

Factors Affecting the Successfulness of the Management of the Software Projects

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Abstract- The purpose of this study is to figure out the main reasons that make software projects fail to sort out a new list of reasons that makes software projects fail and determine the most important factors that affect the failures. 270 factors that affect the software project failure have been studied and grouped into new categories, a list of questions has been asked for 4 types of actors "Developer, tester, project manager and End user" answers have used as raw da-ta for the statistical analysis that conducted with SPSS. The results show that the most influencing factors from end user perspective are Implementation actual time and Suitability of project documentation. From development team perspec-tive is suitability of project documentation. From quality assurance engineers is top management support. From project managers perspective is actual time for the implementation.

Index Terms– Reasons of Software Failures, Factors of Software Failures, Business Information System, BIS and IT

I. INTRODUCTION

THE impact of Corona virus was not only on the health field, but it was on all areas (Wajdi Alhakami, 2020), and it reduced productivity in some areas and greatly increased reliability on the software industry. This rapid and sudden development and dependence on working remotely posed several new challenges, which resulted in the failure of some projects with the new way of working.

One of the biggest challenges facing the development of software field is projects failure, as 31.1% of projects are cancelled before they ever get completed, and 52.7% of projects cost 189% of their original estimates (CHAOS, 2014). Only 16.2% of software projects are on time and on budget. The rest of the 52.7% are delivered with reduced functionality and 31.1% are cancelled before completion (Boehm, 1991).



Software development teams and Decision Makers may face a variety of risks at any point during the development process, and an unanticipated risk could result in a significant loss. Furthermore, when new advanced technologies emerge, software development becomes much more complex than previously, necessitating more time and expense. As a result, a greater emphasis on risk factors is required. These factors will enable us to identify the risks that facing the teams while working on the projects, and to develop appropriate plans to overcome them and reduce their impact on the failure. Some measurements for the success or failure of software projects are user satisfaction, ability to meet budget targets, ability to meet schedule targets, product quality and staff productivity (Koru, 2008). In this paper the main categories of the reasons for the software failures are "People, planning, requirements, implementation, environment and communication, difficulty, complexity and delivery" perspective.

In this study, we highlight a list of factors that lead to the success or failure of the software projects and come up with new list of factors that affect the success or the failure and determine what is the fatal factors that make software projects fail.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section examines the literature on the elements that contribute to software project failures. Nineteen scientific publications that have been published between 1991 and 2022 were examined, and the factors that contributed to software

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project failures were identified and sorted out. Some of the previous research has focused on project failure determinants from the perspective of project managers and ignored other essential viewpoints of other actors. This study focuses on the project manager, the quality assurance team, the development team and the end user to give their opinion about the development cycle. Matching the plan, client satisfaction and increased productivity are all essential factors in determining whether a project succeeds or fails. Moreover, the customer happiness is essential for a company's long-term success as the project isn't finished until the customer is not satisfied and it could fail. So, before asking the actors who are involved in the software life cycle about the reasons behind the failures, the previous studies is a great reference to understand what happened before and budling the new study were the other end. The list of previous factor study exists.

A) Filtering

The collected factors consist of failure reasons are listed into 270 factors according to Appendix1. These factors are required to be filtered and merged. Factors with the same meaning are merged under a new name as Table 1 Filtered factors.

Factors	Renamed factors	No.
80,96,113,128,167,209,232,259,155	Frequent change to the project Structure	1
3,32,35,58,66,36,68,89,93,94,129,130,1 31,140,150,164,168,169,212,231,242,2 46,260,262,2,95	Misunderstand / unclear Require- ments	2
56,45,70,207,208,213,214,230,237,157, 282	Uncertainty about project objec- tives/scope of work / inputs	3
49,53,59,61,62,67,77,88,92,111,138,13 9,162,206,217,220,222,227,238,247,24 9,252,65,156,191,218,219,84	Poor planning or inadequate plan- ning for (cost / Time/resources)	4
46,69,74,86,102,160,154,240,233,229,1 09,181	Top management does not have enough experience or involvement	5
51,30,110,141,161,224,254,256,179	Poor Project Manager skills	6
31,33,40,41,57,104,124,126,127,151,16 3,243,251,261,9,194,47,24	User involvement during the pro- ject implementation	7
123,125,268	Resistance to change	
44,106,107,117,136,158,166,245,248,1 21,15,16,17,18,225	Lack of effective project manage- ment methodology	8
42,43,108,216,266,	Turnover	9
39,76,77,152,221,235,258, 265,223,185, 54,133,159, 193	Lack of experienced developers	10
52,37,78,132,134,135,234,239,270,269, 257	Applying new development method /technology during im- portant project	11
55,137,165,210,250	Poor or nonexistent control / moni- toring project execution	12
63,75,82,103,142,215,172	Ineffective communication	13
60,72,79,91,101,143,144,145,226,241,2 44,263,34,186,187,1,4,5,6,7,19,20,21,2 2,189,184	Poor project team skills or team harmony	15
38,71,85,118,153,236,10,8,99	Delivery and User satisfaction	16
50,83,97,98,112,192,180	Third-party dependency problems	17
73,120	Quality of project documentation and reports	19

