EXPLORING THE BEST PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF IT SERVICE INDUSTRY IN PUNE, INDIA

* Mr. Jadhav Satish Dhanaji, Dr. Indrajit Yadav

*Research Scholar, **Associate Professor, School of Management Studies,
Sri Satya Sai University of Technology and Medical Sciences, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.

ABSTRACT

Business leaders consistently face the demanding situations of program failures. Lack of right assignment alignment with enterprise techniques is a prime contributor to less a hit program effects. The modern loss of readability associated with the discipline and the practice of program management in this no person-knows-what-takes place-next kingdom of the global economic system requires a higher knowledge, insight and evaluation of what's are important to successful information technology services programs practices. A overall of 82 functional questionnaires had been acquired and analyzed, which has been collected from 14 IT firms through structured interviews have been performed with program management professionals and essential literature overview became performed to set up, ascertain and report the elements which are critical to the success of implementation and the practice of program control within the Pune India surroundings. The findings in this study are based on a theoretical and pragmatic synthesis of literature evaluates questionnaire survey and semi-dependent interviews with program management specialists. They have a look at seeks to provide a higher understanding, insight and evaluation of the factors important which might be vital to the success of any powerful construction program and the way forward.

KEYWORDS: Program Management, Project Management, Portfolio Management, IT Service Industry, BPMPs.

INTRODUCTION

Program management is not a synonym of project management (Pellegrinelli, 1997), but an integrated technique that could streamline the powerful delivery of tasks (Gray, 1997); Lycett et al. (2004) take a look at that the previous has its roots in the latter and consistent with Milosevic et al. (2007) the two principles are regularly careworn. Therefore, it's been discovered that companies use the phrases task control and program control interchangeably (Ferns, 1991; GAPPs, 2008), while the two are completely different however directly associated with each other (Reiss, 2003). For program management to succeed there's need to define and differentiate its practices from the ones of project control to avoid leaving them to serendipity. Programs have a tendency to be dynamic in nature with severe go-field and move-venture integration (OGC, 2003), in which the actions of one purposeful assignment influences, supports and reinforces the alternative challenge groups concerned inside the program (Milosevic et al., 2007; Thomsen 2008). On the alternative hand, program management entails control of a collection of initiatives (Ferns, 1991; Lycett et al., 2004), while challenge management offers with the effective control of activities to supply the undertaking inside the authorized price.
excellent and time (Turner, 1993; Burke, 2003). The high level of synergy and integration in program management calls for the identity of positive BPMPs in an effort to facilitate green delivery. A program, in a larger sense, is a set of associated tasks that are coordinated concurrently to reap a specific end result. For example, technical network renovation software may incorporate particular initiatives associated with software program enhancements, data migration, hardware enhancements, licensing, procurement and fine warranty. These man or woman tasks each meet a selected purpose and together they make up the general protection software. While tasks can exist without programs, applications are always made up of related initiatives. The adulthood and structure of an organization dictates whether or not its projects are ruled via applications.

Program management is the centralized management of related tasks to acquire a specific final results or benefit. Program control requires governance, management, economic management, infrastructure and planning. It creates structure and presents steering and venture prioritization to fulfill strategic commercial enterprise desires. Program managers decide the top-quality approach for dealing with initiatives with the aid of resolving useful resource constraints, supervising alternate management and influencing strategic course that influences task development and fulfillment of goals. The discipline of application management includes the 9 standardized know-how regions of mission management with the addition of software financial control, program stakeholder control and software governance. Establishing a framework, developing a application monetary plan, estimating and budgeting program prices, and monitoring program financials are all a part of financial management. Programs have both stakeholders in commonplace with the tasks that they govern and stakeholders particular to the program itself. All stakeholders must be identified and engaged and their expectancies managed. Program governance guarantees that each projects and strategic selection-making are targeted on always attaining application desires, addressing dangers and fulfilling the expectancies of the stakeholders involved.

