

Roles and Responsibilities in Six Sigma Projects



KEY LEARNINGS: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN SIX SIGMA PROJECTS

1. Introduction: Why People Matter in Six Sigma

- Tools don't fix problems—people do.
- Six Sigma roles ensure alignment, execution, and success.
- These roles range from top-level strategists to hands-on problem solvers.

2. Key Six Sigma Roles

1. Executive Leadership: The Visionaries

- Who they are: Senior executives and top management.
 - What they do: Set the strategic direction for Six Sigma projects.
 - Approve resources and budgets.
 - Ensure company-wide alignment.
- Example: Jack Welch at General Electric championed Six Sigma, transforming GE into a global efficiency powerhouse.

2. Project Champions: The Navigators

- Who they are: High-level managers ensuring Six Sigma success.
 - What they do: Bridge the gap between executives and project teams.
 - Resolve conflicts and keep projects aligned with business goals.
 - Remove roadblocks to implementation.
- Example: Motorola's Project Champions ensured that teams didn't lose focus when priorities clashed.

3. Master Black Belts: The Mentors

- Who they are: High-level Six Sigma experts and strategists.
 - What they do: Train and mentor Black Belts and Green Belts.
 - Oversee Six Sigma across multiple projects and departments.
 - Provide technical expertise and problem-solving guidance.
- Example: Like Yoda training Jedi, Master Black Belts guide Six Sigma leaders to success.

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4. Black Belts: The Cross-Functional Project Leaders

- Who they are: Full-time Six Sigma professionals.
 - What they do: Lead Six Sigma projects and drive major process improvements.
 - Solve complex business problems using data-driven methods.
 - Work across departments to optimize efficiency.
- Example: Motorola's Black Belts led Six Sigma projects that dramatically improved production efficiency.

5. Green Belts: The Doers

- Who they are: Employees trained in Six Sigma, balancing it with their primary job.
 - What they do: Lead smaller projects within their own departments.
 - Collect and analyze data to support Black Belt-led projects.
 - Identify process inefficiencies and suggest improvements.
- Example: A Green Belt at a retail company discovers checkout bottlenecks, leading to a 20% increase in sales.

6. Yellow Belts: The Scouts

- Who they are: Employees with basic Six Sigma training.
 - What they do: Support improvement efforts in an entry-level capacity.
 - Help map out processes and identify inefficiencies.
 - Provide observations and data collection for larger projects.
- Analogy: Scouts gathering information before major changes are made.

7. White Belts: The Beginners

- Who they are: Employees new to Six Sigma.
 - What they do: Learn the fundamentals of Six Sigma.
 - Identify inefficiencies in their own work environments.
 - Provide support in early-stage Six Sigma projects.
- Analogy: Seedlings of Six Sigma that grow into future problem-solvers.

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3. The Power of a Unified Team

- Six Sigma is not just about tools—it's about teamwork.
- When Executive Leadership, Black Belts, Green Belts, and others work together, they drive measurable, lasting improvements.
- Every role plays a part in turning strategy into success.