Continuous Improvement Toolkit

5 Whys

Managing **Deciding & Selecting Planning & Project Management*** Pros and Cons **PDPC** Risk Importance-Urgency Mapping **RACI** Matrix **Stakeholders Analysis Break-even Analysis RAID** Logs FMEA **Cost** -Benefit Analysis PEST PERT/CPM **Activity Diagram** Force Field Analysis Fault Tree Analysis **SWOT** Voting Project Charter Roadmaps Pugh Matrix Gantt Chart Risk Assessment* Decision Tree **TPN** Analysis **PDCA Control Planning** Matrix Diagram **Gap** Analysis OFD Traffic Light Assessment Kaizen **Prioritization Matrix** Hoshin Kanri Kano Analysis How-How Diagram **KPIs** Lean Measures Paired Comparison Tree Diagram** Critical-to Tree Standard work **Identifying &** Capability Indices OEE Cause & Effect Matrix Pareto Analysis Simulation TPM Implementing RTY Descriptive Statistics MSA Confidence Intervals Understanding Mistake Proofing Solutions*** Cost of Quality Cause & Effect Probability **Distributions** ANOVA Pull Systems JIT Ergonomics **Design of Experiments** Reliability Analysis Graphical Analysis Hypothesis Testing Work Balancing Automation Regression Bottleneck Analysis Visual Management Scatter Plot Correlation Understanding **Run Charts** Multi-Vari Charts 5 Whys Chi-Square Test Flow Performance 5S **Control Charts** Value Analysis **Relations Mapping*** Benchmarking Fishbone Diagram SMED Wastes Analysis Sampling TRIZ*** Process Redesign Brainstorming Focus groups Time Value Map **Interviews** Analogy SCAMPER*** IDEF0 Nominal Group Technique SIPOC Photography Mind Mapping* Value Stream Mapping **Check Sheets** Attribute Analysis Flow Process Chart Process Mapping Affinity Diagram **Measles Charts** Surveys Visioning Flowcharting Service Blueprints Lateral Thinking **Data** Critical Incident Technique Collection Creating Ideas** **Designing & Analyzing Processes Observations**



- Used to explore the cause-and-effect relationships underlying a particular problem
- □ Allows to find to the root cause of a problem quickly.
- Simply requires to ask "Why does this happen?" several times over a defect or a problem.
- The answer to each question then forms the basis of the next question.
- □ Encourages deep thinking.
- Helps determine the relationship between the different causes.



Tips:

- □ Never accept the first reason given.
- □ Always probe behind the answer.
- Continue until you can no longer answer the question "Why".
- Generally five iterations of asking why is sufficient to get to a root cause.



- □ However, you may need to get to a higher level.
- The key is to encourage the trouble-shooter to avoid assumptions and logic traps.

Keep in mind that people do not fail, processes do

Example:

Problem Statement: "Got caught speedy"

- Why?
 - Late for work.
- Why?
 - Got up late.
- Why?
 - Alarm clock didn't work.
- Why?
 - Batteries were flat.
- Why?
 - Forgot to replace them.



Action: Replace Batteries at set intervals before they run out

Manufacturing Example:

- Problem Statement: "The machine has stopped!"
 - Why?

Because there is overload tripped out.

• Why?

Because there is Insufficient oil on the shaft.

• Why?

Because the pump was inefficient.

• Why?

Because the pump drive shaft is worn.

• Why?

Because the oil filter is blocked with swarf.





5 Why's	
Project (Number/Name):	Project leader:
Process/Product/Service:	Last updated:
Describe the problem:	
1. Why?	
2. Why?	
3. Why?	
4. Why?	
5. Why?	
Continue until you get to the real root cause of the problem.	

Why-Why Diagram:

- □ Used when there are multiple answers to the 'Why' question.
- □ The result is a hierarchical tree-structure.
- It allows us to consciously not to follow some paths, digging only into the most likely areas.

Consider using:

- Cause and Effect diagram.
- Tree Diagram.



Example:

