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MGT580: Project Management Module Assignment: Project Proposal Subject: Project Proposal and Viability Analysis

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Aspire Corp.

This section aims to present a comprehensive project proposal for Aspire Corp. which is a multinational corporation based in Sweden, with the objective of diversifying its portfolio through a new project. Among the three potential projects, the primary focus will be on developing the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa. In this proposal, a detailed overview of the project, covering budget allocation, risk analysis, projected competition times, quality control measures, and team member breakdown will be highlighted. The Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project holds immense potential to meet the rising demand for fitness and health services in the target market. This proposal will outline the crucial considerations essential for effectively planning, executing, and managing the project from start to finish. Aspire Corp. aims to ensure the successful establishment of a membership-based fitness and health center that precisely caters to the needs and expectations of its target audience.

In the subsequent sections, the project's specific details will be assessed in details. These include the allocated budget, a thorough risk analysis to identify potential challenges and corresponding mitigation strategies, projected competition times to establish realistic expectations, quality control measures to uphold high standards, and a breakdown of the team members' roles and responsibilities.

Project Budget

According to Flyvbjerg (2011), it is essential to incorporate a budget in a project to ensure funds are spent appropriately. To ensure the successful implementation of the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project, a meticulously planned budget is imperative. The initial budget earmarked for this venture amounts to $\in 2$ million euros. This allocation encompasses the costs associated with construction, equipment procurement, staffing, marketing, and operational expenses required for the establishment and launch of the fitness club and spa. The budget has been thoughtfully divided into distinct categories, ensuring the optimal distribution of funds. The detailed breakdown of the project budget is as follows:

Budget Category	Allocation (€)
Construction and Renovation	€1,200,000
Equipment and Furnishings	€400,000
Staffing and Training	€200,000
Marketing and Promotion	€100,000
Contingency Reserve	€100,000

Under the Construction and Renovation category, with a budget allocation of $\in 1.2$ million euros, the expenses encompass site preparation, building construction, renovation, and related infrastructure development. These endeavors aim to establish a fitness club and spa with well-designed facilities and an inviting atmosphere for customers.

In the Equipment and Furnishings category, with a budget allocation of \notin 400,000 euros, the focus is on acquiring fitness equipment, spa equipment, furniture, fixtures, and other essential items. This allocation ensures the availability of functional and visually appealing elements within the space.

For the Staffing and Training category, a budget of €200,000 euros has been designated. This allocation covers the recruitment and training of proficient fitness instructors, spa therapists, administrative staff, and other necessary team members. By investing in this area, the fitness club and spa will have a capable and dedicated workforce ready to serve its clientele.

The Marketing and Promotion category plays a vital role in generating awareness and attracting potential customers. With a budget allocation of $\notin 100,000$ euros, this funding will be utilized for marketing campaigns, advertising initiatives, public relations activities, and other promotional endeavors hence establishing a strong brand presence for the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa.

Additionally, a Contingency Reserve of €100,000 has been set aside to accommodate unforeseen expenses or address any additional expenses that may arise when the project is being executed. This reserve acts as a safeguard hence allowing for effective management of unexpected challenges or changes that may impact the project budget. Aspire Corp. strives to ensure that the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project receives adequate funding by thoughtfully allocating the budget across these categories.

Risk Analysis

Conducting a comprehensive risk analysis is essential for Aspire since it facilitates the identification of potential challenges and uncertainties that may affect successful execution (Björnsdóttir et al., 2021). The following risks have been carefully identified and assessed as part of this analysis:

Market Demand

One potential risk is the possibility of the demand for fitness and health services falling short of projected levels. Factors like evolving consumer preferences, economic conditions, or shifts in market trends can influence the number of potential customers and their inclination to invest in memberships (Sakai & Sasaki, 2021). A thorough market research ought to be conducted to accurately evaluate the needs, preferences, and willingness of the target market to avail fitness and health services so as to address this risk. Regular market analysis should be undertaken to identify emerging trends and adapt offerings accordingly. Moreover, customer engagement strategies and targeted marketing campaigns will be implemented to attract and retain customers, mitigating the impact of this risk.

