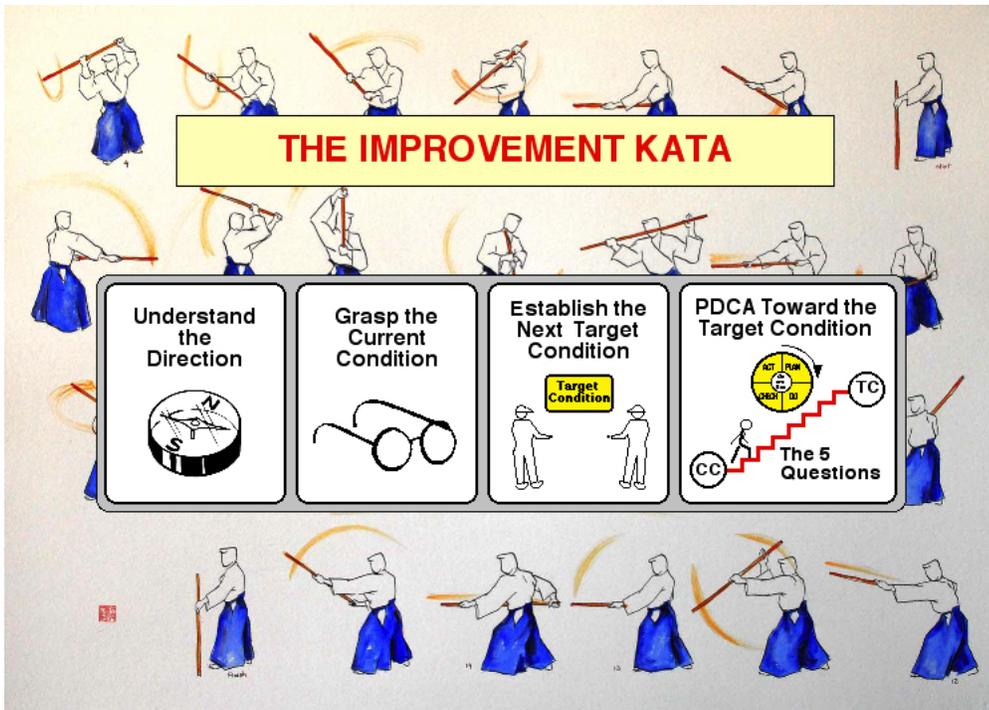


What is a Kata?

A kata is a pattern you practice to learn a skill and mindset. Through practice the pattern of a kata becomes second nature - done with little conscious attention - and readily available. Examples are riding a bicycle, driving a car, typing. People who have learned to drive don't think much about using the car's controls. They focus on navigating the road ahead.

What is the Improvement Kata?

Ask yourself: *What patterns of thought and action do we practice and reinforce every day in our organization?*



The pattern of the improvement kata is a fundamental pattern for improving, adapting and innovating. The improvement kata is scientific, goal-directed working, not random hunting for opportunities or disconnected reaction to problems. Practicing it helps us get better at meeting challenges in business and in many other endeavors. Think of the improvement kata as a "meta-habit" that aims to change our mental operating system so our human capabilities come to greater fruition.

The improvement kata is the context within which lean tools are intended to be applied. Without it you won't get continuous improvement. In the lean environment, the improvement kata pattern is reinforced in daily management, daily problem solving, quality circles, improvement events & A3s. A version of the improvement-kata pattern is embedded in each of these activities.

The overall goal, as with any kata, is to make the pattern and mindset of the improvement kata an autonomic habit. This happens through deliberate, coached practice in daily work.

What is a Kata?

The Improvement Kata impacts your organization by:

- Providing a systematic, scientific routine that can be applied to any goal.
- Commonizing how the members of an organization navigate uncertainty and develop solutions.
- Migrating managers toward a role of coach and mentor, by teaching them to conduct coaching cycles.
- Actualizing PDCA in a way that has people learning from small steps every day.



Source:

