

Why Lean Six Sigma implementation is still so limited in Higher Education?

Abdullah Al-Amri

Department of Design, Manufacture and Engineering Management,
University of Strathclyde, UK
(Email;abdullah.al-amri@strath.ac.uk)

Abstract

Lean six sigma is a powerful business initiative that improves the effectiveness and performance of organizations. It started as a useful improvement strategy in manufacturing and then was transferred to other sectors. Although popular in many industries, its implementation in higher education is still limited and to date has not yet achieved its potential as a tool that enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of institutions which operate in highly competitive environments with pressure respond to their stakeholders' expectations and to attract more students and funds.

Academic institutions seem to resist the implementation of lean six sigma despite its widespread success in achieving processes improvement and minimizing variations and defects. Therefore, it would be important to shed light on the challenges hindering its implementation. Some of these obstacles might originate from the nature of higher education and others from the approach's concept or misunderstanding perceptions.

This research aims to identify the main obstacles of six sigma in higher education with hope to create more awareness regarding these challenges for those seeking to implement six sigma in higher education. It is hoped that this research will support future research that aim to enable a better fit of lean six sigma with higher education.

Keywords

Lean and Six Sigma implementation, Higher education institutions

Biography

Abdullah Al-Amri is a PhD student in the Department of Design, Manufacture and Engineering Management at Strathclyde University in UK. His research interest in the area of Total Quality Management and its implementation in higher education institutions. He has a working experience in both public and private organizations in Oman and currently he is employed in the ministry of manpower and working as a lecturer in a public higher education institution in Oman.