGDM E-Business program in 2002, WeSchool has over the decade evangelised technology in business – its appreciation, and application, in a way that it helps makes ideas come to life and builds speed, depth Institute of Management Development and Research (WeSchool), is a vibrant ecosystem of Innovation, rolling out new and innovative commercial and citizen-based technologies to create a framework that supports wide-ranging needs of urban populations and corporations. We strive to go beyond known boundaries and disciplines of technology innovation for social impact.

The focus is to leverage:

• Imaging and digital technologies, ultra low-cost hardware, mobile platforms and Internet of Things,

• Design skills like Design Thinking, Design Research, Design ethnography, concept prototyping, Design validation, Localisation, Authentic design and Brand Storytelling

• Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Machine Learning and Computer Vision to develop tech-enabled innovations

we4tech is an internal tech hackathon that is conducted every year for the incoming batch of students right into their first three weeks on campus. Tech tutorials are organized for students from both tech and non-tech backgrounds to help them create tech-based solutions for various business/societal challenges. We undertake various initiatives within the campus to embed the spirit of tech-led innovation. Eminent experts from various fields share their views with our students. As a result of these initiative, the Institution's Innovation Council (IICs) has consistently scored 4+ star ratings nationally

According to Naukri, the list of the most in-demand and trending tech skills that will offer you a successful career:

- Data Science
- Cloud Computing
- Artificial Intelligence
- DevOps
- Blockchain
- RPA (Robotic Process Automation)
- Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)
- Cybersecurity

Triple Bottom Line – Acting responsibly as citizens and leaders, the mindfulness that requires focus on social and environmental issues as much as on profits. (Planet, People and Profits). The triple bottom line concept has today morphed into the use of 'environmental, social and governance' factors, or ESG, which now forms the bedrock of most sustainable investing processes. At WeSchool, sustainable businesses, contribution to society and planet impact are built in through learning by doing models such as "grassroot immersion programs in rural India, healthcare sector", the "Global Citizen Leadership program (GCL) delivered across programs. WeSchool built the Global Citizen leader (GCL) program, collaboratively with the Center for Creative Leadership, a global training organization that provides leadership training that is human-centered and transformational. The GCL is an immersive program that every student at

WeSchool participates in. The program involves solving real-time challenges, discovering future opportunities for businesses through products, services and uncovering new market spaces.

Every year over 150 Live Industry projects are part of this program. This approach of teaching was also recognised for the impact it is making with the students in the Stanford Social Innovation Review as an initiative that is capable of Educating a New Generation of Entrepreneurial Leaders and the National HRD Network, in India.

Times require an integrative thinker to combine Technology + Technical Knowledge (Functional and Domain) + Sustainable solutions. All these initiatives are an amalgamation of Leadership, Design Thinking, and Innovation in action, where multi-stakeholder perspective and sustainable solutions are critical elements.

"The WeSchool ecosystem, is designed to create in-depth understanding of sectors and domains and the exposure to a breath of functions viz marketing, finance, operations, human resources, analytics, technology and thinking formats that apply across businesses and economies viz Healthcare, Retail, Rural markets, Media and Entertainment.

The philosophy is four-fold duty. First, start with the nation, then society, the organisation and then your family, including yourself. We cannot leave everything to the government; the responsibility to do something lies with each of us. We need to be Catalysts to the change we want to see." Prof Dr Uday Salunkhe, Group Director, WeSchool (Mumbai and Bengaluru Campus).

The Witty Evolution of Generative AI: From Mechanical Minds to Digital Doodles

Mandar Vaidya(**PMP®, CSM, ITIL**)
Project Manager at Mirum Digital Pvt Ltd

https://www.linkedin.com/in/mandar-vaidya-pmp-csm-itil-aa0a5967/

Once upon a time, in a world where computers were the size of refrigerators and had less processing power than your average smartwatch, the idea of machines creating anything remotely intelligent seemed like science fiction. But as with all great stories, this one begins with a spark of genius (and a lot of coffee).

Chapter 1: The Dawn of the Mechanical Minds

In the 1950s, a group of scientists, who clearly had too much time on their hands, decided to see if they could teach machines to think. They called it Artificial Intelligence (AI), and it was about as intelligent as a rock. But hey, it was a start! These early machines could play chess, solve math problems, and even generate random poetry that made about as much sense as a cat walking on a keyboard.

Chapter 2: The Rise of the Neural Networks

Fast forward to the 1980s, and AI had gone through its awkward teenage years. Researchers discovered neural networks, which were inspired by the human brain. These networks could learn from data, much like how humans learn from their mistakes (or at least, how we should). Suddenly, AI wasn't just a glorified calculator; it could recognize patterns, make predictions, and even beat humans at board games. The machines were getting smarter, and some people started to worry that they might take over the world. Spoiler alert: they didn't.

Chapter 3: The Age of Generative AI

Enter the 21st century, where AI decided it was time to get creative. Generative AI, the cool kid on the block, could generate text, images, music, and more. It was like having a digital Picasso, Shakespeare, and Beethoven all rolled into one. These models, like GPT-3 and DALL-E, could write essays, create art, and even compose symphonies. They were so good that people started to wonder if they had a secret stash of caffeine hidden somewhere in their code.

Chapter 4: The Future is Now

Today, Generative AI is everywhere. It's writing articles, designing clothes, and even helping scientists discover new drugs. It's like having a super-smart assistant who never sleeps and always has a witty comeback. But don't worry, it's not all work and no play. Generative AI loves to have fun, too. Just ask it to write a story about a robot who dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian, and you'll see what I mean.

Epilogue: The Human Touch

Despite all its advancements, Generative AI still needs a little human touch. After all, who else is going to laugh at its jokes? So, as I write my blog post, remember that the story of Generative AI is as much about human creativity and ingenuity as it is about machines. And who knows? Maybe one day, this blog will inspire the next generation of AI researchers to create something even more amazing (and hilarious).

AI as Your Copilot: Transforming Industries and Enhancing Human Capabilities

Nikhil Nagda (**PSPO-I®, Six Sigma White Belt**)
Associate Director at PwC India

https://www.linkedin.com/in/nikhil-nagda-b8438356/

**Panelist speaker at PM Conclave-NX 2024*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly being recognized as a transformative tool that can act as a copilot, assisting humans in various tasks and enhancing their capabilities across

multiple domains. This concept of AI as a copilot is not about replacing humans but about augmenting human abilities to achieve greater efficiency, accuracy, and innovation.

Generative AI: Breaking Creative Boundaries

Generative AI, a subset of AI, has revolutionized how we interact with technology and perform tasks. Technologies like cognitive chatbots and large language models (LLMs) have rapidly evolved, finding applications across various industries. Generative AI relies on machine learning models that analyze vast amounts of data to identify patterns and make predictions. This technology has significantly improved customer interactions through AI- powered virtual assistants, which can understand natural language, provide recommendations, and assist customers in real-time.

For instance, OpenAI's ChatGPT, built on the GPT-4 model, exemplifies generative AI's capabilities. It generates human-like conversations using natural language processing and LLMs, making it a powerful tool for text generation, summarization, rewriting, and information extraction. Generative AI's applications span multiple domains, including text, image, video, audio, and code creation, enhancing both employee and customer experiences.

Strategic Adoption of Generative AI

Organizational leaders are increasingly recognizing the need for transformative approaches driven by technological disruptions and global megatrends. Generative AI is seen as a key enables efficiency and innovation. Before adopting generative AI, businesses must design a comprehensive strategy that includes technology, infrastructure, data, risk, regulatory, and sustainability considerations. Evaluating generative AI platforms involves assessing their suitability, value, complexity, and reusability to prioritize potential use cases effectively. A critical aspect of generative AI adoption is ensuring technology, infrastructure, and data readiness. Organizations must identify and clean important data, often starting with pre- trained models that require access to internal data. Risk, regulation, and sustainability are crucial considerations, with data security being a significant concern. Addressing issues like hallucinations, IP infringements, and biases in training data require continuous monitoring and skilled workforce intervention.

Cognitive Automation: Enhancing Operational Efficiency

Cognitive automation is another area where AI acts as a copilot, fundamentally changing the nature of work. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) has proven effective in automating processes, and now cognitive technologies are enabling more complex decision-making and reducing the need for pre-defined business logic. This shift from rule-based to knowledge-based processes is driving demand for skilled professionals in AI, machine learning, and robotics.

Cognitive automation enhances automation by enabling software robots to perform more complex tasks, such as working with unstructured data and making decisions. This leads to straight-through processing, improved customer service through AI-based chatbots, and increased automation potential, resulting in cost savings and better returns on investment. However, adopting cognitive automation presents challenges, including the need for effective governance frameworks, infrastructure requirements, and continuous upskilling of the workforce.

Ethical Ways of Using AI as a Copilot

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a copilot in various domains offers immense potential to enhance human capabilities and operational efficiency. However, it is crucial to adopt ethical practices to ensure that AI technologies are used responsibly and beneficially.

Here are some key considerations for the ethical use of AI as a copilot:

1. Transparency and Explainability
2. Accountability and Responsibility
3. Bias and Fairness
4. Privacy and Data Security
5. Sustainability
6. User Awareness and Education
7. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation
8. Risk Management

By adhering to these ethical principles, organizations can ensure that AI as a copilot is used responsibly, enhancing human capabilities while safeguarding against potential risks and negative impacts.

Conclusion

AI as a copilot is transforming industries by enhancing human capabilities and driving innovation. Generative AI and cognitive automation are two key areas where AI is making a significant impact, improving efficiency, accuracy, and customer experience. As organizations continue to adopt these technologies, they must address challenges related to data security, regulatory compliance, and workforce readiness to fully realize the potential of AI as a copilot.

AI as Your Project Management Co-Pilot: Revolutionizing Efficiency and Success

Anish Shrimali, PMP®
Chief Manager-IT, Research Officer
Union Learning Academy, Digital Transformation
Union Bank of India
https://www.linkedin.com/in/anish-shrimali-b66396259/

Introduction

In today's fast-paced business environment, the complexity of managing projects has increased significantly. From tight deadlines to resource constraints and ever-evolving customer expectations, project managers face a multitude of challenges that require innovative solutions. Today, AI serves as a co-pilot, significantly enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and overall project success. By leveraging advanced AI tools, project managers can streamline processes, predict challenges, and ensure projects are completed on time and within budget. AI as a co-pilot that can revolutionize the way projects are managed, executed, and delivered.

The Role of AI in Project Management

AI's role in project management extends far beyond simple automation. It can assist in every phase of a project, from initiation to closing, offering insights, predictive analysis, and real-time decision support. AI-driven tools can streamline planning, improve resource allocation, and help foresee potential risks, making it an indispensable co-pilot for project managers. AI in project management acts as an enabler, automating routine tasks, providing data-driven insights, and assisting in decision-making. From planning and resource allocation to risk management and communication, AI tools are reshaping every aspect of project management.

Enhancing Planning and Scheduling

One of the most time-consuming aspects of project management is planning and scheduling. AI can analyse past project data to predict timelines, identify potential bottlenecks, and suggest optimal paths to success. By learning from previous project outcomes, AI can offer recommendations on task sequencing, resource allocation, and even risk mitigation strategies, ensuring that the project stays on track from the very beginning.

AI tools like Microsoft Project and Smartsheet utilize machine learning algorithms to analyze project requirements, timelines, and resources. They automatically generate schedules, identify dependencies,

and allocate resources, reducing the time and effort required for manual planning. These tools can also adapt schedules in real-time, responding to changes in project scope or resource availability, ensuring that the project remains on track.

Real-Time Monitoring and Decision-Making

AI can monitor project progress in real-time, providing managers with up-to-date insights on performance metrics, budget usage, and resource availability. This real-time analysis enables project managers to make informed decisions quickly, reducing the likelihood of delays or cost overruns. Moreover, AI can flag potential issues before they escalate, allowing for proactive problem-solving.

Automating Routine Tasks

A significant portion of a project manager's time is often spent on routine administrative tasks such as status reporting, meeting scheduling, and documentation. AI can automate these tasks, freeing up valuable time for managers to focus on more strategic aspects of the project. For instance, AI-powered chatbots can handle queries from team members, schedule meetings based on availability, and generate status reports, all without human intervention.

Resource Optimization

AI tools such as Mavenlink and Asana provide real-time insights into resource utilization. They analyze workload distribution, identify bottlenecks, and suggest optimal resource allocation. This ensures that resources are used efficiently, preventing burnout and underutilization, and ultimately enhancing project performance.

Predictive Analytics for Risk Management

Risk management is a critical component of successful project management. AI can enhance this process by analyzing vast amounts of data to identify potential risks that might not be immediately apparent to human managers. By predicting potential issues and suggesting mitigation strategies, AI helps in minimizing the impact of risks, thereby increasing the likelihood of project success.

AI-driven predictive analytics tools such as Oracle Primavera and Planview help project managers identify potential risks before they become critical. By analyzing historical data and current project variables, these tools can forecast delays, budget overruns, and resource shortages. This proactive approach allows project managers to mitigate risks early, avoiding costly disruptions.

Enhancing Collaboration and Communication

Effective communication and collaboration are the cornerstones of successful project management. AI can facilitate better collaboration by integrating with communication tools, ensuring that all team members are on the same page. AI can also analyze communication patterns to identify potential misunderstandings or conflicts within the team, offering suggestions to resolve issues before they affect the project.

AI tools like Slack with AI-powered bots and Trello integrate seamlessly into project workflows, automating updates, task assignments, and reminders. These tools ensure that team members are always informed and aligned, reducing the likelihood of miscommunication and improving overall productivity.

Data-Driven Decision Making

In the era of big data, making informed decisions is more critical than ever. AI can analyze vast amounts of data to provide actionable insights that guide decision-making. Whether it's selecting the best vendor, allocating resources, or adjusting timelines, AI ensures that decisions are based on data rather than intuition, leading to better project outcomes.

AI tools like Wrike and Monday.com offer decision support by analyzing vast amounts of project data and providing actionable insights. These tools help project managers make informed decisions quickly, whether they're about adjusting the project scope, reallocating resources, or managing stakeholder expectations.

Intelligent Reporting and Dashboards

AI enhances the reporting process by generating real-time, data-driven reports and dashboards. Tools like Tableau and Power BI integrate with project management software to provide visual insights into project performance, helping stakeholders track progress and make informed decisions. These tools can automatically highlight areas of concern, such as deviations from the planned timeline or budget, enabling prompt corrective action.

The Future of AI in Project Management

As AI continues to evolve, its role in project management will only grow. Future advancements may include AI-driven project assistants that can anticipate project needs, fully autonomous project planning and execution, and even AI-powered negotiations with stakeholders. The continuous integration of AI tools will enable project managers to focus more on strategic decision-making and innovation, rather than being bogged down by routine administrative tasks.

Conclusion

AI is rapidly reshaping project management, serving as a powerful co-pilot that enhances efficiency, drives innovation, and ensures project success. By integrating AI, organizations can achieve unprecedented levels of precision and foresight, ensuring projects are completed on time and within budget. As AI technology continues to advance, its role in project management will expand, becoming a crucial asset for organizations striving to remain competitive in today's fast-paced business environment. Through the automation of routine tasks, provision of predictive insights, and support for smarter decision-making, AI is transforming project management practices, resulting in increased efficiency and superior outcomes. Embracing AI not only keeps organizations ahead of the competition but also guarantees that projects are executed with exceptional precision and excellence.

AI Implementation in the Construction Industry

Ginen (Girish) Dharamshi (PMP ®, PfMP®)
Founder GGDC

https://www.linkedin.com/in/ginen-dharamshi-pmp/

1. Introduction: Why Has AI Been Late in the Construction Industry?

AI adoption in the construction sector has been slower compared to industries like manufacturing, finance, or healthcare. This delay can be attributed to several factors:

- *Fragmented Nature of the Industry:*
Construction projects are often large-scale, involving various stakeholders, contractors, architects, engineers, suppliers, etc. This fragmentation results in data silos, preventing the collection and sharing of uniform, high-quality data necessary for AI solutions.

- *Low R&D Spending:*
The construction industry has historically been conservative in its spending on research and development (R&D). According to McKinsey, the global construction sector invests less than 1% of revenue in R&D, significantly lower than sectors like manufacturing or IT. This reluctance to invest has delayed the adoption of innovative technologies like AI.

- *One-off Nature of Projects:*
Construction projects are often one-off undertakings, with a unique combination of design, location, and local regulations. This uniqueness limits the transferability of insights across projects, making it difficult to create scalable AI solutions.

- *Risk Aversion and Resistance to Change:*
Industry tends to avoid high-risk innovations, particularly in projects with tight budgets and timelines. Many decision-makers prefer sticking to traditional methods rather than taking risks with emerging technologies like AI. There is also the fear that AI could replace jobs, leading to resistance from workers.

- *Data Scarcity and Complexity:*
Construction firms typically lack the kind of comprehensive, clean data that AI models require. The fragmented nature of data-across design, project management, on-site activities, and post-construction monitoring—makes data collection and aggregation a significant challenge.

2. Key Factors Pushing the Adoption of AI Technology in Construction

Despite these challenges, several factors are pushing the construction industry to adopt AI at an increasing pace:

- *Rising Costs and Efficiency Needs:*
With the rise in construction costs, driven by factors such as increased material prices and labor shortages, the need for efficiency has become more pressing. AI's ability to optimize resources, predict delays, and reduce wastage is becoming critical for competitive advantage.

- *Labor Shortages:*
The construction industry is experiencing a global labor shortage. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, construction employment is expected to grow at a slower-than-average rate. As a result, firms are turning to AI and automation to fill this gap—whether through robotic bricklayers, AI-driven scheduling systems, or predictive analytics for project management.

- *Complexity of Modern Projects:*
Modern projects such as smart cities, infrastructure development, and sustainable buildings require highly complex designs and management. AI's ability to process large volumes of data quickly and predict issues before they arise is seen as a key enabler for managing these complexities.

- *Government Regulations and Sustainability Goals:*
Governments worldwide are introducing regulations that promote sustainable construction practices. AI's role in optimizing energy usage, minimizing waste, and ensuring compliance with sustainability goals has made it an attractive solution for construction firms facing regulatory pressures.

- *Increased Digitization and BIM Adoption:*
The growing adoption of digital tools like Building Information Modeling (BIM) is creating a fertile environment for AI. BIM provides detailed project data that AI can leverage for analytics, optimization, and predictive modeling, creating a more seamless integration of AI into project workflows.

3. Current AI Applications in Construction: Lessons Learned

The construction industry has already begun adopting AI in various domains, leading to a wealth of insights and lessons:

A. Predictive Analytics in Project Management
AI-powered predictive analytics tools analyze historical project data to forecast potential delays, cost overruns, and resource shortages.
- Lesson Learned:
- Data quality is crucial. Many firms have struggled with integrating AI tools because their project data was either incomplete or inconsistent. Standardizing data collection processes has been identified as a key prerequisite for AI success.

B. AI for Design Optimization (Generative Design)
AI-driven generative design software explores various design possibilities by balancing parameters like cost, sustainability, and structural integrity.
- Lesson Learned:
- AI can significantly reduce design time and improve outcomes but requires clear input constraints and goals. Unclear or incomplete project briefs can lead to suboptimal design iterations.

