

Project Managers' Career Paths

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Several apparent similarities exist between the roles and responsibilities of top level executives of large organizations of various kinds, and those of large, complex program and project managers of various program and project categories. But little research has been conducted to compare the roles and responsibilities of these two groups of managers and to answer the following questions:

- “Does experience as a successful program and project manager prepare the person for top level executive positions?”
- “What experience exists that demonstrates that program and project managers progress to higher level executive positions?”
- “What are the typical career paths followed by top level executives in reaching their senior positions?”
- “How can a program or project manager better design their career development path to improve their chances of moving into top management positions?”
- “Are the leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills needed by top managers similar to those needed by successful program and project managers?”
- “What, if any, ‘best practices’ can be identified in developing and promoting program and project managers to corporate leaders?”

The research paper will provide empirical evidence regarding the similarities and produce answers to the above and related questions. The primary sources of this evidence will be personal interviews with CEOs and other senior executives and with program and project managers in a few industrial and governmental sectors, in some select countries.

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Qualifications:

PhD (Strategy, Programme and Project Management), France
MBA (Finance), India
PMP (Project Management Professional certification), the USA
Bachelor of Business Management (Hons), India
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Courses Taught: Project Management, Business Information & Technology Management

Academic Highlights:

- Winner of the Student Paper of the Year Award 2005, Project Management Institute’s (PMI) Global Congress in Toronto (Canada) www.pmi.org
- Received 1st Prize in ‘pmdays 2004’ in a competition of Ph.D. scholars from Europe, Project Management Research Conference at Vienna, Austria for the paper entitled, “A Switch will Induce a Better Pitch”. www.pmtage.at
- Conducted research in conjunction with the Wharton School, Philadelphia, PA, USA in the area of global leadership and organizational behaviour.
- Recipient of Director’s Medal for securing the highest percentage of marks), 1st position, in the undergraduate studies in Business Management (Honours).

My current research interests include:

- Project managers as senior executives?
- Leading projects, leading corporate and not for profit organizations
- Managing diversity in intercultural project teams