In program management, vital success elements are identified to enable tracking the value of program outputs; they have to permit proper assessment of the few essential factors of the program that ought to be performed nicely to obtain the goals of the program (Wren 2003). While the relationships undertaking control and program control are located to be synergistic (Milosevic et al., 2007), the BPMPs for project management may be inadequate to the ones of program control (Reiss, 2003). In the same way that program control emerges from task management (Ferns, 1991; Lycett et al., 2004), the BPMPs of the former can also be associated or emerged from the latter; consequently, based totally at the above set up relationships between initiatives and programs, this studies evaluations, establishes and analyses the BPMPs for powerful program management, which may additionally have emanated from venture management. Rockart (1982) first used important fulfillment elements (BPMP) inside the context of records structures and venture management and a number of researches have been subsequently said on this area. Rowlinson (1999) and Thomsen (2008) country that BPMPs are those essential problems inherent in the task (s), which have to be maintained in order for group working to take location in an green and powerful way. BPMPs require day-these days attention and operate all through the life of the challenge. OGC (2007) believes that BPMPs are confined inside the range of regions that, if completely addressed, could make certain the successful completion of the program. Identifying and communicating the BPMPs ensures that everybody in the program team is targeted.

**Conceptual Background of Best Program Management Practices (BPMPs)**

Program control is the system of dealing with a couple of tasks interior an company. This control function attempts to improve the profitability of each project inside the organization. Projects are the individual operations that supply particular outputs for an agency; those outputs are generally the goods and services sold to consumers and different organizations. Program managers make sure that each task provides to the general price of the organization. Organizations may also use application management to ensure the outcome of each challenge meets the pre-determined goals of the employer. Tracing the roots of project management, Cooke-Davies (2002) attracts a critical difference between undertaking achievement (measured towards the targets of the venture) and undertaking control fulfillment (usually measured in opposition to the conventional measures of time, cost and high-quality). He similarly distinguishes between success standards (the measures in opposition to which a fulfillment or failure might be judged) and achievement elements (the inputs that lead both directly or circuitously to the fulfillment of the challenge). In relation to the ones distinctions, this look at
ambitions to become aware of management inputs that cause normal program fulfillment, as opposed to on traditional measures of outturn performance.

Coulson-Thomas (2004) suggests that to shape the destiny, businesses want to establish and build relationships with clients; the winning business high-quality exercise is to become aware of the essential achievement elements of the business previous to making full commitment. According to Jaramillo and Marshall (2004) BPMPs are duties or attributes that have to acquire precedence attention via management because they pressure overall performance. BPMPs had been described as characteristics, situations or variables that notably pressure enterprise overall performance (Keck et al. 1995). The taxonomy of BPMPs for effective assignment management is primarily based on 4 increasing ranges of criticality, which are elements linked to fulfillment with the aid of a known causal mechanism, factors necessary and enough for success, elements necessary for fulfillment and elements related to success. Lim and Mohamed (1999) advise that BPMPs are extraordinarily crucial factors which decide the achievement or failure of an enterprise program. Based on Williams and Ramaprasad’s (1996) taxonomy, this study observes that parallels may be drawn and comparable analogy can be adapted to the BPMPs for effective program management.

Abraham (2003) articulates that the conventional technique to fulfillment within the creation industry, both in academia and in enterprise, locations first rate emphasis on the ability to devise and execute projects. In the past, groups finishing tasks in a well timed way within a longtime finance and meeting required excellent concerns had been considered a success groups. Minimizing the emphasis on management practices and organizational stability, corporations with a music document of a hit mission finishing touch have been taken into consideration the pinnacle performers inside the creation industry. In evaluation, program management in other industries makes a specialty of management practices at a company degree as a crucial element of success. An essential part of application control is setting dreams for every project under this system manager. While digging deep into the character methods and operations of every assignment may be outside the boundaries of program control, desires help managers outline the success of each procedure. Projects can also lose cash in the early levels in their lifestyles. Program managers make certain that the losses are within reason and the mission maintains to enhance profitability through the years. Managing a couple of projects with various desires can be a hard management scenario. Understanding the desires for each task and the impact it has on the overall organizational performance enables managers make crucial choices. Goals may want to be adjusted if a venture has major delays or setbacks.