C. Robotics and Automation on Construction Sites
AI-driven robots are being used to automate tasks like bricklaying, rebar tying, and concrete pouring, while drones with AI-powered vision systems monitor construction progress and site safety.
- Lesson Learned:
- While these technologies improve precision and safety, their adoption is limited by high costs and the need for skilled operators and maintenance teams. Initial investments are significant, and returns on investment (ROI) take time to materialize.

D. AI for Safety Monitoring
AI systems using computer vision algorithms monitor construction sites for safety violations—like detecting workers not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Lesson Learned:
- These systems have proven highly effective in reducing on-site accidents but require robust internet connectivity and seamless integration with existing safety protocols.

E. Resource and Supply Chain Optimization
AI-driven systems analyze material usage patterns and optimize procurement schedules, ensuring just-in-time deliveries and minimizing excess inventory.
- Lesson Learned:
- AI's ability to minimize material wastage and cut costs is evident, but success depends on aligning AI systems with traditional procurement processes, which are often entrenched in long-standing supplier relationships.

4. Roadmap for Future AI Adoption in Construction

Phase 1: Awareness and Pilot Projects (2024-2025)
Focus Areas: Building awareness and running small-scale pilot projects.
Goals: Educate stakeholders, including construction firms, project managers, and regulatory bodies, about the benefits of AI in the construction industry.
Key Milestones:
- Launch industry-wide educational initiatives to foster AI literacy.
- Develop AI pilot projects focused on simple tasks such as predictive analytics for scheduling or safety monitoring through computer vision.

Phase 2: Scaling Up AI Solutions (2025-2028)
Focus Areas: Expansion of successful pilot projects.
Goals: Implement AI solutions on a scale across major construction projects, focusing on project management, design optimization, and safety monitoring.
Key Milestones:
- Create industry partnerships between technology companies, research institutions, and construction firms.
- Increase AI adoption to cover 25% of active construction projects, focusing on areas like autonomous equipment operation and risk analysis.

Phase 3: Industry Standardization (2028-2030)
Focus Areas: Establishing industry-wide AI standards.
Goals: Develop standardized AI tools and processes, ensuring interoperability and ease of integration.
Key Milestones:
- Work with regulatory bodies to set guidelines for AI usage in safety, project management, and sustainability.
- Establish AI-driven data-sharing platforms to allow firms to leverage insights across projects and locations.

Phase 4: Full AI-Driven Automation (2030-2035)
Focus Areas: Automation of entire construction processes with minimal human supervision.
Goals: Achieve full AI integration, where AI not only assists but autonomously manages entire construction projects.
Key Milestones:
- Use AI-powered machinery for 50% of on-site tasks.
- Enable AI decision-making in project scheduling, design adjustments, and risk mitigation.

5. Predicting the Future of AI in Construction

Efficiency Gains: By 2035, AI is expected to improve construction productivity by 25-30%. AI tools will optimize schedules, reduce delays, and improve material management, helping firms navigate tight budgets and timelines.

Integration with Digital Twins: AI will likely work closely with digital twins to create real-time, data-driven insights for construction projects. This integration will allow teams to monitor project performance, foresee risks, and make adjustments in real time.

AI-Driven Sustainability: AI will play a major role in sustainable construction by optimizing energy use, selecting eco-friendly materials, and ensuring buildings meet regulatory compliance.

Workforce Transformation: While concerns over job displacement persist, AI will more likely augment human capabilities than replace them. New roles focused on AI implementation, maintenance, and data analysis will emerge.

Regulatory Compliance: Government mandates will likely require the use of AI-driven tools for safety, compliance, and sustainability tracking, further driving AI adoption.

6. Lessons Learned for Future AI Implementation

1. *Data Quality is Paramount*: AI systems need consistent, high-quality data to deliver meaningful results. Construction firms must prioritize data collection, standardization, and integration.

2. *Change Management is Critical*: AI's success hinges on the willingness of firms to embrace it. Change management initiatives should focus on educating and reskilling workers.

3. *Scalability Remains a Challenge*: While AI has shown success in pilot programs, scaling these solutions across large, complex projects remains difficult due to integration challenges with legacy systems.

4. *Collaboration is Essential*: Governments, technology providers, and construction firms must collaborate to establish industry standards, share data, and foster innovation.

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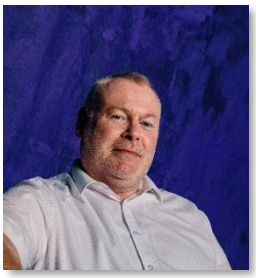
ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

Sagar Kalantre has 18+ years of progressive Project/Portfolio Management experience in clinical research, have honed expertise in managing complex projects and leading diverse teams. His journey in the industry has been marked by continuous learning and adaptation, as evidenced by certifications, including Project Management Professional (PMP®) from PMI (2017), PMI-PMP ATP Instructor, Certified ScrumMaster® (CSM) from Scrum Alliance (2018), and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt (LSSBB) from VarSigma and Exemplar Global (2018).