Competition

The fitness industry is characterized by high competition since numerous existing fitness centers in the area target the same customer base. There is a risk of losing potential customers to well-established competitors who possess larger customer bases, established brand presence, and competitive pricing (Ojiako et al., 2012). A thorough competitive analysis should be undertaken to gain insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the existing fitness centers in the vicinity to mitigate this risk.

Differentiation strategies ought to be developed to emphasize unique offerings to address the competition (Mansur & Djaelani, 2022). These strategies include specialized fitness programs, personalized training sessions, or innovative spa services. The Aspire Fitness Club and Spa can stand out in the market by showcasing these distinctive features. Furthermore, strategic partnerships with local health professionals or complementary businesses can be forged to expand the customer base hence gaining a competitive edge in the industry.

Regulatory Compliance

The successful execution of the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project hinges upon strict adherence to local laws and regulations governing health and safety standards, building permits, and licensing requirements. Failure to comply with these regulations can lead to legal repercussions, fines, or project delays (Esayas & Mahler, 2015). A specialized team will be designated to stay abreast of the latest regulations and ensure the acquisition of all necessary permits and licenses well in advance of the launch to mitigate this risk. Regular compliance checks and audits will be conducted to ensure continuous adherence to regulatory standards throughout the project's lifecycle.

Financial Risks

According to Siraj and Fayek (2019), there is a potential risk of encountering unexpected cost overruns during the construction or operational phases of the project. Factors like fluctuating material costs, construction delays, or underestimated expenses can impact the project's financial viability (Siraj & Fayek, 2019). A comprehensive financial analysis and contingency planning are necessary during the initial stages of the project to help the firm mitigate the risk. A detailed budget, including a contingency reserve, has already been allocated to account for unforeseen expenses. Regular monitoring of expenses will be carried out to closely track the

project's financial performance. Close collaboration with contractors, suppliers, and financial experts will be maintained to identify potential cost-saving opportunities hence ensuring efficient financial management throughout the project's lifecycle.

Aspire Corp. aims to minimize potential obstacles and increase the likelihood of a successful and profitable implementation of the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project by identifying these risks and implementing proactive mitigation strategies. Regular risk assessments and monitoring ought to be conducted to address any emerging risks thus ensuring the project is sustainable in the long-run.

Projected Competition Times

To ensure timely completion and gain a competitive advantage in the market, the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project has a well-defined timeline. The estimated timeline for the different project phases is as follows:

Project Initiation and Planning

The initial phase encompasses project initiation, market research, finalizing the project scope, and developing a comprehensive plan. This phase is anticipated to take approximately 1 month. This phase will entail critical decision making and preparations will be made to set the project in motion.

Construction and Renovation

The construction and renovation phase plays a pivotal role in establishing the fitness club and spa. It involves site preparation, building construction or renovation, installation of necessary infrastructure, and ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations. This phase is expected to take 8 months hence allowing ample time for meticulous construction work and meticulous attention to detail.

Equipment Installation and Setup

As the construction and renovation phase nears completion, attention will shift towards the installation and setup of fitness equipment, spa facilities, furnishings, and other necessary amenities to create a functional and inviting space. This phase is estimated to require approximately 1 month which will be enough to ensure that all equipment and facilities are ready for operation.

Staffing and Training

The smooth operation of the fitness club and spa relies on a skilled and well-trained team. During this phase, rigorous recruitment processes will be conducted to hire qualified fitness instructors, spa therapists, administrative staff, and other essential team members. Comprehensive training programs will be implemented to equip the staff with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide exceptional services. The staffing phase is expected to last for one month with the core purpose of ensuring the spa will have qualified employees.

Marketing and Promotion

To generate awareness, attract potential customers, and foster anticipation for the grand opening, comprehensive marketing and promotion efforts will be executed throughout the project timeline. Diverse marketing strategies, such as digital marketing, social media campaigns, local advertising, and community engagement, will be employed to ignite interest and establish a strong brand presence. Persistent marketing and promotional activities will be pursued to optimize visibility hence drawing a significant customer base.

Grand Opening

The anticipated grand opening of the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa is scheduled for the 12th month of the project timeline. This significant milestone will signify the official launch of the fitness club and spa, welcoming the public and initiating membership sales. To celebrate this momentous occasion, a well-planned launch event will be organized, providing guests with a glimpse of the facilities, services, and advantages of becoming a member.

Aspire Corp. strives to deliver the completed fitness club and spa within 12 months hence the decision to adhere to this projected timeline. This allows for effective planning, construction, staffing, and marketing, culminating in an exciting grand opening. Adhering to the timeline ensures that the project progresses in a timely manner, maximizing the potential for success and capturing the interest of the target market.

Quality Control Measures

Ensuring the delivery of high-quality fitness and spa services is essential for the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project since it guarantees long-term success. Therefore, the project will implement the following quality control measures to guarantee consistent excellence and customer satisfaction:

Regular Equipment Maintenance and Inspection

A comprehensive protocol for regular maintenance and inspection of fitness equipment, spa facilities, and operational assets are necessary to uphold a safe and functional environment. Qualified technicians will conduct routine checks, promptly addressing any maintenance or repair needs. By ensuring optimal equipment condition, the fitness club and spa can provide a safe and enjoyable experience for its members hence retaining the customers (Rumane, 2019).

Compliance with Health and Safety Regulations

Ensuring the well-being of customers and staff members through strict adherence to health and safety regulations is of utmost importance for the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project. The project will demonstrate rigorous compliance with local health and safety standards, encompassing meticulous sanitation practices, rigorous cleanliness protocols, and unwavering adherence to hygiene guidelines (Xu et al., 2021). Regular audits and inspections will be carried out to ascertain that all areas of the fitness club and spa meet the required standards, fostering a healthy and hygienic environment that prioritizes the well-being of all individuals involved.

Continuous Training and Development Programs

The Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project will introduce comprehensive training and development programs to uphold a high level of expertise and professionalism among staff members. These initiatives encompass both initial training for new hires and ongoing professional development opportunities for existing team members. The training programs will prioritize various aspects, including fitness instruction techniques, spa therapy skills, customer service excellence, and staying updated with the latest industry knowledge (Dimitrova, 2019). The fitness club and spa will be able to deliver exceptional service and cater to the evolving needs of its valued members by investing in the continual growth of staff members.

Customer Feedback and Satisfaction Surveys

The project will proactively seek feedback from customers to assess their satisfaction levels and identify areas for improvement. Regular customer satisfaction surveys and feedback mechanisms will be put in place hence gathering valuable insights that will help the firm continuously improve (Cengiz, 2010). The feedback received will be thoroughly analyzed, and appropriate actions will be taken to address any concerns or suggestions. By actively listening to customer feedback, the fitness club and spa can consistently enhance its services and exceed the expectations of its valued members.

Through the implementation of these robust quality control measures, the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project is committed to delivering a superior customer experience marked by a strong emphasis on safety, cleanliness, professionalism, and customer satisfaction. These measures guarantee that the fitness club and spa maintain exceptionally high standards thus continuously striving for excellence in all aspects of its operations.

Team Member Breakdown

The successful implementation of the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project necessitates the expertise and dedication of a highly skilled team. The following key members will be integral to the project:

Project Manager

The Project Manager holds a pivotal position in overseeing the entirety of the project, assuming responsibility for coordinating diverse facets, efficiently managing the project budget, and ensuring adherence to the defined timeline (Gasemagha & Kowang, 2021). Serving as a central point of collaboration, the Project Manager will work closely with team members, stakeholders, and external entities to foster seamless execution and the triumphant realization of the fitness club and spa.

Architect/Designer

The Architect or Designer assumes the critical role of transforming the project vision into a tangible environment. Collaborating closely with the Project Manager, they will grasp the project requirements and craft a layout that maximizes space utilization, functionality, and aesthetic appeal. The Architect/Designer will develop a comprehensive design plan that encompasses the fitness club and spa's overall ambiance, encompassing the arrangement of exercise areas, spa facilities, reception areas, and other indispensable spaces (Burr & Jones, 2010).