According to Williams and Parr (2006), the center essence of program control consist of activities along with the included planning of a couple of tasks, identity and know-how of dependencies, handling risks regarding complicated interdependencies, keeping attention on the overall commercial enterprise benefits, and coordinating large and regularly dispersed initiatives. OGC (2003) explains that powerful programs require and contain extensive dedication in terms of sources, enough finances, extended timescales, capability disruption of extant projects or programs, and important enterprise or organizational change. The BPMPs discussed on this research were built from program management literature. Most companies are seeking for to improve profitability via progressed client items and services. Program control is the tool used to ensure the development of goods and offerings. Organizations may choose sure products or services to improve based on customer critiques on internal management reviews. Improvements can be wished on the assignment control degree. Program management lets in companies to break down the development technique to specific projects or processes within the employer’s operations. Change agents or internal operations can be used within the software management system to improve products and services. These people may have a better knowledge or more understanding concerning the undertaking or commercial enterprise technique. Program management systems have to have an evaluation process to make sure they deliver the favored organizational consequences. Program managers may be underneath direct supervision of an operation vice president or leader working officer. This management shape helps corporations control its program managers and limit waste from ineffective control processes. Program critiques may include an undertaking evaluation technique, which looks to eliminate useless enterprise projects. Program control can be an effective device for comparing an corporation’s usual enterprise strategies and projects to ensure best goods and offerings are being produced. Program managers can be selected from departments no longer related to the current production machine. This allows agencies to attain an objective evaluation on tasks and enterprise strategies.

Planning and establishing priorities

Planning is one of the maximum crucial critical success factors; Williams and Parr (2006) describe program making plans because the advent of a series of files that facilitate a shared knowledge amongst program
stakeholders and guide the execution and manage of the program. Baguley (1995) also indicates that success initiatives require making plans – they do no longer simply manifest. Planning ought to be capable of withstanding the buffeting of a more and more unsettled environment wherein the assignment is completed. Young (1993) describes planning as the function of setting up a predetermined course of movement, inclusive of guidelines and procedures to attain a few precise corporate objectives. Although making plans a undertaking does now not equate to planning a program (Thomsen, 2008), the fulfillment of a program is dependant on the fulfillment of man or woman constituent tasks and the adequacy in their planning (Reiss et al., 2006). Tullet (1996) suggests that the element in which a assignment is planned and eventually monitored and managed through its various stages is a issue that’s crucial to its success. OGC (2003) sees program making plans and manage as not truly task planning and manipulate on a bigger scale, instead it is a aggregate of numerous tracking concerns.

Strategic evaluation and technique
According to OGC (2003 & 2007), strategic assessment is a vital BPMP; at the same time as Thomsen (2008) observes that without a strategic purpose, program management is not really worth pursuing. These studies observe the essence of a sound strategic assessment and expertise benefits and organizational targets of program control previous to its implementation and exercise. The strategic evaluate might also however protect the company into plunging itself right into a exercise that they have got no know-how of awareness about. The exceptional universal technique for a program might be a mix of the approach required to deliver every workgroup, the relationships among work organizations and the employer’s capability to manage trade (Reiss, 2003; OGC, 2003). A proactive technique to dealing with programs will facilitate effectiveness, efficiency, time transport and powerful chance identification and management. The methods have to be kept simple to recognize and function.

Simplicity and easiness of techniques
Programs are known to be complex, dynamic, complicated, with intense pressure from the marketplace forces, political environment, and move-venture integration and activities (Milosevic et al., 2007). The required concord and coexistence of more than one initiatives and stakeholders require companies which are new to program control to preserve it as simple as feasible to be powerful and attain successful programs. According to OGC (2003), for establishments with confined revel in of managing exchange (program), the method ought to be kept as simple as feasible. The employer should therefore structure the program so that there’s a sturdy bond among the work companies and functions and aid each characteristic by way of the use of skilled undertaking and program managers. According to one of the program mangers in the semi-structured interviews conducted on this studies, the simpler the program, the less difficult the enterprise will locate navigating thru the mastering curve to control and reap effective and a success transport at the end of the operation (Lycett et al.,2004). In relation easiness of techniques, program control may additionally only be powerful and a hit if the target(s) of the program is/are completed. Program management relies on planning, execution and control in an effort to be successful, whilst the trio is supported by using positive components that require control, consisting of chance, supply chain, understanding, monetary, contingency, performance, fine release and gain management (Williams and Parr, 2006).

