QFD 2000: Integrating QFD and Other Quality Methods to Improve the New Product Development Process

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Abstract

Competitiveness in the new millennium may belong more to those who can integrate a multitude of disciplines into a system, rather than to those who expect a single unnuanced tool to do it all. The House of Quality is really more of a "great room" to which various "outbuildings" and other structures must connect. This paper shows where well-known quality and other tools such as Consumer Encounters, New Lanchester Strategy, Kansei Engineering, Theory of Constraints, TRIZ, Voice of Customer Analysis, FMEA, SPC, and other methods can be integrated into the New Product Development Process.

Key Words

QFD, New Product Development, Kansei Engineering, TRIZ, Voice of Customer

Demand for New Products

Modern consumerism has resulted in ever-increasing customer demands for differentiated products that meet individualized needs for convenience, functionality, and image. Manufacturers have become more adept at responding to this demand with such systemic changes as Lean Manufacturing [Womack], Flexible Manufacturing Systems, MRP (Materials Resource Planning), and ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning). Service providers such as financial institutions, retailers, and others are beginning to achieve this with software and high tech solutions such as websites that deliver targeted messages to customers. In other words, technology is feeding this frenzy for individualized products and services, and the trend ought to continue as the number of households with personal computers and high-speed access grows.

Geography now plays an increasing role for both new markets and sources of new competition. Countries less invested in older technologies are often more willing to offer the improved functionality, performance, and reliability associated with new technology. Thus, there are opportunities for companies to sell in new geographical markets (providing they adapt to cultural differences [Ronney et al], and there are threats from new competitors with lower costs, newer technology, etc.

Quality and New Product Development

W.E. Deming, often named as the father of modern quality management, discussed consumerism as people's desire to improve their lives, especially in this Information Age where it is easy to see how others live. Trade is necessary to accomplish this, and trade depended on quality, which exists "if it helps somebody and enjoys a good and sustainable market." He warned that it is insufficient to merely satisfy customers, build loyalty, and eliminate defects. Customers access information and are rapid learners, and will switch if they think they will come out ahead. "It is necessary to innovate, to predict the needs of the customer, give him more" [Deming].

We must continuously investigate what product or service would help our customers more. They demand improvements in style, comfort, performance, and functionality, whatever these words mean in their minds. Traditional quality methods which focus on improving established products and processes have spawned new approaches, such as Quality Function Deployment, that better address the new product development process (NPD).

Traditional market researchers, long the bastion NPD activities, are also finding that QFD can lead to a clearer definition of customer needs, better product concepts, and improved communication to internal operations that must then produce and deliver the product. Using tools and techniques from Comprehensive QFD:

- Rubbermaid was able to significantly improve consumer panel acceptance rate of their new product concepts [Rings, Barton, and Mazur]
- Most-Marriott was able to identify an underserved market of business women air travelers and offer them a wide choice of bagels baked fresh in the airport concourse, resulting in sales doubling in just 30 days [Lampa and Mazur]
- MD Robotics, a supplier of robotic arms to NASA, was stymied in building an animatronic Triceratops for Universal Studios Florida's new Jurassic Park, until they visited a children's petting zoo to see what customers really cared about [Bolt and Mazur].

QFD goes beyond the product, however. True to Deming's belief that quality requires management and leadership, QFD addresses both the quality of the product and the management of the process to develop it. The QFD tools for developing the quality of the product are well known and include the House of Quality, Affinity Diagrams, Hierarchy Diagrams, etc. Lesser known are those for managing the product development process.

In Mizuno and Akao's pioneering work in QFD in the 1960s, Value Engineering techniques such as Function Analysis were applied not just to the product functions, but also to improve the business and operation functions of the NPD organization [Mizuno and Akao]. Tables, hierarchies, flow charts, and Quality Assurance Networks were the tools of choice. In more recent years, Akao has integrated ISO 9000 and related methods to improve NPD organizational effectiveness [Akao and Mazur], and by examining the internal back office activities of service organizations [Akao and Inayoshi] and hospitals [Akao and Fujimoto].

