



## **TQM and Six Sigma: A Literature Review of Similarities, Dissimilarities and Criticisms**

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### **Abstract**

This paper discusses the similarity and dissimilarity between TQM and Six Sigma methodologies. Specifically, it contributes by revealing the resemblances and divergences between CSF's of TQM and Six Sigma. The discussion arises firstly based on the considerable criticisms appears in the literature concerning this controversy: Six Sigma is a repackage of TQM or Six Sigma is an extension of TQM?. As of interest to resolve this controversy, a research framework is developed preceded by a theoretical background of the basics, strategies, objectives and CSF's of each methodology. The primary proposition of this work is that the implementation of Six Sigma CSF's are based on the major part on the TQM CSF's. Firstly, this paper reveals that Six Sigma is an extension of TQM and stresses its distinguished characteristics compared to TQM.

**Keywords:** TQM, six sigma, similarities and dissimilarities, critical success factors (CSF's), literature review.

### **Introduction**

The Six Sigma quality enhancement approach has obtained recognition in the previous few years as more and more corporations affirm its effectiveness in developing their bottom lines. Companies need to focus on creating Six Sigma projects that are aligned to the business needs (e.g. creating more customers and cash). Customers increasingly require on the quality of the supplied product which leads companies to strive excellence or at least to strive for perfection in order to satisfy more customers. This paper discusses the similarities and dissimilarities between TQM and Six Sigma. We consider that such discussion is essential for these subsequent reasons: to specify the distinguished characteristics of each methodology, to clarify the principal criteria of TQM presented in Six Sigma and to stress the value added of Six Sigma approach.

Firstly, from a TQM perspective, this discussion emphasizes on the importance of TQM as an evolving system of practices, tools, and training methods for managing companies to provide customer satisfaction in a rapidly changing world (Shiba, Graham, & Walden, 1993; Hellsten &

Klefsjo,2000). However, the intensification of competitiveness and the fluctuation of industrial market were pushing the companies to ameliorate their products quality and services in order to maintain their place in the market. Secondly, Six Sigma is different from other process enhancement methodologies; so it will be precious to examine its impact on performance. Nevertheless, due to its similarity with other process development approaches, such as TQM, it is important to know its particularity (Shafer & Moeller, 2012). In this respect, the particular question can thus raise: What are the similarities and dissimilarities between TQM and Six Sigma based on CSFs?. Thirdly, the positive impact of Six Sigma approach has been the subject of various perspectives and criticisms and has gained considerable attention for both scholars and practitioners (Hoerl, 1998; Rucker, 2000; Roberts, 2004; Johnson, 2005; Foster, 2007). In spite of the well reputation of Six Sigma approach, there are small theories that stress the effectiveness of Six Sigma projects on organizational performance.

Some consider Six Sigma as an old approach in the new bottles or features. It is just a repackaging of habitual quality management which leads to various criticisms of quality system (Dahlgaard & Dahlgaardark, 2006). In view of that, there is a necessity to enhance the comprehension of the organizational program and the quality management project in order to have an exact point of view that can reduce vigilance against the implementation of Six Sigma method. Reviewing the historical quality management considering the TQM actions and Six Sigma, the approach of quality management development can be separated into two steps, namely PDCA management cycle associated with TQM activities and the DMAIC technique is linked to Six Sigma project.

Finally, this discussion on the similarities and dissimilarities between TQM and Six Sigma is important because conflicting arguments appear in the literature in regard if this relationship. This paper, therefore, look for resolving this debate from a theoretical perspective, thus leading to the development of suitable research work facilitating the understood of the relationship between TQM and Six Sigma.

The reminder of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 provides an over view of TQM and Six Sigma foundation, concepts, basic practices. Section 3 reveals the similarities and dissimilarities between TQM and Six Sigma based on CSFs. Section 4 stresses the main criticisms raised against TQM and Six Sigma and outlines the principal impediments of Six Sigma and the insufficiencies of TQM.

## **Literature review on TQM and Six Sigma**

### ***Historical essence of Quality Management***

The competitiveness of Japanese industries in the end of the 1970s had equaled or goes beyond the American industries. Generally, this was owing to the Japanese implementation of company-wide quality control (CWQC), (Powell, 1995). In eighteen years, Japanese CWQC had been simulated in the United States, and TQM rapidly became the dominant business strategy implemented by the industries all over the world.

The success of Japanese industries in implementing the TQM offers the opportunity to benefit from the production of excellent products at poorer cost. The popularity of "total quality" term begin in the USA in the 1970s, referred to the variety of Japanese basics resolution for quality, that facilitated Japanese economy restructure after the second world war. The establishment of TQM practices started in Japan in 1950s with huge contribution of American statisticians such as:

Deming and Juran. TQM confirmed to be a very successful management program and set of techniques and tools. TQM concepts have governed the management prospect for a few decades. In worldwide, a lot of organizations have tried to exploit TQM to attain an improvement of competitiveness and enhancement of financial results.

The field of quality was marked by the emergence of various management systems; one of these is the TQM. The definition of TQM approach can be assimilated to a holistic management philosophy focalized in the preservation and the continuous improvement of all activities inside an organization (Flynn, 1994). "TQM has become a core competency for firms that strive to achieve long-term business success. Consequently, firms have conferred an increasing importance on management practices based on quality, since these aim to eliminate sources of error and inefficiencies, which, in turn, can improve a firm's performance in terms of meeting customer requirements, and increasing organizational performance and employee job satisfaction". (Hackman & Wageman, 1995).

### ***Total Quality Management Concept***

TQM has embodied several definitions which have existed during the years. Dahlgaard, Kristensen, & Kanji, (1998) consider TQM as a corporate culture characterized by increased customer satisfaction through continuous improvement, in which all employees in the firm actively participate. Shiba et al. (1993), on the other hand, argue that TQM is an evolving system of practices, tools, and training methods for managing companies to provide customer satisfaction in a rapidly changing world. Hellsten & Klefsjo (2000) maintain the vision that TQM is an evolving system... as a continuously evolving management system consisting of values, methodologies and tools, the aim of which is to increase external and internal customer satisfaction with a reduced amount of resources.

### ***Essential Basics of TQM Practices***

Many research works have studied and investigated the essential basics and practices of TQM and have studied their link with innovation, performance (Roffe, 1999; Sila & Ebrahimpour 2002; Yang 2003a; Lakhal, Pasin, & Limam, 2006; Srinivasu, Sreenivasarao, & Rikkula, 2010).

