Challenger groupthink

The goal of the Challenger 1986 was to launch the Second Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-B). The mission was to release a small satellite by it resulted in one of the deadliest explosion that caused deaths of American men and women. The goal was also to highlight the significance of teachers and students who were interested in high-tech careers. However the mission encountered the trouble and the vehicle disappeared in an explosion (Haberman, 2014).

Irving Janis four symptoms of group rethink include; encouraging vigilance, face-to-face interactions, instilling resistance to group polarization and increase in sharing of information. Vigilance is encouraged by building a system that is capable of observing the level of communications among the group. The Challenger team contained engineers, teachers and people from technology. The symptom of vigilance was missing that is identified as a significant factor responsible for the explosion. Group polarization stresses on the tendency of the group to take efficient decisions. However, in the case of Challenger, there was resistance from group members against decisions of NASA. This had also caused malfunction. Janis has stressed on involving all team members in the group because it leads to powerful and sound decisions. Resistance from some members had affected the progressiveness of the mission.

Face-to-face interactions are important among the group members for removing ambiguity. This improves the scope of sharing the right and accurate information. Communication skills are also required for the sharing of appropriate information that involves verbal and written skills. The sharing of information was not adequate in challenger mission because NASA made decisions under financial pressures that had affected the quality of the actual satellite. This symptom of group thinking states that sharing of information remains one of the crucial factors for the success of technological projects.

Reference

Haberman, C. (2014). *Major Malfunction: Revisiting Challenger*. Retrieved 05 10, 2019, from https://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/02/us/challenger-columbia-and-the-nature-of-calamity.html