Modern Quality Tools

In addition to QFD, there are numerous tools and techniques that can aid new product developers. This paper will identify those I call "quality" tools because they meet the following criteria:

- they are measurable or use metrics
- they systematically follow defined steps with input, analysis, output
- they create documentation for review and reuse.

This paper is not an exhaustive list of tools and their utility to NPD, and readers may email regarding omissions and errors to **glenn@mazur.com**. The following tools will be examined, and readers wishing to better familiarize themselves with them, will find a list of resources at the end. In alphabetical order:

- 1. <u>Analytic Hierarchy Process</u> (AHP), including structure and prioritization of judgment criteria, prioritization of alternatives, and Analytic Network Process (ANP).
- 2. <u>Balanced Scorecard</u>, a system that measures and manages corporate goals such as mission, vision, customer and employee satisfaction.
- 3. <u>Blitz QFD</u>, a fast, matrix-less approach to addressing only the most critical customer needs.
- 4. Conjoint Analysis, a mathematical model of determining consumer preferences.
- 5. Consumer Encounters, combines gemba visits and consumer panel testing.
- 6. <u>Customer Integrated Decision Making</u> (CIDM), a business front end to QFD
- 7. <u>deBono</u>'s creativity methods, including Lateral Thinking, Provocation, Six Thinking Hats.
- 8. <u>Deming</u> approach to quality, including his 14 Points and System of Profound Knowledge.
- 9. <u>Gemba Visit</u>, an observational approach to consumer behavior to uncover true requirements.
- 10. Hoshin Planning, to develop, target, and deploy strategic initiatives.
- 11. <u>Kano Model</u>, a unique interviewing method using paired inverse questions to differentiate exciting, normal, and expected quality.
- 12. <u>Kansei Engineering</u>, a customer-driven approach to industrial design, including Semantic Differential, Quantification Methods, and Information Systems.
- 13. <u>Lead User Research</u>, a method for collaborating with technologically savvy users to develop breakthrough concepts for new products.
- 14. <u>Lean Manufacturing</u>, based on Toyota's Production System, aims to cut the non-value added "fat" out of manufacturing systems.
- 15. <u>New Lanchester Strategy</u>, which uses war and game theory, operations research to identify strategic market and product opportunities, including market share profiling, strategies for the strong, and strategies for the weak.
- 16. <u>Neural Linguistic Programming</u> (NLP), a set of skills for psychologically influencing people, such as body language, verbal cues, etc.
- 17. <u>Project Management</u>, including Critical Path Method (CPM), PERT, and Gantt charts.
- 18. Pugh Concept Selection, a method to evaluate and improve new concepts.

- 19. <u>QFD (Comprehensive)</u>, including its many deployments of Organization, Schedule, Core Competencies Matrix, Customer Segments Table, Customer Process Table, Voice of Customer Tables, House of Quality, Function, Technology, Reliability, Capability (Tech. Map), Pugh Concept, Parts, Test, Manufacturing, Production, and Task.
- 20. <u>Reliability</u>, to prevent defects from being introduced during product design, including three types of Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA), Fault Tree Analysis.
- 21. Seeds to Needs QFD, a technology driven QFD.
- 22. <u>Seven Management and Planning Tools</u> (7MP), a set of tools for managers to collect qualitative data and solve organizational and design problems.
- 23. <u>Seven Product Planning Tools</u> (7PP), a system to use market research tools more effectively.
- 24. <u>Seven Quality Control Tools</u> (7QC), a set of tools for front line employees to collect quantitative data and solve quality problems.
- 25. <u>Six Sigma</u>, an update of TQM methods, including Statistical Process Control (SPC), Statistical Quality Control (SQC), Analysis of Variation (ANOVA).
- 26. Software Engineering tools to better understand processes.
- 27. Stage-Gate, systematically applies go/no go decisions throughout NDP process.
- 28. <u>Strategic Information Systems</u> (SIS) to use point-of-sale purchase information to seamlessly coordinate and forecast consumer purchases.
- 29. Supply Chain Management
- 30. Taguchi Methods for Design of Experiments, Loss Function, Design Optimization.
- 31. <u>Theory of Constraints</u> to understand how to increase throughput of products into the customers' hands, including Thinking Process, Trees, Layers of Resistance, and Critical Chain.
- 32. <u>Total Quality Management</u> (TQM) methods for improving the quality of products and processes, including Daily Management, Kaizen, QI Story, 5 S, Pokayoke, Total Production Maintenance and Total Preventive Maintenance (TPM), Quality Control, and Quality Assurance.
- 33. <u>TRIZ</u>, a Russian system of inventive problem solving, including Table of Contradictions, Problem Formulator, Innovative System Questionnaire, ARIZ, Anticipatory Failure Determination, Directed Evolution, Su-Field Analysis.
- 34. <u>Value Engineering</u>, a dogged approach to uncovering cost reduction opportunities and improving product function, including FAST diagrams, Value Analysis, and Function Analysis.

