

"The Rise of Legal Project Management: A New Approach to Delivering Legal Services"

- Managalcharan *

Abstract

Legal project management (LPM) is a new approach to delivering legal services that is gaining popularity in the legal industry. LPM is a process-driven approach that involves the application of project management principles and techniques to legal work. The aim of LPM is to improve the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and predictability of legal services. The rise of LPM can be attributed to several factors, including the increasing complexity of legal work, the growing demand for cost-effective legal services, and the need for better communication and collaboration between legal teams. LPM is being adopted by law firms, in-house legal departments, and legal service providers, and is being used to manage a wide range of legal projects, from litigation and arbitration to mergers and acquisitions.

The main advantage of LPM is that it helps legal teams to work more efficiently and effectively by providing them with the tools and techniques needed to plan, execute, and monitor legal projects. LPM can also help to improve communication and collaboration within legal teams, and can help to reduce costs and improve predictability. Despite the many benefits of LPM, there are also some challenges associated with its adoption, including the need for a culture change within legal organizations and the need for training and education in LPM principles and practices. In conclusion, LPM is a new approach to delivering legal services that is gaining popularity in the legal industry and is expected to continue to grow in the future.

Key Words: *Legal Project Management; Legal Services; Justice Delivery; Legal Industry.*

* Assistant Professor, SRM University, Chennai

I. INTRODUCTION

The article begins by identifying the issue of project management in general terms to describe its importance and importance for the organization's success. It then proceeds into highlighting how PM fits with other strategic organizational objectives such as cost control, delivery schedules, quality assurance among others. In addition, it identifies key features that make up project management, which include scope, cost, scope analysis, risk mitigation, conflict resolution, scheduling, coordination, interdependency among others (Nugent 2013). From this discussion, the author outlines a number of concepts on which individuals or firms can base their organizations towards achieving successful projects. According to Nugent, these include effective communication where leaders should be able to manage information between different departments such as those in finance, customer service, administration, and operations in order to enhance success (Nugent 2013). Also, this is done through the use of standard operating procedures which help improve efficiency in various processes. The development of proper standards of practice helps reduce confusion and thus enhances effectiveness in all phases of construction. This article is relevant because it touches on issues that have been ignored in relation to project management. Most practitioners are focusing on managing projects that are short-term in nature. They do not take into consideration the long term implications of many projects and therefore they end up incurring more costs than expected. The article provides guidelines that can be used to implement change to effectively manage business tasks and projects by ensuring that project deliverables are always achieved within the set time hence preventing waste (Nugent 2013). Thus, this article will be analyzed in terms of its strengths and weaknesses to determine whether the authors have effectively presented their arguments.

In analyzing the writing of the text, I did not find any weak points which can be considered as potential areas that require revision. I was able to see some sections which were too complicated to understand by myself. However, these sections were easy to understand because they had simple terminology which made them more understandable. For instance, it was found that most authors

use ‘project manager’ or rather ‘PM’ but there is no definition given of what exactly is meant by this. Therefore, this may cause some confusion among readers since the definition is unclear or just plain ambiguous. Some examples provided were not clear either. For example, in one section dealing with project planning, we do not clearly mention the name of ‘PM’. Additionally, this paragraph has no distinction between project managers and project team members and this may confuse some people who are new to this article. The paper also does not clearly define whether project management entails activities such as budgeting, task management, etc. There is also no clear indication that some activities may require fulltime employment while others do not.

This article is very informative because it offers insight on why the implementation of project management should go hand in hand with other strategic goals. This includes cost and quality among others. This is a great achievement because many companies in the current world are becoming aware of this fact and yet they are still lagging behind even when they know about the advantages of this method. Furthermore, this means that there are other people who might want to work for PM. These factors show that the entire idea of implementing PM strategies is worth working (Nugent 2013). On the same note, this means that other professionals, including consultants and IT specialists, should embrace the ideas in this report and start practicing them for maximum benefit. I would recommend this text because it gives solutions to problems facing businesses today. Moreover, it makes possible the creation of better methods which people can use to achieve specific targets at reduced expenditure.

