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Order_8120590_Change_Continual_Improvement_and_the_...

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What does 'qualifying text' mean?

Our model only processes qualifying text in the form of long-form writing. Long-form writing means individual sentences contained in paragraphs that make up a longer piece of written work, such as an essay, a dissertation, or an article, etc. Qualifying text that has been determined to be likely AI-generated will be highlighted in cyan in the submission, and likely AI-generated and then likely AI-paraphrased will be highlighted purple.

Non-qualifying text, such as bullet points, annotated bibliographies, etc., will not be processed and can create disparity between the submission highlights and the percentage shown.

Change, Continual Improvement and the Role of Ethical Behavior and Relational Trust

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Change, Continual Improvement and the Role of Ethical Behavior and Relational Trust

According to Dues (2023), the notion of continual improvement refers to a concerted and ongoing effort to make processes, products, and even services better incrementally and over time. This implies that at the core of continual improvement are enhancements that are small but consistent as opposed to large scale and implemented/instigated at once. According to Dues (2023), the roots of the notion of continuous improvements go back to continuous learning and adaptations, usually for the purposes of long-term and sustainable success. On the other hand, Dues (2023) holds that the characteristics of the notion of change that differentiates it from continuous improvement is that the former is not just significant in its scope but is also an abrupt shift as far as processes, structures, and strategies are concerned. According to Dues (2023), change can be orchestrated by external factors and may demand substantive adjustments. This is not to mention its ability to be disruptive. Therefore, while continual improvement is gradual and focuses on small changes that grow over time, change is immediate and implies some degree of shift in direction or strategy. I prefer continual improvement thanks to its ability to allow for steady progress without the disruption that often accompanies change. According to DuFour et al. (2024), Continued improvement also tends to be sustainable, which makes me prefer it over change.

Factors that distinguish continual improvement from change are, among other things, pace, scope, impact, and disruptions. Continual improvement is slow and steady as far as its pace is concerned. According to Kaplan and Owings (2023), scholars like Michael Fullan liken continual improvement to a journey whose ultimate outcome lies in its parts. On the other hand, change is rapid and demands quick, if not immediate, adaptation. When it comes to scope, continual improvement is narrow and specific, while change can be broad. Similarly, the





impacts of continual improvement are only felt when they are considered cumulatively, while change has transformative consequences that are felt immediately. According to Kaplan and Owings (2023), these notions are also captured in various conceptual models of change by scholars like KURT LEWIN, CHRIS ARGYRIS, ROBERT CHIN, etc., all of whom tried to understand and explain the concept in detail.

Being results oriented dovetails more with the notion of continual improvement as the later places more emphasis on small, steady and specific achievements. The incremental nature of continual improvement implies that it allows for repeated assessment and adjustment as necessary. According to Dues (2023), the overall net effects is that efforts are always geared towards intended results.

Trust is critical when it comes to transitioning to result-oriented and continual improvement among staff because it guarantees a safe environment where all can collaborate (Dues et al., 2023). According to DuFour et al. (2024), in high-trust environments, staff are more willing to embrace new practices and focus on achieving shared goals. The overall net effect is a reduction in resistance and enhancement of mutual support, all of which are key when it comes to successful continual improvements. These notions are also reiterated by Kaplan and Owings (2023), who hold that trust results in not just honest and open communication but also tangible support that ensures continual improvements can be sustained over time for its cumulative impacts to be felt/realized.



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