Learning and improvement
If an organization has restricted program control, capability and revel in, it have to construct time into its plans to permit for improvement and mastering (Lycett et al., 2004). Depending upon the character of the organizational targets and regulations, effective learning and improvement require investment in time, attention, dedication and commitment (Thomsen, 2008). These studies observes that it is vital that a capacity program control business enterprise have to map out the getting to know and development necessities based totally at the assessment of their real potentials to examine adopt and enforce new systems. This, but, coincides with the recommendation of a public sector program supervisor inside the semi dependent interviews, conducted on this research, and Thomsen (2008), who believes that gaining knowledge of and improvement are crucial to constructing and enduring program management.

Management infrastructure and know-how program and its stakeholders
It is important to set up an ok infrastructure and put in vicinity assist tools, processes and procedures to manipulate the program. These have to be able to feature inside the modern program; however a awful infrastructure will nearly assure failure (OGC, 2003; Williams and Parr, 2006). Management infrastructure can be a set of facilities or rules implemented by management to translate their method into motion. This is usually facilitated by the control gadget this is already in location within the corporation. Understanding program and
its stakeholders is important to ensure there is a great knowledge of the mindset of all the stakeholders within the program (Reiss et al., 2006). For the ones whose stance isn't always wherein it desires to been employer must broaden an approach to steer them and for this reason positively trade their mindset.

Clarity/consistency of imaginative and prescient and advantages consciousness

A program commonly includes big exchange across many strands of commercial enterprise operation (Bartlett, 2002) and probably across a couple of organization (Reiss et al., 2006). It may additionally involve alternate to individuals, groups or offerings which are out of doors the enterprises absolutely described imaginative and prescient for the trade will make certain that there is a great know-how of what have to be designed and added simply so the preferred results are achieved (OGC, 2007). Benefits consciousness is another BPMP which considers that programs generally evolve in an attempt to control useful modifications. Managing advantages from identity via to consciousness takes time, costs cash, and consumes resources. It is therefore important to maintain an express, often revisited recognition at the intended advantages of the program to remain on track and achieve the favored outcome. According to Thomsen (2008), putting in dreams and a clear criterion for measuring success in programs is an awesome way to mitigate disruptions which can be the end result of inevitable exchange. The program’s Business Case measures the balance among benefits, expenses and dangers; subsequently, it must be closely included with advantages management to ensure that the three are in equilibrium as preferred from the outset (Milosevic et al., 2006). These studies, consequently, upholds that blessings cognizance is important to the success of creation programs.

Coordination of projects and managing the transition/changes

Successful programs require careful and logical delineation of project barriers and outputs, rigorous identification and control of inter-venture dependencies, and a clear know-how of program expectancies towards obligations (Ferns 1991; Lycett et al., (2005). Program management has to consciousness on the bigger photo and ought to not take over the duties of venture management. However, clear path must be agreed with projects and everyday evaluations held to verify continual alignment to the program (Pellegrinelli, 2002; Bartlett, 2002; Milosevic et al., 2006). In relation to handling the transition/adjustments, Open University (1989) highlights that there are numerous forces that can act on companies that can indicate the need of alternate for the survival or increase of these establishments. These changes can be technological, economical, felony, social or political. Managing the transition involves making plans modifications, getting ready for their implementation, and then imposing them. However, the transition technique need to ensure enterprise as usual is maintained while trade is taking place. Usually over the existence of a program, there may be a transition of various stakeholders who are worried within the program and its sports. Reiss et al. (2006), have a look at that the elements indexed under are critical to the fulfillment of effective program control. The excellent normal approach for the program may be a blend of the method required to supply each paintings organization, the relationships among work corporations and employer features, together with the corporation's capability to manage exchange. For enterprises with confined revel in of coping with alternate, the method has to be kept as simple as possible. Divide the program so there may be a sturdy bond among workgroups and functions (those functions will attempt harder) and support every characteristic by means of the usage of experienced task and program managers. Use exceptionally easy, properly-understood, financial modeling strategies, until you have the offerings of experienced investment appraisal experts. If your employer has constrained program management capability and enjoy, you should build time into your plans to permit for improvement and getting to know.

