

The importance of project management

Excessive cost and delays in the projects may or may not be under the control of the institution, but a planned project execution can bring down cost and time overrun to a great extent, say project management experts.

"Students interested in venturing into new areas of business development would find the certification extremely beneficial," says B.G. Jayaram, project manager of a reputed IT industry. Karthik Ramamurthy, president of PMI, Chennai, says "Not just IT companies, but all the industries like construction, shipping, jewellery, pharmacy and automobile require certified project management employees."

"Project managers understand the nuances of a project, spend time in its planning, identify the risk and help mitigate costs and time overrun involved. International organisations, established for the promotion and development of project management all over the world, offer project management

certification," says Raj Kalady, managing director, PMI India.

Project management credentials offered by Project Management Institute (PMI) and the Institute of Project Management Association (IPMA) are globally recognised and professionally demanding. The Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) offered by PMI is for individuals who are starting a career in project management. The eligibility requirement is a high school pass and 23 contact hours of project management education or 1,500 hours of professional experience. "The CAPM has been developed based on practitioner's inputs. The principles and concepts in the course may later be modified and applied to the industries concerned." The Project Management Professional (PMP) certification can be undertaken by candidates who have professional project management experience.

Blue chip companies that hire project management professionals include L&T, Infosys, Wipro, TCS,

Punj Lloyd, ONGC, Microsoft, Intel, Oracle, Mahindra, Deloitte, KPMG and many more.

The four-level certification programme offered by IPMA can be taken up at different levels based on eligibility and work experience. The IPMA Competence Baseline (ICB) is the basis for the four-level certification programme.

Other bodies like Association for Project Management (APM), Australian Institute of Project Management offer certification programmes at different levels.

A survey by Price Waterhouse Cooper in 2007 shows that 80 per cent of higher performing projects use project managers.

"Recognising the importance of project management in India today, the PMI is looking at incorporating project management into the curriculum of engineering and MBA courses."

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