Construction Manager

The Construction Manager assumes a crucial role in supervising the construction phase of the project. They will be tasked with recruiting and overseeing contractors, ensuring adherence to building codes and regulations, and monitoring the advancement of construction activities. Collaborating closely with the Project Manager and Architect/Designer, the Construction Manager will ensure that the construction process aligns harmoniously with the project timeline, upholds high-quality standards, and remains within the set budgetary constraints hence ensuring the project runs smoothly.

Equipment Procurement Specialist

The Equipment Procurement Specialist takes charge of acquiring and procuring fitness and spa equipment. Their responsibilities encompass conducting thorough market research to identify reliable suppliers, skillfully negotiating contracts, and verifying that the equipment aligns with the project's quality and functional prerequisites (Tchokogué & Merminod, 2021). Collaborating closely with the Project Manager and Construction Manager, the Equipment Procurement Specialist ensures the punctual delivery and seamless installation of equipment while adhering to the allocated budget.

HR Manager

The HR Manager assumes the role of overseeing staffing, recruitment, and training endeavors for the fitness club and spa. Their responsibilities entail identifying staffing requirements, formulating comprehensive job descriptions, and conducting efficient recruitment procedures to secure competent fitness instructors, spa therapists, administrative staff, and other indispensable team members (Stone et al., 2020). Additionally, the HR Manager takes charge of supervising training programs, ensuring that staff members are equipped with the essential skills and knowledge needed to provide top-notch services.

Marketing Specialist

The Marketing Specialists' key roles are developing and executing marketing strategies to promote the fitness club and spa. Their responsibilities encompass conducting thorough market research, identifying target demographics, and devising compelling advertising campaigns and promotional activities to attract customers (Rangaswamy et al., 2020). Working closely with the Project Manager and other team members, the Marketing Specialist ensures that marketing efforts align with the project timeline and effectively communicate the fitness club and spa's unique offerings hence increasing the brand reputation.

By harnessing the expertise of these key team members, the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project aspires to assemble a well-rounded and capable team capable of efficiently managing all aspects of the project, spanning design, construction, staffing, and marketing. Through collaborative efforts, the team endeavors to establish and operate the fitness club and spa with excellence and success.

Conclusion

The proposal for the Aspire Fitness Club and Spa project provides a comprehensive overview of the project, encompassing budget allocation, risk analysis, projected completion times, quality control measures, team composition, and potential additional funding requests. With a budget of \in 2 million euros distributed across various categories, the project aims to cater to the growing demand for fitness and health services. Mitigation strategies are in place to address potential risks related to market demand, competition, regulatory compliance, and financial aspects. The projected timeline ensures timely completion while maintaining a competitive edge in the market. Quality control measures prioritize equipment maintenance, compliance with regulations, comprehensive training programs, and gathering customer feedback to continuously improve services. The team comprises key roles necessary for effective project management. Aspire Corp. aims to establish a successful fitness and health center that exceeds customer expectations.

Project Viability Analysis for Bangkok-Chiang Mai High-Speed Railway

This section entails a viability analysis of the railway connecting Bangkok to Chiang Main in Northern Thailand. The analysis focuses on assessing the project's feasibility, environmental impact, financial sustainability, operational costs and environmental impact. Therefore, this analysis seeks to inform on whether the railway project ought to be built and its potential to meet the set cost efficiency requirements.

Potential Ridership and Demand

The project's viability is greatly supported by the considerable potential for robust ridership and demand. The Bangkok-Chiang Mai route has gained significant popularity among both domestic and international travelers. Extensive analysis demonstrates that the introduction of a high-speed railway would yield substantial advantages, including enhanced convenience, time efficiency, and an overall comfortable travel experience. By improving connectivity and reducing travel time, this project anticipates attracting a substantial influx of passengers, thus indicating a robust market demand for high-speed rail services (Levinson, 2012).

Economic Benefits

The high-speed rail project between Bangkok and Chiang Mai has tremendous economic promise for the region. The potential for tourist growth is enormous with improved connectivity hence leading to a boom in visitor arrivals and increased expenditure throughout cities and their surrounding areas. This beneficial effect will extend to the growth of local businesses, the creation of new jobs, and the overall advancement of the economy (Chang-fu & Yuan, 2011). The project's ability to encourage regional economy and provide job opportunities strengthens its feasibility and coincides well with the government's economic advancement goals.

