


Reinforcing Loops for Systems Change in TPP Programs

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Learning Objectives


By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify a reinforcing loop
2. Describe the anatomy of a reinforcing loop
3. Tell a reinforcing story
4. Apply the concept of reinforcing loops to elements within systems in TPP programs

? **Poll:** How confident are you in recognizing a reinforcing loop?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not confident
- Never heard of a reinforcing loop before now

Presenter



Sheri Marlin, She/Her
Waters Center for Systems Thinking

What do you think of when you hear “feedback”?

YOUR BOSS

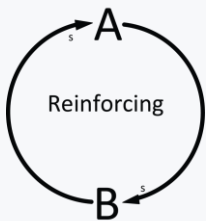


A SOUND SYSTEM

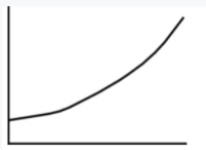
What is a reinforcing loop?

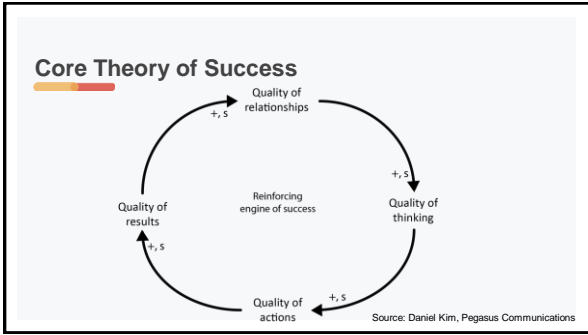


Reinforcing feedback loop

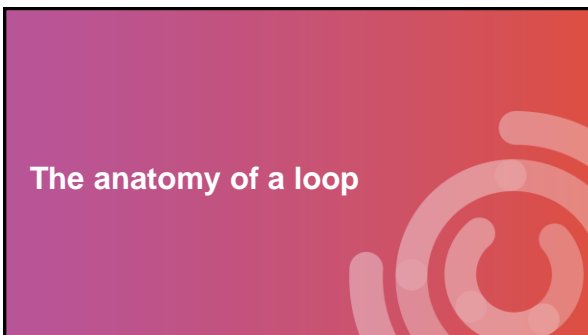


Reinforcing Growth

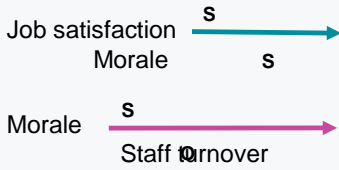








Drawing causal links



Causal link practice



Causal link practice

Think about a feedback scenario that is relevant to your work. Make one set of causal links that changes in the same direction (label the arrow 's') and one set that changes in the opposite direction (label the arrow 'o').

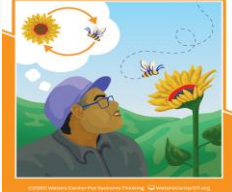
Be prepared to share the story of your links in a breakout group.



Applying reinforcing feedback in your own system

Feedback Loops

IDENTIFIES THE **CIRCULAR NATURE** OF COMPLEX CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS



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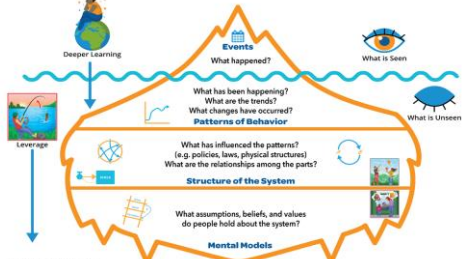
Hunger
Eating

A Systems Thinker sees the interdependencies in a system and uncovers circular causal connections.

Questions to Ask

How do parts affect one another?
Where does circular causality/feedback emerge?
Is one feedback loop more influential over time than another? If yes, how?

Why are mental models important?



Deeper Learning

Leverage

Events
What happened?

What is Seen

What is Unseen

What has been happening?
What are the trends?
What changes have occurred?
Patterns of Behavior

What has influenced the patterns?
(e.g. policies, laws, physical structures)
What are the relationships among the parts?
Structure of the System

What assumptions, beliefs, and values do people hold about the system?
Mental Models

Habits of a Systems Thinker



Q&A | What questions do you have for Sheri?


Check-in









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