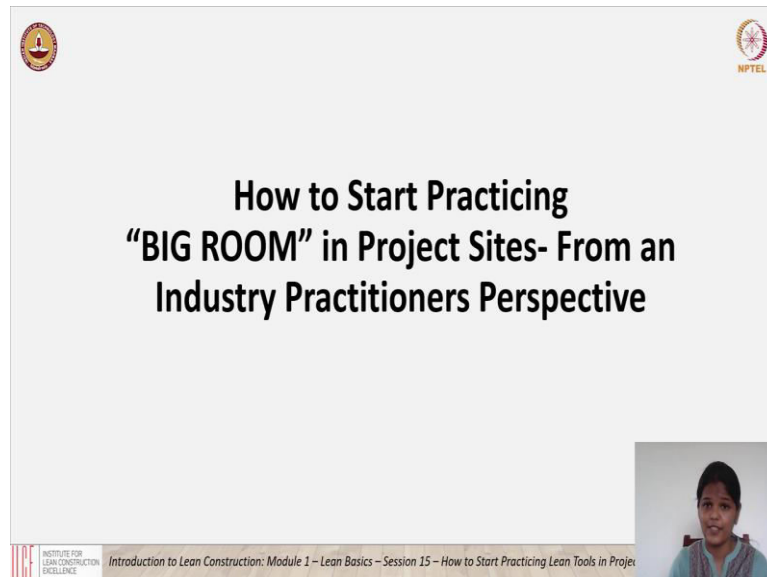**Introduction to Lean Construction**
Professor: Ms Ragavi Prabaharan
Lean Coordinator
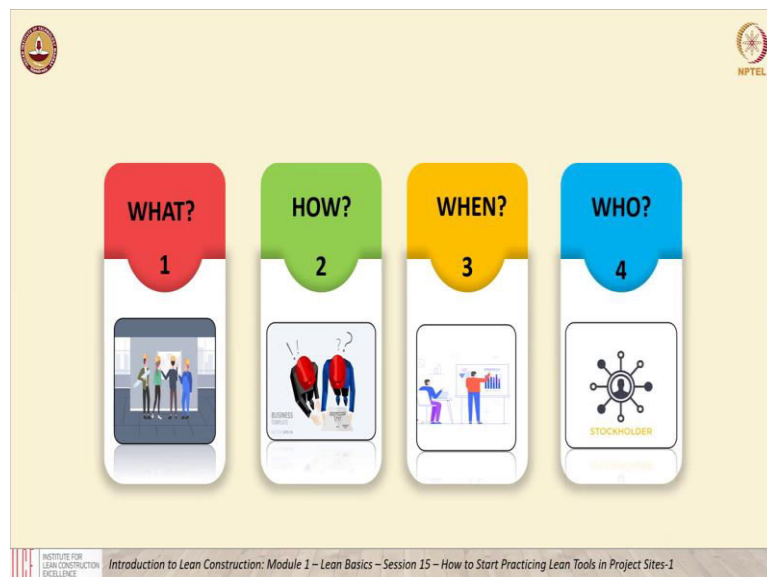**URC Construction (P) Ltd.**
How to Start Practicing Lean Tools in Project Sites-1: Big Room Approach

(Refer Slide Time: 00:23)

Hello everyone, I'm Ragavi Prabaharan. I work as Lean coordinator at URC Construction Private Limited. We started our Lean journey in 2013. We have practicing different types of Lean tools such as Last Planner System, Value Stream Mapping, 5S, and COLPLASSE an effective software tool, which was developed by Professor Raghavan, IIT Madras.

