MINITAB: A STATISTICAL TOOL

Statistical analysis is a study of collecting, organizing, interpreting and presenting data. Statistic applications span over sciences, arts, medicine, management, engineering and so on. Statistics which is a widely used scientific tool has excelled greatly due to ease in running analyses and computing other statistical measures using computer applications like MS Excel, Minitab, SPSS, SAS, etc.

Minitab Statistical Software revolutionized statistics and helped students see data analysis not as a hurdle, but a relevant and vital tool. 'Minitab' is a statistical software that uses graphical interface to create statistical analysis easy to use and interpret. Minitab was developed by Barbara F. Ryan, Thomas A. Ryan, Jr., and Brian L. Joiner in 1972 at the Pennsylvania State University. Minitab is an interactive tool mainly used for coaching statistics. It is concerned with the analyzing of research information and gives an extensive range of statistical equipment and simple graphs. Minitab is flexible software and offers a brief and effective solution wherein high degree of evaluation is required. All these practical applications have resulted in Minitab gaining importance for educational curriculum across the universities. By reducing the quantity of heavy computation necessary to create statistical inferences, Minitab gave students more time to think about what their analyses mean. Statistics education has not been the same since.

Its creators laid out four immediate benefits to learning statistics with Minitab:

• Eliminating computational drudgery helped students grasp the important concepts without getting lost in a mass of details.

• A large number of real datasets could be studied, enhancing students' ability to transfer textbook knowledge to practical situations.

• Plotting the data in a variety of ways became standard operating procedure.

• Simulation could be used as a learning tool.

Minitab covers statistics needed to analyze quality improvement data, including Basic Statistics, Control Charts, Process Capability, ANOVA, DOE (Design of Experiments) and more. These built-in templates promote greater speed and accuracy.

The need for analysts with expertise in big data software is becoming more apparent in today's society. Unfortunately, the demand for these analysts far exceeds the number available. Therefore, learning with Minitab gives graduates an edge in the job market, because Minitab is also the leading software used in quality improvement initiatives in business and industry.

Nikhil Bhangale
IASSC Six Sigma Black Belt Professional
nikhilbhangale14@gmail.com