

Explain what you
have learned from
your experience as
member of a team
whose proj...



Lessons Learnt from a Project Failure Learning has never been an easy outcome. It takes time, effort and passion to learn from others mistakes and extra bit of courage if you want to learn from your own mistakes. However, at workplaces you do not have much chances to settle yourself for learning things at own choice, rather it comes to you as a compulsion and you have only two choices; either prove your worth for the task or get a memorable lesson from your failure to accomplish the assigned task. I was also pushed into a situation like this in a non-profit organization for which I worked as an accountant. I was appointed team lead for the preparation of an investment report which was required to tally with two bank statements with company's investments. The task was supposed to be finished overnight otherwise additional payments were to be incurred by the organization due to additional day of auditor's visit. Our team failed to complete the assigned task within deadline, however somehow we were able to avoid the additional payment costs to the company. The reasons to this failure were later on studied in depth to extract results, inferences and lessons for future reference and better response. Next few paragraphs will discuss the lessons learned by the team. The first and far most important is the assignment of the task to a professional with appropriate skills and zeal to accomplish the assigned task. The initial assignment of the task seems to be a wrong assignment and lack of professionalism caused unnecessary delay in the completion of the investment report. An unfinished report was the ultimate result of this wrong assignment. Therefore purposeful evaluation of professional competence for a specific task is of core importance for the successful completion of the project. It is also evident from the findings that

the project was not properly supervised for in time preparation of the investment report therefore the initial assignment was not completed. Poor management and supervision resulted in a rushed try by our team. Although best efforts were put in but the extra amount of work caused additional fatigue and resulted in overnight work stress and tiredness. Projects with vital company interests are required to be planned carefully and eleventh hour assignment with short deadline not only seldom completes in stipulated time frame but also exert additional stress over the team lead and members. The completion of the investment report in a befitting manner though with a delay has some positive indicators for the future project planning and management decisions. The stress can be utilized to get better and enhance focus by the team lead and members. The preparation of investment report over the weekend was triggered by enhanced and more concentrated efforts by the team and its leader. The management was able to discover valuable human resource that can be employed into future projects of the core importance with short deadline. The performance of the team under stress and pressure has been appreciated despite an evident failure of in time fulfillment of assigned task. The overall outcome of this analysis is quite useful and lessons learnt will improve time management and project planning skills.