

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

Sakichi Toyoda



Early Life

Toyoda was born in 1867 Yamaguchi-mura (presently Kosai City, Japan). His father worked as a farmer and carpenter and Toyoda initially assisted his father in his carpentry trade.



First Invention

Toyoda became fascinated by machinery and in 1890 travelled to Tokyo to visit the Third National Machinery Exposition. A year later his Toyoda wooden hand loom was patented. This increased efficiency by 40-50%.



Further inventions

By the end of his career Toyoda had earned the nickname 'The King of Japanese Inventors'. In 1894 he invented the Toyoda winding machine, his first power loom (1896), the automatic shuttle changing mechanism (1903), etc.



Jidoka

The power loom that Toyoda patented in 1896 was ahead of its time in that it incorporated an automatic stop mechanism. The auto-stop mechanism is also known as Jidoka. There are clear production benefits by engineering a machine to stop if a fault occurs.



Five Whys

Toyoda is also credited with pioneering the concept known as the 'five whys'. He used this approach to better understand problems he encountered when developing new machines. Five whys is now a cornerstone of root cause analysis methodology.



Toyota

It is not possible to list all of Toyoda's achievements. His work as an inventor is unparalleled and it is worth noting his descendants who established Toyoda Automatic Loom Works have long dominated upper management of Toyota Motors.