Sila & Ebrahimpour (2002) and Yang (2003a) consider these list of principles elements of TQM: customer meeting and satisfaction; learning and training; top management support, commitment, involvement; teamwork; cooperation, employee participation; quality guarantee; quality information system and application; unremitting improvement; suppleness, benchmarking and tactic arrangement; process management; design of product, service and quality control; worker management and ability, and business quality culture.

Agus & Hassan (2011) investigated four essential basics of TQM practices that are: supplier relationships, benchmarking, quality measurement, and uninterrupted process development. Additional explanations on the four TQM elements are as follows:

- Supplier relations: producers should work strictly and helpfully with providers over the extended period to remove imperfections entirely.
- Benchmarking: Benchmarking return to investigate the best competitive practices to provide a road for lucid and rational performance objectives and to facilitate the identification of prospect for cost, product reliability and extra factors. As a result, efficiency, performance, and effectiveness can be improved (Kotler, 1994; Tillery & Rutledge, 1991; Zairi, 1998).
- Quality measurement: Quality measurement is an objective direction with steady performance measurement, frequently with the use of statistical analysis.

- Continuous process improvement: process improvement developed into a practice that maximizes effectiveness and efficiency while improving process control and strengthening internal mechanisms for answering to altering customer requirements (Mann, 1992; Shetty, 1987).

### *Historic of six sigma*

The launch of Six Sigma method began in Motorola by Smith in the late 1980s in the aim to deal with the company's continued problems of responding to the customer's expectations in a cost-effective manner (Srinivasu et al., 2010). Motorola is the pioneer in the implementation of Six Sigma methodology and the application of Six Sigma becomes widespread and integrated in other companies such as: General Electric (GE), Toyota, IBM, SONY and Nokia.

We can summarize the evolution of Six Sigma in three generations. The first generation focused on the reduction of process variability and the famous example is of Motorola company. The second generation focalized in developing the concept of the defect elimination in order to upgrade the performance of company by the diversities of tools and methods which are brought out in reduction of costs and improving product design. General electric is the suitable example that can be cited in this case regarding the perfect success realized in this decade. The third generation emphasized to create value for all the partners: employees' commodity, customers' satisfaction, suppliers' relationship, and the society in general. Caterpillar and Bank of America are excellent examples of Generation III of Six Sigma companies, for the reason that their implementations are focused on creating value for all stakeholders in the broad (Montgomery & Woodall, 2008).

### *Six Sigma Concept*

According to Pande (2002) and Eckes (2001) Six Sigma is considered as a 'breakthrough strategy' and more as a holistic quality philosophy. After in-depth studies, there are different manners to define Six Sigma methodology used by the practitioners and researchers. Three distinctive concepts facilitate the understanding of Six Sigma term. A measure (e.g. it measures a gap between process and perfection). A target (e.g. aims to achieve a level of 3.4 defects per million opportunities). A philosophy (e.g. it based on reducing costs strategy through the decrease of process variability).

### *The term Six Sigma is descriptive*

The Greek letter sigma ( $\sigma$ ) is the standard deviation, it's an important measure of variation, employed to describe the variability of the processes. The variation of a process refers to the degree of concentration of all results around the average. Six Sigma refers to the existence of six gap types between the average of the centre of process and the specification limit or nearest service level. Six Sigma is one of the most known mature approaches in industrial organization improvement. It is created to develop the process quality through some indicators which are based on the customer satisfaction. It delivers a business excellence value to customers through its strategic method.

There are several definitions proposed by many authors to underline the concept of six sigma. Some consider it as a strategy that focuses on reducing the variation in process, cutting costs and ameliorating customer satisfaction (Bendell, 2006). Others define it as a business strategy used to improve business profitability, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all operations to meet or exceed customer needs and expectations (Kwak & Anbari, 2006). Andersson, Eriksson, & Torstensson, (2006) consider it as an improvement program for reducing variation, which focuses

on continuous and breakthrough improvements. Lucas (2002) asserts that Six Sigma is essentially a methodology for disciplined quality improvement because this quality improvement is a prime ingredient of TQM. Many firms have found that adding a Six Sigma program to their current business system gives them all, or almost all, of the elements of TQM program. Lucas (2002) has thus concluded that: current business system plus Six Sigma are equal to total quality management. In current years, the Six Sigma method became the focus of academic researches. It is considered as a strategic issue of quality improvement based on the increase of process capability and the development of company performance (Dasgupta, 2003; Linderman, Schroeder, Zaheer, & Choo, 2003; Raisinghani, Ette, Pierce, Cannon & Daripaly, 2005; Schroeder, Linderman, Liedtke, & Choo, 2008). In the beginning, Six Sigma was qualified as methodology of quality measurement. In the last few years it was changed to become a sophisticated discipline focused on the improving of the process by the use of various techniques and statistical tools (Knowles, 2011). After a thorough reading of the literature we can classify the Six Sigma process in two complimented perspectives: statistical and business point of view. From statistical point of view, Six Sigma methods immerge from statistical tools and statisticians. From the business point of view, Six Sigma can be treated as business strategy focused in the achievement of a great effectiveness and efficiency to realize a suitable profitability and to respond to the customer's needs or to expect them (Antony & Banuelas, 2001).

### ***Six Sigma Core Practices***

The review of both research studies and practitioner literature on six sigma (Henderson, 2000; Antony & Banuelas 2002; Zu, Fredendall, & Douglas, 2008; Choo, Linderman, Schroeder 2007a,b; Kwak & Anbari, 2006; Harry & Schroeder, 2000; Srinivasu et al., 2010) allow the identification of three critical practices linked to Six Sigma implementation. These practices are: Six Sigma structured improvement procedure (*DMAIC and DMADV*), Six Sigma role structure, and Six Sigma focus on metrics.

#### ***Six Sigma Structure Improvement Procedure***

The Six Sigma DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control) method is applied for improving existing processes and looking for incremental improvement, while the Six Sigma DMADV (Define, Measure, Analyze, Design, and Verify) is used for improving new processes or products (Srinivasu et al. (2010)).