(Refer Slide Time: 00:42)

In this video, we are going to see what big room is, how we can start implementing big room in our projects, when we can start implementing it and who are all going to involve in this process. All these topics will be discussed very briefly in the upcoming slides.
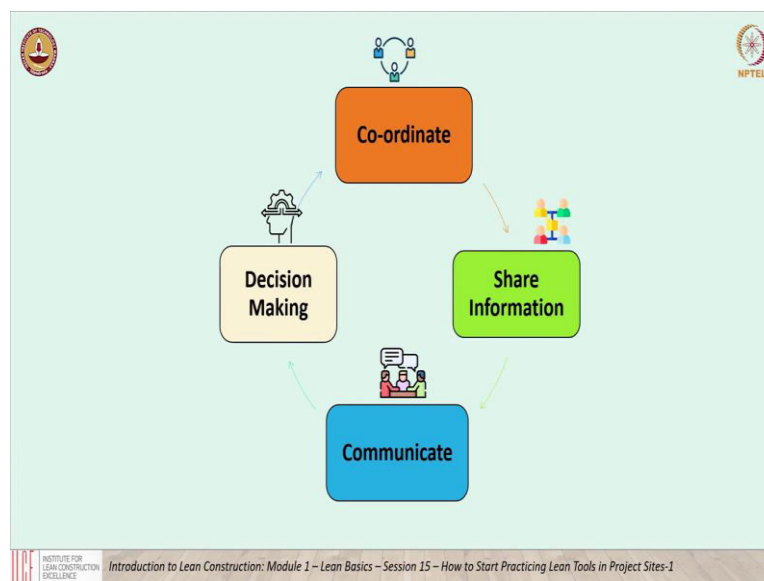
(Refer Slide Time: 01:00)

The first one is big room in last planner system. Big room is a collaborative planning room. It is actually the project command center, a place where all the teams outputs are displayed. It is the place where the stakeholders and participants of the project coordinate together in the same place, share their information to communicate with each other.

And in order to make decisions to have brainstorms about their project progress, project status, etcetera. Big room is a place for stakeholders to exchange the project level information and here all these projects participants and stakeholders can actively see into the project.
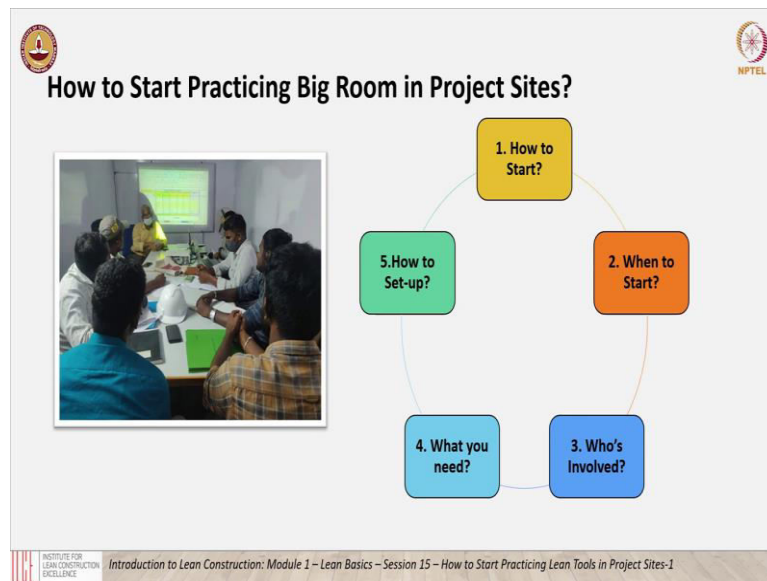
(Refer Slide Time: 01:46)

The next one is what is the function of big room. As big room is a part of last planner system it involves preparing different types of schedules starting from milestone plans, pull seasons, weekly plans and daily plans of the project. The participants can prepare all these plans initiations in a collaborative manner. So, that they come to understand who is responsible for what and exchange information with right people.

