Effective Communication Skills for a Successful Project and Team by Mark Bennett

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Many of us sit and analyze for hours or days when a project fails. Some of us just get peeved and disappointed when our team fails. Even after constant meetings and analyzes, we still cannot find the reasons why our team failed or the project was a failure.

Frankly, the answer for most of the failure of a project or team is the lack of effective and proper communication skills. Just yesterday, I met my best buddy at the bar. As we were discussing about our work and personal lives, he came out with the information that his company just lost a potential project. I mean they got a pilot project and it failed. He said to me that it cannot be said that the project failed, but it turned out to be a disaster.

Many companies come up with this issue. They lose tons of potential customers and huge revenue spinning projects just because of one and major thing i.e. communication. In spite of having the necessary resources like excellently skilled team members, advanced software and tools, the project just goes into the drain.

Why are communication skills so important for the success of a project or team? It is really simple. Through communication; ideas, decisions, and thoughts flow. Not only words fly in the air, but the ideas and thoughts of the team member also get exchanged. When you are holding team meetings, you don't just hold it for the whims and fancy of the management.

Basically meetings are held to plan out the action and find solutions for the problems. In meetings you may get possible solutions to make the project easy to do. There is a lot of interaction between the team members and the team leader.

Lots of ideas will flow and you can get a variety of remedies and strategies to make the project successful. For the above things, you need to have a good communication skill. Whether you are a team member or team leader, you need to communicate your ideas and thoughts. For a successful project and good team you need a hundred percent interaction from you and your team members. Man! If you are a team leader, you have the basic responsibility of churning out the best among your team members.

As a team leader, you need to set an example. You have to communicate with each of the team members. By interacting on personal and official level, you could come to know the behavior and the skills of each of the members of the team. By communicating with them during the lunch breaks or coffee breaks, you can analyze each of your team members' character. Find out who is good at handling pressure, who can get the work done fast and who is the person who gives the best quality.

Seriously, these things are needed to make the project successful. Many of the team leaders just forget to practice this important rule of communication. They feel that they know a lot of things and having vast years of experience, their decision is always correct. It is wrong. You see this is overconfidence. Being overconfident about your skills and methods is bad. It makes you vulnerable. Vulnerable to what?

Well it is simple. You become vulnerable to failures. Lots of team leaders feel that they know what is good for the project and team. This is a bad sign of a team leader. You need to hear out the ideas of your team members. Come on man! Without having an energetic and dynamic team who communicate effectively, you will feel that you are talking to a wall. You will keep on giving your thoughts and feedback and there will be no response from the other side.

If you want to polish your communication skill, always watch programs on your TV like Verizon FiOS TV and see how the actors and news reader speak. See how the words flow and come out of their mouth. Try to analyze their expressions and body language while they speak. Frankly, it is not too late now to improve and develop your communication skills.

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