#### ***Six Sigma Role Structure***

The work of (Linderman et al., 2003; Antony & Banuelas, 2002; Sinha & Van de Ven, 2005; Zu et al., 2008) offers a detailed explanations of the Six Sigma experts role and functions from the highest level to lowest level. This classification is as follows: Champions, Master Black belt, Black belt, Green belt and Yellow belt.

#### ***Six Sigma Focus on Metrics***

The Six Sigma metrics are helpful tools to measure the process variability and to evaluate the company's performance. They allow the conduction of solutions for each DMAIC or DMADV step which is the distinguished characteristics of Six Sigma method compared to other quality management. Based on the work of (Natarajan, Senthil, Devadasan, & Mohan, 2011), we selected these principal tools of Six Sigma such as: FMEA (Failure mode and effects analysis), Control charts, DoE (design of experiments), process mapping, flow chart, SIPOC model, correlation studies, and measure of capability.

### **Comparison between TQM and Six Sigma**

Which distinguish Six Sigma approach to other programs TQM is linked to the specificity of Six Sigma which is a global approach of management structured with advanced statistical tools, its impact in cultural change, the implication and the training of all employees, it is distinguished by the quantifiable and measured tools, organized structure (Dahlgaard & Dahlgaard-Park, 2006) and the planning in selecting projects to attain zero defects.

Six Sigma approach emphasizes, at first, the critical criteria to the existing customers (Harry, 1998; Dasgupta, 2003; Linderman et al., 2003; Evans & Lindsay, 2005). Six Sigma provides to the organizations the ability to develop into extra ambidextrous by switching two structures (organic and mechanic). The first structure is used to develop new idea; in this case the company realizes an innovation. The second structure used when the company is interested by the efficiency (Schroeder, Linderman, Liedtke, & Choo, 2008). It is concerned as a challenge, that the double structures offer the advantage of switching both exploitation and exploration, to profit from both efficiency and innovation (March, 1991).

Choo, Linderman, & Schroeder (2007a) argue the ability of Six Sigma of maintaining equilibrium between the effective accomplishment and arranged methodology (e.g. technical tools such as quality control) and context (e.g. top management, organizational culture). The other programs of quality management such as: TQM, Business Process Reengineering are concentrated likely to Six Sigma approach in boosting rationality and developing organizational process (Hammer & Champy, 1993; Powel, 1995; Harry & Schroeder, 2000). However, the Six Sigma method is more oriented to reduce the process variability through sophisticated and advanced statistical tools and organizational challenge which provide a cultural change.

Anbari (2002) avows that Six Sigma methodology is more wide-ranging compared to their previous quality methods such as (TQM) and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). Six Sigma is more distinctive by the use of advanced statistical tools and it is a structured method that can be implemented in different sectors and not restricted to the manufacturing sector. He treats Six Sigma method as follows:

Six Sigma = TQM (or CQI) + Additional Data Analysis Tools + Stronger Customer Focus + Project Management + Financial Results

***Similarities between TQM and Six Sigma***

In the case of similarities between Six Sigma and TQM, Schroeder et al. (2008) propose these subsequent points:

- Generally TQM and Six Sigma accentuate the importance of attaining customer input and the employment of quality function exploitation in product/service design.
- Generally Six Sigma and TQM call attention to process ownership and have visibly identified processes.
- Generally programs identify the value of top management guidance and sustain.
- Concerning workers, they are stressed by the two approaches. But, the approaches differ in the staff involved. Especially, Six Sigma is inclined to resort on process enhancement experts, whereas TQM accentuates the involvement of every workers, particularly shop floor workers.
- Generally methodologies identifying the significance of gathering and treating quality data.

**Table 1.** Reveal of the authors' vision about the similarities and dissimilarities between TQM and Six Sigma

TQM	Six sigma
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<b>Concepts</b>	The quality evolution in Japan	The quality evolution in Japan and Motorola
<b>Theory</b>	Focus on customers	No defects
<b>Process view</b>	Improve and uniform processes	Reduce variation and improve processes
<b>Approach</b>	Let everybody be committed	Project management
<b>Methodologies</b>	PDSA (Plan, do, study, act)	Define, measure, analyze, improve (or Design), control (or verify)
<b>Tools</b>	Analytical and statistical tools	Advanced statistical and analytical tools
<b>Primary effects</b>	Increase customer satisfaction	Save money
<b>Secondary</b>	Achieves customer loyalty and improves	Achieves business goals and improves
<b>Effects</b>	Performance	Financial performance
<b>Criticism</b>	No tangible improvements, re-demanding, unclear notion	Does not involve everybody, does not improve customer satisfaction, does not have a system view

Source: Andersson et al. (2006)

- Substantial accent is agreed to meeting the requirements of the customer also in Six Sigma and TQM. Added details concerning the authors' visions about the similarities and dissimilarities between TQM and Six Sigma are given in Table 1.

*Similarities between CSFs of TQM and CSFs of Six Sigma*

In order to assess and to sustain the existence of similarities between the CSFs of TQM and six sigma, the identification of some research works that have been raised in this subject is precious. The questions that can be asked in this field are: What is the difference between the CSFs of TQM and Six Sigma? An outline of the main literature review of CSFs of TQM (Table 2) and Six Sigma (Table 3) is under-mentioned in the aim of assessing the similarities and dissimilarities between the research works focused on the CSFs of TQM and Six Sigma in different period. Many details are illustrated in Table 4 which outlines a literature review of rather general CSFs for Six Sigma and TQM.