90,114,148,149,211,146,147,183,182,1 77,253	Poor/unstable work environment	20
133, 267,190,119,64,87,105,115,112,173,10 0	High level of technical/project complexity	21
11,12,13,14,116,23,25,26,27,28,29,174 81,195,196,197,198,199,200,201,202,2 03,204,205,171	Final product quality	23
175	Security failures	24

Table 1: Filtered factors

B) Categorization

Categorization is the process of dividing the world into groups of entities whose members are in some way similar to each other (Jacob, December 2004). The main categories have determined based on everything that should be involved in any Software development life cycle.

Main Category	Factors
	Project manager skills
	Turnover
	User involvement during the project
People	Resistance to change
	Top management experience and involvement
	Team harmony
	Project team skills
Planning	Cost estimation
8	Time estimation
	Project Scope
Requirements	System requirement specifications
	Change requirements
Project Implementation	Monitoring and Control
r rojeet imprementation	lack of effective project management methodology
Environment and communica-	Communication effectiveness
tion	Work environment
	Third-party dependency problems
Difficulty and complexity	High level of technical/project complexity
	Development method
	Quality of project documentation
	User satisfaction
Delivery	Security features
	Final product quality

Table 2: Factors categories

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Aim of this study is to develop, and authorities list of software project fail or success factors, and to determine which of those factors have the highest impact on the success or failure for software projects. If the project has the most effective methodology without data collection, it will be useless research, as the data collection is one of the most important stages in conducting research.

A) Data Collection

Data collection is the process of gathering and measuring information on variables of interest, in an established systematic fashion that enables one to answer stated research questions, test hypotheses, and evaluate outcomes (Sajjad, July 2016). Various techniques can be used to collect data. The research question guides the decision on which data collection technology to use. Data can be collected in a variety of ways such as interview, focus Groups, field Observation case Study, ethnography, oral History, projective techniques, questionnaire and Interview Schedule (Showkat, 2017).

The data has been gathered twice, the first time Linkedin has been used as the source of Project Managers, Developers, Quality assurance engineers and end users but the data wasn't accurate as the different actors wasn't work in the same project. The second time of data collection has been applied on different projects and all questioned actors were working in the same project.

B) Questioner

In the research we will use the questioner as it is the most commonly used method in social sciences, management, marketing and psychology to some extent (Sajjad, July 2016).

1) Sample area

To gather the samples of the data, 5 stages will be taken as showing in Fig. 2.



Fig. 2: Sampling steps

Actors	Views	Starts	Submissions
Dev Team	413	300	189
PM	227	151	119
QA	392	238	157
End user	132	88	55

Table 3: Results of data collection

C) Questions

A set of questions were made for 4 types of actors associated with the projects (Development team – Quality Assurance engineers - Project managers - End users). The questions were prepared to have a quantitative data answer for all questions and the questioner was based on the selection for one choice from five answers. The quantitative data is numerical in nature and can be mathematically computed.

Quantitative data measure uses different scales, which can be

classified as nominal scale, ordinal scale, interval scale and ratio scale (Sajjad, July 2016).

The questions that have been asked has implemented to make the understanding of the cycle clear like type of organization, number of team members, project size, implementation time, turnover rate, end user involvement, resistance of change, top management support, team members collaboration, capacity of errors, alignment with the project plan, commitment of the project methodology, satisfaction of team member on the environment, third parties' dependencies, project complexity, suitability of software methodology and suitability of project documentation. Each actor has different extra questions for example the end user has been asked about his satisfaction about the project and if the project become added value and increased the productivity. And the quality assurance engineers have been asked extra questions that focused on the quality of the product and finally the project manager has been asked extra questions from high level perspective and the questions of the developers has extra questions that was focusing on the challenges of development. The project manager questionnaire consists of 24 questions, The development questionnaire consists of 26 questions, The end user questionnaire consists of 15 questions and the quality assurance questionnaire consists of 30 with 10 minutes average for submission.