Dr. Éamonn V. Kelly has 25 years of leadership in project management, he has driven transformative change across government, healthcare, utilities, and manufacturing, delivering substantial organizational impact. Currently, he serve as a Principal Consultant with PwC, specializing in healthcare programs, where he bring strategic insight and expertise to complex initiatives. In parallel, he is the Programme Director for the MSc in Project Management at the University of Limerick's Kemmy Business School - ranked in the top 3% of global business schools - blending academic excellance with a practitioner's perspective.

Ashok Cherian is Over 10 years of Large-Scale Project Management experience in Cement Plants and Construction industry. He is working as a project manager for UltraTech Cement Limited. He is Skilled in project planning, scheduling, monitoring and controls, project management, technical execution {civil, mechanical (fabrication, erection, equipment), electrical, refractory, WHRS}, and top-level management reporting. Adept in handling all the phases of the project life cycle and also the various constraints like Scope, Schedule, Budget, Resources, & Quality.

Mandar Vaidya is having 18.5+ years of IT experience. He has 9+ years of Project management. He is also PMP, CSM, ITIL Certified. He is currently working as Project Manager at Mirum Digital Pvt Ltd.

Nikhil Nagda is Associate Director at PwC India. He is UIPath Certified - RPA Developer, Solution Architect worked on multiple RPA and Automation Projects.

Anish Shrimali is PMP® Certified Chief Manager-IT, Research Officer, Union Learning Academy-Digital Transformation, Union Bank of India, He also holds CAIIB |DISA| Certificate in Cyber Security| Post-Graduate Degree in Master of Computer Applications (MCA)

Ginen Dharamshi, a PMP and PfMP certified professional with a background in Civil Engineering and Construction Management, integrates corporate strategy with hands-on expertise in all real estate functions. His experience spans construction, planning, business development, approvals, funding, and P&L management across residential, commercial, retail, industrial and luxury projects.

UPDATES FROM CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS PORTFOLIO

PMI MC conducted its PMI-ACP training in Jan 2024. Our training got good response and feedback. One of our attendees, Mr. Depesh Banik has cleared his PMI-ACP exam.

PMI Mumbai Chapter congratulates Mr. Depesh Banik, Project Manager Officer at Webb Fontaine for passing PMI-ACP® exam in September 2024.

"Thrilled to share that I've officially passed the PMI-ACP certification exam! Excited to bring agile best practices into my projects and continue growing in this dynamic field. I am extremely grateful to the trainer and whole PMI Chapter Member team for all the support along the way. The trainer and his training both were instrumental for my success, accept my sincere gratitude from the core of the heart. Really grateful to PMI Mumbai Chapter to arrange the PDU training."

Pitstop Series 2024 - 1st Session

Under PitStop, PMI MC conducted its 3rd session on Rethink Business on 11 Sept 2024. The speaker was Mr Nilay Shah.

The key takeaways for the attendees were understand how the business will grow in future with the advent of Gen AI, how to go ahead when thinking to start business from long time but not have that much daring, Understanding strategies of growth. It was an interactive session through chat window without using any presentation.

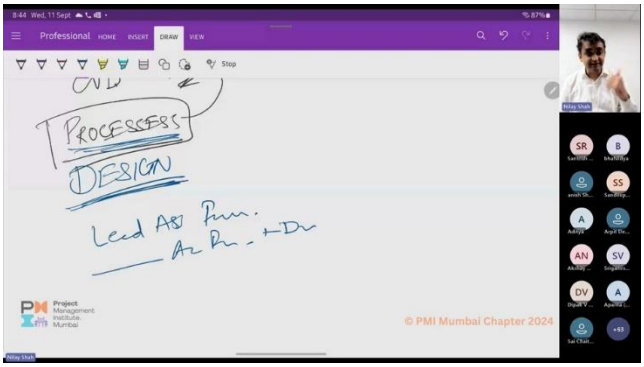
We have attendees from Pune, Ahmedabad also who are professionals in Cybersecurity, Industrial Automation, Pharma, Mfg, Banking, IT, Construction, Oil and gas, BFSI – loan automation, Marine, Mechanical, etc.