**Table2.** Literature review of TQM CSFs

<b>Title of paper</b>	<b>Journal</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>CSFs of TQM</b>			
Critical success factors for total quality management implementation for in small and medium enterprises	Total quality management	Yusof & Aspinwall	2000
Critical success factors for TQM implementation and their impact on performance of SMEs	International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management	Salaheldin	2009
An investigation on the influence of total quality management on financial performance the case of Boutan industrial corporation	International Journal of Business and Social Science	Shahin	2011
<b>TQM and company's performance</b>			
An analysis of the relationship between total quality management implementation and organizational performance	Journal of Manufacturing Technology Management	Demirbag et al.	2006

Impact of TQM on company's performance	International journal of quality & reliability management	Kumar et al.	2009
Critical success factors of total quality management in the Indian automotive industry (NCR)	International Journal of Economy, Management and Social Sciences	Kalra & Pant	2013
<b>Methodology</b> A study of measuring the critical factors of quality management	International Journal of Quality & Reliability Management	Badri et al.	1995
Causation or covariation: An empirical re-examination of the link between TQM and financial performance	Journal of Operations Management	York & Miree	2004
Pareto analysis of critical success factors of total quality management A literature review and analysis	The TQM Magazine	Karuppusami & Gandhina than	2006
Measuring critical success factors of TQM implementation successfully – a systematic literature review	International Journal of Production Research.	Hietschold et al.	2014
<b>Rank of TQM</b> Identifying and ranking critical success factors for implementation of total quality management in the Indian manufacturing industry using TOPSIS	Asian Journal on Quality	Khanna & Sharma	2011
Analysis of critical success factors of world-class manufacturing practices: an application of interpretative structural modelling and interpretative ranking process.	Production Planning & Contro	Haleema et al.	2012
<b>Classification of CSF of TQM</b> Soft total quality management, hard total quality management, and Organizational performance relationship	The International Journal of Management Science	Rahman & Bullock	2005
Exploring soft versus hard factors for total quality management implementation in SMEs	International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management	Lewis & Lalla	2006
The relationship of performance with soft factors and quality Improvement	Total Quality Management& Business Excellence.	Abdullahan d Tari	2009
<b>Meta-Analysis</b> Essentials of total quality management: a meta-analysis.	International Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance	Mosadeghrad	2014

**Table 3.** Literature review of Six Sigma CSFs

<b>Title of paper</b>	<b>Journal</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>CSFs of Six sigma</b>			
Key ingredients for the effective implementation of six sigma program	Measuring Business Excellence	Antony & Banuelas	2002
Factors critical to the success of a Six Sigma quality program in an Australian hospital	Total Quality Management & Business Excellence	Hilton et al.	2008
Critical success factors for Six Sigma implementation	Journal of Contemporary Research in Management	Swami & Prasad	2010
Critical success factors of Six Sigma implementations in Italian companies	Int. J. Production Economics	Brun	2011
Critical success factors of Six Sigma in original equipment manufacturer company in Malaysia	International Journal of Synergy and Research	Leong & Teh	2012
An assessment of the critical success factors for Six Sigma implementation in Indian industries	International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management	Desai et al.	2012
Critical success factors for Six Sigma implementation by SMEs	International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research	Raghunath & Jayathirtha	2013
<b>Six Sigma and company's performance</b>			
Six sigma strategy for organizational excellence	Total Quality Management & Business Excellence	Thawani	2004
Six sigma, organizational learning and innovation: An integration and empirical examination	International Journal of Quality & Reliability Management	Sony & Naik	2012
Diagnosing of sustainable competitive advantage using Six Sigma methodology	International Journal of Business and Management	Mahdi & Almsafir	2012
Six Sigma adoption: Operating performance impacts and contextual drivers of success	Journal of Operations Management	Swink & Jacobs	2012
The effects of Six Sigma on corporate performance: An empirical investigation	Journal of Operations Management	Shafer & Moeller	2012
Linking Six Sigma to business strategy: an empirical study in Taiwan	Measuring Business Excellence	Cheng	2013
Investigation of Six Sigma practices and process innovation	International Journal of Innovation and Applied Studies	Khaidir et al.	2014
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>			
Developing an instrument for measuring Six Sigma implementation	Int. J. Services and Operations Management	Jones et al.	2011

On some aspects of developing an effective model for the implementation of Six Sigma concept in small and medium sized manufacturing enterprises in India.	International Journal of Management Science and Engineering Management	Hiregoudar & Soragao	2011
<b>Rank of CSF of six sigma</b>			
Fuzzy AHP approach to prioritization of critical success factors for six sigma implementation: evidence from the electronics industry in Thailand	International Journal of Modeling and Optimization	Somsuk & Simcharoen	2011
Prioritizing critical success factors for Six Sigma implementation using interpretive structural modeling	American Journal of Industrial and Business Management	Alidrisi	2014
<b>Classification of CSF of six sigma</b>			
Six Sigma's critical success factors and toolbox	International Journal of Lean Six Sigma	Ismyrlis & Moschidis	2013
Six Sigma implementation framework for mid-sized Indian automotive enterprises	Int. J. of Business Excellence	Sambhe & Dalu	2013
<b>Meta-analysis</b>			
Six sigma's success factors: A meta-analytic review	International Conference on Industrial Engineering	Tlapa et al.	2010
An exploration of six sigma's tools and techniques	International Conference on Industrial Engineering	Tlapa et al.	2010
<b>Comparative Studies TQM/six sigma</b>			
Six Sigma and total quality management: Different day, same soup?	Int. J. Six Sigma and Competitive Advantage	Klefsjö & Bergquist	2006
Similarities and differences between TQM, Six Sigma and Lean	The TQM Magazine	Andersson et al.	2006
Mapping the critical links between organizational culture and TQM/ Six Sigma practices	International Journal of Production Economics	Zu et al.	2010
Total quality management and six sigma: the integration of TQM and six-sigma	Open Access Chapter 9	Yang	2012
Quality management in heavy duty manufacturing industry: TQM vs. Six Sigma	Total Quality Management & Business Excellence	Sabet et al.	2014

**Table 4.** Literature review of the CSF's of Six Sigma and TQM

CSF's	Six Sigma/TQM
Business plan and vision	Coronado and Antony (2002) Dalton et al. (1996) Deming (1986) Henderson and Evans (2000) Juran (1989) Tari' (2005)
Top-management support (including funding)	Coronado and Antony (2002) Dalton et al. (1996) Deming (1986) Juran (1989) Tari' (2005)
Project management (including project champion and teamwork and composition)	Coronado and Antony (2002) Tari' (2005) Spector (2006)
Change management	Coronado and Antony (2002)
Organizational culture	Deming (1986) Dalton et al. (1996) Juran (1989) Spector (2006) Tari' (2005) Winter (1994)
Effective communication	Coronado and Antony (2002)
Education and training	Deming (1986)
knowledge transfer	Dalton et al. (1996)
knowledge management (including skills and expertise)	Juran (1989) Tari' (2005) Winter (1994)
Organizational structure	Coronado and Antony (2002) Garvin (1995) Keen and Knapp (1996) Tari' (2005)
Monitoring and evaluation of performance: performance measurements	Deming (1986) Juran (1989) Na'slund (1996)