Operational Costs and Revenue Streams

To ensure the project's cost efficiency and long-term financial sustainability, it is vital to implement effective measures for operational cost management. The analysis takes into account various factors such as infrastructure maintenance, staffing, energy consumption, and ticketing systems. By adopting efficient operational practices, optimizing maintenance strategies, and exploring avenues for generating revenue, the project can generate substantial income hence offsetting the operational expenses. Furthermore, diversifying revenue streams beyond ticket sales will play a significant role in ensuring the enduring financial viability of the railway project (Edwards, 2013).

Environmental Impact and Sustainability

The railway project holds has the potential to benefit the environment since high-speed rail is recognized as a more sustainable mode of transportation when compared to alternatives like air travel or road transportation (Verma et al., 2013). The analysis carefully considers factors such as carbon emissions, traffic congestion, and sustainable travel options. Through the

incorporation of eco-friendly practices, minimizing the project's environmental footprint, and promoting sustainable transportation, the railway project not only aligns with environmental regulations but also strengthens its overall viability since it by contributes to a greener future.

Financial Feasibility

The financial feasibility seeks to assess the long-term profitability of the project to ensure its feasible and sustainable. Funding sources, potential financial hazards, and cost-benefit analyses are all considered. The analysis takes into account the project's potential to draw in funding, find financing choices, and generate a profit over the long haul. Therefore, the research sheds light on the project's ability to achieve the cost-efficiency objectives set by the prime minister.

Additional Ways to Generate Income

To further enhance the cost efficiency and financial sustainability of the proposed railway project, several additional income-generating opportunities can be considered:

Commercial Spaces

By incorporating retail and commercial spaces within railway stations, the project can generate rental income from various businesses, including shops, restaurants, cafes, and other services. These commercial spaces will not only create a vibrant and convenient environment for passengers but also generate y substantial revenue for the railway project hence making it financially feasible (Sharma & Newman, 2017).

Advertising and Sponsorship

Leveraging the railway's infrastructure, trains, and stations as advertising platforms presents an opportunity to generate revenue through advertising contracts. Partnering with advertising agencies enables the project to offer advertising opportunities within trains, stations, and surrounding areas thus attracting both national and local advertisers seeking exposure to a captive audience (Sharma & Newman, 2017).

Premium Services

Introducing premium ticket options that offer enhanced amenities, comfort, and services at a higher price point can attract passengers seeking an elevated travel experience. Premium services may include upgraded seating, exclusive lounges, onboard entertainment, and personalized customer experiences which provides an additional revenue stream for the railway project (Sharma & Newman, 2017).

Tourism Packages

Collaborating with tourism agencies, hotels, and local businesses to create bundled travel packages that combine railway tickets with accommodations, guided tours, and other

experiences can attract more tourists hence generating more revenue for the rail. The project can earn a commission on bookings, support the local tourism economy, and further enhance its financial sustainability by offering the comprehensive packages (Marques & Pinho, 2020).

Freight Services

In addition to passenger services, utilizing the high-speed railway for freight transportation can generate revenue from commercial enterprises. The railway project can contribute to the logistics industry, diversify its revenue sources, and provide an additional income stream by offering efficient and reliable freight transportation services (Armstrong & Meissner, 2010).

Conclusion

Following a thorough viability analysis, it is highly recommended to proceed with the construction of the high-speed railway project linking Bangkok to Chiang Mai. The analysis reveals compelling evidence of substantial ridership potential, robust demand, notable economic benefits, efficient operational management, positive environmental impact, and financial sustainability. By actively exploring additional income-generating opportunities like commercial spaces, advertising and sponsorship, premium services, tourism packages, and freight services, the project can augment its cost efficiency and secure long-term profitability. The adoption of these strategies not only aligns with the Prime Minister's objective of cost-effectiveness but also ensures the project's overall viability and prosperous outcome.

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