D) Data validation

After the data have been extracted from the survey system, the answers have been converted from string answers to integer answer for example (very high become 5 and very low become 1). The online form enabled us to make all questions mandatory so, there is no null answers have been entered to the system as well as the online form enabled the data collector to prevent the IP address to enter the answer twice.

E) Data Analysis

1) The Cronbach's Alpha

Cronbach's alpha is a popular method to measure reliability, in quantifying the reliability of a score to summarize the information of several items in questionnaires (Aelst, 2006).

$$\propto = \frac{j}{j-1} \left[1 - \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_j^2}{\sigma_x^2} \right]$$

Let σ_j^2 denote the variance of item score X_j and $\sigma_{j k}$ the covariance between item scores X_j and X_k .

Result of the test

Project Manager	Quality as- surance	Tester	End user
.975	.695	.982	.969

Table 4: The Cronbach' Alpha test result

2) Pearson correlation

Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) is a measure of two variables' linear relationship. A scatter diagram is used to graphically show the relationship between data pairs in correlation analysis. Correlation coefficient values range from -1 to +1. Positive correlation coefficient values suggest a propensity for one variable to rise or fall in tandem with another. Negative correlation coefficients imply that an increase in one variable's value is related with a reduction in the other variable's value, and vice versa. Correlation coefficients near zero suggest a weak linear relationship between two variables, whereas those near -1 or +1 indicate a strong linear relationship between two variables. The coefficient of determination is the square of the correlation coefficient, which represents the proportion of variation in one variable that can be explained by variation in the other variable. Pearson's correlation coefficient is based on the following assumptions: (a) a linear relationship between variables, (b) continuous random variables, (c) properly distributed variables, and (d) variables must be independent of one another (Samuels, 2014)

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

Base on the results that have applied on the 4 for types of actors a strong correlation has been found between some of answers as mentioned in appendix 3, So the multicollinearity test has been performed to exclude the high correlation.

3) The Multicollinearity Diagnostics

Multicollinearity can be detected via VIF (Variable Inflation Factors)

$$\mathbf{VIF} = \frac{1}{1 - R^2}$$

Where (R2) is the coefficient of determination of a regression. The higher the value of VIF and the higher the multicollinearity with the particular independent variable. (Abdi, 2007). After figuring out the VIF, we have excluded the answers that have more than 10% VIF and sorted out the answers.

Result of the test

Actor	Measurement factor	Removed factor that have more than 10% VIF
End user	Alignment with project plan	• Type of organization
	User requirement	Frequently meetings Successful delivery time
	Usability	Suggested derivery time
	End user happiness	

Development team	Alignment with project plan	 Actual time for implementation Project Manager Skills Capacity of errors Work Place Suggested delivery time Workplace and productivity Third party dependencies Understandability of software Development methodology Project documentation Readability
Quality assurance	Alignment with project plan	Team Size Project Size Actual implementation time Capacity of errors
Project Manager	Alignment with project plan	 Team Size Project Size Suitability of software development methodology Project Documentation readability



IV. RESULTS

	Factors	PM	Dev	QA	End User	Mean
1	Type of organization	40	42.1	40.1	NA	40.7
2	Project manager skills	NA	NA	35.2	46.7	40.9
3	Team turnover	35.7	58.1	44.3	NA	46.0
4	User involvement	38.3	42.7	45.9	NA	42.3
5	User Resistance	36.4	47.3	41.2	NA	41.6
6	Top managers support	48.0	50.3	54.0	NA	50.7
7	Cooperation between team members	50.7	48.6	40.6	NA	46.6
8	Requirements change	50.0	48.1	35.1	40.3	43.3
9	Frequently meetings	46.0	45.6	49.4	NA	47
10	Commitment with project management methodology	46.7	58.3	32.6	NA	45.8
11	Work owners satisfy team member with requirements of equipment	50.0	46.2	49.4	NA	48.5
12	Workplace	47.8	NA	48.2	NA	48
13	Suggested delivery time	NA	NA	39.7	NA	39.7
14	Productivity and workplace	NA	NA	35.7	NA	35.7
15	Third party dependency	36.1	NA	50.0	NA	43.0
16	Project Complexity	44.0	50.5	40.6	NA	45.0
17	Software Development methodol- ogy suitability	49.0	51.3	42.6	NA	47.6
18	Software development methodology understandability	NA	NA	45.0	NA	45
19	Readability of project documentation	NA	NA	45.9	48.2	47.0
20	Project documentation understandability	48.4	40.8	48.1	49.6	46.7
21	Project documentation suitability	50.4	64.1	46.8	47.5	52.2
22	Errors during the development	NA	NA	45.9	50.7	48.3
23	Same error repeated	NA	NA	39.8	NA	39.8
24	System Down	NA	NA	43.9	NA	43.9
25	System outage	NA	NA	43.3	NA	43.3
26	Actual time for the implementation	65.0	NA	NA	64.2	64.6
27	Development team size	NA	42.4	NA	NA	42.4
28	Project Size	NA	54.2	NA	NA	54.2