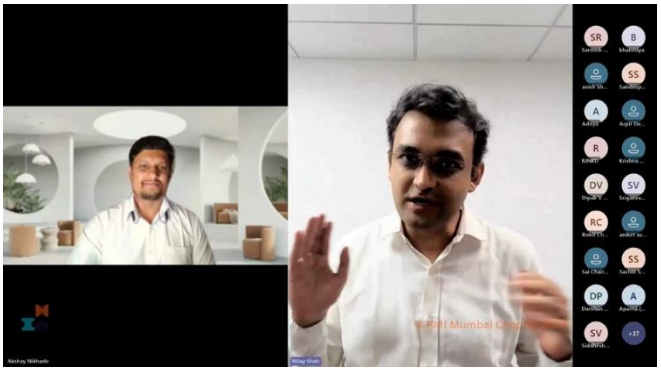
The valuable feedback we received encouraged us to conduct such sessions more as this is the need of time. Some of the feedback were:

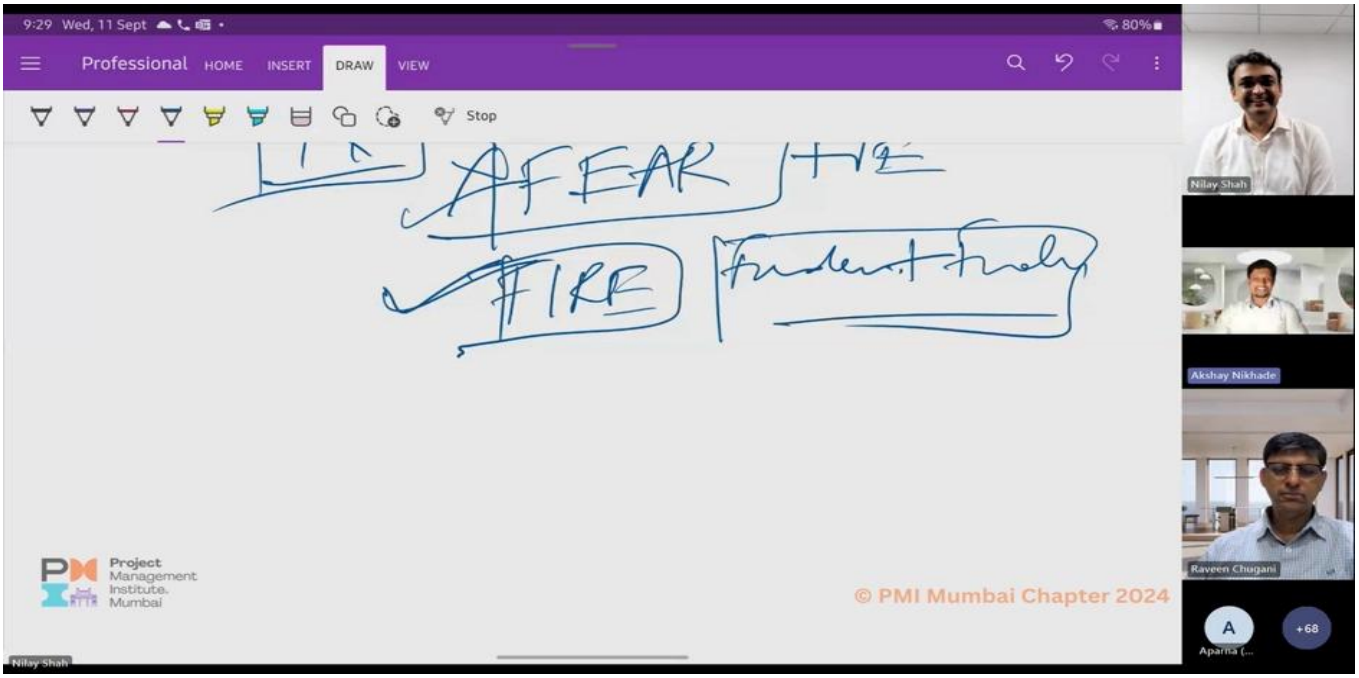
"Better business can become bigger and stay bigger"
"Excellent session and its flow"
"Thanks once again for Insightful session. Informative session"
"Great session this can help in my business"
"Methodical approach of business design"
"Need more such sessions"
"Very insightful & interesting session."

A big thank you to Mr. Nilay Shah for sharing these valuable learnings with all our members!

Apart from Mumbai chapter, we had attendees participating from various South Asia chapters like Gujarat/Pune/Bangladesh chapters. There were 110 attendees and were awarded 1.5 PDUs each.







PM Forum 5th session of 2024

Under PM Forum, PMI MC conducted its 5th session on Process Optimisation on 24 August 2024. The speaker was Mr Ashish Kulshreshtha.

The key takeaways for the attendees were the tools and techniques discussed with examples in the optimization process were insightful. The attendees were so involved in the session there were many questions they asked.