Source: Näslund (2008)

Initially, we assess the resemblance of the studies developed to investigate the impact of the CSFs of TQM or of Six Sigma on the company organizational performance, on cultural change, the role of management commitment and support, the importance of training to enhance the employees skills, the impact TQM on financial performance, innovation (Salaheldin, 2009; Shahin, 2011; Kumar, Choisine, Grosbois, & Kumar, 2009; Demirbag et al., 2006; Kanji & Yui, 1997). Similarly, Six Sigma studies focused on the literature review of Six Sigma and its link with the company strategy (Thawani, 2004; Cheng, 2013) link with learning and innovation Sony and Naik (2012); Khaidir et al., (2014)), and how it brings competitive advantage (Mahdi & Almsafir, 2012), its impact on the corporate performance (Shafer & Moeller, 2012). As well, many studies have reviewed and investigated the Six Sigma CSF (Raghunath & Jayathirtha, 2013; Swink & Jacobs,

2012) and its impact on the company performance in different levels such as: cultural, financial, innovation, and training (Antony & Banuelas, 2002; Brun, 2011; Ismyrlis & Moschidis, 2013). Others focused on the prioritization of the CSF of six sigma (Somsuk & Simcharoen, 2011; Alidrisi, 2014). Previously, various studies investigated the CSF of TQM using fuzzy method (for example Kutlu & Kadaifci, 2014; Rezazadeh et al., 2012) focused on the evaluation and prioritization of the critical success factors of TQM implementation based on fuzzy AHP. Similarly, a fuzzy method has been adopted on Six Sigma by Somsuk & Simcharoen (2011) whose developed a fuzzy AHP approach to prioritization of critical success factors for Six Sigma implementation.

Some studies emphasized on the rank of CSF of TQM like the work of (Khanna, 2011) who stressed the importance of ranking CSFs for implementation of TQM to increase success rate, reduce costs and prevent failure. Others are interested to the adoption of meta-analysis for the essential of total quality management (Mosadeghrad, 2014). Correspondingly, Tlapa, Leal, Amaya, Limón, & Báez, (2010) developed a meta-analytic review of CSF of six sigma. Various researches developed constructive studies focused on the categorization of TQM practices in to soft and hard and their relationship with organizational performance, such as (Rahman & Bullock, 2005; Lewis & Lalla, 2006; Abdullah & Tari, 2009). In the same way, some studies investigated the soft and hard CSF of six sigma (Kundi, 2005; Ismyrlis & Moschidis, 2013).

The examination of these studies allows us to conclude that exist a similarities between the CSF of TQM employed and the CSF six sigma. Six Sigma is considered as an extension of TQM in the sense that is based on the CSF of TQM but it is distinguished by its three practices which are: Six Sigma procedure structure, Six Sigma structure improvement procedure and Six Sigma focuses on metrics. Subsequently, the value added of Six Sigma consists on a well structured method, advanced statistical tools and certified experts.

#### *Dissimilarities between TQM and six sigma*

In this part we are interested to reveal the dissimilarities between TQM and Six Sigma in term of strategy, methodology, tools based on SCFs. Many studies of comparison between different quality management approaches have been raised. Andersson et al. (2006) focused on similarities and differences between TQM, Six Sigma and lean. Na'slund (2008) purpose is to explore if the Six Sigma and lean are new methods or just a repackaging of previous methods. The study is based on a comparative literature review of lean with JIT and Six Sigma with TQM, and a review of critical success factors (CSF) for change efforts. The value of this research work resides on illuminating the difference between these four methods and it analyzed the lessons that can be learnt from organizational change and improvement efforts. Our objective is to stress only the distinctive aspects of Six Sigma and TQM. Chinvigai, Dafaoui, & EL Mhamedi, (2007) offers more details about the distinctive characteristic of each approach which are listed below in Table 5.

**Table 5.** The differences between TQM and Six Sigma

	<b>TQM</b>	<b>Six Sigma</b>
<b>Origin</b>	Japan	Japan - USA – Motorola
<b>Focus on</b>	Increase the customer satisfaction	- concentrate on reducing variability in process or product - process improvement
<b>Leadership</b>	Kaizen team and QCC group	Leadership (BB,GB)
<b>Participation in an organization</b>	the commitment and involvement of all employees	Employee and innovation (project teams)
<b>Process orientation</b>	Process Approach	Business process
<b>Methodology</b>	Continuous improvement (PDSA)	Product and process improvement (DMADV and DMAIC)
<b>Techniques and tools</b>	Analytical and Quality tools	Advance statistical and analytical tools
<b>Limitation</b>	- Unclear notion of TQM - Need to implement in the whole company together	cannot dramatically improve process speed or reduce invested capital

Source: Chinvigai et al. (2007)

#### TQM CSFs VS Six SigmaCSFs

Kalra & Pant (2013) investigated the critical success factors of total quality management in the Indian automotive industry and offered a literature review of the critical features of TQM based on the work of Black & Porter (1996) that highlighted eight critical success factors which are : policy and strategic planning, process management and control, suppliers focus and satisfaction, customer focus and satisfaction, human resource focus and satisfaction, information management, quality leadership and organizations specific business results. Additionally, based on literature review of various studies on TQM and six sigma, an outline of key CSFs of TQM (Table 6) and six sigma (Table 7) is shown below.

**Table 6.**Literature review of the CSFs of TQM implementation

<b>CSFs for TQM implementation</b>	<b>Literature review</b>
Management leadership	Yusof &Aspinwall (2000)
Continuous improvement system	
Measurement and feedback	
Improvement tools and techniques	
Supplier quality assurance	
Human resource development	
Systems and processes	
Resources	
Education and training	
Work environment	
Culture	Rahman’s (2001)
Leadership	
Strategy and planning	

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Employee empowerment and employee involvement	
employee	
Training and development	
Information and analysis and customer management	
Strategic quality management	Dayton (2003)
Quality data and reporting	Demirbag et al. (2006)
Role of top management	
Employee Relations	
Supplier quality management	
Training	
Quality policy	
Process Management	
Top management commitment	Das et al. (2008)
Process quality management	
Education and training	
Supplier quality management	
Employee empowerment and involvement	
Benchmarking	
Top management commitment	Gaddene & Sharma (2009)
Education and training;	
Supplier quality management	
Employee empowerment and involvement	
Benchmarking	
Top management commitment	Koh & Low (2010)
Process quality management	
Supplier quality management	
Customer	
Information	

