

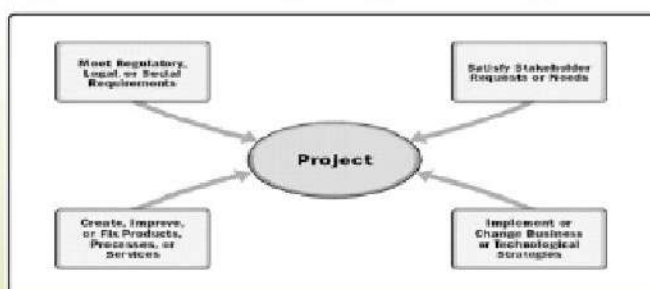
# Project Management and Certifications

Project Management is a part of our daily life – right from routine chores to highly complex sophisticated projects, one comes across project management in one form or the other. Even mundane activities involve various stages from initiation to completion. In project management parlance, these are referred to as phases – initiation, planning, execution, monitoring & control and finally closing. Some of the projects one knows about include infrastructure, iconic structures, defence, power, energy, health care (vaccine development), rural development, disaster management, software etc. One wonders why projects are important. Projects affect people in one way or the other. Amongst the many parameters time, cost and quality could be considered of paramount importance. This leads us to think about the management or mismanagement of projects. Needless to mention, efficiently managed projects add value to society at large. In other words, project management is crucial for the success of any project.

Projects need managers that are qualified, competent as well as effective. A research indicates that the till 2027, every year project management fraternity needs 2.2 million professionals. Despite the current pandemic, this is a great opportunity for professionals.

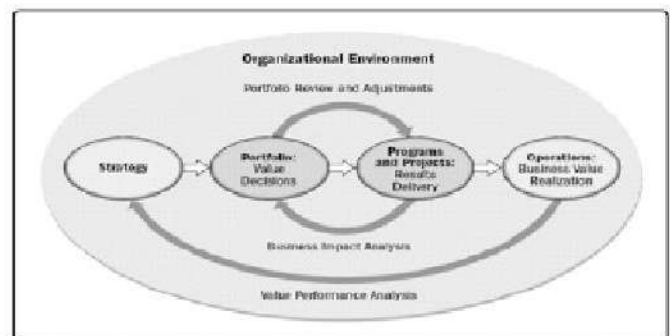
To put it simply, a **project** is “a temporary endeavour undertaken to create a unique product, service or result”. Projects drive a change from current to future state and enable value creation for stake holders. Projects are undertaken to fulfil objectives by producing deliverables. An objective is defined as an outcome toward which work is to be directed, a strategic position to be attained, a purpose to be achieved, a result to be obtained, a product to be produced, or a service to be performed.

A deliverable is defined as any unique and verifiable product, result, or capability to perform a service that is required to be produced to complete a process, phase, or project. Deliverables may be tangible or intangible.



A project in any organization is collaboration across departments to achieve a single well-defined objective. The process of planning, organizing, and managing resources to achieve the organizational objective is called **Project Management**.

Project management is very important in production of goods and services. Idea generation to final production of product or service, each step can be categorized as individual projects. Any project requires a project manager, who leads the project to its logical conclusion. Project manager is responsible for appointing team members with different background but essential in completion of the project.



Effective project management helps individuals, groups and public and private organisations in various ways – meet business objectives, satisfy stake holder expectations, improve chances of success, manage change in a better manner etc. Absence of project management or poorly managed projects may result in missed deadlines, cost over runs, poor quality, loss of reputation, stakeholder dis-satisfaction and more.

The world needs **Project Managers** – who are these? They are organized, passionate and goal-oriented professionals who understand what projects have in common, and their strategic role in how organizations succeed, learn and change. They are change agents, work well in complex dynamic environments, cultivate people skills, and have broad and flexible toolkit of techniques. And they are in increasing demand worldwide. For decades, as the pace of economic and technological change has quickened, organizations have been directing more and more of their energy into projects.

Today, senior executives and HR managers recognize project management as a strategic competence that is indispensable to business success. They know that

skilled and credentialed practitioners are among their most valuable resources.

**Project Management Institute (PMI)** is the world's leading association (not for profit) for those who consider project, program or portfolio management their profession. Through global advocacy, collaboration, education and research, PMI works to prepare more than three million professionals around the world for the Project Economy: the coming economy in which work, and individuals, are organized around projects. PMI celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019. PMI works in nearly every country around the world to advance careers, improve organizational success and further mature the project management profession through globally recognized standards, certifications, communities, resources, tools, academic research, publications, professional development courses and networking opportunities. PMI offers certifications for every stage of your career. In an increasingly projectized world, PMI professional certification ensures that you are ready to meet the demands of projects and employers across the globe. Developed by practitioners for practitioners, PMI certifications are based on rigorous standards and ongoing research to meet the real-world needs of organizations. With a PMI certification behind your name, you can work in virtually any industry, anywhere in the world, and with any project management methodology.

