

D.I.AL.O.G: Organizational Assessment Instrument

Successful organizations are continually looking for ways and areas to improve in order to gain a competitive advantage. Two critical questions that are often asked by senior management are, “How do we know that resources are being properly allocated, and how can we better utilize our limited resources?” These questions have moved organization development experts to examine the whole issue of what are critical elements which contribute to organizational success. As a result of this examination, we have discovered that when an organization’s systems and departments are aligned, the greater their success.

We know that the interrelationships of processes and departments within an organization are an important element in determining overall success. If the marketing and R&D departments are both strong, but they are not working together, the result will be the identification of products or services the no one wants. By the same token if an organization’s structure does not support its strategy, the organization is out of alignment and the strategy will probably not be achieved. Organizations that learn to identify new relationships between what they do and the results they seek can further increase the gap between themselves and their competitors.

This is important in today’s business environment. Constant radical change, uncertainty, new rules and regulations, increased customer demands, proliferate our daily

business environment. How to manage it and how to thrive under these conditions depends a great deal upon how well your organization is aligned.

What is D.I.AL.OG.?

D.I.AL.O.G. (Data Indicating Alignment of Organizational Goals) is an organizational tool that provides information as to how well critical elements are working together to achieve business and strategic goals. It also identifies which of these critical elements are working against you. This approach is unique in that it measures the interrelationships of the essential elements which become predictors of future strength. This tool does not measure communication for communications sake, but rather how effectively is an organization communicating its strategy and goals to its employees. This approach is outcome focused rather than simply measuring non-relevant activities.

How to Get Started

First, senior management must determine there is a need for data in order to better understand their organization. Second, they must be committed to using this data to better allocate their resources to improve results. After this determination is made, an approach can be developed to gather the data from the organization.

Gathering the Data

Two methods are utilized in gathering organizational data: **Personal Interviews** and a **Confidential Online Survey**. Personal interviews are conducted by a trained facilitator to gain an understanding of the intensity of feelings within the organization. The survey is used to gather the depth of understanding, the views of the employees, and to determine directional trends.

What Does the Data Measure?

There are 7 critical areas that are measured. After years of research and validation these 7 areas have been found to be those with the greatest impact upon the development of organizational effectiveness. They are also the 7 areas that have been identified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and make up the Criteria for Performance Excellence as used in the Baldrige National Quality Program.

The D.I.AL.OG. Assessment Tool Program

- Personal Interviews
- Administration of the Confidential Online D.I.AL.O.G. Instrument
- Scoring of Responses
- Presentation of Results
- Discussion of Positive and Negative Influences
- Provide “Gap Analysis” and Directional Recommendations