New Product Development Process

Design and development of new products is a multi-disciplinary activity that involves different people at different times, and will vary according to the company, its customers, and the subject product. In a landmark study, Robert Cooper surveyed 123 industrial companies regarding how well they performed their new product development process; the results showed that for the 13 most common NPD phases, companies averaged a rating between 5.27 - 6.96 on a scale of 10 [Cooper]. (**Figure 1.**) The author believes that the above quality tools could help improve the NPD process.

The following table will show each phase, the tasks required of each phase, and which tools would be useful. A case study will be referenced, when possible. Phases marked with a * are those that Cooper's study showed were most in need of improvement.

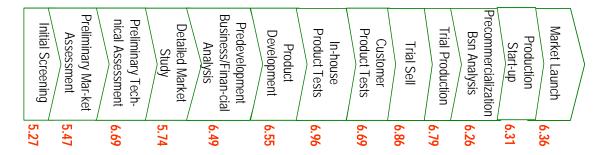


Figure 1 Self-evaluation of NPD efforts [Cooper].

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NPD Stage	NPD Phase (*needs to improve)	NPD Task	Quality Tool			
Idea	Generate Concept (not in Cooper's model)	Generate new product concepts to be screened	Consumer Encounter, Lead User Research, Seed to Needs QFD, 7PP, TRIZ			
	Initial Screening *	Formalize Go/Kill criteria Prioritize Go/Kill criteria Multi-disciplinary evaluation	Hoshin Planning, 7MP, Project Goals Deployment AHP AHP			
	Prelimi- nary Mar- ket As- sessment	Determine market potential Determine expected market penetration Focused definition of market	CIDM New Lanchester Strategy Customer Segments Table, CIDM			
		Contact customers directly Sales Force Review Competitors Products	Consumer Encounters, Conjoint Analysis, Lead User Research, 7PP, CIDM New Lanchester Strategy Consumer Encounters			
	Preliminary Technical Assessment	First Technical Appraisal	AHP, Seed to Needs QFD, Lead User Research, House of Quality, Core Com- petencies Matrix, Technology Map			

		Study competitive	Gamba vicite Quality Planning Table
Detailed Investigation		Study competitive	Gemba visits, Quality Planning Table
		products and prices	(HoQ right room)
		Determine cus-	Voice of Customer Tables, 7MP, Customer Process Table, Kangai Engineer
		tomer needs and	tomer Process Table, Kansei Engineer-
	Detailed Market Study *	wants	ing, NLP, S/W Eng Tools, TOC (Evapo-
			rating Cloud), VE (FAST), AHP
		Generate product	Design Planning Table (HoQ basement),
		specifications	Taguchi Methods, Kansei Engineering<
			FMEA
		Market research	Project goals deployment
		objectives	
		Clarify target seg-	Customer Segments Table
		ment	
		Determine market	New Lanchester Strategy
		size	
		Test concept with	Conjoint Analysis, Kano, ANP
		customers	
	Predevel-	Multi-disciplinary	Cross-Functional Management, Narrow
	opment Business/ Financial Analysis	input	QFD, Hoshin, 7MP, VE
		Confirm market	New Lanchester Strategy
		information	
		Business analysis	Project Goals, Org Goals
	Product Develop- ment	Design Product	Blitz QFD, Kansei, CIDM, Lead User,
			HoQ, Function D., Reliability D., Parts
			Deployments, 7MP,
		Resolve technical	deBono, Lead User, Pugh, Technology
velopment		difficulties	Deployment, Capability Deployment,
			FMEA, FTA, Taguchi, TRIZ, VE
		Resolve resource	Schedule Deployment, VE, Task De-
		constraints	ployment, TOC
;ve]		Develop Manuf	Manufacturing Deployment, Task De-
De		Plan, Facilities	ployment, TOC, TRIZ, TQM, Lean Mfg
		Plan, Training	
	In-house Product Tests	Strengthen test	Test Deployment
		procedures	
		Test product	Taguchi, Pugh, Reliability Depl., FMEA,
		*	7QC, TRIZ
Test & Validate	Customer Product Tests	Show customer	Conjoint Analysis, Kano
		sample or proto-	
		type	
		Design customer	
		test	
		Observe customer	Gemba Visit, Customer Process Table
		using product	
	l	6 F	I .

