Cycles and Projects

Is the influence of cycles in project planning clearly perceived by managers across its full spectrum? Let us seriously consider the implications of the pace in operation and also how to deliberately deal with it at specific moments of the cycle. Are projects and cycles divergent in their essential forms? Are the hybrid agile approach and improvisation the answers from management to tackle this question through an adaptive approach? Could the economic crisis cause less damage on the society once they learn about cycle behavior? Let us give it a thought.

Concerning all living beings ,— birth, growth and death ,— cycles also are present in all aspects of their personal, social and economic routines. They affect people, nations, ecosystems and societies at different levels and they may be temporary, circumstantial or even go through whole generations or eras, in other words, they are somehow related to forms of consumption, needs, whishes, product and services demand, corporations and innovation. Nearly everything is apparently part of a cycle, and by analogy has been associated with the image of a spiral.

Its several different types, in depth levels and wide-ranging have strongly influenced the project environment, people, means of operation and productivity as well. Cycles, especially the ones regarding **"intangible values"**, associate characteristics which are not always based on deterministic and rational models, I mean showing their own and immutable latency at times, in other words, they are not always able to accelerate or even change their route by influence of external interference.

In apparent antagonism to cycles, a project aims establish a pragmatic plan to the least effort. In analogy, run the shortest distance between two points, a straight line. On practical aims to set a corporate strategy in order to achieve results through processes to shorten cycles and boost productivity. Consequently, such planned actions aim to find the shortest path to predictability.

The questions are:

❯ What is the threshold of interference in cycles which does not harm the project potential results?

❯ What is the impact on the performance of supply chains ,— a vast array of cycles artificially settled by the economic power ,— if it takes into account the diversity of cycle paces?

❯ How should project managers consider the coexistence or rupture of cycles in their processes groups?

In analogy, we could realise that this particular line should be part of the radius of such spiral circle, being no longer an obstacle to its movement, but becoming support for it. However, the size and direction of these lines are rather dynamic values as they depend on spiral curves variations, unless the movement itself aims to break the cycle.

Management based on hybrid agile approach and improvisation practices emerges as the most appropriate to deal with real issues such as those in the approaches to project management. In order to inspire further researches on to getting balance between these two apparently antagonist vector forces in essence ,— projects and cycles ,— a start point suggestion would be to map your links and dependencies to establish a strong alignment of awareness of the project leaders, regarding the pace of each type of cycle and thus persuading stakeholders that mutual interest results are reached by indirectly from a linked cycles stability and the wide variety of its compositions. More over the pace of dissolutions or renewals of an economically productive cycle by a project impact should be identified by stakeholders before do it, issues which deserve to be given careful attention through academic research.

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