

in_cr_ove Newsletter

Issue 9 : May 1, 2007- May 15, 2007

'As long as a man stands in his own way, everything seems to be in his way.'

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Latest from in_cr_ove

Our readers have been showing curiosity at the use of colours for the various articles in our newsletter. In this issue we take the opportunity to explain the use of colours.

The use of the colour scheme is based on the colours associated with the six thinking hats of Edward De-Bono.

They are as

White Hat : Information
 Green Hat : Creativity
 Yellow Hat : Positive side
 Black hat : Negative side
 Blue Hat : Organising
 Red Hat : Gut feeling/ Passion

The article in each different colour is broadly based on these theme existing in the society or work life. For example the black article is usually a critical article on prevailing system or norms while the green article talks about an innovation or a creative idea being put to use and similarly the others

We would again like to thank our readers for their continued interest and support.

Latest Module: Put a smile to his face (Customer Focus)

A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work. He is the purpose of it. He is not an outsider in our business. He is part of it. We are not doing him a favour by serving him. He is doing us a favour by giving us an opportunity to do so.

Purpose of problem analysis is implementing a solution

By Sanjeev K Dhawan

While I was interacting with a group of young engineers, the discussion veered to "what is the most valuable skill that they perceive will help them in excelling at workplace".

The answers that were received may be grouped as follows.

- Problem solving
- Data analysis
- Prioritising

Majority of the answers related to problem solving. More probing revealed that the young minds enjoy analysing and are talking about Plan part of PDCA cycle.

Generally, lot of focus is spent on analysing the data, finding out the root cause & developing possible solutions I remember an article that I read recently, which talked about Indian talent being good in analysing & creating solutions but takes back seat in execution.

Generally execution of a solution is felt as a slightly downgraded action in comparison to problem analysis & finding solution

< complete article >

How to be Proactive (Part II)

-By Yamini

Once we have unlearned – the ground is made fertile and we can now sow the fresh seeds. We will come to the propelling stage now

The propelling stage: Remember the choice is yours:

- * Even in the worst of situations there is always a choice
 - o We often hear – I can't do anything else, I don't have a choice
 - o The truth is we are not looking at the options because either they are too difficult to follow or because we don't want to take the responsibility
- * Don't let situations carve your path for you
 - o It is always easy to ignore the choices and put it on the situation

< complete article >

Transmitting Music through Electric Wires in Buildings

Trilokya Bora (23 years arts graduate) and his younger brother Champak Bora, (20 years, 1st year student of Diploma in Civil Engineering) belonging to a middle class family, thought about transferring audio signals and it struck them that they could use the existing electrical wiring system. After several attempts they succeeded in transferring audio signals from one room (with a tape recorder) to another (with a speaker) .With the assistance of GIAN-NE they could visit and discuss the innovation in IIT – Guwahati. The electrical wiring system consists of an active, a neutral and an earth line. They made an adopter through which the neutral line and earth line of a general electrical system are used to transmit audio signals within the house. Using this technique, audio output from a tape recorder or radio is connected to a plug adapter in which the live point is disconnected. Now the audio signals are available in the neutral and earth wires. The output of the audio signals is collected through the adapter and connected to the audio output device like speakers at any other location within the house i.e., the output of the music system is inputted in the earth and neutral sockets. In whichever room one wants to hear the music, one can insert the two wires into the plug points and the speaker into the earth and neutral socket. Investment required for communication purposes will reduce drastically. The total cost for re-wiring of audio transmission is reduced and cost of the adapter is only Rs. 15.This innovation has the potential to offer a new low cost solution to related issues in communication technology

The killing of 24x7 water

By Gurcharan Das

Source: The Times of India, April 22, 2007

It came as a shock to me that India's cities have more water than most cities in the world. Delhi has 300 litres per person per day of treated water compared to Paris with 150 or London with 171. Then why do people in Paris and London get water 24 hours a day while Delhi's residents get it only for four? Guwahati sits on the Brahmaputra River but people get water for only two hours. The poor in our cities have to depend on tankers. When the tanker is late there is a scramble and even a riot. Recently, a tanker driver fearing for his life took off at a high speed, and a child died in the chaos.

Because water comes intermittently, Indians have to store it. Storage tanks cost money and are not cleaned regularly. This brings disease. Since water pipes are not under continuous pressure, they get broken when pressure is released — it's called the 'hammer effect'. Vacuum also develops in the pipe, and ground and sewage water enters through the cracks, thereby contaminating drinking water.

<complete article>