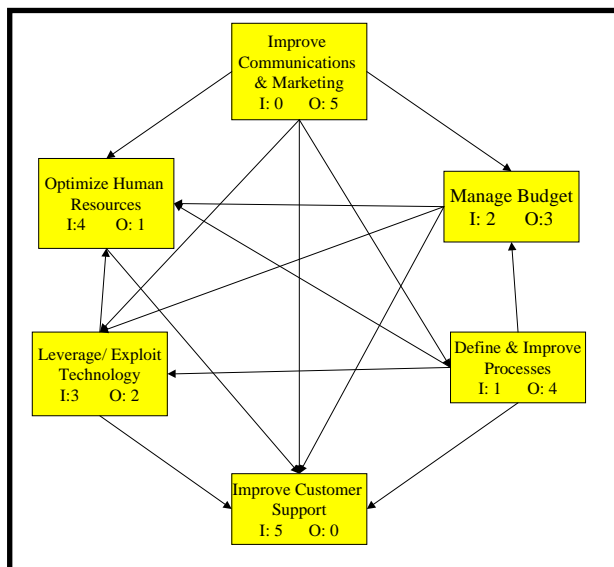


Interrelationship Digraph

What The Interrelationship Digraph (ID) is a tool that takes a central issue, or problem, and maps the relationship between the items linked to it.

When The ID is used when an issue is sufficiently complex that cause & effect relations are hard to determine, and correct sequencing of actions are required. If you think the issues under discussion are a symptom and not the root cause.

- How**
1. **Assemble the right team:** The ID is implementation oriented and requires people close to the situation.
 2. **Agree upon an Issue Statement:** Choose or create the cards that will be part of the ID. The issue can come from an Affinity Diagram, Fishbone or Tree Diagram, or Brainstorming. Clearly define one statement that represents the key issue.
 3. **Display the cards:** Tape two pieces of paper, long side, edge to edge, on the wall or board. Write issues, on 3 x 5 Post-it Notes, and randomly post on the paper. Leave room for arrows between issues.
 4. **Draw the relationship arrows:** Start at one card and compare it to all others individually. Ask the question: "Is there a relationship between these two issues? If there is, ask "Which contributes to the other?" Look for the strongest direction. Use consensus to determine the direction when in doubt.
 5. **Review and Revise:** Transfer the ID and let others look at it. Get their inputs for relations that were missed. Use a different color pen for these inputs.
 6. **Selection of Key items:** Count the number of arrows in (I) and out (O) of each card and write on the card. (I) indicates effects while (O) indicates causes.



7. **Draw the final ID:** Apply process knowledge to select the key causes to work. Use a red pen to draw a box around these issues for easy identification.

MORE INFO!

Try to keep the number of issues to less than 50.

ID Matrix Method also exists. See page 67 to 72 of the Memory Jogger Plus +.

Another question you could ask is, "Does *issue on the card* cause or influence *the issue on the other card*?"