What Is Program Management

Let us understand the complexities of a program. According to PMI, a basic description of a program is that it is a group of projects that are managed in a coordinated way to produce benefits that may not be possible otherwise. The projects within a program are assembled collectively for a motive to contribute towards similar business goals. Operational work may be included in the programs that make them peculiar in scope. For example, a program may include construction of a trade centre, which concerns some building projects, and a few common advertising tasks. How do you manage it with distinctive leadership styles? Here are a few critical success factors to ensure success for all:

Strategy Appraisal

When starting the program, the initial stage is the evaluation of the business strategy, and consent on the program goals. This is significant, as the project management is based on the goals. If you produce projects which do not add to the specific aims, then these should not be included in the program of work.

Obtain Assistance

To obtain the assistance, resources, and mental acceptance of the management, create a Business Case. This will assist to identify the cost benefit analysis of the program, the risks that may be encountered, and the measures that are necessary to ensure success. It will facilitate the issue of the required funds, since these will be validated by the Business Case.

Begin Cautiously

Now that the management support and funds are available, you are prepared for the kickoff. Before initiation of the project scoping, prepare in detail the program of work. Make a program charter that establishes the image, goals, and the deliverables. Then organize a Program Office, and assign the main team members.

Project Selection

Now, you are prepared to delineate the projects, and the associated tasks. Carefully define scope for each project, and ensure that the benefits which are expected to be obtained from the projects will produce the goals mentioned in the Business Case. Selection of the correct
projects to produce the desired benefits is important. Make sure that the projects are precisely classified, assessed, selected, and prioritized.

**Project Execution**

Now, logically initiate the projects. Distribute the program resources, including personnel, time, and funds, ensuring that there are no resource limitations. Next, prepare schedule of projects, starting from the larger projects. Do not schedule the critical projects at the closing stages.

**Manage Confusion**

After the projects are initiated, business changes produce some commotion. As the project scope is changed, funds become restricted, and resources are constrained. The reaction in such a situation and the leadership styles will establish success for all. When this occurs, re-evaluate the critical success factors in the program. Often, the origin is external compulsions, and these are the pressures which can be fixed by you alone. A good program manager should create only changes at the macro level, to inspire the program success. Only in rare conditions you may work at micro levels with the project managers, and project management teams.