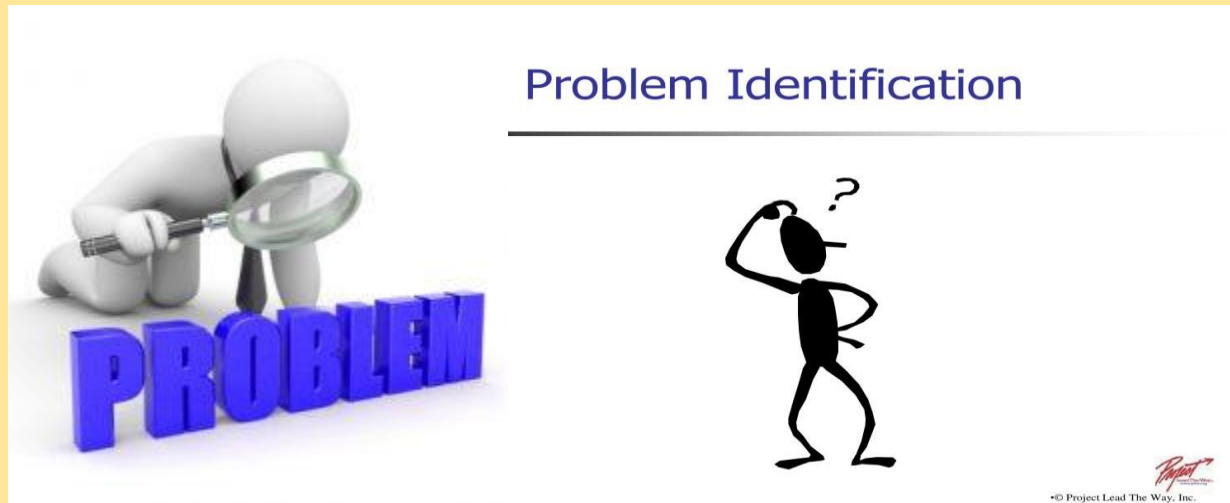


SECTION III.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAIN CONCEPTS OF PROJECT DESIGN



- ✓ *Problem identification*
- ✓ *Development of Objectives,*
- ✓ *Logical Framework Development*

III. A. IDENTIFICATION OF THE CENTRAL PROBLEM

Each project, in reality, aims to solve a particular problem in a given environment/society. A Good project planning lays out problems in the form of a chain of cause and effect called '**problem tree**'. It is therefore essential to properly identify the central problem right from the project identification phase. This is should be, in fact, a visible, real and worrying issue which urgently needs to be solved. However, in most cases, the visible problems are only effects of the central problem. Hence the importance of the problem tree in order to attack the real problem and not its effects or its roots.

III.A. i. Problem Tree

The identification of the problem through the problem tree consists of drawing, in depth, the causes and the effects of the central problem in two main steps:

- Step 1:** Note the central problem at the level of the trunk,
- Step 2:** Identify the causes of the central problem by asking the question: "**why?**" and note the responses at the root level.

N.B.

Some problems could have more than one cause and all causes should be noted down.

- **Step 3.** Identify the effects of the central problem by asking the question:
"So what ? and note the responses at the branches level.

N.B. Some problems may have more than one effect and you should try to exhaust them all.

Step 4: Review the whole problem tree to be sure that the problems are logically interconnected and indicate the situations where there are joint causes and associated effects. It is these essential causes and effects that will subsequently constitute the project tree of objectives.



Effects

Central Problem

Causes

III.A. ii. Demonstration exercise

“High unemployment rate among young graduates in Machakos” had been identified as a central problem during the design of the YED-KENYA project.

1. What would then be the problem tree of this project?