A) End user

Based on the results, it's concluded that the most influential factor in the success or failure of the project is the implementation actual time, and what affects the plan exceedance is the project management skills that give unrea- sonable estimation plan for the project as well as the capacity of errors during the development stage that is a reason to make the delivery time of each phase longer, and the understandability of documentation which makes the require- ments of the project differently understood by all parties in- volved in the project, and the change of requirements during the development phase is a reason to make the implementation time longer.

B) Development team

Based on the results, it's concluded that the most influential factor in success or failure is the suitability of project documentation, as it's the main core that the development team are count on to have the full view about the system idea and features. A Part of that development team turnover comes to the second factor that affects the failure or success for software project, Turnover rates indicate the number of employees who left a company in a certain period. The third high factor that affects the success or failure is commitment with project

C) Project Manager

Actual time of the implemntion comes in the first place in the reasons for the failure of projects from the point of view of the project manager, and the delay in delivering the project on time comes after the weak cooperation between the work team, and the weakness of the project's explanation documents. Also, the change of requirements for the project features during the development phase impact badly on the delivery.

D) Quality assurance team

Top management support cames in the first plae in the reasons for the failure from QA team, as the QA assurance team always have different persepective from development team wich always is not matching the development team needs. in case the top management support is not exisiting, a struggle will be occurs between QA team and development team that will lead the project to fail. Work Place and frequent meetings come in the second stage of the reasons that make software projects fail.

E) General

Actual time of implemiion on the top of list of the reasons that make software projects fail, as the stackholder always expecting the project to be deliverd on time, and delays may make them focus on other things or it takes into account that the work team is unprofessional and reduces the financial support required for the project or cancels it in order to invest in something else, which leads to the failure of the project. To prevent the failure, all of these reasons need to be considered during the planning of the project, starting from cost and time planning to the productivity that is increased by using the system also the customer satisfaction.

V. CONCLUSION

Ninteen papers have been studied to figure out the main reasons of software project failures, these factors have been used as the base of the research, filtering, sorting and merging have been performed on the factors to put them under main categories. List of questions have been questioned to types of actors who were involved in the same project. The results appeared that there are some factors affecting the failures It is more effective than other elements on the project failures, a new list of factors has been generated from the results reflecting the major factors affecting the software project failures.

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Appendix 1 Factors

Papers serial	Author	Factors	Factor serial
		Time zone differences	1
		Lake of information when working on a common project/product	2
		Lake of clear purpose	3
1	(CIRTAUTIENĖ, 2021)	Different cultures	4
		Conflicts between team members	5
		Failure to work on a virtual basis	6
		Do not speak foreign languages	7
		User Satisfaction	8
		User Involvement	9
		Product Meets requirements	10
		Product Code quality	11
		Product Portability	12
		Product Availability	13
		Process Activity	14
		Process Adherence to process	15
		Process Bug Fixing	16
		Process Time	17
	(Kevin Crowston, 2003)	Process age	18
2		Developers' involvement	19
		Varied developers	20
		Developers Satisfaction	21
		Developers Enjoyment	22
		Use Competition	23
		Number of users	24
		Downloads	25
		Recognition Referral	26
		Attention and recognition	27
		Recognition Spin off	28
		Influence	29
		lake of top management commitment to the project	30
		Failure to gain user commitment	31
		Misunderstanding the requirements	32
		lack of adequate user involvement	33
2	(BOX SCHMIDT 2001)	lake of required knowledge / skills in the project personnel	34
3	(ROY SCHMIDT, 2001)	lack of frozen requirements	35
		Changing scope / objectives	36
		introduction of new technology	37
	-	Failure to manage end user expectations	38
		Insufficient/inappropriate staffing	39

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4 43 1 46 1 1			change in ownership or senior management	42
Image: A set of			Staffing volatility	43
Image: A set of the s			lack of effective project management methodology	44
Image of example of e			unclear / misunderstood scope / objectives	45
Image of equivaliant intervalue 47 No planning or inadicquate planning 48 Artificial deallins 49 Artificial deallins 49 Infini dealling or inadicquate planning 51 Exclossibility of exclossibil			Improper definition of roles and responsibilities	46
Image: A provision of the second se			number of organizational units involved	47
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