**PMP® - Project Management Professional**

The PMP is the gold standard of project management certification. Recognized and demanded by organizations worldwide, the PMP validates your competence to perform in the role of a project manager, leading and directing projects and teams.

**CAPM® - Certified Associate in Project Management**

The CAPM demonstrates your understanding of the fundamental knowledge, terminology, and processes of effective project management.

**PMI-PBA® - Professional in Business Analysis**

The PMI-PBA highlights your expertise in business analysis. It spotlights your ability to work effectively with stakeholders to define their business requirements, shape the output of projects, and drive successful business outcomes.

**PgMP® - Program Management Professional**

Designed for those who manage multiple, complex projects to achieve strategic and organizational results.

**PfMP® - Portfolio Management Professional**

The portfolio management certification recognizes the advanced experience and skill of portfolio managers. The PfMP demonstrates your proven ability in the coordinated management of one or more portfolios to achieve organizational objectives.

**PMI-RMP® - PMI Risk Management Professional**

The PMI-RMP certification recognizes demonstrated knowledge and expertise in the specialized area of assessing and identifying project risks along with plans to mitigate threats and capitalize on opportunities.

**PMI-SP® - PMI Scheduling Professional**

The PMI-SP certification recognizes demonstrated knowledge and advanced experience in the specialized area of developing and maintaining project schedules.

**PMI Project Management Ready™**

The PMI Project Management Ready is our newest certification and introduces high school and post-secondary students to the concepts and skillsets of project management.

**Why PMP?**

The PMP certification is one of the most sought-after certifications in project management across the world. It is designed by project professionals, for project professionals and validates that you are among the best—highly skilled in:

- People :** emphasizing the soft skills you need to effectively lead a project team in today's changing environment.
- Process :** reinforcing the technical aspects of successfully managing projects.

**Business Environment:** highlighting the connection between projects and organizational strategy.

PMP certification validates that you have the project leadership skills employers seek. The new PMP includes three key approaches:

- Predictive** (waterfall)
- Agile**
- Hybrid**

**How to Get PMP certification?**

Earning your PMP Certification is a commitment, and that is why it is valuable. Do you have real-world project management experience that is led to success? Great—you have finished the hardest part. **Before you**

**apply, make sure you meet of the following sets of PMP Certification requirements:**

- ❖ A four-year degree
- ❖ 36 months leading projects
- ❖ 35 hours of project management education / training or CAPM® Certification

OR

- ❖ A high school diploma or an associate degree (or global equivalent)
- ❖ 60 months leading projects
- ❖ 35 hours of project management education / training or CAPM® Certification

**What are the benefits of having a PMP Certification?**

Getting the PMP certification is difficult. It is expensive, it requires a lot of hard work, and takes a lot of time to prepare. However, in my experience, the certificate is worth the effort. Following are the benefits of the PMP Certification.

**I. Bolsters your resume**

The job of a project manager is highly coveted and numerous candidates apply. It is not possible for a company to interview all candidates that have applied. But if you have a PMP Certification, that will most certainly land you an interview as companies understand the value of the Certification.

Further, large companies have began mandating PMP Certification. This means that you need the certificate to even be considered for the job. It also helps you advance in the company you are working at.

**II. Recognition**

A PMP Certification is globally recognized. There are many certifications that you can get which are recognized in a geographically limited area. However, PMP is recognized all over the world. Companies love having PMP Certified managers, as the number of PMP certified project managers have a direct correlation with the success of projects for the company. It has also been found that certified Project Managers are better at finishing projects well withing deadlines and allocated budget.

**III. Learn skills that have a direct impact**

The standards of PMP Certification are high. If you do not possess the required skill set, clearing the examination is difficult. It also requires you to master your Project Management Skills. You get to learn a plethora of hard and soft skills essential for completing any project. Moreover, you also build a knowledge of numerous tools and techniques widely used in Project Management.

**IV. Increase your income.**

A study showed that PMP certified managers earn 20% more than their non-PMP certified counterparts. It is also a highly paid IT certification. Studies have shown numerous relationships with PMP certifications and positive career prospect.

**V. Network your way to the top**

Another benefit of PMP Certification is the networking opportunities. PMP Certified Professionals need to earn Professional Development Units or PDUs. These are essential to maintain your certification.

PMI arranges frequent meetings across the globe for all certified professionals. These are a great way to earn PDUs and network with other Project Managers. These networking events often lead to new projects or job openings that can be lucrative to your career.

It is said that your network determines your net worth. And by becoming a PMP Certified Professional, you can be a part of the top Project Management Professionals across the globe.

The PMP Certificate requires a lot of dedication, time, and money. But if you are an ambitious Project Manager who dreams of swift career advancements then the PMP Certificate is the perfect place to start. Very few certifications can transform your career trajectory as much as a PMP Certificate. There are about 1 million PMP Certified individuals across the globe. That alone is proof enough of the value a PMP certification brings.



**Utkarsh Pundlik**  
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 Certified Sr Proj Mgr (IAPM)  
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 VP – Academics, PMI Gujarat Chapter