

That's a wrap

After last time's roll over, having dropped our SHV by a great deal, this week's results aren't looking too bad. We are actually doing "good" according to the dog in the top left corner of the MikesBikes Multiplayer window. My team has truly done a lot of work and put a lot of thought into this task, which I am very pleased about. I am absolutely amazed with how quickly this semester has gone- probably the shortest semester I have ever lived through. Leading up to the end of another year makes me very nervous. If all goes well, I will be completing my study at this university next year and head off to work in the big, bad, business world. A number of concerns flip through my head as I try and come to grips with this. What will my first job out of university be like? Will I be good at it? Will I be happy? What's even more worrying is that these questions will be left unanswered until then.

These concerns and questions are exactly like the ones that Christensen (2010) received from his students. In his article, he wrote about the few guidelines and advice that he offered to them through his own explicit view and experiences. Two of his guidelines resonated with me the most. Firstly, there is the allocation of resources that Christensen (2010) explains in detail. The scholar claims that the way in which you allocate your essential resources in life, such as time, energy, and skill, is what forms your life's strategy. I suppose the same can be said in business- allocation of resources in your work is what shapes your business strategy. How well you allocate, in any aspect, is what determines how effective your strategy is. The scholar continues to state that inappropriately investing your resources can lead to bad outcomes. While this sounds like general knowledge, it's easier said to efficiently use your resources than done, especially in a business. In our business-like environment for MikesBikes, a couple of weeks back, we made a slight miscalculation in a modification and our SHV dropped, consequently. Where there are humans, there are errors, and these resources can very well be in correctly invested in business.

Secondly, Christensen (2010) acknowledged what he refers to as the "marginal costs mistake". From his own experience, he found that taking a risk and trying something just the once leads to unwanted outcomes. This scholar believes that these end results are regrettable and that a line has to be drawn at some point to separate us from what's risky and what's not. Here is where I disagree due to my own experience with MikesBikes. Within one of the first couple of weeks of this simulation my team and I decided to take a risk with one of our products and began increasing and decreasing certain figures. We thought our SHV wasn't looking its best and believed that a different approach is what we needed to take and after submitting it for that week's rollover, our SHV -didn't come out on top, of course, however- came out higher than what we had predicted if we had taken the other route.

Seeing as there is some disagreement with this scholar that has lived through a world of experiences and has spent a fair amount of time in the business world, I have learnt that the lives of others cannot be scrutinised when you have a vision or goal of your own to achieve through your own methods. Whether I am satisfied with my future work, or good at it, knowing where to allocate my resources and knowing when to draw a safety line, is unknown for the meantime but the answers will come. They will come through my own experiences, and this course has already started me off with a great business-like experience that I will take away with me to my time in the real working world.

References

Christensen, C. M. (2010). How will you measure your life? Harvard Business Review, 88(7/8), 46-51.