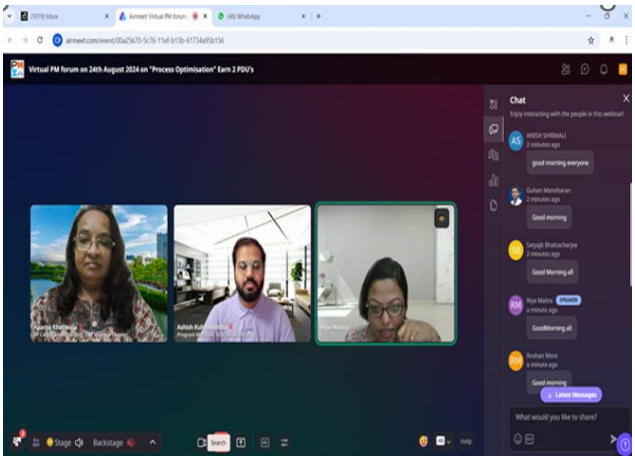
The valuable feedback we received encouraged us to conduct such sessions more as this is the need of time. Some of the feedback were -

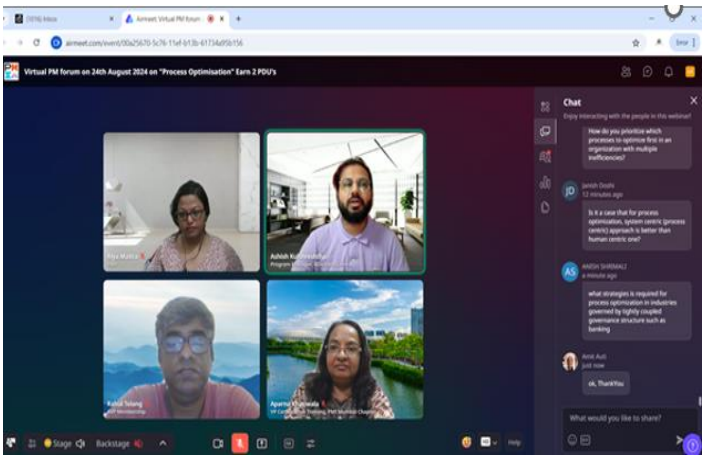
"Very knowledgeable session, more collaborative, informative session"

"Highly thoughtful and insightful session. Presenter Ashish explained the complexities of process optimization in a clear and straightforward manner, effectively addressing and clarifying all queries."
"We look forward to attending many more such informative"
"Speaker with in-depth knowledge and excellent delivery of session"
"Great session organized by Mumbai Chapter."
"Expected some more use cases but its ok."

A big thank you to Mr. Ashish Kulshreshtha for sharing these valuable learnings with all our members!

Apart from Mumbai chapter, we had attendees participating from various South Asia chapters like Gujarat/Pune/Bangladesh chapters. There were 115 attendees and were awarded 2 PDUs.





UPDATES FROM MEMBERSHIP PORTFOLIO

PMI Mumbai Chapter community has reached 2,500 passionate and dedicated members!

This milestone reflects the strength of our community, united by a shared commitment to professional growth, collaboration, and innovation in project management. Each member brings unique expertise and experiences that contribute to the growth of this vibrant network.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey – from our new members to our long-time supporters, your engagement has made us stronger.

As we continue to grow, we're excited to bring even more networking opportunities, learning sessions, and events designed to empower our community.

Here's to the next 2,500! Together, we're shaping the future of project management.

Do you know who PMI Mumbai Chapter Members are and what they do?

1. They are multifaceted leaders.
2. They are not restricted by the borders - they collaborate with other PMI chapters around the world and co-create the PMI Chapter Xchange program.
3. They drive the initiatives to shape next generation leaders through the -
   - G.R.O.W - Guide, Raise, Provide Options, for Way forward – our mentoring program for the GenZ.
   - Student's Clubs
- Career Pe Charcha: Exploring Pathways – which brings the industry experts and young graduate/post graduate students on a common platform where the experts provide insights on how to choose and pursue a career that one is passionate about.

Are you a PMI Mumbai Chapter Member? - Not yet?

Become a PMI Mumbai Chapter Member Today and

- Be the Multifaceted Leader.
- Grab opportunity to bring changes in society.
- Hone your skills.
- Never stop learning.

ANNUAL PM CONCLAVE-NX 2024

The **PM Conclave-NX 2024** is our flagship event, celebrating the project management profession and bringing together Leaders, industry professionals, PM practitioners, domain experts, academic institutes eminent faculties, students, and corporate sponsors. This year, our theme is "**Project Leadership Re-imagined: 'AI' as your Copilot**". This event serves as a pivotal platform for the progressive community to exchange information related to latest technology trends, future of industry professionals and discuss best practices, explore the methodologies & how advancements in Artificial Intelligence could be applied.

Our Annual PM Conclaves offer numerous benefits to the member, industry professionals, academia and corporates looking to stay ahead in their field. Here are some compelling reasons to join this flagship event:

- ✓ *Gain Insights from Keynote Speakers and SMEs*
- ✓ *Discover the Cutting-Edge Trends Shaping the Profession*
- ✓ *Stay updated with the cutting-edge tools, techniques, and trends shaping the future of the industry.*
- ✓ *Connect with Industry Leaders and Practitioners*
- ✓ *Develop Comprehensive Skills Covered Under the PMI Talent Triangle*
- ✓ *Earn Professional Development Units (PDUs)*

"GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU GET INVOLVED WITH PMI"