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**Table 7.**Literature review of Six Sigma CSFs

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<b>Six Sigma CSFs</b>	<b>Literature review</b>
Management commitment and involvement	Antony & Banuelas (2002)
Understanding of Six Sigma methodology	
Tools and techniques	
Linking Six Sigma to business strategy	
Linking Six Sigma to strategy	
Project selection	
Review and tracking	

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Linking Six Sigma to business strategy	Antony (2004)
Customer focus	
Project management skills	
Executive leadership and senior management commitment	
Organizational infrastructure	
Project selection and prioritization	
Management of cultural change	
Integration of Six Sigma with financial accountability	
Understanding the DMAIC methodology	
Training and education	
Project tracking and reviews	
Incentive program	
Company-wide commitment	
Management involvement and participation	Antony & Kumar (2005)
Linking Six Sigma to customers	
Linking Six Sigma to business strategy	
Top management support	Fredendall, et al. (2006)
Customer relationship	
Supplier relationship	
Workforce management	
Quality information	
Product/service design	
Process management	
Six-sigma role structure	
Structured improvement procedure	
DMAIC	Schroeder et al. (2008)
Training	
Employee involvement and participation	
Team	
Customers	
Financial performance metrics	
Suppliers	
Communication	
Solving problems methods	
Top five ranks of CSFs as follows:	Dileep et al. (2009)
Top management	
Leadership and commitment	
Well implemented the system of customer satisfaction	
Education and training	
Well-organized information and analysis system	
Well-implemented process management system	
Top management commitment	Rohani et al. (2010)
Teamwork	
Training and education	
Control charts	
Identification of process/product parameter	
Process prioritization and identification	
Measurement systems analysis	

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Pilot project  
Use of facilitator  
Cultural change and deployment

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*The most inclusive list of success factors of TQM and Six Sigma*

Based on the literature review of (Zairi, 2005; Deming, 1986; Juran, 1993; Lloréns-Montes & Molina, 2006) the most inclusive list of success factors and further researchers in TQM and Six Sigma are as follows: top management factor, inclusive of corporate strategy, management leadership, fact-based decision-making, cross-functional project teamwork, reward schemes and explicit and challenging goals; and organizational characteristics factor, inclusive of customer focus, firm internal constraints, organizational culture, continuous training and learning, Six Sigma role structure and company size.

**Criticisms of Six Sigma and total quality management**

The recent paragraph gives a global idea of the main criticisms developed against Six Sigma and TQM by stressing the key characteristics of TQM presented in Six Sigma, the reason of Six Sigma success and the obstacles and insufficiencies of the two approaches (Rahman, 2007; Goh, 2010; Jun, Cai, & Peterson, (2010); Cândido & Santos, 2011; Grima, Marco-Almagro, Santiago, & Tort-Martorell, 2014).

*The main Characteristics of TQM presented in Six Sigma*

According to the point of view of Antony (2009), it exists some of the characters of TQM that are imitated in Six Sigma program, "A customer-centric approach; process view of work; a continuous improvement mindset; improving all aspects and functions of the organization; data-based decision making; and the use of statistical tools on a broad basis". Kedar, Lakhe, Deshpande, Washimkar, & Wakhare, (2008) consider that Six Sigma provides obvious change of structure and is greatly extra orientated on quick and concrete results compared to TQM and Lean. Näslund (2008) highlights that Six Sigma is an advance improvement of TQM. He discovers similarities in the problem solving process (Deming wheel and DMAIC cycle), the value of top management engagement, the crucial worker implication, and in statistical methods.

The dual aspect of Six Sigma includes both the "deployment" and "methods and tools" which distinguishes the Six Sigma approach from other management projects such as TQM. However the majority of techniques and tools of Six Sigma were previously employed in TQM program which leads to conclude that are not in fact newness in this case. The addition of Six Sigma consists in the well organized structure which focuses on strong difficulties solving techniques and tools based in the DMAIC support (Antony, 2009).

*Six Sigma is considered as an Extension of the Total Quality Management*

Six Sigma is a helpful management philosophy and problem-solving method, and it is considered as an extension of TQM which is founded on the principles and knowledge of the PDCA management cycle. Lucas (2002) discovers that Six Sigma utilizes a modified PDCA management cycle. In effect, DMAIC is at heart of the Six Sigma strategy, and intimately look like Deming's PDCA cycle for permanent improvement (Voehl, 2004). Cheng (2008) focused on the relationship between TQM and Six Sigma based on an empirical study of company in Taiwan implementing Six Sigma via TQM improvement. In order to attain the study goal, a conceptual framework has

been conducted with six improvement factors “system”, “product”, “control”, “training”, “technical”, and “assessment”. The principal finding of this study is that TQM is a prime component and fundamental basis of Six Sigma.

The work highlights the principals' points of Six Sigma integration using TQM activities. In fact, the use of TQM context factors to execute Six Sigma programs stressed as follows:

- (1) System. The PDCA management cycle is a basic activity for Six Sigma and DMAIC method is a higher improvement activity. The PDCA management cycle embraces usually improvement activities such as QA and the ISO system. These activities correspond to the vital mechanisms of TQM that cannot be neglected and must be protected when establishing the integration of six sigma.
- (2) Product. TQM highlights the accurate actions to decrease defect rates, while Six Sigma is founded on Cpk to diminish the special-cause variation.
- (3) Control. The single distinction between TQM and Six Sigma is that TQM is categorized as “inter-organization of quality improvement team” and Six Sigma is as “intra-organization of cross function team”. (Cheng, 2008).
- (4) Training. The contents of TQM and Six Sigma training include basic and advanced courses. TQM teaches basic quality control skills, and Six Sigma may also use basic quality control skills to integrate DMAIC methodology.
- (5) “Technical. TQM and Six Sigma have intercommunity quality improvement skills; however if TQM technical skills are not completely solid it is impossible to implement the 6- $\sigma$ ”. (Cheng, 2008).
- (6) Assessment. TQM and Six Sigma have approximately the similar quality development indexes for evaluation, such as: yield Cp, Cpk.