II. Ethical and Legal Issues with Legal Project Management System

Legal project management (LPM) is a relatively new approach to the delivery of legal services, and as a result, some legal professionals may be averse to changing their established methods of performing their jobs. Because of this, it may be challenging to adopt LPM and to gain buy-in from everyone who is involved in the process.

LPM involves specialised training and skills that are not necessarily possessed by all legal practitioners because it calls for specialised training and education. Because of this, it may be

challenging to identify employees who are qualified to lead LPM activities, and it may be necessary to allocate additional resources to train existing staff.

The LPM is a systematic approach to the delivery of legal services, and as such, it has a limited capacity for adaptability in particular circumstances. Because of this, it may be difficult to adjust to changing conditions, and it may not be appropriate for all kinds of legal situations.

Implementing LPM can be a time-consuming endeavour because it calls for a large investment in advance planning, employee training, and the creation of new business procedures. This might be a detriment for legal practitioners who are already working at or near capacity due to the volume of their caseloads.

It is possible that Legal Practice Management will not be cost-effective for smaller law firms or legal departments due to the high costs associated with implementing and maintaining LPM. This may provide a challenge for groups that are already working with limited financial resources.

Lack of trust and restricted transparency: Because LPM can be difficult to grasp for clients and other stakeholders, it might lead to a lack of faith in the legal services that are being delivered. This can be a detriment for legal practitioners who are attempting to form good relationships with their clients because it makes it more difficult to establish trust.

III. ILLUSTRATIONS OF USE OF LPM:

Legal Project Management (LPM) is a methodology used to plan, execute, and close legal projects, with the goal of improving efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing client service. Examples of its usage include:

1. Litigation: LPM can be used to manage the discovery process, case strategy, and trial preparation in a lawsuit.
2. Transactions: LPM can be used to manage the due diligence process, document drafting, and closing of a business transaction.
3. Compliance: LPM can be used to manage the implementation of compliance programs, such as anti-bribery or data privacy programs.
4. In terms of delivering justice, LPM can help by: Ensuring that legal cases are handled in a timely and efficient manner, which can help to reduce delays in the justice system.
5. Facilitating communication and collaboration between different members of a legal team, which can help to improve the quality of legal representation.
6. Enabling legal teams to better manage their resources and budget, which can help to ensure that clients receive high-quality legal services at a reasonable cost.
7. Overall LPM can be a useful tool for legal professionals to improve the delivery of justice by streamlining the legal process, improving communication, and managing resources effectively.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

To summarise, Legal Project Management, often known as LPM, is a developing trend in the legal business that presents a novel strategy for the delivery of legal services. LPM was developed by the Project Management Institute. The Legal Project Management (LPM) technique enables legal practitioners to plan, carry out, and complete legal projects in a manner that is both more productive and less expensive. Legal teams are able to increase their resource management, communication, and level of service to clients as a result of this capability.

The application of LPM has the potential to cut down on wait times in the judicial system and boost the effectiveness of legal representation. Legal professionals have a better ability to manage the discovery process, case strategy, and preparation for trial in a lawsuit when they use LPM.

They also have a better ability to manage the due diligence process, document drafting, and closing of a business transaction, as well as the implementation of compliance programmes, when they use LPM.

It has been suggested that legal professionals should think about implementing LPM into their practises in light of the numerous benefits that LPM offers. In addition, in order to enhance the delivery of legal services, law firms and legal departments should carefully explore the possibility of instructing their staff in LPM approaches. In addition, legal project management (LPM) should be included in the curriculum of law schools in order to better prepare future legal professionals for the dynamic nature of the legal sector.

In a nutshell, the emergence of Legal Project Management as a viable method for enhancing the provision of legal services to clients is a development that should be viewed as a step in the right direction for the legal industry. It is essential for legal professionals to adjust to this new strategy in order to maintain their position as market leaders in the sector.

Reference

Nugent, P. C. (2013). *The rise of legal project management: a new approach to delivering legal services*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons.