7 Stages of Growth Model

A tool to stay ahead of your growth curve

When you misidentify an issue, don't understand its underlying causes, try to solve only one aspect of a problem, or try to deal with any of the complex factors that come with growth, it can create chaos in your business. One of the most critical and beneficial steps you can take is to understand your fundamental growth issues and address them BEFORE they arise.

Using the Stages of Growth X-Ray[™] diagnostic tool, we can determine your company's current stage of growth; critically assess your past, present and future so you can adjust your focus accordingly; identify the hidden agents – defined as 27 Challenges – that are impacting your company's ability to grow; and develop a plan to solve those issues. This business alignment tool is part of James Fischer's 7 Stages of Growth research, which involved 650 CEO's of small and mid-sized companies, in 35 different industries.



People Increase Complexity

It should come as no surprise that as companies grow the complexity level increases, and that complexity is due to people. The 7 Stages of Growth Entrepreneurial Development Model serves as a crystal ball, telling business owners what to do when so you can:

- Focus on the right things at the right time based on the number of employees you have
- Predict how growth will impact your organization
- Adapt your leadership skills as the company grows

What kind of outcomes can you expect?

- Clarifies where your company is in its current stage of growth and why you're experiencing issues, plus provides a comparison of your company to the "ideal" company for that stage of growth
- Strengthens leadership confidence and competencies
- Provides a benchmark of progress that can be reviewed in 6-12 months to evaluate successes achieved and reassess areas of improvement
- Enables you to look behind, examine today, and look ahead to see what's creating obstacles to growth
- Puts words to your critical top 5 issues and enables you to see how your leadership team defines them
- Helps align management team, allowing them to identify and address issues sooner to strategically tackle critical issues
- Creates a language of growth that engages every employee in helping you meet stated initiatives

The Stages of Growth X-Ray: What is it?



1. UNDERSTANDING THE 7 STAGES OF GROWTH

James Fischer's research identified 7 Stages of Growth that entrepreneurial companies move through. Complexity increases as a company grows and that complexity is created by adding people. The 7 Stages of Growth provides a leader with insight into focusing on the right things at the right time, predicting how growth will impact the company and helping the leader adapt their leadership skills as the company grows.

2. THE 27 CHALLENGES & 27 STRENGTHS The first layer of alignment - identifying and agreeing to a company's top 5 challenges and strengths for their current stage of growth.

The first part of the Growth X-Ray involves diagnosing the issues that are creating obstacles to growth, specific to a company's stage of growth.

4. THE NON-NEGOTIABLE RULES

The third layer of alignment – identifying the deep and stage-specific issues that must be addressed in order to effectively and profitably move to the next stage of growth.

3. THE BUILDER/PROTECTOR RATIO

The second layer of alignment - identifying the company's ability to balance Confidence with Caution in order to walk the fine line between chaos and equilibrium as a company grows.

DIAGNOSIS

TREATMENT

The second part of the Growth X-Ray focuses on treatment by achieving alignment on priority initiatives to address the top 6 - 8 issues and to identify and set accountabilities.

5. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT & CRITICAL INITIATIVES

Addressing all critical issues raised during the assessment and discovery process. Then evaluating how they impact the strategic focus of the company. Finally, through consensus, develop the top initiatives that will address critical growth issues not addressed in past stages of growth as well as issues facing the company in its current stage of growth.

6. INTENTIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Recognizing the critical role communication plays in a company's growth and creating a 10-step approach that defines who needs to know what, when and how those messages will be distributed.

7. CREATING A LANGUAGE OF GROWTH

Knowing that a company moves through different stages of growth and the areas of impact are 'normal' takes the fear out of growth. Taking the mystery out of running a business helps each and every person feel more like participating in critical discussions. Being able to express challenges and issues in everyday language makes everyone feel like a valuable stakeholder, broadening their understanding of how their work impacts the company and recognizing that their contribution improves a company's bottom line.

Long-term growth will only happen if you learn how to operate differently as your company grows. How prepared are you to diagnose, predict, and solve the challenges and opportunities of growing your company? Contact us and we'll help you find out. We look forward to working with you.



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