## **USING THE 5-WHY METHOD**

#### THE 5 WHY PROCESS STEPS

Define the problem statement.

Stop when no additional credible path.

Walk backwards by asking "therefore."

Ask Why - 5 times.

#### THE BENEFITS OF 5 WHYS

- ✓ Very simple approach: Anyone can use it, children use it to learn
- ✓ Evaluates the process: Captures snapshot of team knowledge
- ✓ Use it anywhere, anytime: Doesn't involve advanced knowledge
- ✓ Can be done in your head

#### **4 DISADVANTAGES OF 5 WHYS**



Will not work on complex problems

May lead to complacency



Results are not repeatable

Different people can come up with different causes for the same problem



Linear approach

May lead to one set of causes and less than ideal solutions



Branching may be needed

In-depth analysis to get to the root cause



# **APPLICATION EXERCISE**

### **USE THE 5 WHY FOR SIMPLE/STRAIGHTFORWARD PROBLEMS**



