



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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## Department of MCA

Topic: AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

Course

**23CAE718**  
**AGILE SOFTWARE**  
**DEVELOPMENT**

Unit I

**AGILE – Stakeholders and**  
**challenges**

Elective

**II Semester /**  
**I MCA**



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

## Agile Challenges

While Agile methodologies offer many benefits, such as flexibility, improved collaboration, and faster delivery of value, there are also several challenges that teams and organizations may face when adopting or working within Agile. Here are some common **Agile challenges** and strategies to address them:



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

## Stakeholders and challenges





# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

## AGILE Stakeholders Challenges

1. Resistance to Change
2. Lack of Experience with Agile Practices
3. Poorly Defined Product Backlog
4. Unclear Roles and Responsibilities
5. Insufficient Stakeholder Engagement
6. Overemphasis on Speed
7. Difficulty in Scaling Agile
8. Unclear or Unstable Requirements
9. Overloading the Team
10. Communication Breakdown
11. Lack of Agile Leadership Support



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

## AGILE Stakeholders Challenges

### 1. Resistance to Change

**Challenge:** Agile often requires a cultural shift from traditional project management approaches. Team members or stakeholders accustomed to waterfall or other methods may resist adopting Agile practices.

#### **Solution:**

Provide **training** and **coaching** to ease the transition.

Engage leadership and stakeholders early in the process to get their buy-in and commitment.

Start with **small teams** or pilot projects to demonstrate Agile's value before scaling across the organization.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

## AGILE Stakeholders Challenges

### 2. Lack of Experience with Agile Practices

**Challenge:** Teams and individuals who are new to Agile may struggle with the principles, ceremonies, and mindset required for Agile to be effective.

#### **Solution:**

Provide ongoing **training** on Agile methodologies like Scrum, Kanban, or XP.

Hire **experienced Agile coaches** to guide teams and ensure proper implementation.

Encourage **peer learning** and **mentorship** to help less experienced team members.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

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### 3. Poorly Defined Product Backlog

**Challenge:** The **Product Backlog** may not be clear or well-prioritized, which can lead to confusion about what needs to be delivered and delays in progress.

#### **Solution:**

The **Product Owner** should work closely with stakeholders to ensure the backlog is **well-defined, refined, and prioritized**.

Regular **Backlog Grooming** sessions should be held to keep the backlog up-to-date.

**User stories** should be written with enough detail and clarity for the development team to understand.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

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### 4. Unclear Roles and Responsibilities

**Challenge:** Ambiguity around roles, especially between the Product Owner, Scrum Master, and Development Team, can lead to miscommunication and confusion.

#### **Solution:**

Clearly define each role and ensure everyone understands their responsibilities.

Use **Agile ceremonies** to foster communication and alignment (e.g., Sprint Planning, Daily Standups, Sprint Review).

Ensure that **Scrum Masters** facilitate processes and remove impediments, and **Product Owners** make decisions regarding priorities and requirements.





# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

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### 5. Insufficient Stakeholder Engagement

**Challenge:** If stakeholders (customers, business leaders, etc.) are not regularly involved in the process, their feedback may be missing, leading to misalignment with business needs or customer expectations.

#### **Solution:**

Engage stakeholders early and often, especially during **Sprint Reviews**.

**Product Owners** should manage and maintain open communication with stakeholders.

Set up regular **feedback loops** to ensure that the product aligns with stakeholders' needs and expectations.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

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### 6. Overemphasis on Speed

**Challenge:** Agile encourages faster delivery of value, but a focus on speed can lead to cutting corners, sacrificing quality, and not adequately testing or refining the product.

#### **Solution:**

Emphasize **quality over speed**. Practices like **Test-Driven Development (TDD)**, **continuous integration**, and **automated testing** help ensure high-quality output. Ensure that each **increment** delivers a fully functional, shippable product, not just incomplete features.

Implement regular **retrospectives** to help the team reflect on their work and improve their processes.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

## AGILE Stakeholders Challenges

### 7. Difficulty in Scaling Agile

**Challenge:** While Agile works well with small teams, it can be difficult to scale across large teams or multiple departments. Ensuring alignment and maintaining consistent communication can be challenging.

#### **Solution:**

Use **scaled Agile frameworks** like **SAFe (Scaled Agile Framework)**, **LeSS (Large-Scale Scrum)**, or **Spotify model** to align multiple teams working on different parts of a product.

Ensure **regular coordination** between teams (e.g., through **cross-team standups** or **program reviews**).

Appoint **Release Train Engineers** or **Program Managers** to ensure coordination across multiple teams.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

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### 8. Unclear or Unstable Requirements

**Challenge:** In Agile, requirements evolve, but if there is a lack of clarity or frequent changes in the requirements, it can disrupt the development process and lead to confusion.

#### **Solution:**

Ensure that the **Product Owner** has a good understanding of business needs and is available to provide clarification.

Break down requirements into **smaller, actionable user stories** to help the team better understand and execute them.

Use **iterative feedback** to adjust and refine requirements over time.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

## AGILE Stakeholders Challenges

### 9. Overloading the Team

**Challenge:** Agile can sometimes lead to **scope creep** where more work is added to the sprint than the team can handle, leading to burnout or incomplete deliverables.

#### **Solution:**

The **team** should regularly revisit their **capacity** during **Sprint Planning** to ensure they are not overcommitting.

Prioritize **work** and ensure the team focuses on **most valuable tasks** first.

Encourage a **sustainable pace** with **realistic goals** to avoid overloading the team.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

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### 12. Communication Breakdown

**Challenge:** Agile relies heavily on **communication** and collaboration. In large organizations or remote teams, communication can break down, leading to misaligned goals and poor performance.

#### **Solution:**

Use **collaborative tools** like **Slack, Trello, Jira, or Zoom** to maintain communication, especially for distributed teams.

Foster an **open communication culture** where team members feel comfortable asking questions and sharing feedback.

Hold regular **ceremonies** (like **Daily Standups**) to ensure constant check-ins.



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### 13. Lack of Agile Leadership Support

**Challenge:** Agile teams need strong support from leadership to succeed. Without buy-in from upper management, Agile adoption may falter or fail.

#### **Solution:**

Leadership should actively participate in **Agile transformation**, helping remove roadblocks and ensuring resources are allocated.

Encourage leaders to lead by example, adopting **Agile principles** and embracing change.

Create **cross-functional leadership** groups to advocate for Agile and guide teams in their journey.



# AGILE Stakeholders and challenges

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### Conclusion:

While adopting Agile can be challenging, many of these issues can be addressed through continuous learning, effective communication, and adapting Agile practices to fit the organization's unique needs. By tackling these challenges head-on, Agile teams can realize the benefits of improved flexibility, collaboration, and continuous delivery of value.





# References



## Text Books

1. Ken Schawber, Mike Beedle, “Agile Software Development with Scrum”, International Edition, Pearson.
2. Robert C. Martin, “Agile Software Development, Principles, Patterns and Practices”, First International Edition, Prentice Hall.

## Web Resources

- <https://www.scrum.org/resources/common-challenges-stakeholder-engagement>
- <https://brainhub.eu/library/agile-stakeholders-management>
- <https://www.exposit.com/blog/key-stakeholders-agile-product-development/>



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*Thank  
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