It is vital to establish an ok infrastructure and installed area guide gear, processes and approaches to manipulate the program. These ought to be capable of characteristic inside the cutting-edge program and project management capabilities of the company. A correct infrastructure will no longer assure fulfillment for the program, but a horrific infrastructure will almost actually assure failure. Make positive you recognize the mindset of all the stakeholders inside the program. Having mentioned the BPMPs for powerful program control, these factors have been listed right into a questionnaire to analyze and check their outcomes on a hit program control exercise. To offer the exploratory and descriptive statistics analysis for BPMPs for effective program control.

Research methodology

The findings on this studies are through the triangulation of literature evaluate, industrial dependent questionnaire survey and semi-based interviews in the Pune IT enterprise. In the survey, 84 postal questionnaires had been sent the use of a comfort sampling; the sampling become conducted as the target populace turned into
not recognized for the researcher as highlighted by means of (Denscombe 2007; Bryman and Bell 2003). A total of eighty two practical completed questionnaires have been acquired and analyzed, the quantity means that approximately ninety eight percent of the full sample (84) contacted has participated in this study. In the semi-established interviews, to boom the depth and breadth of program management knowledge, responses were also amassed, analyzed and synthesized from different non-creation program control organizations. The sample of the population for the semi-established interview become acquired through providing a column within the questionnaire for contributors willing to be interviewed to provide their info; use of snowballing approach (Denscombe 2007) and referral by way of the program control experts (Wisker 2008) had been also hired to expand an good enough interview pattern. At the end of the interview classes, a total 14 IT firms were visited personally and interviews were carried out with program management professionals. All the interviewees selected, no matter their sectors, proven a reasonable degree of understanding of the construction area due to direct affiliation, thru their stakeholders or colleagues. The data amassed from the semi-established interviews was analyzed the usage of SPSS 21, the software program offers an avenue for flexible and rigorous analysis of qualitative facts. The records changed into coded the usage of conceptual method; it's been indicated that the point of interest in conceptual content material evaluation is primarily based on looking at the incidence of decided on phrases inside a text or texts, despite the fact that the phrases may be implicit in addition to express (Webb et al., 1966; Palmquist 2001; Busch et al., 2005). The most important recognition of this research is the IT industry, however due to a loss of availability of contextual program management understanding and revel in within this quarter, the research also took the possibility to study from other sectors to advantage a aggressive benefit (Fernie et al., 2003). The knowledge obtained from different sectors was then synthesized to broaden a knowledge of a way to implement and practice program management in the production surroundings. In the semi-structured interviews, the other sectors contacted covered IT, telecoms and others because of examine conducted through the Association for Project Managers (APM), titled APM introduction to program control (Rayner 2007). The effects within the questionnaire survey were analyzed the usage of SPSS 21 the BPMPs have been analyzed using Criticality Index and a assessment of the information was performed using a t-test which decreased the BPMPs into conceivable corporations. Prior to the statistics evaluation, a Cronbach alpha reliability evaluation turned into performed $\alpha = 0.908$. The result of the evaluation requires that the reliability must be $\alpha = 0.7$ as advocated and researchers also shows that, inside the early ranges of studies on predictor assessments or hypothesized measures of a construct, reliability of $\alpha = 0.7$ or better will suffice. (Nunnally 1998, Yang and Peng 2008).

**Data Analysis**

Student t-test is suitable whilst there's a dichotomous independence, and desires to test the difference of means in this example, to check mean variations among samples of the facts generation companies practicing and no longer working towards program management within the Pune IT enterprise. As established, t-take a look at can be used to compare the way of a criterion variable for two unbiased samples or for two established samples, or between a pattern suggest and a recognized suggest (one-sample t-test). Prior to the analyses of the responses, a t-test became performed to examine the responses of the groups working towards program control and people that are not practicing program management to come across any version in the responses. However, inside the questionnaire design, certain questions have been requested to clarify the concept of program control in query. These questions contain clear definitions of challenge and program control phrases inside the context of the research to dispose of any ambiguities that the respondents will conceive. Based on the results of the t-test, there may be no statistical variant inside the responses of those corporations training and those now not working towards program management, for this reason the records became analyzed as a homogeneous set of statistics.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Coordination</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig. (2-tailed)</th>
<th>Mean Difference</th>
<th>95% Confidence Interval of the Difference</th>
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<td>Cross-discipline coordination</td>
<td>19.428</td>
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<td>.000</td>
<td>2.70732</td>
<td>2.4301 - 2.9846</td>
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<td>2.39024</td>
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<td>.000</td>
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<td>2.74390</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>2.89024</td>
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<td>Effective management of transition</td>
<td>20.047</td>
<td>2.9146</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>2.91463</td>
<td>2.6254 - 3.2039</td>
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<td>.000</td>
<td>3.76829</td>
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<td>Effective planning</td>
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<td>.000</td>
<td>2.26829</td>
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<td>2.51220</td>
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<td>Clarity and consistency of vision</td>
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</table>