		Cougo merizat aa	
	Trial Sell	Gauge market ac-	
		ceptance	C + C + T11
	*	Define test market	Customer Segments Table
		Objectively meas-	Project Goals Deployment
		ure results	
	Trial Production	Test production	Process FMEA, TRIZ, Production Depl.,
		system	Taguchi, TPM
		Test production	Process FMEA, 7QC, Pokayoke
		equipment	
		Check product	7QC, SPC, SQC, Design review
		against specs	_
		Confirm produc-	Cross-Functional Mgt – Delivery, TOC
		tion volumes	
		Detailed financial	Project Goals Depl,
		analysis	J
		Detailed market	New Lanchester Strategy
	Pre-	information review	The Williams State
	commercialization Business Analysis Production Start-up	(sales forecasting,	
th Th		marketing costs)	
Full Production & Market Launch		Detailed cost re-	VE, CFM – Cost, TOC, Supply Chain
Laı		view	Mgt, Lean Mfg
et]		Final Go/Kill deci-	Project Goals Depl., House of Quality
ark		sion	1 Toject Goals Dept., House of Quanty
M		Review/change	Production Depl., QI Story, SPC, 7QC,
8		production facili-	Pokayoke, 5S, TPM, TOC, Lean Mfg,
ion		_ -	
ıcti		ties, operator train-	Supply Chain Mgt
odı		ing	New Londhaster Chartery
Pr	Market Launch	Advertise and pro-	New Lanchester Strategy
u]]		mote product	D : (C 1 D 1 O 1; D) :
Ţ		Confirm marketing	Project Goals Depl, Quality Planning
		objectives	Table (Rt room in HoQ)
		Communication	Narrow QFD, 7MP, CFM-Delivery,
		among sakes, mar-	
		keting, production	
		Train sales force	New Lanchester Strategy
Project/ Process Man- agement	Manage		Critical Chain Project Management,
	New De-		Stage-Gate, Balanced Scorecard
	velopment		
F F	Process		

While this list is by no means exhaustive, marketers, engineers, and quality professionals should find it useful for improving the quality of the NPD process by integrating the traditional quality methods with marketing methods and creativity methods. No single project needs every tool because time-to-market would suffer. Rather, it is recommended that each organization review their NPD process, starting with the phases Cooper found

weak (marked with a *) and apply whichever tools are necessary to strengthen this most important business activity.

Resources for QFD and Other Quality Methods

Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Analytic Network Process (ANP)

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Glenn H. Mazur has been active in QFD since its inception in North America, and has worked extensively with the founders of QFD on their teaching and consulting visits from Japan. His primary focus is in the service industry, as a manager for over 15 years in automobile repair and parts warehousing, as a teacher, and as an owner of a translating and consulting business he started in 1982. He is one of North America's leaders in the application of QFD to service industries, sits on several advanced QFD research committees, and sits on the steering committee of the Symposium on Quality Function Deployment held annually in Detroit. He is also Executive Director of the non-profit QFD Institute and the International Council for QFD. He is an Adjunct Lecturer of Total Quality Management at the University of Michigan College of Engineering. He lectures and trains in QFD worldwide. Mazur holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Japanese Language and Literature, both from the University of Michigan. In 1998, he was awarded the Akao Prize for Excellence in QFD. He can be reached at glenn@mazur.com or fax: +1-734-995-3810

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