Freshers Lean

Your Lean Journey Starts Here

First edition

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Welcome!

So, you would like to learn about Lean and Agile? Perhaps you've heard the words in your work environment? Perhaps you're a student taking a course in which Lean and Agile are included in the curriculum? Or maybe you're just curious about Lean and Agile and would like to learn a little more?

The only pre-requisite in this publication is a mindset that is open to ideas - to be open to the *possibility* of new ideas and perspectives. We hope we can help.

Whatever your motivation for reading this text, we hope you'll come to understand Lean and Agile concepts based on your everyday experiences. We believe that Lean and Agile concepts are quite simple, effective, and proven. However, they are certainly not difficult to understand, and you may find most of this thinking completely natural. We believe that Lean and Agile is not a set of rules to obey, but a way of thinking, seeing, and behaving.

We have called this publication 'Fresher's Lean and Agile'. All three words are important:

1. **'Fresher'** is a word associated with a new student. A Fresher here may be a student at an institution but may also be an aspiring practitioner of any age who is new to the world of operations. A Fresher comes to a place of learning with curiosity and an open mind, a 'fresh' perspective, not hindered by prior knowledge or fixed ideas about life in an office, factory or other workplace,
2. **Lean** is about relentless improvement and removal of wasteful activities with strong participation from everyone. An outcome of Lean would be the continual reduction of the time from order to delivery, and improvement in quality. Lean is a journey, not a project. Its roots originated in the automotive industry, particularly in the Toyota Production System, but now you see Lean everywhere. The principles and concepts can be used in multiple work environments and, as we'll

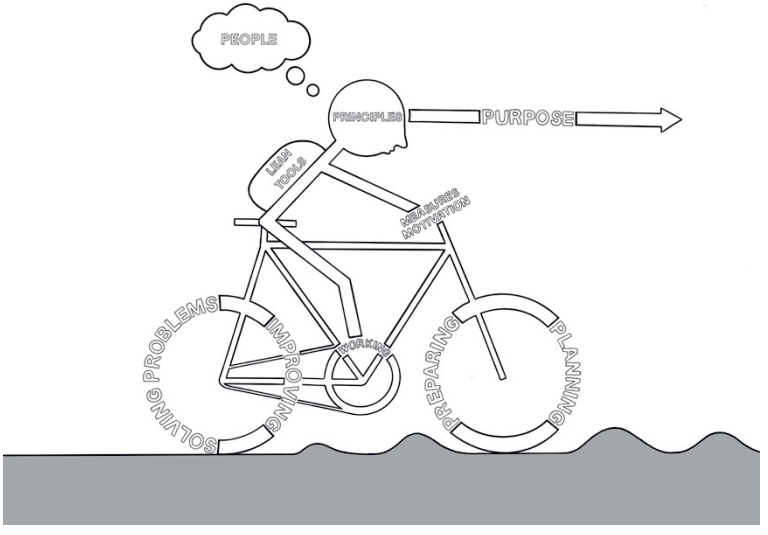
discuss in this book, in your day-to-day life too. Lean isn't necessarily something we do; it is something we should aspire to become.

3. **Agile** has flexibility at its core, and an ability to adapt quickly and easily to changing customer requirements. The emphasis is on many short-term focused bursts of activity. Its roots lie in computer software development which grew out of older, unsatisfactory ways in which software was developed. Agile has adopted many concepts from Lean and as a result, the two form a powerful combination for increasing value in work and everyday life. Today the concepts are widely found, particularly in project management, and are no longer confined to software.

Do you believe that a work organisation should engage, listen, encourage, respect, share, be honest, and be environmentally responsible? If so, this book will be of relevance to you.

Framework

This book will discuss various concepts of Lean and Agile using the Bicycle framework below. This framework applies in most Lean and Agile situations – in private and public sector, and in service and manufacturing. Lean and Agile practitioners have both used frameworks that seek to show how the various tools or methodologies fit together.

But first, a word of caution from George Box (one of the world's greatest statisticians): 'All models are wrong. Some models are useful'. We think this model is useful.

The Chapters in this book are arranged according to this 'Bicycle' framework. We start with explaining the principles of Lean and Agile and then explain within the Chapters via Fishbone diagrams the major concepts that are used to group and consolidate.