#### *Implementation of Six Sigma via TQM*

Many criticisms have been raised against Six Sigma and consider it as just a methodology that based on TQM practices and don't create a new practices in field on management. Our objective is to demonstrate the degree of justice. Green (2006) considers the revival of TQM under new name which is six sigma. The work stressed the importance of six sigma structured method (DMAIC) in improving the company's process as well as approved that the features of TQM are found in the correct application of six-sigma. Zu et al. (2010) reviewed both the traditional quality management and Six Sigma literatures and identified three new practices that are critical for implementing six sigma's concept and method in an organization which are Six Sigma role structures, Six Sigma structured improvement procedure, and Six Sigma focus on metrics and investigate their positive impact in improving the business performance. This research work illuminate that Six Sigma isn't only a repackages of TQM traditional practices but it complement it.

Yang (2012) focused on the integration of TQM and six-sigma. An over view of TQM principals' elements and Six Sigma critical particles and tools is offered. Also, it reveal the possibility of the integration of both TQM and Six Sigma practices and this based on the evidence of the existence of congruence between the quality principles, techniques, and cultural aspects of TQM and Six Sigma and sustain that exist only a little dissimilarity between their management principles. “As a result, the integration of TQM and Six Sigma is not as difficult as it might seem. The critical task is to combine the best aspects of TQM's continuous improvement with those of Six Sigma re-engineering”. (Yang, 2004). Sabet (2014) challenge the debate concerning Six Sigma VS TQM empirically in a heavy duty machinery production industry. The results shows that Six Sigma foundation is based on TQM, as well as the finding stress the complementary between the two approaches and not their substitutability.

### ***The reasons of Six Sigma Success compared to TQM***

Globally, Six Sigma approach has gained more success compared to TQM. There are many reasons for this; the major one is the focus on projects which have a positive impact on business financial performance (Montgomery & Woodall, 2008). Additionally, Prajogo & Sohal (2001) said "The level of technical training in Six Sigma is generally deeper and more extensive than in the typical TQM programs of the 1980s. Also, because the training is project-oriented, it is much more likely that the techniques will actually be used". Hu, Barth, & Sears, (2005) asserted that Six Sigma methodology is preferred to TQM approach for these subsequent reasons: While the TQM approach was run by "Quality techies", Six Sigma approach implicates the top managers by commitment and involvement. It facilitates the success of organizations through the understandable roadmap for integration and exploitation. To guarantee the success in implementing Six Sigma tools and methods, Six Sigma offers an appropriate organizational culture and well organized infrastructure. This character was entirely absent in TQM philosophy (Antony, 2009).

Despite the difference in defining the TQM and Six Sigma, the goal of the different concepts appears similar. The aim concerns the improvements and the reduction of waste while increasing customer satisfaction and financial results (Anderson et al., 2006). We conclude by stressing that the strength of Six Sigma consists in the well-ordered structure and the efficiency in integrating projects and tools coupled with training for every member of the organization.

### ***Obstacles and Challenges of Six Sigma method***

Six Sigma programs challenge the development of the processes and focus on decreasing organizational process variability (Linderman et al., 2003; Schroeder et al., 2008). Six Sigma doesn't change the integrity and interconnectedness of organizational processes; rather, it improves them.

- *Problems with strategy*

Six Sigma has attracted many criticisms. One of the central criticisms is that it is considered as doesn't prove a newness and it is a simple repackaging of principles and quality tools (Catherwood, 2002).

- *Problems with organizational culture*

McClusky (2000) considers that the concepts of quality designated to be fixed in process designing more than the control of quality in manufacturing step. The main idea is to move to integrate quality in the planning step. Organizations that not include a full comprehension of the concrete obstacles of Six Sigma projects or a switching in planning management faced with a risk of loss. To success a cultural change it is recommended at the first the great implementation of time and commitment.

- *Problems with training (Belt Program)*

Kwaka & Anbari (2006) affirm that "training is a key success factor in implementing Six Sigma projects successfully and should be part of an integrated approach". Participants want to be aware of the up to day tools and techniques of Six Sigma than to exchange the new data analysis.

### ***The impediment of six sigma***

The weakness of six sigma implementation have been severally discussed in diverges research works (e.i. Douglas and Erwin (2000); Klefsjo et al. (2001); Magnusson et al. (2003); Antony, 2004; Pepper and Spedding, 2010; Brun (2011); Ericsson and Lilliesköld (2014); Aldowaisana et al. (2015). Magnusson et al. (2003) asserted that the impediment of six sigma resides in the difficulty of the six sigma project to go beyond the customer's requirements and thus increase the customer satisfaction. To avoid this problem a number of firms employ voice of the customer technique when the definition of their step. Klefsjo, Wiklund, & Edgeman, (2001) avowed that Six

Sigma project not success the generation of conditions in the aim of engaging everybody, which is more appeared in the TQM literature. According to Douglas and Erwin (2000) six sigma is focalized to respond to customer needs more than the product. Chakravorty (2009) stressed the need of a an effective model of six sigma implementation and the lack of this guide is one of the reason of the program fail. Brun (2011) interested to study the critical success factors of six sigma in Italian companies. The aim was to reveal if the Italian companies implementing six sigma recognize the same set of critical success factors singled out in the international literature. The analysis showed a lack of literature about six sigma integration in Italian companies. Aldowaisana et al. (2015) analyzed the six sigma performance for non-normal processes. The result reveal some limits of six sigma: reporting the sigma level as an indication of the quality can be misleading. When systematically assuming normality, wrong six sigma projects can be selected which consequently lead to erroneous solutions. Further, Ericsson and Lilliesköld (2014) examined the DFSS implementation strategy in four organizations to find out which parts of the DFSS concept are being used by companies. The finding underlines the shortage of concrete support in DFSS for the activities of product development.

#### *The reasons of Six Sigma failures*

The fall of Six Sigma project can be explained by various reasons. The most remarkable one is the lack of guidelines of effective model implementation of projects (Knowles, 2011). Moosa & Sajid (2010) are interested in their work to explore and to analyze the critical success and failure factors of implementing Six Sigma in organizations based on lessons learned in practices and case studies, as well as available literature. The Six Sigma Academy suggests the subsequent lists of failed projects reasons which are: the need of the top management engagement, the use of part-time trainers, incorporation of projects attached to irrelevant criteria, the wrong objective, maybe founded on the number of groups educated and licensed rather than bottom-line results; weak project management, treatment of six sigma "quality" project. This list may be extended. (Glibert, 2002). Eckes (2001) argue that 60 percent of projects are unsuccessful due to the negligence of people question, principally the dynamism of group (motivating and driving forces that propel a team toward its goal or mission). He precise numerous difficulties that classically happen even as developing 6- $\sigma$ : problems of recognizing a leader, problems when enhancing policy and schedule for meetings and problems with identifying goals and responsibilities of all associates.

#### *The Shortcomings of Total Quality Management Implementation*

The major criticism emerged in opposition to TQM is that there is an extensive confusion relating to what TQM really means, notice (Boaden, 1997; Hellsten & Klefsjo, 2000). Deming (1994) has avowed that: "...the trouble with TQM, the failure of TQM, you can call it, is that there is no such thing. It is a buzz word". I have never used the term, as it carries no meaning, perceive Romano (1994). Both TQM and Six Sigma are concentrated on processes. Bergman & Klefsjo (2003) notice that: while Six Sigma focalizes on performing enhancements, TQM stress the engagement and contribution of all workers.

Kekale & Kekale (1995) suggest that perceiving TQM only just as a whole of tools and techniques (e.g. hard aspects) has confirmed to be one of the firstly failures of TQM implementation. The difficulty with TQM doesn't concern only the problem in defining the meaning of the term TQM, but more basically the confusion in defining quality (Watson & Korukonda, 1995). The unsuccessful execution of TQM cannot be neglected but in contrast it has been well documented, perceive (for example Brown, Hitchcock, & Willard 1994; Eskildson, 1994; Harari, 1997; Cao, Clarke, & Lehaney, 2000; Nwabueze, 2001; Foley, 2004). In further specificity, Harari (1997) affirms that, subsequent to the examination of the entire independent research conducted by

consulting companies, the finding is that just about one-fifth, or at best one-third, of the TQM programs in the US and Europe have attained important or even concrete enhance. Furthermore, the fall of the organizations number which have attempted the integration of TQM program have been documented. With extra specificity, a number of organizations have set a huge quantity of resources on executing TQM, however with no concrete development attained, perceive, among others (Harari, 1997). The TQM concept has been blamed for being vague.

In this work, we have stressed the decrease in adopting TQM and the increase of Six Sigmatrend. Thus, the fail in integrating TQM can be explained by many factors: TQM has been rather a diffused concept, with a lot of fuzzy descriptions but few more understandable definitions, and the management does not have an absolute image of what TQM in reality means (Hellsten & Klefsjö, 2000). Pande,Neuman, & Cavanagh, (2000) stated that TQM is less noticeable in several business. It was in the early 1990s, pointing to numerous major TQM mistakes as causes forthis decline. These problems contain a lack of integration, leadership apathy, a fuzzy concept, an ambiguous quality goal, failure to break down internal barriers, inadequate improvements in performance, and so on. However, many criticisms have attacked the Six Sigmamethodology. Frequently, it isn't considered as the newest in the field of quality management projects because large numbers of Six Sigmatechniques have been used and existed for a lot of years with TQM program.

The short attention to the behavioral and the change processes, reduce the chance of Six Sigma projects to attempt radical and sustainable process improvement. Six Sigma programs have not been designed to integrate all processes (work processes, behavioral processes, and change processes) in their process improvement efforts(Parast, 2011). The inability of Six Sigma programs to assure sustainable competitive advantage for the company because they are based on existing processes, products, and customers. This view point can be explained by the fact that it hasn't been constructed to attend radical enhancement in organizational processes and routines. (Parast, 2011).The integration of Six Sigma projects in a highly dynamic and evolving environment with high rate of innovation and change is extremely precarious due to the incapability of Six Sigma projects to achieve radical change. Thus, in defining and improving Six Sigma projects organizations should take caution when selecting projects that gratify the above conditions.

## **Conclusion**

The Six Sigma and the TQM approaches have been the subject of extensive researches and surveys for several years which provide a vital knowledge about their specific criteria. In fact, the Six Sigmamethodology focalized on reducing the process variation, and optimizing the process, while TQM is a method that aims to develop competitiveness, effectiveness and flexibility of an organization for the profit of each stakeholder (Srinivasu et al.,2010). The ambiguous aspect of TQM consists in the absence of a clear infrastructure to implement TQM in organization.

The TQM purpose as well as Six Sigma is the improvement of organizational performance. TQM emphasizes more on the satisfaction of the customer requirements in term of delivery, reliability, maintenance, and cost effectiveness (Al-Mashari & Zairi, 2000a,b). However, a Six Sigma aim is to satisfy and to expect its needs. It focused specially to reduce the process variability in order to decrease the cost of reworks and the loss of time which lead to reduce the cost of non-quality translated into gain of saving, improvement of the product quality and service, reduction of customer's complaints and amelioration of the customer relationship and enhancement of the company trade.

This paper focuses in the first part on the various definitions about the meaning of CSFs than specify besides its principal features for both Six Sigma and TQM. The objective is to offer a clear vision about the similarities and dissimilarities between CSFs of Six Sigma and TQM.

Antony & Desai (2009) stress the existence of some characters of TQM that are imitated in Six Sigma program and this is supported by "A customer-centric approach; process view of work; a continuous improvement mindset; improving all aspects and functions of the organization; data-based decision making ; and the use of statistical tools on a broad basis".

Kedar, Lakhe, Deshpande, Washimkar, & Wakhare, (2008) consider that Six Sigma provides obvious change of structure and is greatly extra orientated on quick and concrete results compared to TQM and Lean. Näslund (2008) highlights that Six Sigma is an advance improvement of TQM. He discovers similarities in the problem solving process (Deming wheel and DMAIC cycle), the value of top management engagement, the crucial worker implication, and in statistical methods. The value added of Six Sigma consists in the well organized structure which focuses on strong difficulties solving techniques and tools based in the DMAIC support (Antony, 2009).

Furthermore, to sustain the results of previous studies considering Six Sigma as an extension of TQM; we have outlined various studies of CSFs of Six Sigma and TQM in different periods to prove their similar points and also to stress the distinctive aspects of Six Sigma which are: Six Sigma structure procedure, Six Sigma structure improvement procedure and Six Sigma focus metrics, and to emphasize the studies stressing the possibility of integrating Six Sigma via TQM.

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