

in_cr_ove Newsletter

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'The greatest waste in the world is the difference between what we are and what we could become'

— Ben Herbster

Latest from in_cr_ove

New initiative: in_cr_ove is beginning a new chapter to contribute to operating level skill building by generating further awareness on the value and use of data and the immense benefit that can flow to organisations as well as societies once the statistical techniques are correctly used at the grass root levels.

We believe the reasons for the lack of permeation of these techniques into the systems are 1) They are perceived as tedious and complex 2) The prevailing ignorance of the simple basics that need to be first mastered.

in_cr_ove has started a project to create workbooks for each of 7 QC tools. These workbooks will be in a format that is easy to understand, fun to learn & facilitate self learning. These could also be used in assisted learning. Plan is also afoot to make these available in Indian languages other than English. The first of the workbooks will be rolled out in April 2007.

'Data Power I & II' form the introductory articles of this initiative. < [view details](#)>

Latest Module

Six Sigma Overview - *Variation is the enemy*

The term Six Sigma is not only a statistical measure of variation; it is also a business strategy. The Six Sigma philosophy has been adopted widely by all types and sizes of organisations throughout the world. Six Sigma needs to be understood and integrated at every level of the organization if long-term companywide improvements are to be made.

Data Power -I

- By Sanjeev K. Dhawan

One of the most powerful ladies of yesteryears, who are respected across countries, ages & time, was Florence Nightingale (1820-1910).

Though she is remembered for her service to humanity for introduction of modern nursing, her interest & contribution to statistics is not as well known.

Florence Nightingale's career in nursing began in 1851 when she received four months' training in Germany. She undertook the training despite her family's objections concerning the risks involved and social implications of the vocation.

On October 21, 1854, she and a staff of 38 women volunteer nurses left for Turkey in the Crimea, where the main British camp was housed.

Since her schooldays, Florence Nightingale had been an enthusiastic mathematician. When she began working as a nurse in the Crimean War, she was quick to realise that the death rate among soldiers was high enough to wipe out the entire army in no time. To her surprise it was not the war that was killing soldiers. The death rate due to unhygienic living conditions for soldiers was far higher at 40% per month.

< [complete article](#) >

How to be Proactive (Part I)

—Yamini

'Be proactive' is the first habit of effectiveness as rightly laid out in the famous book 'Seven habits of highly effective people' by Stephen R. Covey. We have also often heard 'old habits die hard'. The primary reason being we identify these habits (good and bad) as part of our self – our defining characteristics, and often are not comfortable with changing these. Sometimes we even secretly like to preserve our bad habits.

To learn new habits it is also essential that we unlearn our old bad habits – we cannot fill a cup which is already full and overflowing!

It is important to identify the things we have to get rid of first. In the following text presents a step by step guide to develop the habit of "Being proactive".

< [complete article](#) >

Trench Digging Machine

Radhey Shyam Tailor and Nathulal Jangid hail from Sikar district, Rajasthan. Radhey Shyam Tailor is a B-Com graduate with about 40 years' hands-on working experience in designing and developing of several implements. A skilled technician, Nathulal Jangid, a fifth standard pass-out has an experience of around 20 years with various job works. This idea came to them while travelling together when they saw the plight of labourers digging trenches in spite of harsh weather conditions

Radhey Shyam Tailor and Nathulal Jangid have co-developed a trench-digging attachment that can be retro-fitted to a modified 35-40 HP tractor. This machine can dig 65 metres of trench per hour (6 feet deep and 14 inches wide) on 2.5 litres of diesel per hour. It is suitable for any kind of soil. This machine replaces the tedious and time-consuming manual trench digging by automation, thus reducing drudgery. It costs less than half of the competing models, in India complex machines are used for this purpose, with accessories included and these are easily supplied and serviced locally. It is easy to handle and suited particularly for digging narrow but deep trenches, thus having a lot of potential for trenches for laying telephone and electric cables as well as pipes.

Opportunity in Disparity

By Amartya Sen

Source: Dec 21 '06, The Economic Times

"Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale/her infinite variety" wrote Shakespeare in praise of great feminine beauty. India's variety in many different forms has also been a source of its strength, perhaps even beauty, and yet some of our regional variations are reflections of huge disparities in basic living conditions that are reasons for shame rather than pride. The average figures for India as a whole can, thus, be extremely deceptive as a guide to the lives of the people of India — a great many people in some parts of the country do dramatically worse than that. These disparities are not getting smaller, and often enough, those states that are ahead are getting further ahead while the states down below lag more and more behind. For example, those states that were already ahead in education, health care and other features of human development have been able to, by and large, make much fuller use of the opportunities offered by economic reform, and this has helped them to increase their incomes as well as allowed them the means of going further forward, compared with those left even more firmly at the rear. There are reasons to be concerned about this problem of divided fortunes and reasons too for looking for ways and means of reducing regional disparities through enhancing the opportunities that the more problematic regions have.

< [complete article](#) >