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Six sigma has been a popular topic of discussion on the internet the past few years. Many websites have begun to offer six sigma online lessons of one form or another, as well as six sigma certification. However, despite its popularity and evident demand in a lot of business fields, many people still don't really know what it is.

This is understandable, considering the fact that many websites offering six sigma training don't really do much of a job in explaining what the concept is, and traditional business professionals wouldn't have heard of it either. So, it's probably about time that someone explain what six sigma actually is.

In truth, despite its very recent boost in popularity, the concept of six sigma isn't a new one. The most basic concepts behind it were devised over half a century ago by various industrial and consumer electronics companies. It was later refined in the 1980s into the concept that is now advertised and sought out which we know as "six sigma".

So, knowing that it's not a new concept, what exactly is it? Well, to summarize it first, six sigma is a problem solving and quality assurance system. That's a generalization, but it does fit.

The purpose of six sigma is to establish a series of modifications or new rules to any process in an industry whereby the problems or quality issues that were previously being experienced are both eliminated and prevented in the long term. The concept works across most industries in theory, as the steps and measures which it employs are generic and applicable to any abstract idea.

It's a mathematical formula, using a series of steps called "DMAIC", whereby a process is first observed in all of its discrete steps unaltered. Once this is completed, all aspects of the process are measured in units relevant to the desired final outcome. Using a series of calculations and comparisons, the problems related to quality or efficiency in the process are then detected, quantified and made tangible.

After the problems are given a solid entity to themselves, solutions to these problems can be found more easily, and countermeasures put into effect for future use. Through these steps of analysis and measurement, it's theoretically possible for the most complicated process in any industry to be "perfected" through analytical means.

Professionals exist in this field who are dedicated to either maintaining their employer's business through six sigma, or in consulting with countless businesses to employ six sigma to their processes. Among them, there are several degrees of skill in six sigma, the highest being a six sigma black belt.

Obtaining a certification in six sigma is not difficult to arrange. The challenge is not in understanding the material. The challenge lies within the one who embarks upon this journey, and depends entirely on their dedication not just to memorizing facts and figures, but to understanding both six sigma and business. It goes beyond understanding though - anyone who wants to use six sigma to help improve business must have a love for business itself and a love of logistics.

Anyone who can say "well that's me", then they have what it takes to become a six sigma certified professional, and even reach the highest level of training, the vaunted six sigma black belt certification. It all starts with some research on the internet, first reading information such as this on

the nature of what six sigma actually entails. If it sounds like the kind of methodology one can combine with some genuine effort to make the gears of business better turn, then the next step is to take a course.

Many online services offer six sigma online courses and tests for a reasonable price. Most even have samples and trials before making a commitment to buy, so really the risk is minimal. For anyone who is interested in business, or looking to make their resume pop more, this is a course worth looking into.

With just a few hours a day for about a month, one can go from a complete layman to an expert in this system with ease, if they really want to make it happen.

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