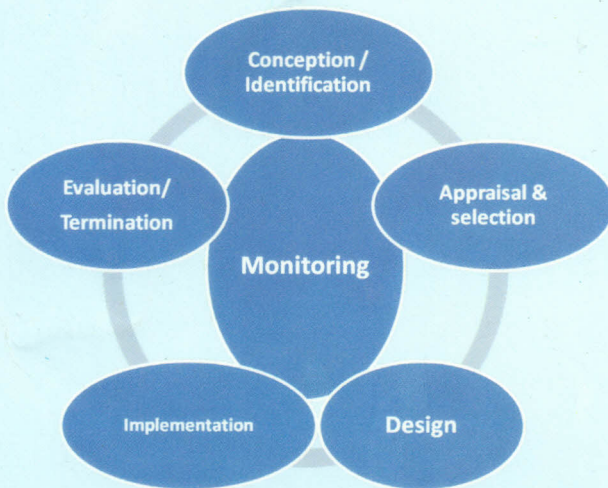


INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT: THEORY TO PRACTICE



FLORENCE M. ITEGI, PhD

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this book is to provide readers with a clear, concise and comprehensive introduction to the theory and practice of project management. The book particularly addresses the requirements of project management course at bachelor and masters levels, but is also suitable for practitioners in this field. This book opens by discussing the concept of project, project environment, and characteristics of projects and factors that cause projects to fail.

Chapter two is devoted to theory and practice of project management. It presents the project cycle from identification, preparation and formulation, design, implementation to termination.

Chapter three extends the knowledge base of chapter two by recognizing that projects are implemented in a dynamic environment that makes them prone to various risks. The section presents the risk management process and proposes some measures to counter risks.

Chapter four provides insights into financial and non financial models organizations can adopt in selecting projects in the face of limited resources to ensure maximum returns. Readers are provided with hypothetical data for practice to enhance deeper understanding.

Chapter five gives insights into how to establish the project organizational structure, allocate material and human resource to have the job done. The roles of project manager are discussed, as well as staffing and various matrices for project management.

Chapter six explores the Work Breakdown Structures (WBS) by establishing logical divisions of the project work to form tasks or work packages. Diagrammatic presentation of tasks is discussed using hypothetical examples.

Chapter seven provides basic guidelines on project proposal writing by describing key sections and their contents.

Chapter eight introduces computer application in project management, showing how to apply MS project software in establishing project data base during planning. The established data base serves as a reference in

tracking performance during implementation as well as communicating to stakeholders.

For those who wish to go deeper into a particular topic references are provided. Authors whose ideas have contributed to discussions in this text are acknowledged.

This book is suitable for students both at undergraduate and post graduate levels as well as staff in post secondary institutions who are involved in studies related to projects. Also, project management officers and consultants may find this text a source of valuable insights that can enrich their work. This book should also appeal to anyone who is interested in theory and practices of project management and other management studies.



Dr. Florence M. Itegi is currently a lecturer at Kenyatta University in the Department of Education Management, Policy Studies. Before then she taught Research and Project Management in the University of Nairobi and Africa International University, Kenya; she has also worked as a Secondary School teacher. She trained at Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi and Catholic University of Eastern Africa. She has many years of experience in supervising students undertaking research at both PhD and Masters level in related fields