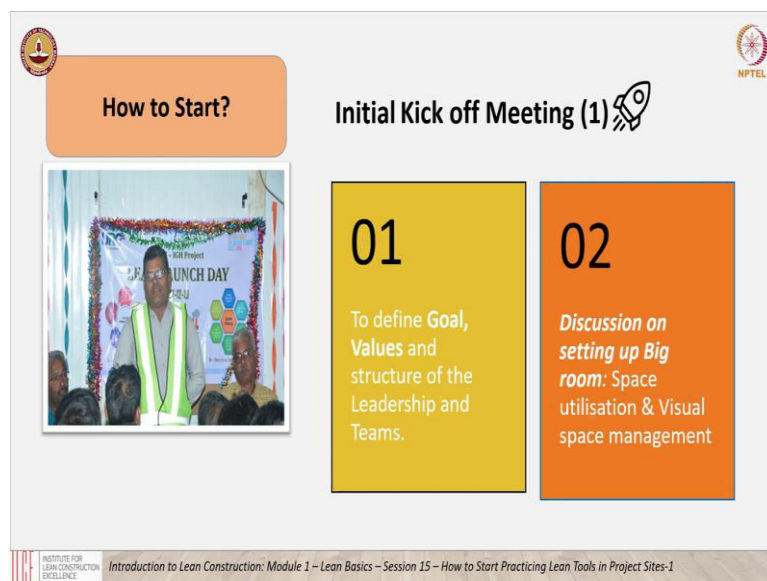And know who to ask questions for proper answers. And in big room, they can have weekly and daily meetings So, that they can have discussions and brainstorms about a project status and progress. By planning together in the same area, the participants from different disciplines are able to get high quality interactions. So, that is the very first benefit of the big room, implementing big room in project sites.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:43)

And the next one is how to start practicing big room in projects. So, we will be seeing step by step like how to start, when to start, who is involved in this process, and what you need, how to set up all these topics will be discussed in the upcoming slides.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:01)

First one is how to start practicing the big room project site. It is always advisable to start your Lean implementation process with kick-off meetings, which is initial kick-off meeting. So, that the team will get an idea on how to start, where to start, what kind of action plans they need to take. You can have a very interactive session with the team so, that they may get to know about the process of big room, how it works.

And you can have discussions like how we are going to involve all the participants and stakeholders to engage throughout the project period. So, that is going to be very challenging one. So, what kind of procedures and action plans they need to take in order to prepare themselves for the implementation process. And of course, you can have the discussions on how to set up the big room, what kind of space utilization, visual space management, techniques we are going to take for implementing it in your project.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:04)

And the second kick-off meeting, which you can have after implementing big room in your project. We will help the team to identify the workflows, issue resolution protocol, communication protocols and constraints involved in the project. And of course, this will act as a continuous improvement session so, that the issues involved in the project will be delivered very easily through kick-off meetings.

So, kick-off meetings it is very, very important for implementing any kind of following tool in our projects.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:39)

And the next one is when we can start practicing, who are all involved in this project and what we need for implementing big room in our project site. So, the first one is we can start practicing or start implementing big room as early as possible in the project. So, that the outputs of the project can be visualized from the beginning.

And the teams must continuously evolve with the frequency and duration of the sections because the frequency and the quality of interactions increases drastically, and problems can be identified and they can be resolved faster and more effectively, and who are all going to involve in this process.

Of course, as the project progresses, the participants and the stakeholders are going to change depending upon the work involved in the project. So, depending upon the nature of work, or the participants or the stakeholders may also change. And what we need, of course, videoconferencing for the team who are in remote areas and for larger group. So, video conferencing will be very helpful for them.
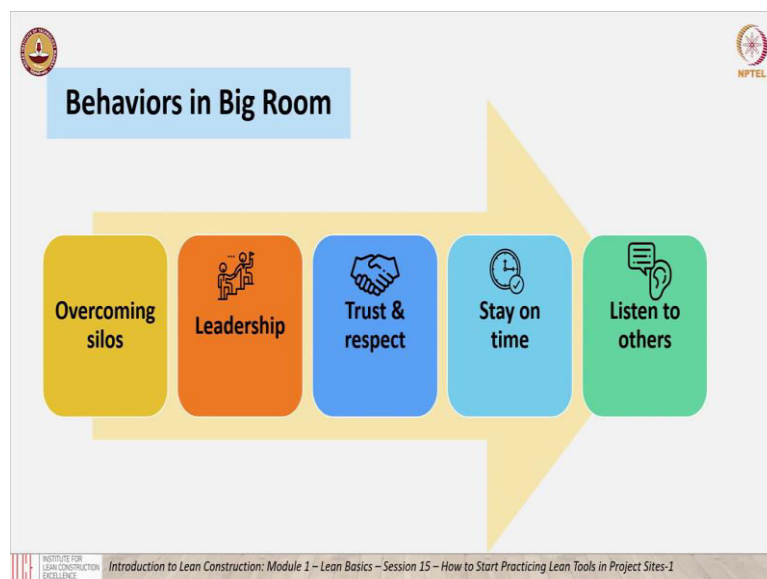
(Refer Slide Time: 05:49)

Next one is how to set up a big room. The very first thing which we need is a very configurable room, large configurable room. And the second one is whiteboards and that standard size sticky notes. In the sticky notes, the participants are the responsible person, will be giving the information about what kind of activities he or she is going to do, where is going to take place and how long it is going to take, all this information will be written on the sticky notes and will be stick back on the whiteboards.

And the next one is coalition spaces for making plans to work together and to have brainstorms and discussions. And the last one is planning space, it is this area where the outputs of the projects are displayed in a visual manner.
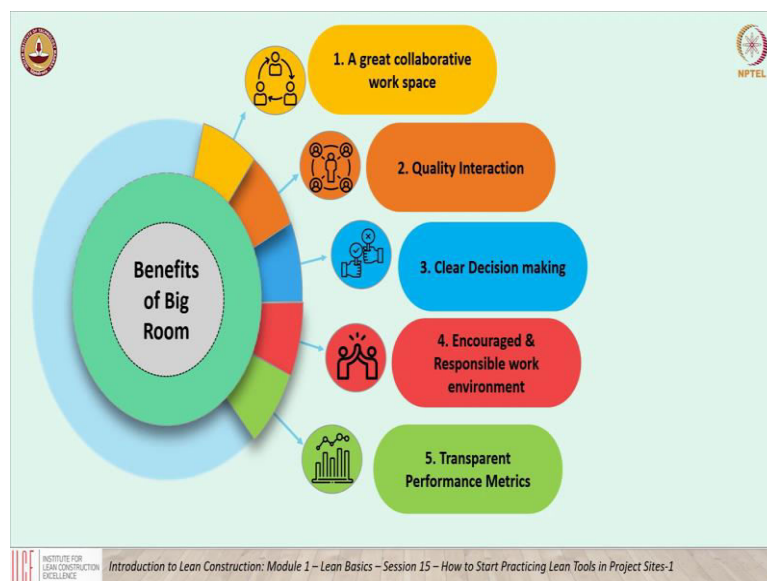
(Refer Slide Time: 06:46)

The next one is behaviours in big room, what kind of behaviours you should have in the work in big room. The first one is overcoming silos, because some participants may have the silo mentality. So, they should break it and be able to share information and work collaboratively with their participants. And the next one is leadership. This allows the team members to support each other and align themselves with the goals of the project.

And the next one is trust and respect. Respect for people and no blame culture, these two rules are very, very important. So, and the next one is stay on time. Being punctual merely to a very responsible work environment. So, make sure that you are attending all the sessions and the meetings on time.

And the last one is listening to others. This is very, very important because even a very small idea or input from any of your participants may bring a very good change or great impact in your projects results. So, make sure that you are listening to others opinions and ideas.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:55)

And the last one is benefits of implementing big room in project sites. The first one is it will create a very great collaborative workspace because big room helps to encourage people to collaborate with each other. And also it helps to hold the collaborative planning meetings which contributes to understand the constraints involved in the project and it helps to reduce the waste and rework of the project.

And as a result, it enables continuous flow and improve productivity. The next one is high quality interaction. The participants may come to know or understand who is responsible for what. And this will help the participants as well as the person who work in the big room to

get to know about each other and this will strengthen the relationship between them. And as the interactions increases drastically, the problems can be identified and it can be resolved faster and more effectively.

And the next one is it will lead to a very clear decision making and a very high increased and responsible work environment. And the last one is transparent performance matrices. Because working in a collaborative and transparent environment focus on improving the flow and reducing the waste. So, these are all the benefits involved in implementing big room in project sites.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:34)

As the proverb says, it is never too late when you start now. Start practicing Lean in your project, start practicing big room in your projects. And you will definitely experience a very great difference in your project outcome. Thank you.