Source: This Study (SPSS output)
According to Table 1, Effective communication is the very best crucial success factor with the mean value of 3.7683, then ‘Strategic focus on program 3.0610. Program making plans is crucial for the success of a program (Bartlett, 2002; Reiss et al., 2006); as an end result, it could be at once connected to the success of the implementation and exercise of IT service program management. Lycett et al. (2004) define program planning as various activities organized in a manner that accomplishes the program’s goals to attain benefits. Program planning is a rational and analytical procedure and ought to be open and bendy to allow for emergent changes (Thiry, 2004). In the established order of a program’s priorities, Pellegrinelli (1997) emphasizes that it’s miles important for a program to set up the priorities in putting in the program management business enterprise, in preference to getting diverted by way of the other activities of that program; he counseled that programs need to be regularly updated to fulfill the ever-converting demand of commercial enterprise environments. OGC (2007) recommended that a program’s priorities should be contemplated in the Business Case for the program and be constantly up to date with attention to the organizational goals and stakeholder hobbies. Lycett et al. (2004) examine that a key mistakes in program initiation hinges at the failure to make clear the route and purpose of the program. These two consequences do no longer contradict the ‘nice practice’ in the program control organizations; however do no longer suggest that the requirements of all of the corporations will remain the equal. Some of the effects might also contradict cutting-edge practice in a few companies; however it is as much as the potential program control company to evaluate the suitability of the factors and adapt them as it should be. On the opposite hand, the ‘Easiness of techniques of dealing with program’ emerged from closing at the list of BPMPs. Although, there is no present frame of literature that shows the lack of importance of the simplicity of program management tools and strategies, OGC (2003) explains that easiness of gear and strategies makes the practice of program control simpler. However, in the semi-based interviews, one of the IT program managers stated that “Easiness of program management equipment and strategies does not mean the performance or reliability of those tools and strategies. The easiest tool may not be the most efficient.” Last on the list of criticality become, ‘Understanding stakeholders’ attitudes’. This lowest crucial success thing from the survey analysis contradicts the literature, in which stakeholder management become considered as an essential detail in the success practice of program management. Lycett et al. (2004) examine stakeholder control needs to be inherently bendy and adaptable. Although the survey offered ‘knowledge of stakeholders’ attitude’, not stakeholder management; however, in view of the importance of stakeholder control, this studies believes that ‘stakeholder control’ is crucial to the success of any program management.

**Conclusion**

It has been found that the need to understand the stipulations of effective program management has added with it the requirement to understand the variations between program and assignment management. The former has its roots within the latter, but aren't the equal; for this reasons the two are related; their BPMPs may also be related, but might also by no means be the synonymous. To effectively control construction programs, the program management groups are anticipated to closely study and establish those factors which might be important to the fulfillment in their programs. An affordable amount of effort will truly help to shed mild on the priorities of the program. The BPMPs supplied on this study is in no way the best ones that program control enterprises should take note of as the factors may differ from one enterprise and program to every other. The reduction of the factors will provide the educators, organizations and experts with more clear and relevant corporations, in preference to being harassed with an extended list of factors. However, the businesses can adapt and generate other companies based totally on the nature and necessities for the important achievement factors supplied in this have a look at, instead of a heuristic approach to the requirements.

**References**


OGC (2003). Managing Successful Programs. TSO


OGC (2007a). Managing Successful Programs. TSO


