

Comparison of Selected Quality Improvement Methodologies: Shainin, Taguchi and Classical

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Introduction

In the rush toward continuous improvement there is a strong tendency to believe one “guru” has all the answers. This comes about in large part due to wanting an easy “cook book” approach which will not impact the current comfort zone of many companies and groups. Unfortunately, many gurus (and their followers) are quick to fill this need. This motivates gurus to not only push their approach, but denigrate others. In reality, the more conversant a company is in each methodology the greater the company’s choices to apply those methodologies effectively.

This paper will provide a *greatly simplified* examination of selected elements (tools and techniques) considered part of the philosophies of Dr. Genichi Taguchi and Dorian Shainin. In addition, a simplistic comparison will be made to *classical* philosophies. Where applicable, the author will provide assessment of proposed methodologies.